This Year’s News from Lex:lead

First launched in 2010, all-volunteer Lex:lead is underway with its ninth annual essay competition; but with internship placements, awards, mentoring and publications, here’s our news from 2019!

**Judges**

Professor Uma Balakrishnan (India)
Judge Sir David Baragwanath KNZM (New Zealand)
Ms Paige Berges (USA)
Dr Carolin Crabbe (USA)
Dr Elimma Ezeani (Nigeria)
Mr Günter Fischer (Germany)
Mr Ganiyoyu Gassikia (Benin)
Dr Abdallah Gonzi (Tanzania)
Ms Imrana Jalal (Fiji)
Ms Nankunda Katangaza (Canada)
Ms Dianna Kempe JP QC (Bermuda)
Ambassador Peter Maddens (Belgium)
Dr Dina Mansour-Illle (Germany/UK)
Professor John Mukum Mbaku (Cameroon)
Hon. Justice Iain Morley QC (UK)
Hon. Aminatta LR N’gum (Gambia)
Ms Sun-Hee Park (Korea)
Dr Marta Pertegas (Spain)
Ms Simone Scott-Sawyer (Sierra Leone/UK)
Justice Francis M Ssekandi (Uganda)
Dr Phillip Tahmindjis AM (Australia)
Chief Charles Taku (Cameroon)
Ms Maria (Mayee) Warren (Philippines)

**This Year’s Winners!** In February we made 11 new awards bringing our total to 68 (with internships nearly US$40,000 awarded). All answering: How can laws affecting the free movement of people reduce poverty and support economic development? , we congratulate:

- **Mawusi Eyi Kudu**—Ghana School of Law, Ghana
  *Leading the way* with one of our top essays this year.
  **Sponsor:** Allen & Overy

- **Kasanga Ngulube**—University of Zambia, Zambia
  Selected to intern with German development aid (GIZ).
  **Sponsor:** Claude Moore Charitable Foundation

- **Kidus Merkorios Gebreamlack**—Addis Ababa Univ., Ethiopia
  A master’s candidate in law at Addis Ababa University.
  **Sponsor:** DLA Piper

- **Victor Nsoh Azure**—University of Ghana, Ghana
  Contributing researcher to the American Bar Association (ABA) Year in Review (Africa).
  **Sponsor:** Linklaters

- **Nana Adwoa Baiden**—Ghana School of Law, Ghana
  Leclead intern with Advocates for Community Alternatives and IBA published.
  **Sponsor:** Linklaters

- **Chimango Nyasulu**—University of Malawi, Malawi
  Participated in our mentoring scheme with Haja Brimah (Advisory Board).
  **Sponsor:** Travers Smith

- **Innocent Zimba**—University of Malawi, Malawi
  Worked with Lex:lead judge Maria (Mayee) Warren in our mentoring scheme.
  **Sponsor:** Philip Coulson

- **Andrew Kakanda**—University of Zambia, Zambia
  Mentored by Advisory Board member (and donor) Jérôme Poitou.
  **Sponsor:** Skrine

- **Stella Amanuel Araya**—Adi Keih College, Eritrea
  Contributing researcher to the American Bar Association (ABA) Year in Review (Africa).
  **Honoree:** Stuart Kerr

- **Ivy Akuzike Nkhata**—University of Malawi, Malawi
  Law student at Chancellor College, University of Malawi.
  **Sponsor:** IBA Foundation

- **Momodou Manneh**—Univ. of the Gambia, Gambia
  Published by the IBA (International Criminal Law) on Gambia’s Truth Commission.
  **Sponsor:** IBA Foundation

Having carried over awards reserved for Asia and for Zimbabwe, we are hopeful of making these awards this year. The US$500 awards pay up to half the student’s share of their degree (e.g. under Ethiopia’s...
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Lakwame Anyane (USA/Ghana)
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Senior Advisory Board
Olukayode Majekodunmi (Nigeria)

Winners (cont’d) cost-sharing program); half a year or semester elsewhere. Winners are invited to join as Lex:lead Ambassadors representing Lex:lead in their countries and encouraging new applicants.

Internships—We were asked back for four more interns this year: 1 First, in February Chileke Sakala (Zambia) (2016) was accepted for a six-month paid internship with German development aid agency Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) Zambia; 2 followed in October when Kasanga Ngulube (Zambia) (2018) was also selected. As paid internships Lex:lead is not providing a stipend for these placements, but is happy to have facilitated them.

