

Northwestern

PRITZKER SCHOOL OF LAW

Journal of Human Rights



SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

CHECK-IN AND BREAKFAST

8:00-8:30 a.m.

OPENING REMARKS

8:30-8:45 a.m. / Lowden Hall

Speakers

Ajinkya P. Joshi, Managing Editor, Northwestern Journal of Human Rights

Thomas F. Geraghty, Class of 1967 James B. Haddad Professor of Law,
Northwestern Pritzker School of Law

Solomon Negussie, Dean, Addis Ababa University College of Law &
Governance Studies

CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITES TO THE ADVANCEMENT OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN ETHIOPIA

8:45-9:05 a.m. / Lowden Hall

Speaker

Shimelis Mulugeta Kene, O'Brien Fellow in Human Rights and Legal Pluralism,
McGill University

VIOLATIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN ETHIOPIA IN THE AFTERMATH OF POLITICAL REFORM

9:05-9:25 a.m. / Lowden Hall

Speakers

Andinet Adinew Tesfaye, Assistant Lecturer of Law, Haramaya University

Endalkachew Abera Mekuriya, Assistant Lecturer of Law, Haramaya University

COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS IN RESPONSE TO PRESENTATIONS

9:25-9:45 a.m. / Lowden Hall

BREAK

9:45-10:00 a.m.

DISABILITY RIGHTS ARE HUMAN RIGHTS: PUSHING ETHIOPIA TOWARDS A RIGHTS-BASED MOVEMENT

10:00-10:20 a.m.

Speakers

Fiona McKinnon, Editor in Chief, Center for Dialogue, Research and
Cooperation

Sirak Akalu Iyassu, Founder, Determinator

COMPETITION AND INTERACTION OF MULTIPLE LEGAL ORDERS IN ETHIOPIA: AN IMPEDIMENT FOR ACCESS TO JUSTICE AND HUMAN RIGHTS OF WOMEN

10:20-10:40 a.m.

Speaker

Daniel Esubalew Alemayehu, Lecturer of Law, Haramaya University

COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS IN RESPONSE TO PRESENTATIONS

10:40-11:00 a.m.

CIVIL SOCIETY RESOURCE CENTER (CSRC): ESTABLISHMENT AND PLAN FOR THE FUTURE

11:00-11:20 a.m.

Speaker

Seife Ayalew Asfaw, Co-Founder & Deputy Executive Director, African Civic Leadership Program

RETHINKING LITIGATION GROUNDED ENFORCEMENT OF CONSTITUTIONAL BILL OF RIGHTS IN ETHIOPIA

11:20-11:40 a.m.

Speaker

Mizanie Abate Tadesse, Associate Professor, Addis Ababa University School of Law

COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS IN RESPONSE TO PRESENTATIONS

11:40 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

FEATURED SPEAKER

12:00-1:00 p.m.

Hon. Ann Claire Williams, Judge, United States Court of Appeals, ret; Director of African Programs, Jones Day, Chicago

Lunch Provided

BREAK

1:00-1:30 p.m.

REMEDIES FOR HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS: A REFORM PROPOSAL FOR ADDRESSING VICTIMS OF CRIMINAL PROCEEDINGS IN ETHIOPIA

1:30-1:50 p.m.

Speaker

Abdi Jibril Ali, Head of School of Law, Addis Ababa University Law School

REFORM OF REGULATION OF LEGAL PRACTICE IN ETHIOPIA: DOES IT IMPROVE ACCESS TO JUSTICE?

1:50-2:10 p.m.

Speaker

Tewodros Meheret, Legal Practitioner, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

ACCESS TO JUSTICE IN ETHIOPIA

2:10-2:30 p.m.

Speaker

Dassa Bulcha Nemomissa, President, The Supreme Court of Oromia

COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS IN RESPONSE TO PRESENTATION

2:30-2:50 p.m.

BREAK

2:50-3:05 p.m.

PANEL: WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?

3:05-3:50 p.m.

CLOSING REMARKS

3:55-4:00 p.m.



