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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Maalouf Ashford & Talbot, LLP Opens New Office in São Paulo, Brazil

New York, New York – January 1, 2013 - Maalouf Ashford & Talbot, LLP, one of the world's leading international business and corporate law firms, today announced the opening of its new office in São Paulo, Brazil

Alexandre Lopes will be heading the firm's new São Paulo office. Alex is a highly regarded expert in the areas of corporate and finance law, with over 20 years of experience representing clients in cross-border transactions involving Brazil, China and the EU. He speaks Mandarin, French, German, Arabic, Portuguese and English.

Maalouf Ashford & Talbot's continued expansion is a result of an ongoing increase in the demand for the Firm's services in the MENA (Middle-East North Africa) region and BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa) countries. The firm's new São Paulo office will compliment the Firm's existing offices in New York City, London, Hong Kong, Shanghai and Riyadh. In addition, the firm has affiliate offices in more than 20 different countries worldwide. To date, Maalouf Ashford & Talbot has represented clients in connection with transaction in over 60 different countries.

About Maalouf Ashford & Talbot

The Firm has been named "Law Firm of the Year" in the United States in an unprecedented 16 separate categories including:

International Finance Law Firm of the Year

Energy (Oil & Gas) Law Firm of the Year

Corporate Law Firm of the Year

M&A Law Firm of the Year

Banking Law Firm of the Year

Private Equity Law Firm of the Year

Project Finance Law Firm of the Year

Capital Markets Law Firm of the Year

Asset Finance Law Firm of the Year

Cross Border Law Firm of the Year

Shipping & Maritime Law Firm of the Year

Antitrust Law Firm of the Year

Tax Law Firm of the Year

Sharia Law Firm of the Year

Full Service Law Firm of the Year, and

Most Trusted Law Firm of the Year

Maalouf Ashford & Talbot remains at the forefront of the legal profession in structuring complex international business transactions, representing clients in numerous high-profile matters involving international oil & gas deals, mergers and acquisitions, IPO's, private equity, project finance, coal, iron ore, and mining deals, and cross-border transactions worldwide.

Maalouf Ashford represents some of the world's most respected companies in connection with their complex and sophisticated international business transactions.

About John J. Maalouf

John J. Maalouf has been ranked as one of the Top 10 International Trade & Finance Lawyers in the U.S. by the United States Lawyer Rankings for the past seven consecutive years. Mr. Maalouf is an internationally recognized expert in the areas of international business law, oil gas & energy law and banking & finance law. Mr. Maalouf has represented clients throughout the world, including the U.S., Middle-East, China, EU, Japan, India, Australia, Russia and South America in complex matters involving international trade & finance, mergers & acquisitions, public offerings, international banking, private equity and international oil, gas, coal and energy transactions.



In addition, John is co-author of the book: "Inside the Minds: Best Practices for Mergers & Acquisitions in China", published by Thomson West, the world's most respected name in legal publishing.

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