



## Who Rules Japan?

### Popular Participation in the Japanese Legal Process

Edited by Leon Wolff, Associate Professor of Law, Queensland University of Technology, Luke Nottage, Professor of Law, University of Sydney and Kent Anderson, Deputy Vice-Chancellor, University of Western Australia, Australia

The dramatic growth of the Japanese economy in the postwar period, and its meltdown in the 1990s, has attracted sustained interest in the power dynamics underlying the management of Japan's administrative state. Scholars and commentators have long debated over who wields power in Japan, asking the fundamental question: who really governs Japan? This important volume revisits this question by turning its attention to the regulation and design of the Japanese legal system. With essays covering the new lay-judge system in Japanese criminal trials, labour dispute resolution panels, prison policy, gendered justice, government lawyers, welfare administration and administrative transparency, this comprehensive book explores the players and processes in Japan's administration of justice.

'Featuring eight learned contributions from a wide variety of academics, Who Rules Japan?: Popular Participation in the Japanese Legal Process is a seminal work of impressive scholarship that is very highly recommended as a critically important addition to professional, governmental, corporate, and academic library Japanese Studies reference collections and supplemental reading lists.'

– The Midwest Book Review

'The book takes a stimulating and fresh look at the classical question: Who rules Japan? Seven highly informative analyses explore to what extent the 2001 judicial reforms have already transformed the Japanese state and paved the way for Japan's gradual shift from its (in)famous administrative governance model to a judicial state with the "rule of law" at its center and a broader participation of citizens in the various spheres of public life.'

– Harald Baum, Max Planck Institute for Comparative and International Private Law, Germany

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