



**BENCHMARK
LITIGATION**
ASIA-PACIFIC

2025 WEBINAR



HOUSEKEEPING MATTERS

- Full screen mode is at bottom right
- Option to submit questions
- Webinar and slides will be uploaded after
- [Research Guidelines](#) available online



WEBINAR OUTLINE

- Introduction
- What's new this cycle
- Research guidelines
- Submission process
- Timeline of the research
- Brief overview of:
 - Benchmark awards
 - Benchmark Litigation China
- Live Q&A



INTRODUCTION

Benchmark Litigation is the only publication on the market to focus exclusively on dispute resolution. Since its inception in 2008 in the US, the Benchmark brand has grown dramatically and garnered industry-wide accolades as the definitive hub for in-depth analysis of the players shaping the dynamic practice of litigation. In keeping with Benchmark's sharp rise in popularity, its publishing staff increasingly aims to respond to the demands of its audience.

The Asia-Pacific guide officially launched in 2018, with a dedicated team located in Hong Kong and actively researching the market on the ground.

We exclusively cover the litigation and disputes markets and aim to provide law firm and lawyer rankings on the market's most important cases and firm developments across the region.



OUR RESEARCH TEAM

- **Kelsey Li** - Australia, China, China and Hong Kong SAR, Hong Kong SAR, Japan, Malaysia, New Zealand and Philippines (*Kelsey.li@legalmediagroup.com*)
- **Candice Mak** - India, Indonesia, Singapore, South Korea, Thailand and Vietnam (*Candice.mak@legalmediagroup.com*)
- **Miao Sha** – Benchmark China regions, Taiwan (*Miao.sha@legalmediagroup.com*)



NEW FOR THE 2025 CYCLE

Submission form

Referral work

DEI policy, programme and initiatives

Research trips

Malaysia (End of September)

Vietnam (November)

Taiwan (November)



HOW TO TAKE PART



DOWNLOAD
OUR
[RESEARCH FORM](#)



DOWNLOAD OUR
[CLIENT
REFEREE FORM](#)



COMPLETE THE
FORMS



UPLOAD THEM VIA
OUR [ONLINE
SUBMISSION TOOL](#)

*You will need to sign up for and register an account on the accreditation portal before you can upload the submissions *

Please do not use forms or links from last year. New ones are created for each research cycle.

Practice area submission: Due to our new submission portal requirements, you must submit SEPARATE research forms for each dispute resolution practice area. After logging into the submission portal and selecting Benchmark Litigation, you will be prompted to choose a practice area per upload.

Client referee submission: Each firm should submit only one SINGLE referee excel form with all client details as we do not require practice area specifications. As you upload the excel form, when prompted to select a practice area, simply select "Commercial and transactions" and submit. This will link the excel to your submission account irrespective of practice area selection (thus, each submission account should have only one excel form uploaded).

Please note that a client referee submission is not mandatory to participate in our research.

LEGAL BENCHMARKING GROUP ACCREDITATION PORTAL

Legal Benchmarking Group has developed a [submission portal](#). Here's where you will be uploading all your submission forms.

- **Benefits for participants:**
- Ability to create an account
- All submission data stored within firm accounts
- Detailed submission alerts
- Ability to submit referees on Excel
- Single portal for all our legal brands (*asialaw, Benchmark Litigation, IFLR 1000, IP Stars, LMG Life Sciences, and World Tax*)



WHAT WORK IS CONSIDERED?

- Anything along the entire disputes life cycle, including pre-litigation work
- Litigation, arbitration, and other types of ADR (mediation, adjudication, etc.)
- Includes: pre-litigation process, negotiations, documentation and preparation for trial, trials to investigation, judicial reviews, appeals and enforcement proceedings.
- Cover ONLY disputes-related work, so the contentious work within a practice area (e.g. IP disputes, labour disputes, etc.)
- Category of “Commercial and transactions” is not meant for transactional work. It is for disputes linked to transactions, and general corporate and commercial disputes.



