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### Via FedEx Overnight Mail

Premium Processing USCIS Texas Service Center 4141 North St. Augustine Road Dallas, TX 75227

RE: Immigrant Petition for Alien Worker as an Alien of Extraordinary Ability Pursuant to § 203(b)(1)(A) of the Immigration and Nationality Act

**Self-Petitioner/Beneficiary**: Zhigang Lu

Classification Sought: I.N.A. § 203(b)(1)(A)

**Form**: I-140

Dear Immigration Officer:

This letter is respectfully submitted in support of the EB-1A First Preference Immigrant Petition to classify Mr. Zhigang Lu (hereinafter also referred to as "Mr. Lu") as an Alien of Extraordinary Ability in the field of Environmental Engineering.

#### Part One: Mr. Lu's Eligibility for Classification as an Alien of Extraordinary Ability

Pursuant to the Immigration and Nationality Act § 203(b)(1)(A), 8 U.S.C. § 1153(b)(1)(A) (2012) and 8 C.F.R. § 204.5(h), in order to be classified as an Alien of Extraordinary Ability in Environmental Engineering, within the broader field of the Sciences, Mr. Lu must have "a level of expertise indicating that he... is one of that small percentage who have risen to the very top of [the field of Environmental Engineering]." Furthermore, Mr. Lu must show that he "has sustained national or international acclaim and that his... achievements have been recognized in his... field of expertise." id. To do this, Mr. Lu must provide evidence that he satisfies at least three (3) of the ten (10) criteria at 8 C.F.R. § 204.5(h)(3). Mr. Lu satisfies four (4) criteria, demonstrating his eligibility to be classified as an Alien of Extraordinary Ability:

1. Pursuant to 8 C.F.R. § 204.5(h)(3)(iv), Mr. Lu has participated as a judge of the work of others in the field of Environmental Engineering.

- 2. Pursuant to 8 C.F.R. § 204.5(h)(3)(viii), Mr. Lu has performed in the leading and critical role of General Manager at Jiangsu Jiangda Ecological Technology Co., Ltd., one of the largest and most distinguished Environmental Engineering companies in China.
- 3. Pursuant to 8 C.F.R. § 204.5(h)(3)(v), Mr. Lu has made original contributions of major significance in the field of Environmental Engineering through the impactful national projects he has led, his numerous national and invention patents, and his nationally-recognized achievements as an Environmental Engineer.
- 4. Pursuant to 8 C.F.R. § 204.5(h)(3)(vi), Mr. Lu has authored numerous scholarly articles in professional or major trade publications in the field of Environmental Engineering.

As one of the top Environmental Engineers in the world, Mr. Zhigang Lu has sustained national acclaim over the course of his career in his home country of China. The following letter and enclosed supporting documentation will show that Mr. Lu has "sustained national or international acclaim" in Environmental Engineering, based on his satisfying at least three (3) of the ten (1) applicable criteria at 8 C.F.R. § 204.5(h)(3). He is therefore eligible for classification as an Alien of Extraordinary Ability by a preponderance of the evidence.

- A. Pursuant to 8 C.F.R. § 204.5(h)(3)(viii), Mr. Lu has performed in the leading and critical role of General Manager at Jiangsu Jiangda Ecological Technology Co., Ltd., one of the largest and most distinguished Environmental Engineering companies in China.
  - I. <u>Jiangsu Jiangda Ecological Technology Co.</u>, <u>Ltd.</u> is one of the most distinguished Environmental Engineering companies in China.

Jiangsu Jiangda Ecological Technology Co., Ltd. (hereinafter "Jiangsu Jiangda Co.") is a prominent, publicly traded corporation in China which focuses on the research and development of new and innovative technology for water pollution prevention and large-scale lake and river ecological restoration. Founded in 2008, Jiangsu Jiangda Co. is the only "Eco-repair Grade A" enterprise in Eastern China, and the company boasts more than a hundred and fifty (150) staff members, who have accumulated more than fifty (50) independent intellectual property patents. The company has completed construction of national academic laboratories, provincial engineering centers, provincial key research and development institutes, and other research platforms, earning a total business revenue of 575.16 million RMB (85.84 million USD using an exchange rate of 1 USD to 6.7 RMB).

Jiangsu Jiangda Co. has also made strategic partnerships with highly prestigious scientific institutions in China, including the Chinese Academy of Environmental Sciences, Fudan University, Nanjing University, and Wuhan University. Since 2012, the national Chinese government has recognized the authority and prestige of Jiangsu Jiangda Co. by assigning it three (3) national "Twelfth Five-Year Plan" special water projects, as well as six (6) provincial science and technology sub-projects.

In addition, Jiangsu Jiangda Co. has received many national recognitions and honors. Jiangsu Jiangda Co. is a Wuxi City AAA Level corporation and has been named by the national Chinese government with titles such as "Academician Workstation for Enterprises in Jiangsu Province", "Jiangsu Science and Technology Development Strategy Research Institute Enterprise Innovation Research Base", and "Jiangsu Province River and Lake Ecological Restoration and Recycling Engineering Technology Research Center". [OTHER AWARDS INFO FROM CHINESE DOCS, NEEDS SERENA'S TRANSLATION].... From 2014 to 2018, Jiangsu Jiangda Co. was named "The Key Institution of Research and Development of Enterprise".

The impact of Jiangsu Jiangda Co. in China has been so large that Mr. Quanxing Zhang, a professor, doctoral supervisor, and director of the Academic Committee of the School Environmental Science of Nanjing University, wrote "As a leading enterprise that has long been tackling the key issues of national-level ecological remediation, [Jiangsu Jiangda Co.] has been engaged in landscape afforestation, ecological restoration, river and lake management, and has received favorable commendations from the government and all sectors of society for its excellent environmental and economic benefits."

Through its groundbreaking research in the field of water ecological restoration and its dedication to technological innovation, Jiangsu Jiangda Co. has expanded in just a few short years to become one of China's most prominent multi-million dollar publicly traded environmental technology companies. Jiangsu Jiangda Co. is therefore clearly one of the leaders in the Chinese environmental engineering industry, and the company currently enjoys a distinguished reputation for its excellence and history of innovation.

II. Mr. Lu has served as General Manager at Jiangsu Jiangda Technology Co., Ltd., driving the company forward and leading the organization to substantial success.

