masuda funai

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Masuda Funai Receives Best Referral Award at 2026 AGA Excellence Awards

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Masuda Funai has been named the recipient of the **Best Referral Award** at the **2026 Alliott Global Alliance (AGA) Excellence Awards**, presented to **Benjamin Gould, principal in the firm's Corporate, Acquisitions & Finance Practice** and **Kathleen Gaber, chairman of the firm and a member of AGA's North American Regional Advisory Committee,** during the AGA Worldwide Conference in Amsterdam. The award recognizes exceptional cross-border collaboration among member firms and highlights the successful delivery of international client service through AGA's global network.

The recognition was awarded in connection with the firm's representation of **NPR-RIKEN Corporation in its acquisition of Hastings Holding Corp**, a transaction that involved substantial **collaboration between Masuda Funai and fellow AGA member firm Greats,** located in the Czech Republic. Together, the firms worked closely with partners **Vladimír Sršeň** and **Jakub Joska** at Greats to support the client's business objectives across multiple jurisdictions, demonstrating the value of seamless international coordination and trusted local expertise.

AGA is one of the world's largest multidisciplinary alliances of independent law, accounting and advisory firms, connecting more than 230 member firms in nearly 100 countries. Through its global network, AGA enables member firms to work collaboratively on behalf of clients whose legal, tax, accounting and business needs extend beyond a single jurisdiction.

For Masuda Funai, the award underscores the firm's longstanding focus on serving international businesses and organizations, particularly those with operations, investments and workforce needs spanning multiple countries. Through its membership in Alliott Global Alliance, the firm can connect clients with trusted professionals around the world while maintaining the personalized service and business-focused counsel for which the firm is known.

The AGA Excellence Awards recognize member firms and professionals who exemplify collaboration, client service and excellence across the global organization. The Best Referral Award specifically honors outstanding referrals that demonstrate meaningful cooperation between member firms and successful outcomes for clients operating internationally.

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