



ALB PHILIPPINE LAW AWARDS 2016

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY SUMMARY

PART I: GENERAL GUIDELINES

- All nominations must be written on the ALB nomination form. Entries written in formats other than the ALB nomination form will not be accepted. **Submissions are now ongoing.**
- Every work entry must be completed **between 1 January 2015 and 31 March 2016.**
- Clients or contact persons provided in the nomination form may be contacted by ALB without prior notice to the nominating organisation. It is advisable that only clients whose consent for this purpose has been obtained are listed in the form.
- International law firms that worked with local parties on matters pertaining to foreign laws may join the nominations, unless provided otherwise in the succeeding sections.
- Nominations may take the form of self-recommendation or third-party nomination.

PART II: DEFINITION OF TERMS

For purposes of these Awards, unless the context otherwise requires -

Breadth - the degree to which the work spanned different jurisdictions, practice areas, parties and industries;

Complexity - the degree to which the work requires intricate legal principles or advanced techniques and structures;

Impact or significance - the degree by which the stakeholders, the bench and bar or the Philippine community at large is affected;

Improvement - the degree to which the work involved improved techniques and structures;

Innovation - the degree to which the work involved original techniques and structures or innovative legal rules or regulations;

Philippine element - any or all of the following: (a) one of the law firms involved must be based in the Philippines; (b) one of the parties to the deal must be based in the Philippines; (c) the contract/deal was executed/completed in the Philippines; or (d) the contract/deal must, in any way, be related to the Philippines;

Third-party award or recognition - that which is given by any award-giving organisation, public or private, other than ALB; and

Work - any transaction, case or matter handled, and other legal services provided within the organisation or otherwise.

PART III: CATEGORIES

A. DEAL CATEGORIES

- **Debt Market Deal of the Year**
- **M&A Deal of the Year**
- **Project Finance Deal of the Year**
- **Philippine Deal of the Year**

Specific Guidelines

- **Philippine element**
Every entry submitted in the deal categories must have a Philippine element.
- **Debt Market Deal of the Year, M&A Deal of the Year and Project Finance Deal of the Year**
An organisation may submit up to two (2) deals for each category. Each deal submitted for these three (3) categories must have a MFV of USD 200 million.
- **Philippine Deal of the Year**
The winners from other deal categories automatically become finalists for Philippine Deal of the Year.

Criteria

The evaluation of deals will be based on the following factors:

- Complexity
- Innovation/improvement
- Breadth;
- Impact/significance; and
- Third-party awards/recognition.

B. IN-HOUSE CATEGORIES

- **Banking and Financial Services In-House Team of the Year**
- **Construction and Real Estate In-House Team of the Year**
- **Insurance In-House Team of the Year**
- **Technology, Media and Telecommunications In-House Team of the Year**
- **Philippine In-House Team of the Year**

Specific Guidelines

- **Physical office**
All nominees for in-house categories should be based in the Philippines.
- **Banking and Financial Services In-House Team of the Year**
In-house teams of commercial and investment banks, credit unions, accountancy firms, stock brokerages, investment managers and other financial institutions are eligible nominees for this category.
- **Other industries**
In-house teams from industries other than banking and financial services, construction, real estate, insurance and TMT may recommend their teams or may be nominated for Philippine In-House Team of the Year.
- **Philippine In-House Team of the Year**
The winner for every in-house category and the in-house teams from other industries referred to above automatically become finalists for this category.

Criteria

The evaluation of entries for in-house categories will be based on the following factors:

- Complexity;
- Innovation/improvement;
- Breadth;
- Impact/significance; and
- Third-party awards/recognition (when applicable).

PART III: CATEGORIES

C. FIRM CATEGORIES

- **Arbitration Law Firm of the Year**
- **Banking and Financial Services Law Firm of the Year**
- **Boutique Law Firm of the Year**
- **Construction and Real Estate Law Firm of the Year**
- **Deal Firm of the Year**
- **Intellectual Property Law Firm of the Year**
- **Labor and Employment Law Firm of the Year**
- **Litigation Law Firm of the Year**
- **Matrimonial and Family Law Firm of the Year**
- **Rising Law Firm of the Year**
- **Tax and Trusts Law Firm of the Year**
- **Philippine Law Firm of the Year**

Specific Guidelines

- **Physical office**
All nominees for firm categories should be based in the Philippines.
- **Minimum financial value (MFV)**
No MFV is required for deals submitted in any firm categories.
- **Boutique Law Firm of the Year**
Law firms with less than fifteen (15) partners or with limited practice areas are eligible nominees for this category.
- **Deal Firm of the Year**
Only law firms that have completed at least five (5) cross-border deals may be nominees for this category.
- **Rising Law Firm of the Year**
Only law firms established on January 1, 2011 or later that currently have less than ten (10) partners may be nominees for this category.
- **Philippine Law Firm of the Year**
The winners from other firm categories automatically become finalists for this category.

Criteria

The evaluation of entries for firm categories will be based on the following factors:

- Key hires and departures (when applicable);
- Complexity;
- Innovation/improvement;
- Breadth;
- Impact/significance;
- Third-party awards/recognition;
- No. of completed transactions (when applicable); and
- Volume of completed transactions in USD (when applicable).

D. INDIVIDUAL CATEGORIES

- **In-House Lawyer of the Year**
- **Managing Partner of the Year**
- **Woman Lawyer of the year**
- **Young Lawyer of the Year**

Specific Guidelines

- **Residence**
A firm or in-house lawyer residing in the Philippines may be a nominee for any individual categories.
- **Woman Lawyer of the Year**
A law firm partner or in-house lawyer may be a nominee for this category.
- **Young Lawyer of the Year**
A law firm partner who is no more than forty (40) years of age as of March 2016 may be a nominee for this category.

Criteria

The evaluation of entries for firm categories will be based on the following factors:

- Complexity;
- Innovation/improvement;
- Breadth;
- Impact/significance; and
- Third-party awards/recognition (when applicable).
- No. of completed transactions (when applicable); and
- Volume of completed transactions in USD (when applicable).

PART IV: JUDGING PANEL

The judging panel consists of the general and the special expertise panels. It is composed of approximately 30 reputable members from the legal academe, in-house teams, law firms, legal associations or business leagues whose identities are kept confidential prior to the awards ceremony.

The panel of judges is given at least one week to evaluate the accomplishments of nominees based on a research summary provided by ALB. The judges choose the top three finalists for every category. A score allocated by a judge to a finalist with which or with whom he has an apparent conflict of interest is considered void.

The finalist in every category that obtains the highest score wins.

PART V: FURTHER INFORMATION

IMPORTANT DATES

9 May 2016	Opening of nominations
12 Aug 2016	Deadline for nominations <i>(Please submit nomination forms to mary.aquino@thomsonreuters.com)</i>
1 st week of September	Online announcement of finalists
14 Oct 2016	Awards ceremony

CONTACT PERSON

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