In 2008, Mr. Lu founded Jiangsu Jiangda Co. and served in the top executive position of General Manager of the company from July 2008 to May 2015. In the years following the establishment of the company, Mr. Lu recruited the company's core scientific research team, which includes five (5) academicians, members from three (3) universities, and more than a hundred (100) national high-tech talents. Under Mr. Lu's leadership and guidance, Jiangsu Jiangda Co. proposed projects and published studies such as "Integrated Technology for Ecological Restoration and Resource Utilization of Rivers and Lakes", "Smooth drying process of urban construction mud", "Technology of making thermal insulation brick from mixing urban construction mud and city sludge", "Ecological River Bed Construction Method", and "Lakeshore Belt Constructive Wetland", "Controllable Drape Curtain Gate Device".

During Jiangsu Jiangda Co.'s completion of three (3) national "Twelfth Five-Year Plan" special water projects and six (6) provincial science and technology sub-projects, Mr. Lu, as the preeminent technical expert and manager of the team, led his core research team and more than three hundred (300) external staff members to conduct impactful original research. Regarding these projects, Mr. Youzhi Wang, a researcher at the Jiangsu Institute of Scientific and Technical Information and a cooperant with Mr. Lu, stated, "His research projects have integrated the multidisciplinary theories and latest developments of many research institutes in China and successfully formed a systemic governance method covering the actual implementation of water

pollution prevention, innovating with advanced engineering organization and management process."

Under Mr. Lu's guidance, Jiangsu Jiangda Co. also established the "Wuxi City Modern Agricultural Plant Science and Technology Innovation Center", also known as the "Tianmu Mountain-Taihu Lake Basin Seed Resource Bank" (hereinafter "Wuxi Seed Bank"), which covers an area of more than five thousand (5000) acres and includes germplasm, or plant material, from 127 families, 485 genera, and 2185 species of aquatic and land plants. For his work on maintaining the scientific, technological, and education integrity of the Wuxi Seed Bank, the center was awarded the "Wuxi City (Plant Sensitive Materials) Science Popularization Education Base" by the Wuxi Science and Technology Association, the Education Bureau, and the Science and Technology Bureau. The achievement of this award would not have been possible without Mr. Lu's work and creative direction of Jiangsu Jiangda Co. and the Wuxi Seed Bank.

One of the keys to Mr. Lu's success at Jiangsu Jiangda Co. is undoubtedly his interdisciplinary skills, not only in the technical aspects of Environmental Engineering, but also in leadership and entrepreneurship. According to Mr. Youzhi Wang, "Zhigang Lu has strong personnel organization skills and is good at combining various types of talents. Whether it is high-end theoretical talents or construction operators, he is able to get all members of his team engaged and functioning in unison to reach their goals." Mr. Lu's deep knowledge of the field of environmental engineering, combined with his innate ability to lead, have together made Mr. Lu an ideal leader at Jiangsu Jiangda Co. as he has forged the company ahead to unprecedented levels of success.

Given the fact that Mr. Lu has held such a critical, executive role at one of the leading environmental engineering companies in China and with such a high level of demonstrated success, Mr. Lu satisfies this criterion, pursuant to 8 C.F.R. § 204.5(h)(3)(viii).

## B. Pursuant to 8 C.F.R. § 204.5(h)(3)(iv), Mr. Lu has participated as a judge of the work of others in the field of Environmental Engineering.

Because of his expertise and proven leadership abilities, Mr. Lu is often asked to review the procedures and research of others in the field of Environmental Engineering, as well as draft policies and other planning materials generated by companies or government agencies. These opportunities are by invitation only and are separate from Mr. Lu's normal job duties as General Manager of Jiangsu Jiangda Co. These are closed, high-level reviewership opportunities that are offered only to individuals with the most advanced knowledge of the industry, each with a reputation for excellence and a proven track record of success.

## I. Mr. Lu has served multiple judging roles for the Jiangsu Province Enterprise Research Institute Promotion Association.

The Jiangsu Province Enterprise Research Institute Promotion Association (hereinafter "Jiangsu Research Association") was established in 2014 as the first social organization in China dedicated to the development of corporate research and development institutions. At

present, over 1,500 companies, consisting of large and medium-sized well-known technology enterprises in Jiangsu province, have accepted various services or participated in various activities sponsored by the Jiangsu Research Association. According to the Letter of Certification from the Jiangsu Research Association, "The Association has become a platform for mutual exchanges among enterprises and assists the government in promoting the innovation and development of technological enterprises."

In 2015, the Jiangsu Research Association invited Mr. Lu to be a specialist for the organization, guiding the development of the association. Since 2015, Mr. Lu has held three (3) judging roles at the Jiangsu Research Association.

- 1. Mr. Lu was invited to be an evaluator of the 2016 and 2017 Suzhou Science and Technology Leader Talent Project. As an assessor, Mr. Lu selected between "several candidates based on the candidate's education background and entrepreneurial experience, the technological advancement of their entrepreneurial projects, and the prospect of their marketization," according to the above-mentioned Letter of Certification. Mr. Lu nominated and selected candidates to receive 3-10 million RMB funding from the government to fund their research proposals.
- 2. Mr. Lu was selected as the leader of the expert group to draft the document "Implementation Rules for Enterprise R&D Management System in Jiangsu Province". As the expert group leader, Mr. Lu evaluated the development of more than 10 companies' R&D management systems. According to the Letter of Certification, "His service has greatly helped the enterprises improve the R&D system and effectively enhanced the R&D capability and R&D efficiency."
- 3. Mr. Lu was hired as a consultant for the Jiangsu Research Association. As the consultant, Mr. Lu proposed and directed workshops including "Internet Plus", "Smart Manufacturing", "Enterprise R&D System Construction", and other workshops, seminars, and conferences. In addition, Mr. Lu suggested that the heads of corporate R&D institutions in the Jiangsu Research Association visit famous enterprises such as Alibaba, Geely Automobile, and Haier Group to observe their successful development strategies.

As a result of Mr. Lu's judging roles for the Jiangsu Research Association, the above-mentioned Letter of Certification indicates his success as an evaluator, stating "Mr. Zhigang Lu's excellent professionalism, truthfulness, fairness, and friendly demeanor were highly applauded by the entire jury panel and all the participants... His service has greatly helped the enterprises improve the R&D system and effectively enhanced the R&D capability and R&D efficiency. His evaluation has been widely recognized and appreciated by the enterprises... The popularity and influence of this Association has thus been greatly improved thanks to Mr. Lu's work."

