



ASIAN LEGAL BUSINESS

HONG KONG LAW AWARDS 2016

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY SUMMARY

PART I: GENERAL GUIDELINES

- All nominations must be written in the ALB nomination form. The same must be submitted **not later than 5 July 2016**. ALB will not accept entries written in any other forms.
- Every work entry must be completed **between April 2015 and March 2016**.
- 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.

PART II: DEFINITION OF TERMS

For purposes of these 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 Hong Kong 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;

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

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

DEAL CATEGORIES

- **Debt Market Deal of the Year**
- **Equity Market Deal of the Year**
- **M&A Deal of the Year**
- **Deal of the Year**

(1) Specific Guidelines

- **Hong Kong element**
Every entry submitted in the deal categories must have a Hong Kong element as defined in Part II.
- **Equity Market Deal of the Year**
An organisation may submit up to three (3) deals for this category. Each deal must have a minimum financial value (MFV) of USD 1 billion.
- **Debt Market Deal of the Year and M&A Deal of the Year**
An organisation may submit up to three (3) deals for these categories. Each deal must have a minimum financial value (MFV) of USD 1.5 billion.
- **Deal of the Year**
The winners from the other deal categories will automatically become finalists for Deal of the Year.

(2) Criteria

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

- Complexity
- Innovation/improvement
- Breadth;
- Impact/significance; and
- Third-party awards/recognition.

TEAM CATEGORIES

(i) IN-HOUSE CATEGORIES

- **Construction and Real Estate In-House Team of the Year**
- **Financial Services In-House Team of the Year**
- **Holman Fenwick Willan Award Shipping In-House Team of the Year**
- **Lewis Sanders Award Investment Banking In-House Team of the Year**
- **Paul, Weiss Award Technology, Media and Telecommunications In-House Team of the Year**
- **In-House Team of the Year**

PART III: CATEGORIES

(ii) FIRM CATEGORIES

- **Arbitration Law Firm of the Year**
- **BDO Limited Award Matrimonial Law Firm of the Year**
- **Boutique Law Firm of the Year**
- **Construction Law Firm of the Year**
- **Corporate Citizenship Law Firm of the Year**
- **Criminal Law Firm of the Year**
- **Deal Firm of the Year**
- **Energy and Resources Law Firm of the Year**
- **Immigration Law Firm of the Year**
- **Insurance Law Firm of the Year**
- **Insolvency and Restructuring Law Firm of the Year**
- **Intellectual Property Law Firm of the Year**
- **Investment Funds Law Firm of the Year**
- **Labour and Employment Law Firm of the Year**
- **Litigation Law Firm of the Year**
- **Maritime Law Firm of the Year**
- **Offshore Law Firm of the Year**
- **Real Estate Law Firm of the Year**
- **Rising Law Firm of the Year**
- **Tax and Trusts Law Firm of the Year**
- **Technology, Media and Telecommunications Law Firm of the Year**
- **Wealth Management Law Firm of the Year**
- **PRC Firm, Hong Kong Office of the Year**
- **The Macallan Highland Single Malt Scotch Whisky Award Hong Kong Law Firm of the Year**

(1) Specific Guidelines

- **Physical office**
All in-house teams with a physical office in Hong Kong are qualified to join the nominations for any in-house categories. All law firms based in Hong Kong are qualified for any firm categories, unless otherwise specified.
- **In-House Team of the Year**
In-house teams from all industries are qualified to submit for this category.
- **Financial Services In-House Team of the Year**
In-house teams from insurance companies, commercial banks, accounting firms, stock brokerages and other entities in the finance industry are qualified to submit for this category.

- **Minimum Financial Value (MFV)**
No MFV is required for deals submitted for any of the firm categories, except for Deal Firm of the Year.
- **Deal Firm of the Year**
Law firms that have a physical office in Hong Kong and have completed at least ten (10) deals may join the nomination for this category. Each deal must have a MFV of USD 500 million and have a "Hong Kong element" as defined above.
- **Boutique Law Firm of the Year**
This category is open to law firms with a specific/niche practice area and with less than fifteen (15) partners. It is not open to full service law firms.
- **Rising Law Firm of the Year**
This category is open to law firms that have ten (10) partners or less and have established their offices in Hong Kong for no more than five (5) years (between January 2011 and March 2016).
- **The Macallan Highland Single Malt Scotch Whisky Award Hong Kong Law Firm of the Year**
is not open for nomination. The winners from the above firm categories will automatically become finalists for Hong Kong Law Firm of the Year.

(2) Criteria

The evaluation of entries for firm categories will be based on the following factors:

- Complexity;
- Innovation/improvement;
- Breadth;
- Impact/significance; and
- Third-party awards/recognition (when applicable)
- No. of completed transactions (when applicable); and
- Volume of completed transactions in USD (when applicable).

PART III: CATEGORIES

INDIVIDUAL CATEGORIES

- **Dealmaker of the Year**
- **Managing Partner of the Year**
- **The Macallan Fine Oak Single Malt Scotch Whisky Award In-House Lawyer of the Year**
- **Woman Lawyer of the Year**
- **Young Lawyer of the Year**

(1) Specific Guidelines

- **The Macallan Fine Oak Single Malt Scotch Whisky 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.
- **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.
- **Woman Lawyer of the Year**
A law firm partner or in-house lawyer who is female may nominate for this category.
- **Young Lawyer of the Year**
A law firm partner who is not more than forty (40) years of age may nominate for this category.

PART IV: JUDGING PANEL

The judging panel consists of approximately 30 reputable members from the legal academe, in-house teams, law firms, legal and business associations, whose identities are kept confidential prior to the awarding ceremony.

The panel of judges will be given one week to review, score and evaluate the submission entries. After the judges select the top 3 finalists for each award category, the finalist that obtains the highest score in their award category wins.

We do our best to ensure no conflict of interest in the judging process. Therefore, any score allocated by a judge to a finalist with whom he/she has an apparent conflict of interest is considered void.

PART V: FURTHER INFORMATION

IMPORTANT DATES

1 June 2016	Opening of nominations
5 July 2016	Deadline for nominations <i>(Please submit nomination forms to mary.aquino@thomsonreuters.com)</i>
August 2016	Online announcement of finalists
September 2016	Awards ceremony

CONTACT PERSON

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