

Special Report

Gender Diversity at Vietnam Law Firms

2022



Introduction

Legal industry rankings are an important benchmarking tool for buyers of legal services. They offer a clear indication as to which law firms and lawyers are most active, have the highest market reputation, and are working on the most significant legal matters – an independent seal of quality and assurance.

Increasingly, diversity and inclusion policies have become a consideration in the selection of outside counsel. Using data driven analysis of the latest rankings, this **Legal Media 360** special report assesses gender diversity at the largest multi-practice law firms in Vietnam.

The report examines data at three levels: **1)** firm wide; **2)** by practice area; and **3)** by individual lawyer rankings. It will reveal:

- Which firms are most gender diverse;
- Whether gender diverse firms are more successful than male dominated firms;
- Whether female lawyers are being afforded the same opportunities as men; and
- If rising star data implies a more gender balanced future.



LegalMedia 360

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Methodology

Results are based on the analysis of lawyer rankings in the following international publications: *asialaw*, *Benchmark Litigation*, *Chambers and Partners*, *IAM1000*, *IFLR1000*, *IP Stars*, *Legal 500*, and *World Trademark Review 1000*. These have been selected based on their multilateral research process, where peer and client reviews as well as submissions are used to determine the rankings.

For the purposes of this report, due to the variance in the categorization at atomic levels, lawyer rankings have been reclassified by **Legal Media 360** to bring them together in a common scale without distorting the differences in the range of the values. This has been achieved by referring to the definitions provided by the publications.

Lawyers have been grouped on a five-tier scale:

- **Senior Statesperson:** Retired/semi-retired influential lawyers with close relationships with major institutional clients. Mainly work as a consultant.
- **Tier 1:** Leading lawyers who have an outstanding reputation and a strong track record for leading the most significant matters.
- **Tier 2:** Highly regarded lawyers who are active on significant matters.
- **Up and Coming Lawyer:** Lawyers establishing their reputation and have been recognised for assisting on significant matters. Potential to be a tiered lawyer in the future.
- **Notable Practitioner:** Lawyers who have had some market recognition and been on some notable matters. Not yet a tiered lawyer.

The 2022 dataset covers rankings published from June 2021 to June 2022. This timeframe ensures that similar matters submitted by the firms and evaluated by the above publications fall into the same research cycle.



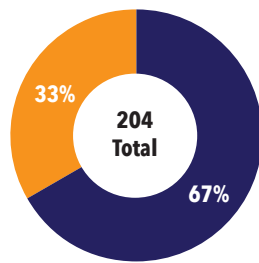
Findings

Overall Gender Statistics

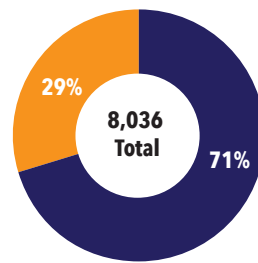
In the eight publications examined, a total of 204 lawyers in Vietnam were recognized.

The national average male to female ratio for Vietnam law firms is 67 to 33 percent which, as can be seen from the charts, is comparable to the overall Asia average of 71 to 29 percent:

Male to Female Ratio: Vietnam

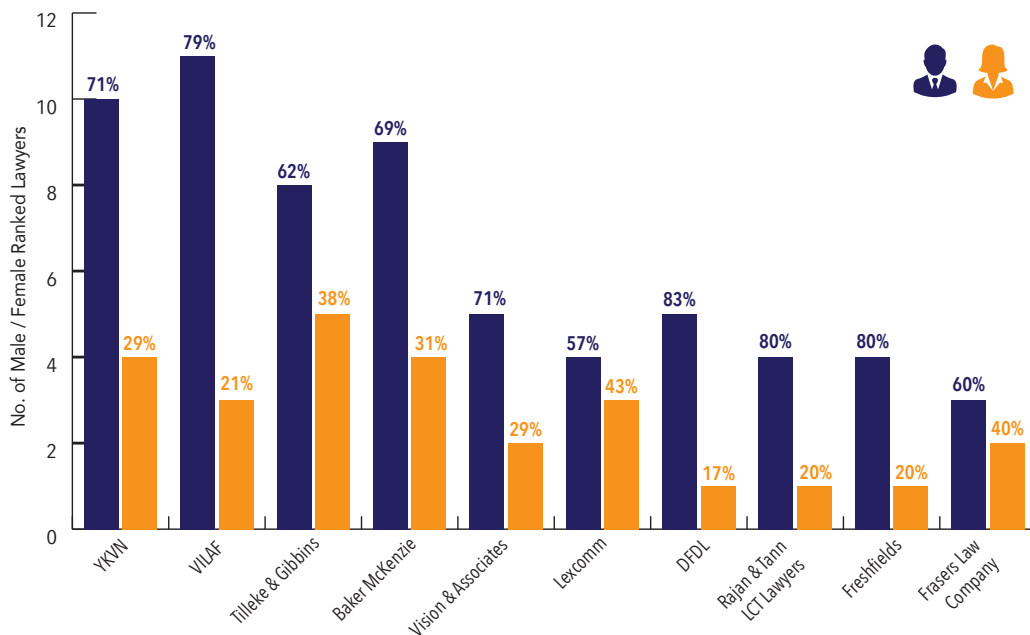


Male to Female Ratio: Asia



Firm Level

Top 10 Firms with the Most Lawyer Recognitions



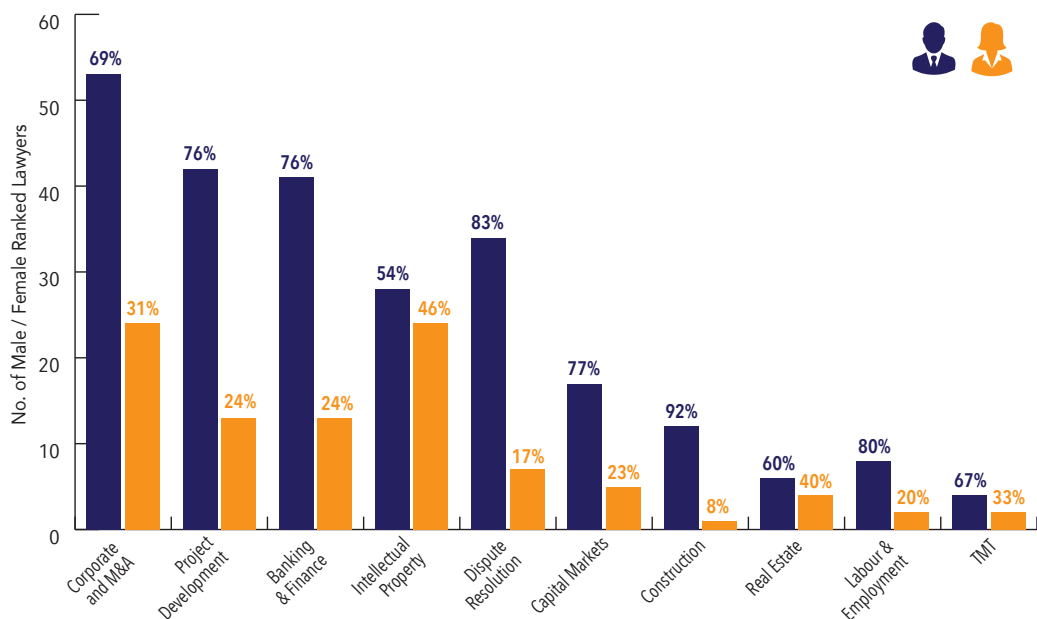


Commentary: Examining the law firms with the greatest number of lawyer recognitions reveals:

- Only three of the top 10 firms have better gender diversity ratios than the national average;
- DFDL has the greatest overall gender imbalance of the top 10 firms;
- Lexcomm is the most gender balanced firm.

