



RESEARCH METHODOLOGY SUMMARY

PART I: IMPORTANT DATES

23 JULY 2018	Opening of submissions
24 AUGUST 2018	Deadline for submissions (Please send submission forms to mary.aquino@tr.com .)
MID-SEPTEMBER 2018	Announcement of finalists
26 OCTOBER 2018	Awards ceremony

AWARDS INQUIRIES

Contact Caryl Aquino at mary.aquino@tr.com or call +632 982 5938.

SPONSORSHIP INQUIRIES

Contact Amantha Chia at amantha.chia@tr.com or call +65 6870 3917.

PART II: GENERAL GUIDELINES

- All submissions, whether by self-recommendation or nomination, must be written in the ALB submission form. Otherwise, the same will not be accepted.
- Every entry must have been completed between 1 September 2017 and 31 August 2018.
- The contact persons provided in the submission form will be contacted by ALB, as may be necessary.
- For frequently asked questions about the awards, visit the [FAQ Page](#).

Part III: DEFINITION OF TERMS

Breadth - the degree to which a work involved numerous jurisdictions, legal practice areas, parties and industries

Complexity - the degree to which a work and any issues involved require the crucial exercise of legal expertise, business acumen or innovative solutions

Domestic law firm - that which is headquartered in the Philippines

Firm size - total number of lawyers based in the Philippines

Philippine element - refers to any of the following component of work: (a) one of the counsel representing a party is based in the Philippines; (b) one of the parties in interest is based in the Philippines; or (c) the subject matter of the transaction is closely connected to the Philippines

Impact or significance - the degree to which clients and other stakeholders, the bench and the bar, an industry or the country may be affected

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 organizational capabilities and adding more value to output or making the deal work more efficient

International law firm - that which is headquartered outside the Philippines

Work - a transaction, case or matter, service, program, initiative or the like

Part IV: 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
4. Project Finance Deal of the Year
5. Philippine Deal of the Year

Specific Guidelines

- a. Announcement/completion of deals - Only deals that have been announced or completed between 1 September 2017 and 31 August 2018 are eligible for submission. Deals that have been announced but are pending completion during

this period may be submitted but will no longer be eligible for submission by the same nominator next year or when the same shall have been completed.

- b. Deal size - Each deal must have a minimum financial value (MFV) of USD200 million.
- c. No. of deals - An organization may submit up to three (3) deals for each category.
- d. Philippine element - Every entry submitted in a deal category must have a Philippine element.
- e. Philippine Deal of the Year – This is not open for nomination. The winners from other deal categories automatically become finalists for the category.

Criteria

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

B. INDIVIDUAL CATEGORIES

- 1. Dealmaker of the Year
- 2. Dispute Resolution Lawyer of the Year
- 3. In-House Lawyer of the Year
- 4. Managing Partner of the Year
- 5. Woman Lawyer of the Year
- 6. Young Lawyer of the Year

Specific Guidelines

- a. Number of nominees - An organization may put forward only one nominee for every category.
- b. Nomination - A third-party submission for any category may be considered only when the nominee's team has not nominated anyone of its members for the same category.
- c. Residence - A candidate must be a resident of the Philippines.
- d. Managing Partner of the Year - This is open to all managing partners or senior partners whose function is primarily that of a managing partner.
- e. Dealmaker of the Year - The deals submitted must show the candidate's expertise in deal making across various deal types.
- f. Dispute Resolution Lawyer of the Year - The key works must show the candidate's expertise in various modes of dispute resolution.
- g. Woman Lawyer of the Year - This is open to all woman lawyers, whether from a law firm or in-house team.

- h. Young Lawyer of the Year - Only lawyers, whether from a law firm or in-house team, who are no more than 40 years of age as of 31 August 2018 are eligible for submission.

Criteria

The judges will consider the following factors: the entrants' or nominees' leadership, professional accomplishments (in terms of the breadth, complexity, innovativeness and significance) and social contribution.

C. IN-HOUSE CATEGORIES

1. Banking and Financial Services In-House Team of the Year
2. Construction and Real Estate In-House Team of the Year
3. Innovative In-House Team of the Year
4. Insurance In-House Team of the Year
5. Technology, Media and Telecommunications In-House Team of the Year
6. Transportation and Logistics In-House Team of the Year
7. Philippine In-House Team of the Year

Specific Guidelines

- a. Physical office - All in-house teams with physical office in the Philippines are qualified to join the contest.
- b. Composition of in-house team - To join the submissions for any in-house category, the team should consist of at least two in-house lawyers.
- c. Innovative In-House Team of the Year - This is open to in-house teams that have applied a new concept or creative solution, process, service, program or the like to existing systems and processes, thus improving organizational capabilities and adding more value to output. **An in-house team may submit a maximum of three innovative works for this category.**
- d. Philippine In-House Team of the Year - This is open to all in-house teams, regardless of industry. The works submitted must exhibit an exemplary spectrum of an in-house team's capabilities and achievements.

Criteria

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

D. FIRM CATEGORIES

1. Arbitration Law Firm of the Year
2. Banking and Financial Services Law Firm of the Year
3. Construction and Real Estate Law Firm of the Year
4. Dispute Resolution Boutique Law Firm of the Year
5. Environmental and Natural Resources Law Firm of the Year
6. Immigration Law Firm of the Year
7. Intellectual Property Law Firm of the Year
8. International Law Firm of the Year
9. Labor and Employment Law Firm of the Year
10. Litigation Law Firm of the Year
11. Matrimonial and Family Law Firm of the Year
12. Philippine Deal Firm of the Year
13. Projects, Energy and Infrastructure Law Firm of the Year
14. Rising Law Firm of the Year
15. Tax and Trusts Law Firm of the Year
16. Technology, Media and Telecommunications Law Firm of the Year
17. Transactional Boutique Law Firm of the Year
18. Transportation and Logistics Law Firm of the Year
19. Philippine Law Firm of the Year

Specific Guidelines

1. Physical office - The nominees for firm categories must have a physical office in the Philippines, except when the nominee is an international law firm.
2. Deal size - No minimum financial value is required of deals submitted in any firm category.
3. Boutique Law Firm of the Year (Transactional or Dispute Resolution) - This category is open to domestic law firms with no more than 15 partners who specialize in limited areas of legal practice.
4. Philippine Deal Firm of the Year – This is open to domestic law firms only.
5. International Law Firm of the Year – Law firms headquartered outside the Philippines may submit transactional or non-transactional matters this category.
6. Rising Law Firm of the Year - Only law firms established in the Philippines not earlier than 1 January 2011 and have no more than 10 partners are eligible for submission.
7. Philippine Law Firm of the Year - This is open to all law firms holding an office in the Philippines. The category requires the submission of key works showing the firm's expertise 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: entrants' or nominees' professional accomplishments (in terms of the breadth, complexity, innovativeness and impact or significance), innovation, development and social contribution.

Part V. JUDGING PANEL

The panel of judges will be composed of at least 30 reputable members from the legal academe, in-house teams, law firms, legal associations and non-profit organizations 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 rank the nominees 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 a category wins the award.