



Representative Partner

Kakuji Mitani

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PROFILE

Mr. Mitani has extensive experience in corporate legal affairs, both domestically and internationally, with a particular focus on company law. He is dedicated to helping businesses resolve issues and make critical decisions at the forefront of their operations, including areas such as corporate governance, M&A transactions, board of directors' operations, and compliance and other material matters.

Mr. Mitani also possesses a wealth of experience in handling shareholder derivative lawsuits, corporate litigation, and disputes related to large-scale contracts. His expertise extends to cross-border M&A transactions and international cartel cases in the field of antitrust and competition law. In recent years, He has been committed to supporting the growth of startup companies by providing strategic and practical advice tailored to each stage of their development.

AWARD

- Thomson Reuters Stand-out Lawyers 2026
- Thomson Reuters Stand-out Lawyers 2025
- the "Top 100 Best Business Lawyers" in the Corporate Division 2025

QUALIFICATIONS/REGISTRATION

2002 Admitted to the bar
(Dai-ichi Tokyo Bar Association)

2008 New York State Bar Association

BACKGROUND

2000 The University of Tokyo (LL.B.)

2002 Momo-o, Matsuo & Namba

2007 Columbia University School of Law
(LL.M.)

2007-2008 Weil, Gotshal & Manges (NY)

2011-2021 Partner at Momo-o, Matsuo &
Namba

2021 Established Sparkle Legal

ACTIVITIES

- Member of the Council, Dai-ichi Tokyo Bar Association (2023)
- Chairperson of the Corporate Law Research Committee at the General Legal Research Institute, Dai-ichi Tokyo Bar Association
- Member of the Examination Committee for the Small and Medium Enterprise Management Consultant Examination (2025)
- Member of Japan Competition Law Forum
- Outside Auditor, KinoPharma, Inc. (2018-)
- Outside Auditor, CoreStaff Co., Ltd. (2023-)

- Supervisory Director, GLP J-REIT (2026-)
- Ethics Committee Member, Special Committee Member etc.

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 Compliance

LANGUAGE

Japanese, English

ARTICLES/PUBLICATIONS

- "Best Practices Q&A for Companies with an Audit and Supervisory Committee" [SHOJIHOMU] [co-author] (2025)
- "〈Viewpoint〉 The Advance Question System and the New Form of the General Shareholders' Meeting as a Deliberative Body" [SHOJIHOMU Materials Edition, September 2025]
- "Let's Make Full Use of Law Firms! An Expert Lawyer on New Rules for the AI Era, Part 2: M&A" [Japan Business Law Review Vol. 25, No. 10, October 2025]
- "Key Revisions to the Companies Act and Their Impact on Business Practice" [Business & Law, June 2025]
- "Operating Annual General Meetings and Disclosing Information to Enhance Engagement" [Weekly Kin'yu Zaisei Jijo, May 20, 2025 issue]
- "What is a Clawback Clause? Explanation of the Basics, Points to Note for Implementation and Activation, and Real-World Examples" [BUSINESS LAWYERS, February 2025]
- "The Evolution and Future of Corporate Law, and Trends in Practice: Know, Read, and Utilize the Corporate Law (M&A(1)(2) (Types and Procedures))" [DAI-ICHI HOKI] [Kaisha Homu AtoZ, January and February 2025]
- "Skill Set Required of Legal Professionals from the Perspective of Outside Counsel" [Japan Business Law Review Vol. 24, No. 12, December 2024]
- "The Evolution and Future of Corporate Law, and Trends in Practice: Know, Read, and Utilize the Corporate Law (Shares and Shareholders (2))" [DAI-ICHI HOKI] [Kaisha Homu AtoZ, March 2024]
- "Key points for the 2024 Shareholders' Meeting" [SHOJIHOMU No.2350, February 15, 2024]
- "ESG and Law: A Frontier Perspective" [SEIBUNSHA] [co-author] (2023)
- "Actions taken in light of recent shareholder activism" [DAI-ICHI HOKI] [Kaisha Homu AtoZ, March 2023]
- "Trends in shareholder proposals leading governance reform" [Japan Business Law Review, March 2023]
- "Practical Guidelines for Corporate Governance Systems: Overview and Commentary on the Revised Edition" [SHOJIHOMU Materials Edition, August 2022]
- "Final Check for Corporate Governance Code Compliance for Companies Listed on the Prime Market" [SHOJIHOMU Materials Edition, December 2021]
- "Practice of Corporate Litigation: Forms and Theories of Filing Lawsuits and Provisional Remedies" [Minjiho-Kenkyukai] [co-author] (2021)
- "Outline of the Amended Ministerial Ordinance Draft Following the Companies Act Revision and Its Impact on Shares/Shareholders' Meetings" [SHOJIHOMU Materials Edition, October 2020]
- "Practical measures for shareholders' meetings based on the experience of the March 2020: Issues arising from holding general meetings during the COVID-19 pandemic state of emergency" [SHOJIHOMU No.2229, April 25, 2020] [co-author]
- "Q&A 2019 Amendment to the Companies Act" [SHINNIPPON-HOKI] [co-author] (2020)
- "Overview of the Companies Act and Foreign Exchange and Foreign Trade Act (FEFTA) amendments and their impact on shares and shareholders' meetings" [SHOJIHOMU Materials Edition, February 2020]
- "Corporate Legal Outlook 2020 Vol. 8: Enactment of the Companies Act Amendment and Its Impact on Shareholder Meeting Practices" [BUSINESS LAWYERS, February 2020] ***Selected as the most-read article in the corporate legal feature of BUSINESS LAWYERS in 2020.**
- "The Expanding Role of Independent Outside Directors: Examining the Functions of Independent Outside Directors in the Nissan Governance Improvement Special Committee Report" [BUSINESS LAWYERS, August 2019]
- "Special Feature: How to Handle the Withdrawal of Proposals Immediately Before a General Shareholders' Meeting, as Seen in the SoftBank Case" [BUSINESS LAWYERS, June 2016]
- "What Internal Control Systems Should Be to Prevent Corporate Crime and Scandals" [Monthly The Lawyers, October 2015]
- "The Essence of Hostile Takeover Defenses" [Monthly The Lawyers, April 2014]
- "Have You Responded Yet? Handling Shareholders Whose Whereabouts are Unknown and Consolidating Share Trading Units" [Japan Business Law Review, March 2023] [co-author]
- "Practical Q&A on General Shareholders' Meetings" [SHOJIHOMU] [co-author] (2013)
- "Responding When Suspected of a Violation by the Japan Fair Trade Commission (JFTC)" [Monthly The Lawyers, January 2010]
- "The New Companies Act A to Z: Practical Affairs for Non-Public Companies" [DAI-ICHI HOKI] [co-author] (2006)
- "Practical Guide to Corporate Information Management" [SHINNIPPON-HOKI] [co-author] (2005)
- "The International Investigations Review (Edition 9)" [Law Business Research Ltd.] [co-author] (2019)
- "Mergers & Acquisitions Law Guide 2019" [Lexis Nexis] [co-author] (November 2018)
- "Mergers & Acquisitions Law Guide 2018" [Lexis Nexis] [co-author] (December 2017)
- "Franchising in Asia 2015" [Lexnoir Foundation] [co-author] (2015)