Vice President
Chioma Ayogu (Nigeria)

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Senior Group Secretary
Mankah Fombang (Cameroon)
Deputy Group Secretary
Sipho Limbe (Malawi)

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Dr Nicole Pierce (Jamaica)

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Narges Shariati (Iran)
Yvette Dzakposu (UK/Ghana)
Haja Brimah (UK/Ghana)
Ari Rentsen (Mongolia)
Martha Haile (Ethiopia)
Olukayode Majekodunmi (Nigeria)

Advocates for Community Alternatives
Ghana was so pleased with its first Lex:lead intern that they asked for a second and in June Nana Adwoa Baiden (Ghana) joined them for a three-month role that included casework with the ECOWAS Community Court of Justice. Nana Adwoa’s stipend was funded by Friends of Lex:lead. 4 In November, the World Bank asked for more Lex:lead interns too, following which Moses Baguma (Uganda) was selected for a four-month part-time remote assignment also funded by the Friends of Lex:lead.

3 Advocates for Community Alternatives

3 Scholarship Winner Nana Adwoa Baiden (Ghana) (second from left) at Advocates for Community Alternatives

Publications—1 In June, the International Bar Association (IBA) Foundation published our latest winning essays; the Foundation has published all our winning essays to date (see Scholarships page), an accomplishment of which we—and our winners—are very proud. 2 Published in July, a number of Lex:leaders contributed to the 2019 American Bar Association (ABA) Year in Review (Africa) synopsis of legal developments, including award winners Stella Amanuel Araya (Eritrea), Victor Nsoh Azure (Ghana) and Chileke Sakala (Zambia); Lex:lead judge Professor John Mukum Mbaku (Cameroon/USA); and Lex:lead President/Founder Anne Bodley (Australia). 3 In December, the IBA published Nana Adwoa Baiden (Ghana)’s essay applying to their International Human Rights Law e-Learning Course. All on the website!

DLA Piper Fellow, American Bar Association—1 In February, Scholarship Winner Amanda (Mandy) Sindila (Zambia) joined the ranks of Lex:leaders selected by international law firm DLA Piper for
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.

ABA award, fundraising success—1 In July, President/Founder Anne Bodley was presented with the American Bar Association (ABA) Outstanding International Corporate Counsel Award for her work with Lex:lead. The award recognized the group’s nearly 10 years working to bring opportunities to Lex:lead countries to showcase their talent. 2 Another achievement of which the group was proud this year was supporting Lex:lead winner Momodou Manneh (Gambia) to raise the funds she needed to complete her law studies. Nkandu and the group owe particular thanks to patron Hon. Dame Linda Dobbs DBE QC whose efforts were transformative in raising the balance.

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

- Lakwame Anyane-Yeboa (Director) with Mawusi Eyi Kudu (Ghana)
- Daniella Geller (Treasurer) with Victor Nsoh Azure (Ghana)
- Chioma Ayogu (Director) with Nana Adwoa Baiden (Ghana)
- Haja Brimah (Advisory Board) with Chimango Nyasulu (Malawi)
- Mayee Warren (Judge) with Innocent Zimba (Malawi)
- Jérôme Poitou (Advisory Board) with Andrew Kakanda (Zambia)
- Dr Dina Mansour-Illle (Judge) with Stella Amanuel Araya (Eritrea)
- Francis Sinsai (Advisory Board) with Momodou Manneh (Gambia)
- Nankunda Katanga (Judge) with Mohammed Jemal (Ethiopia)

A sincere thanks to all our mentors who each worked 1-to-1 monthly with students to help them identify opportunities and how to achieve them. The group aims to continue with this program next year.

**Lex:lead Ambassadors**

- Momodou Manneh (Gambia, 2013)
- Negese Tujuba Erba (Ethiopia, 2012)
- Nkandu Kunda Chota (Zambia, 2010)
- Moses Baguma (Uganda, 2009)
- Momodou Manneh (Gambia, 2008)
- Sorebi Berhane Workneh (Ethiopia, 2007)
- Muchinda Muma (Zambia, 2006)
- Gloria Ludigo (Uganda, 2005)
- Linda Seekwasa (Malawi, 2004)
- Ntazinda (Rwanda, 2003)
- Mawusi Akeemah (Gambia, 2002)
- Namwali Sinyboza (Zambia, 2001)
- Momodou Manneh (Gambia, 2000)

