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World Law Group Continues Legal Network Quality Dominance with Admission of PLMJ as New Member for Portugal

Washington, D.C./The World Law Group is delighted to announce that the leading independent law firm in Portugal, PLMJ, has been admitted to membership after a unanimous vote by members attending the WLG's recent Fall 2011 Conference in Istanbul, Turkey.

With a team of approximately 220 lawyers, including 44 partners and another 100 staff, PLMJ is the largest Portuguese law firm. Based in Lisbon, the firm has offices in Oporto and Faro as well as a network of joint ventures covering Coimbra, the Azores, Guimarães and Viseu. PLMJ also has affiliated offices in Angola and Mozambique through cooperation agreements with GLA Gabinete Legal Angola and GLM Gabinete Legal Moçambique respectively. PLMJ International Legal Network brings together leading firms from Portuguese-speaking countries, as well as across markets that are the main targets for Portuguese foreign investment.

Established in 1967 by four founding partners, including today's Managing Partner Luis Sáragga Leal (who was recently named "Managing Partner of the Year" at *The Lawyer's* European Awards), PLMJ quickly established a reputation as one of the country's most ambitious and innovative law firms.

The firm's lawyers are consistently recommended as prominent experts in their fields by the most prestigious international rating organizations, such as: *The Financial Times'* Innovative Lawyers Awards 2011; Chambers Europe Awards for Excellence 2009 (shortlisted in 2010 and 2011); Who's Who Legal Awards 2010 and 2011; The Lawyer's European Awards (shortlisted 2010 and 2011) and the Client Choice Awards, International Law Office in 2008 and 2010

Founded in 1988, the World Law Group is a global alliance of 51 leading independent law firms with nearly 15,000 lawyers operating in 275 major business centres around the world.

Since its founding, the World Law Group has pursued a strategy of selective growth, with new members added only as the needs of existing member firms and their clients dictate. Today, its members are generally among the top three independent firms in their respective jurisdictions, providing an unparalleled international legal resource for clients around the world.

On introducing Luis Sáragga Leal and partner João Magalhães Ramalho to delegates of the meeting in Istanbul, World Law Group President Ian Davis noted that despite its current economic difficulties, Portugal remains a transit centre for much of the foreign investment and other business flowing among Portuguese-speaking countries around the world. Mr. Davis also told delegates that PLMJ and the WLG's member in Brazil, TozziniFreire Advogados, have enjoyed a long-standing and mutually beneficial relationship, and that he was very pleased to present such an exemplary candidate for membership.

After the unanimous vote to admit PLMJ, Mr. Davis observed "Today, our strategic focus on building the highest quality membership among any global legal network has taken another major leap forward as the World Law Group family broadens to include what is indisputably Portugal's premier firm."

(Ian Davis' term ended on October 29, 2011, when WLG members elected a new Board of Directors, including Mr. David Kay of Drinker Biddle & Reath LLP as President.)

Mr. Sáragga Leal thanked the WLG delegates and said: "A global economy presents new challenges to independent law firms, which are required to guarantee efficient and specialised legal services in an increasing number of remote jurisdictions where their clients operate.

This is what PLMJ expects to achieve through our affiliation with WLG. More than the traditional referrals, we seek extended opportunities to cooperate with leading firms in major jurisdictions to provide together the consistent level of services our clients are accustomed to receiving from PLMJ and its affiliate offices in Angola, Mozambique and other Portuguese-speaking countries."

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For more information about the World Law Group, visit www.theworldlawgroup.com

For more information about PLMJ, visit www.plmj.com and for PLMJ International Legal Network, visit www.plmjnetwork.com.