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ALFA International, the Global Legal Network, Welcomes New Japanese Member Law Firm, *Atsumi & Partners*

(September 25, 2009) –ALFA International is pleased to announce the addition of the leading business law firm, *Atsumi & Partners* to its network of global firms. The *Atsumi & Partners* (www.aplaw.jp) law firm will be the exclusive ALFA International member in Japan.

Atsumi & Partners is a leading Japanese law firm and the only independent Tokyo law firm with foreign partners. This 85-lawyer Tokyo based firm will provide ALFA International with tier-one membership representation in a critical commercial/legal center of the globe. Building from their award-winning finance and securitization practices, *Atsumi & Partners* has developed a depth of knowledge that extends across all fields of business and finance law. The firm is known for their innovative capabilities in finance, particularly for their work in securitization, capital markets, structured finance, asset finance, covered bonds and similar finance transactions, as well as the creation and management of investment funds, both inbound and outbound. Atsumi & Partners also has corporate, litigation, intellectual property, employment and anti-trust practices and frequently receives awards in respect of its services.

According to Richard Hetke, CEO of ALFA International, “The legal and business network in Japan is a key component to the success of our ALFA members and for our

clients around the globe. The *Atsumi & Partners* law firm is the right firm for our organization's continued expansion and success in the Asia Pacific region and was recently voted the most responsive law firm in Japan for 2009 by Asian-Counsel Magazine."

Mr. Patrick Smith (patrick.smith@aplaw.jp), the ALFA International Contact Partner at Atsumi & Partners stated, "We are pleased to join ALFA International and to be able to provide sophisticated legal services to ALFA clients as they explore business opportunities within Japan and across Asia."

About ALFA International

ALFA International is an organization of independent law firms. ALFA International's membership is comprised of 133 international law firms (85 U.S. based firms, 48 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, Europe, Latin and 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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