



ASIAN LEGAL BUSINESS

MALAYSIA LAW AWARDS

**RESEARCH
METHODOLOGY
SUMMARY 2019**



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PART 1 - IMPORTANT DATES

OPENING OF SUBMISSIONS

28 November 2018

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS

22 January 2019

ANNOUNCEMENT OF FINALISTS

February 2019

AWARDS CEREMONY – Kuala Lumpur

28 March 2019

AWARDS INQUIRIES

Contact Anna Lam at anna.lam@tr.com or call (852) 2843 1672 for further details.

SPONSORSHIP INQUIRIES

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

PART 2 - GENERAL GUIDELINES

- All submissions, whether by self-recommendation or nomination, must be written in the ALB submission form. Otherwise, the same will not be accepted.
- The coverage period for the entries is 1 January 2018 to 31 December 2018.
- The contact persons provided in the submission form will be contacted by ALB, as may be necessary.
- No more than five hyperlinks may be incorporated in a submission form to support any information expressly stated therein.
- Every category requires the submission of three entries, except as specifically provided below.
- For frequently asked questions about the awards, visit the [FAQ Page](#).

PART 3 - DEFINITION OF TERMS

Breadth - the degree to which a work involved numerous jurisdictions, legal practice areas, parties and industries

Complexity - the degree to which a work and any issues involved require the crucial exercise of legal expertise, business acumen or innovative solutions

Domestic law firm - that which is headquartered in Malaysia

Firm size - total number of lawyers based in Malaysia

Malaysian element - refers to any of the following component of work: (a) one of the counsel representing a party is based in Malaysia; (b) one of the parties in interest is based in Malaysia; or (c) any contract indispensable to the completion of work was executed in Malaysia; or (d) the subject matter of the transaction is closely connected to Malaysia

Impact or significance - the degree to which clients and other stakeholders, the bench and bar, an industry or the country may be affected

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

International law firm - that which is headquartered outside Malaysia

Work - a transaction, case or matter, service, program, initiative or the like

PART 4 - AWARD CATEGORIES

DEAL CATEGORIES

- 1 Debt Market Deal of the Year**
- 2 Equity Market Deal of the Year**
- 3 Islamic Finance Deal of the Year**
- 4 M&A Deal of the Year**
- 5 Projects, Energy and Infrastructure Deal of the Year**
- 6 Real Estate Deal of the Year**

Specific Guidelines

- a. Announcement/completion of deals - Only deals that have been announced or completed between 1 January 2018 to 31 December 2018 are eligible for submission. Deals that have been announced but are pending completion during this period may be submitted but will no longer be eligible for submission next year or when the same shall have been completed.
- b. Deal size - The following deal size requirements should be complied with:
 1. **Debt Market; Equity Market; Islamic Finance; Projects, Energy and Infrastructure; Real Estate Deal of the Year:** Deal \geq USD300 million; and
 2. **M&A Deal of the Year:** Deal \geq USD350 million
- c. Number of deals - An organisation may submit a total of three deals for each category.
- d. Malaysian element - Every entry must have a certain level of Malaysian element as defined in Part 3.

Criteria

The judges will consider the following factors: breadth, complexity, innovativeness and impact or significance of deals.

INDIVIDUAL CATEGORIES

7 Dealmaker of the Year

8 Dispute Resolution Lawyer of the Year

9 In-House Lawyer of the Year

10 Managing Partner of the Year

11 Woman Lawyer of the Year

12 Young Lawyer of the Year

Specific Guidelines

- a. Number of nominees - An organisation may put forward only one nominee for every category.
- b. 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.
- c. Residence - A candidate must be a resident of Malaysia.
- d. Dealmaker of the Year - The deals submitted must show the candidate's expertise in deal making across various deal types.
- e. Managing Partner of the Year - This is open to all managing partners or senior partners whose function is primarily that of a managing partner.
- f. Woman Lawyer of the Year - This is open to all woman lawyers, whether from a public or private entity.
- g. Young Lawyer of the Year - Only lawyers, whether from a law firm or an In-house team, who are no more than 40 years of age as of 31 December 2018 are eligible to submit for this category.

Criteria

The judges will consider the following factors: the entrants' or nominees' leadership, professional accomplishments (in terms of the breadth, complexity, innovativeness and significance) and social contribution.