MEDIA/SEMINARS

- Speaker at Japan In-House Lawyers Association (JILA) Seminar "The Cutting Edge of Companies Act Amendment Discussions and the Role of In-House Counsel" (April 10, 2026)
- Speaker at Shoji Homu Co., Ltd. Seminar "Best Practices for Companies with an Audit and Supervisory Committee: Minutes, Audit Reports Formats, and Practical Responses" (March 11, 2026)

- Speaker at BUSINESS LAWYERS Seminar "Basics of Legal Affairs You Can't Ask Now: 'Shareholders' Meeting' Edition" (February 25, 2026)
- Speaker at Shinnihon Hoki Publishing Co., Ltd. Seminar "The Cutting Edge of Legal and Labor Affairs: Harassment Prevention Seminar that Companies Should Know Now" (February 12, 2026)
- Comments on 'Mr. Niinami's Claim of Criminal "Innocence" and the Diverging Points with Suntory, Which Judged Based on "Qualities"' in Nikkei Business (September 22, 2025)
- Comments on Shareholder derivative suits in Nikkei Business (July 28, 2025)
- Comments on the method for determining executive compensation in Nikkei Business (December 16, 2024)
- Comments on the whistleblower protection system on Fuji Television's "Live News It!" (November 22, 2024)
- Speaker at Shoji Homu Seminar Series: 'Commentary on Key Points for the 2025 General Shareholders' Meeting – Trends in Activism, such as Shareholder Proposals' (November 12, 2024)
- Speaker at the Legal Innovation Conference "Review of the 2024 Shareholders' Meeting and Preparations for 2025", hosted by BUSINESS LAWYERS on October 8, 2024
- Comments on the operation of our General Meeting of Shareholders in the Nihon Keizai Shimbun (April 5, 2024)
- Comments on the shareholder proposal in the Nihon Keizai Shimbun (February 8, 2024)
- Speaker at the 336th Ito Juku Lecture Series for Aspiring Lawyers "How Will You Live as a Legal Professional? - The Path to Becoming a Corporate Lawyer" (January 13, 2024)
- Speaker at the September 2023 General Affairs and Legal Affairs Managers Meeting of the Sangyo Keiri Kyokai (The Japan Association for Industrial Management) on "Review of the June General Meeting and Future Measures"
- Comments on Judicial Decisions on Takeover Defenses in the Nihon Keizai Shimbun (June 24, 2023)
- Comments on Judicial Decisions on Takeover Defenses in the Nihon Keizai Shimbun (September 24, 2022)
- Speaker at the GVA assist seminar series on "Duties and Responsibilities of Directors 1-3" (September - November 2022)
- Business Lawyers Special Feature: Interview - Aiming for a New Era Law Firm that Frees Lawyers from Tasks
- Speaker at BUSINESS LAWYERS Seminar "Key Points for Managing the 2021 General Shareholders' Meeting" (March 9, 2021)
- Featured in the March 6, 2021 issue of Shukan Toyo Keizai: "What Will Change with the Revised Companies Act? Promoting Transparency in Corporate Governance"
- Comments on executive compensation determination methods in the Nihon Keizai Shimbun (June 17, 2020)

*OTHERS: Extensive experience in providing in-house training to clients on various topics including compliance, shareholder meetings, and contract law.