



**ALB PHILIPPINE 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 24 Jun 2016**. ALB will not accept entries written in any other forms.
- Every work entry must be completed **between 1 January 2015 and 31 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 Philippine 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;

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

**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**
- **M&A Deal of the Year**
- **Project Financing Deal of the Year**
- **Philippine Deal of the Year**

#### Specific Guidelines

- **Philippine element**  
Every entry submitted in the deal categories must have a Philippine element.
- **Debt Market Deal of the Year, M&A Deal of the Year and Project Financing Deal of the Year**  
An organisation may submit up to two (2) deals for each category. Each deal submitted for these three (3) categories must have a MFV of USD 200 million.
- **Philippine Deal of the Year**  
The winners from other deal categories automatically become finalists for Philippine Deal of the Year.

#### Criteria

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

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

### B. IN-HOUSE CATEGORIES

- **Banking and Financial Services In-House Team of the Year**
- **Construction and Real Estate In-House Team of the Year**
- **Insurance In-House Team of the Year**
- **Technology, Media and Telecommunications In-House Team of the Year**
- **Philippine In-House Team of the Year**

#### Specific Guidelines

- **Physical office**  
All in-house teams with physical office in Philippines are qualified to join the nominations for any in-house categories.
- **Banking and Financial Services In-House Team of the Year**  
This category is open for nomination to in-house teams of commercial and investment banks, credit unions, accountancy firms, stock brokerages, investment managers and other financial institutions.
- **Other industries**  
In-house teams from industries other than banking and financial services, construction, real estate, insurance and TMT may nominate their teams for Philippine In-House Team of the Year.
- **Philippine In-House Team of the Year**  
The winner for every in-house category and the in-house teams from other industries referred to above automatically become finalists for this category.

#### Criteria

The evaluation of entries for in-house categories will be based on the following factors:

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

## PART III: CATEGORIES

### C. FIRM CATEGORIES

- **Arbitration Law Firm of the Year**
- **Banking and Financial Services Law Firm of the Year**
- **Boutique Law Firm of the Year**
- **Construction and Real Estate Law Firm of the Year**
- **Deal Firm of the Year**
- **Intellectual Property Law Firm of the Year**
- **Labor and Employment Law Firm of the Year**
- **Litigation Law Firm of the Year**
- **Matrimonial Law Firm of the Year**
- **Rising Law Firm of the Year**
- **Tax and Trusts Law Firm of the Year**
- **Philippine Law Firm of the Year**

#### Specific Guidelines

- **Physical office**  
All law firms based in Philippines are qualified to nominate for any categories
- **Minimum financial value (MFV)**  
No MFV is required for deals submitted in any firm categories
- **Boutique Law Firm of the Year**  
This category is open for nomination to Philippine law firms with less than 15 members or limited practice areas only.
- **Deal Firm of the Year**  
Only law firms headquartered in Philippines that have completed at least Five (5) cross-border deals may join the nomination for this category. Deals submitted must have a “Philippine element” as defined in Part II above.
- **Rising Law Firm of the Year**  
Only Philippine law firms which have been established in Philippines between 1 January 2011 and 31 March 2016 and with less than 10 members may nominate for this category.
- **Philippine Law Firm of the Year**  
The winners from other firm categories automatically become finalists for this category.

#### 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;
- No. of completed transactions (when applicable); and
- Volume of completed transactions in USD (when applicable).

### D. INDIVIDUAL CATEGORIES

- **In-House Lawyer of the Year**
- **Managing Partner of the Year**
- **Woman Lawyer of the year**
- **Young Lawyer of the Year**

#### Specific Guidelines

- **Residence**  
A firm or in-house lawyer residing in the Philippines may be a nominee for any individual categories.
- **Woman Lawyer of the Year**  
A female law firm partner or in-house lawyer may be a nominee for the category.
- **Young Lawyer of the Year**  
This category is open to law firm partners who are not more than 40 years of age.

#### 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 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.

## PART V: FURTHER INFORMATION

### IMPORTANT DATES

9 May 2016	Opening of nominations
24 June 2016	Deadline for nominations <i>(Please submit nomination forms to <a href="mailto:mary.aquino@thomsonreuters.com">mary.aquino@thomsonreuters.com</a>)</i>
3 <sup>rd</sup> week of June	Online announcement of finalists
22 July 2016	Awards ceremony

### CONTACT PERSON

For enquiries about the event, you may contact:

Mary Carousel "Caryl" Aquino  
ALB Senior Events Researcher  
T: +632 982 5938  
E: [mary.aquino@thomsonreuters.com](mailto:mary.aquino@thomsonreuters.com)