UPLOADING PRACTICE AREA FORMS

Practice areas:

One form per practice area

Client excel sheet:

One form per firm (select
“Commercial and transactions”
to upload)

 Benchmark Litigation Open for Submission
From: 26/08/2024
To: 31/12/2024

Please select a jurisdiction and a practice area, and click 'Upload File'. You can then upload the relevant documents

Jurisdiction: Practice Area:

- Malaysia
- New Zealand
- Philippines
- Singapore
- South Korea
- Taiwan
- Thailand
- United States (National)
- United States Regional
- Vietnam

- Dispute resolution
争议解决

- Aviation
- Class action
- Commercial and transactions
- Commercial and transactions - I
- Commercial and transactions - It
- Competition/antitrust
- Construction
- Family and matrimonial
- Government and regulatory
- Insolvency

[Upload File](#) 

SUBMISSION FORMS

Practice area form (Word)

- 1) Referral Work (new)
- 2) DEI policy, programme and initiatives (new)
- 3) Top 40 under 40 – *must be under 40 years old by April 30, 2025*
- 4) Three awards case highlights up at the top of the form in the “blue” section.

If you do not wish to nominate any matters, please go to page 8 to start filling in the work highlights

Referral work

We would like to support partners who routinely refer work to other law firms and/or manage the firm's referral work relationships or network. Please kindly provide us with at least **three key contacts** from within your firm.

Location	First Name	Last Name	Position	E-mail address (confidential)

Top 40 under 40

Please list the names of up to three partners whom you would like to nominate for our 'Top 40 under 40' awards list. They should be under 40 years old by April 30, 2025.

First name	Last name	Position	Practice area	Years since qualification	Birthday (confidential)

Diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI)
Please provide details of your DEI (diversity, equity, & inclusion) policy, programs, initiatives and/or highlight achievements since January 1, 2024.

This case include social and governance policies involving the firm's inclusive recruitment, development, mentorship, well-being, and social mobility efforts, etc. and any measurable impact metrics and achievements which aid in promoting diversity in age, disability, race and ethnicity, sexuality, and social class. You may include links in your description.

Key contact at firm:	Impact:
Lead: Description: Please describe your DEI initiatives, programs, policies, and key achievements/progress over the past year. Include as much relevant detail as possible.	Please describe the impact of this initiative, program, policy at your firm and/or beyond.
Would you like to include this as an entry into the work highlights? Yes/No	Yes/No

Please upload your submission form to our [portal](#).

This will contribute to Benchmark Litigation Awards 2025 – only these nominated cases will be considered. You may nominate up to **three cases** per practice area. If you do not wish to nominate any cases for awards, please start on page 8.

Work highlight #1 – Nominations for Benchmark Litigation Awards 2025
Cause/lead overview:

Confidential/Partially confidential (Yes or no) Please indicate if this matter is even partially confidential by writing in "Yes" or "No". E.g., if even only the **value** or **value is confidential**, please write "Yes". Please refer to our website and past relevant practice areas we currently cover under each jurisdiction. E.g., Banking and finance, Capital markets, Competition/antitrust, Construction, etc.

Practice area(s) Please refer to our website and past relevant industry sector(s) we currently cover under each jurisdiction. E.g., Aviation and shipping, Banking and financial services, Consumer goods and services, Oil and gas, etc.

Industry sector(s) Please refer to our website and past relevant industry sector(s) we currently cover under each jurisdiction. E.g., Aviation and shipping, Banking and financial services, Consumer goods and services, Oil and gas, etc.

Date completed (MM/YY) / Ongoing Please make sure to provide cases handled in the past 12 months, ongoing cases can also be included. Cases that took place more than 12 months ago will not be processed.

Value (currency) Please spell out the value and indicate the currency. E.g., \$50 million (USD) instead of \$50,000,000.

Client(s) advised If you would like to keep the client's name confidential, you may describe the client's business for our reference. E.g., a global technology giant.

