

# The Lex:lead Group

Lawyers for Economic Advancement and Development

December 2017

## 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.

### Patron

Dame Linda Dobbs DBE (UK)

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(From 2017 – with thanks)

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Ambassador Deepak Dhital  
(Nepal)

Dr Marta Pertegas  
(Spain)

**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 Chileke Sakala**, Zambia - Sponsor: *Addleshaw Goddard*

4 **Ms Martha Okubai Ghide**, Eritrea - Sponsor: *Claude Moore Fdn.*

5 **Mr Eliya 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!).



2012 Scholarship Winner Mr Masalu Elias Luhula (Tanzania) researching for the CWSC, Washington DC.



2016 Scholarship Winner Ms Mawunya Etsa Kudu (Ghana) at the World Bank Ghana, Accra, Ghana

**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.

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### **Donations to Lex:lead**

Donations of any size – whether US\$20 or US\$200 – are always welcome and may be US Section 501(c)(3) tax deductible. Scholarship sponsorships (US\$500) are awarded in the donor's name.  
[www.lex-lead.org](http://www.lex-lead.org)



2016 Scholarship Winner M Collins Banda (Malawi) - research internship with US-based MTT.



The Law Society of England and Wales' *Gazette* featured Lex:lead in September: on our website at *About Us*.

**Internships (continued).** 3 Referred by World Bank partner Forzley & Associates with whom four of our students have already completed internships, in November we placed **Mr M Collins Banda** (Malawi) in a local 4-6 month part-time legal research internship with Medical Tourism Training (**MTT**). Collins' stipend is funded by **DLA Piper**.

**Lex:lead in print again.** 1 In May the **American Bar Association (ABA)** Africa Committee **published** most of our 2014/2015 winners in its *Africa Law Today*—uploaded to our website under *Scholarships*. 2 In September the **International Bar Association Foundation (IBAF)** **republished** all our essays 2010-2015 on its webpage—also on our website (*Scholarships* page). 3 **Law Society Gazette Interview:** In September Lex:lead was **featured** in the Law Society of England and Wales' *Gazette*—a nice write-up! (See website at *About Us*). 4 **Finally**, in November we submitted our 2016 winning essays to the **ABA** Africa Committee—which will hopefully bring us back to a **full set** of all our essays published if the essays are again accepted for *Africa Law Today*.

**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 Fissehaye Gebrekirstos** (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!**

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### **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 Ruhiyah 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 Kifemariam Abraham (Eritrea)

Moses Baguma (Uganda)

Tsidkenu (Paul) Moono (Zambia)

Ivan Allan Ojakol (Uganda)

Nsoftwa Puta (Zambia)

Ftsum Sbhata 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)

**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 Alemayehu 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*

Currently at the Eritrean **Ministry of Justice**, Martha competed in the **14<sup>th</sup> International Humanitarian Law Essay Competition for East African Students** ranking third in the Best Country Paper.



**Eliya Zawanda** – *University of Malawi, Malawi*

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**.