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ALB CHINA LAW AWARDS 2025 2025 ALB 中国法律大奖

15TH MAY • BEIJING

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY SUMMARY

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PART I: IMPORTANT DATES

OPENING OF SUBMISSIONS

22 January 2025

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS

13 March 2025

ANNOUNCEMENT OF FINALISTS

Mid-April 2025

AWARDS CEREMONY – BEIJING

15 May 2025

AWARDS INQUIRIES

Contact Research Team at LawAwards@thomsonreuters.com or +86 10 5669 2015.

SPONSORSHIP INQUIRIES

Contact Amantha Chia at amantha.chia@thomsonreuters.com or call +65 6973 8258.

PART II: GENERAL GUIDELINES

- All nominations, whether by self-recommendation or nomination, must be written in the ALB nomination form. Otherwise, the same will not be accepted.
- The coverage period for the entries is **1 January 2024 and 31 December 2024**.
- The contact persons provided in the nomination form will be contacted by ALB, as may be necessary. It is advisable that only contact persons whose consent for this purpose has been obtained are listed in the form.
- References may be incorporated in the form to support any information expressly stated therein.
- All relevant fields in the forms must be filled in. Submission with less than the required number of entries will be disqualified.
- Each key work entry has a 500-word limit. Any text exceeding this limit will be removed by the research team.
- For frequently asked questions about the awards, please visit the [FAQ page](#).
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PART III: DEFINITION OF TERMS

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

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

Impact or significance - the degree to which clients and other stakeholders, the bench and bar, an industry or the region 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 organizational capabilities and adding more value to output or making the deal work more efficient;

China element – refers to any of the following component of work: (a) one of the counsel representing a party is based in mainland China; (b) one of the parties in interest is based in mainland China; (c) any contract indispensable to the completion of a transaction was executed in mainland China; or (d) the subject matter of the transaction is closely connected to the mainland China;

Firm size – total number of lawyers and non-legal staff based in mainland China;

Team size – number of lawyers and non-legal staff in an in-house team or a specific practice in a law firm; and

Work - a transaction, case or matter, service, program, initiative or the like, provided to stakeholders.

*ALB reserves the right to adjust and merge the award category.

PART IV: CATEGORIES

A. INDIVIDUAL CATEGORIES

1. **Dealmaker of the Year**
2. **Dispute Resolution Lawyer of the Year**
3. **Young Lawyer of the Year**
4. **Woman Lawyer of the Year**
5. **Managing Partner of the Year**
6. **Starries Award In-House Lawyer of the Year**

Specific Guidelines

- **Location:** The candidate must be based in mainland China.
- **Number of nominees:** An organization may put forward only one nominee for this category.
- **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.
- **Dealmaker of the Year:** The deals submitted must show the candidate's expertise in deal making across various deal types.
- **Dispute Resolution Lawyer of the Year:** The key works must show the candidate's expertise in at least two modes of dispute resolution.
- **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 31 December 2024, with remarkable achievements in the profession.
- **Woman Lawyer of the Year:** This is open to both in-house and law firm woman lawyers with remarkable achievements not only in the practice of law but in the larger community as well.
- **Managing Partner of the Year:** Applicable only to managing partners from domestic law firms.

Criteria

The judges will consider the following factors: the 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.

B. DEAL CATEGORIES

1. Debt Market Deal of the Year (Midsize/Premium)
2. Equity Market Deal of the Year (Midsize/Premium)
3. Energy and Resources Deal of the Year
4. M&A Deal of the Year (Midsize/Premium)
5. Project Finance Deal of the Year

Specific Guidelines

– **China element**

Every entry submitted in the deal categories must have a China element as defined in Part III.

– **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 previously submitted will no longer be eligible for submission in the current awards.

– **Deal size**

The following deal size requirements should be complied with:

- a) **Equity Market Deal of the Year (Midsize), Debt Market Deal of the Year (Midsize) and M&A Deal of the Year (Midsize):** USD500 million ≤ Deal < USD1 billion;
- b) **Equity Market Deal of the Year (Premium), Debt Market Deal of the Year (Premium) and M&A Deal of the Year (Premium):** Deal ≥ USD1 billion;
- c) **Energy & Resources Deal of the Year:** Deal ≥ USD500 million; and
- d) **Project Finance Deal of the Year:** Deal ≥ USD500 million.

– **Number of deals**

An organization may submit up to three (3) deals for each category, provided that no more than two deals are submitted for either Midsize or Premium division.

- Each deal can **only** be nominated up to two categories of the deal award.

Criteria

The evaluation of deals will be based on the following factors: breadth, complexity, innovativeness, impact or significance of deals.

