

Abadir M. Ibrahim, J.S.D.

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Professional Experience

Associate Director, Human Rights Program, Harvard Law School (Since August 2021)

Head, Secretariat of the Legal and Justice Affairs Advisory Council established by the Attorney General's Office of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia (January 2019 – July 2021)

The Legal and Justice Affairs Advisory Council was established by the Federal Attorney General's Office and is mandated with advising the Federal Government in matters relating to the reform of the legal and justice system in a way that is compatible with constitutional principles relating to human rights, democracy and the rule of law. The Secretariat, which I am currently the head of, is the Advisory Council's administrative arm and is responsible for planning and monitoring the implementation of the Advisory Council's mandate and representing the Council before the Attorney General's Office and other stakeholders.

In addition to heading the Secretariat, I also provide subject-matter expertise, analysis and drafting support on a range of legal matters including on human rights and democratization issues in connection with diagnostic studies, draft laws, Secretariat/Council policies and other outputs relevant to new normative and regulatory frameworks emerging from the Advisory Council's efforts.

International Human Rights Law Consultant (since July 2012)

I consult, advise, and train on a broad variety of topics connected with human rights and democratization, and occasionally on broader sociopolitical topics, in Africa and more specifically in the Horn Region. In addition to providing consultancy services to a wide range of organizations and grassroots groupings, I represent and advocate on behalf of victims of human rights violations before the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights, the United Nations Human Rights Council, and the Council of Constitutional Inquiry of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia.

Substantive areas on which I have provided advise include law reform, strategic litigation, communication/advocacy strategy, civil society, democratization and human rights programs that engage with specific subject matters such as:

- access to justice (more specifically the right to make *actio popularis* claims and provide *amicus briefs*);
- principle of legality, states of emergency, and counterterrorism;
- judicial independence and exhaustion of local remedies;
- freedom of religion and separation church and state;
- right to due process, life, property, physical integrity (against torture), and privacy;
- freedom of conscience, expression, association and access to information;
- labor union and related rights;
- indigenous peoples' rights and the right of peoples to development; and

- duty to progressively improve/reform state institutions and to prosecute gross human rights violations.

I also provide subject-matter expertise and country-condition reports for US law firms and immigration clinics filing asylum, Violence Against Women Act, T visa (victims of human trafficking), extreme hardship waiver (I-601, I-601A, and I-212) and judicial review of agency action applications.

Center for the Advancement of Human Rights and Democracy in Ethiopia (CAHDE), Director of the Bram Ficher Project (November 2015 – April 2018), Director (April 2018 - January 2019)

CAHDE, which was established abroad outside the reach of Ethiopia’s repressive government so as to support the work of Ethiopia human rights lawyers who were being persecuted for their work, has two main projects: the Bram Ficher Project (named after Nelson Mandela’s lawyer) and the Solidarity Project. The Bram Ficher Project identifies and pursues cases on critical human rights issues which are likely to have a high impact at the national, regional and international levels. The Solidarity Project aims at building a human rights movement in Ethiopia by supporting consensus among Ethiopia’s diverse ethnic, religious and political groups on human rights even where they disagree politics. I have been involved with both projects since the establishment of CAHDE.

Adjunct Lecturer, St. Thomas University School of Law Intercultural Human Rights Program, Miami Gardens, Florida (Since 2010)

Course instruction: 1. Human Rights and Religion; and 2. The African System of Human Rights. Approximately 22 students per class. Responsible for delivering lectures to law students, advising and grading examinations.

Adjunct Lecturer, Addis Ababa University School of Law, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia (2006 – 2009, 2019-present)

Graduate course instruction: African Human Rights System (approximately 25 students per class)
Undergraduate course instruction: Human Rights Law, Constitutional Law, Federalism, and Introduction to Law (approximately 40 students per class)
Responsible for designing courses, delivering lectures, advising students, and grading examinations. Served as examiner for students’ LL.B. dissertation defense.

