



THE 4TH ANNUAL **ASIAN LEGAL BUSINESS**

PHILIPPINE LAW AWARDS 2019

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY SUMMARY

OFFICIAL RECRUITMENT SITE

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ALB SUPPORTS

TrustLaw
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PART I - IMPORTANT DATES

OPENING OF SUBMISSIONS

22 July 2019

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS

18 Oct 2019

ANNOUNCEMENT OF FINALISTS

Mid-Oct 2019

AWARDS CEREMONY – MANILA

22 Nov 2019

AWARDS INQUIRIES

Contact Caryl Aquino at mary.aquino@tr.com or +632 9825 938.

SPONSORSHIP INQUIRIES

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

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 August 2018 and 31 July 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 out.
- 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 the Philippines
- D. **Firm size:** number of Philippine-based lawyers and nonlawyers in a firm
- E. **Philippine element:** refers to any of the following components 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
- 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 organizational capabilities and adding more value to output or making the deal work more efficient

- H. **International law firm:** that which is headquartered outside the Philippines
- I. **Team size:** number of Philippine-based lawyers and nonlawyers in an in-house team or number of Philippine-based lawyers and nonlawyers 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. **Finance Deal of the Year**
- 4. **M&A Deal of the Year**

a. Specific Guidelines

- 1. **Announcement/completion of deals:** Only deals that have been announced or completed between 1 August 2018 and 31 July 2019 are eligible for submission. Deals that have been previously submitted will no longer be eligible for submission in the current awards.
 - 2. **Deal size:** Each deal must have a minimum financial value (MFV) of USD150 million.
 - 3. **Finance Deal of the Year:** This category includes acquisition finance, project finance, loans and other financing deals.
 - 4. **Philippine element:** Every deal must have a "Philippine element" as defined in Part III hereof.
 - 5. **Number of deals:** An organization may submit a total of three deals for each category.
 - 6. **Deals of lower financial value:** ALB reserves the right to consider deals that do not comply with the deal size requirement 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. **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. **Dispute Resolution Lawyer of the Year:** The key works must show the candidate's expertise in at least two modes of dispute resolution.
- 3. **Managing Partner of the Year:** This is open to all managing partners or senior partners whose function is primarily that of a managing partner.
- 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 organization may put forward only one nominee for every category.
- 6. **Residence:** A candidate must be a resident of the Philippines.

7. **Woman Lawyer of the Year:** This is open to all women lawyers with remarkable achievements in the practice of law and the society.
 8. **Young Lawyer of the Year:** This is open to all young lawyers, who are no more than 40 years of age as of 31 July 2019, with remarkable achievements in the practice of law and the society.
- 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 TEAM CATEGORIES

1. **Banking and Financial Services In-House Team of the Year**
2. **Construction and Real Estate In-House Team of the Year**
3. **Data Privacy and Protection In-House Team of the Year**
4. **Innovative In-House Team of the Year**
5. **Insurance In-House Team of the Year**
6. **Regulatory and Statutory Compliance In-House Team of the Year**
7. **Technology, Media and Telecommunications In-House Team of the Year**
8. **Transportation and Logistics In-House Team of the Year**
9. **Philippine In-House Team of the Year**

a. Specific Guidelines

1. **Composition of in-house team:** To join the submissions for any in-house team category, the team should consist of at least two in-house counsel.
2. **Data Privacy and Protection In-House Team of the Year:** This is open to all in-house teams, without reference to any industry, which have done significant works on data privacy and protection.
3. **Regulatory and Statutory Compliance In-House Team of the Year:** This is open to all in-house teams, without reference to any industry, which have done significant works on compliance.
4. **Industry-related categories:** Category numbers 1, 2, 5, 7, and 8 are industry-related categories. Only the in-house teams of companies belonging in these industries may apply for the relevant categories.
5. **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 at least two innovative works.
6. **Philippine 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.
7. **Physical office:** Only in-house teams based in the Philippines 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. **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. **Deal Firm of the Year**
5. **Dispute Resolution Boutique Law Firm of the Year**
6. **Immigration Law Firm of the Year**

7. **Innovative Technologies Law Firm of the Year**
8. **Intellectual Property Law Firm of the Year**
9. **International Law Firm of the Year**
10. **Labor 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. **Rising Law Firm of the Year**
14. **Tax and Trusts Law Firm of the Year**
15. **Technology, Media and Telecommunications Law Firm of the Year**
16. **Transactional Boutique Law Firm of the Year**
17. **Transportation and Logistics Law Firm of the Year**
18. **Philippine Law Firm of the Year**

a. Specific Guidelines

1. **Boutique Law Firm of the Year (Transactional or Dispute Resolution):** 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. **Innovative Technologies Law Firm of the Year:** This category is exclusively for works relevant to new technologies such as blockchain, cryptocurrency, fintech and the like, or established technologies with new or innovative use or application.
 3. **Physical office:** Except international law firms, only nominees holding an office in the Philippines are qualified to join the submissions.
 4. **Rising Law Firm of the Year:** This category is open only to law firms established in the Philippines not earlier than 2011 and have no more than 10 partners.
 5. **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.
- 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 academia, 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 every category wins the award.