



ALB JAPAN 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 **no later than 1 April 2016**. ALB will not accept entries written in any other forms.
- Every work entry must be completed **between 1 January and 31 December 2015**.
- 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 Japan 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;

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

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

- **Debt Market Deal of the Year**
- **Equity Market Deal of the Year**
- **M&A Deal of the Year**
- **Energy and Resources Deal of the Year**
- **Real Estate Deal of the Year**
- **Technology, Media and Telecommunications Telecommunications Deal of the Year**
- **Japan Deal of the Year**
- **Dealmaker of the Year**

Specific Guidelines

- **Japan element:** Every entry submitted in the deal categories must have a Japan element.
- **Number of deals:** Every organization may submit up to a total of three (3) deals for all of the deal categories, except Japan Deal of the Year.
- **Debt Market Deal of the Year and M&A Deal of the Year:** Each deal submitted for these two (2) categories must have a minimum financial value (MFV) of USD 1 billion.
- **Equity Market Deal of the Year; Energy and Resources Deal of the Year; Real Estate Deal of the Year and TMT Deal of the Year:** Each deal submitted for these four (4) categories must have a MFV of USD 750 million.
- **Dealmaker of the Year:** There is no MFV for deals submitted in this category.
- **Japan Deal of the Year:** The winners from the other deal categories will automatically become finalists for Japan Deal of the Year.

Criteria

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

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

B. IN-HOUSE CATEGORIES

- **Japan Banking and Financial Services In-House Team of the Year**
- **International Banking and Financial Services In-House Team of the Year**
- **Technology, Media and Telecommunications In-House Team of the Year**
- **Energy and Resources In-House Team of the Year**
- **Innovative In-House Team of the Year**
- **In-House Lawyer of the Year**
- **Japan In-House Team of the Year**

Specific Guidelines

- **Physical office:** All in-house teams with physical office in Japan are qualified to join the nominations for any in-house categories.
- **Japan/International Banking and Financial Services In-House Team of the Year:** Investment banks, commercial banks, insurance companies, accounting firms, stock brokerages and other entities in the finance industry may nominate for these two categories.
- **Japan In-House Team of the Year:** In-house teams from industries other than banking and financial services, TMT and energy/resources are qualified to submit nominations for this category.

Criteria

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

- Complexity
- Innovation/improvement
- Breadth
- Impact/significance
- Third-party awards/recognition (when applicable)

PART III: CATEGORIES

C. FIRM CATEGORIES*

- **Banking and Financial Services Law Firm of the Year**
- **Employment Law Firm of the Year**
- **Insolvency Law Firm of the Year**
- **International Arbitration Law Firm of the Year**
- **Japan Intellectual Property Law Firm of the Year**
- **International Intellectual Property Law Firm of the Year**
- **Regulatory and Compliance Law Firm of the Year**
- **Litigation Law Firm of the Year**
- **Tax and Trusts Law Firm of the Year**
- **SE Asia Practice of the Year**
- **China Practice of the Year**
- **Shipping Law Firm of the Year**
- **Aviation Law Firm of the Year**
- **Managing Partner of the Year**
- **Japan Deal Firm of the Year**
- **International Deal Firm of the Year**
- **Japan Law Firm of the Year**

Specific Guidelines

- **Physical office:** All law firms based in Japan are qualified to nominate for any categories.
- **Minimum financial value (MFV):** No MFV is required for deals submitted for any firm categories, except as may be provided below.
- **SE Asia Practice of the Year and China Practice of the Year:** Only domestic law firms headquartered in Japan may join the nomination for these two (2) categories.
- **Japan Deal Firm of the Year:** Only law firms headquartered in Japan that have completed at least ten (10) cross-border deals may join the nomination for this category. Each deal must have a MFV of USD 500 million.

- **International Deal Firm of the Year:** Only law firms headquartered outside of Japan that have completed at least ten (10) cross-border deals may join the nomination for this category. Each deal must have a MFV of USD 500 million and must have a “Japan element” as defined in Part II above.
- **Japan Law Firm of the Year:** The winners from the above firm categories will automatically become finalists for Japan Law Firm of the Year.

Criteria

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

- Key hires and departures (when applicable)
- Complexity
- Innovation/improvement
- Breadth
- Impact/significance
- Third-party awards/recognition
- Number of completed transactions (when applicable)
- Volume of completed transactions in USD (when applicable)

PART IV: JUDGING PANEL

The judging panel consists of approximately 40 reputable members from the legal academe, in-house teams, law firms, legal associations or business leagues, whose identities are kept confidential prior to the awarding ceremony.

The panel of judges will be given about 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/she has an apparent conflict of interest is considered void.

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

PART V: FURTHER INFORMATION

IMPORTANT DATES

1 March 2016	Opening of nominations*
1 April 2016	Deadline for nominations
Late April	Online announcement of finalists
14 June 2016	Awards ceremony

* Submit nomination forms to yvonne.lau@thomsonreuters.com.

CONTACT PERSONS

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