

*Electronic Supplementary Information*

**A fluorescent turn-on probe for cyanide anion detection based on an AIE active cobalt(II) complex**

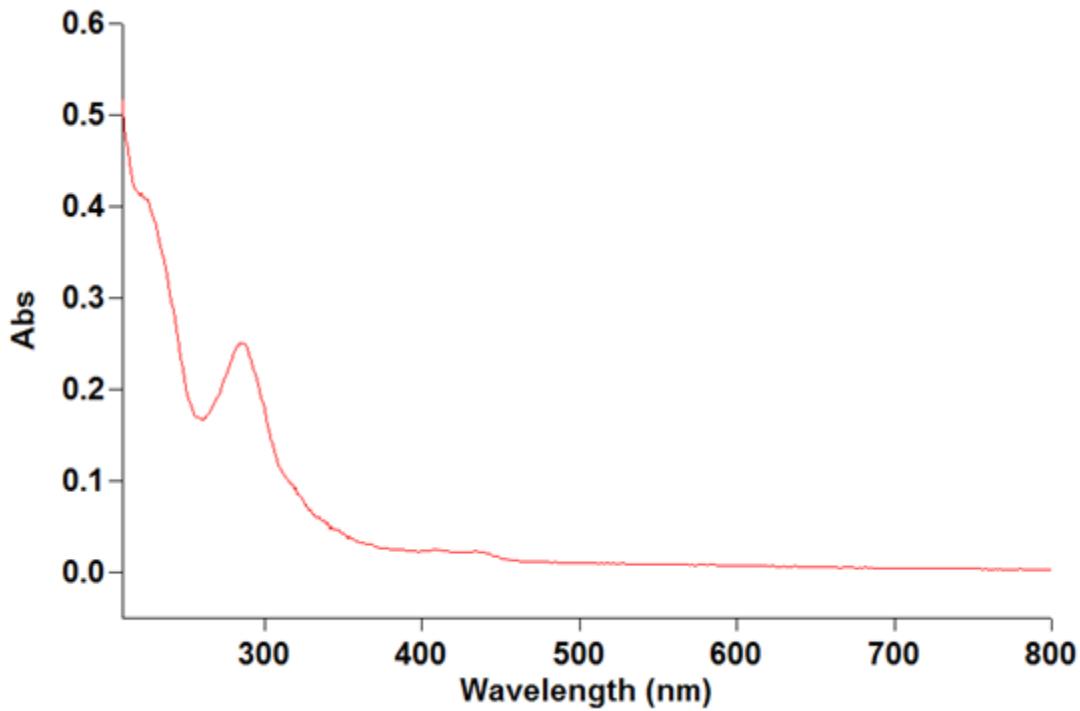
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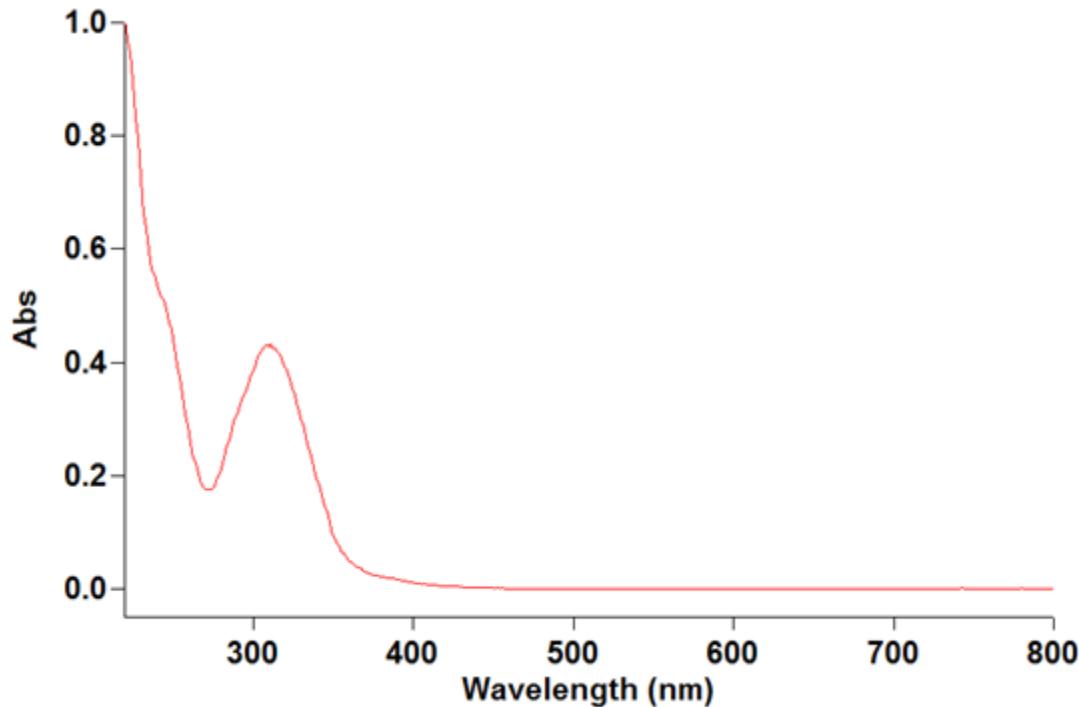
