

We will soon be starting research for the 2024 edition of *The Legal 500 Asia Pacific*, and invite you to provide us with editorial submissions along the attached guidelines.

Editorial submissions and referee spreadsheets for all sections in this guide should reach us no later than **Monday 12 June 2023**.

If you have any queries, please check the FAQs at <https://www.legal500.com/wp-content/uploads/sites/18/2023/03/asia-pacific-faqs-2024.pdf>. If you still have questions, please contact us through [www.legal500.com/faqs](https://www.legal500.com/faqs).

Those viewing these guidelines may also wish to participate in our new coverage of arbitrators, for which we also have separate guidelines.

Fuller guidance on the definitions of the practice areas are included at the end of this document.

Yours sincerely



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## TIMETABLE

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2024

## Submissions by practice area

The editorial of the Bar coverage in The Legal 500 is generally structured by practice area. Within each practice area, there is a list of leading sets. We also rank silks (QCs/SCs/PCs/SAs) and junior barristers in separate tables.

Chambers in Hong Kong, Australia and England are required to use our new submissions template. An alternative template for India and Sri Lanka is also available. Both should be downloaded from [legal500.com/the-legal-500-submission-information/asia-pacific-submissions](https://legal500.com/the-legal-500-submission-information/asia-pacific-submissions).

Following the template, the submissions should contain:

- 1) Contact details**
- 2) Practice area overview**
- 3) Information on the management of that practice (including clerking, where appropriate)\***
- 4) Feedback on the previous edition**
- 5) Information on arrivals and departures in chambers\***
- 6) Information on individual barristers/advocates (silks followed by leading juniors followed by rising stars), including five work highlights for each.**

Sections denoted with an asterisk (\*) are not included in the template for India and Sri Lanka.

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## Rankings defined

### In The English Bar in Asia, Hong Kong and Australia

**Leading sets:** Our chambers practice rankings assess the collective strength of a set; its general reputation in the market; the scope of each practice area; the quality of work handled by its members over the past year; the number of its members recommended in the previous edition of *The Legal 500*; and the seniority/profile of its barristers/advocates.

**Leading silks:** Silks ranked in our guide undertake the most complex, high-profile, and high-value work within their respective fields of expertise. They will regularly appear in the higher courts against other leading silks, and be instructed by leading law firms and noteworthy clients. Their skill and expertise are recognised by both clients and peers alike.

**New silks:** We rank new silks who were either featured in our juniors coverage, or otherwise demonstrate work in this practice area through the submission process. Our editorial policy is that new silks will not be considered for entry into the leading silks rankings for 24 months following their appointment. We do not automatically move new silks into the leading silks rankings after this 24-month period.

**Leading juniors:** Barristers ranked within our leading juniors tables are able to show a track record of working on complex, high-profile, and high-value instructions, either working unled or as a junior to more senior barristers/advocates or silks. Juniors are considered for these rankings once they have passed eight years call. They will regularly appear in the higher courts against other leading silks, and be instructed by leading law firms and noteworthy clients. Their skill and expertise are recognised by both clients and peers alike.

**Rising stars:** Junior barristers/advocates between four and eight years call are considered for our new rising stars ranking. Counsel must demonstrate an early aptitude for undertaking legally complex and challenging cases, either unled, or as a first or second junior to senior counsel. They will be recognised by clients and peers as future leading juniors. We do not automatically move rising stars into the leading juniors rankings once they exceed eight years call.

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#### **In India and Sri Lanka**

We will rank individual senior advocates and their chambers as one entity. Editorials will make reference to any junior advocates in chambers of note.

#### **Confidentiality**

All information provided to us may be published by all The Legal 500 and Legalease Ltd products, unless it is marked as confidential. Please identify clearly any confidential information – whether client names, deal or case values, or other details – by marking that information **CONFIDENTIAL**, in bold red and upper case.

**Please use red typeface for all of the confidential information.**

Please avoid putting global confidentiality restrictions at the front of submissions. Please also try to be as clear as possible about what exactly is confidential; is it the case as a whole, the name of the client, or the issue/value at stake?

#### **Detailed submission guidelines**

For each individual practice area, please provide the following using the submission template available at **[legal500.com/the-legal-500-submission-information/asia-pacific-submissions](https://legal500.com/the-legal-500-submission-information/asia-pacific-submissions)**. A previous version of the template was accepted for submissions for the 2023 United Kingdom guide, but this has now been fully sunsetted.

#### **Practice area overview**

Please supply a brief practice overview dealing with the key achievements of the set within each practice area over the last 12 months. The overview should indicate the number of barristers who belong to the practice group, or practise in this area, the individual in chambers who leads the practice group, and the clerk most closely associated with its management. Our aim is to assess the collective strength of chambers in each practice area as a whole. The overview should also reflect, for example, standout cases in which more than one barrister within the set has been instructed, including any teams of barristers which have been

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deployed on a particular case. In particular, we are interested in cases in which members of chambers have been instructed on both sides, or for multiple defendants, including both as leaders and juniors. Please do not send us copies of the chambers' website, CVs (unless as indicated) or brochures, or repeat this information in the submission.

