

Buchalter Nemer Rings in 2016 with the Creation of New Japan Practice

Buchalter Nemer has created a new Japan Practice Group to provide legal, corporate and transactional advice to businesses and individuals conducting business in Japan as well as Japanese businesses conducting business in the United States. The establishment of the practice coincides with the arrival of **Sabina A. Helton** and **Steven M. Nakasone** in the firm's Los Angeles office. They formerly were with Parker Milliken. Helton will serve as the Group's Chair.

"Sabina and Steve have provided advice on Japanese legal protocols and business acumen for over three decades and have a deep understanding of Japanese culture and practices," said Adam J. Bass, President and Chief Executive Officer of **Buchalter Nemer**. "I'm thrilled to welcome these long-time colleagues to the firm and to see how their expertise enhances our existing client relationships along with forming new ones."

Helton specializes in commercial litigation, transactional and corporate matters. In her litigation work, she has represented every level of company from start-up to Fortune 100 in a wide range of matters including breach of contract, products liability, employment and others. Her transactional work includes negotiating and drafting various business agreements, including joint venture, manufacturing, sales, purchase, independent contractor, non-disclosure and employment.

In addition to her practice, Helton is the incoming President of the Japanese American Bar Association. Helton served as President Elect in 2015 and has been a Governor since 2003. She is also Co-Chair of the United States Merchant Marine

Academy Southern California Parents' Association.

She earned her J.D. at Hastings College of Law and her Bachelors of Arts in Legal Studies from the University of California, Berkeley.

Nakasone focuses his practice on general corporate and business transactions. With more than 30 years of experience, Nakasone handles transactions involving product distribution, branding, licensing, advertising and promotion. He works in a number of industries including automotive, chemical products, computer hardware and software, robotics, pharmaceuticals, food and restaurants, real estate, machinery and apparel and character merchandise.

Nakasone previously managed the Tokyo office of a major, international law firm. Prior to entering private practice, Nakasone served as the Director of Business and Legal Affairs for The Walt Disney Company Japan.

He earned his J.D. cum laude at Loyola University School of Law and his B.S. in Electrical Engineering and Computer Science at the University of California, Berkeley.

“Our attorneys in this group have extensive experience both living and working in Japan, which helps us provide practical and effective advice while enjoying a highly-respected reputation in the Japanese markets,” Helton said. “The credentials of some of our members — will be an immense value-add for clients across a number of industries. I look forward to leading this dynamic group in the years to come.”