LIFE SCIENCES AWARDS

In partnership with THE LAWYER

LIFE SCIENCES AWARDS GUIDELINES

EMEA AWARDS

Submissions Deadline: December 4, 2026
Shortlist Announced: February 2027
Awards Ceremony: April 15, 2027

AMERICAS AWARDS

Submissions Deadline: March 12, 2027
Shortlist Announced: July 2027
Awards Ceremony: September 9, 2027

#LifeSciencesAwards

The Life Sciences Awards, in partnership with *The Lawyer*, recognise the firms, companies, and legal professionals driving innovation and excellence across the global life sciences sector. For more than a decade, the awards have celebrated outstanding achievements across areas including intellectual property, regulatory, corporate, licensing, transactional, and litigation work.

Now strengthened by *The Lawyer*'s extensive legal market reach, editorial expertise, and deep relationships across the profession, the awards provide an even more prominent platform for recognising excellence and innovation in life sciences law. Recognised as a benchmark for success, both the EMEA and Americas Awards programmes honour the individuals and organisations delivering the most significant and impactful work across the industry.

These awards culminate in prestigious ceremonies that bring together leading practitioners, in-house counsel, and industry stakeholders to celebrate achievement, showcase market leadership, and strengthen valuable professional connections.

Our Research

Every Life Sciences Award is underpinned by a rigorous and independent research process designed to identify genuine excellence across the market. Over several months, our dedicated researchers conduct detailed analysis of firm submissions, representative matters, market activity, and industry developments.

The process also incorporates feedback from leading practitioners and clients, helping to build a comprehensive view of the organisations and individuals making the greatest impact during the research period. This combination of quantitative evidence, qualitative insight, and market intelligence ensures that all decisions are informed, impartial, and evidence-based. The result is a trusted awards programme that recognises meaningful achievement and distinguishes those shaping the future of the life sciences legal sector.

Why take part?

- Accurate and in-depth recognition of your firm's activities.
- Exposure to our global readership, including in-house counsel at the industry's leading companies.
- Public recognition of your best lawyers and cases/deals.
- The chance to meet and network with market-leading law firms and in-house counsel at our awards ceremonies.

Submission Process

This year, we have simplified our submission process by introducing a single Word document submission form for both the EMEA and Americas awards. The form should be used for all your work in a jurisdiction. It is divided into sections and will be made available in October 2026.

How to submit

Follow the steps below to submit your practice overview, detailed casework, leading lawyers and rising stars, and in-house collaborators via the Research & Awards Portal. The template form will also become available in October 2026.

With thousands of award submissions received every year across our research products, this portal allows firms and external law firm business development or marketing providers to submit research documents securely.

To comply with GDPR requirements, we cannot accept submissions outside this portal.

In the meantime, however, please ensure your firm has registered an account on the portal below.

1. Create an *Accreditation Submission Portal* account HERE
2. Download and complete the 2027 template form.
3. Upload the completed research documents to the portal.

Evaluation criteria

The awards are based primarily on deal and case evidence.

We ask firms to provide recent deal and case highlights. The awards are based primarily on the roles that firms and individuals played in the most impactful deals and cases of the year. Firms should include their most complex and interesting matters in the submission forms and clearly explain why those matters are important to the industry, how they are innovative and influence market practice, and what challenges had to be overcome to bring the deals or cases to a successful resolution.

We will also ask for in-house contact information to understand their contributions to the deals and cases presented.

Throughout the research process, we will also engage with lawyers across the EMEA and Americas markets to gather their views on notable deals and cases and understand the key developments and trends in the life sciences industry during the year under review.

Structure of the Awards

These awards focus on work completed by firms, individuals, and in-house teams across different practice areas and themes. The shortlists for both programmes are designed to cover distinct focus areas specific to each region:

Our primary practice areas covered by both the EMEA and Americas Awards programmes include, but are not limited to:

- Antitrust & Competition
- Appellate
- Banking
- Biologics / Biosimilars
- Biotech
- Capital Markets
- Corporate finance
- Debt Financing
- Equity
- FDA Medical Devices - Americas only
- FDA Pharmaceuticals - Americas only
- General Patent litigation
- Government Investigation
- Hatch-Waxman Litigation (Branded) - Americas only
- Hatch-Waxman Litigation (Generic) - Americas only
- Healthcare advocacy
- Healthcare: Pricing and Reimbursement
- Intellectual Property
- Licensing & Collaboration
- Life Cycle
- M&A
- Medical Devices
- Opposition procedure
- Parallel import
- Patent prosecution
- Patent strategy and management
- Pharmaceuticals
- Product liability
- Regulatory
- Securities
- SPC litigation
- Venture capital
- White collar crime

Lawyer of the Year awards – These awards recognise leading lawyers for their key professional accomplishments in recent legal work from the previous calendar year. They also consider examples that demonstrate a nominee's thought leadership and advocacy in specific areas. The Lawyer of the Year awards are open exclusively to firm partners.

Rising Star awards – These awards recognise the accomplishments of up-and-coming lawyers for work completed in broader practice-area categories during the previous calendar year. A rising star is a senior associate or counsel-level lawyer. Suitable candidates must have fewer than 15 years of professional experience, be under 40 years old, and be taking on duties usually expected of partner-level lawyers.

In-house awards – These awards recognise the accomplishments of in-house legal teams and general counsel who act on behalf of companies in the life sciences industry, based on work completed during the previous calendar year.

