

**Instructions for Texas Lawyer
2018 Litigation Departments of the Year Award**

Midsized and Small Firms

Deadline: May 1, 2018

We invite you to participate in the Texas Lawyer Litigation Departments of the Year contest for Midsized and Small Firms.

Texas Lawyer's Litigation Departments of the Year contest has two distinct categories – a contest to award the top department in **general litigation**, as well as a contest to determine **the top specialty practice groups**. The competition is open to any law firm with a Texas presence. We are trying to identify and reward powerhouse practices in our area. But we understand that many lawyers and law firms now have regional or national practices. Therefore we would like you to submit matters lead by lawyers from **Texas**. **But those cases need not have been filed or tried in one of our local courts.**

We plan to group the entrants by firm size—small and midsized. For each category, we will have two competitions--one for midsized firms (50-199 lawyers) and one for small firms (1-49 lawyers).

Please note that this contest is not for large firms (more than 200 lawyers). If you're interested in submitting a nomination for our large firm litigation team contest Texas, please see [The American Lawyer's Regional Litigation Department of the Year Contest here](#).

We plan to name winners in each category but, depending on the quality of the entrants, may have multiple winners or runners-up in one group and none in another.

Please compose separate submissions for the general and specialty contests and submit all materials via e-mail to editorialawards@alm.com with **“Texas Lawyer Litigation Department”** and the category in the subject line.

For each contest, we are asking you to submit one Word or PDF document with the following:

- A list of cases with brief descriptions of their significance
- An essay of up to 1,000 words explaining why your firm should win
- Completed basic information section in your submission: Firm headquarters location, firm location office represented in this submission and contact person.

1. GENERAL LITIGATION CONTEST

Describe 4-5 litigation results that demonstrate your department's excellence.

- This list can and should include results obtained pre-trial, at trial or on appeal. It may include pro bono cases.
- Please rank them in order of importance. By importance we mean both significance of the result for your client and contribution made by your lawyers.
- The results must have occurred between Jan. 1, 2017 and Dec. 31, 2017
- Please describe each case in no more than 500 words.
- Each result must have been achieved by lawyers while they were members of your firm based in your **Texas office**. Do not include results achieved by lateral hires when they were working for a different firm.
- For each result, please include the names of clients, lead partners and opposing counsel, as well as contact information for all involved.
- Descriptions of results should include specific dollar amounts where relevant, but should focus on why the result demonstrates the excellence of your department.
- Unless otherwise marked, all information submitted will be considered **on-the-record**.
- **Note:** If your client was represented by more than one firm, please specify your firm's role.
- **In your submission, please name someone at your firm whom we may contact with questions.**

Write an essay explaining why your firm should be a finalist.

- *Essay should be no longer than 1,000 words.*
- Tell us why you should win. Factors we're looking for are importance and difficulty of the matters handled; the quality of opposing counsel; ingenuity and diligence. This is no place for false modesty!

2. SPECIALTY PRACTICE AREA CONTEST

The specialty contest will award departments focused in each of these areas: 1. intellectual property; 2. Energy; and 3. Appellate. You are welcome to compete in more than one specialty category, but *separate submissions will be expected for each.*

Describe 3-4 litigation results that demonstrate your department's excellence in this specialty.

- This list should include both trial and appellate work.
- The results must have occurred between Jan. 1, 2017 and Dec. 31, 2017.
- Keep descriptions of each individual case *under 500 words.*
- Each result must have been achieved by lawyers while they were members of your firm based in your **Texas office**. Do not include results achieved by lateral hires when they were working for a different firm.
- For each result, please include the names of clients, lead partners and opposing counsel, as well as contact information for all involved whenever possible.
- Descriptions of results should include specific dollar amounts where relevant, but should focus on why the result demonstrates the excellence of your department.
- Unless otherwise marked, all information submitted will be considered **on-the-record**.
- **Note:** If your client was represented by more than one firm, please specify your firm's role.
- **In your submission, please name someone at your firm whom we may contact with questions.**

Write an essay explaining why your firm should be a finalist *in this specialty area.*

- *Essay should be no longer than 1,000 words.*
- Tell us why you should win. Factors we're looking for are importance and difficulty of the matters handled; the quality of opposing counsel; ingenuity and diligence. This is no place for false modesty!

Any questions, please contact **Heather Nevitt at hnevitt@alm.com** The deadline for submissions is **May 1**.

Please return completed nomination form via email to editorialawards@alm.com with **“Texas Lawyer Litigation Department”** and the category in the subject line.