Practice Area Level

Gender Representation by Practice Area

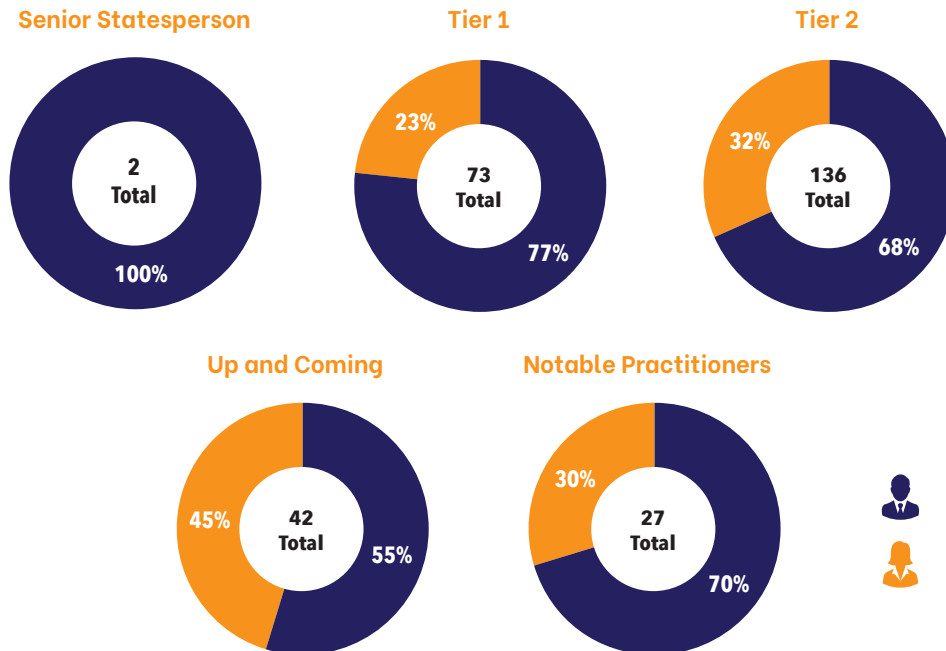


Commentary: The above chart shows the top 10 practice areas by recognized lawyer count. It is clear from the data that women lawyers are under-represented in most of the 10 practice areas, with diversity clearly lacking in the area of Construction. As with other countries, Intellectual property has the best gender balance.



Lawyer Levels: Gender

Breakdown of Gender by Tier



Commentary: The lawyer tiers can be seen to reflect the development cycle in a lawyer’s career. Senior Statesperson represents those lawyers in their senior years. Tier 1, 2 and Notable Practitioners are lawyers at partner level, while Up and Coming Lawyers reflect the future representation of a law firm.

The above figures shows partner level lawyers are predominantly male. However, the gender ratio for Up and Coming lawyers clearly shows that the market is shifting to be more gender balanced.

Top Lawyers by Practice Area with the Greatest Number of Tier 1 Rankings

Banking and Finance

-  **Duc Tran Anh**, Allen & Overy
-  **Mark Fraser**, Frasers Law Company
-  **Nhat Quang Truong**, YKVN
-  **Phong Tran**, VILAF
-  **Duyen Ha Vo**, VILAF
-  **Tony Foster**, Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer

Corporate and M&A

-  **Mark Fraser**, Frasers Law Company
-  **Phong Tran**, VILAF
-  **Duc Tran Anh**, Allen & Overy
-  **Tony Foster**, Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer
-  **Anh Dang**, VILAF
-  **Linh Bui**, Allens
-  **Nhat Quang Truong**, YKVN



Dispute Resolution

-  **Trong Nghia Truong**, YKVN
-  **Chau Huy Quang**, Rajah & Tann LCT Lawyers
-  **Manh Dzung Nguyen**, Dzungsr & Associates
-  **Tien Dzung Luu**, YKVN
-  **Linh Nguyen**, VILAF

Project Development

-  **Duc Tran Anh**, Allen & Overy
-  **Tony Foster**, Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer
-  **Adam Moncrieff**, Allen & Overy
-  **Mark Fraser**, Frasers Law Company
-  **Phong Tran**, VILAF

Intellectual Property

-  **Thomas Treutler**, Tilleke & Gibbins
-  **Son Doan**, IPMax
-  **Loc Xuan Le**, Tilleke & Gibbins
-  **Manh Hung Tran**, Baker McKenzie
-  **Vu Khanh Toan Pham**, Pham & Associates
-  **Yen Vu**, Rouse

Commentary: A breakdown of the top lawyers with the most Tier 1 recognitions shows that female representation at the top level is at, or close to, zero. This suggests that female lawyers are not leading the most significant cases or deals in Vietnam. This pattern also holds true of the other practice areas analysed by **Legal Media 360**.

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