

The Lex:lead Group

Lawyers for Economic Advancement and Development

December 2018

This Year's News from Lex:lead

First launched in 2010 Lex:lead is currently underway with its **eighth** annual essay competition; but with internship placements, awards, and this year a mentoring program, here's our news from 2018!

Patron

Dame Linda Dobbs DBE (UK)

Judges

(Sat January 2018)

Ms Adejoké Babington-Ashaye
(Nigeria)

Professor Uma Balakrishnan
(India)

Judge Sir David Baragwanath KNZM
(New Zealand)

Ms Paige Berges
(USA)

Rt Hon Sir Charles Dennis Byron PC
(St Kitts and Nevis)

Hon. Joaquine DeMello
(Tanzania)

Dr Elimma Ezeani
(Nigeria)

Mr Günter Fischer
(Germany)

Mr Ganiyou Gassikia
(Benin)

Ms Samantha Jallah
(Liberia)

Ambassador Peter Maddens
(Belgium)

Professor John Mukum Mbaku
(Cameroon)

Ambassador Patricia Moller
(USA)

Hon. Justice Iain Morley QC
(UK)

Dr Marta Pertegas
(Spain)

Ms Simone Scott-Sawyer
(Sierra Leone/UK)

Justice Francis M Ssekandi
(Uganda)

Dr Phillip Tahmindjis AM
(Australia)

The above judges sat in January 2018 in teams independently assessing about 10 of the essays submitted leading to the awards made in February 2018. We are greatly appreciative of their time and expertise many of our judges volunteering multiple years to help us.

This Year's Winners! In February we made a new high of **12** awards bringing us to a total of 57 (with internships **over US\$30,000** awarded). All answering: *How can bank regulatory law reduce poverty and support economic development?*, we **congratulate our most recent winners:**

1 **Ms Nkandu Kunda Chota**, Zambia - Sponsor: *Allen & Overy*

2 **Mr Frederick Abu-Bonsrah**, Ghana - Sponsor: *DLA Piper*

3 **Ms Chitalu Yalobi**, Zambia - Sponsor: *DLA Piper*

4 **Mr Allabi Mailosi**, Malawi - Sponsor: *Linklaters*

5 **Mr Mathews Chione**, Malawi - Sponsor: *Linklaters*

6 **Mr Abel Yemaneab Zeru**, Eritrea - Sponsor: *Philipp Fischer*

7 **Ms Bertha Seleman Nanyaro**, Tanzania - Sponsor: *Travers Smith*

8 **Mr Melaku Getachew Hailemariam**, Ethiopia - Sponsor: *IBA Fdn.*

9 **Mr John Chaula**, Malawi - Sponsor: *IBA Fdn.*

10 **Mr Itael William Kimaro**, Tanzania - Sponsor: *Claude Moore Ch. Fdn.*

11 **Mr Hakim Ngobi**, Uganda - Sponsor: *Claude Moore Ch. Fdn.*

12 **Mr Denzel Malikhwa**, Zimbabwe - Sponsor: *Claude Moore Ch. Fdn.*

With a special grant from the Claude Moore Charitable Foundation this year saw our first award to **Zimbabwe**. 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. Our winners are invited to join as **Lex:lead Ambassadors** representing our program in their countries and encouraging new applicants. *Meet the winners, p4.*

Internships—With carryover funding we arranged more **internships:**

1 First in June scholarship winner **Ms Nkandu Kunda Chota** (Zambia) was accepted for a six-month paid part-time internship with German development aid agency *Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ)* in Zambia. Lex:lead provided a US\$500 stipend in honour of former Allen & Overy partner **Stephen Denyer** who has supported the group since inception (**thank you!**). In November Lex:lead made a further grant to Nkandu of US\$300 for her studies.

2 In August we placed scholarship winner **Mr Frederick Abu-Bonsrah** (Ghana) with **Advocates for Community Alternatives** Ghana for a four-month assignment that included casework to the ECOWAS Community Court of Justice. Frederick's stipend was funded by **Friends of Lex:lead** also with sincere thanks—the experience is invaluable.