Mr. Lu's distinguished reputation and widespread acclaim in the field of Environmental Engineering clearly made him an ideal candidate to share his expertise by selecting candidates within the Jiangsu Research Association, as well as reviewing, evaluating, and suggesting development plans for members of the Jiangsu Research Association. The level of acclaim this achievement demonstrates is thus clearly profound.

II. Mr. Lu has served as an expert consultant for the Jiangsu Institute of Scientific and Technical Information.

The Jiangsu Institute of Science and Technology Information (hereinafter "Jiangsu Institute") is a major research institution sourcing talent from the most prestigious science and technology experts in China. The Jiangsu Institute has won hundreds of national and provincial awards regarding scientific and technological progress, cementing its position as the authoritative source of environmental engineering information and research. According to a Letter of Certification from the Jiangsu Institute, "... In May 2017, Mr. Zhigang Lu was invited to serve as expert consultant to the water pollution control institute of our company." Mr. Lu was selected to be part of a highly selective team of only seven (7) experts, "all of whom are the most renowned and outstanding experts in theoretical research, policy design, standard-setting, and innovative practice in the field of water pollution prevention and control in our province," according to the Letter of Certification.

As an expert consultant at the Jiangsu Institute, Mr. Lu's job duties included:

- From April to August of 2017, Mr. Lu provided professional advice for the project "Jiangsu Taihu Lake Water Pollution Control and Long-term Protection Mechanism".
- From April to October of 2017, Mr. Lu participated in the revision and improvement of standards including "Discharge Limits for Major Water Pollutants in Urban Wastewater Treatment Plants and Key Industrial Industries in Taihu Lake Area".
- In April of 2017, Mr. Lu "participated in drafting the summary of the work stage held in Nanjing, clearly revised values of the core indicators, participated in the draft revision held in Nanjing in May, and revised the draft in June," according to the Letter of Certification.
- In March of 2018, Mr. Lu presided over the "Yangzhou and Nantong Water Treatment Science and Technology Experts Demonstration Meeting".

Because of Mr. Lu's efforts for the Jiangsu Institution, the above-mentioned Letter of Certification stated that "Mr. Zhigang Lu, as a leading expert in China's water treatment industry, made tremendous contributions to the standardization process of the Jiangsu Water Treatment Industry and the promotion of major special water projects, which has been unanimously approved by experts."

Mr. Lu's invitation to serve as a judge seeking to advance the research methods of the Jiangsu Institute, within the broader field of Environmental Engineering, with this authoritative organization is a clear demonstration of his prominence in the industry. Mr. Lu's role in advancing the industry of Environmental Engineering in China is profound.

Thus, by virtue of Mr. Lu's having judged and evaluated the work and qualifications of others in the field of Environmental Engineering within several high-level and distinguished industry organizations in China, Mr. Lu satisfies this criterion, pursuant to 8 C.F.R. § 204.5(h)(3)(iv).

C. Pursuant to 8 C.F.R. § 204.5(h)(3)(v), Mr. Lu has made original contributions of major significance in the field of Environmental Engineering through the impactful national projects he has led, his numerous national and invention patents, and his nationally-recognized achievements as an Environmental Engineer.

Based on Mr. Lu's preeminence in his field, as demonstrated by his leading role as an authority on Environmental Engineering in China, it comes as no surprise that Mr. Lu has proven his expertise in the field of Environmental Engineering through several contributions of major significance in the industry, affecting the field so profoundly that echoes of Mr. Lu's work will doubtlessly reverberate in both his industry and the natural ecosystems of China for many years to come.

One of Mr. Lu's most innovative and original contributions to the field of Environmental Engineering is the concept behind his nationally-recognized achievement "Integrated technology of ecological restoration and resource utilization in rivers and lakes" (Certificate No. 2009-001). In order to ecologically restore bodies of water in China, Mr. Lu has devised the following original, integrated procedure:

I. <u>Flocculation sedimentation</u>: When Mr. Lu first encounters gray, unhealthy infrastructure at the location he is restoring, he is able to remove pollutants with a unique flocculation sedimentation procedure. Because most of Mr. Lu's ecological restoration areas are heavily polluted with factory or industrial waste, much of the water is typically contaminated with colloids, a black substance heavy in organic matter that cannot be filtered through typical centrifuge methods. To combat this problem, Mr. Lu devised a revolutionary pollutant-removing filtration method using different flocculants. Flocculants, which are the general classification of a group of clarifying agents that trap and coagulate colloids, are typically used in industrial water pools to depollute. Therefore, Mr. Lu's application of a series of flocculants, including polyacrylamide and cationic copolymer flocculants, to large-scale bodies of natural water is original and very impactful toward the environmental restoration field.

Mr. Lu has invented countless quality improvement steps toward this goal, through research, projects, and patents involving augmentation of the efficiency and effectiveness of his flocculation sedimentation de-pollution method. His patents on techniques regarding flocculation sedimentation include: "Sedimentation process technology for river and lake mud" (Patent No. ZL 2008 1 0196706. 4), "Preparation method of hydrophobic cationic polymeric flocculant" (Patent No. ZL 2009 1 0182037. X), "Preparation method and application of cationic ternary copolymer containing hydrophobic group" (Patent No. ZL 2009 1 0182038. 4), "Controllable drape guide device" (Patent No. ZL 2009 1 0266708. 0), "Environmentally friendly eluent for the treatment of heavy metals contaminated soil and sludge" (Patent No. ZL 2010 1 0216925. 1), "Drying basin with low position high draining function" (Patent No. ZL 2008 2 0160341.5), "Slurry water quick slurry

separation pharmaceutical dispensing equipment" (Patent No. ZL 2008 2 0160342. X), and "Mixer for slurry separation" (Patent No. ZL 2008 2 0160343. 4).

Regarding these technological inventions, Mr. Youzhi Wang, a researcher at the Jiangsu Institute of Scientific and Technical Information, wrote, "The technology devised by him for ecological environment restoration has become the most advanced technology for sediment ecological control."

II. Sludge drying and recycling: Upon removing artificial pollutants, Mr. Lu has devised a revolutionary procedure in which he is able to reuse naturally existing deposits of river sludge to create a new, green landscape, through drying and recycling technology. River sludge, which is typically the result of wastewater sewage contamination, is usually useless sedimentation at the bottom of a river that can pollute both the natural ecosystem as well as the drinking water of nearby locales. Mr. Lu has created original and outstanding strategies to reuse this river sludge through purification to create industry-standard dry sludge bricks, as well as deposits to serve as the foundation for a new, green infrastructure at his ecological restoration locale.

