



**For immediate release**

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**MBA LAZARD EXPANDS IN LATIN AMERICA  
WITH OPENING OF COLOMBIA OFFICE**

BUENOS AIRES and NEW YORK, April 19, 2010- MBA Lazard, a leading Latin American investment banking group, today announced that it has opened a new financial advisory office in Bogota, Colombia, effective immediately. The firm has hired Colombian banker Mauricio Gomez as a Director to lead the effort. The opening of the Colombia office is part of MBA Lazard's broader strategy to offer financial advisory services across Central and South America. MBA Lazard is the joint venture between Lazard Ltd (NYSE: LAZ) and MBA Group, the parent company of MBA Lazard Banco de Inversiones.

"The opening of our Colombia office enhances the expansion strategy of our investment banking franchise and reinforces our commitment to provide a differentiated service to clients in the region," said Alejandro F. Reynal, Chairman & CEO of MBA Lazard. "We are very excited to consolidate our presence in Colombia at a time when its economic development and business environment are so favorable and to have hired Mauricio Gomez to lead our effort there."

A native Colombian, Mr. Gomez has over 14 years of investment banking experience. He joined MBA Lazard earlier this month from IB Partners where he was head of investment banking for Colombia and Central America. Prior to that, he held senior positions at Grupo Sanford and Corfivalle in Colombia. Mr. Gomez has an MBA from The University of Chicago Booth School of Business.

Recent MBA Lazard transactions include advising Empresa de Energia de Bogota in its bid for an 850km power transmission expansion project in Guatemala, and The Bank of Nova Scotia's acquisition of RBS Colombia, among others.

**About MBA Lazard**

MBA Lazard is a leading investment banking, securities and investment management firm that provides a wide range of services to a diversified client base that includes international corporations, financial institutions and domestic companies. MBA Lazard has offices in Argentina, Chile, Colombia, Panama, Peru and Uruguay. For more information on MBA Lazard, please visit [www.mba-lazard.com](http://www.mba-lazard.com)

## About Lazard

Lazard, one of the world's preeminent financial advisory and asset management firms, operates from 41 cities across 26 countries in North America, Europe, Asia, Australia, Central and South America. With origins dating back to 1848, the firm provides advice on mergers and acquisitions, strategic matters, restructuring and capital structure, capital raising and corporate finance, as well as asset management services to corporations, partnerships, institutions, governments, and individuals. For more information on Lazard, please visit [www.lazard.com](http://www.lazard.com).

### Cautionary Note Regarding Forward-Looking Statements

*This press release contains "forward-looking statements." In some cases, you can identify these statements by forward-looking words such as "may", "might", "will", "should", "expect", "plan", "anticipate", "believe", "estimate", "predict", "potential" or "continue", and the negative of these terms and other comparable terminology. These forward-looking statements are not historical facts but instead represent only our belief regarding future results, many of which, by their nature, are inherently uncertain and outside of our control. There are important factors that could cause our actual results, level of activity, performance or achievements to differ materially from the results, level of activity, performance or achievements expressed or implied by these forward-looking statements.*

*These factors include, but are not limited to, those discussed in our Annual Report on Form 10-K under Item 1A "Risk Factors," and also disclosed from time to time in reports on Forms 10-Q and 8-K including the following:*

- *A decline in general economic conditions or the global financial markets;*
- *Losses caused by financial or other problems experienced by third parties;*
- *Losses due to unidentified or unanticipated risks;*
- *A lack of liquidity, i.e., ready access to funds, for use in our businesses; and*
- *Competitive pressure.*

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