

## Law Letter of Recommendation

It is my pleasure to write in support of XXX application for admission to the LL.M. program at Harvard Law School. I am a graduate of the HLS LL.M. program and former Frank Knox Memorial Fellow. I am confident that XXX combines the intelligence, diligence and intellectual curiosity to benefit from, and contribute meaningfully to, the program.

XXX is an associate in this firm's dispute resolution department, in which I am a partner. I first encountered XXX in late 2015, when he joined the firm. I now divide my time between Singapore and Tokyo, and lead the firm's international arbitration practice in Japan. In that capacity, I supervise Taro's work on several client matters and observe his daily in professional settings.

XXX day-to-day responsibilities include legal research, analysis, drafting (in both English and Japanese languages), and project management in a board range of dispute matters. XXX has represented and provided legal advice to Japanese and international clients in various legal proceedings. He has also been instrumental in some of our core pro bono activities, particularly for LGBT equality and supporting orphanages.

Three observations about XXX attributes will, I hope, serve to illustrate his suitability for the LL.M. program at HLS.

First, XXX approaches each task in a careful, methodical fashion, bringing to bear his considerable intelligence. By way of illustration, I was asked to provide the overview of the current Japanese legislation on more than 30 inquiries related to the enforcement procedures of international arbitral awards. International arbitration is a fairly complicated area of law, and especially in Japanese jurisprudence, it has not been well researched and considered as there are only a limited number of international arbitration cases in Japan. In addition, XXX had not previously experienced international arbitration work, having been trained in and focused early in his career on domestic litigation. However, XXX conducted a thorough analysis by researching both English and Japanese relative literatures, and adapted the new procedural framework with ease. He produced a stellar legal analysis, receiving client's high praise. XXX would bring the same intellectual rigor—and open mind—to graduate studies at HLS.

Second, XXX is an excellent team player. For example, when we organized a series of seminars on investment treaty arbitration, which chiefly targeted leading Japanese companies in various industries, XXX was a core member of the project team. The seminar series consisted of seven sessions covering the whole investment arbitration procedures from beginning to end, lasted for more than six months. From the outset, he took charge of managing the project. He created an outline for the seminar series, and coordinated with other six project team members (both Japanese and non-Japanese colleagues) to conduct necessary research, and driving the overall process forward. Although it was very challenging to manage and organize the whole seminar series to entice the clients with the complicated and esoteric topics, he always rose to the challenge. Each session had dozens of attendees and we have received extremely positive feedback from attendees throughout. I am sure that this project could not have been a success without her diligence, insight, and project management acumen.

Third, XXX has a strong sense of responsibility. We are currently working on an Energy Charter Treaty arbitration case under the ICSID Rules against the Kingdom of Spain, relating to changes to a regulatory regime on tariffs affecting the client's interests in the Spanish renewable energy sector. This is only the third-ever investment treaty arbitration commenced by a Japanese company. As this case requires both Japanese and foreign perspectives, XXX was the obvious choice. He is in charge of analysis on hundreds of Japanese documents and legal issues, as well as day-to-day basis communication with the client. XXX was approaching this role with characteristic rigor (researching and considering the legal issues arising from different legal regimes and sources) and enthusiasm (debating the points with vigour). I am confident that she similarly would thrive in attacking new and challenging areas of legal research at HLS.

He has been showing the all attributes above when he works on pro bono matters. It has been a tremendous pleasure to work with XXX. Undoubtedly, his intellect, work ethics, versatile skillset will guarantee a very bright future. As a graduate of HLS, I am sure he will be a great alumni. As will be apparent, I recommend XXX for admission in the strongest possible terms. I would be glad to answer any questions you may have.

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