

# The Lex:lead Group

Lawyers for Economic Advancement and Development

December 2011

## Happy New Year from the Lex:lead Group!

Lex:lead would like to wish you season's greetings as it completes its first full year and it's second essay competition, this time on the question: **How can law contribute to post-conflict economic, social and cultural recovery?** Here is a recap of our year and the steps forward we are looking to take.

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### Judges (2011)

Mr Iain Morley QC  
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Judge David Mackie QC  
(UK) (new appointment)

Judge Fred Cowan  
(USA) (new appointment)



**First award.** Following the 2010 initial launch open to just five countries (Liberia, Tanzania, Ethiopia, Cambodia and Timor-Leste), Lex:lead made its first scholarship award earlier this year to 22-year-old law student, Ms Lemlem Fiseha Minale of Addis Ababa University, Ethiopia. Lemlem's essay on "**How can law reduce poverty in the world's developing nations?**" came out in the lead from a panel of international judges, lawyers and academicians who awarded her essay the highest number of points against a close group of competitors. Scholarship funding awarded to Lemlem (US\$500) was made available from a grant awarded to Lex:lead by the **International Bar Association Foundation, Inc. (USA)** for which the group again extends its appreciation.

**Second competition (first full year).** The Lex:lead board approved the question: **How can law contribute to post-conflict economic, social and cultural recovery?** at its annual meeting in January 2011 for the 2011-12 competition. In July 2011 the group hosted a fundraising reception at New York gallery HK Photographs ([www.hkphotographs.com](http://www.hkphotographs.com)) (with thanks to Marla Hamburg Kennedy and her very supportive staff!). Following the reception, in September the group opened the competition to students from 44 of the 48 least developed countries. Late applications may still be accepted, with **essays due from registered students not later than 31 December 2011.**

**This year's countries.** Applications are accepted this year from students from **Angola, Bangladesh, Benin, Bhutan, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Central African Republic, Chad, Comoros, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gambia, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Haiti, Kiribati, Laos, Lesotho, Liberia, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Mozambique, Nepal,**

**Niger, Rwanda, Samoa, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Solomon Islands, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tuvalu, Uganda, Tanzania, Vanuatu, Yemen and Zambia.** To register, students must demonstrate that they are citizens of a least developed country and enrolled in a law faculty in an eligible least developed country. As scholarship funding is made payable to the students' institutions on the student's account, the institutions must also provide an undertaking to oversee the awards to be made.

**Judges.** Lex:lead was delighted to again appoint a panel of highly qualified international lawyers, judges and academicians to assess submitted essays. This year we welcome **Mr Iain Morley QC** (United Kingdom) (reappointment); **Associate Professor Kay Maxwell** (Australia) (reappointment); **Chief Charles Taku** (Cameroon) (reappointment); **Ms Hongxia Liu** (China) (reappointment); **Judge Flavia Lattanzi** (Italy) (new appointment); **Mr Hans van Loon** (Netherlands) (new appointment); **Judge David Mackie QC** (United Kingdom) (new appointment); and **Judge Fred Cowan** (USA) (new appointment). Brief biographies are available on our website at [www.lexlead.org](http://www.lexlead.org) and the group again extends its sincere thanks to the contributions of its judges who will sit in January 2012.

**New members.** The Lex:lead Group initiated an advisory board at its 2011 annual general meeting (AGM) and over the year has welcomed international lawyers **Ms Marion Ely** (USA), **Ms Theodora Christou** (UK/Cyprus), **Dr Fanny Cornette** (France), **Ms Sabine Miederhoff** (Germany), **Ms Zara Watkins** (USA), **Mr Minega Isibo** (Rwanda), and **Mr Siphon Limbe** (Malawi) to its ranks. Advisory board members are eligible to run for full board positions at the annual general meeting held in January each year.

**Lex:lead ambassadorial program.** Looking to stay in contact with students around the world, Lex:lead has also initiated a program by which participants may be invited to join the group as "**Lex:lead Ambassadors.**" The ambassadors'

role is to promote the scholarship program in their countries and will be eligible to attend the annual general meeting of the group. We were delighted to appoint our first Lex:lead Ambassador: scholarship winner **Ms Lemlem Fiseha Minale** (Ethiopia).

**Annual general meeting 2012.** The Lex:lead Group will hold its second annual general meeting over the weekend of **28-29 January 2012** at which time it will announce this year's scholarship winners. The group is looking forward to this moment!

**Thank you to our donors.** The Lex:lead Group again thanks the **International Bar Association Foundation, Inc.** (USA) which remains its single largest donor to date, funding our first award last year and another one in this round. Additional thanks go again to advisory board member **Ms Sabine Miederhoff** (Germany) who individually sponsored one scholarship (US\$500), our **benefactors** (contributing US\$100 or more), and our **donors** (below US\$100) whose contributions mean we are able to offer this program to students in the world's least developed countries. All board and advisory board members contribute annually to the group so their donations are in more than time and expertise. Of course **all donations help bring this funding to the world's least developed countries:** those who wish to contribute at this time are encouraged to go to our website at [www.lexlead.org](http://www.lexlead.org) for details on our "Donations" page.

**Lex:lead.** Lex:lead is a New York not-for-profit corporation and registered New York charity, approved for tax-exempt charitable status under Section 501(c)(3) by the US Internal Revenue Service.

On behalf of students in the world's least developed countries, thank you and Happy New Year.

**The Lex:lead Group**