

Comprehensive Legal Support Act

(Act No. 74 of June 2, 2004)

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Chapter I General Provisions

(Purpose)

Article 1 In light of the fact that changes in socioeconomic circumstances at home and abroad have made it increasingly important for people to have recourse to the law in resolving disputes, this Act aims to contribute to the formation of a more free and just society by providing for the basic principles, responsibilities of the national government and others, and other fundamentals for implementing and establishing a framework for comprehensive support to facilitate people's use of the court and other systems that give people recourse to the law to resolve disputes while making it easier for people to access the services of attorneys, legal professional corporations and attorney / registered foreign lawyer joint corporations, as well as judicial scriveners and other related legal experts (meaning a person other than an attorney at law, a legal professional corporation, or an attorney / registered foreign lawyer joint

corporation, that is permitted by law to engage in the practice of handling other person's legal services; the same applies below) (referred to below as "comprehensive legal support"), and also by providing for the organization and administration of the Japan Legal Support Center, which sits at the center of that support framework.

Chapter II Implementation of Comprehensive Legal Support and Establishment of Its Framework

(Basic Principles)

Article 2 The implementation of comprehensive legal support and the establishment of its framework are to be performed pursuant to the following Article through Article 7, with the aim of establishing a society in which people throughout the country can get the information and services they need to have recourse to the law in resolving disputes regardless of whether it relates to a civil or criminal matter.

(Improving and Strengthening Provision of Information)

Article 3 In implementing comprehensive legal support and establishing its framework, it must be performed to improve and strengthen not only how the information and materials necessary for people to effectively utilize the court and other systems that give people recourse to the law in resolving disputes are provided, but also how information and materials concerning the services of attorneys, legal professional corporations, attorney / registered foreign lawyer joint corporations, and related legal experts, and the activities of bar associations, the Japan Federation of Bar Associations, and organizations of related legal experts (meaning corporations that related legal experts are legally obligated to incorporate, or corporations that those corporations are legally obligated to incorporate; the same applies below) are provided, in order to enable people to have recourse to the law so as to promptly and properly resolve disputes.

(Establishing and Developing Civil Legal Aid Programs)

Article 4 In implementing comprehensive legal support and establishing its framework, it must be performed to appropriately establish and develop a civil legal aid program that makes it easier for persons of limited means and other persons who have difficulty in obtaining the services they need in order to have recourse to the law to resolve disputes to have recourse to civil, family, and administrative court proceedings (meaning court proceedings in civil cases, domestic relations cases, and administrative cases; the same applies below) and to administrative complaint filing procedures (meaning the procedures for

filing complaints pursuant to the Administrative Complaint Review Act (Act No. 68 of 2014); the same applies in Article 30, paragraph (1), item (ii)), in light of the fact that the civil legal aid program is of great public interest.

(Establishing the Framework of Appointing Court-Appointed Defense Counsels or Attendants and Selecting Court-Appointed Participating Victim's Attorneys)

Article 5 In implementing comprehensive legal support and establishing its framework, it must be performed to establish how a court-appointed defense counsel (meaning a defense counsel that the court, presiding judge, or other judge assigns to the defendant or the accused based on the Code of Criminal Procedure (Act No. 131 of 1948); the same applies below) or a court-appointed attendant (meaning an attendant who is an attorney, and whom the court assigns to a juvenile based on the Juveniles Act (Act No. 168 of 1948); the same applies below) is appointed and how a court-appointed participating victim's attorney (meaning a participating victim's attorney as provided in Article 11, paragraph (1) of the Act on Measures Incidental to Criminal Proceedings for Protecting the Rights and Interests of Crime Victims (Act No. 75 of 2000; below referred to as "the Crime Victims Protection Act") whom the court appoints based on the Crime Victims Protection Act; the same applies below) is selected.

(Upgraded Assistance Framework for Victims)

Article 6 In implementing comprehensive legal support and establishing its framework, it must be performed to ensure that full use can be made of the systems that allow a victim, etc. (meaning a person who has sustained an injury due to a crime or their spouse, lineal relative, or sibling, if that person has died or suffered serious physical or mental harm; the same applies below) to appropriately participate in criminal proceedings as well as helping them recover from the damage or alleviate the pain they have suffered, and to ensure that full use can be made of other systems for assisting the victim, etc.

(Ensuring and Strengthening Coordination)

Article 7 In implementing comprehensive legal support and establishing its framework, it must be performed to ensure and strengthen coordination among the national government, local governments, bar associations, the Japan Federation of Bar Associations, and organizations of related legal experts, attorneys, legal professional corporations, attorney / registered foreign lawyer joint corporations, and related legal experts; persons involved in alternative dispute resolution procedures (meaning alternative dispute resolution procedures prescribed in Article 1 of the Act on Promotion of Use of Alternative Dispute Resolution (Act No. 151 of 2004); the same applies in Article 30,

paragraph (1), item (x) and Article 32, paragraph (3)), organizations providing assistance for victims, etc. and others, as well as organizations providing assistance for the aged and for persons with disabilities; and other related persons.

(Responsibilities of the National Government)

Article 8 The national government is responsible for comprehensively formulating and implementing policies for the implementation of comprehensive legal support and the establishment of its framework in accordance with the basic principles stated in Article 2 (referred below to as "the basic principles").

(Responsibilities of the Local Governments)

Article 9 A local government is responsible for taking the necessary measures to implement comprehensive legal support and establish a comprehensive legal support framework in its region while remaining mindful of the appropriate sharing of roles with the national government, in light of the fact that the implementation of comprehensive legal support and the establishment of its framework contribute to improving the welfare of the inhabitants.

(Responsibilities of the Japan Federation of Bar Associations and Bar Associations)

Article 10 (1) The Japan Federation of Bar Associations and bar associations are to endeavor to provide the necessary support for the implementation of comprehensive legal support and the establishment of its framework in accordance with the basic principles, such as upgrading the framework for cooperation by their member attorneys, legal professional corporations, and attorney / registered foreign lawyer joint corporations, in light of the purpose of comprehensive legal support and the importance of attorneys' mission and professional duties.

(2) Attorneys, legal professional corporations and attorney / registered foreign lawyer joint corporations are to endeavor to provide the necessary cooperation for the implementation of comprehensive legal support and the establishment of its framework in accordance with the basic principles, in light of the purpose of comprehensive legal support and the importance of attorneys' calling and professional duties.

(3) Legal experts and organizations of related legal experts are to endeavor to provide the necessary cooperation for the implementation of comprehensive legal support and the establishment of its framework in accordance with the basic principles, in light of the purpose of comprehensive legal support and the importance of attorneys' calling and professional duties.

(Legislative and Other Measures)

Article 11 The national government must take the necessary legislative, financial, and other measures to implement the policies referred to in Article 8.

(Attention to the Characteristics of Professional Duties)

Article 12 In the application of this Act, attention must always be paid to the characteristics of the professional duties of attorneys and related legal experts.

Chapter III Japan Legal Support Center

Section 1 General Provisions

Subsection 1 General Rules

(Purpose of This Chapter)

Article 13 The organization and administration of the Japan Legal Support Center (referred to below as "the JLSC") are governed by this chapter.

(Purpose of the JLSC)

Article 14 The purpose of the JLSC is to promptly and appropriately render comprehensive legal support services.

(Legal Personality)

Article 15 The JLSC is a corporation.

(Offices)

Article 16 (1) The principal office of the JLSC is located in Tokyo.

(2) In addition to the principal office referred to in the preceding paragraph, the JLSC may establish other offices in the necessary places, in consideration of the local environment, the efficiency of operations, and other circumstances.

(Stated Capital)

Article 17 (1) The stated capital of the JLSC is the amount of capital contributed by the national government at the time of its incorporation.

(2) The JLSC may increase its stated capital with the approval of the Minister of Justice, if necessary.

(3) The national government and local governments (referred to below as "the national government and local governments") may contribute capital to the JLSC if it increases its stated capital pursuant to the preceding paragraph.

(4) When contributing capital to the JLSC pursuant to the preceding paragraph, the national government and local governments may designate the purpose for which its contribution is made as land or a building or other fixture to land

(referred to below as "land, etc.").

- (5) The value of the land, etc. designated as the purpose of a capital contribution pursuant to the preceding paragraph is the value at which it has been appraised by the members of the Evaluation Committee based on the market value on the date of the capital contribution.
- (6) Evaluation CommitteeThe Evaluation Committee members referred to in the preceding paragraph and other necessary matters concerning evaluation are specified by Cabinet Order.
- (7) A person other than the national government and local governments may not contribute capital to the JLSC.

(Restrictions on Name Use)

Article 18 A person that is not the JLSC may not use the name "Japan Legal Support Center".

Subsection 2 Japan Legal Support Center Evaluation Committee

(Japan Legal Support Center Evaluation Committee)

- Article 19 (1) The Japan Legal Support Center Evaluation Committee (referred to below as "the Evaluation Committee") is hereby established within the Ministry of Justice to handle the administrative functions of the Japan Legal Support Center.
- (2) The Evaluation Committee is responsible for the following administrative functions:
 - (i) those related to evaluating the operational performance of the JLSC;
 - (ii) the handling of other matters that are subject to the authority of the Evaluation Committee pursuant to this Act.
 - (3) Evaluation Committee membership must be arranged to include at least one judge who has been recommended by the Supreme Court.
 - (4) Cabinet Order prescribes the organization of the Evaluation Committee, administrative functions under its jurisdiction, its members and other employees, and other necessary matters of the Evaluation Committee beyond what is provided in the preceding two paragraphs.

Subsection 3 Incorporation

(Persons Who Are to Be President and Auditors)

- Article 20 (1) The Minister of Justice nominates the person who will serve as president and head of the JLSC as well as the persons who will serve as auditors.
- (2) When nominating a person to serve as president and a person to serve as

auditor of the JLSC pursuant to the preceding paragraph, the Minister of Justice must hear the opinion of the Supreme Court in advance.

- (3) Having nominated a person to serve as president and a person to serve as auditor of the JLSC pursuant to paragraph (1), the Minister of Justice must notify the Supreme Court of this without delay.
- (4) The person nominated as the president and persons nominated as auditors pursuant to paragraph (1) are deemed to have been appointed as the president and auditors at the time of the JLSC's establishment, pursuant to the provisions of this Act.
- (5) Article 24, paragraph (1) applies *mutatis mutandis* to the nominating of the person who will serve as president as referred to in paragraph (1).

(Organizing Committee Members)

Article 21 (1) The Minister of Justice or the Supreme Court orders the organizing committee members to handle the administrative functions related to the incorporation of the JLSC.

