



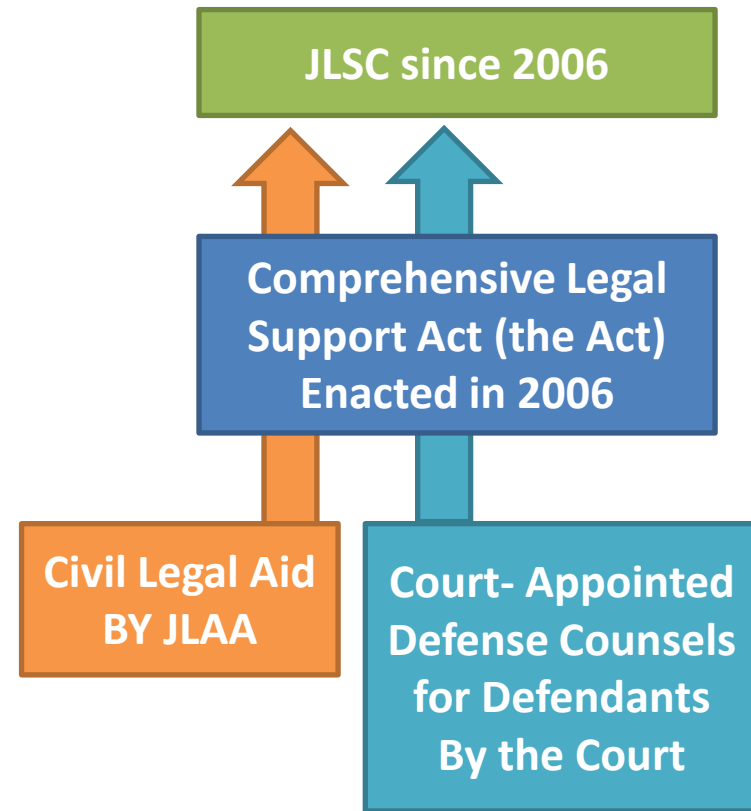
# Japan Legal Support Center

Satoko Tomita

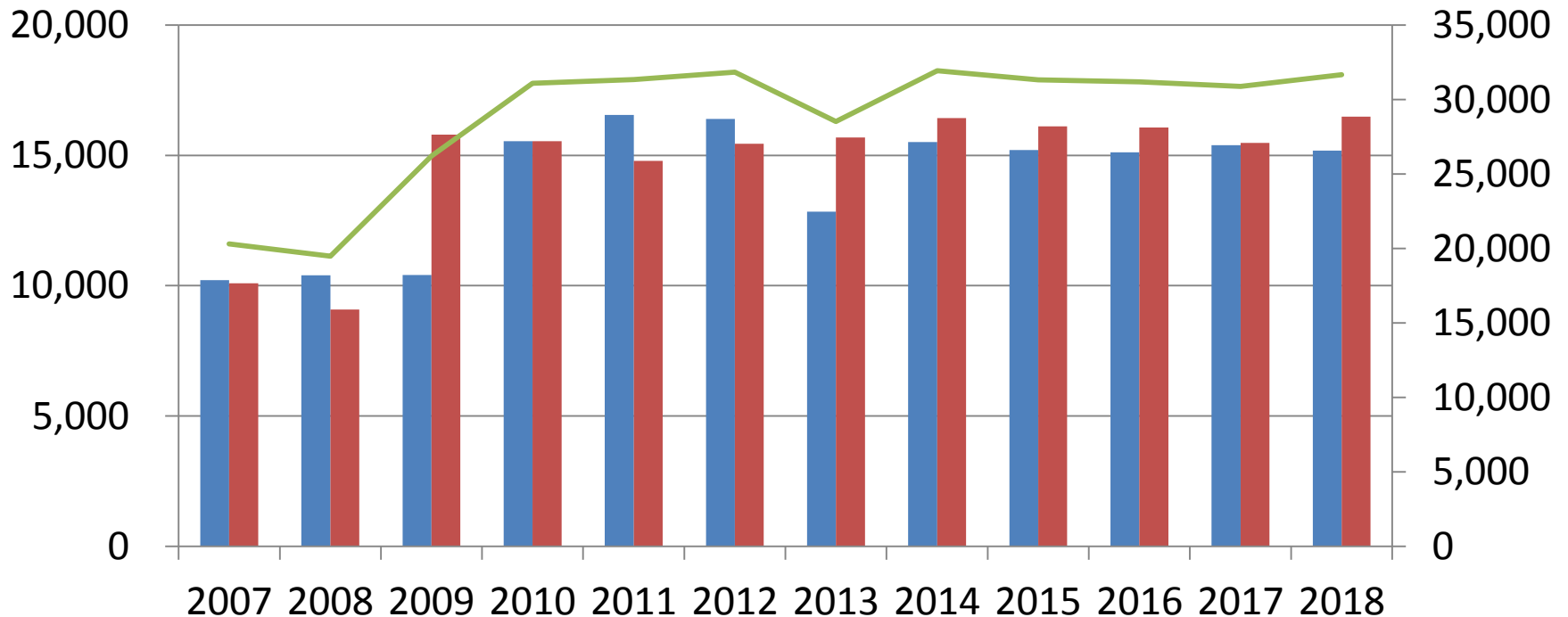
Director of the Crime Victim Support  
Division, Attorney at Law

# Basic Information

- Established in 2006
- Conducting Mainly Five Business
  - Information Service
  - Civil Legal Aid
  - Court-Appointed Defense Counsels
  - Measures for Remote Areas
  - Support for Crime Victims

