

ALB MALAYSIA LAW AWARDS 2025

10TH APRIL • KUALA LUMPUR

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY SUMMARY

PROUDLY PRESENTED BY

Asian Legal Business



Thomson Reuters™

PART I - IMPORTANT DATES

OPENING OF SUBMISSIONS

6 DECEMBER 2024

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS

17 JANUARY 2025

ANNOUNCEMENT OF FINALISTS

END OF FEBRUARY

AWARDS CEREMONY

10 APRIL 2025

AWARDS INQUIRIES

Contact Bill Warren Gerona at billwarren.gerona@thomsonreuters.com for further details.

SPONSORSHIP INQUIRIES

Contact Romulus Tham at amantha.chia@thomsonreuters.com for further details.

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. Please be advised that an application charge of **USD 10 (plus GST, if applicable)** is applicable to all law firms. Payment may be made via this [link](#).
- B. The coverage period for the entries is 1 January 2024 to 31 December 2024.
- C. The contact persons provided in the submission form will be contacted by ALB, as may be necessary.
- D. Supplementary information may be hyperlinked in any relevant part of the submission form.
- E. All categories require the submission of three entries, unless specified otherwise below. The research team will remove any additional entries.
- F. Each key work entry has a 500-word limit. Any text exceeding this limit will be removed by the research team.
- G. For frequently asked questions about the awards, 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 - law firms that are headquartered in Malaysia
- D. Firm size - total number of lawyers and non-legal staff based in Malaysia
- E. Malaysian element - refers to any of the following component of work: (a) one of the counsels representing a party is based in Malaysia; (b) one of the parties in interest is based in Malaysia; or (c) the subject matter of the transaction is closely connected to Malaysia
- 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 organisational capabilities and adding more value to output or making the deal work more efficient
- H. International law firm - law firms that are headquartered outside Malaysia
- I. Team size - number of lawyers and non-legal staff in an in-house team or a specific practice 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. Project 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 January 2024 and 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:
 - a. **Debt Market; Equity Market; Project Finance; M&A:** Deal ≥ USD150 million; and
 - b. **Project Finance Deal of the Year** – This category may include acquisition finance, structured finance and other financing deals.
- c) **Malaysian element** – Every entry must have a “Malaysian element” as defined in Part III.
- d) **Number of deals** – An organisation 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. 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 (In-house / Law Firm)
6. Young Lawyer of the Year (In-House / Law Firm)

Specific Guidelines

- a) **Managing Partner of the Year** – This is open to all managing partners or senior partners who takes charge of the overall management and operations of the firm
- b) **Nomination** – A third-party submission for any category may be considered only when the nominee’s team has not nominated anyone of its members for the same category.
- c) **Number of nominees** – An organisation may put forward only one nominee for every category.
- d) **Residence** – A candidate must be a resident of Malaysia.
- e) **Woman Lawyer of the Year** – This is open to all woman lawyers with remarkable achievements not only in the practice of law but in the larger community as well.
- f) **Young Lawyer of the Year** – 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: 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. Banking and Financial Services In-House Team of the Year
2. Construction and Real Estate In-House Team of the Year
3. Innovative In-House Team of the Year **(NEW)**
4. Retail and Manufacturing In-House Team of the Year **(NEW)**
5. Technology, Media and Telecommunications In-House Team of the Year
6. Transportation and Logistics In-House Team of the Year
7. Malaysia In-House Team of the Year

Specific Guidelines

- a) **Composition of in-house team** - To join the submissions for any in-house category, a legal team should consist of at least two in-house counsels.
- b) **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.
- c) **Number of works** - An organization may submit a maximum of three works for consideration in all In-House categories, with the exception of Malaysia In-House Team of the Year, which requires 5 works for consideration.
- d) **Residence** - Nominees should be based in Malaysia.
- e) **Malaysia 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.

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. 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. East Malaysia Law Firm of the Year
7. Energy and Resources Law Firm of the Year
8. ESG and Sustainability Law Firm of the Year
9. Fintech Law Firm of the Year
10. Intellectual Property Law Firm of the Year
11. Islamic Finance Law Firm of the Year
12. Labor and Employment Law Firm of the Year
13. Litigation Law Firm of the Year
14. Malaysia Practice, Foreign Law Firm of the Year **(NEW)**
15. Malaysia Practice, Asia Law Firm of the Year **(NEW)**
16. Matrimonial and Family Law Firm of the Year

17. Rising Law Firm of the Year
18. Technology, Media and Telecommunications Law Firm of the Year
19. Transactional Boutique Law Firm of the Year
20. Transportation and Logistics Law Firm of the Year **(NEW)**
21. Malaysia Law Firm of the Year

Specific Guidelines

- a) **Boutique Law Firm of the Year (Dispute Resolution or Transactional)** - 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.
- b) **Deal Firm of the Year** - Both domestic and international law firms may submit for this category and require the submission of five (5) key works.
- c) **Deal size** - No minimum financial value is required of deals submitted in any firm category.
- d) **East Malaysia Law Firm of the Year** - Law firms based in East Malaysia (Sabah, Sarawak, etc.) are qualified to submit for East Malaysia Law Firm of the Year.
- e) **Fintech Law Firm of the Year** - This category is open to law firms that advise on new technologies such as blockchain, cryptocurrency, digital banking or other similar established technologies.
- f) **Malaysia Practice, Foreign Law Firm of the Year** - This category is open to foreign law firms, with office inside or outside Malaysia, or non-resident law firms that have present activity with Malaysia.
- g) **Malaysia Practice, Asia Law Firm of the Year** - This category is open for submissions to law firms that are headquartered in Asia ex-Malaysia. Each key work submitted for the category must demonstrate the “Malaysian” element as defined above.
- h) **Rising Law Firm of the Year** - Only law firms that have no more than 10 partners and have been originally established in Malaysia no earlier than 2015 are eligible for submission.
- i) **Malaysia Law Firm of the Year** - This is open to all law firms holding an office in Malaysia. 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.

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 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 abovementioned 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 a category wins the award.