

Lex:lead

Lawyers for Economic Advancement and Development

December 2024

Launched in 2010 with our first award, Lex:lead reached 147 awards this year! We again published all our winning essays, made three new internship placements, continued our mentoring program, and saw other student achievements. *All our winners and news here!*

Judges

(Sat January 2024)

Dr Michael Addo (Ghana)

Mr Anurag Bana (India)

Dr Petra Butler (Germany)

Mr Cuthbert King Chanetsa
(South Africa)

Ms Michela Cocchi (Italy)

Dr Carolin Crabbe (USA)

Dr Laura-Stella Enonchong
(Cameroon)

Dr Elimma Ezeani (Nigeria)

Ms Helen Fovargue (UK)

Mag. Stefaan Ghesquiere
(Belgium)

Mr Tyler Holmes (USA)

Mr Stuart Kerr (USA)

Ms Marianna Kosharovskiy
(USA/Ukraine)

Dr Qian Liu (China)

Mr Justice Iain Morley KC (UK)

Hon Jonathan Moses
(New Zealand)

Professor John Mukum Mbaku
(Cameroon)

Hon Justice Zione Ntaba
(Malawi)

Dr Conrad Nyamutata
(Zimbabwe)

Ms Sun-Hee Park (Korea)

Dr Marta Pertegás (Spain)

Dr Nicole Pierce (Jamaica)

Mr Francis Sinsai (Cameroon)

Hon Justice Francis Ssekandi
(Uganda)

Ms Nancy Kaymar Stafford
(USA)

Mr Phillip Tahmindjis AM
(Australia)

Ms Deniz Tamer (USA)

Dr Guan Tang (China)

Mr Godwin Tan (Singapore)

Mr John Taylor (Australia)

Ms Maria (Mayee) Warren
(Philippines)

Ms Ariel White-Tsimikalis
(Greece/USA)

Patron

Hon Dame Linda Dobbs DBE (UK)

Lex:lead reaches 147 awards—In February, we made **16 new awards** reaching **147 winners** (with internships, over **US\$75,000**). With essays answering: *How effective have laws protecting the rights of children been to reduce poverty and support economic development*, **we congratulate:**



Benson Bandawe—*University of Malawi, Malawi*

Our top award named in honor of late senior advisory board member Stephen Denyer. **Honoree: Stephen Denyer**



Freda Ganu—*University of Ghana, Ghana*

Our top female award-winner this year named in honor of our patron. **Honoree: Hon Dame Linda Dobbs DBE**



Ana Hassen Aliyyi—*Haramaya University, Ethiopia*

Award-winning law student and assistant lecturer of law at Haramaya University. **Sponsor: Allen & Overy**



Ahmed Mohammed Genna—*Haramaya University, Ethiopia*

Junior lawyer with the Haramaya University Free Legal Aid Center advocating for vulnerable groups. **Sponsor: BCLP**



Ijahra Larry—*University of Ghana, Ghana*

Journalist and law student leading the university student association. **Sponsor: Mayer Brown International**



Hawi Furgassa Hirpa—*Addis Ababa University, Ethiopia*

Master's student in public international law and law firm associate. **Sponsor: Nancy Kaymar Stafford**



Musonda Luchembe—*University of Zambia, Zambia*

Law student interested in human rights and international economic development. **Sponsor: Launch Legal**



Michael Shayo—*University of Dodoma, Tanzania*

Legal intern at Sylvester Shayo & Co interested in human rights and social justice. **Sponsor: Launch Legal**



Nana Araba Plange—*Ghana School of Law, Ghana*

Internship at AK Bannerman-Williams & Co with experience from the High Court. **Sponsor: LEX Africa Alliance**



Joseph Sitanzye—*University of Zambia, Zambia*

Vice President of the UNZA Law Association and a Student Union Disciplinary Commissioner. **Sponsor: LEX Africa Alliance**



Maame Ekua Otenewa Oduro—*Ghana School of Law, Ghana*

Yale Young Global Scholar now interning with Ghana's Office of the Attorney General. **Sponsor: Linklaters**