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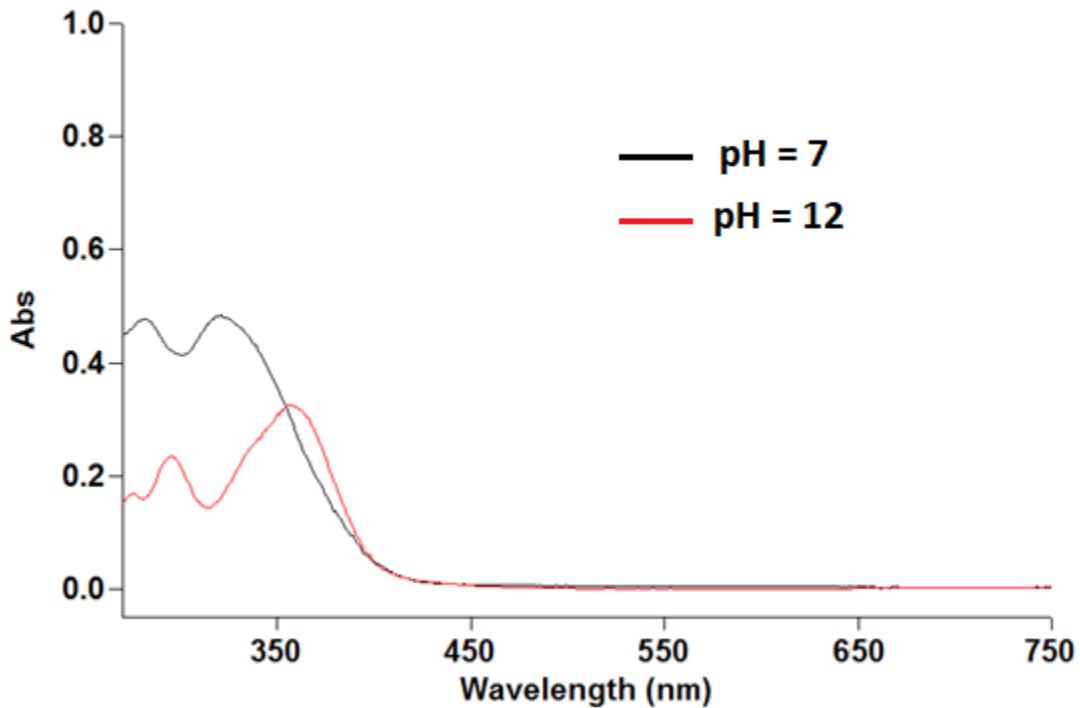
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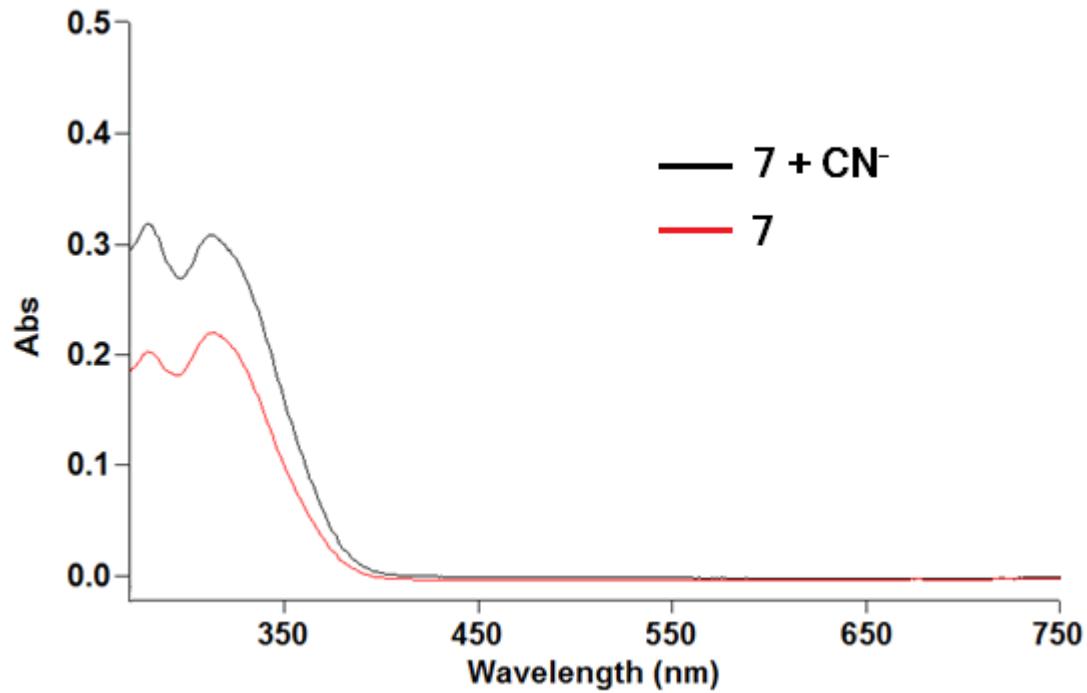
**Figure S1.** UV-vis absorption spectrum of **6** (MeOH, 25  $\mu$ M).



