



## About Us

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SPARKLE LEGAL is a corporate law firm in Tokyo advising listed companies and industry leaders both in Japan and across borders. The firm was established in April 2021 by the founder, Kakuji Mitani, who has extensive experience as a former partner at a leading law firm in Japan, representing a number of Japanese and multi-national companies. Bringing together the diverse expertise of the team, we provide the highest quality advice, supporting our clients to overcome challenges and discover opportunities in their business.

We are intensely focused on understanding our clients' business environment and building trust, working in collaboration and partnership with them to devise optimal solutions. Our lawyers are committed to the clients' best interests, upholding the highest standards of professionalism and legal excellence.

The firm's clients include Japanese corporations with subsidiaries across North America, Europe and Asia, as well as global companies entering and expanding in the Japanese market. Reflecting the international nature of our clients, our services span the full range of Japan-related inbound and outbound legal matters. Through collaboration with trusted law firms across multiple jurisdictions, we provide seamless cross-border legal support.

Leveraging deep knowledge and specialized expertise, our practice covers complex and demanding transactions in corporate law, M&A and antitrust. Innovation is at the heart of the firm's strategy, and we are committed to pursuing excellence.

# Our Services

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## Corporate & Business Law

### Corporate

SPARKLE LEGAL supports business activities through a full spectrum of services, including corporate governance and risk management. We offer practical and business-focused solutions to Japanese and multi-national companies. In particular, we have extensive experience in shareholders' meetings, hostile takeover defense and shareholder activism defense.

### Mergers and Acquisitions

Leveraging our extensive international experience, SPARKLE LEGAL supports global clients throughout their merger and acquisition process, including deal structuring, legal due diligence, transactional agreements, and regulatory matters. Through a dedicated lean team, we provide focused, risk-oriented solutions—incorporating key findings directly into transactional agreements—to efficiently minimize buyer-side risks and safeguard strategic interests.

### Dispute Resolution

SPARKLE LEGAL has extensive experience in business dispute resolution, including corporate, commercial, and employment disputes. We partner with our clients to devise prompt and cost-effective strategies, and represent them in cross-border disputes, leveraging our expertise in international litigation and arbitration.

### Startups

SPARKLE LEGAL provides comprehensive legal services to startup companies, supporting them through growth at each stage. Our practice covers critical matters including business models, intellectual property protection, investment agreements and shareholders' agreements, business alliances with strategic partners, and exits through M&A or IPO.

### Compliance

SPARKLE LEGAL provides practical, hands-on support at every stage - from establishing compliance frameworks during normal operations to conducting investigations upon the first signs of a scandal, liaising with regulatory authorities, making public disclosures, and resolving any resulting disputes.

### Employment Law

When multinational companies expand into Japan, careful attention must be paid to worker-favorable employment laws. SPARKLE LEGAL supports employers by designing compliant HR systems and drafting tailored work rules. In times of corporate restructuring or market exits, our guidance extends to employee terminations, including representation in negotiations, labor tribunals, and litigation.

# Our Services

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## Specialized Areas

### Renewable Energy Legal Affairs

Driven by the global trend toward decarbonization, SPARKLE LEGAL offers comprehensive legal services to support renewable energy projects for businesses, investors, contractors, and financial institutions.

### Finance

Amid accelerating financial innovation, structuring complex financing schemes requires high-level legal expertise. SPARKLE LEGAL supports clients through complex domestic and international financial transactions and regulations, leveraging our solid expertise and experience.

### Sports Law

Addressing increasingly complex legal issues in sports, SPARKLE LEGAL provides a comprehensive range of legal services, including advising on governance, supporting negotiations with sponsors and key stakeholders, protecting publicity rights, and handling dispute resolution.

### Competition Law

Issues in competition law span a broad spectrum, from day-to-day transaction terms to cartel responses and derivative claims. Based on theoretical legal analysis, SPARKLE LEGAL provides practical, real-world advice.

### Healthcare

Focusing on the practical realities of the healthcare industry and regulatory authorities, SPARKLE LEGAL provides comprehensive support across regulatory advice, transactions, compliance, disputes, and M&A for healthcare companies and medical corporations.