Directors

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First Vice President
Rudolf Ezeani (Nigeria)
Vice President
Lakwame Anyane-Yeboah
(USA/Ghana)
Vice President
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Vice President
Dr Dina Mansour-Illé[©]
(UK/Germany)
Vice President/Compliance Lead
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(International Law Institute)
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(Launch Legal)
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Werksmans/LEX Africa Alliance
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(Travers Smith)
Matt Sparkes (UK)
(Linklaters)
David Dunnigan (UK)
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Fatima Paras (Australia)[©]
Guot Gabriel Manang (South Sudan)[©]
Anita Alfred Kyaruzi (Tanzania)
Akila Tilitho (Tanzania)[©]
Sarah Schnider (UK)[©]

Friends of Lex:lead

Pamela Chan (Singapore)
[©] Compliance Committee

This year's winners (continued):



Ronica Kuthakwanasi—*University of Malawi, Malawi*
Legal intern with Golden and Law Lawyers interested in international economic development. **Sponsor: Linklaters**



Kunda Mulenga—*University of Zambia, Zambia*
Secretary General of the university Legal Aid Initiative interested in international law. **Sponsor: Travers Smith**



Adisu Hailu Meta—*Bahir Dar University, Ethiopia*
Law graduate working as a public prosecutor in Oromia, Ethiopia. **Sponsor: Travers Smith**



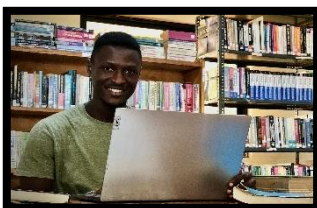
Vanessa Ndhlovu—*University of Lusaka, Zambia*
Recent intern at Nsapato & Co with trial experience and drafting motions. **Honoree: Carolin Crabbe**



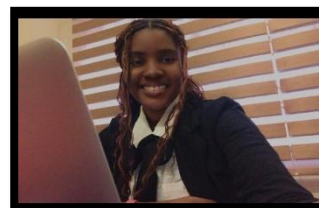
Faith Mirembe Ndagire—*Law Development Centre, Uganda*
Law graduate with courtroom experience from Buwule & Mayiga Advocates. **Honoree: Daniella Geller**

In addition to our sponsored awards, we made awards this year in honor of: **1** longstanding senior advisory board member **Stephen Denyer** (UK) who passed away in January (to top award-winner **Benson Bandawe** (Malawi)); **2** our patron **Hon Dame Linda Dobbs DBE** (UK) (to top female award-winner **Freda Ganu** (Ghana)); **3** longstanding judge **Carolin Crabbe** (USA) (to **Vanessa Ndhlovu** (Zambia)); and **4** our hardworking Treasurer **Daniella Geller** (to **Faith Mirembe Ndagire** (Uganda)). All winning essays were again published by the **International Bar Association Foundation** and can be read on our website (*see 2023 Winners*). The **US\$500 awards** pay up to half of the student's share of their degree (e.g., under Ethiopia's cost-sharing program); half a year or semester elsewhere. Winners who have submitted required documentation join us as **Lex:lead Ambassadors**, eligible for our internship placements and other opportunities.

Three more internships—Lex:lead made three more placements again this year with NGOs **Protimos** and **Landesa**. **1** In July, Lex:lead winners **Edward Coker** (Sierra Leone) and **Nana Araba Plange** (Ghana) were selected for two-month internships with **Protimos**, working remotely on legal and conference programming. Their internships were funded by **Friends of Lex:lead**.



1 Protimos intern Edward Coker.



2 Protimos intern Nana Araba Plange.

2 In December, NGO **Landesa** offered **Michael Shayo** (Tanzania) a two-month internship working on land and human rights issues. Michael's stipend was again gratefully funded by the **Friends of Lex:lead**.

3 Landesa intern Michael Shayo.

Honorary Ambassador

Graciela Da Cruz (Timor-Leste)

Lex:lead Ambassadors

2010

Lemlem Fiseha Minale (Ethiopia)

2011

Edwin Webiro (Tanzania)

Sousena Kebede Tefera (Ethiopia)

2012

Rediet Zegeye Yigezu (Ethiopia)

Samrawit Getaneh Damtew (Ethiopia)

Redeat Kassahun Seifu (Ethiopia)

Hilina Berhanu Degefa (Ethiopia)

Masalu Elias Luhula (Tanzania)

2013

Galindo Ruhiyyah Aliyo (Uganda)

Christopher Sengoga (Rwanda)

Anthony Peter Njau (Tanzania)

