

## Editor's Note

The editors of the Asian-Pacific Law & Policy Journal (“APLPJ”) proudly present our second Fall 2023 issue (Volume 25, Issue 2). This issue features a case comment and five annotated English translations of same-sex marriage cases in Japan. We are honored to present a case comment, *Japan’s Same-Sex Marriage Cases & the Fight to Enshrine the Right to Sexual Autonomy in Japan (2021-2023)* by Brandon Marc T. Higa, J.D., Esq. and Joshua D. Faumuina.

Higa is a Class of 2019 graduate of the William S. Richardson School of Law, a former APLPJ member (Executive Editor, Vol. 20; Staff Editor, Vol. 19), is a current Doctoral candidate (S.J.D.) of the William S. Richardson School of Law Doctor of Juridical Sciences program, the University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa, and a graduate of the University of Southern California, B.A./M.A. (2005). Faumuina is a Class of 2026 J.D. Candidate at the William S. Richardson School of Law.

The comment provides a comprehensive analysis of the legal issues underlying five of the Japan same-sex marriage trial court decisions. This analysis provides accessibility of these cases for the English-speaking audience.

We are also privileged to present five English translations of Japanese same-sex marriage trial court decisions, provided by the Lawyers for LGBT Allies Network (“LLAN”). We would like to thank Professor Mark A. Levin and Attorney Makiko Terahara for sourcing and providing these translations to APLPJ for timely publication. We also extend our gratitude to attorneys Makoto Messersmith, J.D., (WSRSL, 2019) and Reiko Kato, J.D., (WSRSL, 2016), and Chiako Fukushima, J.D., (WSRSL, 2023) for their time in technically reviewing the translations provided by the legal team of Marriage for All Japan.

On behalf of APLPJ, we extend our sincerest gratitude to the author and attorneys for their unwavering effort and patience working with the APLPJ team, and commitment to publishing this timely issue. We also extend our heartfelt thanks to LLAN for providing us with the English translations of the foregoing court decisions.

Sincerely,

Elyse Nakamoto  
Co-Editor-in-Chief  
2023-2024

Kalina Nguyen Le  
Co-Editor-in-Chief  
2023-2024