

Asian Legal Business



ALB SE ASIA LAW AWARDS 2025

22ND MAY • SINGAPORE

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY SUMMARY

PROUDLY PRESENTED BY

ASIAN LEGAL BUSINESS



THOMSON REUTERS®

PART I - IMPORTANT DATES

OPENING OF SUBMISSIONS

9 DECEMBER 2024

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS

24 JANUARY 2024

ANNOUNCEMENT OF FINALISTS

LATE MARCH

AWARDS CEREMONY

22 MAY 2024

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. Forms should be sent to albawards@thomsonreuters.com. Please be advised that an application charge of SGD \$40 (plus GST, if applicable) is applicable for law firms. Payment may be made via credit card by [this link](#).
- B. The coverage period for the entries is 1 January - 31 December 2024.
- C. The contact persons provided in the submission forms will be contacted by ALB, as may be necessary.
- D. References may be incorporated in the form to support any information expressly stated therein.
- E. All categories require three entries, unless specified otherwise below. The research team will remove any additional entries.
- F. Each key work entry has a 500-word limit. Any text exceeding this limit will be removed by the research team.
- G. 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 SE Asia
- D. **Firm size** - total number of lawyers and non-legal staff based in SE Asia
- E. **Impact or significance** - the degree to which clients and other stakeholders, the bench and bar, an industry or the SE Asian 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.
- G. **SE Asian element** - any of the following components of work: (a) one of the counsel representing a party is based in SE Asia; (b) one of the parties in interest is based in SE Asia; or (c) the subject matter of the transaction is closely connected to the region
- H. **Team size** - number of lawyers and non-legal staff in an in-house team or a specific practice in a law firm
- I. **Work** - a transaction, case or matter, service, program, initiative or the like
- J. ALB reserves the right to adjust and merge the award category.

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

Specific Guidelines

- a) Announcement/completion of deals - Only deals that have been announced or completed between 1 January and 31 December 2024 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.
- b) Deal size - The following deal size requirements should be complied with:
Debt Market/ Equity Market/ M&A / Project Finance Deal of the Year: Deal ≥ USD200 million.
- c) **Number of deals** - An organization may submit a total of three deals for each category.
- d) **SE Asian element** - Every entry must have SE Asian element as defined in Part 3.
- e) ALB reserves the right to consider significant deals that do not meet the minimum financial value requirement but are exceptionally complex, significant, or innovative.

Criteria

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

B. INDIVIDUAL CATEGORIES

1. Data Privacy and Protection Lawyer of the Year
2. Dealmaker of the Year
3. Dispute Resolution Lawyer of the Year
4. Fintech Lawyer of the Year (New)
5. In-House Lawyer of the Year
6. Managing Partner of the Year (Emerging Markets)
7. Managing Partner of the Year (Singapore)
8. Woman Lawyer of the Year
9. Young Lawyer of the Year

Specific Guidelines

- a. **Data Privacy and Protection Lawyer of the Year:** This is open to both in-house and law firm lawyers, the key works must show the candidate's expertise in data privacy and protection space.
- b. **Dealmaker of the Year:** This is open to both in-house and law firm lawyers. The deals submitted must show the candidate's expertise in deal-making across various deal types.
- c. **Dispute Resolution Lawyer of the Year:** The key works must show the candidate's expertise in at least two modes of dispute resolution.
- d. **Fintech Lawyer of the Year:** This is open to both in-house and law firm lawyers, the key works must show the candidate's expertise included, but not limited to the financial regulations, risk management, innovative technologies, intellectual property and data privacy, fintech legal disputes, and the related area.
- e. **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.
- f. **Number of nominees:** An organization may put forward only one of its members for a category.
- g. **Managing Partner of the Year (Emerging Markets):** Only managing partners of law firms headquartered in SE Asia ex-Singapore may submit for this category.
- h. **Managing Partner of the Year (Singapore):** This is open to managing partners based in Singapore, whether from a domestic or international law firm.
- i. **Residence:** A candidate must be a resident of the region.

- j. **Woman Lawyer of the Year:** This is open to both in-house and law firm lawyers, with remarkable achievements not only in the practice of law but in the larger community as well.
- k. **Young Lawyer of the Year:** This is open to both in-house and law firm lawyers, who are no more than 40 years of age as of 31 December 2024, with remarkable achievements in the profession and in the larger community as well.

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. **Blockchain In-House Team of the Year**
2. **Compliance and Risk Management In-House Team of the Year**
3. **Construction and Real Estate In-House Team of the Year**
4. **Energy and Resources In-House Team of the Year**
5. **Financial Services In-House Team of the Year**
6. **Fintech In-House Team of the Year (New)**
7. **Healthcare and Pharmaceutical In-House Team of the Year**
8. **Innovative In-House Team of the Year**
9. **Insurance In-House Team of the Year**
10. **Investment Banking In-House Team of the Year**
11. **Manufacturing and Trade In-House Team of the Year**
12. **M&A In-House Team of the Year**
13. **Retail and Hospitality In-House Team of the Year (New)**
14. **Technology, Media and Telecommunications In-House Team of the Year**
15. **Transportation and Logistics In-House Team of the Year**
16. **SE Asia In-House Team of the Year**