Jurisdiction awards – These awards recognise firms for work completed during the previous calendar year across the full scope of life sciences legal practice in the jurisdictions where they are based.

Impact Case and Deal awards – These awards recognise firms and in-house teams involved in the most impactful case decisions and/or transactions in the life sciences industry during the previous calendar year.

Deadlines

EMEA: All submissions must be uploaded to the submission portal by **Dec 4, 2026**.
AMER: All submissions must be uploaded to the submission portal by **Mar 12, 2027**.

Shortlist announcements:

EMEA: **February 2027**
AMER: **July 2027**

Gala Event:

EMEA: **April 15, 2027 – The Biltmore Mayfair** 44 Grosvenor Sq, London W1K 2HP
AMER: **Sept 9, 2027 – Guastavino's** 409 E 59th St, New York, NY 10022

Frequently Asked Questions

What content do you produce?

LBG Life Sciences is a specialist awards and recognition platform dedicated to the life sciences legal sector. We conduct independent research and publish award shortlists and winners highlighting the leading firms, lawyers, in-house teams, and matters shaping the life sciences market.

Why take part?

- Independent assessment informed by your submission, market research, and industry analysis.
- An opportunity to showcase your firm's most significant life sciences work and achievements.
- Recognition among leading law firms, practitioners, and life sciences industry stakeholders.
- Exposure to a global audience of legal professionals, corporate counsel, investors, and life sciences companies.
- Opportunity to be shortlisted for and win prestigious Life Sciences Awards.

What jurisdictions will the Awards cover?

The EMEA and Americas awards programmes currently recognise achievements across:

- United States
- Canada
- Brazil
- Europe
- Middle East
- Africa

Coverage may continue to evolve in response to developments within the life sciences legal market.

What is changing for LBG Life Sciences for 2027?

For the Americas, LBG Life Sciences is evolving to become an awards-focused program dedicated to recognizing the leading law firms, lawyers, and legal teams serving the life sciences industry. As part of this evolution, the Americas will no longer publish law firm or lawyer rankings. Instead, recognition will be delivered through an expanded awards program that celebrates excellence across the life sciences legal market.

This change aligns with the EMEA Awards program and reflects our commitment to providing meaningful recognition that better showcases the achievements, innovation, and impact of firms and practitioners advising life sciences clients. This aligns with the broader positioning of the brand as a specialist awards and recognition platform.

How can my firm participate?

Participation remains open to all eligible firms and practitioners active in the life sciences sector. Firms will be able to submit information through the Legal Benchmarking Group Research & Awards Portal when the annual research cycle opens.

Will LBG Life Sciences continue to publish rankings in the Americas?

No. Effective immediately, LBG Life Sciences will no longer publish law firm or lawyer rankings for the United States, Canada, or Brazil. The last published rankings were for 2025.

Recognition in these jurisdictions will instead be provided through the LBG Life Sciences Awards program going forward.

Will the submission process change?

The overall submission process will remain largely unchanged. Firms will continue to submit their achievements, significant matters, lawyer contributions, and supporting information through the Legal Benchmarking Group Research & Awards Portal.

The primary change is to the client referee section. As LBG Life Sciences transitions to an awards-focused model, firms will no longer be required to complete a separate client referee template. Instead, where client validation is requested, client contacts should be provided directly within the relevant submission form. Beyond this adjustment, the submission process, research methodology, and evaluation criteria will remain consistent. Firms should continue to focus on highlighting their most significant life sciences work, the impact of that work, and the individuals and teams responsible for those achievements. Our objective is to make participation as straightforward as possible while maintaining the rigorous, independent research process that underpins the Life Sciences Awards.

On the submission form, can I provide the same information that I provided to another publication?

Yes, provided the information is included in our template, relates to your life sciences practice, and addresses the questions asked.

How much influence do we have over the awards outcome?

Firms are encouraged to provide detailed information through the submission process and any interviews conducted by our research team. We assess this information alongside independent market research and peer commentary. While submissions play an important role, all shortlist and winner decisions are made independently based on the evidence available to our researchers.

If we participate, are we guaranteed to be shortlisted or receive recognition?

No. Participation does not guarantee a shortlist nomination or award. However, all eligible submissions are reviewed as part of our research process and considered on their merits. Recognition is based on the quality, significance, and impact of the work undertaken during the research period.

Should we list confidential cases or clients? How do we ensure these remain confidential?

Yes. You may include confidential matters or clients if they are relevant to your submission. Please clearly identify any confidential information and indicate what details must not be disclosed publicly. Our research team will respect all confidentiality requirements and use such information solely for evaluation purposes.

Will you be collecting client referees?

We will no longer require a separate client referee template. However, the submission form asks for details about relevant in-house counsel and teams.

Do you recognize only partners?

No. Recognition may be awarded to lawyers at various levels of seniority, depending on the award category. We evaluate the individual's contribution, expertise, and impact within the life sciences sector rather than focusing exclusively on title or seniority.

We're a small boutique firm. What chance do we have against larger firms?

Firm size is not a determining factor in the awards process. The Life Sciences Awards recognize excellence, innovation, expertise, and impact within the life sciences sector. Smaller and specialist firms frequently compete successfully alongside larger international firms where their work demonstrates outstanding achievement.

Who should I contact if I have questions?

For questions regarding the Life Sciences Awards program, methodology, research process, or participation, please contact the LBG Life Sciences research team through the contact details provided on this website.