

TRANSLATION

DATE: Medellin, June 10, 1994

TO:

FROM:

RE:

Law On Kidnapping and Extorsion

Law 40 of 1993, modified the general standards regarding kidnapping and extortion crimes in that it increased the penalties that those crimes carry. Additionally, it especially penalized those who interfere in rescue negotiations of kidnapped persons or those who crimes carry. do not report the perpetration of such crimes, when they become aware of them, to the corresponding authorities.

Law 40 of 1993 was petitioned/appealed before our Constitutional Court which decided that the standards regarding the abovementioned were unconstitutional "when the person acts under one of the justified circumstances provided under the criminal law."

The above-mentioned means that if someone participates in the negotiation of a kidnapping or extorsion, under the pressure that this conveys, he acts in a "State of Necessity" and, therefore, cannot be penalized.

Sincerely,