- (2) The organizing committee members that the Supreme Court issues orders to must be judges.
- (3) Once the organizing committee members have completed preparations for the incorporation of the JLSC, they must notify the Minister of Justice and the Supreme Court of this without delay and hand over their functions to the person nominated to become the president pursuant to paragraph (1) of the preceding Article.

Section 2 Organization

Subsection 1 Officers and Employees

(Officers)

Article 22 (1) A president and two auditors are assigned to the JLSC as officers.

- (2) A maximum of three directors may be assigned to the JLSC as officers.
- (3) In addition to the directors stated in the preceding paragraph, a part-time director may be assigned to the JLSC as an officer.

(Professional Duties and Authority of the Officers)

Article 23 (1) The president represents the JLSC and presides over its operations.

- (2) The directors assist the president and administers the operation of the JLSC as specified by the president.
- (3) Auditors audit the operation of the JLSC. In this case, the auditors must prepare an audit report pursuant to the provisions of Ministry of Justice Order.
- (4) Auditors may ask an officer (other than the auditors themselves) or employee

to report on its administrative functions and programs, and may investigate the status of the operation and assets of the JLSC, at any time.

- (5) Before the JLSC submits a document related to permission, approval, certification, or notification, or a report or other document prescribed by Ministry of Justice Order to the Minister of Justice pursuant to this Act or the Act on General Rules for IIAs as applied mutatis mutandis (meaning the Act on General Rules for Incorporated Administrative Agencies (Act No. 103 of 1999) as applied mutatis mutandis pursuant to Article 48; the same applies below), the auditors must examine these documents.
- (6) The auditors may ask a JLSC subsidiary (meaning a corporation as prescribed by Ministry of Justice Order as one whose operations the JLSC controls; the same applies below) to report on its services, and may investigate the status of the operations and assets of that subsidiary if it is necessary for them to do so in order to perform their duties.
- (7) A subsidiary as referred to in the preceding paragraph may refuse a report or an investigation referred to in the preceding paragraph if there are reasonable grounds for it to do so.
- (8) The auditors may submit an opinion to the president or the Minister of Justice if they find it necessary to do so based on the results of their audit.
- (9) If the auditors submit an opinion pursuant to the preceding paragraph, the Minister of Justice must notify the Supreme Court of the content of that opinion without delay.
- (10) Pursuant to the president's specifications, a director acts as a proxy in handling the duties of the president if the president is unable to attend to them, and performs the duties of the president, if the position is vacant; provided, however, that this is done by an auditor if there are no directors.
- (11) When referred to in the proviso of the preceding paragraph, an auditor acting as proxy to the president or performing the duties of the president pursuant to the main clause of that paragraph must not perform the duties of an auditor during that time.

(Duty to Report to the President and the Minister of Justice)

- Article 23-2 (1) If an auditor finds that an officer (other than an auditor themselves) has engaged in misconduct or is likely to do so, or finds there to be a factual circumstance that violates this Act or other laws and regulations, or a factual circumstance that is grossly improper, the auditor must report this to the president as well as to the Minister of Justice, without delay.
- (2) Having received a report under the preceding paragraph, the Minister of Justice must notify the Supreme Court of its contents without delay.

(Appointment of Officers)

Article 24 (1) The Minister of Justice appoints the president from among persons with a high level of knowledge about the administrative functions and programs handled by the JLSC, who are able to administer operations appropriately, fairly, and with neutrality (excluding judges and public prosecutors or persons who were judges or public prosecutors during the two years before the appointment).

(2) The Minister of Justice appoints auditors.

(3) When appointing a president or auditor pursuant to the preceding two paragraphs, the Minister of Justice must hear the opinion of the Supreme Court in advance.

(4) In appointing a president or auditor pursuant to paragraph (1) or paragraph (2), the Minister of Justice must endeavor to use open recruitment (meaning recruitment of candidates by giving public notice of the details of the duties, working terms and conditions, and other necessary matters concerning the duties of the president or auditor; the same applies below in this paragraph), if necessary. Even if not using open recruitment, the Minister of Justice must endeavor to take necessary measures, such as asking for recommendations for candidates, to ensure that a person who is considered to be qualified for the position will be appointed while ensuring transparency.

(5) The president appoints directors from among persons as prescribed in paragraph (1).

(6) When appointing a director pursuant to the preceding paragraph, the president must notify the Minister of Justice of this, as well as making it public, without delay.

(7) Having appointed a president or auditor pursuant to paragraph (1) or (2), the Minister of Justice must notify the Supreme Court of it without delay.

(Directors' Terms of Office)

Article 25 The term of office of a director is two years; provided, however, that the term of office of a director who has been appointed to fill a vacancy is the remaining term of office of the predecessor.

(Dismissal of Officers)

Article 26 (1) The Minister of Justice and a president must dismiss an officer respectively appointed by them if that officer has become ineligible to be an officer pursuant to Article 22 of the Act on General Rules for IAAs as applied *mutatis mutandis*. The same applies if a president or a director becomes a judge or public prosecutor.

(2) The Minister of Justice or a president may dismiss an officer respectively appointed by them if the officer falls under one of the following items or upon finding it to be inappropriate for the officer to remain in the position:

- (i) when an officer is found to be incapable of performing duties due to mental or physical disorder; or
 - (ii) when an officer has breached an obligation of their duties.
- (3) Beyond as prescribed in the preceding paragraph, the Minister of Justice or a president may dismiss an officer respectively appointed by them if the operational performance of the JLSC has deteriorated due to unsatisfactory performance of duties by an officer (excluding auditors), and the minister or the president finds it inappropriate to have that officer continue to perform those duties.
- (4) When dismissing the president or an auditor pursuant to the preceding two paragraphs, the Minister of Justice must hear the opinion of the Supreme Court in advance.
- (5) Having dismissed the president or an auditor pursuant to paragraphs (1) through (3), the Minister of Justice must notify the Supreme Court of this without delay.
- (6) Having dismissed a director pursuant to paragraph (2) or (3), the president must notify the Minister of Justice of this, as well as making it public, without delay.

(Duty of Confidentiality of the Officers and Employees)

Article 27 An officer and employee of the JLSC must not divulge confidential information learned in the course of duties. This also applies after the person has left the position.

(Status of Officers and Employees)

Article 28 For the purpose of applying the Penal Code (Act No. 45 of 1907) and other penal provisions, the officers and employees of the JLSC are deemed to be employees engaged in public service pursuant to laws and regulations.

(Filing of Opinions by the Japan Legal Support Center Evaluation Committee)

Article 28-2 (1) On receipt of a notification under Article 50-2, paragraph (2) of the Act on General Rules for IAAs as applied mutatis mutandis, the Minister of Justice is to notify the Evaluation Committee of the standards for the payment of the remuneration and retirement allowance (referred to below as "remuneration, etc.") to which that notification refers.

- (2) On being notified as under the preceding paragraph, the Evaluation Committee may submit an opinion to the Minister of Justice as to whether the standards for the payment of the remuneration, etc. to which the notice refers are in line with the general conditions in society.

Subsection 2 Review Committee

(Review Committee)

Article 29 (1) A review committee is hereby established within the JLSC to deliberate on matters that should be decided on regarding the administration of the JLSC's services, with particular attention to the characteristics of attorneys' and legal experts' professional duties.

(2) The president appoints the following persons (only persons who are not the officers or employees of the JLSC) as members of the review committee (referred to below as "committee members" in this Article):

(i) one judge recommended by the Supreme Court;

(ii) one public prosecutor recommended by the Prosecutor-General;

(iii) two attorneys recommended by the president of the Japan Federation of Bar Associations; and

(iv) five persons of excellent insight.

(3) The term of office of a committee member is two years.

(4) The proviso of Article 25; Article 26, paragraph (2); Article 27; and Article 28 of this Act; and Article 21, paragraph (4) of the Act on General Rules for IAAs as applied *mutatis mutandis* apply *mutatis mutandis* to committee members.

(5) If a committee member becomes an officer or employee of the JLSC or loses the qualification provided for in paragraph (2), items (i) through (iii), the president must dismiss that committee member.

(6) When dismissing a committee member who is a judge, public prosecutor, or attorney pursuant to Article 26, paragraph (2) as applied *mutatis mutandis* pursuant to paragraph (4), the president must hear the opinion of the Supreme Court, the Prosecutor-General, or the president of the Japan Federation of Bar Associations in advance.

(7) Having dismissed a committee member who is a judge, public prosecutor, or attorney pursuant to Article 26, paragraph (2) as applied *mutatis mutandis* pursuant to paragraph (4), the president must notify the Supreme Court, the Prosecutor-General, or the president of the Japan Federation of Bar Associations of this without delay.

(8) The review committee must pass a resolution before the president tries to reach a decision on the following:

(i) matters concerning the measures that will be taken if a complaint is filed concerning the handling of a legal service by a contract attorney or other legal services provider (meaning an attorney, legal professional corporation, attorney / registered foreign lawyer joint corporation, or related legal expert that is under contract with the JLSC to handle other persons' legal matters in connection with the JLSC operations prescribed in the following Article; the same applies below), and other measures that will be taken against a contract attorney or other legal services provider based on the contract

- (excluding what is determined in advance by the review committee to be a minor matter not requiring a resolution of the review committee);
- (ii) matters of the preparation and revision of the rules for handling of legal services provided for in Article 35, paragraph (1).
- (9) The review committee has a chairperson decided upon by the committee members, who choose that chairperson from among themselves.
- (10) The chairperson presides over the review committee.

