

Personal Statement

My name is Kenji Tanaka, and I am an entrepreneur and innovator in the financial technology (FinTech) sector. With over twelve years of experience, I have dedicated my career to developing secure, scalable, and accessible digital payment platforms. My work has been recognized for its impact on democratizing financial services in emerging markets. This petition will present evidence that I meet the EB-1A criteria for nationally recognized awards, published material about my work, and my performance in a leading role for a distinguished organization. I seek to continue my work in the United States, where I plan to launch a new venture focused on blockchain-based remittance solutions.

Criterion 1: Receipt of Lesser Nationally or Internationally Recognized Prizes or Awards for Excellence In 2023, I was honored to receive the "Innovator of the Year" award from the Pan-Asian FinTech Association. This award is given annually to one individual whose work has significantly advanced the region's financial technology landscape. The selection committee is composed of industry executives and venture capitalists, and the nomination process is highly competitive. This award serves as recognition of my excellence and sustained influence within the international FinTech community.

(See Exhibit A: Award certificate and press release from the Pan-Asian FinTech Association)

Criterion 3: Published Material About the Alien in Professional or Major Trade Publications or Other Major Media My work and the success of my previous company, 'PayRight,' have been the subject of multiple articles in major media outlets. Notably, *Forbes* featured my work in an online article titled "The Five Startups to Watch in Southeast Asia" on October 15, 2022. Additionally, my contributions to mobile payment technology were discussed in a feature piece in *TechCrunch* on January 5, 2023. These articles, with their wide international readership, discuss my specific role in creating technologies that have impacted millions of users.

(See Exhibit B: Copies of articles from Forbes and TechCrunch)

Criterion 8: Performance in a Leading or Critical Role for Organizations or Establishments that have a Distinguished Reputation I was the founder and CEO of a startup company called FinSolutions Inc. In this role, I was very important to the company's operations. I led all the teams and made key decisions that helped the company do its work. Our company was known for being a good place to work and for having an interesting product in the local market. My leadership was a big part of what we did.

(See Exhibit C: Letter from a co-worker)

Exhibit C: Letter of Support To whom it may concern,

I worked with Kenji Tanaka at FinSolutions Inc. for three years.

As our CEO, Kenji was a great leader. He worked hard and was involved in all major projects. He was definitely critical to the company. We all enjoyed working for him and believe he is an extraordinary person.

He would be a great asset to the United States.

Sincerely,

A Former Colleague