

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 his potential for a great lawyer. I believe he would be a unique addition to our J.D. student body and 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 a seminar named "The Law Firm of Today."

XXX was a top student in my class, where there were only 4 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 both 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 the excellent "senior" they identified. I remember that when the class were discussing about 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, who is a senior law firm partner. He did not surrender. He articulated his thoughts persuasively, and 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 this ability to convey the day-to-day process of lawyering that has been (and will be) most responsible for Ethan's success in law school. It is precisely this kind of international legal experience, which is often missing in our J.D. students.

Following the class, XXX and I have discussed several times about his career plan. I do not know what percentage of successful lawyers with comfortable jobs decide to re-start their careers in another jurisdiction and go back to law school, but I suspect not too many 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 have every confidence that he will succeed in his future endeavors.

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