Section 3 Administration of Services

Subsection 1 Services

(Scope of Services)

Article 30 (1) The JLSC provides the following services related to comprehensive legal support in order to achieve the objectives referred to in Article 14:

- (i) collecting and organizing the following information and materials, providing them for the public to use through information and communications technologies or by other means, and providing them in response to individual requests:
 - (a) information and materials that contribute to the effective use of the courts and other systems that give people recourse to the law to resolve their disputes; or
 - (b) information and materials concerning the duties of attorneys, legal professional corporations, attorney / registered foreign lawyer joint corporations, and related legal experts, as well as the activities of bar associations, the Japan Federation of Bar Associations, and organizations of related legal experts;
- (ii) services as follows for providing assistance to Japanese citizens who lack the financial means to pay the necessary expenses incurred in preparing to exercise and exercising their own rights in civil, family, and administrative court proceedings or administrative complaint filing procedures or foreign nationals lawfully residing in Japan (referred to below as "citizens and legal foreign residents"), or citizens and legal foreign residents who would suffer substantial detriment to their standard of living by paying the costs s:
 - (a) lending money to pay remuneration to a representative to prepare for and pursue the proceedings provided for in sub-clauses 1. and 2., below, in line with the categories of case stated in each of those sub-clauses (including negotiations that are found to be necessary to settle a dispute in advance of civil, family, and administrative court proceedings), and other necessary actual costs of the legal services performed by the representative:
 - 1. if providing assistance to a citizen or legal foreign resident who may be precluded from exercising their own rights due to insufficient cognitive

functioning (referred to below as a "person eligible for specific assistance" in this paragraph): civil, family, or administrative court proceedings; or administrative complaint filing procedures involving public benefits that enable the person eligible for specific assistance to live independently; or

2. if providing assistance to a citizen or legal foreign resident other than a person eligible for specific assistance: civil, family, or administrative court proceedings;
- (b) instead of lending money as provided in (a) above, having the appropriate contract attorney or other legal services provider handle services that would otherwise be handled by a representative as referred to in (a), for a person who agrees to pay the JLSC an amount equivalent to the remuneration and actual costs provided for in (a) above;
- (c) requesting a person that the Attorneys Act (Act No. 205 of 1949) or any other Act permits to prepare documents for submission to the court upon request in the course of trade, to prepare the necessary documents for civil, family, or administrative court proceedings (or the procedures provided for in (a), 1., above, if assisting a person eligible for specific assistance), and lending the money to pay to the person the remuneration owed and the actual costs necessary for the preparation of those documents;
- (d) instead of lending money as provided in (c) above, having the appropriate contract attorney or other legal services provider handle the services necessary for preparing the documents provided for in (c) above, for a person who agrees to pay the JLSC an amount equivalent to the remuneration and actual costs provided for in (c) above; or
- (e) performing legal consultations with persons that the Attorneys Act or any other Act permits to handle legal consultations in the course of trade (referred to below simply as "legal consultations" in this paragraph) (excluding legal consultations in criminal matters; the same applies in the following item and in item (iv));
- (iii) performing necessary legal consultations to assist a person eligible for specific assistance who cannot be expected to seek the services of an attorney, legal professional corporation, attorney / registered foreign lawyer joint corporation, or related legal expert of their own accord due to not having any relatives living in their vicinity or for other reasons, so as to enable them to be independent in their daily lives and within society;
- (iv) performing necessary legal consultations for citizens and legal foreign residents who, on the day of an highly abnormal and extremely severe extraordinary disaster specified by Cabinet Order as creating a disaster-affected area for which it is found to be particularly necessary to smoothly make legal consultations available, had an address, residence, place of

business, or office in a district provided for by Cabinet Order as one in which civil legal relationships are likely to be thrown into extreme confusion, during the limited period of up to one year counting from the day of the disaster, as prescribed by Cabinet Order in consideration of the framework for implementing comprehensive legal support and other circumstances of the disaster-affected area, so as to assist those citizens and legal foreign residents in rebuilding their lives;

- (v) performing necessary legal consultations to prevent damage due to specific acts of violation against the person (meaning following around, etc. as provided in Article 2, paragraph (1) of the Anti-Stalking Act (Act No. 81 of 2000) or unauthorized location tracking, etc. provided in paragraph (3) of the Article, child abuse as provided in Article 2 of the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (Act No. 82 of 2000), and the spousal violence provided for in Article 1, paragraph (1) of the Act on the Prevention of Spousal Violence and the Protection of Victims (Act No. 31 of 2001); the same applies below in this item) in order to assist persons who are found to be suspected targets of violation at the time in question;
- (vi) services as follow concerning the appointment of a court-appointed defense counsel and a court-appointed attendant (referred to below as "a court-appointed defense counsel and attendant") and the selection of a court-appointed participating victim's attorney, with which the national government has entrusted the JLSC:
 - (a) nominating a candidate to act as a court-appointed defense counsel and attendant at the request of the court, presiding judge, or judges, from among attorneys who have entered into contracts with the JLSC to serve as court-appointed attorneys or attendants (referred to below as "attorneys contracted as court-appointed attorneys or attendants"), and notifying the court or presiding judge, or judges of it;
 - (b) notifying the court when there has been a request as under Article 11, paragraph (1) of the Crime Victims Protection Act, and sending the court the documents submitted to the JLSC pursuant to paragraph (2) of that Article;
 - (c) nominating a candidate to act as a court-appointed participating victim's attorney from among attorneys who have entered into contracts with the JLSC to serve as court-appointed participating victim's attorneys (referred to below as "attorneys contracted as participating victim's attorneys"), and notifying the court of it; or
 - (d) having an attorney contracted as a court-appointed defense counsel or attendant that has been appointed to serve as court-appointed defense counsel or attendant based on the notice referred to in (a) above serve in those services, and having an attorney contracted as participating victim's

- attorney that has been selected as a court-appointed participating victim's attorney based on the notice referred to in (c) above serve in those services;
- (vii) responding to requests to handle legal services and having an appropriate contract attorney or other legal services provider handle them at a reasonable cost, in regions where it is difficult for people to get an attorney, legal professional corporation, attorney / registered foreign lawyer joint corporation, or related legal expert to handle a legal matter because there are none in the region or due to other circumstances;
 - (viii) collecting and organizing the following information and materials concerning assistance to victims, etc. providing them for the public to use through information and communications technologies or by other means, and providing them in response to individual requests. In this case, paying attention to taking the necessary measures to ensure victims , etc. are being assisted effectively, such as by introducing them to attorneys who are well-versed in assisting victims, etc.:
 - (a) information and materials that contribute to the use of systems that allow victims , etc. to appropriately participate in criminal proceedings as well as helping them recover from the damage or alleviate the pain they have suffered, and other systems for assisting victims, etc.; or
 - (b) information and materials concerning the activities of organizations and other persons who offer assistance to victims, etc.;
 - (ix) providing services under the authority provided for in Article 8, paragraph (1) of the Crime Victims Protection Act;
 - (x) ensuring and strengthening coordination among the national government, local governments, bar associations, the Japan Federation of Bar Associations, organizations of related legal experts, attorneys, legal professional corporations, attorney / registered foreign lawyer joint corporations, and related legal experts; persons involved in alternative dispute resolution procedures, organizations providing assistance for victims, etc. and others, organizations providing assistance for the aged and for persons with disabilities; and other related persons; or
 - (xi) conducting a seminar or training in connection with the services of the JLSC;
 - (xii) providing services incidental to the services referred to in each of the preceding items.
- (2) In addition to the services referred to in the preceding paragraph, the JLSC may handle services as follows, in connection with things such as providing assistance for victims, etc., with which the national government, local governments, public interest incorporated associations, public interest incorporated foundations, and other non-profit corporations and international organizations have entrusted it based on the operational method statement

provided for in Article 34, paragraph (1), to the extent that this does not hinder its performance of the services referred to in the preceding paragraph:

- (i) having a contract attorney or other legal services provider handle legal services, as entrusted; and
 - (ii) providing services incidental to those referred to in the preceding item.
- (3) It must not be construed that the JLSC may handle services that it has a contract attorney or other legal services provider handle as a part of its services referred to in the preceding two paragraphs.

(Appropriateness of Services for the Purpose)

Article 31 The services referred to in paragraph (1), items (i) through (v), item (vii) and item (viii) of the preceding Article and in paragraph (2), item (i) of that Article are to be performed only to the extent that they are recognized as helping the person benefiting from those services exercise their rights.

(Duties of the JLSC)

Article 32 (1) As well as giving forethought to making the services provided for in the preceding Article convenient for persons who need them, the JLSC must endeavor to establish an integrated administrative framework and a nationwide uniform implementation for each of the services referred to in Article 30, paragraph (1), items (ii) through (vi).

- (2) If a person as provided in the preceding paragraph is elderly, has a disability, or otherwise has difficulty in getting the information and services needed to give that person recourse to the law to resolve a dispute, the JLSC must pay special attention to making it easier for the person to utilize the services provided for in the preceding Article.
- (3) In the administration of each of the operations referred to in Article 30, paragraph (1), items (i), (vii), and (viii), and paragraph (2), item (i), the JLSC must take care to have these supplement the comprehensive legal support efforts of local governments, bar associations, the Japan Federation of Bar Associations, and organizations of related legal experts, attorneys, legal professional corporations, attorney / registered foreign lawyer joint corporations, and related legal experts, persons involved in alternative dispute resolution procedures, organizations and others providing assistance for victims, etc., organizations providing assistance for the elderly and for persons with disabilities; and other related persons, through coordination with their activities.
- (4) In the regional administration of its services, the JLSC must endeavor to hear and use as a reference opinion from a wide variety of users and other related persons by, for example, holding council meetings, molding its administration of those services to the actual conditions of the region.

- (5) A local government may provide the necessary cooperation to the JLSC in connection with services as provided in Article 30 that are performed in its region.
- (6) In administering its services, the JLSC may ask bar associations, the Japan Federation of Bar Associations, and organizations of related legal experts to offer their opinions and request to provide other necessary cooperation.

(Improving the Credentials of Attorneys Serving as JLSC Employees)

Article 32-2 In cooperation with bar associations, the Japan Federation of Bar Associations, and organizations of related legal experts, and in addition to coordinating communication with the relevant regional organizations and taking other necessary measures to ensure that the attorneys the JLSC employs who are under contract to handle other persons' legal matters are smoothly performing their official duties, the JLSC must also endeavor to improve those attorneys' credentials through training and in other ways.

(Independence in the Duties of Contract Attorneys and Other Legal Services Providers)

- Article 33 (1) A contract attorney or other official legal services provider independently perform their duties regarding the services that the JLSC has that attorney or provider handle as services referred to in Article 30, paragraph (1) or (2).
- (2) The JLSC and a contract attorney or other legal services provider in question must explain in a way that is easy to understand to a person whose legal matter they are handling that the attorney or provider is independently perform their duties as prescribed in the preceding Article.