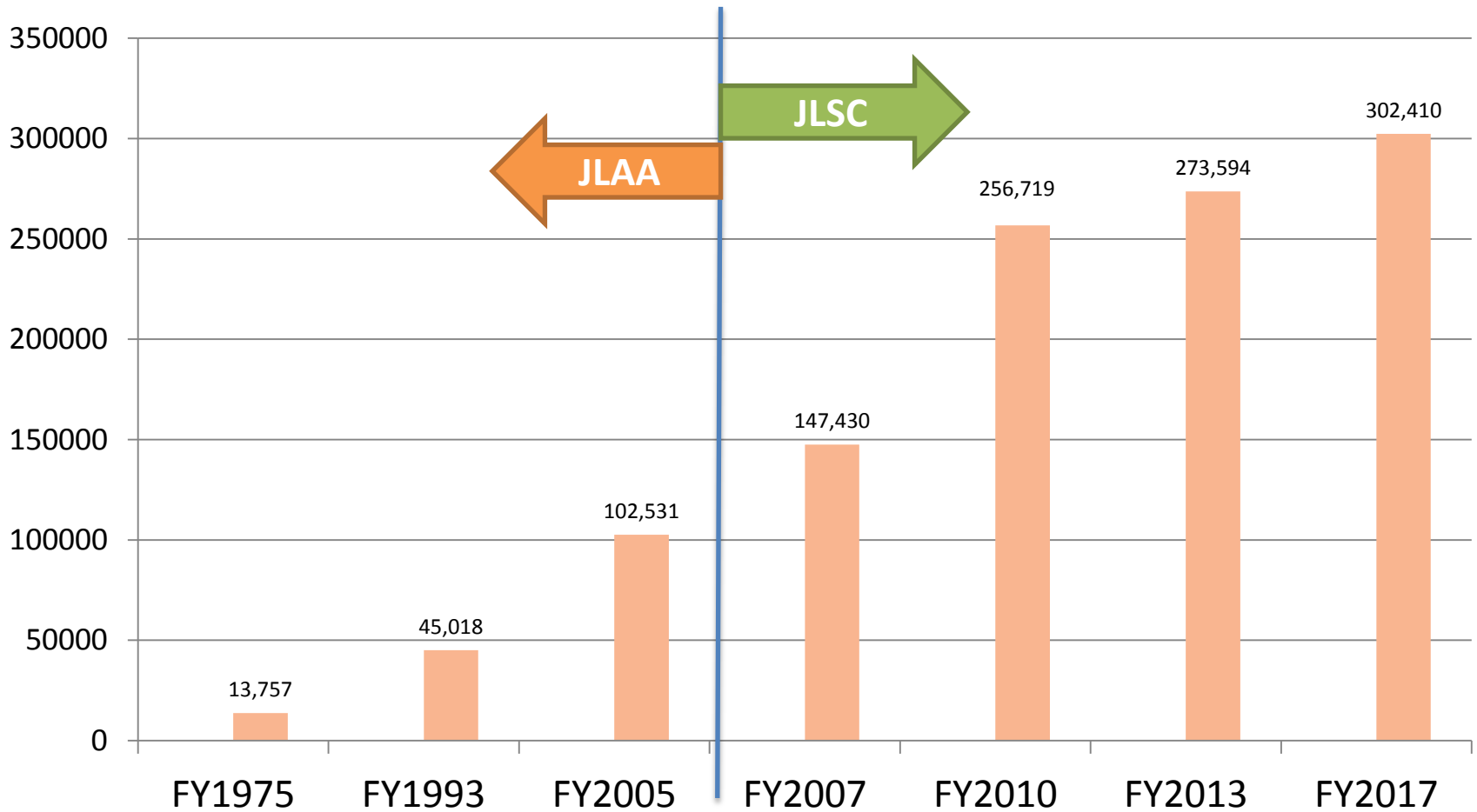


# Changes on the Funds from Gov.



- Government Grants for Operational Expenses
- Funds for Entrusted Business relating to Court-Appointed Defense Counsel
- In Total

