Lex:lead
Lawyers for Economic Advancement and Development

This Year’s News from Lex:lead

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First, this Year’s Winners! In February we made 15 new awards bringing our total to 83 (with internships nearly US$50,000 awarded). All answering: How can access to justice reduce poverty and support economic development?, we congratulate our latest winners:

Maame Yaa Boatemaa Ohene-Bonsu—Ghana School of Law, Ghana
Leading the way with one of our top essays this year. Sponsor: Hon. Dame Linda Dobbs DBE

Colman Ntungwe—Law Development Centre, Uganda
World Bank Law, Justice and Development student proposal winner 2018. Sponsor: Allen & Overy

Martha Laura Luhanga—University of Zambia, Zambia
Legal research and writing certificate from DLA Piper and UNESCO Ambassador. Sponsor: Launch Legal

Nsatusile Mgode—University of Zambia, Zambia
Legal/tax consultant at EY aspiring to a career with the United Nations. Sponsor: DLA Piper

Phola Liyena—University of Zambia, Zambia
Legal research and writing certificate from DLA Piper (New Perimeter Group) and public speaker. Sponsor: DLA Piper

Fortunate Atuhhe—Uganda Christian University, Uganda
Law student at Uganda Christian University, Kampala. Sponsor: Bryan Cave Leighton Paisner

Peter Sambani—University of Malawi, Malawi
High Court of Malawi intern with an interest in human rights. Sponsor: Bryan Cave Leighton Paisner

Joel Elifala—University of Malawi, Malawi
Law student with an engineering background, interested in economic disparities between countries. Sponsor: Linklaters

Ruth Sandram—University of Malawi, Malawi
Law student at the University of Malawi. Sponsor: Linklaters

Brima-Fullah Kebbie—University of London, Sierra Leone
Our first winner from Sierra Leone, distance learning with the University of London. Sponsor: LEX:Africa Alliance

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This Year’s Winners (cont’d)

Sylvester Tolokosi—University of Malawi, Malawi
Law graduate with experience from the Chikanda Legal Clinic. Sponsor: LEX:Africa Alliance

Chawesi Phiri—University of Malawi, Malawi
Law student interested in commercial law and human rights. Sponsor: International Bar Association Foundation

George Ocen—Law Development Centre, Uganda
Refugee law project intern (Makerere Univ.) and writer. Sponsor: International Bar Association Foundation

Andrew Muyunda-Matakala—University of Zambia, Zambia
University of Zambia Students’ Union Judiciary Chairperson. Sponsor: Claude Moore Charitable Foundation

Panashe Gombiro—University of Zimbabwe, Zimbabwe
Magistrates’ court judicial clerk and current legal intern. Sponsor: Claude Moore Charitable Foundation

Having carried over awards reserved for Asia and for Haiti, we are hopeful of making these awards this year. The US$500 awards pay up to half the student’s share of their degree (e.g., under Ethiopia’s cost-sharing program); half a year or semester elsewhere. Winners are invited to join us as LEX:lead Ambassadors as a resource for new applicants.

Two more internships, with more underway—With two internships underway at the start of the year, we made two more placements:

1. In January, 2017 winner Bertha Seleman Nanyaro (Tanzania) joined Moses Baguma (Uganda) on a World Bank research project, her stipend paid by the Friends of Lex:lead. 2. In July and August, Itael Kimaro (Tanzania) interned with Landesa, a US NGO that works for land and human rights worldwide.

Placed last year, Moses Baguma (Uganda) continued to support the World Bank this year and Kasanga Ngulube (Zambia) completed a six-month internship with German development aid agency Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), Zambia.

New partnerships: In addition to the connection made to Landesa, Lex:lead established ties to UK NGO Protimos with at least one further internship placement underway. Watch this space!

Publications—In July, the American Bar Association (ABA) Year in Review (2019) was published with Lex:leaders again contributing to the Africa chapter, including award-winners Stella Amanuel Araya (Eritrea), Victor Nsoh Azure (GH) and Chileke Sakala (Zambia); Lex:lead judge

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Honorary Ambassador
Graciela (Guetty) 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)
Sarrawat Gebaneh Damtaw (Ethiopia)
Redeat Kassahun Seifu (Ethiopia)
Hilina Berhanu Degefa (Ethiopia)
Masalu Elias Luhula (Tanzania)

2013
Galindo Ruhuiyah Aliyo (Uganda)
Christopher Sengoga (Rwanda)
Anthony Peter Njau (Tanzania)
Milan Depakumar Desai (Zambia)
Soreti Berhanu Workneh (Ethiopia)
Muchinha Muma (Zambia)
Gloria Ludigo (Uganda)

2014
Lubahri Afeworki Araya (Eritrea)
Baye Tsegaw Asamro (Ethiopia)
Bereket Alemaryahu Hagos (Ethiopia)
Nahom Abraham Weldeab (Eritrea)
Pius Nzinda (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)
Tsikken (Paul) Moono (Zambia)
Ivan Allan Ojakol (Uganda)
Nsofwa Puta (Zambia)
Psum Sibhatu Tewolde (Eritrea)
Negese Tujuba Erba (Ethiopia)
Brina Pandey (Nepal)
Tsebast Getahun Kilfu (Ethiopia)
Marga Feldt Angeresa (Ethiopia)

2016
Mateo Fatsani Chitha (Malawi)
Rahel Alemanyahu Ayana (Ethiopia)
Chileke Sakala (Zambia)
Martha Okubai Ghide (Eritrea)
Eliya Zawanda (Malawi)
Mawunya Elsa Kudu (Ghana)