(Operational Method Statement)

- Article 34 (1) On commencing service, the JLSC must prepare an operational method statement and have it approved by the Minister of Justice. The same applies when it plans to modify this.
- (2) The operational method statement referred to in the preceding paragraph must give the following matters and other matters that Ministry of Justice Order prescribes:
 - (i) matters in connection with the services referred to in Article 30, paragraph (1), items (ii) through (iv) and services incidental to them (referred to below as "civil legal aid program") about how to apply for assistance and how applications are judged; about the standards for the remuneration and actual costs lent as prescribed in Article 30, paragraph (1), item (ii), (a) and (c) and their reimbursement; about the payment of an amount equivalent to the remuneration and actual costs as provided in Article 30, paragraph (1), item

- (ii), (b) and (d); and about the bearing of the actual costs of persons receiving assistance via the services stated in Article 30, paragraph (1), item (iii). In this cases, the remuneration must be of a reasonable amount decided in consideration of the fact that the civil legal aid program provides extensive support to citizens and legal foreign residents as provided in Article 30, paragraph (1), item (ii) of that paragraph;
- (ii) matters concerning the applications for assistance required to use the services, and matters concerning the bearing of the actual costs of persons receiving the assistance regarding the services and the incidental services referred to in Article 30, paragraph (1), item (v);
- (iii) matters, in connection with the services referred to in Article 30, paragraph (1), item (vi) and services incidental to it, about contracts with attorneys; about the nomination of a candidate as a court-appointed defense counsel or attendant and an court-appointed participating victim's attorney and about notifying the court in connection with this; about the cooperation provided for in Article 39, paragraph (4), Article 39-2, paragraph (3), and Article 39-3, paragraph (3); and about management of the accounts stated in Article 43, item (i);
- (iv) matters concerning the management of the accounts stated in Article 43, item (i) regarding the services and incidental services referred to in Article 30 paragraph (1), item (ix);
- (v) matters in connection with the services referred to in Article 30, paragraph (2) about the content of services carried out as entrusted; and
- (vi) matters about the establishment of a framework to ensure that the officers (other than auditors) perform their official duties in conformity with this Act and other laws and regulations, and other frameworks to ensure the suitability of the JLSC's services.
- (3) When granting the approval referred to in paragraph (1), the Minister of Justice must hear the opinions of the Supreme Court and the Evaluation Committee in advance.
- (4) Having granted the approval referred to in paragraph (1), the Minister of Justice must notify the Supreme Court of this without delay.
- (5) Having received the approval referred to in paragraph (1), the JLSC must make the operational method statement public without delay.
- (6) On finding that an operational method statement approved as referred to in paragraph (1) is no longer appropriate to allow for the proper and reliable provision of services, the Minister of Justice may order a revision of the operational method statement.

(Rules for Handling of Legal Services)

Article 35 (1) The JLSC must establish rules for handling of legal services by

contract attorneys and other legal services providers (referred to below as "rules for handling of legal services") and have them approved by the Minister of Justice before commencing the services provided for in Article 30. The same applies when it tries to modify these.

- (2) The rules for handling of legal services must include matters on the standards for handling of legal services by contract attorneys and other legal services providers, matters on measures to be taken if a contract attorney or other legal services provider violates the terms of the contract, and other matters provided for by Ministry of Justice Order.
- (3) The provisions of paragraphs (3) through (6) of the preceding Article apply *mutatis mutandis* to the rules for handling of legal services.

(General Conditions of the Contracts Concerning the Services Handled by Court-Appointed Defense Counsels and Attendants and Court-Appointed Participating Victim's Attorneys)

Article 36 (1) The JLSC must establish the general conditions of the contract concerning the services handled by court-appointed defense counsels or attendants and court-appointed participating victim's attorneys, and have them approved by the Minister of Justice before commencing the services referred to in Article 30, paragraph (1), item (vi). The same applies when it tries to modify these.

- (2) Matters about matters for which a court-appointed defense counsel and attendant and a court-appointed participating victim's attorney handle services; matters about the nomination of a candidate as a court-appointed attorney and attendant and a court-appointed participating victim's attorney and about notifying the court with regard to this; matters about a request for remuneration and expenses; matters about the standards for calculating remuneration and expenses and about their payment; matters about the cancellation of contracts and measures to be taken if the general conditions of the contract are violated; and other matters that Ministry of Justice Order prescribes must be included in the general conditions of the contract as referred to in the preceding paragraph.
- (3) Ministry of Justice Order prescribes the necessary matters to establish the standards for calculating the remuneration and expenses provided for in the preceding paragraph.
- (4) Article 34, paragraphs (3) through (6) apply *mutatis mutandis* to the general conditions of the contract referred to in paragraph (1).
- (5) When the JLSC enters into a contract with an attorney that concerns the handling of services by a court-appointed defense counsel and attendant and a court-appointed participating victim's attorney and specifies that remuneration and expenses will be paid in accordance with the cases handled, that contract

must be based on the general conditions of the contract approved as referred to in paragraph (1).

(Notifying of the Names and Other Information of Attorneys Contracted as Court-Appointed Defense Counsels and Attendants and Attorneys Contracted as Participating Victim's Attorneys)

Article 37 The JLSC must notify the court and the bar association to which the relevant attorney belong of the name, office address, and other matters that the Ministry of Justice Order prescribes regarding the attorney contracted as a court-appointed defense counsel or attendant and an attorney contracted as a participating victim's attorney, in connection with the services referred to in Article 30, paragraph (1), item (vi). The same applies if any of these matters changes.

(Nominating and Notifying of Candidates for Court-Appointed Defense Counsels or Attendants)

Article 38 (1) When a court-appointed attorney or attendant is to be appointed pursuant to the Code of Criminal Procedure or the Juveniles Act, the court, the presiding judge, or the judges are to ask the JLSC to nominate and notify the court, presiding judge, or judges of a candidate for a court-appointed attorney or attendant.

(2) When the JLSC has received a request under the preceding paragraph, it must nominate a candidate for a court-appointed attorney or attendant from among attorneys contracted as a court-appointed defense counsel or attendant, and notify the court, presiding judge, or judges of this without delay.

(3) When an attorney contracted as a court-appointed attorney or attendant is appointed as a court-appointed defense counsel or attendant, the JLSC is to have that attorney serve as court-appointed defense counsel or attendant pursuant as prescribed in the contract.

(Nominating and Notifying of Candidates for Court-Appointed Participating Victim's Attorneys)

Article 38-2 (1) When nominating a candidate for a court-appointed a participating victim's attorney based on the Crime Victims Protection Act, the JLSC must choose from among attorneys contracted as participating victims' attorneys.

(2) When an attorney contracted as a participating victim's attorney is appointed as a court-appointed participating victim's attorney, the JLSC is to have that attorney serve as court-appointed participating victim's attorney as prescribed in the contract.

(Special Provisions Concerning Court-Appointed Defense Counsel's Rights to Demand Remuneration and Expenses)

Article 39 (1) Article 38, paragraph (2) of the Code of Criminal Procedure does not apply if an attorney contracted as a court-appointed attorney or attendant is appointed as a court-appointed attorney.

(2) In a case as referred to in the preceding paragraph, when a person provided for in one of the items of Article 2 of the Act on the Costs Involved in Criminal Proceedings (Act No. 41 of 1971) or a person as stated in one of the following items is appointed as a court-appointed attorney, the expenses for the court-appointed attorney that each item prescribes also form a part of the court costs in the criminal proceedings:

(i) an attorney contracted as a court-appointed attorney or attendant who has entered into a contract stating the remuneration and expenses for each case: the remuneration and expenses stated in the contract; or

(ii) an attorney contracted as a court-appointed defense counsel or attendant other than one as provided in the preceding item: travel expenses, a daily allowance, accommodation charges, and remuneration in amounts decided by the court based on the examples provided in Article 38, paragraph (2) of the Code of Criminal Procedure.

(3) Notwithstanding Article 188 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, if an attorney contracted as a court-appointed defense counsel or attendant as stated in item (ii) of the preceding paragraph is appointed as a court-appointed defense counsel but the amount of expenses as prescribed in that item is not indicated in the judicial decision ordering a party to bear court costs, the court calculates that amount at the petition of the public prosecutor who will direct the execution of the decision. In this case, the Rules of the Supreme Court prescribe the necessary matters of the procedure for calculating this.

(4) In the case referred to in paragraph (1), the court or the public prosecutor may ask the JLSC for the necessary cooperation in calculating or estimating the amount of the court costs associated with the court-appointed defense counsel.

(5) In the case referred to in paragraph (1), at the request of a defendant or suspect who will pay an estimated amount of court costs in advance pursuant to Article 500-2 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, the JLSC must notify the defendant or suspect of the expected amount of court costs associated with the court-appointed attorney.

(Special Provisions Concerning Court-Appointed Attendant's Rights to Demand Remuneration and Expenses)

Article 39-2 (1) Article 22-3, paragraph (4) of the Juveniles Act does not apply when an attorney contracted as a court-appointed defense counsel or attendant

is appointed as a court-appointed attendant.

- (2) To apply Article 31 of the Juveniles Act to a case as referred to in the preceding paragraph, when a person as stated in one of the following items is appointed as a court-appointed attendant in addition to a person provided for in paragraph (1) of that Article, the expenses for the court-appointed attendant that each item prescribes also form a part of the expenses referred to in that paragraph:
- (i) an attorney contracted as a court-appointed defense counsel or attendant who has entered into a contract setting forth the remuneration and expenses for each case: the remuneration and expenses stated;
 - (ii) an attorney contracted as a court-appointed defense counsel or attendant other than one as provided in the preceding item: travel expenses, a daily allowance, accommodation charges, and remuneration in amounts decided by the court based on the examples provided in Article 22-3, paragraph (4) of the Juveniles Act.
- (3) In the case referred to in paragraph (1), the court may ask the JLSC for the necessary cooperation in calculating the amount of expenses associated with the court-appointed attendant.

(Special Provisions Concerning the Rights of Court-Appointed Participating Victim's Attorneys to Demand Remuneration and Expenses)

Article 39-3 (1) Article 14, paragraph (4) of the Crime Victims Protection Act does not apply when an attorney contracted as a participating victim's attorney is selected as a court-appointed participating victim's attorney.

- (2) To apply Article 17, paragraph (1) of the Crime Victims Protection Act in a case as referred to in the preceding paragraph, in addition to a person provided for in that paragraph, when a person stated in one of the following items is selected as a court-appointed participating victim's attorney, the expenses for the attorney that each item prescribes also form a part of the travel expenses, a daily allowance, accommodation charges, and remuneration prescribed in that paragraph:
- (i) an attorney contracted as a participating victim's attorney who has entered into a contract stating the remuneration and expenses for each case: the remuneration and expenses stated in the contract; or
 - (ii) an attorney contracted as a participating victim's attorney other than one as provided in the preceding item: travel expenses, a daily allowance, accommodation charges, and remuneration in amounts decided by the court based on the examples provided in Article 14, paragraph (4) of the Crime Victims Protection Act.
- (3) In the case referred to in paragraph (1), the court may ask the JLSC for the necessary cooperation in calculating the amount of expenses associated with

the court-appointed participating victim's attorney.