# Growth of the Civil Legal Aid



The Numbers of the Conducted Free Legal Consultations

# Expansion of the Scope of the Public Defense for the **Detained** **Suspects**

**Oct. 2006**  
Only for the felonies  
with severe  
punishments

**Nov. 1, 2007**  
Court-Appointed  
Attendant for the  
Juvenile Started

**May 21, 2009**  
For the Felonies  
with  
punishments for  
more than three  
years as  
maximum

**Jun. 1, 2018**  
For the all  
detainees

Arrest

72 hours

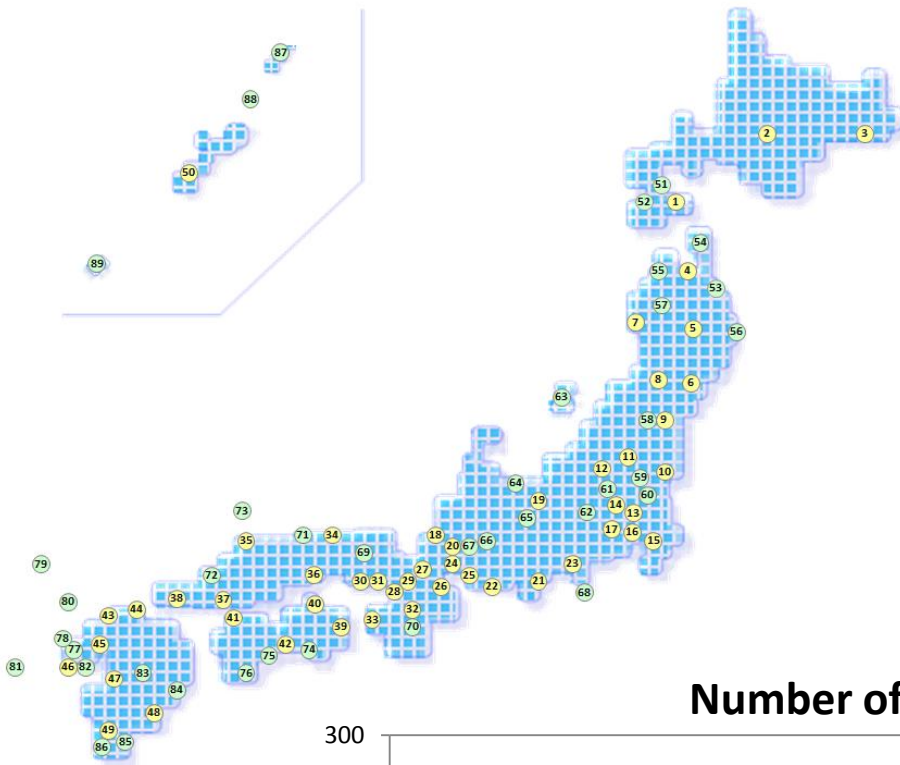
Detention

20 days

Trial

can be bailed on bond

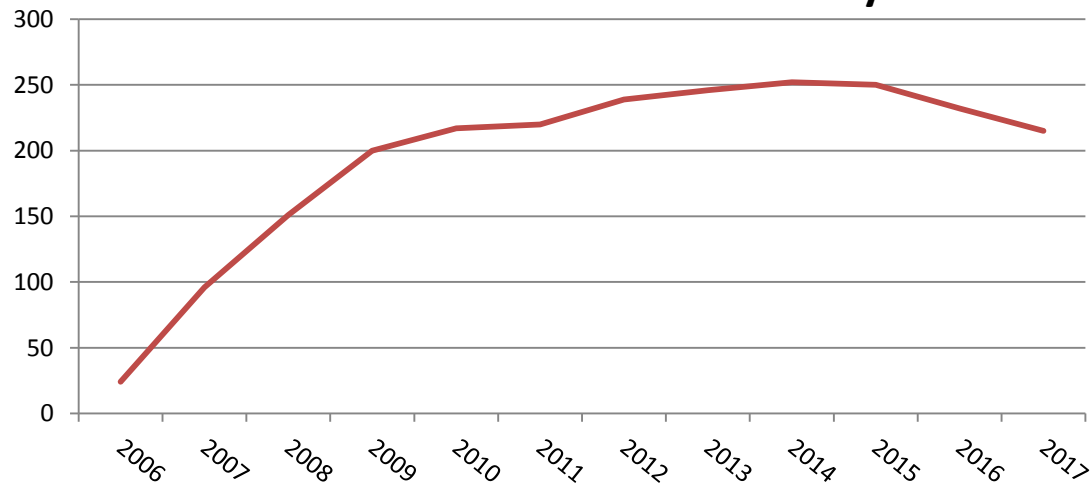
# Figures on the Staff Attorneys



## Comparison with the Contract Lawyers

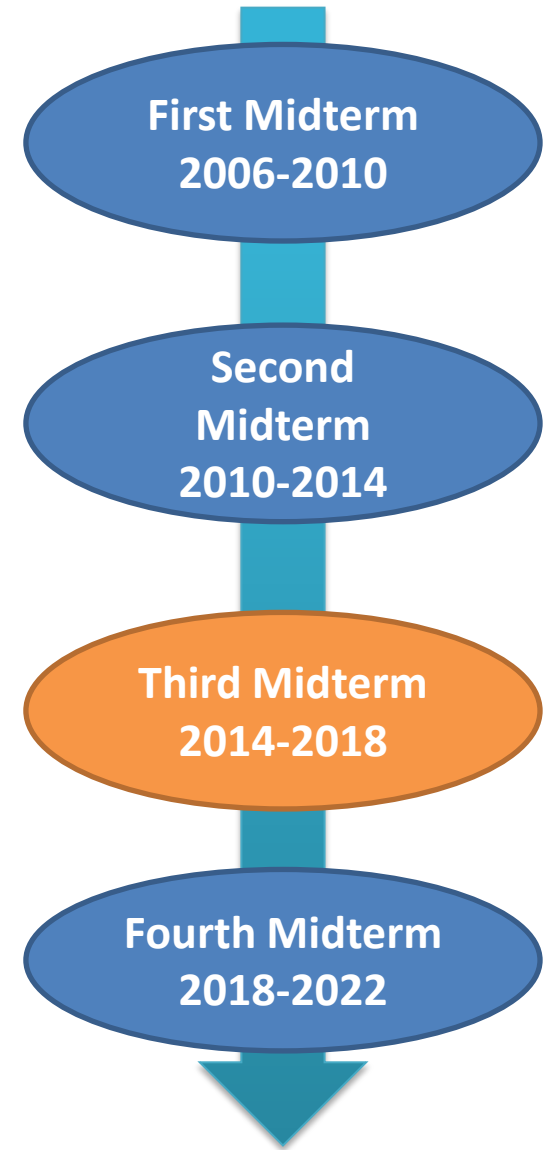
	Civil		Criminal	
	No. of SA	No. Cases Taken by SA	No. of SA	No. Cases Taken by SA (in average)
FY 2013	1.30%	3.80%	1.10%	2.35%
FY 2017	1.00%	4.40%	0.80%	2.05%

## Number of Staff Attorneys



# The Third Mid-term Plan

- Apr. 2014 to Mar. 2018
- Two Major Services to be Enhanced
  - **Measures for the Great East Japan Earthquake**
  - **Legal Social Work**



# Measures for Disasters

- Special Act on the Great East Earthquake
  - Since Apr. 2012
  - Extended twice, valid till Mar. 2021
- Established 7 Sub-branches in the affected Areas