**Feedback on the previous edition**

Chambers' feedback on the market as a whole is important. Please include a brief section in your submission indicating whether you agree with the editorial and rankings of the current edition. This is the starting point for the research, so you are encouraged to provide feedback, including advising as to suggested rankings for the new edition. (Please bear in mind that sets and individuals are ranked alphabetically within tiers.)

**Barristers and their work highlights**

This subsection should include individual barristers in the practice area group, who are currently ranked, or who you feel deserve ranking, whether silks, juniors, or rising stars. It should include their call year and, if applicable, their silk year; an introduction to their practice; and five detailed cases per barrister which illustrate the nature and calibre of their practice. Matters should be cases of legal significance (including ongoing or appellate appearances) and/or of factual complexity, high public profile, or commercial importance, or an example of service quality. Cases should ideally fall within the twelve months prior to submission as the focus of the research is on recent work.

As always, if you think older work is significant – or would help us better to understand the nature of a practice – then please include it in the historical cases section of individuals' submissions and explain why it is of interest. Chambers are warned against overloading the submission with details unlikely to assist researchers.

Please mention if the case involved other leading or junior counsel, as well as the names and chambers of any opposing counsel, and details of any pending appeal. Cases or arbitrations which ultimately resulted in settlement can be mentioned subject to the requirements of client confidentiality. Positive judicial comment as to counsel's assistance (as reported) is also useful. **New entries:**

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If there are silks or juniors who you believe should be included in the upcoming edition but are not included in the current edition, please let us know, setting out the case for their inclusion, subject to our policy on new silks above. You should specifically indicate why you believe the individual should be included and supply referees, together with an indication of any work done against their peers who have been previously ranked in *The Legal 500 Asia Pacific*. If a barrister's practice has changed in nature and their current ranking is no longer appropriate, please indicate this and the area to which their ranking should now apply, if any.

## References

Please provide details of referees whom we can contact for feedback. There is no limit on the number of referees you can send. Referees should have instructed counsel within the last 12-18 months. Greater weight will be given to work carried out recently than to historic cases, and to the views of instructing solicitors and clients. You are asked to specify the category into which each referee falls (Instructing solicitor; or Other), to enable us to tailor our reference requests appropriately. If you fail to do this then our researchers may not receive all the market feedback they need to assess practices and chambers as a whole.

Details of referees must be provided in a separate document, as a spreadsheet in the prescribed format. The templates can be found at **legal500.com/the-legal-500-submission-information/asia-pacific-submissions**.

To clarify how the referee spreadsheets are used, referees will be contacted by email shortly after the start of the research period, asking them for feedback in relation to the barrister in question. They will also receive an email upon publication of the guide, stating that the results of the research are available to view, free of charge. Referees will not be put on any marketing lists.

The Legal 500 series contacted approximately 30,000 referees for the UK Bar research alone in 2021. To ensure referees are not repeatedly contacted, it takes time to process and deduplicate the spreadsheets. The referee deadline is a hard cut-off that must be adhered to and we are unlikely to be able to contact any referees that we receive late.

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## ASIA PACIFIC – THE BAR EDITORIAL SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

### Appendix – practice area guidance

#### The English Bar in Asia

*Please note the new separate ranking for arbitrators in Asia, which will include both full and part-time arbitrators; arbitral appointments will no longer be considered here. This section covers those who practise as advocates, primarily through an English barristers chambers with a particular focus on work in Asia over and above that typical for specialists in that area, including close direct relations with firms based in Asia. It is envisaged that much or most of this work will be international arbitration connected to Hong Kong and Singapore, but it is our aim to feature a full range of Asia, defined along the same lines as our firms coverage: notably the Middle East is not, neither are the Central Asian nations which were part of the Soviet Union. Work in the BVI/Cayman courts with Asian connections should be submitted for The English Bar Offshore. Those who do work in the Hong Kong, Australian, Indian and Sri Lankan courts on permanent admissions should submit for those Bar sections.*

**Commercial:** This section covers the full range of commercial disputes, mostly in arbitration but to some extent including work in the Singapore International Commercial Court, which do not fit in to the construction, energy and infrastructure sections, or the shipping and commodities ones.

**Construction, energy and infrastructure:** Similar definitions apply on those individual words to the London section. Disputes concerning the supply of energy-generating commodities should be submitted as shipping and commodities; energy infrastructure which is designed to move on or through water (e.g. drill ships) should generally be submitted for shipping and commodities as well.

**Shipping and commodities:** Similar definitions apply on those individual words to the London section. Disputes concerning the supply of energy-generating commodities should be submitted here, as should disputes concerning drill ships and similar.

#### The Australian Bar

**Commercial disputes:** This section covers the full range of commercial disputes, including “mainstream” commercial litigation,

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**2024**

international arbitration, and public law matters of commercial relevance.

**Competition:** Work covered here includes litigation concerning cartel investigations, merger control, abuse of dominance, follow-on damages claims and state aid matters. Criminal cartel offences are best submitted for crime and regulatory.

