

IFLR

IFLR Sub-Saharan Africa Awards 2020

In September 2020, IFLR will present its **inaugural** IFLR Sub-Saharan Africa Awards 2020, recognising the most legally innovative deals of 2019-20 from across the region and the firms and lawyers behind them. You are invited to put forward nominations on behalf of your firm.

These awards cover the period May 31 2019 to May 31 2020. All deals must have closed in this period to be considered. The deadline for nominations is July 14th 2020.

We may have sent the awards invitation to more than one contact at your firm. Please coordinate the responses from your firm. If you are not the appropriate contact, please tell us immediately.

Nominations

IFLR's team of journalists will undertake research using a variety of sources, *including* submissions made earlier in the year to IFLR1000. Direct award entries of deals, teams, firms and individuals by law firms and in-house teams will be a vital part of the process. IFLR will also consult private practice lawyers and in-house counsel. Final decisions will be made by IFLR and are entirely independent.

The award categories and details of how to make entries are listed below. You are invited to make nominations for as many of these categories as you wish.

Contact names supplied as part of submissions will not be used for any purposes other than editorial research and will be contacted without reference to the firm supplying the details.

Deadlines

Please send your nominations to IFLR awards editor James Wilson: james.wilson@legalmediagroup.com by **July 14 2020**. For any queries, please contact James Wilson.

Please remember:

- Aside from the domestic deal of the year category, IFLR will only consider **cross-border deals**.
- IFLR rewards **legal innovation**. We are not interested in how high value, high profile or quick the deal was.
- Firms win team of the year categories for their roles on the most innovative deals of the year.
- We recommend nominating **a maximum of three deals per category**. It is unlikely more than that stand a chance of being shortlisted. We only require a **brief explanation** of why a deal was innovative, so it is possible to be concise with nominations.
- Rather than send lots of forms, you will notice that the **forms are multi-purpose**. Please use the forms as templates for all your submissions.
- We cannot include fully confidential deals

Yours sincerely,

James Wilson
IFLR projects editor
james.wilson@legalmediagroup.com

**** IFLR1000 ****

If your firm has already made a submission this year to the IFLR1000:

- We will review all non-confidential transactions that meet the awards criteria from the IFLR1000 submissions and include those deals in the research.
- There is no need to re-submit deals, team or firm information from those IFLR1000 submissions.
- Please use the forms below as ‘top up forms’ to nominate any deals that closed in the period between making your IFLR1000 and May 31 2020 OR to highlight deals that you believe should not be missed.

International firms with Sub-Saharan Africa practices will not have been asked to make submissions to IFLR1000 so will have to nominate work directly to the awards using the process below.

**** AWARD CATEGORIES EXPLAINED ****

Deals of the year

Complete one [Deal of the year](#) form for each deal entry. We suggest putting forward no more than three deals for each category. Firms can nominate in any or all the following categories:

- Banking and finance deal of the year
- Capital markets deal of the year
- Domestic deal of the year
- M&A deal of the year
- Private equity deal of the year
- Projects deal of the year*
- Restructuring deal of the year

*Subject to strength of entries, projects may be split into infrastructure (including power, telecoms, transport etc) and natural resources (including oil & gas and mining).

Note: we will endeavour to produce shortlists across these categories but will retain some flexibility to adapt to the strength of entries and other limitations, such as confidentiality.

ALL FIRMS MUST ALSO NOMINATE ONE DEAL ON WHICH THEY DID NOT ADVISE IN EACH CATEGORY.

For all categories except the Domestic deal of the year category, deals must be cross-border:

- Banking and finance: financings must be carried out on an international basis with the borrower located in Sub-Saharan Africa.
- Capital markets: securities must have been sold to and targeted international investors outside the issuer/originator’s home jurisdiction – includes debt offerings, equity offerings, structured finance and securitisations.
- Domestic: deals do not need to be cross-border but must fall within the corporate finance categories practice areas: banking and finance, capital markets, M&A/private equity, project development, and restructuring and insolvency.
- M&A and private equity: the buyer and target must be in a different jurisdiction and the target must be headquartered in Sub-Saharan Africa.
- Projects: the project must be located in Sub-Saharan Africa.

Teams of the year

These apply to a firm's entire practice group, rather than a specific team within it and will consider work completed across the entire region. Firms can enter any or all the categories listed below. Complete one [Team of the year](#) form for each category, using the deals appendix to tell us about the deals your firm has worked on to back your nomination. If a deal has already been entered as a deal of the year, just refer to that briefly on the team form.

- Banking & finance team of the year
- Capital markets team of the year
- M&A team of the year
- Private equity team of the year
- Projects team of the year*
- Restructuring team of the year

*This team award may be split into infrastructure and natural resources (including oil & gas, mining etc)

National firm awards

National firm awards will be given to a firm based solely on its best track record providing local law advice on the most innovative deals closed between end-May 2019 and end-May 2020. This includes banking and finance, capital markets, M&A, private equity, projects and restructurings. Law firms must have a registered office in the relevant jurisdiction. We recommend listing no more than six deals per form.