IN-HOUSE CATEGORIES

13 Banking and Financial Services In-House Team of the Year

14 Construction and Heavy Industries In-House Team of the Year

15 Innovative In-House Team of the Year

16 Insurance In-House Team of the Year

17 Retail and Manufacturing In-House Team of the Year

18 Technology, Media and Telecommunications In-House Team of the Year

19 Malaysia In-House Team of the Year

Specific Guidelines

- a. Physical office - All in-house teams with physical office in Malaysia are qualified to join the contest.

b. 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 organizational capabilities and adding more value to output. An in-house team may submit a maximum of three innovative works for this category.

c. Malaysia In-House Team of the Year - This is open to all in-house teams, regardless of industry. The works submitted must exhibit an exemplary spectrum of an in-house team's capabilities and achievements.

Criteria

The judges will consider the following factors: the entrants' or nominees' professional accomplishments (in terms of the breadth, complexity, innovativeness and impact or significance), innovation, development and social contribution.

FIRM CATEGORIES

- 20 Arbitration Law Firm of the Year**
- 21 Aviation Law Firm of the Year**
- 22 Banking and Financial Services Law Firm of the Year**
- 23 Dispute Resolution Boutique Law Firm of the Year**
- 24 East Malaysia Law Firm of the Year**
- 25 Intellectual Property Law Firm of the Year**
- 26 International Law Firm of the Year**
- 27 Islamic Finance Law Firm of the Year**
- 28 Labour and Employment Law Firm of the Year**
- 29 Litigation Law Firm of the Year**
- 30 Malaysia Deal Firm of the Year**
- 31 Maritime Law Firm of the Year**
- 32 Matrimonial and Family Law Firm of the Year**
- 33 Overseas Practice Law Firm of the Year**
- 34 Projects, Energy and Infrastructure Law Firm of the Year**
- 35 Real Estate Law Firm of the Year**
- 36 Restructuring and Insolvency Law Firm of the Year**
- 37 Rising Law Firm of the Year**
- 38 Sports Law Firm of the Year**
- 39 Technology, Media and Telecommunications Law Firm of the Year**
- 40 Transactional Boutique Law Firm of the Year**
- 41 West Malaysia Law Firm of the Year**
- 42 Malaysia Law Firm of the Year**

Specific Guidelines

a. Physical office - All law firms holding an office in Malaysia are qualified to submit for any of the categories, except for International Law Firm of the Year.

b. Deal size - No minimum financial value is required of deals submitted in any firm category.

c. Boutique Law Firm of the Year (Dispute Resolution or Transactional) - This category is open to law firms that specialize in limited areas of legal practice with no more than 15 partners.

- d. East/ West Malaysia Law Firm of the Year - Law firms based in East Malaysia (Sabah, Sarawak, etc) are qualified to submit for East Malaysia Law Firm of the Year; Law firms based in West Malaysia (Kuala Lumpur, Penang, etc) are qualified to submit for West Malaysia Law Firm of the Year.
- e. International Law Firm of the Year - Law firms headquartered outside of Malaysia (whether the same has a physical office in Malaysia or not) are eligible to participate. The category requires the submission of 5 key works and each key work submitted must include a certain level of “Malaysian element” as defined above.
- f. Malaysian Deal Firm of the Year - Only domestic law firms that have completed at least five deals in the coverage period may join the submissions for this category. The category requires the submission of 5 key works and each key work submitted must include a certain level of “Malaysian element” as defined above.
- g. Overseas Practice Law Firm of the Year - This category is open for submissions to domestic law firms headquartered in Malaysia.
- h. Rising Law Firm of the Year - Only law firms that have no more than 10 partners and have been established in Malaysia no earlier than 2013 are eligible for submission.
- i. Malaysia Law Firm of the Year - This is open to all law firms holding an office in Malaysia. 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.

Criteria

The judges will consider the following factors: entrants’ or nominees’ professional accomplishments (in terms of the breadth, complexity, innovativeness and impact or significance), innovation, development and social contribution.

PART 5 - JUDGING PANEL

The panel of judges will be composed of at least 25 reputable members from the legal academe, in-house teams, law firms, legal associations and non-profit organizations in the region. Each judge will evaluate only the categories assigned to him/her and with which he/she does not have any conflict of interest.

The judges will rank the nominees according to the abovementioned 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.

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