

## PART 1 – IMPORTANT DATES

### OPENING OF SUBMISSIONS

11 November 2024

### DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS (EXTENDED)

27 December 2024

### ANNOUNCEMENT OF FINALISTS

End of January 2025

### AWARDS CEREMONY - MUMBAI

6 March 2025

### AWARDS INQUIRIES

Contact us on [albawards@thomsonreuters.com](mailto:albawards@thomsonreuters.com) for further information.

### SPONSORSHIP INQUIRIES

Contact Amantha Chia at [Amantha.chia@thomsonreuters.com](mailto:Amantha.chia@thomsonreuters.com) or call (65) 6973 8258 for further information.

## PART 2 – SUBMISSION INSTRUCTIONS

### GENERAL GUIDELINES

- 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 10 (Plus GST) is applicable to law firms.
- The coverage period for the entries is 1 October 2023 to 30 September 2024
- The contact persons provided in the submission form will be contacted by ALB, as may be necessary.
- Every category requires the submission of an exact of three entries, except as specifically provided below.
- All relevant fields must be filled in. Submissions with less or more than the required number of entries will be automatically disqualified.
- For frequently asked questions about the awards, visit the [FAQ Page](#).

## PART 3 – JUDGING CRITERIA

**Breadth** - the degree to which a work involved numerous jurisdictions, legal practice areas, parties and industries

**Complexity** - the degree to which a work and any issues involved require the crucial exercise of legal expertise, business acumen or innovative solutions

**Firm size** - total number of lawyers based in India

**Indian element** - refers to any of the following component of work: (a) one of the counsels representing a party is based in India; (b) one of the parties in interest is based in India; or (c) the subject matter of the transaction is closely connected to India

**Impact or significance** - the degree to which clients and other stakeholders, the bench and bar, an industry or the country may be affected

**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

**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 (Midsize)
4. M&A Deal of the Year (Premium)

#### *Specific Guidelines*

- a) Announcement/completion of deals - Only deals that have been announced or completed between 1 October 2023 to 30 September 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 Deal of the Year:** Deal ≥ USD300 million.
  - **M&A Deal of the Year (Midsize):** Deal ≥ USD300 million < USD800 million.
  - **M&A Deal of the Year (Premium):** Deal ≥ USD800 million.
- c) **Number of deals** - An organization may submit a total of three deals for each of the debt, equity and M&A categories, provided that no more than two deals are submitted for either Midsize or Premium category.
- d) **Indian element** - Every entry must have an Indian element as defined in Part 3.
- e) The team 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)
6. Woman Lawyer of the Year (Law Firm)
7. Young Lawyer of the Year (In-House)
8. Young Lawyer of the Year (Law Firm)

#### *Specific Guidelines*

- a) Number of nominees - An organization may put forward only one nominee for every category.
- b) 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.
- c) Residence - A candidate must be a resident of India.
- d) Dealmaker of the Year - This is open to all the lawyers, whether from a public or private entity. The deals submitted must show the candidate's expertise in deal making across various deal types.
- e) Dispute Resolution Lawyer of the Year: This is open to all the lawyers, whether from a public or private entity. The key works must show the candidate's expertise in at least two modes of dispute resolution.
- f) Managing Partner of the Year- This is open to all managing partners or senior partners whose function is primarily that of a managing partner.
- g) Woman Lawyer of the Year (In-House/Law Firm)- This is open to all woman lawyers with remarkable achievements not only in the practice of law but in the larger community as well.
- h) Young Lawyer of the Year (In-House/Law Firm) - This is open to all lawyers, who are no more than 40 years of age as of 30 September 2024, with remarkable achievements in the profession and in the larger community as well.

#### *Criteria*

The judges will consider the following factors: the entrants' or nominees' leadership, professional accomplishments (in terms of the breadth, complexity, innovativeness and significance) and social contribution.

## **C. IN-HOUSE CATEGORIES**

- 1. Banking and Financial Services In-House Team of the Year**
- 2. Compliance and Risk Management In-House Team of the Year**
- 3. Energy and Resources In-House Team of the Year**
- 4. Fintech In-House Team of the Year (NEW)**
- 5. Innovative In-House Team of the Year**
- 6. Technology, Media and Telecommunications In-House Team of the Year**
- 7. Transportation and Logistics In-House Team of the Year**
- 8. PE and VC In-House Team of the Year (NEW)**
- 9. Retail and Manufacturing In-House Team of the Year**
- 10. Pharmaceutical and Healthcare In-House Team of the Year**
- 11. Unicorn In-House Team of the Year**
- 12. India In-House Team of the Year**

### *Specific Guidelines*

- Physical office - All in-house teams with physical office in India are qualified to join the awards.
- Composition of in-house team - To join the submissions for any in-house category, the team should consist of at least two in-house lawyers.
- 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.
- India 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: the entrants' or nominees' professional accomplishments (in terms of the breadth, complexity, innovativeness and impact or significance), innovation, development and social contribution.

## **D. LAW 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**
- 4. Dispute Resolution Boutique Law Firm of the Year**
- 5. Transactional Boutique Law Firm of the Year**
- 6. Data Protection Law Firm of the Year**
- 7. Deal Firm of the Year**
- 8. Emerging Markets Law Firm of the Year**
- 9. Energy and Resources Law Firm of the Year**
- 10. India Practice, Asian Law Firm of the Year**
- 11. Intellectual Property Law Firm of the Year**
- 12. International Law Firm of the Year**
- 13. Labour and Employment Law Firm of the Year**
- 14. Litigation Law Firm of the Year**
- 15. Medical and Healthcare Law Firm of the Year**
- 16. Real Estate and Construction Law Firm of the Year**
- 17. Restructuring and Insolvency Law Firm of the Year**
- 18. Rising Law Firm of the Year**
- 19. Sports and Gaming Law Firm of the Year**

## 20. Tax Law Firm of the Year

## 21. Technology, Media and Telecommunications Law Firm of the Year

## 22. White Collar Crime Law Firm of the Year

## 23. India Law Firm of the Year

### *Specific Guidelines*

- a) Physical office - All law firms holding an office in India are qualified to join the submissions.
- b) Deal size - No minimum financial value is required of deals submitted in any firm category.
- c) Boutique Law Firm of the Year (Transactional/Dispute Resolution) - This category is open to law firms that specialize in limited areas of legal practice with no more than 15 partners.
- d) Deal Firm of the Year: This category requires the submission of the law firm's top five deals.
- e) Emerging Markets Law Firm of the Year: This category is open to law firms headquartered in emerging cities across India. Firms with headquarters in Mumbai and Delhi are not eligible to apply for this specific award.
- f) India Practice, Asian Law Firm of the Year- This category is open for submissions to law firms that are headquartered in Asia ex-India. Each key work submitted for this category must demonstrate an "Indian element" as defined above.
- g) Rising Law Firm of the Year – Only law firms that have no more than 10 partners and have been established in India not earlier than 2018 are eligible for submission in this category.
- h) International Law Firm of the Year – Law firms headquartered outside of Asia are qualified to submit for International Law Firm of the Year. key work submitted must demonstrate an "Indian element" as defined above.
- i) India Law Firm of the Year - This is open to all law firms headquartered in India. 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: 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 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 every category wins the award.