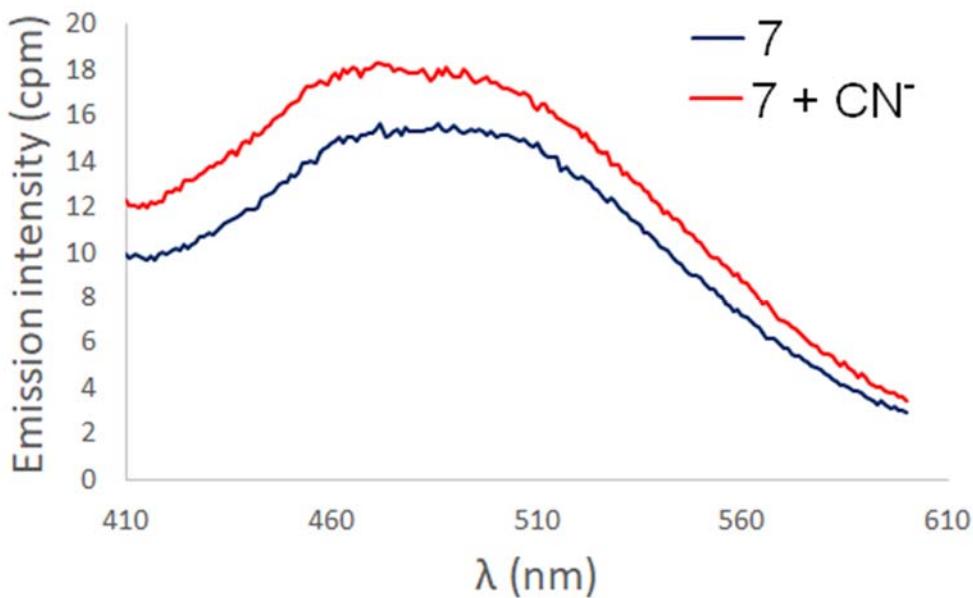
**Figure S2.** UV-vis absorption spectrum of **7** (MeOH, 50  $\mu$ M).