Milan Depakkumar Desai (Zambia)

Soreti Berhanu Workneh (Ethiopia)

Muchinda Muma (Zambia)

Gloria Ludigo (Uganda)

2014

Lulbahri Afeworki Araya (Eritrea)

Baye Tsegaw Asamro (Ethiopia)

Bereket Alemayehu Hagos (Ethiopia)

Nahom Abraham Weldeabzgi (Eritrea)

Pius Ntazinda (Rwanda)

Haftu Amare Girmay (Ethiopia)

Lumela Lumela (Zambia)

Walter Mandela (Uganda)

Mary Musoni (Rwanda)

Dieudonné Nzafashwanayo (Rwanda)

2015

Sara Kiflemariam Abraham (Eritrea)

Moses Baguma (Uganda)

Tsidkenu (Paul) Moono (Zambia)

Ivan Allan Ojakol (Uganda)

Nsoftwa Puta (Zambia)

Ftsum Sbhatu Tewolde (Eritrea)

Negese Tujuba Erba (Ethiopia)

Binita Pandey (Nepal)

Tsebaot Getahun Kiflu (Ethiopia)

Marga Fekdu Angerasa (Ethiopia)

2016

Mateo Fatsani Chitha (Malawi)

Rahel Alemayehu Ayana (Ethiopia)

Chileke Sakala (Zambia)

Martha Okubai Ghide (Eritrea)

Eliya Zawanda (Malawi)

Mawunya Etsa Kudu (Ghana)

Henry Chizimba (Malawi)

Robera Haile Hamda (Ethiopia)

M Collins Banda (Malawi)

Amanda (Mandy) Sindila (Zambia)

Mentoring—We continued our **mentoring program** this year, in June matching our judges, donors, board and advisory board members with our students, meeting monthly to help them identify opportunities and achieve them. **Thank you to every mentor** who volunteered their time this way:

- **Rudy Ezeani** (Director)—*mentoring Michael Shayo (Tanzania)*
- **Lakwame Anyane-Yebo** (Director)—*Musonda Luchembe (Zambia)*
- **Dina Mansour-Ille** (Director)—*Benson Bandawe (Malawi)*
- **Catherine Maunder** (Director)—*Freda Ganu (Ghana)*
- **Daniella Geller** (Treasurer)—*Faith Mirembe Ndagire (Uganda)*
- **Pieter Steyn** (Senior Advisory Board)—*Joseph Sitanzye (Zambia)*
- **Stuart Kerr** (Senior Advisory Board)—*Ana Hassen Aliyyi (Ethiopia)*
- **David Dunnigan** (Senior Advisory Board)—*Ahmed Mohammed Genna (Ethiopia)*
- **Annet Matebwe** (Linklaters)—*Maame Ekua Otenewa Oduro (Ghana)*
- **Maya Camara** (Mayer Brown)—*Ijahra Larry (Ghana)*
- **Harjeet Lall** (Lex:lead judge)—*Vanessa Ndhlovu (Zambia)*
- **Pamela Chan** (Friend of Lex:lead)—*Hawi Furgassa (Ethiopia)*
- **Stella Kiggundu** (Linklaters)—*Ronica Kuthakwanasi (Malawi)*
- **Zoë Yerolemou** (Travers Smith)—*Kunda Mulenga (Zambia)*
- **Kimberly McLaughlin** (Friend of Lex:lead)—*Nana Araba Plange (Ghana)*

In October, we held our annual Q4 **'Ambassadors' Meeting'** reviewing **mentoring match-ups** (with high praise for our mentors) and, as in past years, offering a **cv/cover letter workshop**. It was great to see everyone!

Lex:lead publications—In addition to this year's winning essays being again published by the **International Bar Association Foundation** (see *website at 2023 Winners*), **1** In August, the **2023 American Bar Association (ABA) Year in Review** was published with Lex:leaders contributing to the *Africa* section including award-winners **Yerro Bah** (Gambia), **Mateo Fatsani Chitha** (Malawi), **Mowbray Jones-Nelson** (Ghana), **Tupalishe Mulwafu** (Malawi), and **Eliya Zawanda** (Malawi) along with President/Founder **Anne Bodley** (Australia) and Lex:lead judges **Michela Cocchi** (Italy), **Ganiyou Gassikia** (Benin), and Tyler Holmes (USA). **2** Lex:leaders then contributed to the **2024 ABA Year in Review (Africa)** that will come out next year, including award-winners **Yerro Bah** (Gambia), **Benson Bandawe** (Malawi), **Hawi Furgassa Hirpa** (Ethiopia), **Musenge Prince Kapandula** (Zambia), **Ijahra Larry** (Ghana), **Maame Ekua Otenewa Oduro** (Ghana), **Michael Shayo** (Tanzania) and **Awoke Mitku Tamrat** (Ethiopia) with President/Founder **Anne Bodley** (Australia) and judge **Tyler Holmes** (USA). See www.lex-lead.org (About Us).