Lead partner involved Last name, first name (OJ/CF) [If only lawyers from other offices were involved in the case, please also specify their office location in this following format: Last name, first name (OJ/CF) E.g., Jay, John (Hong Kong)]

Other lawyers involved Last name, first name (position) E.g., Li, Susan (Senior associate).

Your firm's role This is asking for a simple role description. E.g., Counsel to the plaintiff / Counsel to underwriters.

Other law firms and their roles This information is very important for the reason of **credit** or **credit** in if you have the information.

Governing law You may add multiple jurisdictions if applicable. E.g., New York, etc.

Description Please keep the content simple, concise, and to the point. Move sure it is easy to read and to the point. You may bold text to indicate key points. **DO NOT** write in black letters.

Please state the significance, impact and outcome of the case Don't miss this part out. At the end of the content please state the importance and the reason why this case stands out from every other case. E.g., "This was the largest public offering in 2022", "This dispute is a first of its kind", etc. Please keep this part separate from description so we can easily spot the significance of the case.

Please upload your submission form to our [portal](#).

RESEARCH GUIDELINES: RESEARCH FORM

- Firms must submit one form per practice area
- For matters with partial or wholly **confidential information**, please write in “Yes” or “No” in the corresponding box in the case highlight table. Any matter marked as “No” may be published.
- **Provide up to 20 case highlights per practice area** (in addition to the 3 awards nominated cases. So ultimately you may be submitting up to 23 matters), listing them in order of importance or significance (e.g. if submitting in 5 practice areas, you may provide up to 100 cases in total). If you wish to submit more, though not advised, you may submit using our [additional highlights form](#) that asks for these extras in list format.
- Case highlights must be **ongoing or completed within the last 12 months**. The time frame is roughly August 2023 – October 2024.

RESEARCH GUIDELINES: RESEARCH FORM

- Clearly indicate practice area(s) for each case highlight.
- Try your best to fully complete the form by filling in all required information. Remember to include reasons why the case is important or significant.
- Do not adjust or alter the format of the research form. Do not delete any question or section in our research form.
- Do not capitalise or highlight the text. Keep the content concise and to the point.
- At the top of the work highlights section, please nominate a maximum of three cases per practice area to be considered for a potential award. All the submitted firms will be considered for the next Benchmark Litigation Asia-Pacific awards.
- If you must submit in an alternate template, please remember that the 3 awards nomination cases must still be submitted in our specific format even if the rest is not. So you may need to submit two documents per practice area: one for the awards in our format and another with the case highlights in the alternate format. Caseswork submitted apart from our awards nomination format will not be considered for the awards.

RESEARCH GUIDELINES: RESEARCH FORM

- Please include your firm's name and jurisdiction (and practice area) when saving your research form. The suggested format is ***FirmName_Jurisdiction_PracticeArea_BMAP2025*** or ***FirmName_Jurisdiction_PracticeAreaAwards_BMAP2025*** (for forms only containing awards nominations)
- Please make sure all your research forms are **fully completed** and are **correct** versions. We cannot guarantee that any corrections or amendments to what you first submitted will be implemented.



SUBMISSION GUIDELINES: METHODOLOGY

Work evidence

Work evidence is a key factor we use to determine a firm's ranking. For a firm to be ranked, it must have a strong track record of advising or representing on matters relevant to our ranking categories. The same applies to the ratings of individuals; lawyers must have been working on significant cases in some capacity to be rated.

Client feedback

Client feedback is used in support of work evidence when determining a firm's ranking or lawyer's rating. What this means is good feedback alone will not ensure a firm or lawyer is ranked or rated. However, do note that client feedback is not mandatory, and it will not be detrimental to a firm or lawyer's ranking if no client feedback is received.