His patents on techniques regarding sludge drying and recycling include: "Lightweight high-impact water seepage sidewalk brick manufacturing method" (Patent No. ZL 2009 1 0182036.5), "Method for producing building brick raw materials using urban construction waste slurry" (Patent No. ZL 2010 1 0136941. X), "Silt fast drying method" (Patent No. ZL 2012 1 0182810. 4), "Method for promoting rapid drying of dredged sludge by microorganisms" (Patent No. ZL 2012 1 0309900. 5), "Excessive sludge efficient drying process" (Patent No. ZL 2012 1 0338723. 3), "River and lake silt consolidation yard" (Patent No. ZL 2009 2 0048179.2), and "Lightweight sidewalk brick" (Patent No. ZL 2009 2 0233266. 5).

For his research on the sludge-drying process, as well as his accomplishment of reusing wastewater slurry material, Mr. Lu was awarded the nationally-recognized achievements of "Technology of making thermal insulation brick from mixing urban construction mud and city sludge" (Certificate No. 2010-038) and "Urban construction mud instant drying process and equipment" (Certificate No. 2010-039).

Dr. Lixiang Zhou, a professor and doctoral supervisor at Nanjing Agricultural University, wrote "Compared with mainstream technologies at home and abroad in the same period, this technology has made great breakthroughs by requiring less space and a shorter processing time... Mr. Lu's filtering technology can be used in large-scale dredging construction, and has fundamentally solved the long-term technical difficulties in the treatment of waste sediment from rivers and lakes." This recognition from national experts in Mr. Lu's field demonstrates the originality and innovativeness of his sludge recycling procedure.

III. <u>River and lake ecological restoration</u>: Once the region of restoration is purified from natural and artificial pollution sedimentation, Mr. Lu instates his unique river and lake ecological restoration technique. The results and groundbreaking impact of these

techniques is best related through the ecological restoration projects Mr. Lu has undertaken in the past decade. Through his expertise on lake biodiversity gained through decades of research experience and academic study, Mr. Lu has utilized his four-step restoration method to make critical original contributions as a leader of many national projects and sub-projects, which have indelibly impacted both the people and environment of China, as well as the field of Environmental Engineering as a whole.

### a. Mr. Lu utilized his ecological restoration technologies to restore Taihu Gong Lake.

From January 2013 to December 2015, Mr. Lu was assigned a National Science and Technology Major Task Contract titled "A comprehensive demonstration of ecological restoration and engineering research in the lake basin of Taihu Gong Lake" (Title no: 2013ZX07101-014). This project had funding of **137.92 million Yuan** and involved the partnership of Nanjing University, China Academy of Environmental Sciences, Nanjing Institute of Geography and Limnology at the Chinese Academy of Sciences, Wuxi City Environmental Science Research Institute, Jiangsu Jiangda, and Fudan University.

The goal of this project included (1) analysis of the potential risks of drinking water contamination from lake pollution and algal blooms, (2) integration of pollution interception and purification technologies in Taihu Gong Lake, (3) ecological reconstruction of the estuary, and (4) development of a three-dimensional repair model for aquatic vegetation in lake ecosystems. In particular, Mr. Lu's specific task in this project was to create a demonstration project at Taihu Gong Lake displaying the team's ecosystem reconstruction techniques and establishing a long-term operational model for ecological restoration at the lake.

The project gained critical acclaim from expert evaluators in the field of Environmental Engineering. According to Dr. Chun Ye, a researcher at the Chinese Research Academy of Environmental Sciences and an expert on environmental protection, "As a result of his extensive work on the wetland, the lake's Class V water became Class III water (meeting the drinking water source quality standards). The current Gonghu Wetland Reserve water is clear, and the transparency depth of the water body increased from 0.4 to nearly 2 meters, which is an incredible accomplishment to achieve even by international standard." Multiple other experts also commented that Mr. Lu's work on Taihu Gong lake transformed the area from a foul-smelling, murky body of water to a fresh, green tourist locale attracting rare species of birds and providing potable water to the nearby city of Wuxi. Dr. Yinjiang Zhang, professor at the School of Marine Ecology and Environment at Shanghai Maritime University and an official evaluator of the Wuxi Taihu Project further commented that "At the same time, the project demonstration area has also successfully conserved more than 50 species of aquatic plants, 26 species of fish, and 23 species of waterfowl. This has greatly enhanced the stability of biodiversity and aquatic ecosystems." It is thus evident that Mr. Lu has made indelible impacts on the ecosystem of the Gong Lake region. In addition, Dr. Yinjiang Zhang revealed that:

Today, the project has become a platform for international water ecology treatment technology exchanges. It has received visits and inspections by officials and scholars from The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), Queen's University of Canada, Pennsylvania State University, Utrecht University in the Netherlands, and the German Water Affairs Center. Technological exchange activities in ecological governance have extended from China to the international scale, because of Mr. Lu's project.

Mr. Lu's project success at the Gonghu Lake region has significantly impacted and inspired international Environmental Engineering scientists and researchers, as well as the field of Environmental Engineering as a whole, through his provision of a platform for the exchange of ecological conservation ideas. Thus, the above-stated peer reviews of Mr. Lu's project results demonstrate Mr. Lu's successful execution of this national project, as well as his original contributions made toward the fulfillment of the project goals.

# b. Mr. Lu utilized his ecological restoration technologies to restore the Xincheng basin.

From January 2012 to December 2015, Mr. Lu was assigned a second National Science and Technology Major Task Contract titled "A comprehensive demonstration of water quality improvement and ecological restoration in the Xincheng basin of Taihu Lake" (Title no: 2012ZX07101-013). This project had funding of **194.9 million Yuan** and involved the partnership of the Chinese Academy of Environmental Sciences, Wuxi Environmental Monitoring Center Station, Nanjing Institute of Geography and Limnology at the Chinese Academy of Sciences, Jiangsu Jiangda, Jiangnan University, Nanjing University, and Beihang University.