FEATURED SPEAKER

Honorable Ann Claire Williams (Ret.), Of Counsel, Jones Day

Judge Ann Claire Williams (Ret.), a trailblazer and leader, heads Jones Day's efforts in advancing the rule of law in Africa. Devoted to promoting the effective delivery of justice worldwide, particularly in Africa, she has partnered with judiciaries, attorneys, NGOs, and the U.S. Departments of Justice and State to lead training programs in Ghana, Indonesia, Kenya, Liberia, Namibia, Nigeria, Rwanda, Tanzania, Uganda, and Zambia. She also has taught at the International Criminal Tribunals for Rwanda and the former Yugoslavia.

Judge Williams has served on many judicial committees and, as treasurer and president of the Federal Judges Association, was the first person of color to become an officer. Committed to public interest work she helped found Just The Beginning — A Pipeline Organization, the Black Women Lawyers' Association of Chicago, Minority Legal Education Resources, and the Public Interest Fellowship Program for Equal Justice Works. She serves on the boards of the Carnegie Corporation of New York, University of Notre Dame, National Institute for Trial Advocacy (NITA), Weinstein International Foundation, iCivics, and Museum of Science & Industry Chicago.



SPEAKERS

Andinet Adinew Tesfaye, Assistant Lecturer of Law, Haramaya University of Law

Andinet Adinew Tesfaye is an Assistant Lecturer of Law at the Haramaya University College of Law. He teaches courses in Electoral Law, Property Law and International Water Law.

He also provides free legal services through the Access to Justice and Legal Awareness (AJLA) Project and volunteers as a Legal Journalist on Haramaya University FM 91.5 on a weekly program focused on human rights and various topical legal issues. Mr. Andinet has worked with the Peace and Development Center, FDRE Ministry of Federal Affairs, Life and Peace Institute, and USAID on various peace, justice and human rights projects. Mr. Andinet has an LLB Degree in Laws and is currently completing an LLM in international business and economic law, both from the Haramaya University College of Law.



Abdi Jibril Ali, Head of School of Law, Addis Abba University School of Law

Abdi Jibril Ali is Head of the School of Law of Addis Ababa University, where he is an Assistant Professor of human rights law, teaching graduate and undergraduate students. He is participating in the Ethiopian legal reform, chairing the working group of experts drafting the Right to Freedom of Assembly Law and contributing to the revision of the law establishing the Ethiopian Human Rights Commission. He

served as Associate Dean for Undergraduate Programs of the College of Law and Governance Studies, Addis Ababa University. He has taught several courses including International Human Rights Law, Refugee Law, African Human Rights Law and Constitutional Law. His research interest is human rights law, particularly economic, social and cultural rights. He has published articles on international and national journals. He has been a doctoral researcher at the Human Rights Centre, Ghent University, and submitted his dissertation for examination.



Daniel E. Alemayehu, Lecturer of Law, Haramaya University College of Law

Daniel E. Alemayehu is a Lecturer of Law at the Haramaya University College of Law. He teaches courses in investment law, agency law, and tax law. He also serves as the Registrar for the Haramaya University College of Law. Mr. Daniel is highly active in providing community service trainings to local police and prison administrations on use of force and the rights of the accused. Mr. Daniel has served as an

International Arbitrator at the Foreign Direct Investment Moot Court (FDI Moot) in Nairobi, Kenya and Stockholm, Sweden. He is also an active moot court coach and recently coached his FDI Moot team to the Global Oral Rounds held at Suffolk University in Boston. Mr. Daniel received his LLB degree in laws from Hawassa University in 2008, and completed his LLM degree in tax and investment laws and policies from Mekelle University in 2015.



Dassa Bulcha Nemomissa, President, The Supreme Court of Oromia

Dassa Bulcha Nemomissa is a former justice of the Supreme Court of Oromia region in Ethiopia. He also served as Director of the Legal Training and Research Institute (Ethiopia) where he initiated and implemented several court, legal and justice reform initiatives. He is closely involved in the design and the implementation of the Comprehensive Justice Reform Program in Ethiopia between 2005 and 2010.

He also served as Programme Director at the Forum of Federations where he

managed and directed the implementation of leadership, federal governance and conflict management programme. Since 2012, Mr. Dassa is serving as senior Governance Programme Analyst in the Democratic Governance and Capacity Development Unit at UNDP Ethiopia. Mr. Dassa has an LLM from the University of Alabama School of Law in comparative constitutional law and an LLM from Addis Ababa University in international law.



