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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Maalouf Ashford & Talbot Named “Law Firm of the Year” for 2012 in an Unprecedented 16 Separate Categories

New York, New York – July 10, 2012 – Maalouf Ashford & Talbot, LLP, one of the world’s leading international law firms, today announced that the Firm has been named “Law Firm of the Year” for 2012 in an Unprecedented 16 Separate Categories including:

International Finance Law Firm of the Year

Corporate Law Firm of the Year

Energy 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

This recognition comes on the heels of the Firm's Senior Partner, John J. Maalouf, being ranked as one of the Top 10 International Trade & Finance Lawyers in the United States for the past 7 consecutive years.

The ACQ Global Awards can be viewed at:

<http://issuu.com/smartwave/docs/acq?mode=window&pageNumber=20>

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 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 been honored as "Law Firm of the Year" on 27 occasions and categories, both in the U.S. and Asia.

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 seven consecutive years 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.

ACQ Global Awards

The ACQ Global Awards are the premier annual awards program celebrating the best industry practitioners working across the world.

According to Jake Robson, Editor in Chief of ACQ: "The winners represent the very best in their field from around the world and Maalouf Ashford & Talbot truly deserves the accolades of being chosen as Law Firm of the Year in an unprecedented 16 separate categories."