



THE 18TH ANNUAL | THE MACALLAN | ASIAN LEGAL BUSINESS

HONG KONG LAW AWARDS 2019

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY SUMMARY

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PART I - IMPORTANT DATES

OPENING OF SUBMISSIONS

27 May 2019

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS

27 June 2019

ANNOUNCEMENT OF FINALISTS

August 2019

AWARDS CEREMONY – HONG KONG

6 September 2019

AWARDS INQUIRIES

Contact Caryl Aquino at mary.aquino@tr.com or +632 9825 938.

SPONSORSHIP INQUIRIES

Contact Amantha Chia at amantha.chia@tr.com or call (65) 6870 3917.

PART II - GENERAL GUIDELINES

- A. All submissions, whether by self-recommendation or nomination, must be written in the ALB submission form. Otherwise, the same will not be accepted.
- B. The coverage period for the entries is 1 May 2018 – 30 April 2019.
- C. The contact information provided in the submissions may be used for research purposes when deemed necessary.
- D. Publications, documentary enclosures and other references that supplement the qualifications, works and achievements of a nominee may be hyperlinked in the nomination form.
- E. All relevant fields must be filled in. Submissions with less than the required number of entries will be automatically disqualified.
- F. For frequently asked questions about the awards, please visit the [FAQ page](#).

PART III - DEFINITION OF TERMS

- A. **Breadth:** the degree to which a work involved numerous jurisdictions, legal practice areas, parties and industries
- B. **Complexity:** the degree to which a work and any issues involved require the crucial exercise of legal expertise, business acumen or innovative solutions
- C. **Domestic law firm:** that which is headquartered in Hong Kong
- D. **Firm size:** number of Hong Kong-based lawyers and non-lawyers
- E. **Hong Kong element:** refers to any of the following component of work: (a) one of the counsel representing a party is based in Hong Kong; (b) one of the parties in interest is based in Hong Kong; or (c) the subject matter of the transaction is closely connected to the region
- F. **Impact or significance:** the degree to which clients and other stakeholders, the bench and bar, an industry or the region may be affected
- G. **Innovativeness:** the degree to which a work involves the application of a new concept or creative solution, process, service, program or the like to existing systems and processes, thus improving organisational capabilities and adding more value to output or making the deal work more efficient

- H. **International law firm:** that which is headquartered outside Hong Kong
- I. **Team size:** number of Hong Kong-based lawyers and non-lawyers in an in-house team or number of Hong Kong-based lawyers and non-lawyers working for a specific practice/sector in a law firm
- J. **Work:** a transaction, case or matter, service, program, initiative or the like

PART IV - AWARD CATEGORIES

A. DEAL CATEGORIES

- 1. **Debt Market Deal of the Year**
- 2. **Equity Market Deal of the Year**
- 3. **Finance Deal of the Year**
- 4. **M&A Deal of the Year**

a. Specific Guidelines

- 1. **Announcement/completion of deals:** Only deals that have been announced or completed between 1 May 2018 and 30 April 2019 are eligible for submission. Deals that have been previously submitted will no longer be eligible for submission in the current awards.
 - 2. **Deal size:** The following deal size requirements should be complied with:
 - a. **Debt Market Deal of the Year:** Deal ≥ USD1.5 billion;
 - b. **Equity Market Deal of the Year:** Deal ≥ USD1 billion;
 - c. **Finance Deal of the Year:** Deal ≥ USD1.5 billion; and
 - d. **M&A Deal of the Year:** Deal ≥ USD1.5 billion.
 - 3. **Finance Deal of the Year:** This category includes acquisition finance, project finance, loans and other financing deals.
 - 4. **Hong Kong element:** Every deal must have a “Hong Kong element” as defined in Part
 - 5. **Number of deals:** An organisation may submit a total of three deals for each category.
 - 6. ALB reserves the right to consider deals that do not comply with the deal size requirements but are exceptionally significant, complex and innovative.
- b. **Criteria:** The judges will consider the following factors: breadth, complexity, innovativeness and impact or significance of deals.

B. INDIVIDUAL CATEGORIES

- 1. **Dealmaker of the Year**
- 2. **Dispute Resolution Lawyer of the Year**
- 3. **Managing Partner of the Year**
- 4. **The Macallan Highland Single Malt Scotch Whisky Award Hong Kong In-House Lawyer of the Year**
- 5. **Woman Lawyer of the Year**
- 6. **Young Lawyer of the Year**

a. Specific Guidelines

- 1. **Dealmaker of the Year:** The deals submitted must show the candidate's expertise in deal making across various deal types.
- 2. **Dispute Resolution Lawyer of the Year:** The key works must show the candidate's expertise in at least two modes of dispute resolution.
- 3. **Nomination:** A third-party submission for any category may only be considered when the nominee's team has not nominated anyone of its members for the same category.
- 4. **Number of nominees:** An organisation may put forward only one nominee for every category.

5. **Residence:** A candidate must be a resident of Hong Kong.
 6. **Woman Lawyer of the Year:** This is open to all women lawyers with remarkable achievements in the practice of law and the society. She may be from a private or governmental entity.
 7. **Young Lawyer of the Year:** This is open to all young lawyers, who are no more than 40 years of age as of 30 April 2019, with remarkable achievements in the practice of law and the society. The candidate may be from a private or governmental entity.
- b. **Criteria:** The judges will consider the following factors: nominee's leadership, professional accomplishments (in terms of breadth, complexity, innovativeness and significance), contribution to his/her immediate organisation, the bench and bar, and the general public, including the initiatives, taken or participated in, towards community development, esp. on women/youth empowerment.

