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Kanders Churchill Scholarship

Statement of Interest

In 2023, it had taken me hours to search through Google's monorepository, but by 2025, I had the option to ask their internal chatbot for pointers in just a few minutes. In just three years, technology had evolved at an exponential pace, while the policies meant to govern it lagged far behind. I no longer want to simply stand witness to the widening gap; I want to shape the rules that will determine how these tools shape people's lives using the knowledge I've accumulated.

Driven by the desire to make my work both impactful and efficient, I sought a way to channel my technological passions into meaningful policy development. After being exposed to tech ethics in my courses, I joined the Artificial Intelligence and Data Ethics working group to work on a paper providing feedback to Colorado State lawmakers on their Artificial Intelligence Anti-Discrimination Law. I examined how the vague language surrounding 'sufficient human review' and 'consumer protections' created various interpretations, leading to gaps in the grounds for policy enforcement. To me, this experience demonstrated how technical ambiguity can significantly undermine well-meaning legislation, as well as how developers and deployers of AI systems inevitably shape what enforcement looks like in practice.

To deepen this learning, I turned to papers such as Creel and Hellman's Algorithmic Leviathan alongside Fazelpour and Danks's Algorithmic Bias: Sense, Sources, and Solutions. For

the first time, I felt truly empowered in my field: learning to navigate legal jargon, identify points of bias, and engage with both technical and philosophical approaches to fairness.

This sense of duty led me to apply to the AI4Impact Co-op, where I will collaborate with public sector leaders to develop AI systems designed to improve people's lives. Here, I aim not only to display my technical expertise but also to translate it into language that policymakers and practitioners can act upon. Cases such as *New York Times v. OpenAI* make it clear that many decision-makers lack the technical grounding needed to regulate rapidly evolving technologies. Without considering feasibility, orders risk being unenforceable, and without technical input, policies risk being irrelevant. This motivates me to strike a balance between ambitious protection and practical implementation.

Although my learning extends beyond the realm of algorithms and legal language, it should be rooted in cultural and social contexts. Having spent my entire life in the United States, broadening my worldview is essential to shaping policy for technologies that surpass national boundaries.

The opportunity to study in the UK will also deepen my understanding of how more centralized regulation can contrast with the U.S.'s more fragmented policies, as the Office for Artificial Intelligence's White Paper was deeply inspiring to the work I am pursuing. Immersing myself in that policy context would open my world up, allowing me to gain a deeper understanding of how AI will impact the citizens of the globe. The Bennet School of Public Policy at the University of Cambridge is the ideal setting for this development. Their approach to the Policy Analysis Exercise mirrors my current work at the Burnes Center, where I collaborate in a team to design solutions for the public sector by meeting and discussing firsthand. At

Cambridge, I would be able to scale this work to an international context, learning to balance technical insight with political feasibility. This global mindset will enable me to guide the creation of sustainable and explainable AI, from the private sector to international governments.

Desiring to serve on ethics boards at various companies, I aim to be a well-vetted advocate for our ethical safeguards while gaining a deeper understanding of AI innovation at the organizational level. This experience will be helpful as I transition into a more public/international position in the future, such as at the OECD, UNESCO, or the UK's AI Safety Institute. Ultimately, my long-term goal is to contribute to the development of international AI law, building legal frameworks that can withstand rapid technological change while remaining grounded in the principles of fairness, transparency, and accountability. By moving between the corporate, public, and international arenas, I'll develop the ability to serve as a translator between technical communities and policymakers, ensuring that innovation benefits people across borders rather than widening inequities.

I'll have the privilege of graduating with 18 months of work experience, having completed five internships/co-ops within four years. These experiences gave me hands-on insight into development in big tech, small game studios, and the public sector, but my work is far from finished. Cambridge is the next step in my plan to protect and serve the various communities that positively contributed to my life's trajectory, in the digital and tangible world.