

JAPAN CHARACTER PACK

Japan uses the **Saiban-in** system for serious cases:

- **3 professional judges**
- **6 lay judges (citizen judges)**
- They deliberate together and vote on guilt & sentence.

The warehouse assault qualifies as a **serious bodily injury case**, so this structure is correct.

1. PROFESSIONAL JUDGE (Chief Judge)

裁判長 (Saibanchō) – Judge

Takeda Hiroshi

Age: 55

Address him as: 「裁判長」 or “Presiding Judge”

Practical Personality (usable for

students)

- Values **politeness, calmness, respect.**
- Strong believer in **clear factual timelines.**
- Dislikes when witnesses ramble or avoid specifics.
- Slightly impatient with emotional outbursts.

Mild Internal Bias (subtle, won't decide outcome)

- Has empathy for regular workers like the guard.
- Slightly skeptical of defendants who "don't remember."
- BUT tries very hard to hide these feelings.

What the Saibanchō Must Do (student rulebook)

- Start the session with:

「開廷します。」 (Court is now in session.)

- Lead ALL questioning.
- Keep process structured:
- Judges → Prosecutor → Defense → Lay Judges
- Maintain decorum (bowing, silence, order).
- Ask clarifying questions whenever needed.
- Explain rights to the defendant.
- Guide lay judges politely:

「ご質問がありますか。」

(“Do you have any questions?”)

- Lead deliberation and voting.

Judge Takeda's Decision Tools

He must evaluate:

- Intent (故意 / kōi)
- Did Riley intend to strike the guard?
- Negligence / Recklessness (過失 / kashitsu)
- Did Riley act carelessly and cause

harm?

- **Credibility**
- Whose story stays consistent?
- **Physical evidence**
- Flashlight
- Injury pattern
- Warehouse layout
- **Possibility of third person**

Japan heavily emphasizes eliminating alternative explanations.

- **Demeanor**

Japanese judges consider calmness/sincerity as indicators of honesty.

Relevant Japanese Penal Code Articles

Article 204 – Assault Causing Injury (傷害罪)

Injury (even if accidental) → Up to 15 years imprisonment or fine up to ¥500,000.

Article 208 – Bodily Injury

Resulting in Long-Term Effects

If injury results in lasting damage (limp):
increased seriousness.

Article 130 – Trespass (住居侵入)

Entering without permission → Up to 3
years imprisonment or fine of ¥100,000.

Article 38 – Intent Must Be Evaluated

If intent unclear → may reduce charge.

Article 66 – Circumstances of the Act (動機・目的・状況)

Judges consider:

- motive
- circumstances
- defendant's mental state
- degree of carelessness

Possible Japanese Verdicts

- Not guilty (無罪)
- Guilty of negligence causing injury (過失傷害)
- Guilty of intentional injury (傷害罪)
- Guilty of trespass (住居侵入)
- Combined offenses possible.

Sentencing Options

- Suspended sentence (執行猶予)
- Fine
- Imprisonment
- Mandatory apology letter (common in Japan)
- Compensation to the victim

Judge Takeda decides sentence jointly with lay judges.

Behavior Guide for Judge

Takeda

- Bow before speaking.
- Use polite, controlled voice.

- Always address defendant and witnesses respectfully.

Sample lines:

- 「簡潔に答えてください。」 “Please answer concisely.”
- 「それは推測ですか？」 “Is that speculation?”
- 「次の質問に移ります。」 “We will move on to the next question.”

2. PROFESSIONAL JUDGE

— Sato Megumi

Age: 43

Address: 「裁判官」 (Judge)

Practical Personality

- Calm, empathetic.
- Watches body language closely.
- Often asks emotional-context questions.

Mild Bias

- Slight sympathy for young defendants who appear overwhelmed.
- But becomes strict if she senses dishonesty.

Role

- Asks questions about **mental state and intent**:
 - 「恐怖を感じていましたか？」
 - “Were you scared at that moment?”
- Mediates between strict and soft perspectives in deliberation.

3. PROFESSIONAL JUDGE

— Nakano Kei

Age: 37

Address: 「裁判官」

Practical Personality

- Very detail-focused.
- Loves reconstructing timelines.
- Will catch contradictions.

Mild Bias

- Slightly distrustful of explanations that lack detail.
- However, open-minded if defendant admits uncertainty honestly.

Role

- Asks questions like:
 - 「何時ごろでしたか? 」
 - 「具体的に、どこに立っていましたか? 」
- Pushes witnesses gently for clarity.