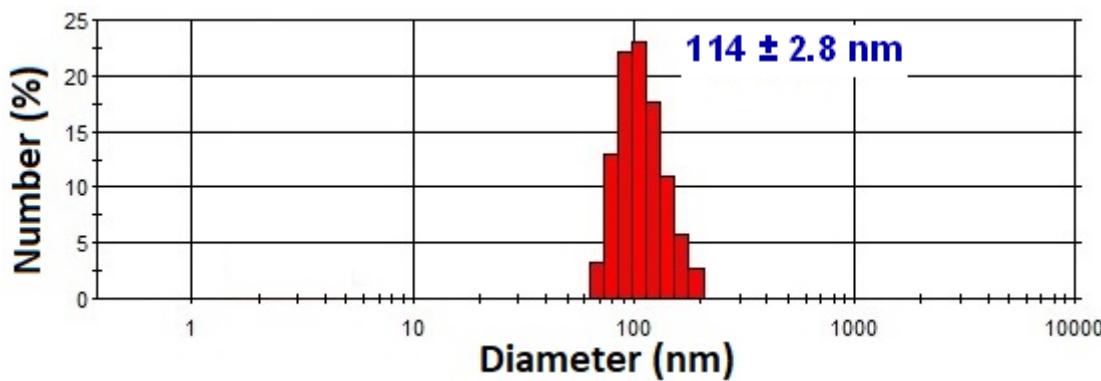
**Figure S3.** UV-vis absorption spectrum of **7** (50  $\mu\text{M}$ ) in 9:1 H<sub>2</sub>O:MeOH at pH = 7 and 12.



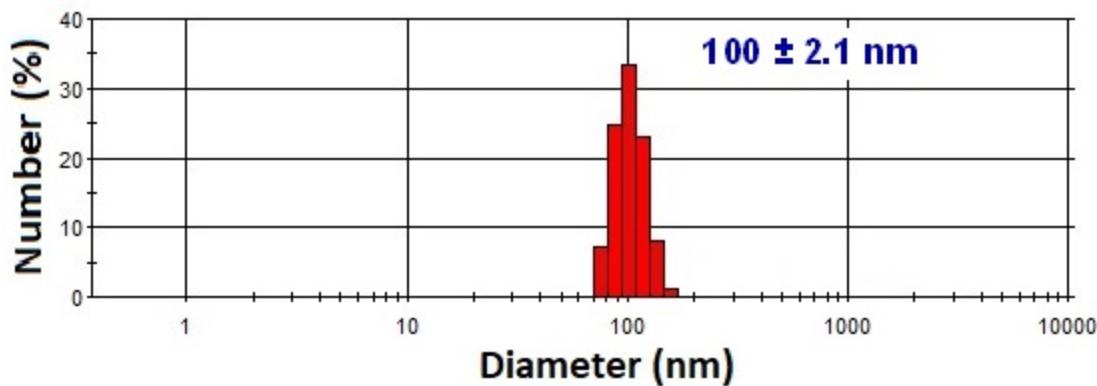
**Figure S4.** UV-vis absorption spectrum of **7** (25  $\mu\text{M}$ ) in 9:1 H<sub>2</sub>O:MeOH at pH = 7 in presence and absence of 2 equivalents of CN<sup>-</sup>.