As stated in the official project description, the goal of this project was to "carry out water quality, water ecology and river basin socio-economic development investigations", undergo "studies on ecological carrying capacity and regional pollution load reduction allocation", and "realize pollution load reduction in the Liangtanghe small watershed". To quantify the success of the project, the goal of the project additionally included the parameters that the total pollution was reduced by 30 percent, the nitrogen and phosphorus pollution was reduced by 20 percent, and the water quality should be stable at Class III water standard.

Not only did the project meet these parameters, but Mr. Lu's original and innovative techniques left long-lasting impact on the people and environment around him. According to Dr. Yinjiang Zhang, "2.32 km² of wetland formed by the Gong Lake Restoration and Lake Ecological Rehabilitation Project cleaned 3 million m³ volume of water with former quality categorized as less than inferior V grade through a 3-month period, and after purification be used as Class II potable water. This is simply a miracle in the history of water restoration!" He further wrote, "Through his ecological design, the project has achieved a series of urban river network water purification cascade by levels to solve the current global water problems and provide reference to future low-carbon purification demonstration projects. This project has significant impact on the water restoration

field." According to Mr. Youzhi Wang, "He established a database of follow-up monitoring, sample analysis, biodiversity indicators, and detection methods, and proposed a practical and sustainable long-term operation model. The model devised by him and countermeasure suggestions proposed by him have made him the leading expert in this field." In addition, Mr. Lu's project met all of the standards set by expert evaluators of the project. Dr. Chun Ye wrote that "His demonstration of the ecological restoration of the Wuxi Taihu Xincheng region was unanimously approved by the five academicians of the Chinese Academy of Engineering."

According to an article in the Science Daily News titled "Taihu pollution control, degradation to eutrophication" which featured Mr. Lu's Taihu Gong Lake transformation:

[Mr. Lu's Taihu Gong Lake] project launched a complete set of technologies for the recycling of farming wastes, regional emission reductions, especially breakthrough in comprehensive nutrient regulation of nitrogen and phosphorus emission reduction, biomass energy conversion and agricultural ecological recycling technology, and etc. Many of the above-mentioned technologies have been applied in foreign countries such as Argentina and more than 100 regions in over 18 provinces and autonomous regions such as Yunnan, Xinjiang, Heilongjiang and Guangdong.

It is thus evident that Mr. Lu has made original contributions to national projects in which he met all expert standards and created models that have impacted the field of Environmental Engineering as a whole.

c. Mr. Lu utilized his ecological restoration technologies in numerous national sub-projects.

Mr. Lu was also the team leader of a number of National Science and Technology Major Task Sub-projects, all under the title "A comprehensive demonstration of water quality improvement and ecological restoration in the lake basin of Taihu Gong Lake" (Sub-title no: 2013ZX07101014-01, -03, -04, -05, and -06). It is additionally important to consider the circumstances of Mr. Lu's project attainments, both in the context of Chinese scientific research as well as in the context of the field of Environmental Engineering. According to Dr. Chun Ye, "... during the five-year period of the 'Twelfth Five-Year Plan', China hosted only 200 different major national science and technology projects. Therefore, it is even more remarkable that Mr. Zhigang Lu... played important role in not only one, but several of them."

Therefore, Mr. Lu's sub-project and project contributions to National Science and Technology Major Tasks and his overall outstanding success at restoring bodies of water demonstrate his original contribution to the field of Environmental Engineering, as well as acknowledgment from his peers of his innovative techniques. Mr. Lu's diligent reconstruction and restoration of the Taihu Gong Lake area have impacted not only the surrounding ecosystem consisting of plants, animals, and humans living around the Taihu

Gong Lake area, but, in a ripple effect, have wide-ranging influence on the entire field of Environmental Engineering as a whole.

d. Mr. Lu utilized his ecological restoration technologies to reconstruct the Jiangnan University campus.

Finally, as a last anecdotal example of the wide-ranging and ground-breaking impact of Mr. Lu's ecosystem restoration technologies, during the merger between Jiangnan University and four other provincial universities, Mr. Lu was hired as a consultant for the ecological restoration for the new campus, which involved reconstruction of 12 rivers with a combined surface area of nearly 30 hectares. Using his patented technologies and models, he was able to remove pollutants such as garbage, construction waste, silt, and dark black colloid (a substance with high organic matter content which cannot be removed with typical centrifuging methods). According to Mr. Zhongping Jiang, the commander of the new Jiangnan University campus construction project:

"This ecological construction and restoration project has made Jiangnan University well-known in China for its beautiful campus and greater vegetation. It has become a model example of Mr. Lu's leading ecological reconstruction theory... Today, Jiangnan University has enjoyed lengthy status under the Ministry of Education and the country's '211 Project'. The scale of the school has doubled compared to its initial establishment."

Mr. Lu's original and innovative technologies, as demonstrated by his numerous national patents, evidence his original contributions to the scholars, researchers, and workers in ecological restoration. Using these lake and river ecological restoration technologies, technologies, he has been able to widely impact many large national projects, demonstrating his role as a leading figure in the field of Environmental Engineering.

IV. New plant material implementation: The final step Mr. Lu takes toward full and long-lasting ecological restoration is the implementation of new plant material. Because of his expertise in longstanding biodiversity and his understanding of the importance of long-term success of an ecosystem, Mr. Lu creates the perfect balance of new plant species in each of his restoration regions using resources from his self-established germplasm foundation.

His germplasm foundation, Wuxi Seed Bank, located in Yixing Mountain, Wuxi City, focuses on the collection, protection, and reproduction of ecological restoration plant germplasm resources in the Taihu Lake Basin and beyond. According to Dr. Shuqing An, a professor and doctoral supervisor at the School of Life Sciences at Nanjing University, "During the implementation of the project, a total of 127 families, 485 genera, and 2185 species of germplasm resources in the Taihu Lake Basin were collected for breeding and rapid propagation of wetland plants such as lycoris radiata, purple pearl, and hydrilla verticillata, which laid a solid ecological foundation for environmental protection in the Taihu Lake Basin." Furthermore, in September 2013, the center was awarded the "Wuxi City (Plant Sensitive Materials) Science Popularization Education Base" by the Wuxi

Science and Technology Association, the Education Bureau, and the Science and Technology Bureau, for its efforts in creating a hands-on learning experience for students ranging from elementary school to university-level to understand plant life better and to comprehend the importance of environmental conservation. Thus, the expert consensus of the significance of Mr. Lu's germplasm foundation demonstrates further his original contributions to the field of environmental engineering.