Subsection 2 Medium-Term Objectives

(Medium-Term Objectives)

Article 40 (1) The Minister of Justice must establish the objectives on administration of services that the JLSC is to achieve during a three- to five-year period (referred to below as a "medium-term objective"), and in addition to issuing directions on the objective to the JLSC, must also make it public. The same applies when the minister has modified them.

- (2) The following matters must be established in the medium-term objectives:
- (i) the period for the medium-term objectives (meaning the period that the Minister of Justice establishes, within the scope of the period referred to in the preceding paragraph; the same applies below);
 - (ii) matters related to measures to enhance comprehensive legal support;
 - (iii) matters related to of improving the quality of the services being provided and other operations;
 - (iv) matters related to improving efficiency in the administration of services;
 - (v) matters related to improving financial condition; and
 - (vi) other important matters related to the administration of services.
- (3) When determining or revising the medium-term objectives, the Minister of Justice must hear the opinions of the Supreme Court and the Evaluation Committee in advance.
- (4) Having determined or modified the medium-term objectives pursuant to paragraph (1), the Minister of Justice must notify the Supreme Court of this without delay.

(Medium-Term Plans)

Article 41 (1) Having been issued a direction as referred to in paragraph (1) of the preceding Article, the JLSC must draw up a plan to achieve the medium-term objectives pursuant to Ministry of Justice Order and based on the medium-term objectives (referred to below as a "medium-term plan"), and must have this approved by the Minister of Justice. The same applies when it tries to modify it.

- (2) The following matters are to be established in the medium-term plan:
- (i) measures that the JLSC should take to achieve the objectives related to the measures to enhance comprehensive legal support;
 - (ii) measures that the JLSC should take to achieve the objectives related to improving the quality of the services provided and other operations;
 - (iii) measures that the JLSC should take to achieve the objectives related to improving efficiency in the administration of services;

- (iv) a budget (including an estimate of personnel expenses), a revenue and expenditure plan, and a financial plan;
 - (v) limits on the amount of short-term borrowings;
 - (vi) a plan for disposing of any unnecessary assets (meaning unnecessary assets provided for in Article 8, paragraph (3) of the Act on General Rules for IAAs as applied mutatis mutandis; the same applies below) or assets expected to become unnecessary assets if any;
 - (vii) a plan to transfer any important assets other than those provided for in the preceding item, or to use them as collateral if the JLSC tries to do so;
 - (viii) use of surplus; and
 - (ix) other matters of the administration of services that Ministry of Justice Order prescribes.
- (3) When granting the approval referred to in paragraph (1), the Minister of Justice must hear the opinions of the Supreme Court and the Evaluation Committee in advance.
- (4) Having granted the approval referred to in paragraph (1), the Minister of Justice must notify the Supreme Court of this without delay.
- (5) If the Minister of Justice finds that a medium-term plan approved as referred to in paragraph (1) is no longer appropriate for the proper and steady implementation of the matters stated in paragraph (2), items (ii) through (vi) of the preceding Article, the minister may order the revision of the medium-term plan.
- (6) Having obtained the approval referred to in paragraph (1), the JLSC must make the approved medium-term plan public without delay.

(Evaluations of Annual Operational Performance)

- Article 41-2 (1) After the end of each fiscal year, the JLSC must undergo an evaluation by the Evaluation Committee with regard to the matters stated in based on which fiscal year of the following items the fiscal year in question falls under:
- (i) a fiscal year other than the ones stated in the following item and item (iii): operational performance in that fiscal year;
 - (ii) the fiscal year immediately preceding the final fiscal year in the period of the medium-term objectives: operational performance in that fiscal year and what the operational performance for the period of the medium-term objectives is expected to be upon completion of that period; or
 - (iii) the final fiscal year in the period of the medium-term objectives: operational performance in that fiscal year and operational performance for the period of the medium-term objectives.
- (2) When seeking to undergo an evaluation as referred to in the preceding paragraph, within three months of the end of the fiscal year and pursuant to

Ministry of Justice Order, the JLSC must submit a written report to the Evaluation Committee clearly indicating the matters provided for in item (i), (ii), or (iii) of that paragraph and the results of its own evaluation of those matters, and must also make that report public.

- (3) An evaluation as referred to in paragraph (1) must be conducted by a comprehensive assessment of the matters specified in item (i), (ii), or (iii) of that paragraph. In this case, the evaluation of operational performance in the fiscal year provided for in each of those items must be conducted through examination and analysis of the status of implementation of the medium-term plan in the relevant fiscal year, and in consideration of its results.
- (4) Having conducted an evaluation as referred to in paragraph (1), the Evaluation Committee must notify the JLSC (or the JLSC and the Committee on the Evaluation System of Incorporated Administrative Agencies (referred to as the "Committee on the Evaluation System" in paragraph (6) and the following Article), if the evaluation concerns what the operational performance for the period of the medium-term objectives is expected to be upon completion of that period, as provided in item (ii) of that paragraph) of the results of its evaluation without delay. In this case, the Evaluation Committee may issue a recommendation to the JLSC to improve the administration of its services or to take other necessary measures if it finds it necessary to do so.
- (5) Having notified the Committee on the Evaluation System as under the preceding paragraph, the Evaluation Committee must make the matters of which it has notified that committee public without delay (or the matters of which it has notified the committee and the contents of its recommendation, if it has made a recommendation pursuant to the second sentence of that paragraph).
- (6) The Committee on the Evaluation System may state its opinion on the results of the evaluation of which it has been notified pursuant to paragraph (4) to the Evaluation Committee if it finds this necessary. In this case, the Committee on the Evaluation System must make the contents of its opinion public without delay.

(Reviews upon Completion of the Periods of the Medium-Term Objectives)

Article 42 (1) If an evaluation has been conducted concerning what the operational performance for the period of the medium-term objectives is expected to be upon completion of that period as provided in paragraph (1), item (ii) of the preceding Article, the Minister of Justice is to conduct a review that encompasses the entirety of the JLSC's organization and services, including the necessity of allowing its services to continue and the suitability of its organization, and is to take necessary measures based on the results of the review by the completion of the period for the medium-term objectives of

the JLSC.

- (2) In conducting a review under the preceding paragraph, the Minister of Justice must take into account the importance of implementing comprehensive legal support and establishing its framework.
- (3) In conducting a review under paragraph (1), the Minister of Justice must hear the opinions of the Supreme Court and the Evaluation Committee in advance.
- (4) As well as notifying the Committee on the Evaluation System of the results of a review as referred to in paragraph (1) and the measures to be taken pursuant to that paragraph, the Minister of Justice must make these public.
- (5) Having been notified as under the preceding paragraph, the Committee on the Evaluation System may issue a recommendation to the Minister of Justice concerning the revision or discontinuation of the principal administrative functions and programs of the JLSC, by the completion of the period of the JLSC's medium-term objectives. In this case, the Committee on the Evaluation System must make the contents of its recommendation public without delay.
- (6) Having been issued a recommendation as referred to in the preceding paragraph, the Minister of Justice must notify the Supreme Court of its contents without delay.
- (7) Having issued a recommendation as referred to in paragraph (5), the Committee on the Evaluation System may ask the Minister of Justice to report on the measures that the minister has taken and seeks to take based on its recommendation.

(Rectifying Illegal Conducts)

- Article 42-2 (1) On finding that the JLSC or its officer or employee has engaged or is likely to engage in conduct that violates this Act or other applicable laws and regulations, the Minister of Justice may ask the JLSC to take the necessary measures to rectify that conduct.
- (2) Having been asked by the Minister of Justice to act as under the preceding paragraph, the JLSC must promptly rectify the conduct in question and take other necessary measures, and report the details of those measures to the Minister of Justice.

Section 4 Finance and Accounting

(Separate Accounting)

- Article 43 The JLSC must separate the accounting for its services as follows and prepare and keep separate accounts for those services:
- (i) the services referred to in Article 30, paragraph (1), items (vi) and (ix), and services incidental to those services;
 - (ii) services other than those stated in the preceding item.

(Financial Statements)

Article 44 (1) Every fiscal year, the JLSC must prepare a balance sheet, profit and loss statement, documents concerning the handling of profits and losses, the other documents that Ministry of Justice Order prescribes, and the detailed statements associated with all of these documents (referred to below as "financial statements"), submit them to the Minister of Justice within three months of the end of the fiscal year, and have them approved by the Minister of Justice.

- (2) When submitting financial statements to the Minister of Justice pursuant to the preceding paragraph, the JLSC must include an operational report for the fiscal year prepared pursuant to Ministry of Justice Order and a settlement of accounts prepared in accordance with the budget category, as well as an audit report and a financial audit report for the financial statements and settlement of accounts.
- (3) When approving the financial statements pursuant to paragraph (1), the Minister of Justice must hear the opinion of the Evaluation Committee in advance.
- (4) Having obtained the approval referred to in paragraph (1), the JLSC must issue public notice of its financial statements in the Official Gazette without delay, and it must keep the financial statements as well as the operational report, settlement of accounts, audit report, and financial audit reports referred to in paragraph (2) at each office and make them available for public inspection for the period prescribed by Ministry of Justice Order.
- (5) Instead of issuing a public notice as under the preceding paragraph with regard to the associated detailed statements referred to in paragraph (1) and other documents that Ministry of Justice Order prescribes, the JLSC may issue a public notice by means of either:
 - (i) publication in a daily newspaper that publishes matters on current affairs; or
 - (ii) electronic public notice (meaning issuing a public notice by taking what Ministry of Justice Order prescribes as measures to put the information that constitutes the details about which the public is to be notified into a form that enables a large, non-exclusive audience to access it through the use of an electronic data processing system or through any other application of information and communications technology which is specified by Ministry of Justice Order; the same applies in the following paragraph).
- (6) When issuing public notice by way of an electronic public notice pursuant to the preceding paragraph, the JLSC must do so continually during the period specified by Ministry of Justice Order as referred to in paragraph (4).