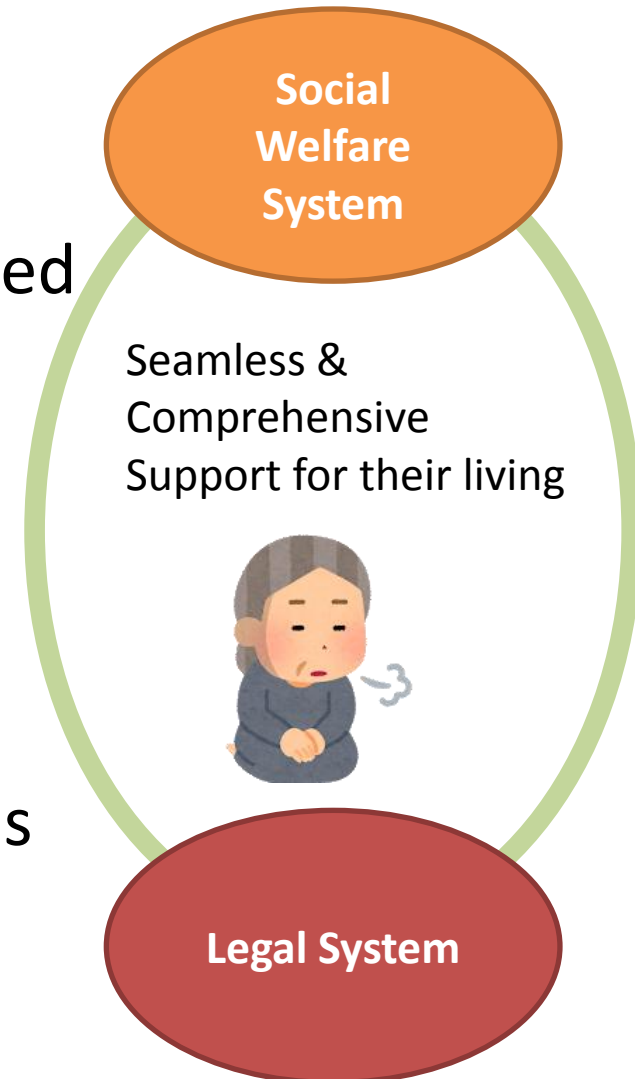
# Measures for Disasters

## Revision of the Act

- Free legal consultations for **residents** in the disaster-affected areas specified by a Cabinet Order(Enacted in **Jul 1, 2016**)
- For **one year** after the occurrence
  - Kumamoto Earthquake (Apr 14, 2016)
    - 10,158 legal consultations till Apr. 13, 2017
  - West Japan Heavy Rain (June 28 to Jul 8, 2018)
    - Legal Consultation started on Jul 14, 2018

# Legal Social Work

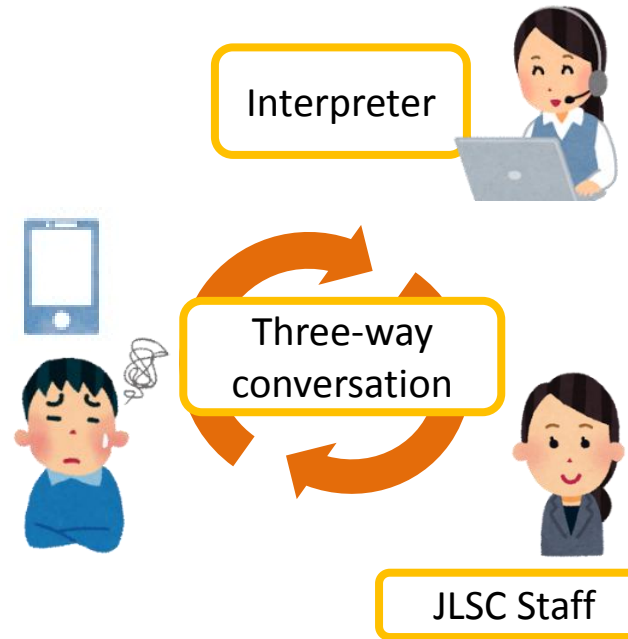
- **Human Resources of the JLSC**
  - Staff attorneys
  - Information provision staff expertized with certificates in social welfare
- **Systems**
  - Designated places for the legal consultation aid
  - Legal consultations for the people with in sufficient cognitive functions
    - By the Revised Act since Jan. 24
    - Third person can apply the aid



# Others

- **The Multilingual Information Service**

- Since 2013
- By the Three-way Phone System



- **Crime Victim Support**

- Court-Appointed Attorney for Victims in Criminal Trials (since 2008)
- Managing the Transportation Cost for the Participating Victims (since 2013)
- Legal Consultations for the Victims under the danger of the Specified Crimes (since 2018)



**多謝！ Thank you！**



# National Report, Japan

Satoko TOMITA

Director of the PR & Research Section

Japan Legal Support Center

## 1. Country Information

### Country Information

Population: Appx. 1,26,590,000 (July 1, 2018<sup>1</sup>)

GDP: 4,329.9 billion USD (2017)<sup>2</sup>

Poverty Line 1,220,000JPY<sup>3</sup> (about 11,000USD)

Percentage of Population in Poverty: 15.6%<sup>4</sup>

Total No. of Practicing Lawyers in the Country: as of March 2018

The number of Lawyers: 40,098

The number of Judicial Scrivener<sup>5</sup>: 22,488

### Basic Information of the JLSC

Name: the Japan Legal Support Center (the JLSC, Houterasu)

Date of Establishment: April 10, 2006 (started its operation on October 2)

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.stat.go.jp/data/jinsui/new.html>

<sup>2</sup> <https://data.oecd.org/japan.htm>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.mhlw.go.jp/toukei/saikin/hw/k-tyosa/k-tyosa16/index.html>

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.mhlw.go.jp/toukei/saikin/hw/k-tyosa/k-tyosa16/index.html>

<sup>5</sup> Judicial scriveners are certified specialists in registration procedures about real estate and judicial persons, who are called “Shih-shoshi.” If they are additionally certified by the Ministry of Justice, they can represent clients in civil lawsuits in summary court. <http://www.shiho-shoshi.or.jp/html/global/english/index.html>

**Total No. of Applications Received in the Past Year (FY 2017)**

Types of Legal Aid		Application	Approved	Denied
Civil Legal Aid	Legal Consultation		302,410	
	Representation	120,011	114,770	1,013 <sup>6</sup>
	Documentation		4,278	
Criminal Legal Aid	Detained Suspects		63,839	
	Defendants		53,655	
	Juvenile		3,417	
Crime Victim Support			1,705	

**Total No. of Legal Aid Lawyers (including staff and private lawyers)**

	Contracted Lawyers	Percentage out of the total number	Total number
Staff Attorneys(SA)	215	0.5%	40,098
Civil and Family Panel (incl. SA)	22,346	55.7%	
Criminal Panel (incl. SA)	27,667	70.9%	
Juvenile Panel (incl. SA)	14,867	37.1%	
Crime Victim Support Panel (incl. SA)	5,038	12.5%	
Judicial Scrivener for summary court procedures	7,294	32.4%	22,488

**Total No. of Non-Legal Professionals in the Org.**

	Certified social welfare counselors	Certified Mental health welfare professional	Certified both
Information Provision Staff	26	3	12
Full-time Worker	12	1	1
Staff Attorneys	9	-	1

\*Except for the information provision staff, who are specialized to provide the information on the legal systems and connect service seekers to the appropriate services or agencies, basically it's not officially expected to utilize their expertise for their services within the JLSC.