Regarding the plant implementation step of Mr. Lu's four-step process during the renovation project of Jiangnan University, Mr. Zhongping Jiang wrote, "Through the innovative combination of landscape engineering, ecological regulation, and diversity construction, he completely upgraded the entire campus ecosystem. This contrasts the common practice in China, where ecological restoration in a community only partially solves problems, because the project team does not look at the larger ecosystem as a whole." Mr. Lu's wisdom in seeing the larger picture of the ecosystem he is restoring further displays his expertise and original strategies in environmental engineering and overall ecological restoration.

Many environmental engineering experts have written glowing accolades of Mr. Lu's original and innovative four-step integrated approach for the restoration of lakes and rivers in China.

Dr. Quanxing Zhang, a professor, doctoral supervisor, and director of the Academic Committee of the School Environmental Science of Nanjing University, stated that "The technology has impacted each level of governance of China's rivers and lakes and completed changed the old singular technology management model to innovatively establish an efficient and systematic operational mode for water body management. It has, for the first time in Chinese history, formed and fully integrated ecological and environmental resources and social infrastructure."

Dr. Shuqing An wrote, "By adhering to the motto of "restoring rivers and lakes together, cascade digestion, ecological reconstruction, co-evolution, internal and external interactions, and returning clear water to lakes", and adopting innovative local clean water bio-habitat restoration technologies, his management of the project has created a long-term standardized clear water strategy for the demonstration area."

According to Dr. Yinjiang Zhang, "Zhigang Lu's original "Integrated Technology for Ecological Restoration and Resource Utilization of Rivers and Lakes" system has revolutionized polymer flocculating material technology, sludge drying and resource technology, river and lake ecological restoration technology, and new biomedical technology... This model provides new ideas for the ecological governance industry, inspiring a large group of later technology upgrades."

Dr. Quanxing Zhang further wrote that "Today, these technologies created by Zhigang Lu's team have been widely used in the Taihu Lake Basin, Huaihe River Basin, Tianjin Harbor reclamation and urban subway projects, bringing in a wide range of huge social, economic, and ecological benefits."

This combination of such expert testimonials and the objective evidence regarding Mr. Lu's widely impactful original contributions cements his position as a leading figure in the field of

Environmental Engineering. It is thus evident that Mr. Lu has made numerous major original contributions to the field of Environmental Engineering in China, which have had a significant, positive impact on the broadest scale possible in the country. Not only has Mr. Lu contributed with his innovative new technological advances, but he has also provided original ideas which have been used to establish the very foundation of how Environmental Engineering techniques should be practiced in China. His four-step method for ecological restoration has provided China with the means to advance not only the field of Environmental Engineering, but the critically important field of pollution control as a whole, with the largest beneficiary being the entire environment of China and, further, the world. Mr. Lu therefore fulfills this criterion, pursuant to 8 C.F.R. § 204.5(h)(3)(v).

# D. <u>Pursuant to 8 C.F.R. § 204.5(h)(3)(vi)</u>, Mr. Lu has authored numerous scholarly articles in professional or major trade publications in the field of Environmental Engineering.

Mr. Lu has continuously published scholarly works since 2009, and his research findings over the last decade have been extremely influential in the field of Environmental Engineering. Mr. Lu's works are published in some of the highest-level domestic journals for scholars in his field, and most of the publications are in the top quartile of numerous academic disciplines related to Environmental Engineering. Additionally, the field of Environmental Engineering is relatively niche in China, so achieving high numbers of citations is more difficult in Mr. Lu's field compared to the broader sciences. Despite this, Mr. Lu is widely influential and hugely prolific in the field of Environmental Engineering. His papers in a variety of top peer-reviewed journals have been impactful and influential in his field.

# I. Mr. Lu has published scholarly work in the Chinese Journal of Environmental Engineering

The Chinese Journal of Environmental Engineering is a monthly academic journal managed by the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS) and sponsored by both the Research Center for Eco-Environmental Sciences and CAS. Founded in 1980 under the name Comments on Environmental Studies in China, the Chinese Journal of Environmental Engineering is considered the authoritative journal of environmental engineering in China. CAS, the managing entity of the Chinese Journal of Environmental Engineering, is the leading scientific society in China and one of the world's top science and technology research and development organizations.

In February 2013, Mr. Lu co-authored the article "Characterization, flocculation, and dehydration of dredged sludge" in the *Chinese Journal of Environmental Engineering*, which analyzed the particle size distribution, mineral composition, surface groups, and zeta potential of Wuxi Xishan wetland park river sediment and dredged sewage from Gonghu Bay of Tai Lake. Mr. Lu and his research group created a highly efficient protocol for flocculating separation and vacuum filtration of dredged sludge using polyacrylamide solutions. Mr. Lu's paper is highly impactful to researchers studying the flocculation of dredged sludge, garnering an impressive six (6) citations by other researchers and scientists in the field of environmental engineering.

### II. Mr. Lu has published scholarly work in *Journal of Nanjing Forestry University*

The *Journal of Nanjing Forestry University* is a bimonthly academic journal published by the Nanjing Forestry University and the Chinese Academy of Forestry. The Nanjing Forestry University is considered a Double First-Class Discipline University by the Chinese Ministry of Education and a premier authority on ecological information in China. The *Journal of Nanjing Forestry University* publishes both a natural science as well as humanities and social sciences edition, and has won outstanding awards from the Chinese Academy of Natural Science Journals and the Ministry of Education in Jiangsu Province.

In March 2013, Mr. Lu co-authored the article "A Research of Ecological Function Area and Vegetation Restoration at Taihu Gonghu Bay Wetland" in the *Journal of Nanjing Forestry University*, which discussed restorative methods Mr. Lu and his team undertook to resolve problems with ecological balance at the lakeside wetland of Taihu Gonghu bay area. These methods include the construction of ecological buffer islands, creating a submersible dike-cutting wave, and undergoing ecological revetment. Additionally, Mr. Lu and his team accurately analyzed the structural problems of the Taihu lake wetland in four different regions to create and undergo four vegetation restoration procedures. With this paper, Mr. Lu created a lasting impact both on scholars and researchers reading and citing his restoration procedures, as well as the wetland biome itself, which became restored and appropriately balanced due to Mr. Lu's ingenuity and diligent work.