(Handling of Profits and Losses)

- Article 45 (1) For each fiscal year during which a profit arises in the profit and loss calculation for one of the accounts stated in Article 43, if there is an amount remaining even after the JLSC offsets any loss brought forward from the previous fiscal year, it must treat this amount as reserve funds; provided, however, that this does not apply if the amount remaining is allocated to the account for services as stated in item (ii) of that Article, pursuant to paragraph (3).
- (2) For each fiscal year during which a loss arises in the profit and loss calculation for one of the accounts stated in Article 43, if a shortage remains even after the JLSC reduces the reserve funds under the preceding paragraph, it must treat this amount as a loss carried forward.
- (3) If there is an amount remaining as provided in paragraph (1) in the account for services as stated in Article 43, item (ii), the JLSC may allocate all or part of it for use as surplus as referred to in Article 41, paragraph (2), item (viii) as per the medium-term plan approved as referred to in Article 41, paragraph (1) (or as per the revised medium-term plan, if this is revised pursuant to the latter part of Article 41, paragraph (1); simply referred to below as "medium-term plan") with the approval of the Minister of Justice.
- (4) When granting the approval referred to in the preceding paragraph, the Minister of Justice must hear the opinion of the Evaluation Committee in advance.

(Handling of Reserve Funds)

- Article 46 (1) If there are any reserve funds as under paragraph (1) of the preceding Article in the account for services as stated in Article 43, item (ii) after the settlement of the accounts under paragraph (1) or (2) of that Article for the last fiscal year in the period of medium-term objectives, the JLSC, pursuant to the medium-term plan for the following period of medium-term objectives, may allocate the amount of reserve funds for which the Minister of Justice grants approval as funding for the services provided in Article 30, other than those as referred to in Article 30, paragraph (1), items (vi) and (ix) and services incidental to it, during the following period of medium-term objectives.
- (2) If there are any reserve funds as under the main clause of paragraph (1) of the preceding Article in the account for services as stated in Article 43, item (i) after the settlement of accounts under paragraph (1) or (2) of the preceding Article for the last fiscal year in the period of medium-term objectives, the JLSC must allocate an amount equivalent to the amount of those reserve funds as funding for the services referred to in Article 30, paragraph (1), items (vi) and (ix) and services incidental to it, in and after the following fiscal year.
- (3) When granting the approval referred to in paragraph (1), the Minister of

Justice must hear the opinion of the Evaluation Committee in advance.

- (4) If there is an amount remaining after the amount approved as referred to in paragraph (1) is deducted from an amount equivalent to the reserve funds provided for in paragraph (1), the JLSC must use the amount remaining to pay each of the investors according to their amounts of capital contribution.
- (5) Beyond what is provided for in the preceding paragraphs, Cabinet Order prescribes the necessary matters of the procedures for payment of money to the government and other handling of reserve funds.

(Borrowings)

- Article 47 (1) The JLSC may make short-term borrowings within the limits of the amount of short-term borrowings stated in the medium-term plan, as referred to in Article 41, paragraph (2), item (v); provided, however, that it may make short-term borrowings in excess of this limit if the Minister of Justice grants approval for this as being due to compelling reasons.
- (2) The JLSC must repay short-term borrowings under the preceding paragraph within the fiscal year; provided, however, that if it cannot repay short-term borrowings because of a lack of funds, it may reborrow up to the amount that it cannot repay, with the approval of the Minister of Justice.
 - (3) The JLSC must repay short-term borrowings that it has reborrowed pursuant to the proviso of the preceding paragraph within one year.
 - (4) When granting the approval under the proviso to paragraph (1) or the proviso to paragraph (2), the Minister of Justice must hear the opinion of the Evaluation Committee in advance.
 - (5) The JLSC may neither make long-term borrowings nor issue bonds.

(Payment of Unnecessary Assets to the National Treasury)

- Article 47-2 (1) The JLSC is to gain the approval of the Minister of Justice and pay any unnecessary asset that is associated with a contribution or expenditure (excluding those that are investments in money) by the national government (referred to below as an "unnecessary asset associated with a government contribution or expenditure" in this Article) to the national treasury without delay; provided, however, that the approval of the Minister of Justice is not required if the JLSC has established a plan as referred to in Article 41, paragraph (2), item (vi) in its medium-term plan and it is paying an unnecessary asset associated with a government contribution, etc. to the national treasury in accordance with that plan.
- (2) Instead of paying an unnecessary asset associated with a government contribution or expenditure (excluding money; the same applies below in this paragraph and the following paragraph) to the national treasury as under the preceding paragraph, with the approval of the Minister of Justice, the JLSC

may transfer an unnecessary asset associated with a government contribution or expenditure and pay money to the national treasury in the amount calculated in accordance with the standards set by the Minister of Justice, within the limits of the income which has arisen from transferring the asset (excluding any amount exceeding the book value of the asset (referred to as "amount exceeding the book value" in the following paragraph)); provided, however, that the approval of the Minister of Justice is not required if the JLSC has established a plan as referred to in Article 41, paragraph (2), item (vi) in its medium-term plan and is paying that calculated amount of money to the national treasury in accordance with that plan.

- (3) In the case as referred to in the preceding paragraph, if there is an amount exceeding the book value derived from the transfer of an unnecessary asset associated with a government contribution or expenditure, the JLSC must pay that amount to the national treasury without delay; provided, however, that if the JLSC gains the approval of the Minister of Justice not to pay all or part of that amount to the national treasury, this does not apply to the amount for which it has received that approval.
- (4) If the JLSC has made a payment to the national treasury under paragraph (1) or paragraph (2), and the unnecessary asset associated with a government contribution or expenditure in connection with that payment was a contribution of capital from the national government, the government is deemed not to have contributed capital to the JLSC in the amount that the Minister of Justice prescribes, from among the JLSC's stated capital, as the part that was from the unnecessary asset associated with the government contribution or expenditure in connection with the relevant payment, and the JLSC is to reduce its stated capital by that amount.
- (5) When granting the approval under the provisions of paragraph (1), paragraph (2), or the proviso to paragraph (3), the Minister of Justice must hear the opinion of the Evaluation Committee in advance.
- (6) Beyond what is provided for in the preceding paragraphs, Cabinet Order prescribes the necessary matters in connection with the handling of unnecessary assets associated with a government contribution or expenditure.

(Paying Back Local Government Contributions That Constitute Unnecessary Assets)

Article 47-3 (1) With the approval of the Minister of Justice, the JLSC must notify a capital investor connected to any unnecessary asset that is associated with a capital contribution from a local government (referred to below as an "unnecessary asset associated with a local government contribution" in this Article) (the capital investor is referred to simply as an "investor" below in this Article) pursuant to Ministry of Justice Order, that the investor is entitled to

request the JLSC to pay back all or part of its share of the amount that the Minister of Justice prescribes as the amount of the capital contribution constituting the unnecessary asset; provided, however, that the approval of the Minister of Justice is not required if the JLSC has established a plan as referred to in Article 41, paragraph (2), item (vi) in its medium-term plan and is giving notice to inform the investor that it is entitled to request the JLSC to pay it back in accordance with that plan.

- (2) An investor may request the JLSC to pay it back as referred to in the preceding paragraph only up until the final day of the one-month period that begins on the day on which the investor receives the notice under the preceding paragraph.
- (3) Having been requested as under the preceding paragraph, the JLSC is to pay the requesting investor back the share it has requested to be paid back pursuant to that paragraph, without delay, from the amount calculated based on the standards that the Minister of Justice prescribes, up to the limit of the amount of the unnecessary asset associated with the local government contribution that the investor is requesting to be paid back or the amount of income derived from the transfer of the unnecessary asset (excluding money) associated with the local government contribution that the investor is requesting to be paid back (excluding any amount exceeding the book value of the asset) (or is to pay the requesting investor back the share of the amount prescribed by the Minister of Justice, if the amount calculated based on the aforementioned standards is less than the amount of the investor's share).
- (4) Once the JLSC has paid back an investor as under the preceding paragraph, the part of its stated capital that represents the amount of the share it has returned is deemed not to have been contributed to the JLSC by that investor, and the JLSC is to reduce its stated capital by that amount.
- (5) If an investor fails to request the JLSC to pay it back as under paragraph (2), or requests the JLSC for a partial pay back as under that paragraph for its share of an unnecessary asset associated with a local government contribution, the JLSC is not to return a share that the investor has not requested be returned.
- (6) When granting the approval under paragraph (1), the Minister of Justice must hear the opinion of the Evaluation Committee in advance.

(Restrictions on the Disposal of Assets)

Article 47-4 (1) The JLSC must have the approval of the Minister of Justice to transfer an important asset other than unnecessary assets as provided by Ministry of Justice Order or to furnish it as collateral; provided, however, that this does not apply if the JLSC has established a plan as referred to in Article 41, paragraph (2), item (vii) in its medium-term plan, and is transferring the

- important asset or providing it as collateral in accordance with that plan.
- (2) When granting the approval under the preceding paragraph, the Minister of Justice must hear the opinion of the Evaluation Committee.

Section 5 Miscellaneous Provisions

(Mutatis Mutandis Application of the Act on the General Rules for
Incorporated Administrative Agencies)

Article 48 Article 3 and Article 8, paragraph (1) and paragraph (3); Article 9; Article 11; Article 16; Article 17; Article 21, paragraph (1), paragraph (2), and paragraph (4); Articles 21-4 through 22; Article 24; Article 25; Article 25-2, paragraph (1) and paragraph (2); Article 26; Article 28-4; Article 31; Article 36; Article 37; Articles 39 through 43; Article 46; Article 47; Articles 49 through 50-10; Article 64; and Article 66 of the Act on the General Rules for Incorporated Administrative Agencies apply mutatis mutandis to the JLSC. In this case, the term "competent minister" in these provisions is deemed to be replaced with "Minister of Justice", the term "order of the competent ministry (meaning Cabinet Office Order or Ministerial Order of the Cabinet Office or each ministry which has jurisdiction over the incorporated administrative agencies; provided, however, that regarding the incorporated administrative agencies over which the NRA has jurisdiction, the rules of the NRA; the same applies below)" and the term "order of the competent ministry" are deemed to be replaced with "Ministry of Justice Order", the term "of an agency managed under the medium-term objectives" and the term "of the relevant agency managed under the medium-term objectives" are deemed to be replaced with "of the Japan Legal Support Center", the term "agency managed under the medium-term objectives" is deemed to be replaced with "Japan Legal Support Center", the term "the agency managed under the medium-term objectives" is deemed to be replaced with "the Japan Legal Support Center", the term "the agency managed under the medium-term objectives" is deemed to be replaced with "the Japan Legal Support Center", and the term "officers and employees of the agency managed under the medium-term objectives" is deemed to be replaced with "JLSC officers and employees", also the phrases stated in the middle column of the following table in the provisions of that Act stated in the left-hand column of that table are deemed to be replaced with the phrases stated in the right-hand column of that table.

