

# ALB JAPAN LAW AWARDS 2025

12<sup>TH</sup> JUNE • TOKYO

## RESEARCH METHODOLOGY SUMMARY

ASSOCIATE SPONSORS

**MORI HAMADA**

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## PART 1 - IMPORTANT DATES

### OPENING OF SUBMISSIONS

14 FEBRUARY 2025

### DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS

24 MARCH 2025

### ANNOUNCEMENT OF FINALISTS

MID APRIL 2025

### AWARDS CEREMONY

12 JUNE 2025

### AWARDS INQUIRIES

Contact Lokesh Bogati at [Lokesh.bogati@tr.com](mailto:Lokesh.bogati@tr.com) or call (91) 89044 01792 for further details.

### SPONSORSHIP INQUIRIES

Contact Amantha Chia at [amantha.chia@tr.com](mailto:amantha.chia@tr.com) or call (65) 6973 8258 for further details.

## PART 2 - 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. Forms should be sent to [albawards@thomsonreuters.com](mailto:albawards@thomsonreuters.com). Please be advised that an application charge of USD \$30 (plus Sales Tax, if applicable) is applicable for law firms.
- The coverage period for the entries is 1 January 2024 to 31 December 2024.
- The contact persons provided in the submission form will be contacted by ALB, as may be necessary.
- No more than five hyperlinks may be incorporated in a submission form to support any information expressly stated therein.
- Every category requires the submission of three entries, except as specifically provided below.
- For frequently asked questions about the awards, visit the **FAQ Page**.

## PART 3 - 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 Japan

**Firm size** - total number of lawyers based in Japan

**Japan element** - refers to any of the following component of work: (a) one of the counsel representing a party is based in Japan; (b) one of the parties in interest is based in Japan; or (c) any contract indispensable to the completion of work was executed in Japan; or (d) the subject matter of the transaction is closely connected to Japan

**Impact or significance** - the degree to which clients and other stakeholders, the bench and 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 organisational capabilities and adding more value to output or making the deal work more efficient

**International law firm** - that which is headquartered outside Japan

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

## PART 4 - AWARD CATEGORIES

### DEAL CATEGORIES

1. **Debt Market Deal of the Year**
2. **Equity Market Deal of the Year**
3. **M&A Deal of the Year (Midsize)**
4. **M&A Deal of the Year (Premium)**
5. **Project Finance Deal of the Year**
6. **Technology, Media and Telecommunications Deal of the Year**

#### Specific Guidelines

- a. Announcement/completion of deals - Only deals that have been announced or completed between 1 January 2024 to 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:
  1. **Debt Market Deal of the Year; Equity Market Deal of the Year; Project Finance Deal of the Year and Technology, Media and Telecommunications Deal of the Year:** Each deal submitted for these categories must have a MFV of USD 500 million.
  2. **M&A Deal of the Year (Midsize/Premium):** For the premium category, each deal must have a MFV of USD 1 billion; for the midsize category, each deal must have a MFV of USD 500 million but must not exceed USD 1 billion.
- c. Midsize and Premium categories - An organisation may submit a total of three deals for each category, provided that no more than two deals are submitted for either Midsize or Premium category.
- d. Japan element - Every entry must have a certain level of Japan element as defined in Part 3.

#### Criteria

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

### 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 (In-House/Law Firm)**
7. **Young Lawyer of the Year (In-House/Law Firm)**

#### Specific Guidelines

- a. Number of nominees - An organisation may put forward only one nominee for every category.
- b. 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.
- c. Residence - A candidate must be a resident of Japan.
- d. Dealmaker of the Year - The deals submitted must show the candidate's expertise in deal making across various deal types.
- e. Foreign Lawyer of the Year – This is open to all registered foreign lawyers (Gaikokuhō jimu bengoshi).
- f. Managing Partner of the Year - This is open to all managing partners or senior partners whose function is primarily that of a managing partner.
- g. Woman Lawyer of the Year (In-House/Law Firm) - This is open to all woman lawyers with remarkable achievements not only in the practice of law but in the larger community as well.
- h. Young Lawyer of the Year (In-House/Law Firm) – This is open to all 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: the entrants' or nominees' leadership, professional accomplishments (in terms of the breadth, complexity, innovativeness and significance) and social contribution.

