

Benchmark Litigation Asia-Pacific 2027 Research Webinar

Frequently Asked Questions

1. Do we need separate submissions for each practice area, city ranking or jurisdiction?

Firms should submit a separate research form for each dispute resolution practice area they wish to be considered for. However, there is no separate submission form for city rankings.

Specifically for India, as it is currently the only jurisdiction within Benchmark Litigation Asia-Pacific that includes dedicated city rankings, domestic firms with offices in multiple Indian cities should list all relevant office locations in the "Jurisdictions/states/provinces submitting for" field at the top of the submission form. This helps us to assess the firm's geographic footprint.

For example:

Jurisdiction/State(s)/Province(s) submitting for:	India (Delhi, Mumbai, Hyderabad, Bangalore)
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For jurisdictions outside India, firms generally only need to specify the jurisdiction itself, as city-level rankings are not currently published.

2. Can we use our own submission template instead of the Benchmark form?

Yes. Firms may use their own submission templates if preferred. However, please ensure that all information requested in the Benchmark research form is addressed somewhere in your submission. This helps our researchers conduct a complete and fair assessment.

Additionally, all awards nominations must be made via our Benchmark Litigation Global Research Form.

3. What is the difference between Litigation Stars and Future Stars? Are there minimum years of practice or partnership requirements?

There is no strict years-of-practice threshold that separates Litigation Stars from Future Stars. In general, Future Stars tend to be exceptional senior associates, counsel or

junior partners, while Litigation Stars are often more established practitioners. Rankings are determined through a combination of market feedback, client feedback, peer review, interviews and submission analysis rather than by seniority alone.

4. If a lawyer is already ranked, do they need to be nominated again?

No. If a lawyer is already ranked by Benchmark Litigation as either a Litigation Star or a Future Star, there is no need to re-nominate them in the submission form each year.

Unless there has been a significant change in the lawyer's circumstances, existing ranked practitioners will maintain their recognitions. Examples of significant changes may include moving in-house, switching to become a barrister, retirement, passing away, disbarment, or other developments that materially affect their eligibility for ranking.

For Future Stars seeking promotion to Litigation Star, there is also no need to re-nominate them. Our research team reviews all ranked Future Stars during each research cycle and continually assesses whether they have reached the appropriate level for promotion based on their work, market standing, client feedback, peer feedback and overall profile.

That said, we strongly encourage firms to continue providing details of significant work highlights, promotions, leadership roles and other notable achievements involving their ranked practitioners, as this helps researchers conduct a thorough assessment. If a firm believes a particular Future star should be considered for promotion, this can be highlighted separately during interviews, via email, or through the lawyer survey, rather than through a new nomination in the research form

5. If a lawyer practises across more than one area, how should they be nominated?

Lawyers should generally be nominated in the practice area that best reflects their principal disputes practice. Where a practitioner has a substantial profile across multiple disciplines, they may be considered across more than one ranking table. The Primary and Secondary Practice Area fields help researchers understand the nature of the work and ensure matters are allocated to the most appropriate tables.

6. Who can be submitted as a referee?

Fee-paying client referees are typically the most valuable source of feedback and are strongly encouraged. However, firms may also submit referees such as co-counsel,

counterparties, barristers and other legal professionals who are familiar with the practitioner's work and standing in the market and can comment.

8. Does the seniority or designation of a referee matter?

We place greater emphasis on the quality, relevance and substance of the feedback than on the referee's job title. Both General Counsel and mid-level in-house counsel can provide highly valuable feedback where they have direct experience working with the firm.

9. Will firms be notified when referee outreach begins? Can referees contact Benchmark directly?

Yes. Firms will be notified around November 4 that we will send out the referee survey around November 11. Please refer to the webinar for further details.

Referees are welcome to contact us directly if they have not received a survey email or require assistance completing the process.

10. If we are submitting for multiple practice areas, how many referee spreadsheets should we upload?

Only one referee spreadsheet should be submitted per firm. There is no need to upload separate referee forms for each practice area. The referee spreadsheet is linked to your submission account, so it should be one client referee form per law firm.

11. What information should be included in the Practice Group Revenue field?

We are generally seeking revenue information relating to the relevant disputes or litigation practice. Firms may provide the data at the level they track internally, provided it offers a meaningful indication of the size and strength of the practice.

12. Where should we include cross-referral information?

Cross-referral data can be included within the Litigation/Dispute resolution overview section or emailed as a separate attachment to the research analyst as a supplement to your submission. Any information that helps illustrate the firm's disputes capabilities and market position is welcome.

13. What is the maximum number of matters that can be submitted?

Firms may nominate up to three award matters and submit up to 20 additional case highlights per practice area. This represents a maximum of 23 matters per practice area. We encourage firms to focus on their strongest and most representative work rather than attempting to include every matter handled during the research period.

14. Do award nominations also contribute to the rankings research?

Yes. Matters included in the Awards Nominations section are assessed both for awards consideration and as part of our overall evaluation of the firm's disputes capabilities. Firms should therefore not duplicate these matters within the Case Highlights section.

15. Are award nominations required to be considered for an award?

Yes. Only matters submitted through the Awards Nominations section will be considered for Benchmark Litigation awards. Firms that wish to be considered for awards should ensure that their strongest matters are included in this section and submitted in the Benchmark form.

16. How important is the submission timeframe? Can matters outside the period be included?

The stated research period should be followed wherever possible. However, researchers may take exceptional matters into consideration where they fall slightly outside the designated timeframe and remain highly relevant to understanding a firm's recent disputes practice.

17. How does Benchmark treat confidential matters?

Confidential matters are assessed in the same manner as publishable matters. Researchers focus on the significance, complexity, innovation and market impact of the work rather than its confidentiality status. Firms may submit confidential matters without naming clients where necessary, particularly in sensitive areas such as investigations and white-collar crime. Information marked in red is simply treated as confidential and does not influence the assessment positively or negatively.

18. Why are some practice areas available in certain jurisdictions but not others?

Practice area coverage is developed based on market maturity, submission volume and evidence of specialist disputes activity within a jurisdiction. We review jurisdictional coverage regularly and may expand or adjust rankings tables as markets continue to evolve.

19. Should submissions focus only on contentious work?

Benchmark Litigation is a disputes-focused publication. Where practice areas include both contentious and non-contentious elements, firms should only submit matters that demonstrate disputes, investigations, enforcement, regulatory or litigation expertise.

20. What is the difference between participating and not participating in the research process?

While submission is not mandatory, participating in the research process allows firms to provide researchers with greater detail regarding their work, lawyers and recent developments. This enables a more informed assessment for rankings and awards. Firms that do not submit may still be researched, but our evaluation will rely more heavily on independent market feedback and publicly available information.