

July 2011: Dallasnews.com article about Mary Katushabe, an attorney from Rwanda mentored by Stephanie Curtis.

## During Dallas visit, Rwandan lawyer gets business advice through Northwood University program



Courtesy photo

Mary Katushabe of Rwanda visited Dallas for a weeklong workshop designed to help her law practice succeed in her home country. The Peace Through Business is being implemented by Northwood University and the Institute for Economic Empowerment of Women.

By JACY MARMADUKE

Published 29 July 2011 09:11 AM

Mary Katushabe is headed back to her home country with a few new tricks up her sleeve.

The 33-year-old Rwandan lawyer, who graduated today from the Peace Through Business program at Georgetown University, was in Dallas this week as part of a yearlong effort to aid her in her practice.

“I want to have clients,” Katushabe said. “I want to gain exposure.”

Peace Through Business, which is implemented by Northwood University and the Institute for Economic Empowerment of Women, is helping 15 women from Rwanda and Afghanistan to develop and manage their businesses.

Katushabe’s mentorship began with eight weeks of in-country education and a week of leadership development at Northwood’s Cedar Hill campus. On July 16, she began a week of mentorship with lawyer Stephanie Curtis, president of the Curtis Law Firm. Katushabe founded Unity Law Chamber in 2009, hoping to serve the disadvantaged, but has had trouble turning a profit. A wife and mother of one, Katushabe said it can be difficult to manage accounts for both her home and her business.

“The problem I have is with financials,” she said.

Katushabe met with businessmen and women from the Northwood board for business tips that she can take home with her and use to expand her clientele. The program obliges Katushabe to “pay it forward” and extend her help to other businesswomen in Rwanda.

“Mary has some really big dreams,” Curtis said. “She’s captivating, [and] she’s very strong willed.

“She’s going to fulfill those goals.”