ASIAN LEGAL BUSINESS

HONG KONG LAW AWARDS

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY SUMMARY 2018

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PART 1 - IMPORTANT DATES

OPENING OF SUBMISSIONS
30 May 2018

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS
12 July 2018
LAW FIRMS - Submit forms to mary.aquino@tr.com
IN-HOUSE TEAMS - Submit forms to anna.lam@tr.com

ANNOUNCEMENT OF FINALISTS
August 2018

AWARDS CEREMONY
7 September 2018

AWARDS INQUIRIES
Contact Caryl Aquino at mary.aquino@tr.com or call (632) 9825 938 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 May 2017 - 30 April 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 Hong Kong

Firm size - total number of lawyers based in Hong Kong

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

Impact or significance - the degree to which clients and other stakeholders, the bench and bar, an industry or the region 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 Hong Kong

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. **M&A Deal of the Year**

Specific Guidelines

a. Announcement/completion of deals - Only deals that have been announced or completed between 1 May 2017 and 30 April 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/M&A Deal of the Year:** Deal≥USD1.5 billion; and
   2. **Equity Market Deal of the Year:** Deal≥USD1 billion.
c. Number of deals - An organisation may submit a total of three deals for each category.
d. Hong Kong element - Every entry must have a Hong Kong element as defined in Part 3(H).

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

INDIVIDUAL CATEGORIES

4 Art Futures Award Managing Partner of the Year
5 Dealmaker of the Year
6 Dispute Resolution Lawyer of the Year
7 The Macallan Triple Cask Single Malt Scotch Whisky Award Hong Kong In-House Lawyer of the Year
8 Woman Lawyer of the Year
9 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 the region.
d. Dealmaker of the Year - The deals submitted must show the candidate's expertise in deal making across various deal types.
e. Dispute Resolution Lawyer of the Year - The key works must show the candidate's expertise in at least two modes of dispute resolution.
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 in-house team, who are no more than 40 years of age as of 30 April 2018 are eligible for submission.

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

10 Construction and Real Estate In-House Team of the Year
11 Financial Services In-House Team of the Year
12 Hospitality In-House Team of the Year
13 Innovative In-House Team of the Year
14 Insurance In-House Team of the Year
15 Investment Banking In-House Team of the Year
16 Paul, Weiss Award Technology, Media and Telecommunications In-House Team of the Year
17 Retail In-House Team of the Year
18 Startup In-House Team of the Year
19 Transportation and Logistics In-House Team of the Year
20 Hong Kong In-House Team of the Year

Specific Guidelines

a. Physical office - All in-house teams with physical office in Hong Kong are qualified to join the contest.
b. Composition of in-house team - To join the submissions for any in-house category, the team should consist of at least two in-house lawyers.
c. 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.
d. Startup In-House Team of the Year - Only companies established in Hong Kong not earlier than 2011 are eligible for submission.
e. 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 a maximum of three innovative works for this category.
f. Hong Kong 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

21 Aviation Law Firm of the Year
22 BDO Award Matrimonial and Family Law Firm of the Year
23 Civil Litigation Law Firm of the Year
24 Construction Law Firm of the Year
25 Corporate Citizenship Law Firm of the Year
26 Criminal Litigation Law Firm of the Year
27 Deal Firm of the Year
28 Dispute Resolution Boutique Law Firm of the Year
29 Energy and Resources Law Firm of the Year
30 First American Title Insurance Award Real Estate Law Firm of the Year
31 Immigration Law Firm of the Year
32 Insolvency and Restructuring Law Firm of the Year
33 Insurance Law Firm of the Year
34 Intellectual Property Law Firm of the Year
35 International Arbitration Law Firm of the Year
36 Investment Funds Law Firm of the Year
37 Labour and Employment Law Firm of the Year
38 Maritime Law Firm of the Year
39 Offshore Law Firm of the Year
40 PRC Firm, Hong Kong Office of the Year
41 Rising Law Firm of the Year
42 Tax and Trusts Law Firm of the Year
43 Technology, Media and Telecommunications Law Firm of the Year
44 Transactional Boutique Law Firm of the Year
45 Wealth Management Law Firm of the Year
46 The Macallan Highland Single Malt Scotch Whisky Award Hong Kong Law Firm of the Year

Specific Guidelines

a. Physical office - All law firms holding an office in Hong Kong are qualified to join the submissions.
b. Deal size - No minimum financial value is required of deals submitted in any firm category, except as may be provided in the category below.
c. Boutique Law Firm of the Year (Transactional or Dispute Resolution) - This category is open to law firms that specialize in limited areas of legal practice with no more than 15 partners.
d. Deal Firm of the Year - Law firms are required to showcase 5 deals, each with a minimum financial value of USD500 million.
e. Rising Law Firm of the Year - Only law firms established in Hong Kong not earlier than 2011 that have no more than 10 partners are eligible for submission.
f. 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.

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 30 reputable members from the legal academe, 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.

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