Happy New Year from the Lex:lead Group!

Lex:lead wishes you season’s greetings as it enters its sixth annual essay competition, awards in February, answering: How does poor economic development contribute to health-related concerns; how can law help? We have started including profiles of our winners—please read on.

Scholarship winners. Lex:lead started 2015 again making our highest number of awards to date with 10 scholarships, bringing total awards to 25 (US$12,500). Congratulations to:

1. Ms Lulbahri Afeworki Araya, Eritrea; Donor: Dame Linda Dobbs DBE
2. Mr Baye Tsegaw Asamro, Ethiopia; Donor: Allen & Overy LLP
3. Mr Bereket Alemayehu Hagos, Ethiopia; Donor: Claude Moore Fdn.
4. Mr Nahom Abraham Weldeabzgi, Eritrea; Donor: Cliffe Dekker Hofmeyr
5. Mr Pius Ntazinda, Rwanda; Donor: Webber Wentzel
6. Mr Haftu Amare Girmay, Ethiopia; Donor: Law Council of Australia
7. Mr Lumela M Lumela, Zambia; Donor: DLA Piper
8. Mr Walter Mandela, Uganda; Donor: DLA Piper
9. Ms Mary Musoni, Rwanda; Donor: Hogan Lovells
10. Mr Dieudonné Nzafashwanayo, Rwanda; Donor: Cozen O’Connor.

All students come from the world’s least developed countries. These students (2014) wrote on: How can tax law stimulate economic growth and finance development? 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. Meet the winners, p.3.

Certificates of Honourable Mention. We also congratulate the following students who were awarded Certificates of Honourable Mention (for high-ranking essays where an award is not available):

1. Ms Roman Girma Teshome, Addis Ababa University, Ethiopia
2. Mr Ivan Allan Ojakol, Uganda Christian University, Uganda
3. Mr Jean Claude Geoffrey Mahoro, University of Rwanda, Rwanda.

Lex:lead Internships. In 2015 Lex:lead moved forward on an internship program to offer further opportunities to Lex:lead students. Our first scholarship winner, Ms Lemlem Fiseha Minale (Ethiopia), completed a one-semester internship January-June 2015 with the World Bank in Washington DC as part of her master’s degree program.

Building on Lemlem’s success, 2013 scholarship winner Ms Galindo Ruhiyyah Aliyo (Uganda) assisted World Bank partners in Uganda May-October 2015. Special thanks to law firm Cozen O’Connor for funding a US$500 internship stipend for Galindo. Lex:lead is in conversation with the World Bank, and with sponsor DLA Piper, to further develop internship/fellowship opportunities for students in 2016.
Lex:lead in West Africa, Conferences, Fellowships, Other.

1 Fellowship: In 2015, former scholarship winner Hilina Berhanu Degefa (Ethiopia) was her country's youngest recipient for the Mandela Washington Fellowship where recipients met US President Obama.

2 Accreditation: In September 2015, Lex:lead President/Founder Anne Bodley and Mary Scott (a lawyer at sponsoring firm Addleshaw Goddard) were accredited to the Chambres Africaines Extraordinaires in Dakar, Senegal, to attend part of the Hissène Habré trial. Anne, and Secretary Mankah Fombang with Advisory Board Member Rumbidzai Dube, also met with the University of The Gambia on this trip.

3 Conference: In January Lex:lead registered former scholarship winner Anthony Njau (Tanzania) to the PRIME Finance Conference in The Hague, Netherlands; Anthony was studying on scholarship in Amsterdam.

Some Lex:lead Facts and Figures. 1 With women in the lead until this year, total awards in 2015 evened out to almost exactly 50/50 between men/women (12 total awards to women; 13 to men). 2 Ethiopia has won 10 of the group’s 25 total awards (40%) with Rwanda in second place winning four; Tanzania, Uganda and Zambia tie for third place with three awards each. All these statistics are merit-based: Lex:lead does not play favourites and the judges cannot; they have only the student’s registration number and the essay to go by. Eligible students across the least developed countries are encouraged to apply and given the same chance to succeed. 3 Nearly US $20,000: With awards this round to rise to at least 35 total, the group will have transferred nearly US $20,000 (including internships) to the world’s least developed countries, helping students, universities—and communities.

