



MALAYSIA LAW AWARDS 2017

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY SUMMARY

ASIAN LEGAL BUSINESS

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PART I: IMPORTANT DATES

30 DECEMBER 2016	Opening of nominations
13 FEBRUARY 2017	Deadline for nominations (Please submit nomination forms to yvonne.lau@thomsonreuters.com)
MARCH 2017	Announcement of finalists
6 APRIL 2017	Awards ceremony (Kuala Lumpur)

AWARDS INQUIRIES

Contact **Yvonne Lau** at yvonne.lau@thomsonreuters.com or call **(+852) 2843 6547** for any queries regarding the nomination process.

SPONSORSHIP INQUIRIES

Contact **Amantha Chia** at amantha.chia@thomsonreuters.com or call **(+65) 6870 3917** for further details regarding sponsorship.

PART II: GENERAL GUIDELINES

- All nominations must be written in the Asian Legal Business (ALB) nomination form provided, and ALB will not accept entries in any other format.
- ALB accepts self-nominations in addition to third-party nominations.
- Every work entry submitted in the nomination forms must be completed within the timeframe of 1 December 2015 to 31 December 2016.
- For queries regarding eligibility, confidentiality and the nomination and assessment processes, please visit our FAQ Page.

PART III: DEFINITION OF TERMS

The work highlights provided in the nomination forms will be judged based on the following criteria.

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 Malaysia 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;

Malaysia 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 (if applicable) - 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 IV: AWARD CATEGORIES

A. 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 (Midsize)
- 5 M&A Deal of the Year (Premium)
- 6 Malaysia Deal of the Year*

Specific Guidelines

- a. **Malaysian element:** Every entry submitted in the deal categories must have a Malaysian element as defined in Part II.
- b. **Debt Market Deal of the Year; Equity Market Deal of the Year; Islamic Finance Deal of the Year:** An organisation may submit up to three (3) deals for any of these categories. Each deal must have a minimum financial value (MFV) of USD 200 million.
- c. **M&A Deal of the Year (Midsize/Premium):** An organisation may submit up to three (3) deals for either of these categories. Each deal must have a minimum financial value (MFV) of USD 250 million for the premium category; or be at least USD 50 million but not greater than USD 250 million for the midsize category.
- d. **Malaysia Deal of the Year:** The winners from the other deal categories will automatically become finalists for Deal of the Year.

Criteria

The evaluation of deals will be based on the following factors:

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

B. TEAM CATEGORIES

(I) FIRM CATEGORIES

- 7 Arbitration Law Firm of the Year
- 8 ASEAN Practice of the Year
- 9 Aviation Law Firm of the Year
- 10 Banking and Financial Services Law Firm of the Year
- 11 Boutique Law Firm of the Year
- 12 Corporate Citizenship Law Firm of the Year
- 13 East Malaysia Firm of the Year
- 14 Energy, Projects and Infrastructure Law Firm of the Year
- 15 International Deal Firm of the Year
- 16 Intellectual Property Law Firm of the Year

- 17 Islamic Finance Law Firm of the Year
- 18 Labour and Employment Law Firm of the Year
- 19 Litigation Law Firm of the Year
- 20 Malaysia Deal Firm of the Year
- 21 Malaysia Law Firm of the Year*
- 22 Maritime Law Firm of the Year
- 23 Matrimonial and Family Law Firm of the Year
- 24 Mediation Law Firm of the Year
- 25 Real Estate Law Firm of the Year
- 26 Rising Law Firm of the Year
- 27 Technology, Media and Telecommunications Law Firm of the Year
- 28 West Malaysia Law Firm of the Year

(II) IN-HOUSE CATEGORIES

- 29 Banking and Financial Services In-House Team of the Year
- 30 Energy and Resources In-House Team of the Year
- 31 Malaysia In-House Team of the Year
- 32 Technology, Media and Telecommunications In-House Team of the Year

Specific Guidelines

- a. **Physical office:** All in-house teams with a physical office in Malaysia are qualified to join the nominations for any in-house categories. All law firms headquartered in Malaysia are qualified for any firm categories except for International Deal Firm of the Year; international law firms with offices in Malaysia are qualified to submit for the aforementioned.
- b. **Malaysia In-House Team of the Year:** In-house teams from all industries are qualified to submit for this category.
- c. **Minimum Financial Value (MFV):** No MFV is required for deals submitted for any of the firm categories.
- d. **Malaysia/International Deal Firm of the Year:** Local law firms are qualified to nominate for the former, and law firms headquartered outside Malaysia are qualified to nominate for the latter. Each deal must have a "Malaysia element" as defined above.
- e. **ASEAN Practice of the Year:** Domestic law firms headquartered in Malaysia may join the nomination for this category.
- f. **East/West 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; law firms based in East Malaysia (Sabah, Sarawak, etc) are qualified to submit for East Malaysia Law Firm of the Year.
- g. **Boutique Law Firm of the Year:** This category is open to Malaysian law firms with less than

- fifteen (15) partners and have a specific/niche practice area; it is not open to full service law firms.
 - h. **Rising Law Firm of the Year:** This category is open to Malaysian law firms that have ten (10) partners or less and have established their offices in Malaysia for no more than three (3) years.
 - i. **Malaysia Law Firm of the Year:** This category is not open for nomination. The winners from the above firm categories will automatically become finalists.
- b. **Managing Partner of the Year:** An organization may only nominate one of its lawyers for this category, but may nominate more than one lawyer for any third-party nominations.
- c. **Woman Lawyer of the Year:** A law firm partner or in-house lawyer who is female may nominate for this category.
- d. **Young Lawyer of the Year:** A law firm partner who is not more than forty (40) years of age may nominate for this category.

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
- e. Third-party awards/recognition (when applicable)
- f. No. of completed transactions (when applicable)
- g. Volume of completed transactions in USD (when applicable)

C. INDIVIDUAL CATEGORIES

- 33 **Barrister of the Year**
- 34 **Dealmaker of the Year**
- 35 **Malaysia In-House Lawyer of the Year**
- 36 **Managing Partner of the Year**
- 37 **Woman Lawyer of the Year**
- 38 **Young Lawyer of the Year**

Specific Guidelines

- a. **Malaysia Award In-House Lawyer of the Year:**
An organization may only nominate one of its lawyers for this category, but may nominate more than one lawyer for any third-party nominations.

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