Graduate Fellow, Human Trafficking Academy, St. Thomas University School of Law Intercultural Human Rights Program, Miami Gardens, Florida (2012 – 2013)

Worked in establishing and running the university’s Human Trafficking Academy. Organized and managed trainings and seminars, coordinated with partner organizations, produced educational material including print and audiovisual material, and conducted research on global human trafficking law and policy, researched the implementation of the 3Ps (Prosecution, Protection, and Prevention) paradigm and participated in writing the academy’s teaching syllabi and modules. During this period, I also advised students preparing for the Philip C. Jessup International Law Moot Court Competition and served as a judge in the Susan J. Ferrell Moot Court Competition.

Research Fellow, St. Thomas University School of Law Intercultural Human Rights Program, Miami Gardens, Florida (2009 - 2012)

Conducted research on human trafficking law and on the intersection between the fields of ethics and human rights.

Public Prosecutor and Legal Trainer, Ministry of Justice of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia (2006 – 2009)

As a prosecutor I worked on a wide range of cases under the Federal Criminal Code. At the Criminal Affairs Department of the head office of the Ministry of Justice I made determinations on administrative appeals against discretionary prosecutorial decisions.

Worked in the Legal Education and Training Department where I assessed the training and education needs of Federal and State prosecutors' offices, designed training/education programs, implemented projects and then evaluated training/educational effectiveness. Managed and supervised teams comprised of seven attorneys and additional administrative staff. Received formal and practical training and certification in "Business Process Reengineering" with components in public sector reform, leadership, management, and change management.

Legislative Drafter, Contracted, Ethiopian Engineering Capacity Building Program, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia (May – June 2009)

Drafted and translated legislation and other legal documents for a project to standardize Ethiopia's industrial quality infrastructure sponsored by German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development.

Instructor and Head of the Department of Law, Royal University College, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia (2005 – 2006)

Course instruction: Human Rights Law, Constitutional Law, Administrative Law, Legal Ethics, Law of Persons, Private International Law, Jurisprudence, Legal Reasoning and Legal History. Responsible for designing courses, delivering lectures, advising students, and grading examinations.

As Head of the Department of Law I managed departmental priorities ranging from the recruitment of students, registration, class scheduling, exam administration, conflict resolution, academic research, and strategic planning. Responsible for the initiation of the department's curriculum review, textbook development, and moot court competitions.

Trainer, Action Professionals' Association for the People, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia (March – August 2005)

Gave lectures to and coordinated trainings for civil servants and law enforcement officials on constitutional principles, due process rights and basic legal knowledge and skills.

Publications

Books

- THE ROLE OF CIVIL SOCIETY IN AFRICA'S QUEST FOR DEMOCRATIZATION (Springer Int'l Pub., 2015).
- THE HUMAN RIGHTS PROVISIONS OF THE FDRE CONSTITUTION IN LIGHT OF THE THEORETICAL FOUNDATIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS, Ethiopian Human Rights Law Series Vol. I (AAU Univ. Press 2008).

- (co-editor of a series) et al., *RIGHTING HUMAN RIGHTS THROUGH LEGAL REFORM: ETHIOPIA'S CONTEMPORARY EXPERIENCE*, Ethiopian Human Rights Law Series Vol. XII (Addis Ababa University 2020).

