



ALB MALAYSIA LAW AWARDS 2016

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY SUMMARY

Part I

GENERAL GUIDELINES

- A. All nominations must be written in the ALB nomination form. The same must be submitted **not later than 18 February 2016**. ALB will not accept entries written in any other forms.
- B. Every work entry must have been completed **between 1 December 2014 and 31 December 2015**.
- C. Clients or contact persons provided in the nomination form may be contacted by ALB without prior notice to the nominating organisation. It is advisable that only clients whose consent for this purpose has been obtained are listed in the form.
- D. Foreign law firms advising Malaysian parties on matters pertaining to non-Malaysian laws may join the nominations, unless otherwise provided in the succeeding provisions.
- E. A third-party nomination for Dealmaker of the Year, Young Lawyer of the Year, Managing Partner of the Year or In-House Lawyer of the Year may be considered, only when the nominee's law firm or in-house team has not nominated for such category.

Part II

DEFINITION OF TERMS

For purposes of this Awards, unless the context otherwise requires -

Breadth - the degree to which the work spanned different jurisdictions, practice areas, parties and industries;

Complexity - the degree to which the work requires intricate legal principles or advanced techniques and structures;

Impact or significance - the degree by which the stakeholders, the bench and bar or the Malaysian community at large is affected;

Improvement - the degree to which the work involved improved techniques and structures;

Innovation - the degree to which the work involved original techniques and structures or innovative legal rules or regulations;

Malaysian element - any or all of the following: (a) one of the law firms involved must be based in Malaysia; (b) one of the parties to the deal must be based in Malaysia; (c) the contract/deal was executed/completed in Malaysia; or (d) the contract/deal must, in any way, be related to Malaysia;

Third-party award or recognition - that which is given by any award-giving organisation, public or private, other than ALB; and

Work - any transactions, cases or matters handled, and other legal services provided within the organisation or otherwise.

Part III

CATEGORIES

A. Deal Categories

1. Equity Market Deal of the Year
2. Debt Market Deal of the Year (Midsize)
3. Debt Market Deal of the Year (Premium)
4. Islamic Finance Deal of the Year (Midsize)
5. Islamic Finance Deal of the Year (Premium)
6. M&A Deal of the Year (Midsize)
7. M&A Deal of the Year (Premium)
8. Dealmaker of the Year
9. Malaysia Deal of the Year

(1) Specific Guidelines

- a. **Malaysian element** Every entry submitted in the deal categories must have a Malaysian element.
- b. **Equity Market Deal of the Year** An organisation may submit up to two (2) deals for this category. Each deal must have a minimum financial value (MFV) of USD250 million.
- c. **Midsize categories and nomination fee** Each deal must be at least USD50 million, but not greater than USD250 million in size. A nomination fee of USD50 per

deal entry must be paid before a qualified submission for any of the Midsize categories can be forwarded to the judging panel for evaluation.

d. **Premium categories** An organisation may submit up to two (2) deals for every premium category. Each deal must be greater than USD250 million in size.

e. **Malaysia Deal of the Year** The winner for every deal category, except Dealmaker, automatically becomes a finalist for Malaysia Deal of the Year, and the finalist obtaining the highest score wins the award.

(2) Criteria. The evaluation of deals will be based on the following factors:

- a. Complexity
- b. Innovation/improvement
- c. Breadth;
- d. Impact/significance; and
- e. Third-party awards/recognition.

B. In-House Categories

1. Banking and Financial Services In-House Team of the Year
2. Energy and Resources In-House Team of the Year
3. Insurance In-House Team of the Year
4. Technology, Media and Telecommunications In-House Team of the Year
5. In-House Lawyer of the Year
6. Malaysia In-House Team of the Year

(1) Specific Guidelines

a. **Physical office** All in-house teams with physical office in Malaysia are qualified to join the nominations for any in-house categories.

b. **Other industries** In-house teams from industries other than banking, energy and resources, insurance and TMT may nominate their teams for Malaysia In-House Team of the Year.

c. **Malaysia In-House Team of the Year** The winner for every in-house category, except In-House Lawyer of the Year, and the in-house teams from other industries referred to above automatically become finalists for Malaysia In-House Team of the Year.

