

News & Types: News

Masuda Funai Recognized in 2026 Legal 500 Elite Rankings

7/27/2026

Masuda Funai is proud to announce that it was ranked as a 2026 Legal 500 Chicago Elite Tier 1 law firm in Corporate and M&A, reflecting the strength of the firm's transactional practice and its work on sophisticated domestic and cross-border matters.

"This recognition reflects the exceptional depth of talent across our key practice areas and our ability to bring that experience together for clients with complex cross-border business needs," said George Kobayashi, President of Masuda Funai. "It affirms both the quality of our lawyers and the distinctive value we provide to our clients."

Also, **12** attorneys across five practice areas have been named to the Legal 500 Chicago Elite rankings.

CORPORATE

AND

M&A

- **Ben Gould:** Tier 1
- **George Kobayashi:** Tier 3
- **Riebana Sachs:** Tier 2
- **Karl Von Drathen:** Tier 2
- **Jennifer Watson:** Tier 2



COMMERCIAL

DISPUTES

- **Steve Katz:** Tier 3
- **Rein Krammer:** Tier 3
- **Christen McGlynn:** Tier 4
- **Jiwon Yhee:** Tier 3



LABOR

&

EMPLOYMENT

- **Frank Del Barto:** Tier 2



INTELLECTUAL

PROPERTY

- **Michael Golenson:** Tier 2



REAL

ESTATE

- **Tim Hammersmith:** Tier 2



ABOUT LEGAL 500

The Legal 500 U.S. Elite rankings spotlight exceptional U.S. law firms and lawyers outside global firms. It is an independent legal research and rankings organization, and selection is based on in-depth client and peer interviews, and an evaluation of the strength and complexity of matters and transactions handled.

ABOUT MASUDA FUNAI

Masuda, Funai, Eifert & Mitchell, Ltd. is a full-service U.S. law firm with nearly a century of experience advising international and domestic companies. The firm counsels clients on corporate transactions, commercial matters, employment and labor, immigration, intellectual property and technology, litigation and real estate. Masuda Funai is particularly recognized for advising Japanese and other international companies on establishing, acquiring, operating and expanding businesses throughout the United States.

Masuda Funai is a full-service law firm with offices in Chicago, Detroit, Los Angeles, and Schaumburg.