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Law Letter of Recommendation

It is my great pleasure to recommend XXX for the J.D. program at Columbia Law School. I was XXX professor in a class at Columbia Law School. I was impressed by Ethan's academic performance and by his potential to be a great lawyer. I believe he would be a unique addition both to our J.D. student body and to our university community.

I am the former chairman of Milbank, Tweed, Hadley & McCloy. I received my J.D. and M.B.A. degrees from Columbia University. I am a member of the Columbia Law School Dean's Council and the Columbia Law School Board of Visitors. Since 2013, I have served as an adjunct professor at Columbia Law School, where I teach the seminar "The Law Firm of Today."

XXX was a top student in my class; there were only four LL.M. students, while the rest were all J.D. candidates. XXX stood out in this competitive class. His oral articulation and written work were excellent, and he was an extremely mature and thoughtful student. His presentation was well done and generated much class discussion. I have had guest speakers come in and ask me about our excellent "senior." I remember that when the class members were discussing the options for Wall Street law firms to tap into emerging markets, XXX did not agree with the opinion of the majority, including the guest speaker, a senior law firm partner. He did not surrender his position. He articulated his thoughts persuasively, and he was full of confidence. He is definitely a leader rather than a follower.

But most importantly, XXX brought a wealth of practical knowledge derived from his extensive experience as a lawyer focusing on cross-border transactions. In my opinion, it is his ability to handle the day-to-day process of lawyering that has been (and will be) most responsible for XXX success in law school. It is precisely this kind of international legal experience that is most often missing in our J.D. students.

Following the class, XXX and I discussed his career plan several times. I do not know how many successful lawyers have decided to go back to law school in order to re-start their careers in other jurisdictions. Nevertheless, I realize that few people have the courage to step out of their comfort zones, challenge themselves, and defer gratification in pursuit of even bigger goals. I applaud him for pursuing his dream, and I have every confidence that he will succeed in his future endeavors.

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