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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Maalouf Ashford & Talbot Named “Advisory Firm of the Year in Asia” for 2011

New York, New York – January 5, 2011 – Maalouf Ashford & Talbot, LLP, one of the world’s leading international law firms, today announced that the Firm has been named as “Advisory Firm of the Year in Asia” for 2011.

This recognition comes on the heels of our Firm being named “Law Firm of the Year” in the United States in an unprecedented 8 separate categories including: International Finance Law Firm of the Year, Banking Law Firm of the Year, Oil & Gas Law Firm of the Year, Mining Law Firm of the Year, M&A Law Firm of the Year, Project Finance Law Firm of the Year, Capital Markets Law Firm of the Year and Cross Border Law Firm of the Year.

The Awards can be viewed at:

<http://www.risk.net/energy-risk/feature/2114624/advisory-firm-asia-maalouf-ashford-talbot#>

and

<http://viewer.zmags.com/publication/947aeceb#/947aeceb/48>

About Maalouf Ashford & Talbot,

Maalouf Ashford & Talbot, LLP is an international financial services law firm in New York City, Hong Kong, Shanghai, London, Riyadh and Boston.

The Firm’s attorneys provide representation across the following key areas of the law: International Trade & Finance, Business, Corporate, Banking, Securities, Mergers & Acquisitions, Private Equity, Investment Funds, Energy, Oil & Gas Law, Mining, Cross Border, Capital Markets and Project Finance. Combining a dedication to excellence with



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a commitment to superior client service, Maalouf Ashford & Talbot provides clients with a breadth and depth of expertise uniquely suited to their legal needs. Maalouf Ashford has also been named Oil & Gas Law Firm of the Year - 2010 by Corporate International Magazine in New York.

For further information, please visit: <http://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, mergers and acquisitions, business and corporate law, banking law, oil & gas law, energy law, mining, cross border transactions and project finance. John is ranked as one of the Top 10 International Trade & Finance Lawyers in the United States and has been for the past six years in a row by the U.S. Lawyer Rankings due to his commitment to excellence and outstanding client service in the areas of international business law. John is also "AV Peer Review Rated", Martindale-Hubbell's highest recognition for legal ability and ethical standards.

Mr. Maalouf has represented clients throughout the world, including the U.S., China, Middle-East, EU, Japan, India, Australia, Russia and South America in complex matters involving international trade & finance, mergers & acquisitions, public offerings, international banking, project finance, capital markets, private equity, international oil & gas, mining 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.

About Energy Risk Awards 2011

The Energy Risk Awards is the energy sector's most prestigious and established award for the legal community. Energy Risk's judges analyze several thousands of deals structured by advisory firms from across Asia and select the winning firm based on the exceptional quality of their work over a broad spectrum of energy related transaction including oil, gas, coal, solar and other renewable energy related transactions.