### Data Protection and Privacy

Amid complex regulatory compliance and strategic data utilization, SPARKLE LEGAL provides legal solutions across the data lifecycle, including privacy risk mitigation, terms of use, privacy policies, and incident response.

### Restructuring & Insolvency

SPARKLE LEGAL advises companies facing financial difficulty across restructuring and insolvency procedures, handling out-of-court workouts, court-supervised rehabilitation, sponsor transfers, bankruptcy, and special liquidation, as well as guarantee obligations owed by owner-managers.

### Other practice areas

- Personal Information Protection Act / Privacy
- Business Rehabilitation / Bankruptcy
- Pharmaceutical and Medical Device Act / Healthcare
- White-collar Crime

# Achievement

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**Thomson Reuters™**  
STAND-OUT LAWYER 2025

 **Thomson Reuters™**  
STAND OUT LAWYER 2026

## 2023

Asia Business Law Journal Japan Law Firm Awards 2023: Best New Law Firm

## 2025

Thomson Reuters Stand-out Lawyer (2025)  
- Kakuji Mitani

*The Best Lawyers in Japan™ 2026* in Asset Finance Law  
- Emiko Obata

Bengo4.com: Top 100 Business Lawyers Chosen by Lawyers and Legal Departments 2025 (Corporate)  
- Kakuji Mitani

## 2026

Thomson Reuters Stand-out Lawyer (2026)  
- Kakuji Mitani

*The Best Lawyers in Japan™ 2027* in Asset Finance Law  
- Emiko Obata

ALB Japan Law Awards 2026:  
Finalist for Boutique Law Firm of the Year  
Finalist for Rising Law Firm of the Year

# Attorneys

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**Kakuji Mitani**  
Representative Partner



**PRACTICE AREA**

- Company Law & Corporate Governance
- Shareholders' and Board of Directors' Meetings Advice
- Corporate Litigation, Inter-company Litigation,
- Mediation & Arbitration
- M&A/Legal Due Diligence
- Compliance Matters & Crisis Management
- Startup Support
- Competition Law, Antitrust Law & Regulatory

**Emiko Obata**  
Partner



**PRACTICE AREA**

- Corporate Legal Matters
- Corporate Law / Corporate Governance
- Startup Practice
- Finance
- Power Generation Project / Renewable Energy

**Masako Banno**  
Partner



**PRACTICE AREA**

- International Transactions
- M&A and Legal Due Diligence
- Data Protection
- Intellectual Property Rights (Copyrights, Trademarks, and Unfair Competition Prevention Act)
- Employment Law

**Hikaru Ito**  
Counsel



**PRACTICE AREA**

- Company Law & Corporate Governance
- Shareholders' and Board of Directors' Meetings Advice
- Compliance Matters & Crisis Management
- Startup Support
- Sports and Entertainment Law
- Child Law
- Medical Law
- Dispute Resolution

**Ryota Hirose**



**PRACTICE AREA**

- Corporate Legal Matters
- Corporate Law / Corporate Governance
- M&A / Legal Due Diligence
- Startup Support

**Tatsuaki Kawashima**



**PRACTICE AREA**

- Corporate
- Administrative Law
- Litigation / Negotiation
- Regulatory Compliance
- Dispute Resolution