C. IN-HOUSE CATEGORIES

1. Chinese Private Owned Company In-House Team of the Year
2. Fintech In-House Team of the Year ^{New}
3. Gen Award Digital Transformation In-House Team of the Year
4. Guozun Award Emerging Company In-House Team of the Year
5. Han Kun Award New Energy In-House Team of the Year
6. Healthcare and Pharmaceutical In-House Team of the Year
7. Innovative In-House Team of the Year
8. MNC In-House Team of the Year
9. Retail and Manufacturing In-House Team of the Year ^{New}
10. Shihui Award Compliance and Risk Management In-House Team of the Year
11. SOE In-House Team of the Year

Specific Guidelines

– **Physical office**

All in-house teams with a physical office in mainland China are qualified to join the contest.

– **Digital Transformation In-House Team of the Year**

Digital Transformation refers to the adoption of digital technology to transform services or businesses.

– **Emerging Company In-House Team of the Year**

Only companies established in China not earlier than 2014 (between January 2014 and December 2024) are eligible for submission.

– **Compliance and Risk Management In-House Team of the Year**

This is open to all in-house teams, without reference to any industry, which have done significant works on compliance and risk management and the like.

– **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.

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.

D. FIRM CATEGORIES

1. Anti-Trust and Competition Law Firm of the Year
2. Banking Law Firm of the Year
3. Beijing Law Firm of the Year
4. Boutique Law Firm of the Year^{New}
5. Capital Markets Law Firm of the Year (Domestic/Overseas)
6. China Practice Asian Firm of the Year^{New}
7. China Regional Law Firm of the Year
8. Cyber Security and Data Protection Law Firm of the Year
9. ESG and Sustainability Law Firm of the Year
10. Healthcare Firm of the Year
11. International Arbitration Law Firm of the Year
12. International Law Firm of the Year
13. International Trade Law Firm of the Year
14. IP Law Firm of the Year
15. Litigation Law Firm of the Year
16. Offshore Law Firm of the Year
17. Overseas Practice Law Firm of the Year^{New}
18. Private Equity Law Firm of the Year
19. Real Estate Law Firm of the Year
20. Regulatory Compliance Law Firm of the Year
21. Restructuring and Insolvency Law Firm of the Year
22. Rising Law Firm of the Year
23. Shanghai Law Firm of the Year
24. Shipping Law Firm of the Year
25. Technology, Media and Telecommunications Firm of the Year
26. Wealth Management Law Firm of the Year
27. China Law Firm of the Year

Specific Guidelines

– **Physical office**

All law firms with a physical office or based in China are qualified to submit for any of the firm categories, except for Offshore Law Firm of the Year.

– **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. The specialty must be indicated in the form.

– **Offshore Law Firm of the Year**

"Offshore Law Firm" refers to firms specializing in the law of offshore jurisdictions, e.g. Cayman Islands, operating in China.

– **China Practice Asian Firm of the Year**

This category is open to law firms headquartered in Asia (ex-China) with significant involvement, each key work submitted for this category must have a "China element" as defined above.

– **Overseas Practice Law Firm of the Year**

The category is open to domestic law firms going global and headquartered in China.

– **Rising Law Firm of the Year**

This category is open to domestic law firms that have established their offices in China for no more than ten (10) years (between January 2014 and December 2024).

– **Capital Markets Law Firm of the Year (Domestic/Overseas)**

This category will be split into Domestic and Overseas divisions. This is open to all law firms, which have done significant works in mainland China or overseas capital markets.

– **ESG and Sustainability Law Firm of the Year**

Law Firms that show substantial depth and breadth in advising clients on the environmental, social, and governance factors of their firm, which are a subset of non-financial performance indicators which includes sustainable, ethical, or corporate governance issues such as, without limitation, the impact of a company on the environment, the conduct of social and business relationships and governance ethics, etc.

– **China Regional Law Firm of the Year**

This award recognizes firms headquartered in Sichuan, Chongqing, Yunnan, Guizhou, Xizang, Ningxia, Xinjiang, Qinghai, Shaanxi, Gansu, Liaoning, Jilin, Heilongjiang, Tianjin, Shanxi, Hebei, Inner Mongolia, Shandong, Jiangsu, Zhejiang, Anhui, Hubei, Hunan, Henan, Jiangxi, Guangdong, Guangxi, Fujian, or Hainan.

– **Shanghai Law Firm of the Year**

Applicable only to domestic law firms that are either headquartered in Shanghai or whose original office was based in Shanghai.

– **Beijing Law Firm of the Year**

Applicable only to domestic law firms that are either headquartered in Beijing or whose original office was based in Beijing.

– **International Law Firm of the Year**

Applicable only to law firms not headquartered, but with physical offices in mainland China.

– **China Law Firm of the Year**

Applicable only to domestic law firms.

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 V: JUDGING PANEL

The judging panel consists of approximately 40 reputable members from the legal community, whose identities are kept confidential prior to the awarding ceremony.

The ALB team passes the nomination data to the external panel of judges, who examine the information and vote. The panel of judges will review, score and evaluate the submission entries. The judges' votes are aggregated to calculate the winner in each category. The judges' votes are independent of the ALB. The finalist with the highest score in every category wins the award.

We do our best to ensure no conflict of interest in the judging process. Therefore, any score allocated by a judge to a finalist with whom he/she has an apparent conflict of interest is considered void.