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Three Market-Leading Firms Join World Law Group

Washington, D.C./Representatives from World Law Group member firms worldwide voted unanimously to admit three top-tier new members during the WLG's Fall 2016 Conference and Members' Meeting in Houston, Texas in mid-September.

Joining as the WLG's second member in Argentina, Bruchou, Fernández Madero & Lombardi (BFM&L) was founded in 1990 to provide legal advice to companies operating in an economy subject to rapid and dramatic structural changes. Today, BFM&L is a leading full-service law firm in Argentina. Its national standing and international reputation are evidenced by BFM&L having been named "Law Firm of the Year – Argentina" in 2015 by Chambers & Partners – its third major award from Chambers. Among other accolades, BFM&L was also recognized as "Law Firm of the Year – Argentina" in 2016 by the *International Financial Law Review* – the sixth time in the last 10 years it has won this award. With 140 lawyers, BFM&L has expanded faster than any other Argentine law firm in recent years.

Founding partner Enrique Bruchou, along with BFM&L partner Ignacio Minorini Lima travelled from Buenos Aires to Houston to present the firm's credentials to WLG member firm representatives attending the conference.

Burness Paull LLP has a single, refreshingly clear goal: "to be the best Scottish law firm in the world." And that's exactly what WLG was looking for when it invited the firm to become its new member for Scotland and admitted it to membership during the WLG's fall meeting in Houston. With 500 employees, including 59 partners, Burness Paull is "unique in having full commercial offerings in the three main Scottish business cities of Aberdeen, Edinburgh and Glasgow," notes Chambers and Partners in its United Kingdom guide. While priding itself on working for many of the country's leading companies, 40% of the firm's revenues are derived from international work. In the past year, Burness Paull has worked on deals totalling over GBP 100 billion in more than 60 jurisdictions.

Firm chair Philip Rodney attended the WLG conference on behalf of Burness Paull to introduce his firm to WLG conference delegates.

Singapore's premier law firm, WongPartnership, was the third new member to be admitted to the WLG in Houston last month. Founded in 1992, the firm has achieved dynamic growth with nearly 300 fee-earners covering every major area of practice in 2016. WongPartnership has also consistently earned numerous accolades in recent years from Chambers and Partners, the *International Financial Law Review*, *Financial Times*, *The Asian Lawyer* and *Asia Legal Business*, among others – both "Singapore Firm of the Year" awards as well as several more for major M&A and corporate finance deals, and for corporate citizenship and gender diversity.

Partners Ameera Ashraf and Ian de Vaz represented their firm and described its history, capabilities and client base to the 120+ delegates attending the September event in Houston.

After the enthusiastic votes to admit the three firms on September 17, President Swee-Kee Ng welcomed them to the organization, noting that the admission of each new member was another testament to the WLG's singular focus on member quality since its founding in 1988.

"We are delighted to gain three such distinguished firms, each an undisputed leader in your own national markets and beyond, as our newest members," he said. "Your ability to serve the clients of all of your fellow WLG member firms comprehensively, efficiently and effectively whenever the need arises adds significantly to our unparalleled global offering of tried and trusted, full-service law firms."

The World Law Group is an elite global network of 57 premier independent law firms, which provide market-leading expertise and comprehensive business law services from 360 offices in major business centres in 76 countries.

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