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INTERNATIONAL LAW FIRM MAALOUF ASHFORD & TALBOT

EXPANDS WITH NEW OFFICE IN RIYADH, SAUDI ARABIA

New York, New York – January 15, 2010, Maalouf Ashford & Talbot, LLP, one of the world's leading international corporate law firms, today announced that it has expanded with the opening of a new office in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. Dr. Mohammed Al-Sunbusi, will be heading up the new Riyadh office. In line with Saudi bar requirements, Al-Sunbusi is a Saudi-qualified lawyer, but he also holds a US law degree. Al-Sunbusi will be working directly with firm Senior Partner, John J. Maalouf of our New York City office, on International Trade & Finance matters involving the Middle-East, including oil and gas transactions, international securities offerings, project finance, mergers & acquisitions and international banking matters.

Maalouf Ashford is the third international law firm to expand into the Saudi Arabia market in the past 12 months, following Lovells and Vinson & Elkins.

About Maalouf Ashford & Talbot

Maalouf Ashford & Talbot is among the world's leading financial law firms. Our reputation for excellence and breadth of expertise has made us the firm of choice for many of the world's leading companies and financial institutions as they address the diverse legal and business challenges they face. The firm's attorneys provide representation across the following key areas of the law: International Trade & Finance, Corporate, Banking, Securities, Mergers & Acquisitions, Private Equity, Investment Funds, International Banking, Energy, Oil & Gas and Project Finance.

For more information, please visit: www.maaloufashford.com

About Senior Partner John J. Maalouf

John J. Maalouf is an internationally recognized expert in the areas of international trade, finance, banking, corporate and business law. Mr. Maalouf has represented clients in the U.S., Middle-East, China and throughout the world in numerous matters involving international finance, IPO's, mergers & acquisitions, international banking, private equity and international energy transactions. Maalouf has been ranked among the Nation's Top 10 International Finance Lawyers for the past four years in a row due to his commitment to excellence and outstanding client service in the areas of International Trade & Finance law.

