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To Lawyers Who Use Japanese Interpreters  
In Depositions, Witness Interviews,  
and High-Stakes Meetings

*Re: Christopher Field*

Dear Colleague:

Many Japanese clients worry about asserting their rights and defenses in our courts because they fear that judges and, especially, juries will not understand them. One basis for this concern is very real. Sometimes the testimony of a responsive and articulate Japanese-speaking witness is translated in a way that may make him appear unintelligent or unresponsive.

In cases over the past six years, I have used Christopher Field as a check interpreter for depositions of Japanese-speaking witnesses. Chris has an extraordinary command of Japanese. Even more important, he is remarkably skilled at delivering in real time — in fluent, colloquial, and understandable English— what the Japanese witness actually said.

An official interpreter may not be familiar with the context of the case or with technical terms. Some are very familiar with Japanese but not very artful when they state the English version. The result can be a transcript that does not do justice to the witness's answer. Chris can make an enormous difference as a check interpreter in those instances by putting on the record a clear and correct rendition of what the witness actually said.

Chris is very knowledgeable about Japanese cultural practices and speech habits that can help you prepare witnesses and avoid miscommunications. He is familiar with many areas of technology, and he is a quick study in a new area. He is also a wonderful person who takes genuine pleasure in getting to know witnesses and lawyers.

I hope to keep Chris busy myself. But to the extent that leaves him with time for your matter, I cannot imagine a better choice for a Japanese interpreter.

Sincerely,

Jack W. Londen