<sup>6</sup> Since there were some applications were not decided within the same fiscal year, the total number of the approved applications and denied applications does not meet the number of application in FY 2017.

## Financial Situation in the Past Year (FY2017)

### Government Budget for the JLSC

Grants for operational expenses: 15,179 million JPY

Funds for entrusted business relating to court-appointed defense counsel: 16,490 million JPY

In total 31,669 million JPY

### Total Legal Aid Expenses

Business expenses<sup>7</sup>: 32,928 million JPY

General management expenses: 3,717 million JPY

Labor cost: 7,737 million JPY

In total 44,382 million JPY

Portion of Legal Aid Budget Funded by the Government: Most of the financial resources of the JLSC are funded from the government, while there are certain amounts of the donation from people in various reasons every year. The entrusted business is run by the funds from the third organizations, such as Japan Federation of Bar Association.

## 2. The Changes in these Four Years

### Background

The JLSC was established in 2006, when it succeeded the civil legal aid business from the Japan Legal Aid Association (JLAA) and the business relating to the court-appointed defense counsels from the court, as an incorporated administrative legal aid agency in accordance with the Comprehensive Legal Support Act

The JLAA was founded in 1952 by the Japan Federation Bar Associations (the JFBA). The government started providing subsidies to the JLAA in 1958. In 1964, the JLAA completed to launch its district offices in the all 49 jurisdictions (except for Okinawa District that was returned to Japan from the USA in 1947 and obtained the JLAA's office within the year). While the subsidy from the government greatly contributed to developing the civil legal aid, it was prohibited from using the subsidy for the general management expenses or labor cost of the JLAA. By the JLSC's establishment, the grants from the government began to be used for the operational cost of the legal aid. The JLAA finished its mission and dissolved in 2007.

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<sup>7</sup> This includes the all types of the legal aid run by the JLSC. About the half of the expenses for the civil legal aid business was managed by the cash reimbursed by clients of old civil legal aid cases.

## The Business of the JLSC

The principal services of the JLSC consist of the following five services as prescribed in Article 30, Paragraph 1 of the Comprehensive Legal Support Act.

- ① Information Service
- ② Civil Legal Aid
- ③ Business relating to Court-appointed Defense Counsel
- ④ Measures for Areas with Limited Legal Services
- ⑤ Support for Victims of Crime

The JLSC may also provide services entrusted by the national government, local governments, non-profit corporations and other organizations, to the extent it does not impair the JLSC's delivery of its core services. Now, several kinds of services entrusted from the JFBA and other organization are under operation.

Since April 2012, the JLSC has provided the legal aid to the survivors and victims of the Great East Japan Earthquake, under the special act (The Act concerning Special Measures on Legal Aid by the Japan Legal Support Center for the Victims of the Great East Japan Earthquake).

## The Revision of the Comprehensive Legal Support Act

Looking back the last four years, there was no big change in the organizational structure and financial situations, including the funding from the government and the remuneration for the judicare/staff lawyers. Cooperating with bar associations and other professionals, the JLSC tried to maintain the quality of the services. While there were some revisions on the detailed practices of the civil legal aid services, there was no change on the eligibility conditions for service seekers.

On the other hand, in 2016, the Comprehensive Legal Support Act experienced a great revision for the first time after its enactment, which expanded the scope of the business of the JLSC.

That revision mainly aimed at adding three services as JLSC's business:

### *Services for the People with Insufficient Cognitive Functions*

Revised act defines the people<sup>8</sup> who may be precluded from the realization of their own rights due to insufficient cognitive functions as "persons eligible for specific assistance." If these people are unlikely to be able to voluntarily seek the provision of services by an

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<sup>8</sup> In this context, "people" means citizens or foreign nationals lawfully residing in Japan.



attorney, in order to assist them in living their daily lives and social lives, following an application by a specified third party such as social welfare agencies or local government bodies, the JLSC may provide legal consultations to them regardless their financial states (Article 30, Paragraph 1, Item 3 of the Act).

For these people, the JLSC can also provide representation aid in administrative complaint filing procedures pertaining to public benefits, while the scope of the general representation aid is limited within the civil procedures. These services started on January 24, 2018.

### *Free Legal Consultations after an Extraordinary Disaster*

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After the Great East Japan Earthquake in 2011, it was found necessary to build a system that makes possible to immediately provide legal consultations for victims after a disaster. Since there was no special clause for disaster victims in the civil legal aid scheme in 2011, in order to maintain the eligibility conditions, lawyers intending to provide free legal consultations had to ask the victims of the Great East Japan Earthquake who had just lost their property and family members harsh questions, such as “how many family members do you have?” The special act for the Great East Japan Earthquake enacted on April 2012 allowed the JLSC to provide the victims free legal consultations without asking their financial situations.

While reviewing such situations in 2011, the amending process was moving forward in the Diet on April 14, 2016, when the Kumamoto Earthquake occurred with the power of magnitude 7.3 and caused 228 deaths and 2,753 injured. The Diet completed the amendment of the Comprehensive Legal Support Act on May 27 with the clause that declares to partially enact the disaster-related provision in July 2016, when the JLSC started the free legal consultation services for the victims of Kumamoto Earthquake.

