

# JAPAN



# Frequently Asked Questions



Whether this is your first time organizing a deposition in Japan or just brushing up on what you can and can't do, the answers below are set to guide you through the entire process.

## Rules & Regulations

Are there any restrictions on holding a U.S. depo in Japan?

YES  NO

Taking U.S. depositions in Japan is permissible. However, depositions must take place at the U.S. Embassy in Tokyo or the U.S. Consulate in Osaka. Japan allows video testimony under the same requirements as in-person testimony, with prior notice to the government. Private counsel cannot take video testimony in Japan without permission and a U.S. consular officer present at the embassy or consulate.

## Venue & Depo Location

Can the deposition take place at any venue?

YES  NO

You will need to secure a reservation with the Consulate or Embassy and submit a list of all deposition participants and all electronic equipment you will bring.

Note, a Japanese Special Deposition visa is required for the purpose of attending a deposition in-person. [Contact us](#) for more info.

## Local Resources

Are there court reporters in Japan for U.S. depositions?

YES  NO

Optima Juris has a locally-based court reporter, legal videographer for depositions in Japan, which means minimal travel costs for your clients.

Our global network also includes [interpreters](#), if needed.

## How We Can Help

Can Optima Juris help me set up my deposition?

YES  NO

At Optima Juris we are committed to providing you with the very best deposition services abroad. We've been handling international depositions for over 23 years. That makes us leaders in the industry.

# Best Practices when swearing in a witness outside of the U.S.



## WATCH

Ian Hardy, President of Optima Juris, discusses essential tips to correctly administer the oath for depositions outside the U.S.

When attorneys need to swear in witnesses abroad, the time-honored solution is for both sides to stipulate on the record that the court reporter can swear in the witness. Using a U.S. certified court reporter is not enough, because notary powers do not apply when they venture outside of U.S. territory. Stipulating on the record is an excellent solution and it works in all cases, with both U.S. certified and foreign reporters (i.e.: Asia or British reporters). Stipulating on the record is the easiest way to assure the admissibility of your witness's testimony.

# International Deposition Options

Below is a reference guide to the most commonly used options for conducting a U.S. deposition abroad.

**Still have questions?** Just give us a call and we'll walk you through the perfect tailored-solution.

## OPTION 01

### Attending In Person

Attorneys travel to the witness location. Optima Juris arranges local reporter, videographer and an interpreter closest to the witness.

**Advantages:** Typically useful for large cases and where remote depositions are difficult due to slow internet connectivity.

We recommend this option to get the clearest record. Also, you are less likely to encounter technical issues.

**Disadvantages:** Higher travel costs and less cancellation flexibility.

## OPTION 02

### Hybrid Deposition

This allows for multiple participants to join the deposition remotely while allowing one or more participants to join in-person with the witness. This type of deposition creates a flexible environment that allows for more efficient use of time and resources.

**Advantages:** Optima Juris' reporters specialize in hybrid depositions. We provide a technician to monitor all connections for real-time assistance.

**Disadvantages:** Some travel costs may incur.

## OPTION 03

### Remote Deposition

Attorneys, witness, and court reporter participate via a video conferencing platform (e.g. Zoom, Webex) from their home or office.

**Advantages:** Cost-effective solution that allows everyone to participate remotely without needing to travel. Optima Juris' reporters are trained in remote depositions and know how to get the clearest record.

**Disadvantages:** Remote connections can be prone to pauses, interruptions, and/or connection loss due to network issues.



Do you need to travel to Japan for a deposition? Get the most out of your visit by brushing up on the culture with these useful travel tips.

## National Currency

Japan's national currency is the Japanese Yen. For more information on currency conversions visit [XE](#). Before you leave, notify your bank, credit card company, or other financial institutions that you are going overseas.

## Holidays & Observances

Imagine having to reschedule a deposition because of a major local holiday when everything was closed. To see a complete list of holidays in Japan visit: <https://www.timeanddate.com/holidays/japan/>.

## Major International Airports

Narita International Airport (NRT)  
Osaka (Itami) International Airport (ITM)  
Tokyo (Haneda) International Airport (HND)

## Other Helpful Resources

U.S. Consulate: [Japan](#)  
U.S. Department of State: [Visit page](#)  
Official Language: [Japanese](#)

Do you need an interpreter for your deposition? Contact our language partner, [Interpret Group](#).

# Our team is here for you

Trusted by over 70% of the top law firms and court reporting agencies around the world.



*"There is no more stressful job in the world of court reporting than the calendar/scheduling department. Kimberlee is a real pro and has always come through for us when we've needed her at Regal Court Reporting to help with our international depositions."*

**Isaiiah Leslie, Regal Court Reporting**



*"I wanted to thank you and your team for an outstanding job. You were incredibly responsive and helpful in arranging a deposition halfway around the world in the face of short notice and scheduling challenges related to drastically different time zones and the dearth of court reporters in Perth trained in U.S.-styled depositions. We truly appreciate it."*

**Michelle Brockway, Clark Hill Strasburger Law Firm**



*"I wanted to drop you a quick note to express my gratitude for all Kimberlee Castro did to organize our three-day Taiwan event (steno reporter and interpreter). She had much to do before and after, often late at night or even the middle of the night. I very much enjoyed working with Kimberlee and getting to know her. She truly lives up to her title of global deposition expert! You are lucky to have her."*

**Sara J. Vance, For The Record, Inc.**



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