

# ALB HONG KONG LAW AWARDS 2024

13<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER • HONG KONG

## RESEARCH METHODOLOGY SUMMARY

PROUDLY PRESENTED BY

**ASIAN LEGAL BUSINESS**



**Thomson Reuters™**

## PART I - IMPORTANT DATES

### OPENING OF SUBMISSIONS

19 April 2024

### DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS

31 May 2024

### ANNOUNCEMENT OF FINALISTS

August 2024

### AWARDS CEREMONY

13 September 2024

### AWARDS INQUIRIES

Contact Tracy Li at [tracy.li@thomsonreuters.com](mailto:tracy.li@thomsonreuters.com) or call +852 3462 7724.

### SPONSORSHIP INQUIRIES

Contact Simon Wan at [simon.wan@thomsonreuters.com](mailto:simon.wan@thomsonreuters.com) or call +852 3462 7730.

## 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](mailto:albawards@thomsonreuters.com). Please be advised that an application charge of USD \$50 is applicable for law firms. Payment may be made via credit card by this link.
- B. The coverage period for the entries is 1 May 2023 - 30 April 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 the submission of three entries, unless otherwise provided below.
- 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 Hong Kong
- D. **Firm size** - total number of lawyers and non-legal staff based in Hong Kong
- E. **Impact or significance** - the degree to which clients and other stakeholders, the bench and bar, an industry or the Hong Kong 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. **Hong Kong element** - any of the following components of work: (a) one of the counsel representing a party is based in Hong Kong; (b) one of the parties in interest is based in Hong Kong; 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, remove 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. Finance Deal of the Year
4. M&A Deal of the Year

#### Specific Guidelines

- a) Announcement/completion of deals - Only deals that have been announced or completed between 1 May 2023 - 30 April 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/ Finance Deal / M&A of the Year:** Deal ≥ USD300 million.
- c) **Number of deals** – it is no limitation for an organization submitting deals on each deal category.
- d) **Hong Kong element** - Every entry must have Hong Kong 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. Dealmaker of the Year
2. Dispute Resolution Lawyer of the Year
3. Fintech Lawyer of the Year (**NEW**)
4. In-House Lawyer of the Year
5. Managing Partner of the Year
6. Woman Lawyer of the Year
7. Young Lawyer of the Year

#### Specific Guidelines

- a. **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.
- b. **Dispute Resolution Lawyer of the Year:** The key works must show the candidate's expertise in at least two modes of dispute resolution.
- c. **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.
- d. **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.
- e. **Number of nominees:** An organization may put forward only one of its members for a category.
- f. **Residence:** A candidate must be a resident of the region.
- g. **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.
- h. **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 30 April 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. Fintech In-House Team of the Year **(NEW)**
2. Compliance & Risk Management In-House Team of the Year
3. Construction and Real Estate In-House Team of the Year
4. Financial Services In-House Team of the Year
5. GBA In-House Team of the Year **(NEW)**
6. Insurance In-House Team of the Year
7. Innovative In-House Team of the Year
8. Investment Banking In-House Team of the Year
9. M&A In-House Team of the Year **(NEW)**
10. Retail and Hospitality In-House Team of the Year **(NEW)**
11. Technology, Media and Telecommunications In-House Team of the Year
12. Transportation & Logistics In-House Team of the Year
13. Hong Kong In-House Team of the Year

#### 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. **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.
- c. **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.
- d. **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.
- e. **GBA In-House Team of the Year:** Open to all in-house teams, regardless of industry; with a team in the Greater Bay Area (GBA), which included Hong Kong, Macao, Guangzhou, Shenzhen, Zhuhai, Foshan, Huizhou, Dongguan, Zhongshan, Jiangmen and Zhaoqing.
- 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 Hong Kong 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. **Residence:** All in-house team holding an office in Hong Kong may submit for any of the in-house categories, expect the criteria of GBA In-House Team of the Year has listed above.
- i. **Technology, Media and Telecommunications In-House Team of the Year:** In-house teams from the TMT industry, except those from fintech specialized technology companies are qualified to join the contest.
- j. **Hong Kong 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. Civil Litigation Law Firm of the Year
2. Construction Law Firm of the Year
3. Corporate Citizenship Law Firm of the Year
4. Criminal Litigation Law Firm of the Year
5. Diversity & Inclusion Law Firm of the Year

6. Deal Firm of the Year
7. Dispute Resolution Boutique Law Firm of the Year
8. Energy and Resources Law Firm of the Year
9. ESG and Sustainability Law Firm of the Year
10. Fintech Law Firm of the Year
11. GBA Law Firm of the Year *(NEW)*
12. Immigration Law Firm of the Year
13. Insurance Law Firm of the Year
14. Intellectual Property Law Firm of the Year
15. International Arbitration Law Firm of the Year
16. Investment Funds Law Firm of the Year
17. Labour and Employment Law Firm of the Year
18. Transportation & Logistics Law Firm of the Year *(NEW)*
19. Matrimonial and Family Law Firm of the Year
20. Offshore Law Firm of the Year
21. PRC Law Firm, Hong Kong Office of the Year
22. Private Wealth Law Firm of the Year
23. Real Estate Law Firm of the Year
24. Regulation and Investigations Law Firm of the Year
25. Restructuring and Insolvency Law Firm of the Year
26. Rising Law Firm of the Year
27. Tax and Trusts Law Firm of the Year
28. Technology, Media and Telecommunications Law Firm of the Year
29. Transactional Boutique Law Firm of the Year
30. Hong Kong 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.
  - **Deal Firm of the Year:** 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 and 30 qualified Lawyers. 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. **Corporate Citizenship Law Firm of the Year** - The entries that may be submitted for the category are programs, initiatives and pro bono works that benefit the wider community. Pro bono works will be evaluated in terms of the complexity and significance of the matter involved, breadth, impact and innovativeness of the assistance extended to the beneficiary. The programs, initiatives and the like will be evaluated in terms of creativity, significance, effectiveness and sustainability.
- e. **GBA Law Firm of the Year:** This category is open to law firms headquartered and with an office in the Greater Bay Area (GBA), which included Hong Kong, Macao, Guangzhou, Shenzhen, Zhuhai, Foshan, Huizhou, Dongguan, Zhongshan, Jiangmen and Zhaoqing.
- f. **Residence:** All law firms holding an office in Hong Kong may submit for any of the firm categories, expect the criteria of GBA Law Firm of the Year has listed above.
- g. **Rising Law Firm of the Year:** Only law firms that have no more than 10 partners and have been established in Hong Kong not earlier than 2014 are eligible for submission in this category.
- h. **PRC Law Firm, Hong Kong office of the Year:** This category is open to law firms headquartered in the PRC with a physical office in Hong Kong.
- i. **Hong Kong Law Firm of the Year:** This is open to all law firms holding an office in Hong Kong. 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.