The term of this service is limited for less than a year after the occurrence of a disaster which specified as “a disaster significantly out of the ordinary and of extreme severity where the smooth implementation of legal consultations is deemed necessary (Article 30, Paragraph 1, Item 4 of the Act)” by a Cabinet Order. For the victims of Kumamoto Earthquake totally 10,158 legal consultations were provided until the term ended on April 13, 2017.

This provision has been also applied for the second time to the West Japan Heavy Rain Disaster which occurred in the beginning of July. The free legal consultation service has started from July 14.

### *Legal Consultations for the Victims Currently Under the Risk of Specific Crimes*

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The third one of the added business is the legal consultation service for the victims currently under the risk of the stalking, child abuse and spousal violence (Article 30, Paragraph 1, Item 4 of the Act), which aims at immediately providing the legal consultation to the victims who are especially under the risk of becoming the subject of the violence.

Under this provision, the JLSC may provide the legal consultation service regardless the victim's financial conditions. Differently from the general legal aid, clients can ask questions about criminal procedures. If a client earns a certain amount of salaries or have properties, the JLSC may request them to pay the legal consultation fee.

#### **The Expansion of the Scope of the Criminal Legal Aid**

By the revision of the criminal procedure law, since June 2018, the scope of the appointment of lawyers by court for the indigent suspects was expanded to the all detained suspects from the ones who were detained under certain crimes they were suspected to have committed. Accordingly, the number of the procedures the JLSC handles has been increased.

### The Changes on Staff Attorneys

While the last five years, the number of the staff attorneys kept gradually decreasing, despite a lot of efforts the JLSC made on the recruitment. The cause of this phenomena was yet to be definitive, but it is one of the reasons that the number of slots for the people passing the bar exam was decreased.

However, the portion of the cases staff attorneys took among the entire legal aid cases has not greatly decreased as shown in the table below.

The Percentages about Staff Attorneys (SA) among the all Contracted Lawyers

	Civil Legal Aid		Criminal Legal Aid(Court-appointed Defense)		
	No. of SA	No. Cases Taken by SA	No. of SA	No. of Detained Suspects Cases taken by SA	No. of Prosecuted Cases taken by SA
FY 2013	1.3%	3.8%	1.1%	2.4%	2.3%
FY 2014	1.2%	4.3%	1.0%	2.3%	2.2%
FY 2015	1.2%	4.5%	1.0%	2.3%	2.3%
FY 2016	1.1%	4.5%	0.9%	2.2%	2.2%
FY 2017	1.0%	4.4%	0.8%	2.1%	2.0%

### 3. The Major Development Strategy of the JLSC for the Past Five Years

#### The Third Mid-term Plan

Upon mid-term objectives announced by the Minister of Justice, the JLSC makes mid-term plans every four years. The Third Mid-term Plan targeted from FY 2014 to FY 2017 (April 1, 2014 to March 31, 2017). Therefore, though it is supposed to explain the development strategy for the last five years, the following describes the four years between FY 2014 and FY 2017.

The Third Mid Term Plan lists two services that should be especially focused and improved within that term. One is the services for the victims of the Great East Japan Earthquake, and the other is the services for the elderly and people with disabilities.

#### Measures for the Great East Japan Earthquake

Since the Great East Japan Earthquake accompanied with the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Disaster caused unimaginably devastating damage over a wide area, the reconstruction had not completed and there were (are) many fugitives even in 2014. The JLSC expanded its services in the affected areas; establishing sub-branches, conducting

free legal consultation at night-time and holiday in the offices and visiting the people to conduct the legal consultation services.

### Legal Social Work

From the very early time after the establishment of the JLSC, the staff attorneys have struggled to reach out the people, typically the elderly and disabled, who cannot realize their legal issues and voluntarily seek supports from the proper authorities. They have made networks with non-legal stake holders, such as the local government bodies and social welfare agencies, and made contact with the people suffering legal issues in the margin of the communities. It was also found that such networks could contribute to solving complex problems faced by a person. Such activities soon became to be called as “Legal Social Work.”

The Third Mid Term Plan is the first official document that recognized the Legal Social Work. Within the plan, the JLSC decided to institutionally work for it and improve the legal aid services for the elderly and people with disabilities during the term.

The JLSC made a work plan for the legal social work and improved the services. Specifically, a number of social welfare agencies were assigned as “designated places for the legal consultation aid” that may offer the free legal consultation services on behalf of the JLSC so that people who have difficulties to move do not have to visit the JLSC’s offices. Although there are a limited number of the facilities compared to the social welfare agencies, some hospitals (including the psychiatric ones), non-government offenders rehabilitation centers and probation offices are also assigned as designated places for the legal consultation aid.

The JLSC also hired people with social welfare expertize as information provision staff, who take care of the visitors in the local offices by providing the information on the legal systems and appropriate services. These staffers are expected to connect clients having multiple problems to proper non-legal sectors while the lawyers are solving their legal issues using the JLSC’s scheme.

## 4. Research on the Legal Service Needs in the last 10 years

Although the JLSC itself does not propose any policy for promoting legal aid directly to the government, it has conducted some research in order to improve the legal aid services. The JFBA is the largest stakeholder who has been lobbying to expand the legal aid. Here are some examples of the surveys the JFBA and the JLSC conducted in the last ten years.

### Legal Needs Assessment (the JFBA, 2007)<sup>9</sup>

Japan Federation of Bar Association conducted this research from June to August, 2007. It aims at finding the amount of the legal needs of people while comparing the existing services by attorneys and discussing the appropriate number of practicing lawyers in Japan. The subjects of this research were people who visited legal consultation centers of bar associations (distributing the questionnaire to 1,500 people and received the 1,379 responses) and visitors to the law firms (receiving 282 responses).