### **IN-HOUSE CATEGORIES**

- 1. Compliance and Risk Management In-House Team of the Year (NEW)**
- 2. Financial Services In-House Team of the Year (NEW)**
- 3. Healthcare and Pharmaceutical In-House Team of the Year**
- 4. Innovative In-House Team of the Year**
- 5. Technology, Media and Telecommunications In-House Team of the Year**
- 6. Japan In-House Team of the Year**

### *Specific Guidelines*

- Physical office - All in-house teams with physical office in Japan are qualified to join the contest.
- 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.
- Japan 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.

### **FIRM CATEGORIES**

- 1. Antitrust and Competition Law Firm of the Year**
- 2. Banking and Financial Services Law Firm of the Year**
- 3. Boutique Law Firm of the Year**
- 4. Capital Markets Law Firm of the Year**
- 5. Energy and Resources Law Firm of the Year**
- 6. Healthcare and Life Sciences Law Firm of the Year**
- 7. International Deal Firm of the Year**
- 8. International Intellectual Property Law Firm of the Year**
- 9. Investment Fund Law Firm of the Year**
- 10. Japan Deal Firm of the Year**
- 11. Japan Intellectual Property Law Firm of the Year**
- 12. Japan Practice Asian Firm of the Year**
- 13. Japan Practice Foreign Law Firm of the Year**
- 14. Labour and Employment Law Firm of the Year**
- 15. Litigation Law Firm of the Year**
- 16. Maritime Law Firm of the Year**
- 17. Overseas Practice Law Firm of the Year**
- 18. Osaka Law Firm of the Year (NEW)**
- 19. Real Estate Law Firm of the Year**
- 20. Regulatory and Compliance Law Firm of the Year**
- 21. Restructuring and Insolvency Law Firm of the Year**
- 22. Rising Law Firm of the Year**
- 23. Tax and Trusts Law Firm of the Year**
- 24. Technology, Media and Telecommunications Law Firm of the Year**
- 25. Japan Law Firm of the Year**

### Specific Guidelines

- a. Physical office - All law firms holding an office in Japan are qualified to submit for any of the categories, except for Japan Practice Asian/Foreign Law Firm of the Year
- b. Deal size - No minimum financial value is required of deals submitted in any firm category.
- c. Boutique Law Firm of the Year – This category is open to law firms that specializes in limited areas of legal practice with no more than 15 partners.
- d. Japan Intellectual Property Law Firm of the Year – Law firms headquartered in Japan are qualified to submit.
- e. International Intellectual Property Law Firm of the Year - Law firms headquartered outside of Japan are qualified to submit.
- f. Japan Practice Foreign Law Firm of the Year - The category is open to law firms that do not have office in Japan and headquartered ex-Asia. Each keyword submitted for this category must have a “Japan element” as defined above.
- g. Japan Practice Asian Firm of the Year - The category is open to law firms headquartered in Asia (Ex Japan). Each keyword submitted for this category must have a “Japan element” as defined above.
- h. Rising Law Firm of the Year – Only law firms that have been originally established in Japan no earlier than 2018 are eligible for the submission.
- i. Overseas Practice of the Year - The category is open to domestic law firms headquartered in Japan.
- j. Osaka Law Firm of the Year – Only law firms that are headquartered in Osaka may apply for this category.
- k. Japan Deal Firm of the Year - Only law firms headquartered in Japan that have completed at least five deals may join this contest. The deals should show the expertise of the law firm across various deal types.
- l. International Deal Firm of the Year - Only international law firms that have completed at least five deals may join this category. The deals should show the expertise of the law firm across various deal types. Each deal submitted for this category must have a “Japan element” as defined above.
- m. Japan Law Firm of the Year - This is open to all law firms holding an office in Japan. The category requires the submission of 10 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 5 - 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.

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.