The Lex: lead Group
Lawyers for Economic Advancement and Development

Lex:lead: Introduction and Internship Program
Up to three US$500 stipends for internship placements in-country

January 2016

Introduction: Lex:lead is a small, all-volunteer initiative started in 2010 by a group of young lawyers primarily offering an annual essay competition on topics of law and development to students in the world’s least developed countries for US$500 awards that go to the winner’s university fees and/or books in country.

The group is low budget but has made 25 awards to date (rising to at least 35 this year), primarily in East Africa where the competition has had most success (Ethiopia, Eritrea, Tanzania, Rwanda, Uganda, and Zambia, with continued efforts each year to reach the group’s Asian and other regions as well), published the students’ essays each year (thus far through the International Bar Association which sponsored four of the group’s first awards), and supported its students by bringing them into the group as Lex:lead Ambassadors and helping them with conferences, graduate programs, and employment opportunities. The group also gives a small number of students each year a Certificate of Honourable Mention where they have done well in the competition but an award is not available to be made.

Lex:lead’s patron is former UK High Court judge Dame Linda Dobbs DBE with a list of international judges each year assessing the essays; the group has been an intellectual partner to the World Bank-supported Global Forum on Law, Justice and Development since 2012. Lex:lead is a Section 501(c)(3) New York not-for-profit corporation and registered New York charity.

Internships: In 2015 the group made progress with an internship program for its students. Last year the group’s first-ever scholarship winner, Ms Lemlem Fiseha Minale (Ethiopia), interned with the World Bank in Washington DC as part of her graduate studies. The group was subsequently able to arrange for a second student, Ms Galindo Ruhiyyah Aliyo (Uganda), to assist World Bank Global Forum partners for several months working out of Kampala, Uganda. Galindo’s placement is the model the group would like to offer:

- Short-term valuable work (internship) opportunities for Lex:lead law students/graduates
- Working with the World Bank or its partners predominantly in the student’s home country
- Lex:lead to provide up to three US$500 stipends to support the internship placements

Opportunity: The group would like to hear from Global Forum partners able to use the services of a Lex:lead law student in its work this year in these countries (cvs attached). More information about the group is available at www.lex-lead.org and we can be reached at contact@lex-lead.org.

Thank you in advance and kind regards,
Anne Bodley, Bert Denolf, Lakwame Anyane-Yeboa
Lex:lead