Based on the results, the paper states that:

- 36.4% of the people who need legal services somehow reach lawyers. The provision of the legal service is neither enough nor significantly insufficient.
- It is necessary for the middle income households to have the insurance for lawyer's remuneration.
- It is necessary to increase the budget for the civil legal aid.
- A tax deduction system for the legal cost should be introduced.
- There should be a home-lawyer system and a different approach for the small claims.

### Legal Needs Survey and the Research on the Services of the JLSC (the JLSC 2008)<sup>10</sup>

In 2008, the JLSC conducted a legal needs survey concerning legal aid. The result of the survey showed that 25.2 percent of the respondents had experienced some legal problem in the past 5 years. Based on the results, it was estimated that needs for legal consultation would be 580,000~830,000 cases (2.4 to 3.5 times as many as actual legal consultation aid cases handled in 2009.) and needs for civil legal representation case were 160,000~300,000 cases (1.5 to 2.8 times as many as actual representation cases handled in 2009).

### Legal Needs Survey for the Great East Japan Earthquake<sup>11</sup>

In 2012, the JLSC conducted a legal needs survey in the most damaged areas of the Great East Japan Earthquake. The result of the survey showed that 40.1 percent of respondents (victims of the disaster) had experienced some legal problems because of the disaster (including the nuclear plant accident), and there are needs for providing effective legal services for the victims in such a special circumstance. The JLSC made

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<sup>9</sup> [https://www.nichibenren.or.jp/jfba\\_info/statistics/questionnaire.html#questionnaire\\_01](https://www.nichibenren.or.jp/jfba_info/statistics/questionnaire.html#questionnaire_01)

<sup>10</sup> [https://www.houterasu.or.jp/houterasu\\_gaiyou/kouhou/kankoubutsu/leaflet/index.html](https://www.houterasu.or.jp/houterasu_gaiyou/kouhou/kankoubutsu/leaflet/index.html)

<sup>11</sup> [https://www.houterasu.or.jp/houterasu\\_gaiyou/kouhou/kankoubutsu/leaflet/index.html](https://www.houterasu.or.jp/houterasu_gaiyou/kouhou/kankoubutsu/leaflet/index.html)

the reports of the survey in 2012 and 2014, which were considered as valuable materials for the expert study group set in the Ministry of Justice for inspection of the operation of the Comprehensive Legal Support Act in 2014.

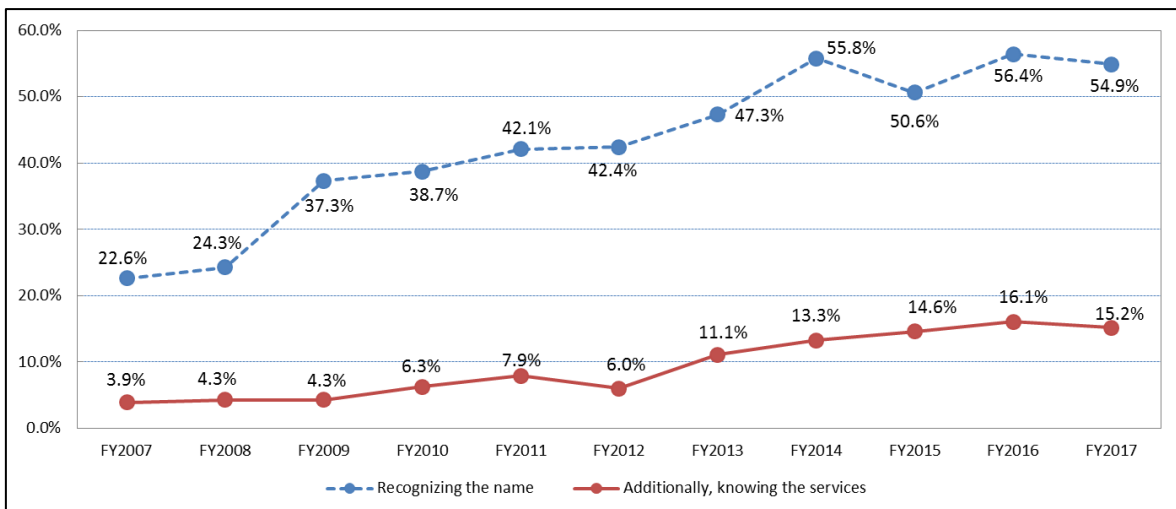
## 5. Efforts on Stimulating the Awareness of the People

### People’s Recognition on the JLSC

The Comprehensive Legal Support Act defines the JLSC’s mission as “creating a society in which the provision of information and support necessary to settle disputes based on laws concerning criminal as well as civil cases can be received throughout the country (Article 2).” In order to achieve that, it is essential for the JLSC to make the potential service seekers aware of its services so as they can promptly contact to the JLSC , when they substantially face legal issues.

Since 2007, the JLSC has conducted recognition surveys every year in order to know the degree of the awareness of the people on the JLSC’s presence and its services. The results show that only 3.9% people knew the JLSC in 2007, and it became 54.9% in 2017.

**The Results of Yearly Survey on the People’s Recognition about the JLSC**



The way of the survey has not been always same. These years, the survey was conducted by using the internet. As shown in the table, while more than the half know the JLSC, even in today, limited people know the services of the JLSC.

### The Efforts to Raise the Awareness

There are mainly two ways the JLSC’s efforts to enhance the awareness in the public. One is the PR activities from the headquarters by using the advertisements on the

internet, issuing the press releases and seasonally magazines, maintaining the website and so on.

The other is the grass-root activities by the 110 local offices all over the country. Each 50 district offices hold the district conference every year inviting the local stake holders. They also put their efforts to have explanatory sessions about the JLS's services by visiting the local organizations.

The branches, especially the ones established in the areas affected the Great East Japan Earthquake, are working hard to get into the communities in order to make people feel easy to visit the office by joining local events, such as "exercising classes for the elderly in the communities."

For the people residing in remote areas, the JLSC has established law offices and dispatched staff attorneys. As of November 2018, the JLSC has 35 law offices especially established in such remote areas. In these offices, differently from other law offices launched in city areas, the staff attorneys can take any kind of cases. Since 2010, the JLSC includes the legal education as its official institutional activities to enhance the public awareness.

