

Law360's Rising Stars FAQs

For the ninth straight year, Law360 will name the top legal talent under 40. To view last year's series, click [here](#).

When is the deadline?

- The deadline is 8 p.m. ET/5 p.m. PT on June 14.

Can someone who has already won be nominated again?

- No. This is a change from previous years - we want the Rising Stars award to be something you win once and then are a Law360 Rising Star for life, so we will no longer be accepting submissions of people who have won this award before.
- Please help us out by operating on the honor system with this rule change. We will check thoroughly to make sure submissions don't overlap with previous winners, but our lives will be infinitely easier if people follow this rule.

What are these three new award areas I'm not familiar with?

- **Fintech** - This encompasses software and technology used to provide financial services. It includes cryptocurrencies such as bitcoin, other financial blockchain products, internet banking, crowdfunding, artificial intelligence, contactless payments and a host of other methods for providing financial services.
- **Fund formation** - This encompasses the fundraising or formation of any type of investment entity, including hedge funds, private equity funds and sovereign wealth funds. (The private equity category will therefore be reserved for non-fundraising deals, litigation and regulation in the PE space.)
- **Securitization** - This encompasses work on financial instruments that involve packaging debt or another asset and reselling it as a security - CLOs, CDOs, mortgage-backed securities, etc.

What is the word limit?

- The total word limit for the form is **2,250 words**. There is space on the submission form to describe five significant matters handled by the attorney since the beginning of last year (**250 words each**), the attorney's influence and what distinguishes him/her from his/her peers (**500 words**) and space to add any additional information for our editors (**500 words**).
- A full list of the questions asked on the form is available [here](#).

Who can we nominate?

- We welcome nominations for international and U.S.-based attorneys who are under 40 years old as of April 30, 2019.
- We are accepting nominations for attorneys who work in the following practice areas: Aerospace & Defense, Appellate, Asset Management, Banking, Bankruptcy, Benefits, Capital Markets, Class Action, Competition/Antitrust, Construction, Consumer Protection,

Cybersecurity & Privacy, Employment, Energy, Environmental, Fintech, Food & Beverage, Fund Formation, Government Contracts, Health Care, Hospitality, Immigration, Insurance, Intellectual Property, International Arbitration, International Trade, Legal Ethics, Life Sciences, Media & Entertainment, Mergers & Acquisitions, Native American, Personal Injury & Medical Malpractice, Private Equity, Product Liability, Project Finance, Real Estate, Retail & E-Commerce, Securities, Securitization, Sports, Tax, Technology, Telecommunications, Transportation, Trials and White Collar.

- While our Rising Stars tend to be partners because we receive so many partner nominations, we will consider nonpartners.
- Attorneys **must** be willing to be interviewed if selected as a Rising Star.

Is this award based on the attorney's entire career?

- Yes. We have included instructions on this year's submission form asking for matters that took place since the start of last year, given that editors tend to focus on the most recent developments when evaluating submissions. But significant achievements from earlier in the attorney's career can also be included in the submission, if relevant.
- The important thing to remember here is that this awards series is recognizing attorneys who are "Rising Stars," so they should currently be involved in work that is worthy of recognition.

How do I submit?

- Fill out [this form](#) to nominate an attorney to be a Rising Star.

How many attorneys can we nominate per firm?

- You can nominate two attorneys per practice area per firm. You cannot nominate more than two attorneys for each practice area.
- A firm can nominate an attorney for more than one practice area, as long as not more than two attorneys are nominated for each practice area per firm.

What should be in the submission?

- There is space on the submission form to describe five significant matters handled by the attorney since the beginning of last year (250 words each), the attorney's influence and what distinguishes him/her from his/her peers (500 words) and space to add any additional information for our editors (500 words).
- For each significant matter discussed, be specific about what exactly the nominated attorney did, and how that attorney made a difference. If he worked on an MDL, for example, what role did he play? Was he lead counsel? Lead negotiator? If she handled an appeal for a client, in what capacity? Did she write the briefing? Perform the oral arguments? If they won a precedential ruling, what impact will that ruling have on the law?

How should I format my submission?

- We prefer bullets, short paragraphs and anything that organizes your submission to make it easier to read.

How does Law360 evaluate submissions?

- Our editors evaluate the submissions based on the work of an attorney over the course of his or her career, though they place greater emphasis on more recent achievements. We are looking for specifics. Did the attorney start a group or firm? Was she the lead lawyer on a big trial? Does he hold a leadership position? Has she led a number of large deals?
- When describing specific matters, tell us why it matters. Was there something particularly challenging about the case the attorney had to overcome? Was it a bet-the-company matter? Did the case have an impact on a particular industry or area of the law? Matters that have impact outside the four corners of a case generally hold the most sway with editors.
- Editors give preference to developments that are more final in nature. So, while surviving a motion to dismiss in a big case is certainly noteworthy, we might wait to see how the case shakes out before deciding to recognize an attorney for his or her representation in that matter (since he or she could still lose the case).
- You can include new high-profile matters the attorney has been hired to take on, but those are more icing on the cake for editors. The decisions generally are made based on specific wins, not just the fact an attorney was hired on a high-profile case.
- If a matter is a settlement, be as clear as you can about how the settlement was beneficial to the attorney's client. You may want to include vague information here if it's not possible to name the client (for example: "a national retailer" or "a large bank," in order to give editors the context they need to understand how the settlement was favorable.
- Remember when crafting the submission that we are approaching this from a news perspective. The attorney might be handling important cases, but if you can't point to specific achievements, tell us why they matter or give us enough information to tell a compelling story, it's unlikely the attorney will be chosen.

How many winners will Law360 choose?

- We will usually choose a maximum of 5 winners per practice area, though it depends on the volume and quality of submissions.
- Not all categories are guaranteed to have winners. It depends on the quality of submissions that we receive.

When and how will I find out if the nominee is selected?

- The person whose email is listed on the form will be the person notified by Law360 of whether the nominee is accepted.
- We will notify people of the editors' decisions via email in early July.

Can we include confidential matters?

- No. Law360 is no longer accepting confidential information as part of award submissions. Please assume that any information you submit may be published by us. We do not accept responsibility for any confidential information you submit. We can no longer review and consider confidential information as part of a series entry. This is a change that applies to all of our series and is based in part on feedback we've received from law firms and other series entrants as well as an internal review by our management team.

What if I don't receive an email confirming my submission to the online form?

- **Do not submit again.** First, check your spam folder and update your security settings. If that fails, email series@law360.com to receive a copy of your submission.