

ALB MIDDLE EAST LAW AWARDS 2024

17TH OCTOBER • DUBAI

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY SUMMARY

PROUDLY PRESENTED BY

ASIAN LEGAL BUSINESS



Thomson Reuters™

PART 1 - IMPORTANT DATES

OPENING OF SUBMISSIONS

28 June 2024

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS

31 July 2024

ANNOUNCEMENT OF FINALISTS

End of August 2024

AWARDS CEREMONY

17 October 2024

AWARDS INQUIRIES

Contact Lokesh Bogati at Lokesh.bogati@tr.com or call (91) 89044 01792 for further details.

SPONSORSHIP INQUIRIES

Contact Amantha Chia at amantha.chia@tr.com or call (65) 6973 8258 for further details.

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. Forms should be sent to albawards@thomsonreuters.com. Please be advised that an application charge of USD \$50 (plus VAT, if applicable) is applicable for law firms.
- B. The coverage period for the entries is 1 September 2022 – 30 September 2023.
- C. The contact information provided in the forms 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 in.
- 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:** number of Middle East-based lawyers and non-lawyers
- D. **Middle East element:** refers to any of the following component of work: (a) one of the counsel advising/representing a party is based in the Middle East; (b) one of the parties in interest is based in the Middle East; or (c) the subject matter of the transaction is closely connected to the region
- E. **Impact or significance:** the degree to which clients and other stakeholders, the bench and bar, an industry or the region 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 or making the deal work more efficient

- G. **Pro bono service:** free legal assistance extended voluntarily to the low-income and disadvantaged individuals and organisations serving the same sector of the community, with the end of making justice accessible to all
- H. **Team size:** number of Middle East-based lawyers and non-lawyers in an in-house team or number of Middle East-based lawyers and non-lawyers working for a specific practice/sector in a law firm
- I. **Work:** a transaction, case or matter, service, program, 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**

Specific Guidelines

1. **Announcement/completion of deals:** Only deals that have been announced or completed between 1 September 2022 and 30 September 2023 are eligible for submission.
2. **Deal Size:** The following deal size requirements should be complied with
 - a. Debt Market/ Equity Market of the Year: Deal>USD300 million.
 - b. M&A Deal of the Year: Deal>USD500 million
3. **Middle East element:** Every deal must have a “Middle East element” as defined in Part 3.
4. **Number of deals:** An organisation may submit a total of three deals for each category.
5. ALB reserves the right to consider deals that do not comply with the deal size requirements but are exceptionally significant, complex and innovative.

Criteria

The judges will consider the following factors: breadth, complexity, innovativeness and impact or significance of deals.

B. INDIVIDUAL CATEGORIES

1. **In-House Lawyer of the Year**
2. **Managing Partner of the Year**
3. **D&I Champion of the Year**
4. **Woman Lawyer of the Year**
5. **Young Lawyer of the Year**

Specific Guidelines

1. **Number of nominees:** Each organization is allowed to nominate only one candidate for each category. Any organization submitting multiple nominees for the same category will result in disqualification.
2. **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.
3. **Residence:** A candidate must be a resident of the region.
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 both in-house and law firm lawyers, with remarkable achievements not only in the practice of law but in the larger community as well.
6. **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 September 2023, 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 organisation, 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. **Construction and Real Estate In-House Team of the Year (NEW)**
2. **Energy and Resources In-House Team of the Year**
3. **ESG In-House Team of the Year**
4. **Healthcare and Pharmaceutical In-House Team of the Year (NEW)**
1. **Financial Services In-House Team of the Year (NEW)**
2. **Innovative In-House Team of the Year (NEW)**
3. **Transportation and Logistics In-House Team of the Year (NEW)**
5. **Technology, Media and Telecommunications In-House Team of the Year**
6. **Middle East In-House Team of the Year**

Specific Guidelines

1. **Composition of in-house team:** To join the submissions for any in-house category, the team should consist of at least two in-house counsel based in the Middle East.
2. **Physical office:** All in-house teams with physical office in the Middle East are qualified to join the contest.
3. **ESG In-House Team of the Year:** This is open to in-house teams that have demonstrated outstanding achievements in ESG practices, including climate change, sustainability, renewable energy and stakeholder governance.
4. **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.
5. **Middle East 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 an 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. LAW FIRM CATEGORIES

1. **Arbitration Law Firm of the Year**
2. **Boutique Law Firm of the Year (NEW)**
3. **Construction and Real Estate Law Firm of the Year**
4. **Deal Firm of the Year**
5. **Energy and Resources Law Firm of the Year**
6. **Fintech Law Firm of the Year**
7. **Foreign Law Firm of the Year (NEW)**
8. **Intellectual Property Law Firm of the Year**
9. **Labour and Employment Law Firm of the Year**

10. **Litigation Law Firm of the Year**
11. **Rising Law Firm of the Year**
12. **Bahrain Law Firm of the Year**
13. **Kuwait Law Firm of the Year**
14. **Qatar Law Firm of the Year**
15. **Egypt Law Firm of the Year**
16. **Jordan Law Firm of the Year (NEW)**
17. **Lebanon Law Firm of the Year**
18. **Saudi Arabia Law Firm of the Year**
19. **Oman Law Firm of the Year (NEW)**
20. **Tax and Trusts Law Firm of the Year**
21. **Technology, Media and Telecommunications Law Firm of the Year (NEW)**
22. **UAE Law Firm of the Year**
23. **Middle East Law Firm of the Year**

Specific Guidelines

1. **Deal size:** No minimum financial value is required of deals submitted in any firm category.
- a. **Physical office:** All law firms holding an office in the Middle East are qualified to join the submissions, except for Foreign Law Firm of the Year
- b. **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.
- c. **Deal Firm of the Year:** Law firms must submit three best deals that displays expertise across various deal types.
- d. **Foreign Law Firm of the Year:** The category is open for law firms headquartered outside Middle East with no offices in the region. Each key work submitted for this category must demonstrate an “Middle East element” as defined above.
- e. **Rising Law Firm of the Year:** Only law firms that have been originally established in Middle East region no earlier than 2017 are eligible for the submission.
- f. **Middle East Law Firm of the Year:** This is open to all law firms holding an office in Middle East. 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.

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 5 - JUDGING PANEL

The panel of judges will be composed of at least 25 reputable members from the legal academia, in-house teams, law firms, and legal associations or 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.

In the final round of evaluation, the finalist with the highest score in every category wins the award.