Endalkachew A. Mekuriya, Assistant Lecturer of Law,
Haramaya University College of Law

Endalkachew A. Mekuriya is an Assistant Lecturer of Law at the Haramaya University College of Law. He teaches courses in International Organizations, Media Law, and International Humanitarian Law. Mr. Endalkachew also provides free legal aid and clinical legal education services through the USAID-funded Access to Justice and Legal Awareness project implemented by the Haramaya University College of Law. He

is the General Secretary of the African Youth Union Commission, a youth-led not-for-profit organization working on regional peace, social justice and youth empowerment in line with African Union (AU) agenda 2063. He has participated in many platforms on human rights, peace and youth engagement including the UN Youth Assembly Delegation at the UN World Headquarters, AU and other African continental programs. Mr. Endalkachew is also a fellow of the YALI-RLC regional leadership program at Kenyatta University in Nairobi; and an intermediate trainee on violent extremism organized by ICEPCVE of IGAD (The Inter-Governmental Authority on Development). Mr. Endalkachew graduated from the Haramaya University College of Law with an LLB Degree in laws and is currently completing an LLM in international economic and business law.



Fiona McKinnon, Editor in Chief, Center for Dialogue,
Research and Cooperation

Fiona McKinnon is an editor and attorney with a professional focus on migration issues and the Horn of Africa, not necessarily in combination. She attended Harvard University and obtained a law degree from the University of Virginia before embarking on a career as an immigration attorney. When the 2011 revolution began, she relocated to Cairo, where she worked with asylum seekers before returning to

the United States to pursue an LLM in international human rights at Northwestern. Since then she has taught on the law faculty of Bahir Dar University in Ethiopia, worked for a legal institute in Sicily, and now serves as Editor in Chief of the Center for Dialogue, Research and Cooperation, an Ethiopian think-tank focused on Horn of Africa policy issues. She is also Chief Editor of the Rights in Exile newsletter and co-founder of the African Civic Leadership Program, as well as a proud mother of Isaac, age 17 months.



Mizanie Abate Tadesse, Associate Professor, Addis Ababa University School of Law

Mizanie Abate Tadesse is currently an associate professor of human rights law and a supervisor of a legal clinic at Addis Ababa University School of Law. He has extensive experience in teaching and research in human rights as well as supervision of law school legal clinics. He has also presented papers at national and international conferences.

Dr. Mizanie has rendered consultancy services to Ethiopian and international organizations in diverse issues of human rights. Most of his areas of research interests are socioeconomic rights, business and human rights, clinical legal education and access to justice. Dr. Mizanie received his degree in law from the Faculty of Law of Addis Ababa University in 2004. He went to the Centre for Human Rights, University of Pretoria (South Africa) in 2007 and earned his LLM in human rights and democratization in Africa. He graduated with a PhD in Interdisciplinary Studies in 2012 from the University of Alabama.



Shimelis Mulugeta Kene, O'Brien Fellow in Human Rights and Legal Pluralism, McGill University

Shimelis Mulugeta Kene is an O'Brien Fellow in Human Rights and Legal Pluralism, McGill University. His areas of scholarship include human rights, legal theory, third world approaches to international law, postcolonial theory, and critical terrorism studies. While in Ethiopia, Dr. Shimelis worked in diverse settings, including as a Child Rights Officer at the UNDP; Human Rights Expert at the United Nations

Mission in Ethiopia and Eritrea (UNMEE); Senior Trainer at the Organization for Social Justice in Ethiopia and Law Clerk at the Ethiopian Federal First Instance Court. In addition to working with various groups and institutions, during his human rights work in Ethiopia Dr. Shimelis travelled throughout Ethiopia. Dr. Shimelis holds a Doctorate in Law from McGill University, where he recently defended his doctoral thesis entitled "Third World State Agency: A Postcolonial Critique of Ethiopia's Antiterrorism Law", written under the supervision of Professor Payam Akhavan; an L.M (Hons) in international human rights from Northwestern Pritzker School of Law and an LLB from Addis Ababa University.



