

ALB

# MALAYSIA LAW AWARDS 2020

RESEARCH  
METHODOLOGY  
SUMMARY



ALB SUPPORTS

THOMSON REUTERS  
LEGAL TRACKER™

TrustLaw  
A THOMSON REUTERS FOUNDATION SERVICE

Westlaw Asia™

OFFICIAL RECRUITMENT WEBSITE

ASIAN LEGAL BUSINESS  
Legal Jobs Centre  
YOUR CAREER PARTNER

PROUDLY PRESENTED BY

ASIAN LEGAL  
BUSINESS



the answer company™  
THOMSON REUTERS®

## PART I - IMPORTANT DATES

### OPENING OF SUBMISSIONS

20 December 2019

### DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS

31 January 2020

### ANNOUNCEMENT OF FINALISTS

February 2020

### AWARDS CEREMONY – KUALA LUMPUR

26 March 2020

### 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 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 January 2019 to 31 December 2019.
- C. The contact persons provided in the submission form will be contacted by ALB, as may be necessary.
- D. Supplementary information may be hyperlinked in any relevant part of the submission form.
- E. Every category requires the submission of three entries, except as specifically provided below.
- F. For frequently asked questions about the awards, 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 Malaysia
- D. Firm size - total number of lawyers and non-legal staff based in Malaysia
- E. Malaysian element - refers to any of the following component of work: (a) one of the counsels representing a party is based in Malaysia; (b) one of the parties in interest is based in Malaysia; or (c) the subject matter of the transaction is closely connected to Malaysia
- F. Impact or significance - the degree to which clients and other stakeholders, the bench and bar, an industry or the country may be affected
- G. 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
- H. International law firm - that which is headquartered outside Malaysia
- I. Team size - number of lawyers and non-legal staff in an in-house team or a specific practice 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. Finance Deal of the Year
4. M&A Deal of the Year
5. Projects, Energy and Infrastructure Deal of the Year

#### a. Specific Guidelines

1. Announcement/completion of deals - Only deals that have been announced or completed between 1 January 2019 and 31 December 2019 are eligible for submission. Deals that have been previously submitted may no longer be eligible for submission this year.
2. Deal size - The following deal size requirements should be complied with:  
**Debt Market; Equity Market; Finance; Projects, Energy and Infrastructure:** Deal  $\geq$  USD300 million; and  
**M&A Deal of the Year:** Deal  $\geq$  USD350 million
3. Finance Deal of the Year – This category may include acquisition finance, structured finance and other financing deals
4. Malaysian element - Every entry must have a “Malaysian element” as defined in Part III.
5. Number of deals - An organisation may submit a total of three deals for each category.

#### 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. In-House Lawyer of the Year
4. Managing Partner of the Year
5. Woman Lawyer of the Year
6. Young 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. Managing Partner of the Year - This is open to all managing partners or senior partners who takes charge of the overall management and operations of the firm
3. 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.
4. Number of nominees - An organisation may put forward only one nominee for every category.
5. Residence - A candidate must be a resident of Malaysia.
6. Woman Lawyer of the Year - This is open to all woman lawyers with remarkable achievements not only in the practice of law but in the larger community as well.
7. Young Lawyer of the Year – This is open to all lawyers, who are no more than 40 years of age as of 31 December 2019, with remarkable achievements in the profession and in the larger community as well.

## **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 organization, 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 CATEGORIES**

1. Construction and Real Estate In-House Team of the Year
2. Energy and Resources In-House Team of the Year
3. Financial Services In-House Team of the Year
4. Innovative In-House Team of the Year
5. Manufacturing and Trade In-House Team of the Year
6. Technology, Media and Telecommunications In-House Team of the Year
7. Transportation and Logistics In-House Team of the Year
8. Malaysia In-House Team of the Year

### **a. Specific Guidelines**

1. Composition of in-house team - To join the submissions for any in-house category, a legal team should consist of at least two in-house counsels.
2. Financial Services In-House Team of the Year - In-house teams from banks, accounting firms, insurance companies, private equity firms and other legal entities from the financial industry are qualified to submit for this category.
3. 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.
4. Manufacturing and Trade In-House Team of the Year - This is open to the in-house teams of manufacturers, wholesalers, retailers, and other traders.
5. Malaysia In-House Team of the Year - This is open to all in-house teams of any industries. The works submitted must exhibit the range of a nominee's capabilities and achievements.
8. Residence - Nominees should be based in Malaysia.

## **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. FIRM CATEGORIES**

1. Arbitration Law Firm of the Year
2. Aviation Law Firm of the Year
3. Banking and Financial Services Law Firm of the Year
4. Construction and Real Estate Law Firm of the Year
5. Dispute Resolution Boutique Law Firm of the Year
6. East Malaysia Law Firm of the Year
7. Energy and Resources Law Firm of the Year
8. Intellectual Property Law Firm of the Year
9. International Law Firm of the Year
10. Islamic Finance Law Firm of the Year
11. Labour and Employment Law Firm of the Year
12. Litigation Law Firm of the Year

13. Malaysia Deal Firm of the Year
14. Maritime Law Firm of the Year
15. Matrimonial and Family Law Firm of the Year
16. Restructuring and Insolvency Law Firm of the Year
17. Rising Law Firm of the Year
18. Sports Law Firm of the Year
19. Tax and Trusts Law Firm of the Year
20. Technology, Media and Telecommunications Law Firm of the Year
21. Transactional Boutique Law Firm of the Year
22. West Malaysia Law Firm of the Year
23. Malaysia Law Firm of the Year

#### **a. Specific Guidelines**

1. Boutique Law Firm of the Year (Dispute Resolution or Transactional) - This category is open to law firms that specialize in niche area/s of legal practice. Only law firms with no more than 15 partners and 30 qualified lawyers in total may apply for the category.
2. Deal size - No minimum financial value is required of deals submitted in any firm category.
3. East/ West Malaysia Law Firm of the Year - Law firms based in East Malaysia (Sabah, Sarawak, etc.) are qualified to submit for East Malaysia Law Firm of the Year. Law firms based in West Malaysia (Kuala Lumpur, Penang, etc.) are qualified to apply for West Malaysia Law Firm of the Year.
4. International Law Firm of the Year – Only law firms headquartered outside of Malaysia (whether the same has a physical office in Malaysia or otherwise) are eligible to submit for the category.
5. Malaysia Law Firm of the Year - This is open to all law firms holding an office in Malaysia. 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.
6. Malaysian Deal Firm of the Year - Only domestic law firms may submit for this category that requires the submission of five (5) key works.
7. Rising Law Firm of the Year - Only law firms that have no more than 10 partners and have been originally established in Malaysia no earlier than 2011 are eligible for submission.

#### **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 25 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/her and with which he/she does not have any conflict of interest.

There will be two rounds of evaluation. The initial round is for the purpose of determining the finalists and the final round is for the selection of winners.

The finalist with the highest score in a category wins the award.

ALB SUPPORTS

**THOMSON REUTERS**  
**LEGAL TRACKER™**

**TrustLaw**  
A THOMSON REUTERS FOUNDATION SERVICE

**Westlaw Asia<sup>SM</sup>**

OFFICIAL RECRUITMENT WEBSITE

ASIAN LEGAL BUSINESS  
**Legal Jobs Centre**  
YOUR CAREER PARTNER

PROUDLY PRESENTED BY

**ASIAN LEGAL  
BUSINESS**

the answer company™  
**THOMSON REUTERS®**