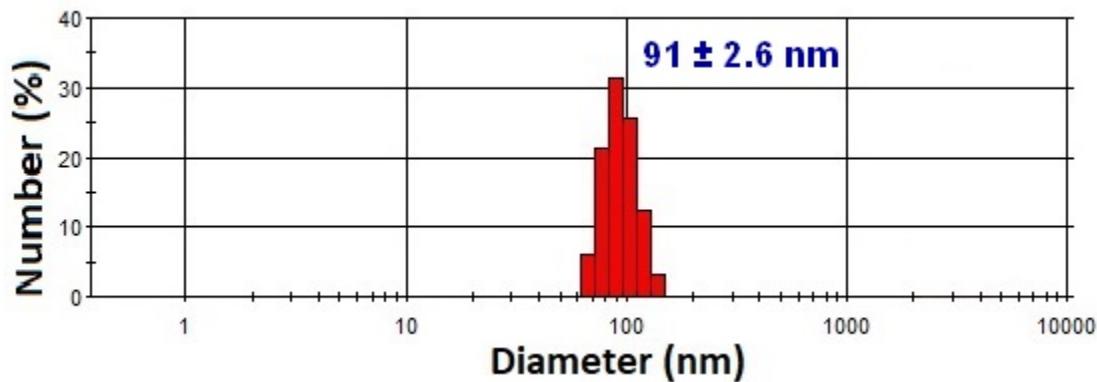
**Figure S5.** Emission response of **7** in MeOH in presence of 10 equivalents of CN<sup>-</sup>, ( $\lambda_{\text{ex}} = 313$  nm, [7] = 10  $\mu\text{M}$ ).



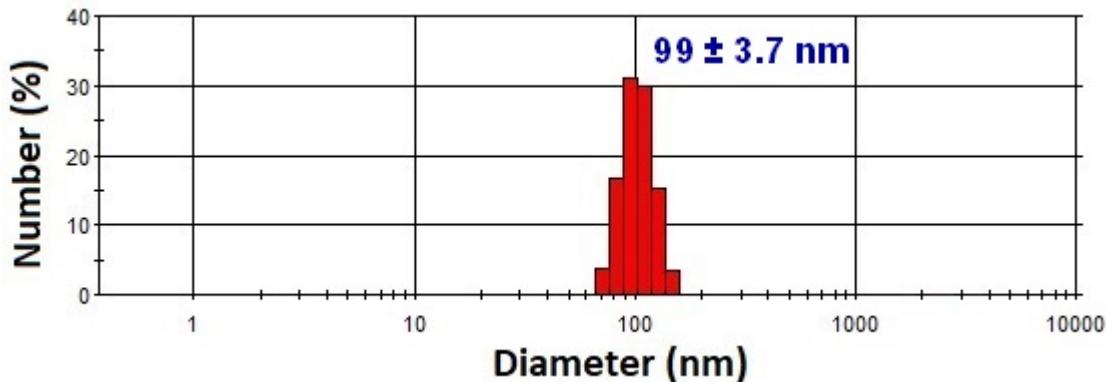
**Figure S6.** DLS particle size analysis of **7** (10  $\mu\text{M}$ ) in 9:1 H<sub>2</sub>O:MeOH in presence of 2 equivalents of F<sup>-</sup>.