Publications (cont’d)—Professor John Mukum Mbaku (Cameroon); and President/Founder Anne Bodley (Australia). Special congratulations to Lex:lead winner Momodou Manneh (Gambia) whose contribution on Gambia’s Truth, Reparations and Reconciliation Commission was independently published in the International Criminal Law section. Lex:leaders this year contributed to the 2020 Year in Review (published next year) including award-winners Maame Yaa Boatemaa Ohene-Bonsu (Ghana), Momodou Manneh (Gambia), Mary Musoni (Rwanda), and Ivan Ojakol (Uganda), along with Senior Secretary Mankah Fombang (Cameroon) and President/Founder Anne Bodley (Australia). The ABA also called for submissions to a Special Covid-19 edition with contributions from Lex:lead winners Maame Yaa Boatemaa Ohene-Bonsu (Ghana), Sylvester Tolokosi (Malawi), Kasanga Ngulube (Zambia), Phola Liyena (Zambia), Ivan Ojakol (Uganda), Victor Nsoh Azure (Ghana) and Senior Secretary Mankah Bi Fombang (Cameroon). Both Ivan and Victor were invited to address the ABA Africa Committee on their submissions in September and November respectively. 3 In October, the International Bar Association Foundation again published this year’s winning essays, again bringing us to a full complement of winning essays published. All on the website!

First 100 Years’ Award, and thank you—In October, we won another award when President/Founder Anne Bodley was presented with In-House Lawyer of the Year by the First 100 Years’ Inspirational Women in Law Awards for her work with Lex:lead. Anne thanked Lex:lead’s donors particularly the contributions of Lex:lead’s patron the Hon Dame Linda Dobbs DBE for personally funding the group’s top female winner over several years.

Lex:lead President/Founder Anne Bodley accepting the First 100 Years’ Award, October 2020

Lex:lead patron the Hon Dame Linda Dobbs DBE who has personally sponsored our top female candidate several times

Mentoring—We continued our mentoring program this year, matching our judges, directors and advisory board members with our students to help them identify opportunities and achieve them. A special thanks to donor firm Travers Smith who mentored two of our students this year.

- Lakwame Anyane-Yeboa (Director) with Mawunya Kudu (Ghana)
- Tola Ariyo (Director) with Phola Liyena (Zambia)
- Chioma Ayogu (Director) with Maame Yaa Boatemaa Ohene-Bonsu (Ghana)
- Marianna Kosharovsky (Judge) with Mandy Sindila (Zambia)
- Will Normand (Travers Smith) with Colman Mtungwiru (Uganda)
- Andrew Benson (Travers Smith) with Sylvester Tolokosi (Malawi)
- Inês Chibani (Advisory Board) with Nsatusile Mgode (Zambia)
- Pamela Fapohunda (Advisory Board) with Panashe Gombiro (Zimbabwe)
- Rudolf Ezeani (Director) with Peter Sambani (Malawi)
- Pamela CK Chan (Friend of Lex:lead) with Andrew Muyundu-Matakala (Zambia).

Our mentors work 1-to-1 monthly through the second part of the year with students to help them identify opportunities and to achieve them.

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Meet the judges!—To recognise their efforts, we interviewed two more of our long-standing Lex:lead judges this year: 1 Hon Sir David Baragwanath (New Zealand) (Special Tribunal for Lebanon) and 2 Hon Aminatta LR N’gum (Gambia) (UN Mechanism for International Criminal Tribunals). The interviews are on our website (Internships page). Many of our judges volunteer their time and expertise each year for which we are deeply grateful—we couldn’t do this without them. Watch this space as more of our judges will be featured soon!

For a full list of this year’s judges (who will be thanked in next year’s newsletter), please see our website at www.lex-lead.org. This year’s judges will sit in January 2021 for awards in February 2021.

10 Years of Lex:lead—Founded in 2010, Lex:lead reached its 10th year this year. The group hopes to make its 100th award in the competition currently underway and to hold a conference next year looking back over stories and milestones from our first 10 years, setting out our agenda for the next 10. We have new plans for the group and its program, which we hope to launch next year.

New Competition Underway: Next Winners in February 2021!

With the aim of achieving 100 Awards by Year 10 this year, we were out fundraising to offer 17 awards for our 2020 competition now underway. Despite the challenges of Covid-19, we exceeded that goal and thank the following sponsors of our next awards:

1 Allen & Overy, London UK (new award)
2 Bryan Cave Leighton Paisner, London UK (new award)
3 Claude Moore Charitable Foundation, Virginia USA (two new awards)
4 Clifford Chance, London UK (new sponsor, one award—pending)
5 DLA Piper, London UK (carryover award, reserved for Asia)
6 Hon Dame Linda Dobbs DBE QC, London UK (new award)
7 International Bar Association Foundation (two carryover awards)
8 Jérôme Poitou, China (carryover award, reserved for Haiti)
9 Launch Legal, Denver USA (new award)
10 LEX:Africa Alliance, Johannesburg South Africa (two new awards)
11 Linklaters, London UK (two new awards)
12 Mayer Brown International, London UK (new sponsor, one award)
13 Society of English and American Lawyers, UK (new sponsor, one award)
14 Travers Smith, London UK (new award)

Current Competition: As we’re writing this newsletter essays are already coming in on the next competition. Answering: How can laws promoting gender and disability rights support economic development, in September we opened our latest competition across Africa, Asia and the Americas. Our next essays are due 31 December 2020 with our new winners announced February 2021!

Good luck to all applicants!