## 6. Training and Recruitment of the Legal Aid Attorneys

With the cooperation of the JFBA and the Japan Federation of Shiho-shisi's Associations, an umbrella association of 50 district associations of judicial scriveners, the JLSC has kept trying to increase the number of the contracted lawyers. In order to maintain the quality of services, the JLSC conducts a variety of trainings for judicare lawyers.

For the recruitment of the staff attorneys, the JLSC has conducted a variety of activities such as having the explanatory sessions in law schools, welcoming the externship of the students/legal trainees and making lectures in law schools and universities.

It also expectedly attracts students that staff attorneys enjoy a lot of training opportunities inviting. The mentors of the trainings are not only experienced professionals (both lawyers and non-lawyers) outside of the JLSC, but also senior staff attorneys. Within the "Trainer-Trainee System," a staff attorneys can be dispatched for a couple of weeks and learn the good practices in other areas. There are also frequent opportunities for the staff attorneys to get together in the nation-wide and within a certain area of districts so that they can exchange their experiences.

## 7. Collaboration with Non-Legal Sectors

Other than the activities already mentioned above, there are efforts to make seamless flows between the JLSC and non-legal sectors for the people who are suffering from multi-oriented problems. These efforts often started in a district office or law office, but could become spread and institutional activities, so did the legal social work.

Some staff attorneys are currently working with “Kids’ Cuisine,<sup>12</sup>” a rapidly spreading movement where volunteers offer healthy meals to children and their parents in order to tackle the issues surrounding poor families and mobilize the community.

Basically, each cuisine is run by a different group of people, but they share the same sake under the common name “Kids’ Cuisine.” In these cuisines, single mothers are often accompanied with their children. Through working as a volunteer in a Kids’ Cuisine, the staff attorneys accommodate the atmosphere where these children and mothers feel easy to talk to the lawyers.

In some district, District Offices have strong networks with prison and probation offices. In such areas, there are a variety of activities conducted to support the ex-offenders to reintegrate in their communities.

## 8. The Services for People with Unique Needs

There are people who cannot be satisfied with the general legal aid services where each individual who is a Japanese citizen or non-citizen legally residing in Japan, is supposed to voluntarily visit the JLSC’s, tell their specific legal issues to lawyers and decide to obtain the representation/documentation aid for civil procedures.

In order to cover the individuals who do not meet such profile, the JFBA entrusts its funds to the JLSC. For example, the JFBA funds enable lawyers to help psychiatric patients apply to the administrative procedure in order to be discharged from the hospital after the decision of involuntary admission by a governor.

However, there are some JLSC’s own services that extend arms to the clients by making exceptions to the general legal aid.

### For the Elderly and People with Disabilities

As mentioned in Paragraph 2 (Services for the People with Insufficient Cognitive Functions) and Paragraph 3 (Legal Social Work), the services for the elderly and disabled have been especially extended. Staff attorneys’ efforts to reach out these people were recognized as the legal social work, officially documented in the Third Midterm

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<sup>12</sup> <http://kodomoshokudou-network.com/>



Plan, and ultimately recognized by law as the services for the people with insufficient cognitive functions.

One of the key stakeholders of these activities is the community general support center<sup>13</sup> that was established in 2005, a year older than the JLSC, based on the Long-Term Care Insurance Act to offer the comprehensive support to the elderly in the community. From the very beginning, community general support centers and the JLSC's local offices have made close relationships, and nowadays there are many community general support centers assigned as designated places for the legal consultation aid.

#### For Foreigners

The JLSC provides free information on relevant Japanese laws and the justice system in response to questions. This service is now provided in seven languages: English, Chinese, Korean, Spanish, Portuguese, Vietnamese, and Tagalog, with a three-way call between the user, interpreter, and the information provision staff in District Offices.

Publicly-funded legal aid is provided to foreign citizens who have resident status. The JLSC is now preparing legal aid application forms in multi languages. Currently, four languages, English Chinese Spanish, and Tagalog, are available.

For those who have no resident status the JFBA provides funds through entrustment of the administration of calculation and payment of the actual remuneration and expense to the JLSC.

Since the expansion of refugees and immigrants who have no resident status has become the issue to be overcome throughout society, it is a matter how legal aid should be expanded in the future.

#### For Children

The entrusted services funded by the JFBA include legal assistance for children suffering from child abuse and corporal punishment in educational or care institutions. The legal assistance for such cases covers legal representation for settlement negotiations with their parents and administrative authorities including Child Consultation Centers, and arbitrations of family affairs.

Due to the revision of the Comprehensive Legal Support Act, since January 24, 2018, the JLSC may also provide the legal consultation aid to the children who are currently under threats of child abuse regardless their financial conditions. Considering that such children are likely to be afraid of being alone with an unfamiliar adult, even if s/he is a

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<sup>13</sup> In Japanese it is called "Chiiki Houkatsu Shien Center."

lawyer, the JLSC made it possible to conduct such legal consultations in a public place, such as a restaurant or coffee shop.

## 9. UN Principles

The JLSC does not directly reflect the UN principles, conventions or guidelines. However, it is obvious that the JLSC is supposedly the central implementation body of the Goal 16 and Target 16.3 of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in Japan.

*Goal 16* Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels

*Target 16.3* Promote the rule of law at the national and international levels and ensure equal access to justice for all

Due to the expansion of the scope of the court-appointed lawyer, the JLSC now manages to provide the legal aid criminal counsel to the every detainee. However, this right is not ensured to the people arrested for maximum 72 hours before being brought to the judge for a hearing to determine whether to detain them or not. Since the United Nations Principles and Guidelines on Access to Legal Aid in Criminal Justice System states that the States should ensure that anyone who is detained, arrested suspected with a criminal offence punishable by a term of imprisonment, there is still a way to go for Japan in terms of the criminal legal aid.