Award-winners in the USA—Recognizing some of the achievements of Lex:lead winners, this time with advanced studies in the United States, in November we interviewed **1 Mary Musoni** (Rwanda) (a LAWA Fellow at **Georgetown University**, Washington DC), **2 Mawunya Kudu** (Ghana) (at **Harvard Law School**, Cambridge MA), and **3 Moses Baguma** (Uganda) (recent LLM from **Duke University**, Raleigh NC). Thank you to **Linklaters** for hosting and to Senior Advisory Board Member **Nancy Stafford** for interviewing! See www.lex-lead.org (About Us).



Top row (L-R): 1 Mawunya Kudu (Harvard); 2 Interviewer Nancy Kaymar Stafford (ABA); 3 Moses Baguma (Duke). Second row (L-R): 1 Mary Musoni (Georgetown), 2 Matt Sparkes (Linklaters), 3 Anne Bodley (Lex:lead).

2017

Nkandu Kunda Chota (Zambia)
 Frederick Abu-Bonsrah (Ghana)
 Chitalu Yalobi (Zambia)
 Allabi Mailosi (Malawi)*
 Mathews Chione (Malawi)*
 Abel Yemaneab Zeru (Eritrea)
 Bertha Selesman Nanyaro (Tanzania)
 Melaku Getachew Halemariam (Ethiopia)*
 John Chaula (Malawi)
 Itael William Kimaro (Tanzania)
 Hakiimu Ngobi (Uganda)
 Denzel Malikhwa (Zimbabwe)

2018

Mawusi Eyi Kudu (Ghana)
 Kasanga Ngulube (Zambia)
 Kidus Merkorios Gebreamlak (Ethiopia)*
 Victor Nsoh Azure (Ghana)
 Nana Adwoa Baiden (Ghana)
 Chimango Nyasulu (Malawi)
 Innocent Zimba (Malawi)
 Andrew Kakanda (Zambia)
 Stella Amanuel Araya (Eritrea)
 Ivy Akuzike Nkhata (Malawi)*
 Momodou Manneh (Gambia)

2019

Maame Yaa Boatemaa Ohene-Bonsu (Ghana)
 Colman Ntungwerisho (Uganda)
 Martha Laura Luhanga (Zambia)
 Nsatusile Mgone (Zambia)
 Phola Liyena (Zambia)
 Fortunate Atuheire (Uganda)
 Peter Sambani (Malawi)
 Joel Elifala (Malawi)
 Ruth Sandram (Malawi)*
 Brima-Fullah Kebbie (Sierra Leone)
 Sylvester Tolokosi (Malawi)
 Chawezi Phiri (Malawi)
 George Ocen (Uganda)
 Andrew Muyunda-Matakala (Zambia)
 Panashe Gombiro (Zimbabwe)

2020

Gloria Korankyewaa Nyarko (Ghana)
 Divine Selase Agborli (Ghana)
 Musenge Kapandula (Zambia)
 John Siame (Zambia)
 Jemimah Chisomo Banda (Zambia)
 Josephine Ngulube (Zambia)
 Getachew Bezu Gayzibayso (Ethiopia)
 Busiku Simoonga (Zambia)
 Tina-Fiona Mloza (Malawi)*
 Hillary Mushota (Zambia)
 Bwalya Milunga (Zambia)
 Angellah Mwafufulwa (Malawi)
 Clive Siankanga (Zambia)
 Lincoln Majogo (Zimbabwe)
 Faith Sumani (Malawi)
 Natasha Kapuka (Zambia)
 Muleta Korme-Negasa (Ethiopia)

Lex:lead Gathering 2024—To thank the many volunteers who make Lex:lead possible, in November we hosted another **Lex:lead Gathering**, inviting our judges, senior advisory board members, advisory board members and Friends of Lex:lead to the **Artist Residence, London**. While we know that, by nature, we are pretty spread out around the world, it was great to see those who came!