### III. Mr. Lu has published scholarly work in the Journal of Filtration and Separation

The *Journal of Filtration and Separation*, which publishes quarterly from Nanchang, Jiangxi Province, is an academic journal sponsored by the China Filtration Society (CFS) and the Nanchang Institute of Technology School of Hydraulic and Ecological Engineering. The School of Hydraulic and Ecological Engineering is a department at the Nanchang Institute of Technology with 9 academic undergraduate majors and 115 faculty members dedicated to the training of students in the field of hydraulic engineering. The *Journal of Filtration and Separation* was first published in 1991 with the mission of becoming the domestic hub of filtration and separation information.

In 2011, Mr. Lu co-authored the article "Research on Dewatering Technologies of Gonghu Bay Sludge" in the *Journal of Filtration and Separation*. In his paper, Mr. Lu discussed filtration and dehydrating techniques to treat river and lake sludge using a model at Gonghu Bay. In particular, Mr. Lu considered the wider impacts of his technology and devised protocols for efficient and time-effective treatment of large quantities of sludge using pools of soil and filtration drainage systems. By suggesting a more cost and time-effect technique to filter and reuse waste sludge, Mr. Lu's academic paper has had wide repercussions for manufacturers in the field of filtration and separation, and his brilliant methods of dehydrating and filtering river and lake sludge have made major impacts on both the pollution control and building construction industries in China.

IV. Mr. Lu has published scholarly works in the Chinese Journal of Environmental Science

The *Chinese Journal of Environmental Science* is an academic journal managed by the aforementioned Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS) and sponsored by both the Research Center for Eco-Environmental Sciences and CAS. It is the first academic journal in China focusing on Environmental Sciences and is thus the reigning authority on all subjects within that field. Located in Beijing, the *Chinese Journal of Environmental Science* publishes monthly and has won the prestigious title of Chinese Core Journal in 1996, 2000, 2004, 2008, 2011, and 2014. The selection of Mr. Lu's scholarly work to be published in this journal is yet another indication of his wide influence and excellent reputation in the field of Environmental Engineering.

<u>In 2011, Mr. Lu co-authored the article "Isolation of Heterotrophic Nitrifiers Which Can Tolerate</u> High Concentration of Ammonia-Nitrogen and the Optimization of their Nitrogen Removal Efficiency in Wastewater" in Environmental Science. In their research, Mr. Lu and his team isolated the eight strains of heterotrophic nitrifiers (bacteria able to remove nitrogen from their surroundings) with the highest ammonia-nitrogen tolerance via an assembly line of protocols including multi-point sampling, gradient dilution of buffer liquid, utilization of a color indicator as a rapid nitrification detection method, and isolation from streaking plates. By injecting the strains into ammonia-nitrogen wastewater, Mr. Lu and his team were able to find the eight most efficient heterotrophic nitrifiers, which belonged to Comamonas, Rhodococcus, Pseudomonas, Arthrobacter, and Paracoccus genera. These heterotrophic nitrifiers were able to remove nearly 65-80 percent of ammonia nitrogen from wastewater, creating huge implications for the future of pollution removal from bodies of water in China. Because of the wide impact of Mr. Lu's discovering of efficient heterotrophic nitrifiers, "Isolation of Heterotrophic Nitrifiers Which Can Tolerate High Concentration of Ammonia-Nitrogen and the Optimization of their Nitrogen Removal Efficiency in Wastewater" has been cited an outstanding and highly impressive twentythree (23) times by researchers in his field, and will continue to provide essential and extremely useful information to scientists and companies aiming to reduce nitrogen pollution in bodies of water around the world.

### V. Mr. Lu has published scholarly works in *Environmental Science and Technology*

Environmental Science and Technology is an academic journal that has published bimonthly from Xuzhou City, Jiangsu Province since 1988, and is managed by the Jiangsu Province Department of Environmental Protection. The journal is jointly sponsored by the Environmental Protection Research Institute of Xuzhou Municipality and the Jiangsu Provincial Academy of Environmental Sciences. Environmental Science and Technology has won the prestigious title of Chinese Core Journal in both 2008 and 2011, thus evidencing its status as an eminent authority in Mr. Lu's field.

Mr. Lu has published a number of works in *Environmental Science and Technology* that have received wide and high acclaim. Below is a selection of his works published in the journal:

• In 2012, Mr. Lu co-authored the article "Application of Anionic Polyacrylamide in Treating Waste Slurry from Pile Foundation Engineering" in *Environmental Science and Technology*. Mr. Lu and his team devised new protocols for the filtration and separation of waste slurries from pile foundations, which included X-ray diffraction, laser particle size analysis, micro-electrophoresis, and most innovatively, anionic polyacrylamide separation. Mr. Lu's invention of an anionic polyacrylamide separation protocol has huge implications

for the field of filtration and separation and its applications in the industry, and as evidenced by his paper's astounding seventeen (17) citations from his peers in the field of Environmental Engineering, Mr. Lu's discoveries are impactful and revolutionary in his field.

- In 2011, Mr. Lu co-authored the article "Preparation of Brick Using Dewatered Mud from Lake Taihu" in *Environmental Science and Technology*. In this paper, Mr. Lu and his team investigated the properties of dehydrated mud from Lake Taihu in order to determine its viability as a brick ingredient for industrial use. By examining the mud's properties of shrinkage, water absorption, and compressive strength, Mr. Lu and his team experimented with adding differing quantities of ash and calcium to perfect the brick's constitution. Because of his highly impactful insights and the viability of Mr. Lu's technologies in the brick manufacturing industries, "Preparation of Brick Using Dewatered Mud from Lake Taihu" garnered an impressive and remarkable thirteen (13) citations from Mr. Lu's peers in his field.
- In 2010, Mr. Lu was the primary author of the article "Research on Aerobic Co-composting of Water Systems Dredged Sediment and Solid Waste" in *Environmental Science and Technology*. In his research, Mr. Lu led his team in examining the effect of independent factors such as temperature, pH value, water content ratio, amount of organic matter, total nitrogen content, and carbon-nitrogen ratios on compost efficiency of river and lake sludge. Mr. Lu's team also discovered that adding pig manure, rice husks, and inorganic nitrogen fertilizers was additionally beneficial to increasing the rate of composting. Mr. Lu's thoroughness in researching so many independent factors and the practical value of his research on the pollution disposal industry in China earned him a remarkable twelve (12) citations from his peers, demonstrating his wide impact in the field of environmental engineering.
- In 2009, Mr. Lu was the primary author of the article "Study on Treatment of Ammonia Nitrogen of Flocculation Residual Water by Immobilized Nitrobacteria Pellets" in Environmental Science and Technology. Mr. Lu led his team in developing a protocol for creating and distributing nitrobacteria pellets in low-concentration ammonia nitrogen environments. Mr. Lu's nitrobacteria pellets are able to absorb nitrogen waste, and his research proved that the pellets are able to improve the environmental quality of an applied area from Class V to Class I of the National Water Quality Standard. Mr. Lu's innovative and revolutionary invention of his nitrobacteria pellet protocols are greatly impactful, and his research on nitrobacteria pellets pioneers a new era of Environmental Engineering as a method of ecosystem pollution control.
- In 2009, Mr. Lu co-authored the article "Impact of Flocculation Sedimentation Dealing with Urban River and Lake Sediment on Water Quality" in *Environmental Science and Technology*. In this paper, Mr. Lu and his team discussed the large-scale use of flocculation sedimentation for pollution treatment of rivers and lakes. Flocculation sedimentation is generally used to treat sewage plants and industrial waste areas, but rarely used on a larger scale. Mr. Lu's preliminary research and demonstrations showed that flocculation sedimentation was able to remove at least five pollutants in wastewater, and Mr. Lu and