(2) Criteria. The evaluation of entries for in-house categories will be based on the following factors:

- a. Complexity;
- b. Innovation/improvement;

- c. Breadth;
- d. Impact/significance; and
- e. Third-party awards/recognition (when applicable).

C. Firm Categories

1. Arbitration Law Firm of the Year
2. Aviation Law Firm of the Year
3. Banking and Financial Services Law Firm of the Year
4. Boutique Law Firm of the Year
5. Corporate Citizenship Law Firm of the Year
6. Energy, Projects and Infrastructure Law Firm of the Year
7. Intellectual Property Law Firm of the Year
8. Islamic Finance Law Firm of the Year
9. Labour and Employment Law Firm of the Year
10. Litigation Law Firm of the Year
11. Malaysia Deal Firm of the Year
12. Maritime Law Firm of the Year
13. Real Estate Law Firm of the Year
14. Rising Law Firm of the Year
15. International Deal Firm of the Year
16. Managing Partner of the Year
17. Young Lawyer of the Year
18. Malaysia Law Firm of the Year

(1) Specific Guidelines

- a. **Arbitration Law Firm of the Year** An international law firm may nominate for this category; provided, in matters submitted as entries, the seat of arbitration was in Malaysia or that the firm advised, represented or assisted a Malaysian party or parties.
- b. **Boutique Law Firm of the Year** This category is open for nomination to Malaysian law firms with less than 15 members or limited practice areas only.
- c. **Litigation Law Firm of the Year and Managing Partner of the Year** Only local law firms nominate for any of these categories.
- d. **Malaysia Deal Firm of the Year and International Deal Firm of the Year** No MFV is required for deals submitted for any of the categories. Only local law firms may nominate for the former and law firms headquartered outside Malaysia may nominate for the latter.

Deals submitted for International Deal Firm must have a "Malaysian element" as defined in Part II above.

e. **Rising Law Firm of the Year** Only Malaysian law firms which have been established in Malaysia between 1 January 2012 and 30 November 2014 and with less than 10 members may nominate for this category.

f. **Young Lawyer of the Year** A law firm partner who is not more than 40 years of age may nominate for this category.

g. **Malaysia Law Firm of the Year** The winner for every firm category, except Managing Partner and Young Lawyer, automatically becomes a finalist for Malaysia Law Firm of the Year, and the finalist obtaining the highest score wins the award.

(2) Criteria. The evaluation of entries for firm categories will be based on the following factors:

- a. Key hires and departures (when applicable);
- b. Complexity;
- c. Innovation/improvement;
- d. Breadth;
- e. Impact/significance;
- f. Third-party awards/recognition;
- g. No. of completed transactions (when applicable); and
- h. Volume of completed transactions in USD (when applicable).

Part IV

JUDGING PANEL

The judging panel consists of the general and the special expertise panels. It is composed of approximately 30 reputable members from the legal academe, in-house teams, law firms, legal associations or business leagues whose identities are kept confidential prior to the awards ceremony.

The panel of judges is given at least one week to evaluate the accomplishments of nominees based on a research summary provided by ALB. The judges choose the top three finalists for every category. A score allocated by a judge to a finalist with which or with whom he has an apparent conflict of interest is considered void.

The finalist in every category that obtains the highest score wins.

PAYMENT METHODS

Nomination fees apply to Midsize deal categories only. The same may be paid via credit card online, cheque or bank draft, or bank transfer.

Payment link and bank information will be provided by ALB.

IMPORTANT DATES

13 January 2016	Opening of nominations
18 February 2016	Deadline for nominations <i>(Please submit nomination forms to mailto:mary.aquino@thomsonreuters.com)</i>
3rd week of March	Online announcement of finalists
7 April 2016	Awards ceremony

For enquiries about the event, you may contact:

Mary Carousel "Caryl" Aquino
ALB Senior Events Researcher
T: +632 9825938
E: mary.aquino@thomsonreuters.com