**Construction, infrastructure and property:** This section covers all manner of work concerning the use of land, from the planning process through building to the full spectrum of disputes around the use of buildings. Work concerning agricultural land should be included here.

**Crime and regulatory (including white-collar crime):** This section includes the full range of criminal and quasi-criminal work. This includes everything from both violent and white-collar criminal law work, health and safety offences and criminal fraud, as well as professional regulation and contentious financial services regulation.

**TMT and IP:** This section covers the full range of intellectual property disputes, covering trade marks, patents and copyright work, as well as other commercial disputes with specific focus on technology, media and telecoms matters – this would include defamation work, for instance.

#### **The Hong Kong Bar**

**Administrative and public law:** This section includes a very broad range of work involving the relationship between individuals and elements of the state. A deliberately broader scope in this area is taken than in some other jurisdictions – notably, those in tax, immigration, social housing, public international law, professional regulation and civil actions against the police. Planning, however, is covered in “property, construction and planning”.

**Commercial disputes:** This section includes commercial disputes in the broadest sense of the term. This would include all manner of commercial litigation, including intellectual property, technology, media law and other matters, commercial

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Chancery work, professional negligence, international arbitration, competition law and much more.

**Competition:** All work of the Bar concerning copyright, trade marks, and patents, as well as the full gamut of more exotic forms of IP including plant breeding rights and similar are covered here.

**Construction and property:** This section covers all manner of work concerning the use of land, from the planning process through building to the full spectrum of disputes around the use of buildings. It is envisaged that construction practitioners will be a key part of this table.

**Family and private client:** This includes the full range of family law, both financial remedy and child law, mental capacity-related work, trusts matters, contentious probate and similar.

**Intellectual property:** All work of the Bar concerning copyright, trade marks, and patents, as well as the full gamut of more exotic forms of IP including plant breeding rights and similar are covered here.

**Labour and employment:** This section includes the full range of employment work for employers, trade unions and individual employees. The top barristers will feature in both court and tribunal work, with typical cases concerning unfair dismissal, sexual harassment, workplace discrimination, injunctions related to individual and team moves, whistle-blowing matters, and the enforcement of restrictive covenants, internal investigation and worker status, with the application of data protection law to the workplace a notable emerging area and disputes over pay and bonuses also germane.

**Regulatory, investigations and crime:** This section includes the full range of criminal and quasi-criminal work. This includes everything from both violent and white-collar criminal law work, health and safety offences and criminal fraud, as well as professional regulation and contentious financial services regulation.

**Shipping and aviation:** Work covered by the shipping prong of

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this section includes claims concerning collisions, damage, loss and cargo, charterparty and bills of lading disputes, as well as shipbuilding, and ship sale and purchase. Shipping finance disputes are covered owing to the specialist nature of the shipping industry. Work will include matters related to casualties, ship arrests, sanctions and insurance claims, with lay clients including shipping companies and P&I clubs. The aviation prong covers analogous work concerning aircraft, mutatis mutandis.

#### India – Senior Advocates and Sri Lanka – Lead Counsel

These sections are deliberately wide-ranging, covering trial advocacy in the full range of disputes of commercial and economic relevance, including but not limited to commercial litigation, international arbitration, IP, construction law, white-collar crime, Chancery litigation and white-collar crime.

#### Regional International Arbitration

**Arbitrators:** Please see the separate submission guidelines for arbitrators - this section is open primarily to the self-employed Bar, and also those in law firms as well.

**Counsel:** This is a section for the elite of arbitration practitioners active in Asia from the self-employed Bar in jurisdictions with that structure, such as Australia, England and Wales, Hong Kong, India, New Zealand or Sri Lanka, and on a case by case practices of advocates with chambers type structures operating in Asia-Pacific. Those who are solicitor-advocates or employed barristers at law firms cannot be ranked for this section. In order to avoid duplication, please check your jurisdiction to see what, if any, separate submissions are required as this section includes work that is likely to be included in other submissions

**Those who submit for The English Bar in Asia:** As all three sections primarily consider international arbitration at their core, we do not request or require further submissions. Please do not send in a separate submission or referees (include any you wish to be contacted in your spreadsheets for The English Bar in Asia). That said, this section is likely to be more selective than the three individual practice areas of The English Bar in Asia, particularly for those who are specialists in one of the three practice areas and

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handle cases on a fly-in-fly-out basis. Counsel who are capable of analysing documents in Asian languages other than English may find themselves at a slight advantage.

**Those who submit for the Australia, Hong Kong, Sri Lanka and**

**India Bar sections:** You are encouraged to send in a standalone submission for this section with work highlights selected exclusively from the international arbitration cases in your practice. Please submit your referees for commercial disputes in your jurisdiction - note that international arbitration specialists can and should continue to submit for commercial disputes.

**Those from other self-employed Bars:** Please send in freestanding referees and submissions.

**Law firms:** Please see the separate law firms submission guidelines, however this section is not open to the self-employed Bar and only included in this list for completeness.