

2021

**ALB**  
**MIDDLE EAST  
LAW AWARDS**

MARCH 18 - VIRTUAL EVENT

**RESEARCH METHODOLOGY SUMMARY**

## PART 1 - IMPORTANT DATES

### OPENING OF SUBMISSIONS

11 December 2020

### DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS

28 January 2021

### ANNOUNCEMENT OF FINALISTS

Mid-February 2021

### AWARDS CEREMONY – VIRTUAL

18 March 2021

### AWARDS INQUIRIES

Contact Harmony Tam at [harmony.tam@tr.com](mailto:harmony.tam@tr.com) or call (852) 2841 5783 for further details.

### SPONSORSHIP INQUIRIES

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

## PART 2 - GENERAL GUIDELINES

- A. All submissions, whether by self-recommendation or nomination, must be written in the ALB submission form. Otherwise, the same will not be accepted.
- B. The coverage period for the entries is 1 September 2019 – 30 September 2020.
- C. The contact information provided in the forms may be used for research purposes when deemed necessary.
- D. Publications, documentary enclosures and other references that supplement the qualifications, works and achievements of a nominee may be hyperlinked in the nomination form.
- E. All relevant fields must be filled in.
- F. For frequently asked questions about the awards, please visit the [FAQ page](#).

## PART 3 - DEFINITION OF TERMS

- A. **Breadth:** the degree to which a work involved numerous jurisdictions, legal practice areas, parties and industries
- B. **Complexity:** the degree to which a work and any issues involved require the crucial exercise of legal expertise, business acumen or innovative solutions
- C. **Firm size:** number of Middle East-based lawyers and non-lawyers
- D. **Middle East element:** refers to any of the following component of work: (a) one of the counsel advising/representing a party is based in the Middle East; (b) one of the parties in interest is based in the Middle East; or (c) the subject matter of the transaction is closely connected to the region
- E. **Impact or significance:** the degree to which clients and other stakeholders, the bench and bar, an industry or the region may be affected
- F. **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
- G. **Pro bono service:** free legal assistance extended voluntarily to the low-income and disadvantaged individuals and organisations serving the same sector of the community, with the end of making justice accessible to all
- H. **Team size:** number of Middle East-based lawyers and non-lawyers in an in-house team or number of Middle East-based lawyers and non-lawyers working for a specific practice/sector in a law firm
- I. **Work:** a transaction, case or matter, service, program, initiative or the like

## PART 4 - AWARD CATEGORIES

### A. 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*

1. **Announcement/completion of deals:** Only deals that have been announced or completed between 1 September 2019 and 30 September 2020 are eligible for submission.
2. **Deal size:** The following deal size requirements should be complied with:
  - a. **Debt Market Deal of the Year:** Deal ≥ USD300 million
  - b. **Equity Market Deal of the Year:** Deal ≥ USD300 million; and
  - c. **M&A Deal of the Year:** Deal ≥ USD500 million.
3. **Middle East element:** Every deal must have a “Middle East element” as defined in Part 3.
4. **Number of deals:** An organisation may submit a total of three deals for each category.
5. ALB reserves the right to consider deals that do not comply with the deal size requirements but are exceptionally significant, complex and innovative.

#### *Criteria*

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

### B. INDIVIDUAL CATEGORIES

1. **In-House Lawyer of the Year**
2. **Managing Partner of the Year**
3. **Pro Bono Practitioner of the Year**
4. **Woman Lawyer of the Year**
5. **Young Lawyer of the Year**

#### *Specific Guidelines*

1. **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.
2. **Number of nominees:** An organisation may put forward only one nominee for every category.
3. **Residence:** A candidate must be a resident of the region.
4. **Pro Bono Practitioner of the Year:** This is awarded to a legal practitioner who has shown outstanding commitment to pro bono services. Judges will look into the significance of the services, the impact these services on the life, liberty or property of a client and the portion of time allotted to free legal services.
5. **Woman Lawyer of the Year:** This is open to all women lawyers who have excelled in the practice of law and has significantly contributed in the larger community, especially in women empowerment or similar advocacies.
6. **Young Lawyer of the Year:** This is open to all young lawyers, who are no more than 40 years of age as of 31 December 2020, with remarkable achievements in the practice of law and significant contribution in the larger community, especially in youth empowerment or similar advocacies.

#### *Criteria*

The judges will consider the following factors: nominee's leadership, professional accomplishments (in terms of breadth, complexity, innovativeness and significance), contribution to his/her immediate organisation, the bench and bar, and the general public, including the initiatives, taken or participated in, towards community development, esp. on women/youth empowerment.

## C. IN-HOUSE TEAM CATEGORIES

1. **Energy and Resources In-House Team of the Year**
2. **Financial Services In-House Team of the Year**
3. **Technology, Media and Telecommunications In-House Team of the Year**
4. **Middle East In-House Team of the Year**

### *Specific Guidelines*

1. **Composition of in-house team:** To join the submissions for any in-house category, the team should consist of at least two in-house counsel based in the Middle East.
2. **Financial Services In-House Team of the Year:** In-house teams from the financial services industry are qualified to join the contest.
3. **Middle East In-House Team of the Year:** This is open to all in-house teams without reference to any industry. The works submitted must exhibit the range of the nominee's capabilities and achievements.
4. **Physical office:** All in-house teams with physical office in the Middle East are qualified to join the contest.

### *Criteria*

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

## D. LAW FIRM CATEGORIES

1. **Arbitration Law Firm of the Year**
2. **Construction and Real Estate Law Firm of the Year**
3. **Corporate Citizenship Law Firm of the Year**
4. **Deal Firm of the Year**
5. **Energy and Resources Law Firm of the Year**
6. **Intellectual Property Law Firm of the Year**
7. **Labour and Employment Law Firm of the Year**
8. **Litigation Law Firm of the Year**
9. **Rising Law Firm of the Year**
10. **Egypt Law Firm of the Year**
11. **Israel Law Firm of the Year**
12. **Lebanon Law Firm of the Year**
13. **Saudi Arabia Law Firm of the Year**
14. **UAE Law Firm of the Year**
15. **Middle East Law Firm of the Year**

### *Specific Guidelines*

1. **Corporate Citizenship Law firm of the Year:** The entries that may be submitted for the category are programs, initiatives and *pro bono* works beneficial to the community. *Pro bono* works will be evaluated in terms of the significance of the services, the impact these services on the life, liberty or property of a client and the portion of time allotted to free legal services. The programs, initiatives and the like will be evaluated in terms of creativity, significance, effectiveness and sustainability.
2. **Deal Firm of the Year:** This category requires the submission of the law firm's top five deals, each deal with no less than USD200 million in size.
3. **Deal size:** No minimum financial value is required of deals submitted in any firm category, except as stated in the immediately above provision.
4. **Physical office:** All law firms holding an office in the Middle East are qualified to join the submissions.
5. **Rising Law Firm of the Year:** This category is open only to law firms established in the Middle East no earlier than 2011 and have no more than 10 partners as of 30 September 2020.
6. **Middle East Law Firm of the Year:** This is open to all law firms holding an office in the Middle East. The category requires the submission of key works showing the firm's outstanding performance 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: the 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 academia, in-house teams, law firms, and legal associations or 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 evaluate the entries 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.