PROFESSIONAL PANEL

DYNAMICS

- **Takeda** leads and keeps order.
- **Sato** evaluates emotional/intent elements.
- **Nakano** analyzes timeline consistency.
- All 3 deliberate with lay judges.

LAY JUDGES (Saiban-in)

LAY JUDGE 1 – Aoki Ren

(Bank Employee, 29)

Background:

- Works with numbers → likes clean timelines.

Light Bias:

- Slightly strict about rule-following.

Focus:

- “Does the story logically fit the timeline?”

Must Avoid:

- Jumping to conclusions without physical evidence.

LAY JUDGE 2 – Kinoshita Yui

(Office Worker, 35)

Background:

- Has a cousin who was falsely accused

once.

Light Bias:

- Highly sensitive about wrongful convictions.

Focus:

- Defendant's tone, sincerity, consistency.

Must Avoid:

- Being overly sympathetic.

LAY JUDGE 3 – Fujimoto Daichi (Taxi Driver, 41)

Background:

- Works late-night shifts, familiar with warehouse districts.

Light Bias:

- Thinks night-shift workers deserve protection.

Focus:

- Warehouse layout, guard's possible

viewpoint.

LAY JUDGE 4 – Hamasaki Keiko (Nurse, 50)

Background:

- Strong medical understanding.

Light Bias:

- Takes injuries very seriously.

Focus:

- Whether the injury matches being struck vs. falling.

LAY JUDGE 5 – Mori Shun (Graduate Student, 24)

Background:

- Studies psychology; interested in memory, stress.

Light Bias:

- May think memory errors are common.

Focus:

- Defendant and victim's emotional states.

LAY JUDGE 6 – Tanaka

Ayaka (Shop Assistant, 32)

Background:

- Calm, practical.

Light Bias:

- Slight skepticism toward complicated explanations.

Focus:

- “Does this story make sense?”
- “Is someone hiding something?”

CORE CASE CHARACTERS

DEFENDANT – Riley

Morgan

Age: 22

Address to judges: 「裁判長」 「裁判官」
("Presiding Judge," "Judge")

Who they are:

22-year-old part-time delivery rider,
occasionally helps at warehouses.

What happened (public knowledge):

- Found inside the warehouse when police arrived
- Had minor scrapes and bruises
- Has no criminal record
- Received a trespassing warning at age 19

Private knowledge :

- Heard a loud yell or noise
- Does not remember everything clearly
- Picked up a flashlight
- Did not intend to harm anyone
- Did not intend to steal anything

Goal:

- Avoid conviction
- Convince the court there was no

criminal intent

- Show actions were due to confusion or panic

Things to avoid:

- Guessing or inventing details
- Becoming defensive or emotional
- Blaming the victim
- Over-explaining when unsure

VICTIM – Elias Grant

Age: 34

Address to judges: 「裁判長」 「裁判官」
("Presiding Judge,"

Who they are:

34-year-old night-shift warehouse security guard.

What happened (public knowledge):

- Found unconscious near the loading dock
- Suffered a head injury
- Has partial memory loss

- May have a permanent limp

Private knowledge :

- Does not clearly remember who injured him
- Remembers shouting at someone
- Is embarrassed about memory gaps

Goal:

- Seek justice
- Make the court take the injury seriously
- Avoid accusing the wrong person

Things to avoid:

- Guessing the attacker's identity
- Filling memory gaps with assumptions
- Exaggerating what he remembers

Additional Instructions for Japanese Court Behavior

When answering:

- Bow slightly before and after answering.
- Use short, direct sentences.

- Avoid long explanations or emotional language.
- If unsure, say:
「よく覚えていません。」 (“I don’t remember well.”)
- If confused:
「説明してもよろしいでしょうか？」 (“May I clarify?”)

NEVER do:

- Interrupt a judge.
- Raise voice.
- Gesticulate wildly.
- Speak without permission.

Defendant’s Goal in Japan

- Show sincerity
- Demonstrate lack of intent
- Explain confusion without looking like an excuse.

In Japanese courts, remorse & sincerity influence sentencing – so Riley should

appear genuinely cooperative.

PROSECUTOR – 検察官 (Kensatsukan) – Takahashi Rina

Age: 36

Address to judges: 「裁判長」 「裁判官」
("Presiding Judge,")

Practical Personality

- Never raises her voice.
- Speaks in controlled, steady rhythm.
- Uses polite but firm phrasing.
- Focuses heavily on **consistency of facts**.

Internal Leanings

- Believes the injury pattern indicates intentional or reckless action.
- Slightly irritated by "I don't remember" answers.