2017 Scholarship Winner Ms Nkandu Chota with Advisory Board Member Sabine Miederhoff at GIZ Zambia



2017 Scholarship Winner Mr Frederick Abu-Bonsrah (Ghana) (back) with ACA members, Accra, Ghana

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(Mongolia)

World Bank LJD Week—In November we hosted Lex:lead dinners in New York and Washington DC to **thank our judges and donors** while attending the **World Bank's Law, Justice and Development (LJD) Week**. Lex:lead is a partner to the World Bank Global Forum on Law, Justice and Development. **Even better**, 2016 Scholarship Winner **Ms Mawunya Etsa Kudu** (Ghana) was one of two winners selected by the World Bank in its LJD Week student competition presenting her project at the Bank in Washington DC. **Congratulations Mawunya!**



Lex:lead dinner Washington DC—a thank you to judges donors and other supporters of the group



Mawunya Etsa Kudu (Ghana) (center) at the World Bank for LJD Week with Lex:lead Directors Anne and Lakwame

More Lex:lead Events!—**1** In July and October we had London events with judges and prospective members; our October event welcomed scholarship winner **Ms Redeat Kassahun Seifu** (Ethiopia) on secondment to donor law firm DLA Piper. **2** In September **First VP Rudy Ezeani** (also Executive Director of the African Bar Association and attending a conference in Zambia on their behalf) and Advisory Board Member **Sabine Middelhoff** (with GIZ Zambia) hosted our **Zambian winners** at a reception in Lusaka—a highlight for the group!



Lex:lead welcomes Scholarship Winner Ms Redeat Kassahun Seifu (Ethiopia) (left) to London in October



VP Rudy Ezeani (left) and AB Member Sabine Middelhoff (right) meet our Zambian winners, Lusaka, September

Mentoring—Matching our judges and members with our students, **Lex:lead introduced mentoring** this year to help identify opportunities:

- **Simone Scott-Sawyer** (judge) with **Ivan Allan Ojakol** (Uganda)
- **Lakwame Anyane-Yebo** (director) with **Mary Musoni** (Rwanda)
- **Daniella Geller** (treasurer) with **Nagasa Tujuba Erba** (Ethiopia)
- **Zara Watkins** (advisory board) with **Galindo Ruhiyah Aliyo** (Uganda)
- **Yvette Dzakpasu** (advisory board) with **Lumela Lumela** (Zambia)
- **Haja Brimah** (advisory board) with **John Chaula** (Malawi)
- **Nankunda Katangaza** (judge) with **Frederick Abu-Bonsrah** (Ghana)

Thank you to our mentors who each worked 1-to-1 with students to help them identify opportunities and how to achieve them. The pilot program earned high praise from students and will be repeated in 2019.

IBA Foundation; other publications—**1** In June/July the **International Bar Association Foundation** published our 2016-2017 winning essays bringing us back to a **full set**; the Foundation has published **all winning essays** to date, an accomplishment the students like almost as much as winning the award in the first place! All essays posted to our *Scholarships* page.

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 Ruhiyyah 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)
Ftsun Sbhatu Tewolde (Eritrea)
Negese Tujuba Erba (Ethiopia)
Binita Pandey (Nepal)
Tsebaot Getahun Kiflu (Ethiopia)
Marga Fekdu Angerasa (Ethiopia)

All winning students are invited to become ambassadors of Lex:lead representing the program in their countries to other students. Eligibility also depends on our receipt of all mandatory forms in respect of the scholarship award.

IBA Foundation; other publications cont'd—2 Published in July, several Lex:leaders contributed to the 2017 **American Bar Association (ABA) Year in Review** (Africa) synopsis of legal developments worldwide including scholarship winners **Mr Lumela Lumela** (Zambia) and **Mr Ivan Allan Ojakol** (Uganda), judges Professor **John Mukum Mbaku** (Cameroon/USA) (then-co-chair of the ABA Africa Committee) and **Mr Ganiyou Gassikia** (Benin), along with board member **Ms Anne Bodley** (Australia) and group secretary **Ms Mankah Fombang** (Cameroon). 3 In November, scholarship winner **Mr Moses Baguma** (Uganda) was invited as a **guest speaker** on an ABA Africa Committee call presenting his paper *Taxation in Digital Space*.

Meet the judges!—The first of many to come Lex:lead this year posted interviews with two of its judges: **1** Our very first judge who has volunteered his time each year, **Mr Justice Iain Morley QC** (UK); and **2** Another great friend of Lex:lead who has mentored as well as assessed essays, **Ms Simone Scott-Sawyer** (UK/Sierra Leone). Full interviews on the website (*Internships* page). **Watch this space** as more of our judges deserve recognition and will be featured soon!



Mr Justice Iain Morley QC (UK) retraces his time at the UNICTR in Tanzania behind his support for development



"How does one make a difference?" Lex:lead Judge Simone Scott-Sawyer (UK/Sierra Leone) is doing her bit

Leadership Updates—While a few Lex:leaders had to step down this year (special thanks to departing member **Mr Bert Denolf** (Belgium)), we **promoted** our first winner **Ms Lemlem Fiseha Minale** (Ethiopia) to the board as well as advisory board member **Ms Chioma Ayogu** (Nigeria/USA). We also welcomed new members **Ms Yvette Dzakpasu** and **Ms Haja Brimah** (both Ghana/UK), and welcomed back **Ms Ari Rentsen** (Mongolia).