Competition 2015: New Winners in February. Fundamental to the group’s success, Lex:lead raised over 12 scholarships in 2015 for this year’s competition (awarded 2016). Thank you to this year’s sponsors:

- Allen & Overy LLP, London, UK
- Addleshaw Goddard, London UK (new sponsor)
- Claude Moore Charitable Foundation, Virginia, USA
- Cliffe Dekker Hofmeyr, Johannesburg, South Africa
- Cozen O’Connor, New York USA (carryover award)
- Law Council of Australia, Canberra, Australia
- Hogan Lovells, London, UK
- DLA Piper, London UK (two awards)
- Linklaters LLP, London UK (two awards)
- Travers Smith LLP, London UK (new sponsor)
- Mr Oliver Yaros, London UK.

Internships: Both DLA Piper and Linklaters (each providing two awards) have agreed for one sponsorship to support our internship/fellowship program in 2016, as will Oliver Yaros’ donation. Answering: How does poor economic development contribute to health-related concerns; how can law control these concerns and improve lives?, in September we opened the 2015 competition to applicants across the world’s least developed countries—Africa, Asia and the Americas. Essays due 31 December 2015; our next winners will be announced in February 2016.

Good luck to all applicants, and Happy New Year!
This Year’s Lex:lead Winners: The highest scores this year were:

Lu.lbahri Afeworki Araya – Adi Keih College, Eritrea

With one of Lex:lead’s top scores this year, graduating law student Lu.lbahri submitted the Best Country entry in the International Humanitarian Law essay competition for East African Universities (2015).

Baye Tsegaw Asamro – Addis Ababa Univ., Ethiopia

A 2014 ‘honourable mention’, Baye won one of our top spots this year. He graduated Addis Ababa University in law and is volunteering at the University’s Legal Aid Centre.

Bereket Alemayehu Hagos (Addis Ababa Univ., Ethiopia)

Earning Great Distinction from Addis Ababa Univ. (2015), Bereket worked at their Center for Human Rights. He joined DLA Piper Africa Group’s Mehrteab Leul.

Nahom Abraham Weldeabzgi – Adi Keih College, Eritrea

Law student at Adi Keih College in Asmara, Eritrea, in 2015 Nahom also earned full marks in the Eritrean Secondary Education Certificate Exam (Social Sciences).

Pius Ntazinda – University of Rwanda, Rwanda

On the Law Students Association executive committee, Pius interned at Equity Juris Chambers in Kigali, Rwanda, and is a junior associate with Trust Law Chambers.

Haftu Amare Girmay – Addis Ababa University, Ethiopia

A 2015 law graduate from Addis Ababa University, Haftu is training to be a judge or public prosecutor in Ethiopia.

Lumela Lumela – University of Zambia, Zambia

University of Zambia law graduate (Dec. 2015), Lumela also competed in the World Bank ‘Think Jobs’ essay competition and joined Lusaka firm Kalokoni & Co.

Walter Mandela – Uganda Christian University, Uganda

Uganda Christian Univ. graduate and advisor to the Uganda Human Rights Commission, Walter won a full scholarship to the European Interuniversity Centre (2015).

Mary Musoni – University of Rwanda, Rwanda

A law graduate of the Univ. Rwanda, Mary was one of 24 to compete in Moot Court in Nüremberg, Germany (2015). She works with Spark Microgrants in Rwanda.

Dieudonné Nzafashwanayo – University of Rwanda, Rwanda

With first class honours from his law degree, Dieudonné also won the Capital Markets Authority University Challenge essay and the East African Moot Court; trainee associate at ENS Africa in Kigali.