Provisions of the Act on the General Rules for Incorporated Administrative Agencies Subject to the Deemed Replacement of Terms	Phrases Subject to the Deemed Replacement of Terms	Phrases Deemed to Replace the Phrases Subject to the Deemed Replacement of Terms
Article 3, paragraph (3)	the Individual Acts	the Comprehensive Legal Support Act (Act No. 74 of 2004)
Article 8, paragraph (3)	Article 46-2 or Article 46-3	Article 47-2 or Article 47-3 of the Comprehensive Legal Support Act
Article 16	Article 14, paragraph (1)	Article 20, paragraph (1) of the Comprehensive Legal Support Act
	the Agency President	the president
	paragraph (2) of the preceding Article	Article 21, paragraph (3) of that Act
Article 21, paragraph (1)	Article 29, paragraph (2), item (i)	Article 40, paragraph (2), item (i) of the Comprehensive Legal Support Act
Article 21, paragraph (2)	Article 38, paragraph (1)	Article 44, paragraph (1) of the Comprehensive Legal Support Act
Article 24, Article 25, and Article 26	the Agency President	the president
Article 28-4	Article 32, paragraph (1), Article 35-6, paragraph (1) or paragraph (2), or Article 35-11, paragraph (1) or paragraph (2)	Article 41-2, paragraph (1) of the Comprehensive Legal Support Act

	the medium-term plan under Article 30, paragraph (1) and the annual plan under Article 31, paragraph (1), the medium to long-term plan under Article 35-5, paragraph (1) and the annual plan under Article 31, paragraph (1) as applied mutatis mutandis pursuant to Article 35-8 following the deemed replacement of terms, or the annual objective plan under Article 35-10, paragraph (1)	the medium-term plan prescribed in Article 41, paragraph (1) of the Act, and the annual plan prescribed in Article 31, paragraph (1) as applied mutatis mutandis pursuant to Article 48 of the Act following a deemed replacement of terms
Article 31, paragraph (1)	paragraph (1) of the preceding Article	Article 41, paragraph (1) of the Comprehensive Legal Support Act
	the medium-term plan	the medium-term plan provided in the same paragraph
Article 31, paragraph (2)	Prior to the start of each business year, approved under paragraph (1) of the preceding Article	Prior to the start of each business year, provided in that paragraph approved as referred to in paragraph (1) of Article 41 of the Comprehensive Legal Support Act
	after obtaining the approval under paragraph (1) of the preceding Article	after obtaining the approval referred to in Article 41, paragraph (1) of the Comprehensive Legal Support Act

Article 39, paragraph (1)	An Incorporated Administrative Agency (other than an Incorporated Administrative Agency whose operational size, including its capital amount, fails to reach the standards provided by Cabinet Order; hereinafter the same applies in this Article)	the Japan Legal Support Center
	the Financial Statements	the financial statements provided in Article 44, paragraph (1) of the Comprehensive Legal Support Act (referred to below as "financial statements")
Article 39, paragraph (2), item (ii)	Order of the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications	Ministry of Justice Order
Article 39, paragraph (3)	a Subsidiary	to the subsidiary provided for in Article 23, paragraph (6) of the Comprehensive Legal Support Act (referred to below as "subsidiary")
Article 39-2, paragraph (1)	this Act, the relevant Individual Act	the Comprehensive Legal Support Act (including the provisions of this Act as applied mutatis mutandis pursuant to the provisions of Article 48 of that Act)
Article 46, paragraph (2)	the Medium-term Plan ..., the Medium to Long-term Plan of a National Research and Development Agency or the Annual Objective Plan of an Agency Engaged in Administrative Execution	the medium-term plan provided for in Article 45, paragraph (3) of the Comprehensive Legal Support Act
Article 50	this Act and ... based on this Act	this Act and the Comprehensive Legal Support Act, and ... based on these Acts

Article 50-4, paragraph (2), item (i)	Cabinet Order	Ministry of Justice Order
Article 50-4, paragraph (2), item (iv)	Article 32, paragraph (1)	Article 41-2, paragraph (1) of the Comprehensive Legal Support Act
Article 50-4, paragraph (2), item (v)	Article 35, paragraph (1)	Article 42, paragraph (1) of the Comprehensive Legal Support Act
	Cabinet Order	Ministry of Justice Order
Article 50-4, paragraph (3)	Cabinet Order	Ministry of Justice Order
Article 50-4, paragraph (4)	Minister of the Internal Affairs and Communications	Minister of Justice
Article 50-4, paragraph (5)	Cabinet Order	Ministry of Justice Order
Article 50-4, paragraph (6)	this Act, the relevant individual Act	the Comprehensive Legal Support Act (including the provisions of this Act as applied mutatis mutandis pursuant to Article 48 of that Act)
Article 50-6; Article 50-7, paragraph (1); Article 50-8, paragraph (3); and Article 50-9	Cabinet Order	Ministry of Justice Order
Article 64, paragraph (1)	this Act	the Comprehensive Legal Support Act (including the provisions of this Act as applied mutatis mutandis pursuant to Article 48 of that Act)

(Consultation with the Minister of Finance)

Article 49 The Minister of Justice must consult with the Minister of Finance in the following cases:

- (i) when granting the approval referred to in Article 36, paragraph (1); Article 41, paragraph (1); the proviso to Article 47, paragraph (1); the proviso to Article 47, paragraph (2); Article 47-2, paragraph (1), paragraph (2), or the proviso to paragraph (3); Article 47-3, paragraph (1); or Article 47-4, paragraph (1);
- (ii) when establishing or modifying the medium-term objectives pursuant to

- Article 40, paragraph (1);
- (iii) before granting the approval referred to in Article 45, paragraph (3) or Article 46, paragraph (1); or
- (iv) when making a designation as under Article 47, item (i) or (ii) of the Act on General Rules for IAAs as applied *mutatis mutandis*.

(*Mutatis Mutandis Application of Other Laws and Regulations*)

Article 50 Pursuant to Cabinet Order, the JLSC is deemed to be the national government or an agency managed under the medium-term objectives as provided in Article 2, paragraph (2) of the Act on the General Rules for Incorporated Administrative Agencies, and the Intellectual Property Basic Act (Act No. 122 of 2002) and other laws and regulations prescribed by Cabinet Order apply *mutatis mutandis*.

(*Delegation to Ministry of Justice Order*)

Article 51 Beyond what is provided for in this Act, Ministry of Justice Order provides for the necessary matters for the implementation of this Act.

Chapter IV Penal Provisions

Article 52 A person divulging confidential information in violation of Article 27 (including as applied *mutatis mutandis* pursuant to Article 29, paragraph (4)) is subject to imprisonment for not more than one year or a fine of not more than 500,000 yen.

Article 53 A JLSC officer or employee failing to report or falsely reporting as under Article 64, paragraph (1) of the Act on General Rules for IAAs as applied *mutatis mutandis*, or refusing, obstructing, or avoiding an inspection under that paragraph is subject to a fine of not more than 300,000 yen.

Article 54 (1) A JLSC officer committing a violation that falls under one of the following items is subject to a civil fine of not more than 200,000 yen:

- (i) failing to obtain the approval or authorization of the Minister of Justice that the officer is required to obtain pursuant to the provisions of this Act or the Act on General Rules for IAAs as applied *mutatis mutandis*;
- (ii) failing to file a notification or falsely filing a notification with the Minister of Justice that the officer is required to file pursuant to this Act or the Act on General Rules for IAAs as applied *mutatis mutandis*;
- (iii) failing to issue public notice or falsely issuing a false public notice that the officer is required to issue pursuant to this Act or the Act on General Rules for IAAs as applied *mutatis mutandis*;

- (iv) obstructing an investigation under Article 23, paragraph (4) or paragraph (5) or Article 39, paragraph (3) of the Act on General Rules for IAAs as applied *mutatis mutandis*;
 - (v) engaging in services other than those provided for in Article 30;
 - (vi) violating an order of the Minister of Justice as under Article 34, paragraph (6) (including as applied *mutatis mutandis* pursuant to Article 35, paragraph (3) and Article 36, paragraph (4)) or Article 41, paragraph (5);
 - (vii) failing to submit a written report as under Article 41-2, paragraph (2); or submitting a written report as under Article 41-2, paragraph (2) that does not include matters that it is required to include or that includes false information;
 - (viii) failing to report or falsely reporting as under Article 42-2, paragraph (2) of this Act or Article 50-8, paragraph (3) of the Act on General Rules for IAAs as applied *mutatis mutandis*;
 - (ix) failing to keep or provide financial statements, an operational report, a settlement of accounts, an audit report, or an account audit report for public inspection, in violation of Article 44, paragraph (4); or
 - (x) neglecting to register, in violation of Cabinet Order under Article 9, paragraph (1) of the Act on General Rules for IAAs as applied *mutatis mutandis*;
 - (xi) utilizing surplus funds from services in violation of Article 47 of the Act on General Rules for IAAs as applied *mutatis mutandis*.
- (2) The officer of a JLSC subsidiary who obstructs an investigation under Article 23, paragraph (6) of this Act or under Article 39, paragraph (3) of the Act on General Rules for IAAs as applied *mutatis mutandis*, is subject to a civil fine of not more than 200,000 yen.

Article 55 A person violating Article 18 is subject to a civil fine of not more than 100,000 yen.

Supplementary Provisions [Extract]

(Effective Date)

Article 1 This Act comes into effect on the date of promulgation; provided, however, that the provisions stated in the following items come into effect on the dates provided for in those items:

- (i) Chapter III (excluding Section I, Subsection 1 and Subsection 3, Article 30, Article 31, Article 33, Articles 37 through 39, Article 48 (limited to the parts to which Article 3 of the Act on General Rules as applied *mutatis mutandis* and Article 8, paragraph (1); Article 11; Article 16; and Article 17 are applied *mutatis mutandis*) and Article 51) and Chapter IV (excluding Article 54, item

- (iv) and Article 55) of this Act, as well as Articles 11 through 15 of the Supplementary Provisions and Article 17 (excluding the provisions revising Article 4, item (xxx) of the Act on Establishment of the Ministry of Justice (Act No. 93 of 1999)), Article 18, and Article 19 of those Provisions: the date that Cabinet Order prescribes, within a period not exceeding two years from the date of promulgation;
- (ii) Article 30, Article 31, Article 33, Articles 37 through 39, and Article 54, item (iv) of this Act and Article 6 and Article 8 of the Supplementary Provisions: the date that Cabinet Order prescribes, within a period not exceeding two years and six months from the date of promulgation; and
- (iii) Article 10 of the Supplementary Provisions: the date provided for in item (i) or the day on which the Act Partially Amending the Administrative Case Litigation Act (Act No. 84 of 2004) comes into effect, whichever comes later.