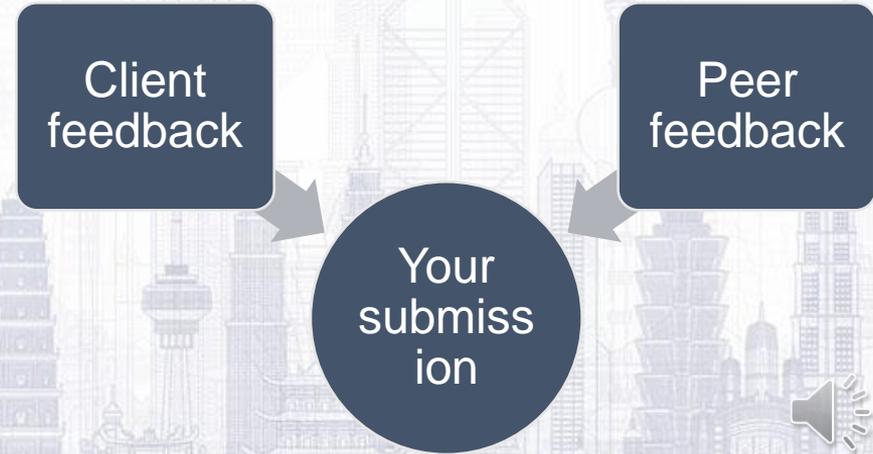
Peer feedback

Peer feedback is another metric we use to determine a firm's standing. We conduct a significant number of interviews with practitioners, where we ask for feedback on firms, lawyers and discuss trends. By receiving these on-the-ground insights, we can determine more fully the picture of the market in terms of a firm's and/or lawyer's reputation and standing, and what the market trends are. Nobody knows the market better than the lawyers themselves!

We are a qualitative survey, so while we take deal and case values and volume into account the rankings are not determined solely by these factors.

SUBMISSION GUIDELINES: METHODOLOGY

- Client and peer feedback is used **in support of work evidence** when determining a firm's ranking or lawyer's rating.
- What this means is good feedback alone will not ensure a firm or lawyer is ranked— a firm or individual must be experienced in advising on significant and complex matters, as shown in your submission form.



RESEARCH GUIDELINES: CLIENT REFEREES

- There is **NO LIMIT** on the number of client referees you can submit.
- Client submitted do not need to be specific ones related to the work matters listed in the submission. However, they should be clients who have used your legal services for disputes in the past 12-24 months.
- Please list all referees on the single client referee excel form and upload to the accreditation portal under “Commercial and transactions”.
- All client referees that are submitted will be contacted.
- All client information provided will be treated as confidential.



CLIENT REFEREE PROCESS

- 1) Upload client referee excel by deadline **October 25**. We do not accept late submissions.
- 2) Law firms (via the submitter's email recorded on the accreditation portal) will be notified one week before the client surveys are sent out to the referees (around November 6).
- 3) Referees are sent the client surveys mid-November (around November 13) from my email (*Candice.mak@legalmediagroup.com*).
- 4) The client survey closes on **December 31**. There are no extensions.



INTERVIEWS 2025

- We will invite firms for an interview based on our research needs as a priority, but we do welcome requests. Interviews are scheduled on a first-come-first-served basis.
- We may not be able to speak to all participating firms due to the sheer volume of market players in a jurisdiction, so we do encourage lawyers to complete the lawyer survey to make their views known.
- Each firm we speak to will be allotted 30 minutes – 1 hour max; it is 1 interview per law firm so all interviewees need to be on that one call.
- It is imperative that interviewees be willing and able to share market feedback on the current ranking tables. Otherwise, we may decline an interview request.
- The interview will cover: 1) Peer review (firms and lawyers) 2) Market trends 3) Your firm/practice highlights and updates



RESEARCH GUIDELINES: LAWYER SURVEY

Our **Lawyer Survey** is a quick and easy way for lawyers to share their thoughts with us on the market.

Lawyers can also provide feedback on our existing lists of ranked firms and individuals.