# Attorneys

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**Toko Suzuki**



**PRACTICE AREA**

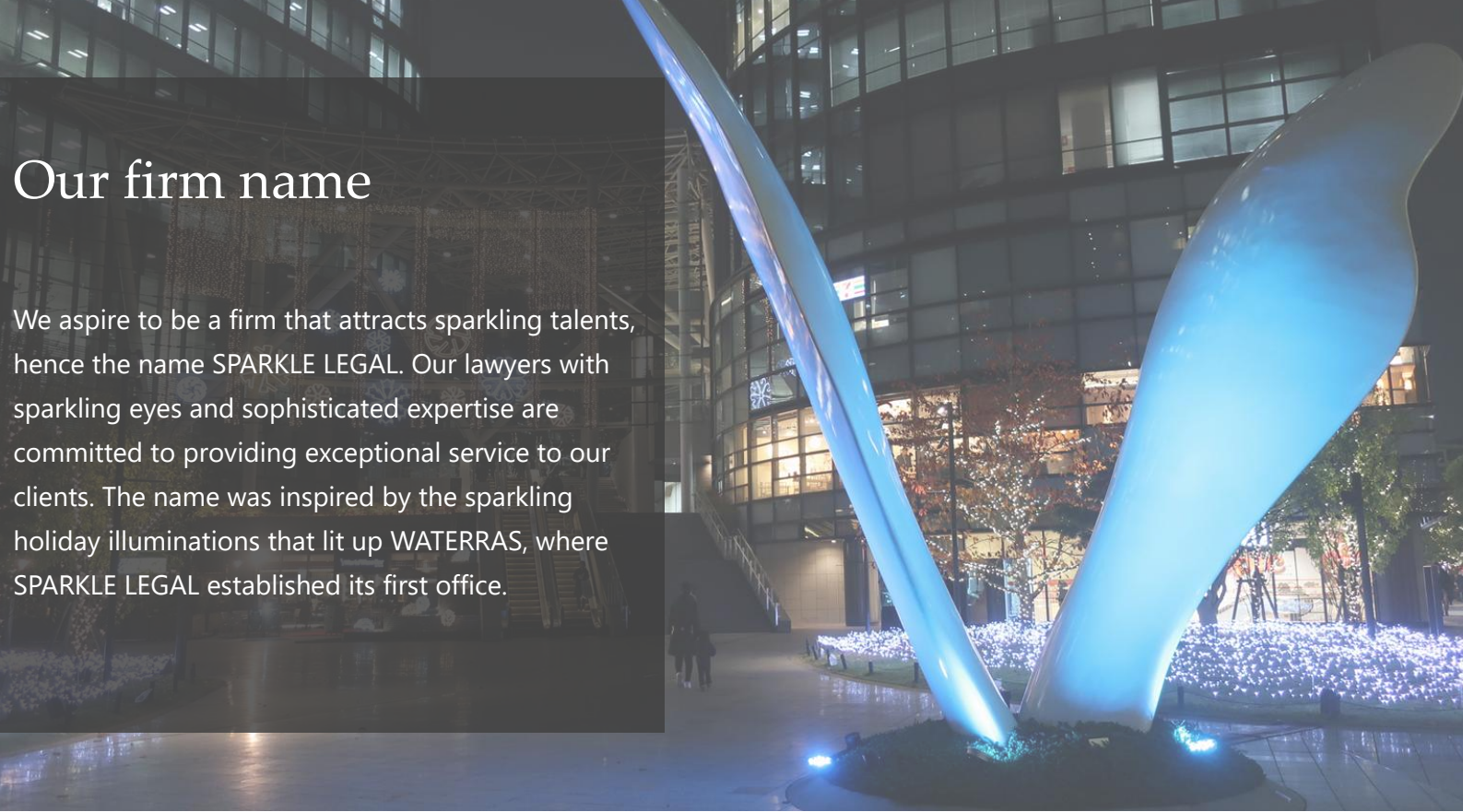
- Corporate
- Litigation / Negotiation
- Regulatory Compliance

**Yuka Yoshikawa**



**PRACTICE AREA**

- Corporate
- Litigation / Negotiation
- Regulatory Compliance



# Our firm name

We aspire to be a firm that attracts sparkling talents, hence the name SPARKLE LEGAL. Our lawyers with sparkling eyes and sophisticated expertise are committed to providing exceptional service to our clients. The name was inspired by the sparkling holiday illuminations that lit up WATERRAS, where SPARKLE LEGAL established its first office.

## Firm Profile

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|----------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Firm Name      | SPARKLE LEGAL                                                                                          |
| Representative | Kakuji Mitani                                                                                          |
| Established    | April 1, 2021                                                                                          |
| TEL/FAX        | +81-3-6260-7155 (TEL) / +81-3-6260-7156 (FAX)                                                          |
| Email          | <a href="mailto:info@sparkle.legal">info@sparkle.legal</a>                                             |
| Address        | Kishimoto Building 10F, 2-2-1 Marunouchi, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 100-0005, Japan                            |
| Access         | 3-minute walk from Tokyo Station<br>1-minute walk from Nijubashimae Station (Tokyo Metro Chiyoda Line) |