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Maalouf Ashford & Talbot Named Oil & Gas Law Firm of the Year - 2010

New York, New York – January 24, 2011 – Maalouf Ashford & Talbot, LLP, one of the world's leading international oil & gas law firms, today announced that it has been chosen as the winner of the Corporate International Magazine 2010 Legal Award for Oil & Gas Law Firm of the Year in New York.

John J. Maalouf, Head of the Firm's Oil & Gas practice, is a globally recognized leader in the field of Energy, Oil & Gas Law and is ranked as one of the Top 10 International Trade & Finance Lawyers in the United States by the U.S. Lawyer Rankings, (2006 - 2010 Editions).

About Maalouf Ashford & Talbot

Maalouf Ashford & Talbot is among the world's leading financial services law firm. With offices in New York City, London, Hong Kong, Shanghai, Riyadh and Boston, Maalouf Ashford's reputation for excellence and breadth of expertise has made it 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, Energy, Oil & Gas Law, Business, Corporate, Banking, Securities, Mergers & Acquisitions, Private Equity, Investment Funds and Complex Business Arbitrations. Combining a dedication to excellence with a commitment to superior client service, Maalouf Ashford & Talbot provides clients with a breadth and depth of expertise uniquely suited to their legal needs. For more information, please visit: www.maaloufashford.com

ABOUT JOHN J. MAALOUF

John J. Maalouf, Senior Partner of the Firm, is an internationally recognized expert in the areas of international trade and finance law, oil & gas law, business, corporate, securities and banking law. Mr. Maalouf has represented clients throughout the world, including the U.S., China, Middle East, EU, Japan, India, Africa, Australia, Russia and South America in complex matters involving international trade & finance, oil, gas and energy transactions, mergers & acquisitions, public offerings, international banking and private equity transactions. Mr. Maalouf is ranked as one of the Top 10 International Trade & Finance Lawyers in the United States by the U.S. Lawyer Rankings, (2006 - 2010 Editions) And is a Member of the Oil Council.