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Cover Letter

As the Head of the Anti Money Laundering and Compliance Practice Areas in New Balkans Law Office (**NBLO**) (a BBBA member), I wish to apply to become one of the members of the Board of Directors at BBBA.

I have been part of NBLO since April 2020. My previous experience includes positions within the General Directorate for Combating Organised Crime (**GDCOC**) and the State Agency for National Security (**SANS**). In both of these organisations, I dealt with financial crime including money laundering, investment fraud, tax evasion and more.

My unique experience of regulation complements NBLO's specialism and considerable experience in legal representation in disputes involving allegations of money laundering or other regulatory breaches; regulatory and licensing law and compliance and white collar issues generally.

I have been responsible for expanding NBLO's practice in different fields as the lead on cases related to stress-testing/mystery shopping of financial services blue-chips and providing compliance services to a major international payment service provider.

I believe that my legal and compliance background will be invaluable to BBBA by presenting a unique angle, as compliance and reputational and ethical issues in the conduct of business become ever more important to businesses across different sectors.

At NBLO, I have also gained experience in policy formulation, public affairs and legislation. I was part of a working group convened by the Ministry of Finance to help formulate application rules for the Bulgarian "EU Blue Card" and Start-Up Visa procedures. My experience in public affairs can help the BBBA to liaise with the government authorities, regulatory bodies and others.

At SANS, my role involved legal drafting and reporting to government bodies. This experience will allow me to support BBBA communicate with government with delicacy.

In 2022, I have had the opportunity to participate in International Bar Association events networking and connecting with colleagues globally, a means to business development and exchange of experiences. As a former agent in SANS networking was a big part of my job as well and I have built lasting connections with people from the investment, banking and insurance sectors in which I am interested.

My understanding is that BBBA is planning to expand its presence in the UK. NBLO operates as a dual jurisdiction legal consultancy providing both Bulgarian law and UK law advice and project managing including as our managing partner is dual qualified as a barrister in England and Wales.

As part of our international focus, I have access to NBLO's strong network of connections in different jurisdictions including common law countries other than England and Wales, eg Hong Kong, Singapore, the US and others. Those connections and that perspective will be beneficial to the BBBA and would allow me to support it with its expansion plans.

I would be a good addition to BBBA Board and my experience and knowledge would be useful in also helping BBBA attract new members and keep the existing ones.

Thank you in advance for the opportunity to become a member of the Board.

Yours faithfully,
Maya Ivanova