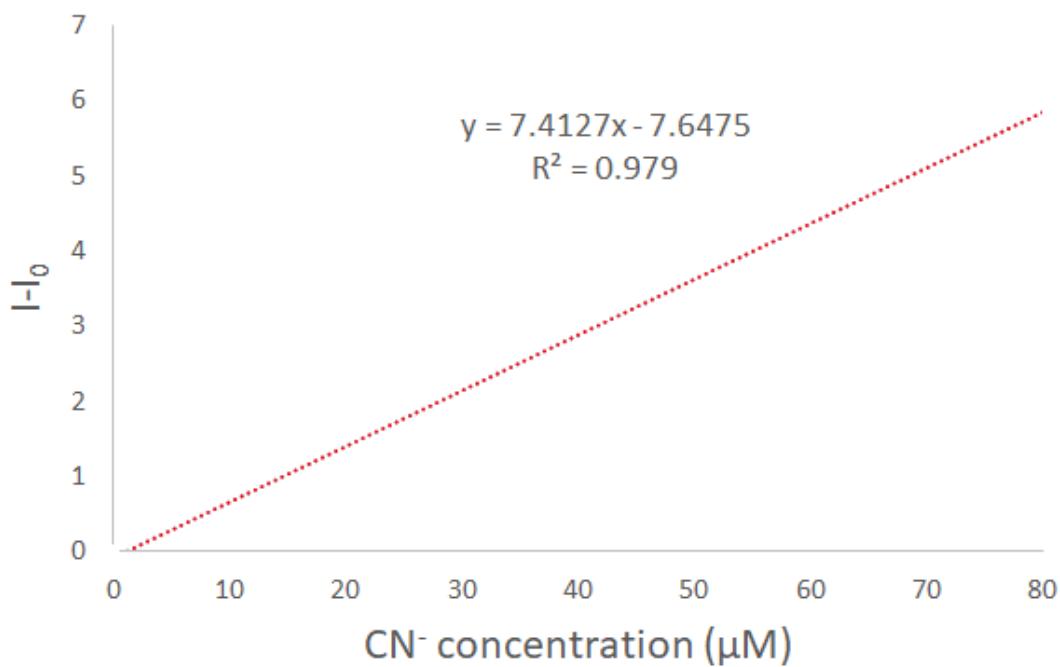
**Figure S7.** DLS particle size analysis of **7** (10  $\mu$ M) in 9:1 H<sub>2</sub>O:MeOH in presence of 2 equivalents of AcO<sup>-</sup>.



**Figure S8.** DLS particle size analysis of **7** (10  $\mu$ M) in 9:1 H<sub>2</sub>O:MeOH in presence of 2 equivalents of NO<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup>.

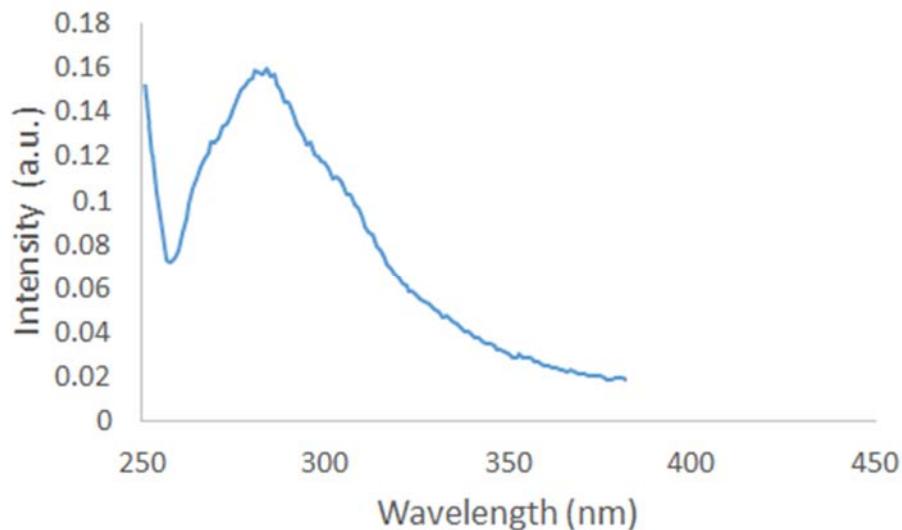


**Figure S9.** DLS particle size analysis of **7** (10  $\mu$ M) in 9:1 H<sub>2</sub>O:MeOH in presence of 2 equivalents of Br<sup>-</sup>.