C. IN-HOUSE TEAM CATEGORIES

1. **Construction and Real Estate In-House Team of the Year**
2. **Financial Services In-House Team of the Year**
3. **Innovative In-House Team of the Year**
4. **Insurance In-House Team of the Year**
5. **Investment Banking In-House Team of the Year**
6. **Manufacturing and Trade In-House Team of the Year**
7. **Technology, Media and Telecommunications In-House Team of the Year**
8. **Transportation and Logistics In-House Team of the Year**
9. **Hong Kong In-House Team of the Year**

a. Specific Guidelines

1. **Composition of in-house team:** To join the submissions for any in-house category, the team should consist of at least two in-house counsel.
 2. **Financial Services In-House Team of the Year:** In-house teams from the financial services industry, except those from investment banks and insurance companies, are qualified to join the contest.
 3. **Hong Kong In-House Team of the Year:** This is open to all in-house teams without reference to any industry. The works submitted must exhibit the range of the nominee's capabilities and achievements.
 4. **Innovative In-House Team of the Year:** This is open to in-house teams that have applied a new concept or creative solution, process, service, program or the like to existing systems and processes, thus improving organisational capabilities and adding more value to output. An in-house team may submit at least two innovative works.
 5. **Physical office:** All in-house teams with physical office in Hong Kong are qualified to join the contest.
 6. **Manufacturing and Trade In-House Team of the Year:** This is open to manufacturers, wholesalers, retailers, and other traders.
- b. **Criteria:** The judges will consider the following factors: professional accomplishments (in terms of the breadth, complexity, innovativeness and impact or significance), innovation, development and social contribution.

D. LAW FIRM CATEGORIES

1. **Aviation Law Firm of the Year**
2. **BDO Award Matrimonial and Family Law Firm of the Year**
3. **Civil Litigation Law Firm of the Year**
4. **Construction Law Firm of the Year**
5. **Criminal Litigation Law Firm of the Year**
6. **Deal Firm of the Year**
7. **Dispute Resolution Boutique Law Firm of the Year**
8. **Energy and Resources Law Firm of the Year**

9. **HKGALA Award Corporate Citizenship Law Firm of the Year**
10. **Immigration Law Firm of the Year**
11. **Innovative Technologies Law Firm of the Year**
12. **Insurance Law Firm of the Year**
13. **Intellectual Property Law Firm of the Year**
14. **Investment Funds Law Firm of the Year**
15. **Labour and Employment Law Firm of the Year**
16. **Law in Order Award International Arbitration Law Firm of the Year**
17. **Maritime Law Firm of the Year**
18. **Offshore Law Firm of the Year**
19. **PRC Law Firm, Hong Kong Office of the Year**
20. **Private Wealth Law Firm of the Year**
21. **Real Estate Law Firm of the Year**
22. **Regulation and Investigations Law Firm of the Year**
23. **Restructuring and Insolvency Law Firm of the Year**
24. **Rising Law Firm of the Year**
25. **Tax and Trusts Law Firm of the Year**
26. **Technology, Media and Telecommunications Law Firm of the Year**
27. **Transactional Boutique Law Firm of the Year**
28. **The Macallan Highland Single Malt Scotch Whisky Award Hong Kong Law Firm of the Year**

a. Specific Guidelines

1. **Boutique Law Firm of the Year (Transactional or Dispute Resolution):** This category is open only to law firms that specialize in limited areas of legal practice with no more than 15 partners.
 2. **Corporate Citizenship Law firm of the Year:** The entries that may be submitted for the category are programs, initiatives and pro bono works beneficial to the community. Pro bono works will be evaluated in terms of the complexity and significance of the subject matter involved and consequently, the length of time and expertise demanded by the nature of the case. The programs, initiatives and the like will be evaluated in terms of creativity, significance, effectiveness and sustainability.
 3. **Deal Firm of the Year:** This category requires the submission of the law firm's top five deals, each deal with no less than USD500 million in size.
 4. **Deal size:** No minimum financial value is required of deals submitted in any firm category, except as stated in the immediately above provision.
 5. **Innovative Technologies Law Firm of the Year:** This category is exclusively for works relevant to new technologies such as blockchain, cryptocurrency, fintech and the like, or established technologies with new or innovative use or application.
 6. **Physical office:** All law firms holding an office in Hong Kong are qualified to join the submissions.
 7. **PRC Law Firm, Hong Kong Office of the Year:** Only PRC-headquartered law firms with an office in Hong Kong may join the submissions in this category.
 8. **Regulation and Investigations Law Firm of the Year:** This category may include matters pertaining to regulatory enforcement, compliance and investigations, risk management, anti-bribery and corruption, competition, etc.
 9. **Rising Law Firm of the Year:** This category is open only to law firms established in Hong Kong no earlier than 2011 and have no more than 10 partners.
 10. **The Macallan Highland Single Malt Scotch Whisky Award Hong Kong Law Firm of the Year:** This is open to all law firms holding an office in Hong Kong. The category requires the submission of key works showing the firm's expertise in various areas of legal practice, the firm's initiatives for the engagement and development of its people, its CSR strategy and its most significant contribution to the legal community.
- b. Criteria: The judges will consider the following factors: the professional accomplishments (in terms of the breadth, complexity, innovativeness and impact or significance), innovation, development and social contribution.

PART V - JUDGING PANEL

The panel of judges will be composed of at least 30 reputable members from the legal academia, in-house teams, law firms, legal associations and non-profit organisations in the region. Each judge will evaluate only the categories assigned to him and with which he does not have any conflict of interest.

The judges will rank the nominees according to the above-mentioned parameters and only the top finalists will be included in the shortlist.

In the final round of evaluation, the finalist with the highest score in every category wins the award.