WILMER, CUTLER & PICKERING

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NEW COUNSEL JOINS WILMER, CUTLER & PICKERING'S LATIN AMERICAN PRACTICE GROUP

Washington, D.C. -- October 30, 2000 -- Wilmer, Cutler & Pickering is pleased to announce that Enrique Gomez-Pinzon has joined the firm as counsel, resident in its Washington, D.C. office. Mr. Gomez-Pinzon, formerly the head of one of the leading law firms in Colombia, recently served as Director of the Colombian Trade Bureau in Washington, D.C. Mr. Gomez-Pinzon's experience and expertise brings an added dimension to the firm's active Latin American Practice Group (LAPG).

Mr. Gomez-Pinzon, a specialist in trade, negotiation, foreign investment, capital markets, and project finance, has working experience both in Colombia and in the United States. In his legal practice, he has participated in some of the most important financing and privatization transactions in Colombia and, as one of the arbitrators appointed by Colombia under the G-3 Free Trade Agreement with Mexico and Venezuela and under the International Center for Settlement of Investment Disputes (ICSID), he has advised clients in international arbitration proceedings. Mr. Gomez-Pinzon was Cofounder and Director of the Colombian-Japanese Chamber of Commerce and Alternate Director of the Bogotá Stock Exchange.

LAPG chairman Roberto Dañino commented: "We are very excited about Enrique's arrival. It is a privilege to have an attorney of his caliber join us. His arrival also is a very important step within our strategy to consolidate a preeminent U.S. legal practice that provides full legal services for transactions all over Latin America."

Mr. Gomez-Pinzon graduated from the Universidad de los Andes Law School in 1983 and obtained his LL.M. from Harvard University in 1985. He is admitted to practice in Colombia, New York, and Washington, D.C., and is fluent in Spanish and English.

Wilmer, Cutler & Pickering is an international law firm with offices in Washington, D.C., Baltimore, New York, Brussels, London, and Berlin. The firm's Latin American Practice Group provides legal advice with respect to international corporate transactions, especially in the areas of direct investment, mergers and acquisitions, project finance and lending, and capital markets financings. The LAPG brings a range of unique assets to its work, including the language skills and cultural familiarity of its 25-plus attorneys, and vast relationships with law firms, businesses, and other contacts throughout the region.