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The American Lawyer Names 2015 Global Legal Award Winners

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The American Lawyer is pleased to announce the results of its third annual [Global Legal Awards](#) contest. The winners and honorees, named below, will be recognized at the Global Legal Awards dinner on Sept. 28, 2015, at Gotham Hall in New York City, where the four grand prizes will also be selected.

ALM's marquee global contest attracted 225 strong entries across 30 categories, which evolve slightly from year to year.

The Global Legal Awards aim to honor all law offices—including in-house legal departments—that played a substantial role in the most distinguished international work performed between Jan 1, 2014 and April 15, 2015, across a wide range of disciplines. This year's winners include nine financial deals, six disputes, nine corporate deals, and six examples of social responsibility. They ranged from the first sovereign Islamic bond outside the Islamic world to a solar field benefiting orphans of the Rwandan genocide.

Leading a long list of Global 100 and independent law firms with boasting rights are Linklaters, with seven awards, and Kirkland & Ellis and Shearman & Sterling, with five. They are followed by Cleary Gottlieb Steen & Hamilton; Latham & Watkins; Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom; and Sullivan & Cromwell, with four apiece.

In M&A, 2014 was the year of the tax inversion. Our list aptly includes a pair of controversial inversion deals: Burger King Worldwide Inc.'s combination with Canada's Tim Hortons Inc. and Medtronic Inc.'s purchase of Ireland's Covidien plc. A third winning deal, between Ireland's Actavis plc and Allergan Inc., was made possible by the bidder's earlier inversion.

In capital markets, 2014 was the year of Alibaba Group, which opened the door to the largest initial public offering in history, raising \$25 billion.

In project finance, it was the year of giant LNG terminals, which enable America to export its new bounty of fracked natural gas. With a big hand from Japan, the Cameron and Freeport projects over time slapped together financing to rival the size of Alibaba's IPO.

In disputes, Cooley won a commercial arbitration preserving Gilead Sciences Inc.'s rights to

Sovaldi, which went on last year to earn \$10 billion in the fastest drug launch in history. Baker & McKenzie was among a pack of law firms that shaped a new template for criminal tax compliance by steering Swiss banks through the U.S. Justice Department's new program for non-prosecution of tax evasion.

On the global citizenship front, White & Case is building an ivory tower for the hermit kingdom, in the form of Bhutan's first law school. After an Alabama shipbuilder defeated a human trafficking class action, an extraordinary team of 12 firms including Crowell & Moring and Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom filed individual suits. Their first verdict, equating to about \$750 million in deterrence on a classwide basis, earns our Global Pro Bono Dispute of the Year.

The "lifetime" pro bono honoree is Shearman & Sterling for its support of the Rwanda criminal tribunal. For 15 years the firm has effectively operated an office in Arusha, with 136 lawyers contributing over 55,000 hours to build an edifice of international criminal law.

The full list of winners and honorees is below.

FINANCE

Global Finance Deal of the Year: Capital Markets

WINNER: Alibaba IPO

HONOREES: Alibaba Group; Fangda Partners; King & Wood Mallesons; Maples and Calder; Simpson Thacher & Bartlett; Sullivan & Cromwell

Global Finance Deal of the Year: Project Finance

CO-WINNERS: Cameron LNG Terminal financing and Freeport LNG project financing

HONOREES (Cameron): Latham & Watkins; Linklaters; Jones Walker; Kean Miller; Morgan, Lewis & Bockius; Phelps Dunbar; Sempra Energy; Sullivan & Cromwell; Vinson & Elkins

HONOREES (Freeport): Allen & Overy; Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck; Chadbourne & Parke; Duane Morris; Duggins Wren Mann & Romero; Freeport LNG Development; Hunton & Williams; Ito & Mitomi; King & Spalding; Linklaters; Morrison & Foerster; Norton Rose Fulbright; Porter Hedges; Sutherland Asbill & Brennan; White & Case; Young Conaway Stargatt & Taylor

Global Finance Deal of the Year: Restructuring (France)

WINNER: Vivarte group restructuring

HONOREES: Ashurst; Ayache Salama; Linklaters; Mayer Brown; Weil, Gotshal & Manges; Willkie Farr & Gallagher

Global Finance Deal of the Year: Restructuring (Germany)

WINNER: IVG financial restructuring

HONOREES: Allen & Overy; Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer; Gleiss Lutz; GÖRG; Kirkland & Ellis; Linklaters; Paul Hastings

Global Finance Deal of the Year: Restructuring (U.S.)

WINNER: NII Holdings restructuring

HONOREES: Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld; Ask LLP; Hogan Lovells; Jones Day; Kirkland & Ellis; Kramer Levin Naftalis & Frankel; Latham & Watkins; Loyens & Loeff; Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison; Sullivan & Cromwell

Global Finance Deal of the Year: Restructuring (South America)

WINNER: OGX debt restructuring

HONOREES: Barbosa, Müssnich Aragão; Brown Rudnick; Cleary Gottlieb Steen & Hamilton; Jorge Lobo Advogados; Kirkland & Ellis; Mattos Filho, Veiga Filho, Marrey Jr e Quiroga; Mattos Muriel Kestener Advogados; McDermott, Will & Emery; Moses & Singer; Paulo Cezar Pinheiro Carneiro; Pinheiro Neto; Veirano

Finance Deal of the Year: Islamic Finance

WINNER: Project Sandstone sukuk

HONOREES: Clifford Chance; Davitt Jones Bould; HM Treasury; Linklaters

Finance Deal of the Year: Acquisition Finance

WINNER: Goodpack acquisition financing

HONOREES: Allen & Gledhill; BLC Chambers; Fangda Partners; Kim & Chang; Lee & Ko; Maples and Calder; Paul Hastings; Pinheiro Neto; Rajah & Tann; Simpson Thacher & Bartlett; Stibbe; Walkers; Weerawong, Chinnavat & Peangpanor; White & Case; WongPartnership

Global Finance Deal of the Year: Grand Prize

Winner: TBA at the Global Legal Awards dinner, Sept. 28, Gotham Hall, New York

DISPUTES

Global Dispute of the Year: Treaty Arbitration

Winner: Yukos v. Russia

Honorees: Shearman & Sterling; Group Menatep Limited

Global Dispute of the Year: Commercial Arbitration

Winner: Roche v. Gilead

Honorees: Cooley; Gilead Sciences Inc.

