Happy New Year from Lex:lead!

Started in 2010 we are underway with our seventh annual essay competition open to the world’s least developed countries and have started placing students in internship opportunities as well.

This Year’s Winners! We started 2017 making another 10 awards (rising to 45 total awards made with more in February 2018). Answering: How does refugee and migration law affect poverty and economic development?, we congratulate our latest winners: [Meet the winners p.3]

1 Mr Mateo Fatsani Chitha, Malawi - Sponsor: Allen & Overy
2 Ms Rahel Alemayehu Ayana, Ethiopia - Sponsor: DLA Piper
3 Ms Chiekeke Sakala, Zambia - Sponsor: Addleshaw Goddard
4 Ms Martha Okubal Ghide, Eritrea - Sponsor: Claude Moore Fdn.
5 Mr Elifya Zawanda, Malawi - Sponsor: Cliffe Dekker Hofmeyr
6 Ms Mawunya Etsa Kudu, Ghana - Sponsor: Law Council of Australia
7 Mr Henry Chizimba, Malawi - Sponsor: Linklaters
8 Mr Robera Haile, Ethiopia - Sponsor: Philipp Fischer
9 Mr M Collins Banda, Malawi - Sponsor: IBA Foundation
10 Ms Amanda Sindila, Zambia - Sponsor: IBA Foundation

This year saw our first awards to both Ghana and to Malawi—Malawi winning no less than four of the 10 awards. 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. All 10 winners were confirmed as Lex:lead Ambassadors in June.

Certificate of Honourable Mention. We awarded one Certificate of Honourable Mention this year (recognition where an award is not available) to Ms Luwam Fessaha Berhe (Eritrea). Many students earning an Honourable Mention have gone on to win an award.

Lex:lead Internship Placements. With carryover funding from 2016 we were able to arrange three more funded internships this year: 1 First, in June 2012 scholarship winner Mr Masalu Luhula (Tanzania) was accepted into American University’s Environmental Law Summer School in Washington DC and through Lex:lead was able to intern with the Center for Water Security and Cooperation. Masalu’s stipend was funded by sponsoring law firm Travers Smith (thank you!).

2 Second, in September we were able to place Ms Mawunya Etsa Kudu (Ghana) with the World Bank in Accra, Ghana, for a short-term assignment researching water law. Mawunya’s stipend was funded by Linklaters LLP also with sincere thanks—the experience is invaluable.
Four Lex:leaders win DLA Piper Fellowships. Lex:lead is delighted to congratulate 2016 winners Mr Robera Haile Hamda (Ethiopia), Ms Amanda Sindila (Zambia), Ms Rahel Alemayehu Ayana (Ethiopia) and 2015/2016 participant Ms Semhal Fishehay Gebrekristos (Ethiopia) each of whom have been selected for DLA Piper’s two-year Global Scholarship Program. The program provides mentoring, financial support and work experience to its students and Lex:lead (which has advised DLA Piper) is pleased to have supported its development.

New Competition Underway: More Winners in February 2018! We raised another 11 sponsorships this year for our 2017 competition now underway (to be awarded 2018). Thank you again to:

1. Allen & Overy, London UK
2. Claude Moore Charitable Foundation, USA (two awards)
3. DLA Piper, London UK (two awards)
4. Linklaters, London UK (two awards)
5. Travers Smith, London UK
6. Mr Philipp Fischer, Geneva, Switzerland
7. International Bar Association Foundation, USA (10 awards).

Mentoring: Lex:lead has asked our sponsoring law firms to take an active role offering their students mentoring and work experience. We hope to have more to post soon on this!

Current Competition: Answering: How does banking regulatory law reduce poverty and support economic development? In September we opened our latest competition to students across Africa, Asia and the Americas. Essays are due 31 December 2017; next winners announced in February 2018!

Good luck to all applicants, and Happy New Year!

302A W 12 Street No 280, New York NY 10014, USA
contact@lex-lead.org  |  www.lex-lead.org
Meet the Winners! Our winning essays this last year came from:

Mateo Fatsani Chitha – University of Malawi, Malawi
A legal officer at the Child Case Review Board (Malawi), Mateo presented on property law, customary law and disability rights during his legal studies.

Rahel Alemayhu Ayana – Mekelle University, Ethiopia
One of our four DLA Piper Scholars, Rahel won the 2017 Red Cross-organised East African Essay Competition and provides free legal aid service at her university.

Chileke Sakala – University of Zambia, Zambia
A recent law school graduate, Chileke is enrolled at the Zambia Institute of Advanced Legal Education for her practicing certificate to be admitted to the bar.

Martha Okubai Ghide – Adi Keih College, Eritrea
Recipient of the 2015 National Bank Best Student Award (University of Malawi) Eliya was Committee Member for Chancellor College Student Union (2016).

Mawunya Etsa Kudu – Kwame Nkrumah Univ., Ghana
Our first winner from Ghana, Mawunya was placed in a short-term legal research internship on water rights with the World Bank (Accra, Ghana).

Henry Chizimba – University of Malawi, Malawi
Student leader of the Disability Rights Clinic in the university’s faculty of law, Henry has presented on child rights, vagrancy, property, administrative law.

Robera Haile Hamda – Addis Ababa University, Ethiopia
Currently completing his LLM at Addis Ababa University, Robera is a DLA Piper Scholar and a medalist in the CLGI Global Climate Law and Governance competition (2017).

M Collins Banda – University of Malawi, Malawi
Also featured on our Internships page Collins was selected from other impressive Lex:leaders for a 4-6 month legal internship on cross-border public health law with MTT.

Amanda (Mandy) Sindila – University of Zambia, Zambia
The fourth of our DLA Piper Scholars, Mandy has also served as publicity and information secretary for the University of Zambia’s Law Student Association.