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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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ALFA International Welcomes Northern Ohio Law Firm, FRANTZ WARD LLP

(October 15, 2008) – ALFA International is pleased to announce the addition of *Frantz Ward LLP* (www.frantzward.com) to its network of global law firm members. *Frantz Ward* is a full service business law firm located in Cleveland, Ohio.

Frantz Ward was established in 2000 with 13 lawyers and has grown to 60 attorneys in the past 8 years making them one of the largest firms in the state of Ohio. The firm’s practice groups are focused in the areas of Competition Law, Labor & Employment, Litigation, Construction, Bankruptcy, Healthcare, Business Counseling, Estate Planning & Probate, Higher Education, Telecommunications, Environmental Law and Employee Benefits. The attorneys of *Frantz Ward* bring to each client issue a solid reputation of legal expertise coupled with creative and aggressive problem solving. With their attention, communication and outreach to their client base and the Northern Ohio business community, the firm continues to build a significant presence in the Ohio business and legal communities. Their national client base ranges from individuals and professionals, to small and medium businesses, to Fortune 500 companies.

“The business of Ohio is all about expanding and growing business; nationally and internationally.” stated Richard Hetke, CEO of ALFA International. “Without a strong and well-positioned legal firm in the greater Cleveland, Ohio region, ALFA International member firms and their clients across the United States and around the globe are not well served. With the addition of the *Frantz Ward* law firm, we have an excellent legal resource ready to serve all of our members across the business spectrum.”

According to Brett Bacon, the ALFA International Contact Partner at **Frantz Ward**, “In this day and age, business issues and legal issues regularly move

across boundaries and beyond borders. Our home region is a center for financial institutions, manufacturing and healthcare as well as other industries that serve global companies of all sizes. We are centrally located in downtown Cleveland to serve not only northeast Ohio but also all of northern Ohio including Toledo. We are delighted to become part of ALFA. We look forward to providing legal services to our fellow ALFA International members and their clients, as well as having a solid base of tier-one referral law firms around the world”

About ALFA International

ALFA International, the global legal network, (www.alfainternational.com) is an organization of independent law firms. ALFA International’s membership is comprised of 132 international law firms (85 U.S. based firms, 47 non U.S. based firms) employing over 8,500 lawyers and 10,000 other legal professionals. Member firms are located in nearly every U.S. state as well as in Canada, Mexico, across Europe, Latin America, South America, and the Pacific Rim. ALFA International’s basic objective, accomplished through its member firms and their activities, is to improve the quality and efficiency of legal services and to provide those services to clients within a reasonable and value oriented cost formula across jurisdictions around the world.

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