(Preparations)

Article 2 After its establishment, the JLSC may engage in the necessary preparations for implementing the services provided for in Article 30 even before that Article comes into effect.

(Succession to Rights and Obligations)

Article 3 Upon establishment, the JLSC succeeds to the rights and obligations held by the national government at the time of establishment which Cabinet Order prescribes, among those regarding preparation for the services provided for in Article 30.

(Free Use of National Government Assets)

Article 4 The chief justice of the Supreme Court may allow the JLSC to use a national government asset that is being used for functions connected with the payment of travel expenses, a daily allowance, accommodation charges, and remuneration of court-appointed attorneys or attendants, at the commencement of the services referred to in Article 30, paragraph (1), item (iii) at no charge and for its own purposes, pursuant to Cabinet Order.

(Transitional Measures Concerning Restrictions on Name Use)

Article 5 For a period of six months after the promulgation of this Act, Article 18 does not apply to a person that is using the name "Japan Legal Support Center" at the time this Act comes into effect.

(Repeal of the Civil Legal Aid Act)

Article 6 The Civil Legal Aid Act (Act No. 55 of 2000) is hereby repealed.

(Transfer from the Japan Legal Aid Association)

Article 7 (1) Pursuant to the provisions of the articles of endowment, the Japan Legal Aid Association (referred to below as "JLAA") may propose to the organizing committee members or the JLSC that the JLSC should succeed to the rights and obligations which the JLAA have come to hold in connection with the running of its civil legal aid program among those held by the JLAA at the time of the repeal of the Civil Legal Aid Act.

(2) On receipt of a proposal as under the preceding paragraph, the organizing committee members or the JLSC must file an application for approval with the Minister of Justice without delay.

(3) If an approval as referred to in the preceding paragraph is granted, the rights and obligations subject to the proposal under paragraph (1) are to be transferred to the JLSC upon the repeal of the Civil Legal Support Act.

(Transitional Measures for Penal Provisions Attendant on the Repeal of the Civil Legal Aid Act)

Article 8 Prior laws continue to govern the applicability of the penal provisions of the Civil Legal Aid Act to conduct in which a person engages before Article 6 of the Supplementary Provisions come into effect.

(Delegation of Other Transitional Measures to Cabinet Order)

Article 9 Beyond what is prescribed in Articles 2 through 5 of the Supplementary Provisions and the preceding two Articles, Cabinet Order prescribes the necessary transitional measures attending the repeal of the Civil Legal Support Act and any other necessary transitional measures connected with this Act coming into effect.

**Supplementary Provisions [Act No. 151 of December 1, 2004 Extract]
[Extract]**

(Effective Date)

Article 1 This Act comes into effect on the date that Cabinet Order prescribes, within a period not exceeding two years and six months from the date of promulgation.

Supplementary Provisions [Act No. 87 of July 26, 2005 Extract] [Extract]

This Act comes into effect on the day on which the Companies Act comes into effect.

Supplementary Provisions [Act No. 50 of June 2, 2006 Extract] [Extract]

This Act comes into effect on the day on which the Act on General Incorporated Associations and General Incorporated Foundations comes into effect (December 1, 2008).

Supplementary Provisions [Act No. 68 of June 1, 2007 Extract] [Extract]

(Effective Date)

Article 1 This Act comes into effect on the date that Cabinet Order prescribes, within a period not exceeding six months from the date of promulgation.

Supplementary Provisions [Act No. 19 of April 23, 2008 Extract] [Extract]

(Effective Date)

(1) This Act comes into effect on the day on which the Act Partially Amending the Code of Criminal Procedure and Other Laws to Protect the Rights and Interests of Crime Victims (Act No. 95 of 2007) comes into effect

Supplementary Provisions [Act No. 37 of May 28, 2010 Extract] [Extract]

(Effective Date)

Article 1 This Act comes into effect on a date that Cabinet Order prescribes, within a period not exceeding six months from the day of its promulgation (referred to below as "effective date").

(Transitional Measures Accompanying Partial Amendment of the Comprehensive Legal Support Act)

Article 30 (1) Notwithstanding Article 41, paragraph (2) of the Comprehensive Legal Support Act following its amendment under the preceding Article, prior laws continue to govern a medium-term plan that, as of the time this Act comes into effect, has been approved under Article 41, paragraph (1) of the Comprehensive Legal Support Act prior to its amendment.

(2) Any transfer of assets by the Japan Legal Support Center before the effective date which the Minister of Justice prescribes as equivalent to the transfer of an unnecessary asset (excluding money) associated with a government contribution or expenditure provided for in Article 46-2, paragraph (1) of the New Act as applied mutatis mutandis pursuant to Article 48 of the Comprehensive Legal Support Act following its amendment under the preceding Article on the effective date, is deemed to be the transfer of an unnecessary asset associated with a government contribution or expenditure under paragraph (2) of that Article that was made on the effective date, and

that paragraph through paragraph (6) of that Article apply. In this case, the phrase "may transfer that asset and pay money" in paragraph (2) of that Article is deemed to be replaced with "is to transfer that asset and pay money".

(Transitional Measures Concerning the Application of Penal Provisions)

Article 34 Prior laws continue to govern the applicability of penal provisions to a conduct in which a person engages before this Act comes into effect.

(Delegation of Other Transitional Measures to Cabinet Order)

Article 35 Beyond what is prescribed in these Supplementary Provisions, Cabinet Order provides for the necessary transitional measures connected with this Act coming into effect.

Supplementary Provisions [Act No. 74 of June 24, 2011 Extract] [Extract]

(Effective Date)

Article 1 This Act comes into effect on the day on which 20 days have elapsed from the date of promulgation (April 1, 2007).

Supplementary Provisions [Act No. 33 of June 12, 2013 Extract] [Extract]

(Effective Date)

(1) This Act comes into effect on the day specified by Cabinet Order within a period not exceeding six months from the date of promulgation.

Supplementary Provisions [Act No. 67 of June 13, 2014 Extract] [Extract]

(Effective Date)

Article 1 This Act comes into effect on the day that the Act Partially Amending the Act on General Rules for Incorporated Administrative Agencies (Act No. 66 of 2014; referred to below as the "General Rules Amendment Act") comes into effect; provided, however, that the provisions stated in the following items come into effect on the dates prescribed in those items:

- (i) Article 14, paragraph (2); Article 18; and Article 30 of the Supplementary Provisions: the dates of promulgation; and
- (ii) Article 9 of the Supplementary Provisions: the date of this Act's promulgation or the date of promulgation of the Act on the Japan Agency for Medical Research and Development, Independent Administrative Agency, whichever comes later.

(Transitional Measures Accompanying Partial Amendment of the

Comprehensive Legal Support Act)

- Article 12 (1) Article 23, paragraph (3), paragraph (4), paragraph (6), and paragraph (7) of the Comprehensive Legal Support Act following its amendment under Article 56 (referred to below as "the New Support Act" in this Article) and Article 23-2 of that Act; as well as Article 21-5; Article 39, paragraphs (1) through (4); and Article 39-2 of the New Act on General Rules as applied mutatis mutandis pursuant to Article 48 of the New Support Act also apply to matters arising before the effective date.
- (2) Notwithstanding the provisions of Article 21, paragraph (1) or paragraph (2) of the New Act on General Rules as applied mutatis mutandis following a deemed replacement of terms pursuant to Article 48 of the New Support Act, prior laws continue to govern the terms of office of the president and any person serving as auditor of the Japan Legal Support Center (referred to below as "the JLSC" in this Article) (including the terms of office of a president or auditor of the JLSC who has been appointed to fill a vacancy) at the time this Act comes into effect.
- (3) To apply Article 21, paragraph (2) of the New Act on General Rules as applied mutatis mutandis following a deemed replacement of terms pursuant to Article 48 of the New Support Act to the term of office of a JLSC auditor (excluding a JLSC auditor appointed to fill a vacancy) first appointed on or after the day following the effective date when the preceding paragraph applies to the term of office of a person serving as a JLSC auditor on the effective date, the phrase "is specified as corresponding to each period for the medium-term objectives, and it begins on the date of appointment" is deemed to be replaced with "from the date of appointment, the Japan Legal Support Center including the appointment date".
- (4) Article 41-2 of the New Support Act also applies to evaluation of the operational performance in the JLSC's fiscal year which ended the day before the effective date.

Supplementary Provisions [Act No. 53 of June 3, 2016 Extract] [Extract]

(Effective Date)

- (1) This Act comes into effect on the day specified by Cabinet Order within a period not exceeding two years from the date of promulgation.

(Transitional Measures Concerning the Application of Penal Provisions)

- (2) Prior laws continue to govern the applicability of penal provisions to conduct in which a person engages before this Act comes into effect.

Supplementary Provisions [Act No. 33 of May 29, 2020 Extract] [Extract]

(Effective Date)

Article 1 This Act comes into effect on the day specified by Cabinet Order within a period not exceeding two years and six months from the date of promulgation.

Supplementary Provisions [Act No. 45 of May 26, 2021 Extract] [Extract]

(Effective Date)

Article 1 This Act comes into effect on the day on which twenty days have elapsed from the date of promulgation; provided, however, that the provisions amending Article 2 (excluding the provisions amending paragraph (1) of that Article), the provisions amending Article 3 (including the title) and Article 4, paragraph (1), the provisions amending Article 5, the provisions amending Article 19, paragraph (2), and the provisions of Article 4 and Article 5 of the Supplementary Provisions come into effect on the day on which three months have elapsed from the date of promulgation.

Supplementary Provisions [Act No. 48 of May 25, 2022 Extract] [Extract]

(Effective Date)

Article 1 This Act comes into effect on the date specified by Cabinet Order within a period not exceeding four years from the date of promulgation; provided, however, that the provisions stated in the following items come into effect on the dates specified respectively in those items:

- (i) the provisions of Article 3, and the provisions amending Article 52, paragraph (2) of the Commercial Registration Act (Act No. 125 of 1963) and the provisions of Article 125 of the Supplementary Provisions in Article 60 of the Supplementary Provisions: the date of promulgation.

(Delegation to Cabinet Order)

Article 125 Beyond what is provided for in these Supplementary Provisions, transitional measure necessary for the enforcement of this Act are specified by Cabinet Order.

Supplementary Provisions [Act No. 68 of June 17, 2022 Extract] [Extract]

(Effective Date)

- (1) This Act comes into effect on the effective date of the Act Partially Amending the Penal Code and Related Laws; provided, however, that the provisions stated in the following items come into effect on the dates specified in those items:

(i) the provisions of Article 509: the date of promulgation.