

TIMETABLE

Referees should reach us no later than Friday 22 November 2019

Editorial submissions should reach us no later than Friday 22 November 2019

Follow-up research will be conducted by telephone interviews between early December 2019 and 24 January 2020

Details of the researchers will be posted on our website shortly before research begins at:
<http://www.legal500.com/assets/pages/submissions/us-submissions/home.html>

When preparing submissions, remember that:

NATIONAL: The Legal 500 focuses primarily on national practices (it is not a state-by-state analysis of local markets)

ELITE: In the 2019 edition, The Legal 500 United States ranked just 299 firms, all operating on a national level

Your submission should therefore focus on national areas of practice where the firm is a clear market-leader.

INDUSTRY FOCUS

Practice areas researched

DEADLINE: Friday 22 November 2019

The following practice areas will be covered in the editorial. Please refer to the editorial at legal500.com to see last year's rankings.

These guidelines are a new edition The Legal 500 United States. The information in these definitions does not represent an exhaustive list of possible workflows, work types, clients or complementary expertise of each section. They are a general guideline, designed to assist you.

If you have any feedback regarding these guidelines, please feel free send your feedback to ian.deering@legal500.com.

- Energy litigation: conventional power;
- Energy litigation: oil and gas;
- Energy regulation: conventional power;
- Energy regulation: oil and gas;
- Energy transactions: conventional power;
- Energy transactions: oil and gas;

The conventional power and oil and gas sections, as industry focus sections, are considering the full range of work a firm may do for clients in the energy space, split across litigation, regulation, and corporate and commercial transactions. The energy litigation sections cover a range of private litigation. In addition, while administrative proceedings may also be considered in this section, that is not the emphasis, as we rank firms' regulatory expertise separately. On the regulatory front, we would expect the strongest submissions to be handling the market's most high-profile agency investigations and enforcement matters, in addition to the DOE and FERC regulatory components of industry transactions and site operations. In the transactional space, we are considering power and energy asset transactions, commercial deals, and energy company M&A, among other transactions; however, this section does not specifically include the financing of energy projects, although that may be considered a complementary service (see project finance). Please note that the conventional power currently also covers nuclear energy for the purposes of ranking.

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INDUSTRY FOCUS
Editorial submission request

● Energy: Renewable/Alternative Power

Similar to the conventional power and oil and gas sections, the renewable/alternative power section covers renewable or alternative power litigation, regulation, and transactions; however, we ask for only one submission in this area. This section covers the traditional renewable sectors including water, wind, solar, biomass, etc. It does not however currently cover nuclear power for the purposes of ranking (see conventional power), though this skill set may be included in an editorial. For an idea of the types of work we would consider in each of the three areas, see the conventional power and oil and gas sections.

● Environment: litigation;

● Environment: regulation;

● Environment: transactional

Our environment section is broken into three rankings: litigation, regulation, and transactional. The litigation ranking looks primarily at government enforcement actions and legal challenges to regulatory pronouncements, though there may also be a degree of overlap with toxic tort litigation and liability disputes. For regulation, we will be looking at a variety of environmental compliance work including water rights, waste management, and the super fund program. Finally, the transactional section is typically looking at due diligence and the assessment of environmental risks.

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INDUSTRY FOCUS

Editorial submission request

- Healthcare: advice to health insurers;
- Healthcare: advice to service providers
- Healthcare: life sciences

Healthcare is broken into advice to health insurers, advice to service providers, and life sciences, the last of which is slightly different than the first two. For advice to health insurers and advice to service providers, we are looking for firms that have dedicated expertise in the healthcare sector; this means that the strongest submissions will be those that are able to advise the relevant industry participants on the full range of corporate, commercial, litigation, and regulatory mandates. In the life sciences ranking we will be considering many of the same factors, however, we will also give particular consideration to complementary service groups in IP and technology. Across all of these sections, examples of complementary practice areas could include but are not limited to privacy, data protection, and commercial contracts.

- Insurance: advice to insurers;
- Insurance: advice to policyholders;
- Insurance: non-contentious

For the advice to insurers and advice to policyholders sections, the main driver of standout work will be high-stakes litigation. Relevant work includes but is not limited to general/commercial liability claims, D&O disputes, major professional liability disputes, energy-related disputes, and aviation and maritime insurance claims. This section may also have a degree of overlap with the contentious healthcare, environment, or labor and employment sections. In the non-contentious section, we will be looking at a variety of corporate, financing, and commercial transactions for clients in the insurance industry. This section will also consider advice on the regulatory components of the creation of new insurance products. Finally, insurtech is typically considered in the fintech section; however, firms are also encouraged to highlight any such expertise in this section as well, though this should not be the focus of the insurance sections. Examples of complementary practice areas could include but are not limited to privacy, data protection, fintech, and commercial contracts.

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● Sport

Sport is a broad industry category, and we are generally ranking firms based on their dedication to and breadth of service to clients in the industry. Some of strongest work in this section will be industry-specific litigation. The highest profile cases will change very much depending on market trends, but player disciplinary proceedings and employment-related litigation are often examples of strong work. On the non-contentious side, we will be looking at firms handling the market's largest or most transformational corporate or commercial transactions. Firms should also highlight the extent to which their employment teams have dedicated expertise in the industry. Clients in this section will often be sports teams, leagues, or associations, but may also include companies and organizations involved in buy-side sponsorship or rights deals..

- Transport: aviation and air travel - finance
- Transport: aviation and air travel - litigation and regulation
- Transport: rail and road - finance
- Transport: rail and road - litigation and regulation
- Transport: shipping and maritime - finance
- Transport: shipping and maritime - litigation and regulation

This year's transport sections are split into aviation and air travel, rail and road, and shipping; however, the subcategories this year are split into finance on the one hand, and litigation and regulatory on the other hand. In our guide the finance sections are born of a larger asset finance section, but these sections may also include various leasing deals, portfolio transactions, and other corporate deals. The litigation and regulation sections deal primarily with litigation and regulation that is specific to the industry sector, and these issues will vary tremendously from aviation, to land transport, to shipping. In the aviation sector, we may expect to see issues such as tort and disaster litigation, FAA compliance, and UAS regulation; in rail and road, we would consider pre-emption claims, crash litigation, environmental matters, and administrative proceedings, among other issues; and finally in the shipping space, the strongest submissions will often include standout examples of litigation and regulation spanning brown-water, blue-water, and green-water matters.

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