Complete one [National firm of the year](#) form for each jurisdiction in which you are nominating your firm. Use the deals appendix to tell us about the deals your firm has worked on. If a deal has already been entered as a deal of the year, please refer to that briefly on the national form.

If you have submitted to IFLR1000 there is no need to resubmit information

Law firm of the year for:

- Ghana
- Kenya
- Lusophone Africa*
- Mauritius
- Nigeria
- OHADA
- South Africa
- Tanzania
- Uganda

*Angola and Mozambique

In Kenya, Nigeria and South Africa we will be awarding firm of the year by practice area as well as an overall firm of the year:

Kenya

- Corporate finance team of the year: Kenya
- Projects team of the year: Kenya

Nigeria

- Banking and finance team of the year: Nigeria
- Corporate team of the year: Nigeria
- Energy and infrastructure team of the year: Nigeria
- Oil & gas team of the year: Nigeria

South Africa

- Banking and finance team of the year: South Africa
- Capital markets team of the year: South Africa
- Corporate team of the year: South Africa
- Projects team of the year: South Africa

In-house team of the year

This award will go to an in-house team and will be based on legally innovative work/projects by the team that closed during the research period. Teams are invited to make nominations. Law firms can also nominate in-house teams. Please use the [In-house team of the year form](#).

Individual awards

These awards will be given to individuals that stand out in each category as having made an impact on the legal landscape, sufficient to distinguish them from their peers. We welcome direct nominations and have provided an [Individual awards](#) form. The categories are:

- **Lawyer of the year**
- **Rising star award**
- **IFLR Woman in business law**
- **Lifetime achievement award**

Please refer to the [Individual awards](#) form to nominate candidates.

Lawyer(s) of the year: this award will recognise a number of lawyers based on their roles on the most innovative transactions and their impact on the legal landscape during the research period.

Rising star(s): this award will recognise a number of rising stars. Ideal candidates will be senior associates with not much more or less than 10 years' post qualification experience.

We also encourage you to include additional information such as CVs, biographies and deal lists. You can also list associates that had important roles on your key deals on the deal of the year forms. The winner(s) will be selected after consideration of both written nominations and research calls.

Woman in business law: the winner of the Woman in business law award will be based on recent work and achievements. We will focus on work that breaks new ground and sets an example for women in business law in the region.

Lifetime achievement: recommendations for this award can come from within your firm or further afield (private practice or regulator). The candidate must be a lawyer, and the focus is on a candidate recently retired or near retirement who has throughout their career made a significant impact on market practice, in shaping standards and influencing the market legal framework, and in mentoring the next generation of lawyers. We look primarily at achievements or a career that has impacted at a cross-border level.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

How do you choose the winners?

The nominations provided by law firms and in-house teams are part of our decision-making process as are any relevant IFLR1000 submissions. The internal judging panel will use these, in conjunction with interviews with law firms and in-house counsel, to select the most innovative deals of the year. Ultimately the decision is that of IFLR. It is not the result of a poll and we do not use an external panel of judges.

We find this to be the best way to retain integrity and consistency across all our awards in Europe, Asia-Pacific, the Americas and the Middle East. Our journalists apply the same analysis and methodology to each. It is not hard to discover the true legal innovation, and the one that has had the greatest market impact.

We find that using a judging committee or selection of clients to pick the winners makes it impossible to retain consistency and comparability across the geographies and years.

How do you decide what is innovative?

When searching for innovation, IFLR looks for new legal structures, deals that overcome new regulatory hurdles and regional firsts that adapt existing technology to local regulation. The difficulty and intricacy of that innovation is assessed, as well as its likely market impact.

The role of the individual law firm on the deal is also considered in order to decide how much credit the firm should receive towards the team of the year awards and national law firm of the year awards.

Can I talk to/meet a researcher?

If you want to talk to us please contact awards editor James Wilson: james.wilson@legalmediagroup.com / + 44 (0) 1326 212 451.

When is the deadline?

Please send us your submission by July 14 2020.

Must deals have reached final close by the end of May 2020?

Yes. All deals must have reached financial close between May 31 2019 and May 31 2020. Deals that have been announced or signed cannot be considered.

How many people have you contacted at my firm?

We have usually only approached one person at each law firm. We would like you to coordinate the response from your firm. If you are not the appropriate person or would prefer us to contact other people ourselves, please tell us immediately to ensure that your firm is not omitted.

How do you divide advertising and editorial?

There is no connection between advertising and the success of a deal or firm in IFLR's surveys or awards. The IFLR legal awards are built on editorial objectivity.

What will you do with information about clients?

IFLR speaks to in-house contacts to help assess which deals are the most innovative. Our researchers will call contacts that you provide. The contacts will be used for no other purpose than IFLR editorial research.

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