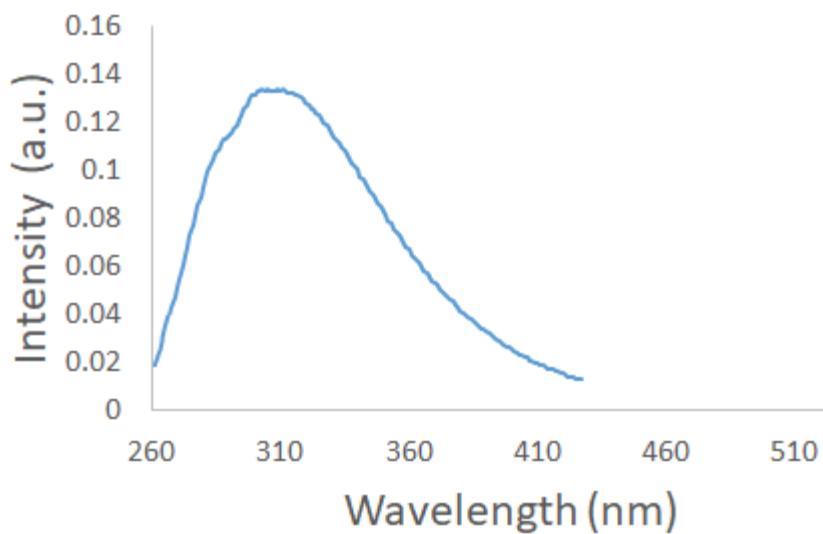


$\text{LOD} = 3 * (\text{S.D.}/\text{S}) = 0.59 \mu\text{M};$   
 $\text{S.D.} = \text{standard deviation of the response of the curve; S= the slope of the calibration curve}$

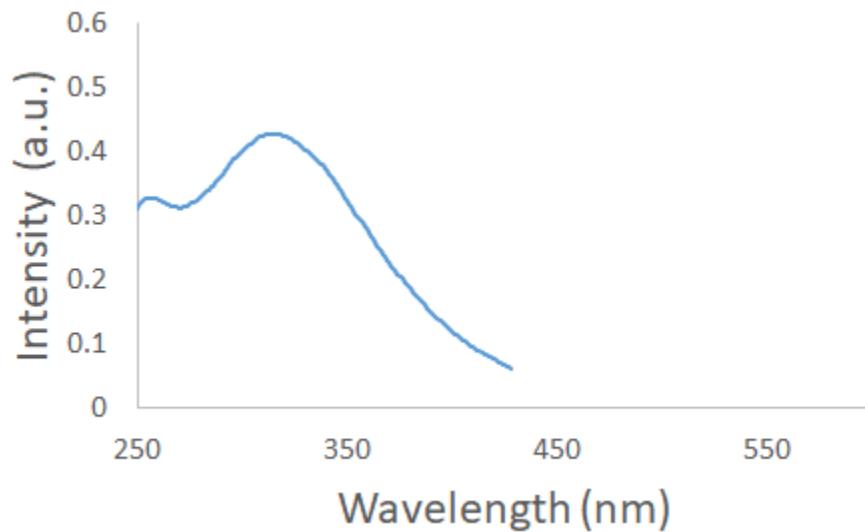
**Figure S10.** Determination of limit of detection (LOD) of **7** for  $\text{CN}^-$ .