**Scholarship Winners**

- Momodou Manneh (Gambia, 2013)
- Nakamuli Nambo (Uganda, 2012)
- Anh Chuet (Vietnam, 2011)
- Chioma Ayogu (Nigeria, 2010)
- Ntazinda (Rwanda, 2009)
- Namwali Sinyboza (Zambia, 2008)
- Momodou Manneh (Gambia, 2007)
- Ntazinda (Rwanda, 2006)
- Momodou Manneh (Gambia, 2005)
- Lakwame Anyane-Yeboa (Ghana, 2004)
- Lakwame Anyane-Yeboa (Ghana, 2003)
- Namwali Sinyboza (Zambia, 2002)
- Momodou Manneh (Gambia, 2001)

**Lex:lead Fellows**

- DLA Piper, ABA (cont’d) their two-year fellowship program, gaining work experience and training in Dubai, London, Tanzania and Zambia with their support in completing her qualifications at the Zambia Institute of Advanced Legal Education (ZIALE). 2 In November, award winner Momodou Manneh (Gambia) was invited to present to the ABA (Africa Committee) on his country’s Truth, Reaparations and Reconciliation Commission following which his presentation was accepted for publication by the ABA International Criminal Law Committee in its Year in Review submission.

**Lex:lead Ambassadors**

- Milan Depakkumar (Eritrea)
- Sousena Kebede Tefera (Ethiopia)
- Rediet Zegeye Yigezu (Ethiopia)
- Samrawit Gebaneh Damteaw (Ethiopia)
- Redeat Kassahun Selfu (Ethiopia)
- Hilina Berhanu Degefa (Ethiopia)
- Masalu Elias Luhula (Tanzania)

**Scholarship Winners**

- Lemlem Fiseha Minale (Ethiopia, 2011)
- Edwin Webiro (Tanzania, 2010)
- Anthony Peter Njau (Tanzania, 2009)
- Gloria Ludigo (Uganda, 2008)
- Nkandu Kunda Chota (Zambia, 2007)
- Moses Baguma (Uganda, 2006)
- Momodou Manneh (Gambia, 2005)
- Lakwame Anyane (Eritrea, 2004)
- Namwali Sinyboza (Zambia, 2003)
- Lakwame Anyane-Yeboa (Ghana, 2002)
- Lakwame Anyane-Yeboa (Ghana, 2001)

Meet the judges!—Following our introduction last year of interviews with some of our Lex:lead judges, we posted two more to the website this year: 1 World Bank Administrative Tribunal Judge and Columbia Law School Professor Francis Ssekandi (Uganda); and 2 One of the inspirations behind Lex:lead in the first place, former International Bar Association President Dianne Kempe JP QC (Bermuda). The full interviews on our website on the Internships page. Many of our judges volunteer their time and expertise each year for which we are deeply grateful—we couldn't do this without them. Watch this space as many more of our judges deserve recognition and will be featured soon!

For a full list of this year’s judges (who will be thanked in next year’s newsletter), please see our website at www.lex-lead.org. This year’s judges will sit in January 2020 for awards in February 2020.

New Competition Underway: More Winners in February 2020!

With the aim of achieving 100 Awards by Year 10 next year, we were out fundraising to offer 15 awards this year (to bring us to 83 awards) for our 2019 competition now underway, aiming at 17 awards next year (to bring that up to 100). With sincere thanks, we received generous funding from the following sponsors of our next awards:

1 Allen & Overy, London UK (one award)
2 Bryan Cave Leighton Paisner, London UK (two awards)
3 Claude Moore Charitable Foundation, Virginia, USA (one award)
4 DLA Piper, London UK (two awards)
5 Hon Dame Linda Dobbs DBE QC, London UK (one award)
6 Linklaters, London UK (two awards)
7 Launch Legal, Denver USA (new sponsor; one award)
8 LEX:Africa, Johannesburg, South Africa (new sponsor; two awards)
9 International Bar Association Foundation, USA (two awards)
10 Jérôme Poitou, China (new sponsor; one award)

Many of our donors have also sponsored us each year for which we are sincerely grateful.

Current Competition: While we’re recapping this year, a new host of students has been working on the next essays. Answering this year’s question: How can access to justice reduce poverty and support economic development, in September 2019 we opened our latest competition across Africa, Asia and the Americas. With reserved awards for Asia, Zimbabwe and Haiti, the next essays are due 31 December 2019 with our new winners announced February 2020!

Good luck to all applicants, and Happy New Year!

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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).