Journal Articles, Book Chapters and other Academic Material

- *Strategic Human Rights Litigation Guideline*, Lawyers for Human Rights – Ethiopia (2021);
- *Tilting at Windmills with Anti-Terrorism Laws: The Challenges of Doctrinally Challenging the Definition of Terrorism*, 12 Ethiopian Human Rights Law Series (2021).
- et al., *Editor's Introduction: Righting Human Rights through Legal Reform*, 12 Ethiopian Human Rights Law Series (2021).
- *Critical Analysis of "Revolutionary Democracy" Discourse and its Role in Ethiopia's Experiment in (non)Democracy*, 21:1 International Journal of Ethiopian Studies (2018).
- *Rights-Based Learning Environment: The Missing Piece in Ethiopia's Patchwork of a Human Rights Education Regime*, 23:1 Political Crossroads 67 (2018).
- *A Not-So-Radical Approach to an Islamic Understanding of Human Rights*, 96 Journal of Religion 346 (2016).
- *Religion-State Identification and Religious Freedom in Ethiopia*, in *RELIGIOUS FREEDOM AND RELIGIOUS PLURALISM IN AFRICA: PROSPECTS AND LIMITATIONS* (Christian Green, Pieter Coertzen and Len Hansen eds., SUN Press, 2016).
- *LGBT Rights in Africa and the Discursive Role of International Human Rights Law*, 15 African Human Rights Law Journal 263 (2015).
- *Rooting Life and Death in Ethiopian Law: Towards a Holistic Approach to Rights Legislation*, 2 Ethiopian Journal of Human Rights 1 (2015).
- *Post-Revolutionary Islamism and the Future of Democracy and Human Rights in Egypt*, 30 American Journal of Islamic Social Sciences 19 (2013).
- *International Trade and Human Rights: An Unfinished Debate*, 14 German Law Journal 321 (2013).
- *Evaluating a Decade of the AU's Protection of Human Rights and Democracy: A Post-Tahrir Assessment*, 12 African Human Rights Law Journal 30 (2012).
- *The Nile Basin Cooperative Framework Agreement: The Beginning of the End of Egyptian Hydro-Political Hegemony*, 18 Missouri Environmental Law and Policy Review 282 (2011).
- *A Critical Assessment of the Legal Principles Underlying the Nile River Basin Cooperative Framework Agreement*, 21 Journal of Water Law 198 (2011).
- *The International Criminal Court in Light of Controlling Factors of the Effectiveness of International Human Rights Mechanisms*, 7 Eyes on the International Criminal Court 157 (2010-2011).
- *The African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights and Human Rights Education: Much Buzzing Still No Honey?* 35 South African Yearbook of International Law 111 (2010).
- *A Human Rights Approach to Environmental Protection: The Case of Ethiopia*, Contemporary Legal Institutions 62 (2009).
- *Reflections on a Quest for an Ethiopian Concept of Human Rights*, 1 Ethiopian Journal of Legal Education 106 (2008).
- *Notes on the Grading Criteria of the Law Faculty of the Addis Ababa University*, 1 Ethiopian Journal of Legal Education (2008).

Book Reviews

- Ahmedin Jebel, *Pharaoh: The Symbol of Dictators*, Addis Ababa Ahmedin Jebel, Aug. 2015. x + 429 pp. Addis Standard (2017).
- Terje Østebø. *Localizing Salafism: Religious change among Oromo Muslims in Bale, Ethiopia*, Leiden, The Netherlands: Brill NV, 2012. xxvi + 380 pp. 16 African Studies Quarterly 127 (2016).

- Stig Jarle Hansen. *Al-Shabaab in Somalia: The History and Ideology of a Militant Islamist Group, 2005-2012*. Oxford: C Hurst & Co. (2013) 14 *Political Studies Review* 315 (2016).
- Daniel Drache & Lesley A. Jacobs (eds.), *Linking Global Trade and Human Rights: New Policy Space in Hard Economic Times*. New York, NY: Cambridge Univ. Press, 2014. 21 *International Trade Law & Regulation* 33 (2015).
- E. Ike Udogu. *Examining Human Rights Issues and the Democracy Project in Sub-Saharan Africa: A Theoretical Critique and Prospects for Progress in the Millennium*. Lanham, MD: Lexington Books, 2014. xxi, 219 pp. 14 *African Studies Quarterly* 111 (2014).