1 Early crowd (L-R): 1 Judge Anurag Bana; 2 Director Catherine Maunder; 3 New Advisory Board Member Sarah Schnider; 4 President/Founder Anne Bodley; 5 Judge Deniz Tamer; 6 Matt Sparkes (Linklaters).



2 Later crowd (L-R): 1 Judge Sun-Hee Park; 2 Judge Anurag Bana; 3 Advisory Board Member Sarah Schnider; 4 Judge Simone Smart; 5 President/Founder Anne Bodley; 6 Judge Deniz Tamer.

New Lex:leaders (and a few good-byes)—Opening our senior advisory board to our sponsors, in June we were pleased to welcome **Danielle White** (Mayer Brown International) to Lex:lead with **Sarah Schnider** joining our advisory board (and compliance committee) in October. **Welcome, both!** We were sad, however, to lose longstanding senior advisory board member **Stephen Denyer** (Law Society of England and Wales) who passed away in January, his contributions unparalleled since our beginnings, and recent IBA President **Sternford Moyo** (Zimbabwe) who passed away in July.

Meet the judges!—To recognize their great efforts, often over many years, we interviewed two more of our Lex:lead judges this year: **1 Professor Marta Pertegàs** (Spain) (Maastricht University and the University of Antwerp), and **2 Cuthbert (Bert) King Chanetsa** (South Africa) (international finance lawyer formerly Deputy CEO of the Financial Services Board of South Africa). Judge Pertegàs has been a 'big fan' of Lex:lead since joining our panel in 2015, writing: *'I think any international lawyer is struck by the inequalities in our world and is keen to seize opportunities to redress them'*; an opportunity Lex:lead provides in its way. Judge Chanetsa appreciates the opportunity Lex:lead provides to young lawyers to think through topical issues. Both have been valuable supporters of Lex:lead and we are extremely grateful for their contributions. *All interviews at www.lex-lead.org (see Internships).*



1 Professor Marta Pertegàs (Spain), Maastricht University and the University of Antwerp



2 Cuthbert (Bert) King Chanetsa (South Africa), formerly Deputy CEO of the South African Financial Services Board

Interview with our Founder—An additional bonus this year, Judge **Simone Smart** interviewed her friend **Anne Bodley**, Lex:lead's President/Founder (and of course its driving force!). Touching on Anne's life and career and what she loves most about Lex:lead, the interview is available on our website. *Interview at www.lex-lead.org (About Us).*

2021

Mwendabai Kaitwa (Zambia)
Patrick Zindikirani (Malawi)
Osman Yusuf (Malawi)
John Senabulya (Uganda)
Joseph DG Matimba (Zimbabwe)
Davis Sibande (Malawi)
Andrew Gift Umali (Malawi)
Mowbray Jones-Nelson (Ghana)
Yerro Bah (Gambia)
Awoke Mitku Tamrat (Ethiopia)
Nathan Chola (Zambia)
Emenyo Afi Nutakor (Ghana)
Audrey Ofori Armah (Ghana)
Agatha Mutale Mulenda (Zambia)
Kudzai Bushu (Zimbabwe)
Gutema Kajela Ejeta (Ethiopia)
Tupalishe Mulwafu (Malawi)

2022

Uchizi Carien Manda (Malawi)
Brian Mutalya (Uganda)
Firaol Lechisa Eba (Ethiopia)
Sagni Ketema Bekele (Ethiopia)
Samuel Mugabi (Uganda)
Katongo Kalimaposo (Zambia)
Stanley Nabongo (Uganda)
David Manjawila (Malawi)
Lois Osei Sekyereh* (Ghana)
Edward Coker (Sierra Leone)
Leta Teferi Kumara (Ethiopia)
Mukeya Chirwa (Malawi)
Yikealo Ghebremedhin (Eritrea)
Maame Aba Asiedu (Ghana)

