Dear Sir or Madam:

I am a current LL.M. student at Harvard Law School and I am writing to apply for a summer internship with the World Bank in Washington, DC. I have a strong interest in economic development generally, and the role of Multilateral Development Banks in catalyzing this process for developing countries specifically. I am inspired by the World Bank’s efforts to build more transparent and accountable institutions and to deter corruption on bank-funded projects worldwide. I am confident that an internship with the World Bank would offer an unparalleled opportunity to work on anti-corruption and accountability measures while building on my longstanding commitment to improve governance and government service delivery in Latin America.

I first developed an interest in governance reform while working for the public sector in Paraguay, where I gained insight into the complexities of working with public entities. My experience in the public sector also generated a strong interest in understanding the causes and effects of systemic corruption in Paraguay, and a desire to work on policies to deter it. My academic and professional experiences in Paraguay allowed me to develop the professional skills to excel as an intern. I graduated from law school in 2013, while working part-time as a law clerk for the Paraguayan judiciary. There, I developed strong legal research and writing skills conducting extensive research on a wide range of civil and commercial matters. After graduation, I continued to work as a law clerk, but simultaneously became active in several institutional projects focused on broader public issues such as access to justice, transparency, accountability, and institutional reforms. For example, I assisted with a project to develop an electronic case record as a tool to provide greater transparency and access to the Paraguayan Judiciary. Additionally, with a team of experts, I worked on policy and legislative proposals designed to introduce a career structure in the Judiciary and reform the process to prosecute Magistrates.

At Harvard, I have taken courses on Law and Economic Development, Transnational Corruption, Public Service Innovation, and Institutional Reform, which have deepened my knowledge of governance issues at the global level. I am writing my LL.M paper on corruption in Paraguay’s infrastructure sector. As part of this effort, I conducted research on the anti-corruption policies of multilateral development banks, including the World Bank and the Inter-American Development Bank, as well as the policies adopted by the United Nations and the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development. I am also examining the domestic anti-corruption and public procurement policies adopted in Latin America.

An internship with the World Bank would be a tremendous opportunity to gain practical experience in global development work. While I would be honored to assist the World Bank in any capacity, I am particularly interested in the Bank’s Governance Global Practice, which supports countries in building open, effective and accountable institutions for inclusive development.

I have enclosed a resume further highlighting my academic and professional background, and would very much appreciate an opportunity to speak with you further about my interest in your work and how I might be able to contribute as a summer intern. I can be reached at 617-555-1234 or hmartin@llm16.law.harvard.edu. Thank you for your time and consideration, and I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Hiba Martin