Sirak Akalu Iyassu, Founder, Determinator

Sirak Akalu Iyassu is a lawyer, writer, adaptive athlete and social entrepreneur. He obtained his law degree from Saint Mary's University in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, where he was born and raised. He has authored two books, one about the environment and the other about arbitration in Ethiopia. As a polio survivor, he is particularly interested in disability rights and worked for years to convince the Ethiopian government

to implement legislation to allow disabled people to obtain a driver's license and import vehicles into the country tax-free. He recently founded a non-profit called Determinator, aiming to give minority disabled people a voice and a shared hub for information and resources.



Solomon Negussie, Dean, College of Law and Governance Studies of the Addis Ababa University

Solomon Negussie is a dean and an associate professor at the College of Law and Governance Studies of the Addis Ababa University. Dr. Solomon lectures on various issues related to comparative constitutional federalism, fiscal federalism, decentralization and human rights, taxation and development, and law of public finance. He also serves as consultant, trainer, and researcher and supervises master's theses and PhD dissertations. Dr. Solomon served as a senior resource person in decentralization, federalism and fiscal federalism in the IGAD region. He also chairs the board of a local CSO working on Peace, Dialogue and Mutual Understanding.

Prior to his current position, he served as head of a department, associate director for postgraduate programs and vice dean. He was a research fellow at the Human Rights Center, Ghent University, the Institute of International Law and International Relations, Graz University, the Institute of Federalism of Fribourg University, and the University of Alabama School of Law. He participated in many local and international conferences held in Addis Ababa, Germany, Belgium, South Africa, the Netherlands and Austria.

His publications include; Fiscal Federalism in the Ethiopian Ethnic-based Federal System, (WLP, Addis Ababa, 2008); "The Need for benchmarking a Right-based approach in promoting regional development in Ethiopia", 2014; "Intergovernmental fiscal relations from a human rights perspective: The Ethiopian context" 2014; Fiscal Decentralization in IGAD member Countries: A Comparison, 2016; "The Nexus Between Human Rights Based Approach and Intergovernmental Fiscal Relations" 2018).



Seife Ayalew Asfaw, Co-Founder & Deputy Executive Director, African Civil Leadership Program

Seife Ayalew is a Co-Founder & the Deputy Executive Director of the African Civic Leadership Program (ACLCP), a non-for-profit organization working to promote the cause of public interest lawyering in Ethiopia, with a special focus towards mentoring the next generation of civil society leaders. Prior to forming ACLCP, he worked for various local and international civil society organizations and taught in Addis Ababa University. He has extensive experience in teaching, research and

advocacy. His area of expertise and interest is on topics related to democratic governance, human rights advocacy and civil society engagement. He has provided extensive consultancy service international organizations and aid agencies. He was the first recipient of the Rubin International Human Rights Award in 2014 from Stanford Law School and was recently awarded the Civil Society Scholar Award 2016-2018 from Open Society Foundation. He is currently a PhD Candidate at the School of Conflict Analysis and Resolution (SCAR) at George Mason University.



Tewodros Meheret, Legal Practitioner, Addis Ababa

Tewodros Meheret earned his LLB and LLM from Addis Ababa University Law School and has 22 years of experience working in various areas of Ethiopian law. Mr. Tewodros started off his career as an in-house lawyer for one of the leading public banks in Ethiopia which was followed by his role as an expert at the Justice and Legal System Research Institute. Before he started his private practice 11 years ago,

Tewodros was head of the legal department of Bank of Abyssinia. Furthermore, he served for two years as the Head of Legal Service of Addis Ababa University. Before starting full-time practice, Mr. Tewodros was an assistant professor of law at Addis Ababa University, and has published several articles. He also served as the immediate past president of the Ethiopian Lawyers' Association and as a member of a team of experts tasked with reforming of regulation of legal practice.

Thank you for attending the
NORTHWESTERN PRIZKER SCHOOL OF LAW
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Symposium 2020

On Behalf of the 2019-2020 JHR Masthead

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Thank You!

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The Northwestern Journal of Human Rights would also like to thank Thomas F. Geraghty, Maryann Wou, for their vision and efforts in organizing this meaningful Symposium. Today's event would not have been possible without their tremendous dedication and passion.

The Northwestern Journal of Human Rights would like to extend their gratitude to John ("Jack") Beckstrom, Dean Worku Tafara, and former Director of Northwestern's Program of African Studies Abraham Demos, whose vision and dogged determination are responsible for the enduring collaboration between the Addis Ababa University and the Northwestern Pritzker School of Law.