

ALB PHILIPPINE LAW AWARDS 2023

23RD NOVEMBER • MANILA

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY SUMMARY

PROUDLY PRESENTED BY

ASIAN LEGAL BUSINESS



THOMSON REUTERS®

PART 1 - IMPORTANT DATES

OPENING OF SUBMISSIONS

14 August 2023

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS

22 September 2023

ANNOUNCEMENT OF FINALISTS

Mid of October 2023

AWARDS CEREMONY

23 November 2023

AWARDS INQUIRIES

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SPONSORSHIP INQUIRIES

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PART 2 - 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 2022 to 31 July 2023
- 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 relevant fields in the forms must be filled in. Submissions with less than the required number of entries will be disqualified.
- F. For frequently asked questions about the awards, please visit the [FAQ Page](#).

PART 3 - 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. **Firm size:** total number of lawyers and non-legal staff based in the Philippines.
- D. **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.
- E. **Impact or significance:** the degree to which clients and other stakeholders, the bench and bar, an industry or the country may be affected.
- F. **Innovativeness:** the degree to which a work involves the application of a new concept or creative solution, process, service, programme 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.
- G. **Team size:** number of lawyers and non-legal staff in an in-house team or specific practice team in a law firm.
- H. **Work:** a transaction, case or matter, service, programme, initiative or the like.

PART 4 - 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, ongoing or completed between 1 August 2022 to 31 July 2023 are eligible for submission. Those that have been previously submitted will no longer be eligible for submission this year.
- b. **Deal size:** The following deal size requirements should be complied with:
- Debt Market/ M&A Deal/ Equity Market/ Project Finance Deal of the Year: Deal ≥ USD150 million
- c. **Philippine element:** Every deal must have a Philippine element as defined in Part 3.
- d. **Number of deals:** An organization may submit a total of three deals for each category.
- 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** - This is open to both law firms and in-house lawyers; the key works must show the candidate's expertise in data privacy and protection space.
2. **Dispute Resolution Lawyer of the Year** - The key works must show the candidate's expertise in several modes of dispute resolution.
3. **In-House Lawyer of the Year** - This is open to all lawyers who work directly for a business or organization.
4. **Managing Partner of the Year** - This is open to all managing partners or senior partners whose function is primarily that of a managing partner.
5. **Woman Lawyer of the Year** - This is open to all woman lawyers, private practitioners or in-house counsel, who have excelled in the practice of law and have significantly contributed in the larger community, especially in women empowerment or similar advocacies.
6. **Young Lawyer of the Year** - This is open to all young lawyers who are no more 40 years of age as of 31 July 2023, with remarkable achievements in the practice of law and significant contribution in the larger community, especially in youth empowerment or similar causes.

Specific Guidelines

- a. **Nomination:** A third-party submission for any individual category may only be considered when a nominee's team has not nominated anyone of its members for the same category.
- b. **Number of nominees:** An organization may put forward only one of its members for a category.
- c. **Residence** - A candidate must be a resident of Philippine.

Criteria

The judges will consider the following factors: the nominee's leadership, professional accomplishments (in terms of the 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 or other similar causes.

C. IN-HOUSE CATEGORIES

1. **Banking and Financial Services In-House Team of the Year (NEW):** 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
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, programme 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.
3. **Technology, Media and Telecommunications In-House Team of the Year**
4. **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.

Specific Guidelines

- a. **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.
- b. **Residence:** All in-house teams with physical office in the Philippines are qualified to join the awards.

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.

D. FIRM CATEGORIES

1. **Antitrust and Competition Law Firm of the Year**
2. **Arbitration Law Firm of the Year**
3. **Banking and Financial Services Law Firm of the Year**
 - a. **Boutique Law Firm of the Year** - This category is open to law firms that specialize in limited areas of legal practice with no more than 15 partners and 30 qualified lawyers in total may apply for the category.
4. **Construction and Real Estate Law Firm of the Year**
5. **Data Privacy and Protection Law Firm of the Year**
6. **Dispute Resolution Law Firm of the Year**
7. **Energy and Resources Law Firm of the Year**
8. **Immigration Law Firm of the Year**
9. **Fintech Law Firm of the Year (NEW)** - This category is open to law firms that advise on new technologies such as blockchain, cryptocurrency, digital banking or any other established technologies and the like
10. **Intellectual Property Law Firm of the Year**
11. **International Law Firm of the Year** - This category is open to International Law firms, headquartered outside the Philippines, or non-resident law firms that present activity with The Philippines.
12. **Labor and Employment Law Firm of the Year**
13. **Litigation Law Firm of the Year**
14. **Philippine Deal Firm of the Year** - Only domestic law firms may submit for this category. The five entries should show the expertise of the nominees in dealmaking.
15. **Projects and Infrastructure Law Firm of the Year**
16. **Private Equity and Venture Capital Law Firm of the Year**
17. **Rising Law Firm of the Year** - Only law firms established in the Philippines not earlier than 2013 with no more than 10 partners are eligible for this submission.
18. **Tax and Trusts Law Firm of the Year**
19. **Technology, Media and Telecommunications Law Firm of the Year**
20. **Transportation and Logistics Law Firm of the Year**
21. **Philippine Law Firm of the Year** - This is open to all law firms headquartered in the Philippines. 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.

Specific Guidelines

- b. **Deal size:** No minimum financial value is required of deals submitted for any firm category.
- c. **Residence:** All law firms holding an office in the Philippines are qualified to submit for any of the categories, except for International Law Firm of the Year. Non-resident law firms may apply for the International Law Firm of the Year categories and submit for deal categories.

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 30 reputable members from the legal academia, in-house teams, law firms, and legal associations 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 evaluate the entries 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.