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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FRANCISCO ACUÑA JOINS MANATTJONES GLOBAL STRATEGIES AS MANAGING DIRECTOR

Washington, D.C., November 17, 2005 – ManattJones Global Strategies, LLC is pleased to announce that Francisco Acuña has joined the international consulting firm as Managing Director. Mr. Acuña specializes in business consulting in both Mexico and in the United States, with expertise in international trade, business and government relations. A native of Sonora, Mexico, Mr. Acuña brings significant experience and knowledge of Mexico’s government and culture.

“Mr. Acuña brings a special blend of talents, understanding both the legal and business aspects of doing business in Mexico as well as knowledge of government relations and business activities within the United States,” said James Jones, former U.S. Ambassador to Mexico and cofounder of ManattJones Global Strategies. “His expertise will prove invaluable to clients, from multi-national firms to government entities, seeking strategies to enter new and emerging business markets.”

During 2004 Mr. Acuña worked as a graduate intern with ManattJones while attending the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University. Mr. Acuña was involved in a number of projects ranging from an analysis of automotive tariffs under the NAFTA to economic promotion for Mexican government entities to Mexican market entry possibilities for a foreign aircraft manufacturer. Mr. Acuña also published a book on federalism last year titled *Constitutional Controversies in Mexico*. He is a leading expert on the challenges facing North America in the competitive marketplace and a regular contributor to widely circulated newspapers in Mexico.

Now as Managing Director of ManattJones, Mr. Acuña will facilitate the formation of successful strategic partnerships and foreign investment between U.S. companies and foreign states worldwide. He will also advise foreign governments and businesses seeking to expand operations within the U.S.

“As more companies are looking to conduct business in Latin America, Mexico is perfectly positioned as the gateway to one of the world’s fastest-growing economic regions,” commented Mr. Acuña. “This is truly an exciting and pivotal time for international business opportunities. I look forward to working with my esteemed colleagues and helping companies navigate the challenges of a global economy.”

Mr. Acuña earned his Master's of Public Administration from Harvard University in 2005. He received his LL.M. degree from Georgetown University in 2001 and his J.D., summa cum laude, from Universidad Iberoamericana in 2000.

ManattJones Global Strategies, LLC

ManattJones Global Strategies, LLC develops and implements strategies to expand clients' businesses and facilitate their effective competition in global markets. Manatt, Phelps & Phillips, LLP provides legal and consulting services to domestic and international clients through its nearly 300 legal professionals from offices in Albany, N.Y.; New York City; Los Angeles, Orange County, Palo Alto and Sacramento, Calif.; Washington, D.C.; and Mexico City.