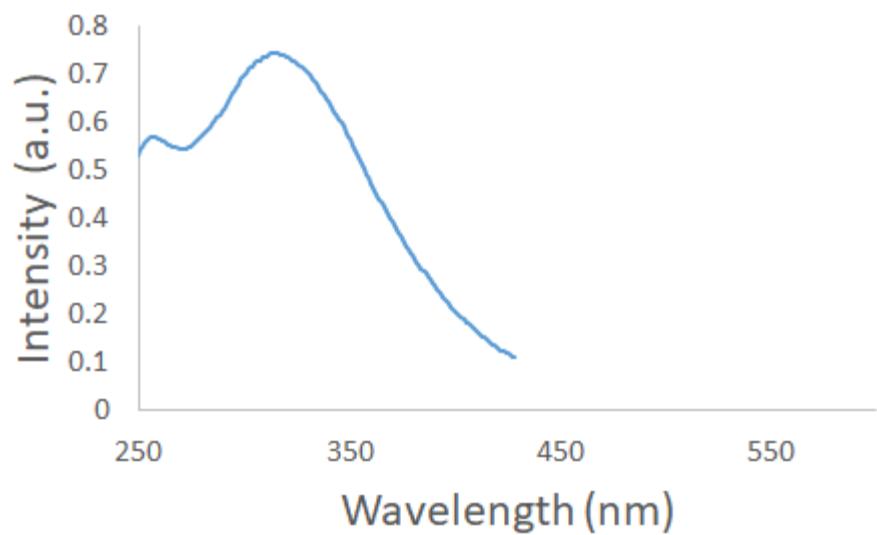
**Figure S11.** Excitation spectrum of **6** in MeOH ( $\lambda_{\text{em}} = 395 \text{ nm}$ ,  $[6] = 20 \mu\text{M}$ ).



**Figure S12.** Excitation spectrum of **7** in MeOH ( $\lambda_{\text{em}} = 498$  nm,  $[7] = 10 \mu\text{M}$ ).



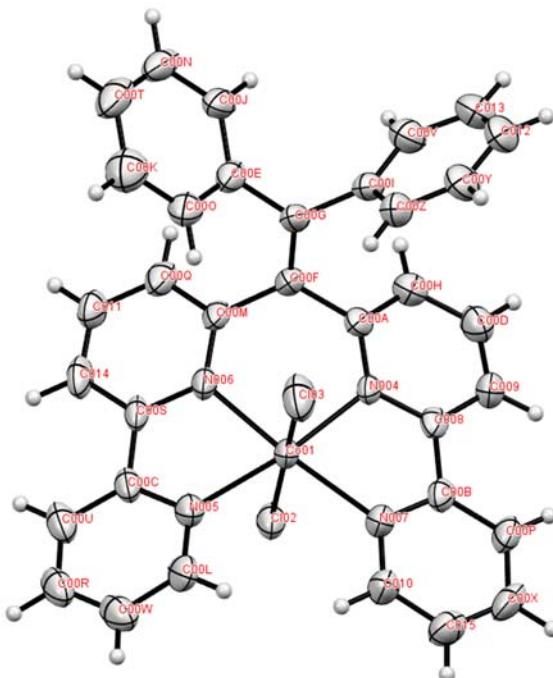
**Figure S13.** Excitation spectrum of **7** in 9:1 H<sub>2</sub>O:MeOH ( $\lambda_{\text{em}} = 458$  nm,  $[7] = 25 \mu\text{M}$ ).



**Figure S14.** Excitation spectrum of **7** in 9:1 H<sub>2</sub>O:MeOH in presence of 2 equivalents of CN<sup>-</sup> ( $\lambda_{\text{em}} = 458$  nm, [7] = 25  $\mu\text{M}$ ).

**Table S1.** Crystallographic data for **7**.

Formula	C <sub>34</sub> H <sub>24</sub> Cl <sub>2</sub> CoN <sub>4</sub>
FW	618.40
Crystal System	monoclinic
Space group	P 1 21/c 1
a/Å	8.7245(17)
b/Å	23.515(5)
c/Å	13.894(3)
α/°	90
β/°	91.65(3)
γ/°	90
V/Å <sup>3</sup>	2849.3(10)
Z	4
D <sub>calc</sub>	1.442
μ (mm <sup>-1</sup> )	0.821
T/K	293(2)
No. of reflections	9151
No. of unique reflections	4914
No. of reflections with I > 2σ(I)	2925
R <sub>1</sub> [I > 2σ(I)]	0.0549
wR <sub>2</sub>	0.1565
CCDC No.	1584255



**Figure S15.** ORTEP plot of Co-complex 7