Specific Guidelines

- a. **Blockchain In-House Team of the Year:** This category is open to in-house legal teams involved in blockchain technology application. The key work should demonstrate expertise in managing legal challenges related to decentralized technologies, including cryptocurrency, smart contracts, data security, compliance and the like.
- 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 counsels.
- c. **Compliance and Risk Management In-House Team of the Year:** This is open to all in-house teams regardless of industry; which have done significant works on compliance and the like.
- d. **Financial Services In-House Team of the Year:** In-house teams from the financial services industry, except those from fintech companies, investment banks and insurance companies, are qualified to join the contest.
- l. **Fintech In-House Team of the Year:** This category is open to in-house legal teams working within the fintech sector except those from investment banks and insurance companies. The candidate's key work must demonstrate expertise in areas including financial regulations, risk management, innovative technologies, intellectual property, data privacy, fintech legal disputes, and related fields.
- e. **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 a maximum of three innovative works for this category.
- f. **M&A In-House Team of the Year:** Open to all in-house teams, regardless of industry; must include a minimum of one M&A project. No minimum financial value is required for the work. Importantly, only one work submission is permitted for this award.
- g. **Number of works:** An organization may submit a maximum of three works for consideration in all In-House categories, with the exception of SE Asia In-House Team of the Year, which requires five works and M&A In-House Team of the Year which requires only one work for consideration.
- h. **SE Asia 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 the in-house team's capabilities and achievements.

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. Aviation Law Firm of the Year
2. Banking and Financial Services Law Firm of the Year
3. Construction Law Firm of the Year
4. Data Privacy and Protection Law Firm of the Year
5. Dispute Resolution Boutique Law Firm of the Year
6. ESG and Sustainability Law Firm of the Year
7. Transactional Boutique Law Firm of the Year
8. Energy and Resources Law Firm of the Year
9. International Arbitration Law Firm of the Year
10. International Deal Firm of the Year
11. Investment Funds Law Firm of the Year
12. Labour and Employment Law Firm of the Year
13. Maritime Law Firm of the Year
14. Matrimonial and Family Law Firm of the Year
15. Private Equity and Venture Capital Law Firm of the Year
16. Real Estate Law Firm of the Year
17. Restructuring and Insolvency Law Firm of the Year
18. Rising Law Firm of the Year
19. SE Asia Deal Firm of the Year
20. SE Asia Practice, PRC Law Firm of the Year
21. Singapore Intellectual Property Law Firm of the Year
22. Regional Intellectual Property Law Firm of the Year
23. Singapore Litigation Law Firm of the Year
24. Regional Litigation Law Firm of the Year
25. Singapore Law Firm of the Year
26. Tax and Trusts Law Firm of the Year
27. Technology, Media and Telecommunications Law Firm of the Year
28. Thailand Law Firm of the Year
29. Vietnam Law Firm of the Year
30. SE Asia Law Firm of the Year

Specific Guidelines

- a. **Deals:** No minimum financial value is required of deals submitted for any firm category, except for Deal Firm of the Year.
 - **International Deal Firm of the Year:** Only law firms headquartered outside SE Asia but holds an office in the region may join the submissions for this category. Each deal must be at least USD200 million in size. The five entries should show the expertise of the law firm across various deal types.
 - **SE Asia Deal Firm of the Year:** Only domestic law firms may join this contest. Each deal must be at least USD200 million in size. The five entries should show the expertise of the law firm across various deal types
- b. **Boutique Law Firm of the Year (Transactional or Dispute Resolution):** This category is open to law firms that specialize in limited areas of legal practice with no more than 15 partners. The specialty must be indicated in the form.
- c. **Construction Law Firm of the Year:** The entries that may be submitted for this category do not include works pertaining to any project or infrastructure in the energy sector.
- d. **Residence:** All law firms holding an office in SE Asia may submit for any of the firm categories, except for categories those that are exclusively open to law firms based in Singapore, Thailand or Vietnam.
- e. **Rising Law Firm of the Year:** Only law firms that have no more than 10 partners and have been established in SE Asia not earlier than 2015 are eligible for submission in this category.
- f. **Singapore IP/Litigation Law Firm of the Year:** Only law firms based in Singapore may join the contest. The winners of both categories will automatically become finalists for the regional categories.

- g. **Regional IP/Litigation Law Firm of the Year:** This is open to law firms headquartered in SE Asia ex-Singapore.
- h. **SE Asia Practice, PRC Law Firm of the Year:** This category is open to law firms headquartered in the PRC with significant involvement in the SE Asia region. Additionally, firms with or without an office in SE Asia are also eligible to participate.
- i. **SE Asia Law Firm of the Year:** This is open to all law firms holding an office in SE Asia. The category requires the submission of ten (10) key works showing the firm's expertise in various areas of legal practice and the presentation of the firm's initiatives for the engagement and development of its people as well as its significant contributions to the legal profession and the wider community.

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 academe, 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 evaluate the entries according to the above-mentioned parameters and only the top finalists will be included in the shortlist.

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