

To Whom It May Concern,

My name is Lawrence Cenk Laws. I am currently the Program Director at the Turkish Coalition of America (TCA), a nonprofit that has sought to engage Turkish Americans into civic duty and political engagement in an effort to better U.S.-Turkey relations. Due to COVID-19, TCA has decided to close its DC office at the end of September and therefore I am now seeking employment opportunities starting this fall. Prior to my nonprofit work at TCA, I have an extensive background in international political and legal knowledge and would like to continue to build on this expertise. As an employee, I will greatly benefit your organization, with the wealth of experience and self-discipline I have developed over the past years working in this current position as well as my prior ones.

I graduated from Georgetown University with a B.S. in International Politics with a focus on Foreign Policy and Policy Processes. Although living in the United States for most of my life, through my mother's background and family I have always taken a pointed interest in Turkish Culture, Politics, and Law and made sure to take courses related to those fields during my undergraduate life. I continued my education by completing law school at The Catholic University of America's (CUA) Columbus School of Law. While obtaining my Juris Doctor (J.D.), I also was a certificate recipient in my law school's Comparative and International Law Institute and President of my law school's Black Law Students Association (BLSA) chapter.

I went on to complete my L.L.M. abroad in Public International Law at Koc University in Istanbul. My LLM thesis was focused primarily on the International Human Rights Law field with a focus on minority rights. I assisted at Koç University's Center for Global Public Law where I reported on current cases that had been decided on by a number of leading international legal regulatory bodies and committees such as CERD, CAT, CEDAW, and the UNHRC. The summer after my LLM thesis defense I was also selected to participate in a research program centered on Syrian refugee and asylum work in Turkey thereby incorporating international humanitarian law into my fields of expertise as well.

While living in Istanbul, I also worked at Akol Ozok Namli (Akol) primarily as their Legal Proofreader and HR Manager. In my capacity as Legal Proofreader, I was in charge of reviewing virtually all of the client communications that were sent from the office in regards to their English-speaking international clients. This included reviewing legal memos to due diligence reports. I was also in charge of tracking the billing system in our firm along with invoicing clients on a monthly basis. My prior legal position was at a real estate law firm in Virginia where I handled many obligations as a paralegal and law clerk for the past 9 years. Last May, I was admitted to the Virginia Bar.

More recently I have been actively engaged in the political arena on the state and federal level. I canvassed in a 2019 primary race for my state senate district and interned on the Hill for my Congressman, Representative Don Beyer (VA-8th). In 2020, I was selected as a VA State Delegate on the congressional and state level. Even though, I have completed my academics I am still active in the CUA Law Alumni Council, the American Society of International Law (ASIL), and the European Society of International Law (ESIL).

Along with my native English I have near native proficiency in Turkish reading, writing, and speaking through my mother's side along with my 4 years of residency in Turkey. I hope to continue building my political and/or legal expertise. I look forward to an interview with your institution to demonstrate my communications skills and my desire to work with the members of your organization and the people you serve.

/s/ Lawrence Cenk Laws