his team have additionally supported the process of instating a large-scale flocculation sedimentation treatment for rivers and lakes across China. This flocculation sedimentation treatment plan has incredible potential to become an effective solution for China's environmental pollution problems, and the eight (8) citations on this paper further demonstrate Mr. Lu's widespread impact on the Environmental Engineering field.

Thus, Mr. Lu has an extensive list of publications demonstrating his original and revolutionary research and developments which have helped shape the contemporary field of Environmental Engineering in China, as well as massively influenced the pollution control and building construction industries in China. The quality of Mr. Lu's papers is further confirmed by the caliber of the journals in which he has published his research and the numerous citations to his research from other top journals. Mr. Lu thus satisfies this criterion, pursuant to 8 C.F.R. 204.5(h)(3)(vi).

# Part Two: Mr. Lu will continue his work in Environmental Engineering in the U.S., where his presence will substantially benefit prospectively the industry of Environmental Engineering in the country.

Such cutting-edge, innovative, and profoundly impactful talent would undeniably be significant in the United States, and Mr. Lu fully intends to continue his extraordinary work in Environmental Engineering in the United States, as Mr. Lu confirms in the signed Affidavit furnished herein at <a href="LIST EXHIBIT HERE">LIST EXHIBIT HERE</a>. The field of Environmental Engineering is one of utmost importance in any developed nation, for businesses, private individuals, government organizations, and most importantly, the global environment, as every individual strives to improve the state of the environment amidst exponentially increasing pollution levels and the rapid depletion of natural resources. In order for the United States to maintain and enhance its position as a prominent global force in technological innovation as well as a staunch defender of the global environment, it is imperative that the United States attract talented professionals experienced in environmental conservation. Mr. Lu is more than qualified to fulfill this need, by virtue of the outstanding and extraordinary contributions and work he has already demonstrated.

In accordance to the above-mentioned Affidavit, Mr. Lu has stated that he intends to accept a job offer as the Chief Technical Officer of American Water Ecosystems Rescue Foundation, Inc. (hereinafter "American Water Ecosystems, Inc."). American Water Ecosystems, Inc. is a non-profit organization headquartered in New York which "promotes and funds research on environmental stability in the U.S. using donations from the federal government, state governments, large corporations, institutions, and communities," according to the Affidavit. As CTO, Mr. Lu will "identify relevant research areas, devise technological strategies, and oversee overall activities for the Foundation" in the field of Environmental Engineering. Mr. Lu stated that he "intend[s] for the company's first project to focus on limiting the spread of Asian carp in the U.S., particularly in the Great Lakes region." Following the completion of this project, Mr. Lu intends to "solve more environmental crises in the U.S.," "connect American and Chinese institutions, professors, researchers, and students to promote and initiate the exchange of ideas and share my expertise on ecological restoration in both countries," and "continue to apply innovative invasive

species control and ecosystem balancing procedures and methods to areas in the U.S. by utilizing my knowledge in the field of environmental engineering."

Mr. Lu's expertise in the field and the level of global influence he has ensures that his presence in this country will not only advance the field of Environmental Engineering in the United States and bring forth new technologies, but his presence also promises significant betterment in the conservation of the environment, which will affect the lives of individuals throughout the entire nation and even the world. Thus, Mr. Lu additionally fulfills the final requirement for classification as an Alien of Extraordinary Ability, given at 8 C.F.R. § 204.5(h)(5), which requires that Mr. Lu "is coming to the United States to continue work in the [field of Environmental Engineering]." It is further evident that his presence will substantially benefit prospectively the United States through his expertise and the clear, profound influence he will continue to have on the Environmental Engineering industry.

### Conclusion

In summary, Mr. Zhigang Lu has submitted substantial evidence to prove that he meets the standards of four (4) out of the ten (10) applicable criteria at 8 C.F.R. § 204.5(h)(3), which lists the required initial evidence to show that Mr. Lu has sustained national or international acclaim and that his achievements have been recognized in the field of Environmental Engineering. This supports the fact that Mr. Lu is an Environmental Engineer of Extraordinary Ability and has a level of expertise indicating that he is one of that small percentage who have risen to the very top of his field under § 203(b)(1)(A) of the Immigration and Nationality Act. Additionally, Mr. Lu meets the final requirement specified at 8 C.F.R. § 204.5(h)(5) because he intends to continue to work in his field of expertise in the United States. Mr. Lu will continue to contribute to the field of Environmental Engineering in this country as a cutting-edge environmental engineer. Mr. Lu's exceptional history of leadership, reviewership, original contributions, and publication, as well as his driven, innovative spirit are a boon to American business and technological innovation. Mr. Lu is amply qualified as an Alien of Extraordinary Ability and is eligible for this classification in the category of Environmental Engineering, within the broader category of the Sciences.

Based on the comprehensive enclosed supporting documentation and the above explanation, we respectfully request that Mr. Zhigang Lu's EB-1A Petition be expeditiously approved. Thank you for your attention and kind consideration in this matter.

Respectfully yours,

Shengxi "Tina" Tian, Esq. Attorney at Law MT Law LLC