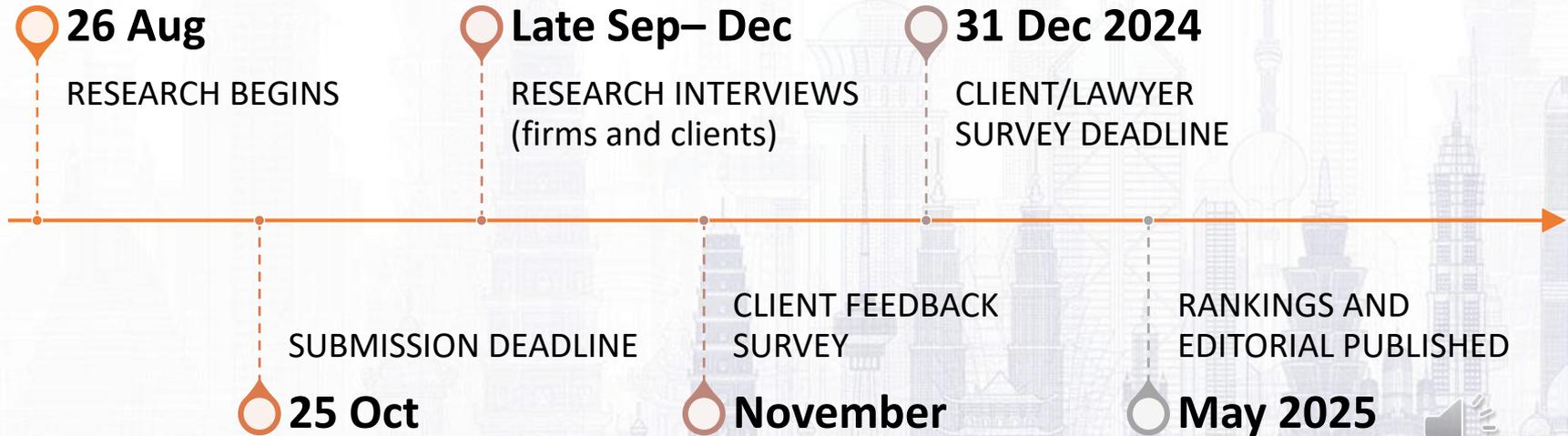
In-house counsel team of the year nominations can be submitted.

The survey is open to all disputes lawyers and the information provided is treated as confidential.

The survey will be released online the first week of October and can be accessed through a link on the [methodology](#) page. We will send out an email notice when it is live.



RESEARCH TIMELINE



BENCHMARK LITIGATION APAC AWARDS 2025

The Benchmark Litigation Asia-Pacific Awards decisions are based on the data submitted through the annual directory research. All the submitted firms will be considered for the Benchmark Litigation Asia-Pacific 2025 Awards.

The awards assessment is highly case-based. The editorial team reviews specific work matters and focuses on those that are landmark, novel, precedent-setting or unusually complex. Please showcase your top cases by detailing their merits in the significance/importance field in the submission form.

The list of awards categories can be viewed on the Benchmark Litigation website under the “Awards” subheading by clicking on the awards winners list from last year.

We will continue to release awards lists for the Top 100 Women in Litigation and The Top 40 under 40. Nominations for the latter are received through the practice area submission form.



BENCHMARK LITIGATION APAC AWARDS 2025

Please remember to nominate awards cases in the submission form via the top blue section of the highlights.

Confidential cases can be nominated (please indicate in the field regarding confidentiality). These will be considered for the Firm and Lawyer awards, but not the Impact Case of the Year awards.

We will only accept awards nominations (cases and Top 40 under 40) through our own submission form this year.

If your submission is in a different format/template, please still fill out the awards nomination cases and Top 40 under 40 nominations on our form otherwise they will not be considered.

Innovation

- Did the advice or argument the firm used show something more nuanced and innovative than a straightforward solution that would commonly be deployed?

Complexity

- Did the matter address legal issues that were out of the ordinary and what ingenuity did the firm show to solve them?
- Is the case beyond your plain vanilla, run-of-the-mill disputes?

Impact

- What impact did the advice have on market?
- Did the firm win an unprecedented judgement in court?
- Will the outcome of the case shape jurisprudence or clarify a new point of the law?