New Competition Underway: More Winners in February 2019!

As always we were out there fundraising to offer more scholarships to more students raising **12 more sponsorships** this year for our 2018 competition now underway. With thanks also to **Stephen Denyer** for his efforts on our behalf **we thank this next year's sponsors:**

- 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 Philip Coulson**, Nairobi, Kenya (*new sponsor*)
- 7 **Skrine**, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia (*new sponsor*)
- 8 **International Bar Association Foundation**, USA (*two awards*).

A special thanks too to **Friend of Lex:lead Stuart Kerr** (Jones Day) whose support of our Washington DC dinner was the equivalent of an award.

Current Competition: Answering: *How can laws affecting the free movement of people 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 2018 with our **next winners announced February 2019!**

Good luck to all applicants, and Happy New Year!

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Lex:lead Ambassadors (cont'd)

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)

2017

Nkandu Kunda Chota (Zambia)
Frederick Abu-Bonsrah (Ghana)
Chitalu Yalobi (Zambia)
Abel Yemaneab Zeru (Eritrea)
Bertha Seleman Nanyaro (Tanzania)
John Chaula (Malawi)
Itael William Kimaro (Tanzania)
Hakiimu Ngobi (Uganda)
Denzel Kumbirai Malikhwa (Zimbabwe)

Friends of Lex:lead:

The group relaunched its **Friends of Lex:lead** program this year. Join our **Friends program** with donations up to US\$100. Donations up to US\$500 are Benefactors and over US\$500 you get a scholarship named after you! **Every donation—whether US\$20 or US\$200—helps us fund awards, internships and more;** and joining our **Friends program** is easy—see our website at www.lex-lead.org (Donations).

Lost your spot on our Mailing List?

With an overhaul of data protection laws this year Lex:lead overhauled its mailing list. Sign up for our **newsletters and communications** at: www.lex-lead.org (About Us).

Meet the Winners! Our **winning essays this last year** came from:



Nkandu Kunda Chota—*University of Zambia, Zambia*
Our **first intern** with the German development aid agency (**GIZ**), Nkandu is vice chair of her university's Law Focus Radio Show educating people in **human rights**.



Frederick Abu-Bonsrah—*Ghana School of Law, Ghana*
Doing his pupillage with **AB & David** (Ghana), Frederick interned with **Advocates for Community Alternatives** and is a research/teaching assistant at **KNUST**.



Chitalu Yalobi—*Zambia Inst. Advanced Legal Educ., Zambia*
Best oralist at the African Court of Human and Peoples' Rights Moot Competition, Chitalu is training at **MC Mulenga and Co.** and assisted with mobile legal app **Apptorney**.



Allabi Mailosi—*University of Malawi, Malawi*
A law graduate of **Chancellor College** (University of Malawi), Allabi has interned with the **High Court of Malawi** in Zomba.



Mathews Chione—*University of Malawi, Malawi*
Currently in his last year of law studies at **Chancellor College** (University of Malawi), Mathews spent his holidays working for **legal aid** to help disadvantaged members of the community.



Abel Yemaneab Zeru—*Halhale College, Eritrea*
A student of **public administration** and law, Abel competed in the **15th International Humanitarian Law Essay Competition** for East African Students.



Bertha Seleman Nanyaro—*Law School of Tanzania, Tanzania*
Legal Associate at **Victory Attorneys & Consultants**, Bertha was **selected by the World Bank** for a public-private partnerships course from an essay competition.



Melaku Getachew Hailemariam—*Wolkite Univ., Ethiopia*
Gold medal graduate from Wolkite University, Melaku teaches law at **Wolaita Sodo University** and won multiple international competitions. He provides **legal aid** to Wolkite.



John Chaula—*University of Malawi, Malawi*
Trained as a **teacher** (producing the **best results in national exams** 2014-2015), John is earning his law degree and was **one of our first mentees** this year.



Itael William Kimaro—*Tumaini Univ., Tanzania*
A **law graduate** of Tumaini University and admitted to the Law School of Tanzania, Itael **chaired the Tumaini Law Society** Arbitration and Disciplinary Committee.



Hakimu Ngobi—*Uganda Christian Univ., Uganda*
Completing his law degree in 2019, Hakimu has interned with **Okalang Law Chambers** and with the **Director of Public Prosecution's** Jinja regional office.



Denzel Kumbirai Malikhwa—*Midlands State Univ., Zimbabwe*
A recent law graduate, Denzel has worked summers for Harare-based **Chinawa Law Commercial Chambers** and aims to join a commercial practice in 2019.