

The Lex:lead Group

Lawyers for Economic Advancement and Development

December 2012

Happy New Year from the Lex:lead Group!

The Lex:lead Group would like to wish you season's greetings as it completes a second full year of growth and its third international essay competition, this year on the question: **How can law enhance access to finance in developing countries to reduce poverty?** Here is a recap of our year and the steps forward we are looking to take.

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Scholarship winners. The group started the year by awarding two scholarships, one to University of Dar es Salaam student **Mr Edwin J Webiro** (Tanzania); the other to Addis Ababa University student **Ms Sousena Kebede Tefera** (Ethiopia), answering the question: *How can law contribute to post-conflict economic, social and cultural recovery?* The awards were a first to Tanzania; a second to Ethiopia to which country our first award was made from our initial launch in 2010 to just five of the world's least developed countries. Edwin Webiro's award (US\$500) was funded from the second half of a grant awarded the Lex:lead Group by the **International Bar Association Foundation**; Sousena Kebede Tefera's award (also US\$500) came from the personal generosity of Lex:lead Advisory Board Member **Ms Sabine Middelhoff**, a lawyer with German aid agency, Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire.

Lex:lead Ambassadors. Following the group's initiative to bring its first scholarship winner, **Ms Lemlem Fiseha Minale** (Ethiopia), into the group, Lex:lead was also able to welcome scholarship winner **Ms Sousena Kebede Tefera** (Ethiopia) as a Lex:lead Ambassador this year. Lex:lead Ambassadors are invaluable as an on-the-ground resource for students in least developed countries, promoting the group and explaining the program we are taking steps to establish.

Lex:lead in print! The group realized a major goal this year in having each of its winning essays accepted for publication. In March 2012, the **International Bar Association African Regional Forum** published the essay of the group's first scholarship winner, Ms Lemlem Fiseha Minale (Ethiopia); and in July 2012 the Forum dedicated a full section of the newsletter to the group's competition in publishing the essays of scholarship winners Mr Edwin J. Webiro (Tanzania) and Ms Sousena Kebede Tefera (Ethiopia). To the scholarship winners, seeing their names in print was as exciting as winning the competition in the first place!

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*Lex:lead Member
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Fundraising Success and Summer Reception. The group hosted a second reception this summer, this time at Soho art gallery **Waterhouse & Dodd**, New York, on Saturday 23 June. The annual reception offers the group a chance to say thank you to the year's donors and for visitors to learn more about the group's work in the world's 48 least developed countries. Lex:lead is able to double the number of scholarships awarded this year (up to five) from the support of the **International Bar Association Foundation** (extraordinary second grant pledged), from law firm **Allen & Overy LLP**, from the **Claude Moore Charitable Foundation**, from individual donors, and including the **HSBC Matching Funds Program**. (Photo: www.stowefoto.com)



Lex:lead Dinner Oct. 2012 (below)



Lex:lead Reception Jun. 2012 (above)

World Bank-supported Global Forum on Law, Justice and Development. In July this year, the group was honored to be invited to join then about 85 institutions (now 103) as an intellectual partner to the **World Bank**-supported **Global Forum on Law, Justice and Development**. The Forum is a permanent resource on poverty reduction and economic development to which the group will annually contribute its winning essays among other involvement. (www.globalforumljd.org)

New York meets Lex:lead Ambassador. One highlight in a full year was that, in October, the group was able to meet one of its first scholarship winners, **Ms Sousena Kebede Tefera** (Ethiopia) in person when she travelled to the United States for a program at Harvard University. Lex:lead hosted Ms Kebede Tefera in New York 6-7 October which provided a memorable opportunity to meet one of the group's remarkable young lawyers from around the world!

Launch 2012. In September, the group launched this year's essay competition on the question: *How can law enhance access to finance in developing countries to reduce poverty?* Announced throughout the world's least developed countries, applications have been received from across Africa and Asia for the competition. Student essays are due **31 December 2012**, with up to **five (5) winners** this time to be announced at our annual meeting, **26-27 January 2013**. Good luck to all applicants, and **Happy New Year!**