2023

Benson Bandawe (Malawi)
Freda Ganu (Ghana)
Ana Hassen Aliyyi (Ethiopia)
Ahmed Mohammed Genna (Ethiopia)
Ijahra Larry (Ghana)
Hawi Furgassa Hirpa (Ethiopia)
Musonda Luchembe (Zambia)
Michael Shayo (Tanzania)
Nana Araba Plange (Ghana)
Joseph Sitanzye (Zambia)
Maame Ekua Otenewa Odoro (Ghana)
Ronica Kuthakwanasi (Malawi)
Kunda Mulenga (Zambia)
Adisu Hailu Meta (Ethiopia)*
Vanessa Ndhlovu (Zambia)
Faith Mirembe Ndagire (Uganda)

*Pending

Where are they now?—Lex:lead enjoys staying in touch with each of its students, both past winners and former applicants alike, to which end we wanted to introduce a ‘**where are they now?**’ section with our students’ achievements. **Congratulations all!**

- **Hilina Berhanu Degefa** (Ethiopia) (*2012 Competition Winner*)—International human rights law student at **Oxford**, Hilina received the **Anthony Lester Fellowship** and the **XCEPT Women Researchers Fellowship** this year.
- **Mateo Fatsani Chitha** (Malawi) (*2016 Competition Winner*)—Senior Resident Magistrate in the Malawi Judiciary, Mateo received the **Professor Brian Coote Memorial Scholarship** to undertake a PhD at the **University of Auckland**.
- **Mandy Sindila** (Zambia) (*2016 Competition Winner*)—Mandy is pursuing an LLM at the **University of Pretoria** and working in immigration law.
- **Frederick Abu-Bonsrah** (Ghana) (*2017 Competition Winner*)—After interning with **Advocates for Community Alternatives**, Frederick was a Commonwealth Scholar at **Cambridge** and is now Counsel to **Kwame AI Inc.**
- **Momodou Manneh** (Gambia) (*2018 Competition Winner*)—Momodou interned with the **African Commission on Human and Peoples’ Rights** and now works with the National Water and Electricity Company Ltd. (Gambia).
- **Lincoln Majogo** (Zimbabwe) (*2020 Competition Winner*)—Associate with the Mhishi Nkomo Legal Practice, Linc graduated from the **McKinsey Forward Program** and won the **2024 JCI World Championships of Public Speaking**.

Next Competition Underway with New Winners February 2025—As we draft this newsletter each year, our next competition is underway with essays coming in ahead of the year-end deadline. We had another *record* year fundraising for our current competition, with **sincere thanks to our sponsors for the 21 awards raised in 2024:**

- 1 **A&O Shearman**, London UK (*one new award*)
- 2 **Bryan Cave Leighton Paisner**, London UK (*one new award*)
- 3 **DLA Piper**, London UK (*one carryover award reserved for Asia*)
- 4 **Jérôme Poitou**, New York (*one carry-over award reserved for Haiti*)
- 5 **Launch Legal**, Denver USA (**three* new awards*)
- 6 **LEX: Africa Alliance**, Johannesburg, South Africa (*two new awards*)
- 7 **Linklaters**, London UK, (**three* new awards*)
- 8 **Mayer Brown International**, London UK (*one new award*)
- 9 **Nancy Kaymar Stafford**, Washington DC (*one new award*)
- 10 **Hon Aminatta and Ambassador Alieu N’Gum**, Gambia (*two new awards*)
- 11 **Paul Weiss**, New York USA (*two new awards—new sponsor!*)
- 12 **Skrine**, Kuala Lumpur Malaysia (*one carryover award reserved for Asia*)
- 13 **Travers Smith**, London UK (*two new awards*)

Special thanks to Judge Aminatta LR and Ambassador Alieu N’Gum (Gambia) for their generous sponsorship this year of two awards as well as to **Launch Legal** and **Linklaters** for sponsoring *three* new awards apiece. We are also delighted to welcome **Paul Weiss** as a sponsor through partner Nicole Kar. **Reaching 21 awards on offer** is a new high for us, and we look forward to making as many awards as possible!

Our competition now underway has students writing on *How can laws regulating climate change and the environment support economic development?* With nearly 500 registrations, **we look forward to announcing new winners in February 2024!**

Donate to Lex:lead

Join the **Friends of Lex:lead** with donations up to US\$100. Benefactors are up to US\$500 and after US\$500 you get an award named after you! **Every donation—whether US\$20 or US\$100—helps our programs—**
www.lex-lead.org (*Donations*).