

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

www.lex-lead.org

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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 Ruhyyah 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 (cv's 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-Yebo

Lex:lead

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