HOW TO IMPROVE YOUR RANKING?

Ultimately there are no guarantees but here's what you can do to maximise your impression:

- *Make sure to submit!*

Carefully put thought into completing the research form:

- Include work highlights that best reflect the firm's capability in the past 12 months.
- Provide key updates clearly in the "Practice Overview" section
- Keep it simple but 'to-the-point', include notes like '*this landmark case*', '*one of the most complex cases...*'; '*A novel matter...*' to make your work highlights stand out from the rest.
- Be aware of due dates and start preparing your submission early.
- Target client and strategise interview subjects.



BENCHMARK LITIGATION CHINA

Benchmark Litigation China is a regional guide that focuses on Chinese disputes market across different cities and provinces.

As we enter our fourth year, we will continue to cover seven major cities/provinces: **Beijing, Shanghai, Guangdong, Zhejiang, Jiangsu, Northwestern China (Shaanxi) and Southwestern China (Sichuan and Chongqing).**

Ranking categories: Commercial disputes, International arbitration, Compliance: government and regulatory, Construction and real estate, Intellectual property, Insolvency and Shipping.

The Benchmark China research will be conducted in Mandarin by our Benchmark China researcher, Miao Sha.

Firms are advised to submit research forms for Benchmark Asia-Pacific – NATIONAL RANKINGS – in English, submitting the most significant cases at the national level.

For Benchmark China, firms are advised to submit by different offices. For example, if a firm wants to be considered for Shanghai ranking, the firm must submit cases handled by Shanghai office and the lawyers based in Shanghai. The rankings will be based on the work handled by each office.

Please visit our [China methodology](#) for more information.

There will be a separate Benchmark China webinar happening tomorrow (13 Sept).



Q&A SESSION



PLEASE TYPE
YOUR
QUESTIONS
INTO A TEXT
BOX BELOW
THE SCREEN



WE WILL
PRIORITISE
QUESTIONS THAT
WERE NOT
COVERED IN THE
PRESENTATION
AND RESEARCH
GUIDELINES



YOU CAN DOWNLOAD
DOCUMENTS AND
GET LINKS –
RESEARCH FORM,
SUBMISSION AND
CLIENT REFEREES
PORTAL, RESEARCH
GUIDELINES FROM
OUR BENCHMARK
LITIGATION [WEBSITE](#)



FOR UNANSWERED
QUESTIONS DUE TO TIME
CONSTRAINTS, AN FAQ
DOCUMENT WILL BE
COMPILED AND UPLOADED
TO OUR METHODOLOGY
PAGE BY EARLY NEXT
WEEK.



THANKS FOR YOUR
TIME TODAY!





Q&A FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ANSWERED BELOW:

How much influence do we have over our ratings vs. the external market?

Firms are encouraged to tell their story via our research form and through interviews. We then measure the firm's input against the feedback we receive via studying the market. If our studies are in harmony with the firm's assertions, we weight them equally. If there is an extreme disparity between the firm's views and a pronounced percentage of the market, we will provide greater weight to the market consensus.

If we participate, are we guaranteed to get rated and/or have commentary?

All firms who submit and can prove they are doing notable work in the relevant practice areas will receive some form of editorial coverage, however we do not guarantee rankings or lawyer ratings.

Do you only rate those of partner level?

We primarily rank partners but outstanding associates and senior associates can be recognised in our 'future stars' lawyer rating category.

We're a small boutique firm – what chance do we stand against the big brand name firms in your ratings?

Because Benchmark focuses exclusively on disputes, which is often the focus for specialist firms in the market, smaller firms stand a very good chance of being just as highly rated as large corporate firms, and in some cases even more highly rated.

Is Benchmark "pay-to-play"? If I don't support the project financially do I still get rated?

Benchmark is absolutely not "pay-to-play." Firms cannot pay to appear in the guide, and can only be rated if the market deems them worthy of consideration.

