Developer Assignment: Referral + Deal Pipeline MVP (Circle + Stripe)

We are evaluating candidates for a project to build a **referral tracking system** similar to Nolodex, integrated with **Circle.so** and **Stripe Connect**.

This assignment is designed to test your ability to work with Circle's APIs, Stripe Connect, and a backend DB. The deliverable will serve as a foundation for the real platform, so please treat it as production-quality.

☐ Scope

1. Circle Integration

- Use **Circle Admin API**:
    - Verify a member by email (`GET /community_members/search`).
    - Send that member a Circle **DM** (`POST /messages`) containing a one-time code.
    - Implement a **DM Code login handshake** (simple auth step to confirm the introducer exists in Circle).

2. Referral Submission Form

- Build a small web app (Next.js or Node.js backend).
- Fields:
    - Introducer email
    - Receiver email
    - Lead company
    - Lead email
    - Deal value
- Logic:
    - Prevent duplicates (same lead email within 30 days).
    - Save submissions in Postgres (Prisma preferred).
    - On submit → send Circle DM to receiver with lead info.

3. Deal Pipeline (Kanban Board)

- UI to display submitted referrals.
- Columns: **New, Contacted, Won**.
- Ability to drag & drop deals between columns.
- Persist stage updates in DB.

4. Stripe Connect (Stub)

- Implement **Stripe Connect Express onboarding** for members.
- Onboarded member should have their `stripe_connect_id` stored in DB.
- Full payout logic not required, just working onboarding flow.

□ Deliverables

- Working demo (Vercel, Render, or local setup instructions).
- GitHub repo with code.
- `.env.example` file (Stripe keys, Circle API token, DB).
- Short README explaining:
  - How the Circle handshake works.
  - How data is stored.
  - How to test referral submission and pipeline.

□ Tech Stack

- **Frontend:** Next.js + React
- **Backend:** Node.js / Express (or Next.js API routes)
- **Database:** Postgres + Prisma
- **Integrations:**
  - Circle Admin API
  - Stripe Connect (Express)

□ Evaluation

We will evaluate based on:

1. Correct API integrations (Circle + Stripe).
2. Clean database schema and code structure.
3. Functionality of referral flow + Kanban pipeline.
4. Quality of documentation and setup instructions.