



THE 7TH ANNUAL **ASIAN LEGAL BUSINESS**

KOREA LAW AWARDS 2019

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY SUMMARY

ASSOCIATE SPONSOR



OFFICIAL RECRUITMENT SITE



ALB SUPPORTS



PROUDLY PRESENTED BY

ASIAN LEGAL BUSINESS



PART I - IMPORTANT DATES

OPENING OF SUBMISSIONS

19 July 2019

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS

4 September 2019

ANNOUNCEMENT OF FINALISTS

October 2019

AWARDS CEREMONY – SEOUL

14 November 2019

AWARDS INQUIRIES

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SPONSORSHIP INQUIRIES

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PART II - 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 June 2018 – 31 May 2019.
- C. The contact information provided in the submissions 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. Submissions with less than the required number of entries will be automatically disqualified.
- F. For frequently asked questions about the awards, please visit the [FAQ page](#).

PART III - 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. **Domestic law firm:** that which is headquartered in Korea
- D. **Firm size:** number of Korea-based lawyers and non-lawyers
- 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. **International law firm:** that which is headquartered outside Korea

- H. **Korea element:** refers to any of the following component of work: (a) one of the counsel representing a party is based in Korea; (b) one of the parties in interest is based in Korea; or (c) the subject matter of the transaction is closely connected to the region
- I. **Team size:** number of Korea-based lawyers and non-lawyers in an in-house team or number of Korea-based lawyers and non-lawyers working for a specific practice/sector in a law firm
- J. **Work:** a transaction, case or matter, service, program, initiative or the like

PART IV - 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**
4. **Project Finance Deal of the Year**
5. **Real Estate Deal of the Year**
6. **Technology, Media and Telecommunications Deal of the Year**

a. Specific Guidelines

1. **Announcement/completion of deals:** Only deals that have been announced or completed between 1 June 2018 – 31 May 2019 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 next year or when the same shall have been completed.
 2. **Deal size:** The following deal size requirements should be complied with:
 - a. **Debt Market / Equity Market Deal of the Year:** Deal \geq USD500 Million;
 - b. **M&A Deal of the Year:** Deal \geq USD700 Million; and
 - c. **Project Finance / Real Estate Deal / Technology, Media and Telecommunications Deal of the Year:** Deal \geq USD300 Million.
 4. **Korea element:** Every deal must have a “Korea element” as defined above.
 5. **Number of deals:** An organisation may submit a total of three deals for each category.
 6. ALB reserves the right to consider deals that do not comply with the deal size requirements but are exceptionally significant, complex and innovative.
- b. **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. **Foreign Lawyer of the Year**
4. **In-House Lawyer of the Year**
5. **Managing Partner of the Year**
6. **Woman Lawyer of the Year**

a. Specific Guidelines

1. **Dealmaker of the Year:** The deals submitted must show the candidate's expertise in deal making across various deal types.
2. **Dispute Resolution Lawyer of the Year:** The key works must show the candidate's expertise in at least two modes of dispute resolution.
3. **Foreign Lawyer of the Year:** This is open to all licensed foreign legal consultant. The candidate may be from a private or public entity.

4. **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.
 5. **Number of nominees:** An organisation may put forward only one nominee for every category.
 6. **Residence:** A candidate must be a resident of Korea.
 7. **Woman Lawyer of the Year:** This is open to all women lawyers with remarkable achievements in the practice of law and the society. She may be from a private or public entity.
- b. **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. **Banking and Financial Services In-House Team of the Year**
2. **Construction and Heavy Industries In-House Team of the Year**
3. **Innovative In-House Team of the Year**
4. **Retail and Manufacturing 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. **Korea In-House Team of the Year**

a. 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.
 2. **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 organisational capabilities and adding more value to output. An in-house team may submit at least two innovative works.
 3. **Korea 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 Korea are qualified to join the contest.
- b. **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. **Banking and Financial Services Law Firm of the Year**
2. **Boutique Law Firm of the Year**
3. **Construction and Real Estate Law Firm of the Year**
4. **International Arbitration Law Firm of the Year**
5. **International Deal Firm of the Year**
6. **International Intellectual Property Law Firm of the Year**
7. **Korea Deal Firm of the Year**
8. **Korea Intellectual Property Law Firm of the Year**
9. **Korea Practice Foreign Law Firm of the Year**
10. **Labour and Employment Law Firm of the Year**
11. **Litigation Law Firm of the Year**
12. **Projects, Energy and Infrastructure Law Firm of the Year**

13. **Maritime Law Firm of the Year**
14. **Matrimonial and Family Law Firm of the Year**
15. **Overseas Practice Law Firm of the Year**
16. **Regulatory and Compliance Law Firm of the Year**
17. **Tax and Trusts Law Firm of the Year**
18. **Technology, Media and Telecommunications Law Firm of the Year**
19. **Korea Law Firm of the Year**

a. Specific Guidelines

1. **Boutique Law Firm of the Year:** This category is open only to law firms that specialize in limited areas of legal practice with no more than 15 partners.
 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 USD500 million in size.
 3. **Deal size:** No minimum financial value is required of deals submitted in any firm category
 4. **Korea Intellectual Property Law Firm of the Year:** Law firms headquartered in Korea are qualified to submit for this category.
 5. **Korea Practice Foreign Law Firm of the Year:** This category is open for submissions to law firms that do not have office in Korea. Each keyword submitted for these categories must have a "Korea element" as defined above.
 6. **International Intellectual Property Law Firm of the Year:** Law firms headquartered outside of Korea are qualified to submit for this category.
 7. **Physical office:** All law firms holding an office in Korea are qualified to submit for any of the categories, except Korea Practice Foreign Law Firm of the Year.
 8. **International Deal Firm of the Year:** Only international law firms that have completed at least five deals may join the submissions for this category. The deals should show the expertise of the law firm across various deal types.
 9. **Korea Law Firm of the Year:** This is open to all law firms holding an office in Korea. 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.
- b. 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 V - JUDGING PANEL

The panel of judges will be composed of at least 30 reputable members from the legal academia, in-house teams, law firms, legal associations and 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 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 every category wins the award.