

# BIOGRAPHIES

## Energizing Japanese Politics: New Tools for Citizen Participation

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### US-Japan Friendship Commission Japan Information Access Project

**Jean Heilman Grier** serves as a senior legal adviser to the International Trade Administration in the U.S. Department of Commerce and to U.S. interagency committees on a range of issues. Ms. Grier plays a central role in the U.S.-Japan Enhanced Initiative on Deregulation and Competition Policy as the U.S. lead on transparency and government practices, as well as legal services. She had major responsibilities in the negotiation and drafting of NAFTA and a number of bilateral trade agreements with Japan. Currently, she is a member of the U.S. negotiating teams for the U.S.-Singapore Free Trade Agreement and the U.S.-Chile Free Trade Agreement. After Ms. Grier received her J.D. from the University of Minnesota, she served as an Assistant Attorney General with the State of Minnesota. She subsequently received a LL.M. in Japanese law from the University of Washington, Seattle and held a Fulbright Fellowship to study Japanese law at Tohoku University. Ms. Grier's numerous law journal publications include: *A Role for Governments in the Resolution of International Private Commercial Disputes*; *Providing for Dispute Settlement in International Business Transactions*; *The Use of Section 301 to Open Japanese Markets*; *Japan's Implementation of the WTO Agreement on Government Procurement*; *Recent Developments in Foreign Legal Services in Japan*; and *Japan's Regulation of Large Retail Stores: Political Demands vs. Economic Interests*.

**Edward J. Lincoln** is a Senior Fellow in Foreign Policy Studies at the Brookings Institution where he specializes on the Japanese economy, U.S.-Japan economic relations, and broader Asian economic topics. His forthcoming book (spring 2001), *Arthritic Japan: The Slow Pace of Economic Reform*, concerns the impediments to systemic economic reform in Japan. His previous book, *Troubled Times: U.S.-Japan Trade Relations in the 1990s*, was published by Brookings in May 1999. Earlier publications at Brookings include *Japan's New Global Role* (1993), *Japan's Unequal Trade* (1990), and *Japan: Facing Economic Maturity* (1988). In addition, Dr. Lincoln has published numerous articles and has spoken widely on issues related to Japan and U.S.-Japan relations. He teaches a course on the Japanese economy at Johns Hopkins University's School of Advanced International Studies. Dr. Lincoln holds a B.A. from Amherst College and both a masters degree in East Asian Studies and a doctorate in Economics from Yale University. He serves on the board of directors for the *Journal of Japanese Studies*, the Japan Information Access Project, and the program advisory board for the Japan Society of New York.

**Robert Pekkanen** is a Ph.D. candidate in political science at Harvard University, where he is also an Academy Scholar. He conducted his dissertation research on Japanese civil society from 1996-1998 where he was affiliated at the University of Tokyo and at Keio University. He is a *Summa Cum Laude* graduate in Humanities, Minors in History and East Asian Studies from the University of Tennessee Chattanooga, Tennessee. His publications include: “*Hou, kokka, shimin shakai* [Law, the State, and Civil Society],” in *Leviathan* Vol. 27 (Autumn 2000) [in Japanese]; “Japan New Politics: The Case of the NPO Law,” *Journal of Japanese Studies* Vol. 26, No. 1 (Winter 2000); *Molding Japanese Civil Society, in Comparative Perspectives on Civil Society in Japan*, in a planned volume edited by Susan J. Pharr and Frank J. Schwartz; “The Roots and Processes of Legal Reform for the Voluntary and Non-profit Sector,” in *The Voluntary and Non-profit Sector in Japan: An Emerging Response to a Changing Society*, Stephen Osborne, editor; and *An Analytical Framework for the Development of the Nonprofit Sector and Civil Society in Japan*, Aspen Institute, Nonprofit Sector Research Fund, Working Paper Series, 2001.

**Lawrence Repeta, Esq.** is a founding director of the Information Clearinghouse Japan, an NGO devoted to promoting transparent government ([www.clearing-house.org](http://www.clearing-house.org)) and director of the Japan Civil Liberties Union ([www.jclu.org](http://www.jclu.org)). He is also an executive director with Morgan Stanley in Japan. Mr. Repeta has worked in Japan’s asset management industry since 1992, including positions with Fidelity and the Frank Russell Company. A graduate of the University of Washington, Seattle School of Law, he has written widely on Japan’s legal system, including securities, antitrust and information disclosure. His publications include “Local Government Information Disclosure Systems in Japan,” (National Bureau of Asian Research, 2000 [www.nbr.org](http://www.nbr.org)); “The International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and Human Rights Law in Japan,” 20 *Law in Japan* 1 (1987); and “Declining Public Ownership of Japanese Industry,” (in John Haley, Editor, *Law and Society in Contemporary Japan*, 1988). Mr. Repeta’s chart on the comparative legal development of Freedom of Information laws in the United States and Japan (in the process of being updated) can be found on the Japan Information Access Project website, <http://www.jiaponline.org/specialreports/joho.html>

**John A. Wecker** is an economic officer charged with trade matters in the Office of Japan, Bureau of East Asian and Pacific Affairs, U.S. Department of State. A career officer since 1990, his assignments included Kingston, Jamaica; Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia; and Osaka, Japan. Prior to joining the State Department, Mr. Wecker lived and worked in Japan. He also worked as a market research specialist for Nippon Denso and Honda Kaihatsu in Los Angeles. He received a BA in economics with a minor in Japanese from the University of Utah, and an MA in International Management from the American Graduate School of International Management.

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