Global Dispute of the Year: U.K. Litigation

Winner: UBS v. Leipzig Water Authority

Honorees: Noerr; Addleshaw Goddard; Brick Court Chambers; Leipzig Water Authority

Global Dispute of the Year: U.S. Litigation

Winner: Dupont v. Kolon Industries

Honorees: Crowell & Moring; McGuireWoods; Kim & Chang; E. I. Du Pont De Nemours and Company

Global Dispute of the Year: International Litigation

Winner: The Right to be Forgotten

Honoree: Abanlex

Global Dispute of the Year: Investigations

Winner: Swiss Tax Settlements

Honorees: Baker & McKenzie; Caplin & Drysdale; McKool Smith; Pillsbury Winthrop Shaw Pittman; Shearman & Sterling; Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom; Wachtell, Lipton, Rosen & Katz

Global Dispute of the Year: Grand Prize

Winner: TBA at the Global Legal Awards dinner, Sept. 28, Gotham Hall, New York

MERGERS AND ACQUISITIONS

Global M&A Deal of the Year: U.S.

Winner: Actavis / Allergan

Honorees: Actavis plc; Cleary Gottlieb Steen & Hamilton; Arthur Cox; Weil, Gotshal & Manges

Allergan Inc.; Latham & Watkins; Wachtell, Lipton, Rosen & Katz; Richards, Layton & Finger

Global M&A Deal of the Year: Canada

Winner: Burger King / Tim Hortons

Honorees: Burger King Worldwide Inc.; Kirkland & Ellis; Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison; Davies Ward Phillips & Vineberg

Tim Hortons Inc.; Wachtell, Lipton, Rosen & Katz; Osler, Hoskin & Harcourt

Global M&A Deal of the Year: Ireland

Winner: Medtronic / Covidien

Honorees: Medtronic Inc.; Cleary Gottlieb Steen & Hamilton; A&L Goodbody

Covidien plc; Wachtell, Lipton, Rosen & Katz; Arthur Cox; Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom

Global M&A Deal of the Year: Europe

Winner: Holcim / Lafarge

Honorees: Lafarge S.A.; Cleary Gottlieb Steen & Hamilton

Holcim Ltd.; Linklaters; Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer

CRH plc; Arthur Cox; Morgan, Lewis & Bockius

Global M&A Deal of the Year: Africa

Winner: VimpelCom / Djazzy

Honorees: Algerian National Investment Fund; Shearman & Sterling; CMS Bureau Francis Lefebvre

VimpelCom Ltd.; Akin Gump Straus Hauer & Feld; Gide Loyrette Nouel

Global M&A Deal of the Year: China

Winner: Giant Interactive

Honorees: Baring Private Equity Asia Group Ltd.; CDH Fund; Kirkland & Ellis; Weil, Gotshal & Manges; Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom; Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati

Giant Interactive Group Inc.; Fenwick & West; O'Melveny & Myers; Grandall Law Firm

Global M&A Deal of the Year: Asia

Winner: Oriental Brewery

Honorees: Anheuser-Busch Inbev SA/NV; Sullivan & Cromwell; Kim & Chang

Kohlberg Kravis Roberts; Simpson Thacher & Bartlett

Global M&A Deal of the Year: Middle East

Winner: Canary Wharf

Honorees: Qatar Investment Authority; Shearman & Sterling; Songbird Estates plc; Slaughter and May; Brookfield Property Partners; Linklaters

Global M&A Deal of the Year: Latin America

Winner: Telefonica / Vivendi Honorees: Telefonica S.A.; Machado Meyer Sendacz Opice

Vivendi S.A.; Darrois Villey Maillot Brochier; Bompont Avocats; Pinheiro Neto Advogados

Global M&A Deal of the Year: Grand Prize

Winner: TBA at the Global Legal Awards dinner, Sept. 28, Gotham Hall, New York

CITIZENSHIP

Global Pro Bono Deal of the Year: Finance

Winner: Retail Charity Bonds

Honoree: Linklaters

Global Pro Bono Deal of the Year: Projects

Winner: The Agahozo-Shalom Solar Field

Honoree: Jenner & Block

Global Pro Bono Program of the Year

Winner: Vietnam's Project 30

Honoree: Baker & McKenzie

Global CSR Program of the Year

Winner: Bhutan's First Law School

Honoree: White & Case

Global Pro Bono Dispute of the Year

Winner: The Signal International Litigation

Honorees: Crowell & Moring; Skadden Arps; Covington & Burling; DLA Piper; Fredrikson & Byron; Kaye Scholer; Kilpatrick Townsend & Stockton; Latham & Watkins; Manatt, Phelps & Phillips; McDermott Will & Emery; Sahn Ward Coschignano & Baker; Sutherland Asbill & Brennan

The American Lawyer Global Citizenship Award (Lifetime Achievement)

Winner: Shearman & Sterling for its support of the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda

The American Lawyer Global Citizenship Award (Grand Prize)

Winner: TBA at the Global Legal Awards dinner, Sept. 28, Gotham Hall, New York

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