Advocacy Publications

- et al., *The 2009 CSO Law and the Politics of “Me, Myself, and I”*, *The Reporter* (5 Sept. 2020).
- (anonymously) et al., የመንግሥት አስተዳደር ሥርዓት በአዲስ ምዕራፍ፤ የመመሪያዎች አወጣጥን በሕግ መግራት! [Trans. A New Chapter in Ethiopian Administrative System: Regulating Law-Making by Law] Addis Maleda (1 Jun. 2020).
- et al., ትውልዳዊ ዕይታ፡ የፍትህ ስርዓት ለውጡን ባልተሳካላቸው የለውጥ አራማጆች ትከሻ ላይ ማቆም [Trans. Learning to Stand on the Shoulders of “Unsuccessful” Reformers: An Intergenerational View?], Addis Maleda (11 May 2020).
- et al., የኢትዮጵያ የሕግ ፍትህ ስርዓት ማሻሻል ሂደት፡ አዲስ ጅምር ወይስ የሐሰት ተሰፋ? [Trans. Ethiopia’s Legal Reform: A New Beginning or a False Start?], Addis Maleda (11 May 2020).
- et al., “ለማን አቤት ይባላል?” ለፍርድ ቤት! አዲሱ የአስተዳደር ሥነ-ሥርዓት አዋጅ እጅ ከምን [Trans. Who do you appeal to? The Courts! The Novelties of the New Administrative Procedure Law], Addis Maleda (4 May 2020).
- et al., *The Silent Fighters: The Volunteers behind Ethiopia’s Democratic Reforms*, Addis Standard (27 Feb. 2020).
- *Questions, Concerns and a Critique on the Decolonization of Ethiopian Knowledge*, Addis Standard (12 Dec. 2017).
- *The Unfair Trial of Muslim Leaders: Why it Undermines Counterterrorism in Ethiopia*, Addis Standard (12 Aug. 2015).
- *Religion Inspires in Ways that International Law Does Not*, Open Democracy (5 Mar. 2015) [subsequently translated into Arabic].
- *Counterterrorism Policy in the Horn of Africa: A Sprint or a Marathon?* 14 *Badr Magazine* 23 (Aug. 2014).
- የግብፅ ዲሞክራሲ ምትና አስተምህሮው [Trans. Lessons in the Obituary of Egypt’s Democracy], *The Reporter* (25 Sept. 2013).
- et al., *Redefining Protest in Ethiopia: What Happens to the 'Terror' Narrative when Muslims call for a Secular State?* Open Democracy (23 Oct. 2012) [subsequently translated into Amharic, Arabic and Oromo languages].
- *The State, Political Exorcism, and the Possessed Population*, *The Reporter* (19 May. 2012).
- *A Call for a Cultural Revolution in Africa and the Middle East*, *The Reporter* (03 Mar. 2012).
- *How Surprising is the African Union’s Defense of Gaddafi?* *The Reporter* (22 Apr. 2011).
- *Imaginative Interview with Thomas Hobbes and John Locke on the Current Situation in Egypt*, *The Reporter* (12 Feb. 2011).

Visual, Audio-Visual, and Mixed Genres

Outside of the occasional political cartoons I publish, which are not included here, the following are material that can fall under one or more of the categories above but were separated due to their utilization of non-text mediums.

- et al., በእመቤት ፍትሕ መነጻጸር፡ የፍትሕ ሥርዓት ለውጥና ከተሪክ ጋር የተያዘ ወግ [Trans.: In the Eyes of Lady Justice: A Historical Introspection on Justice System Reform; Role: co-author; Medium: law journal article], 12 Ethiopian Human Rights Law Series (2021).
- The Boat and the Waterfall [Medium: whiteboard animation; Role: writing and direction] (2021).

Unpublished Manuscripts and Working Drafts

- The Right to Access to Information in Ethiopian Law: A unique but Legally Impaired Constitutional Regime.
- Training Material: *Human Rights Lawyering Toolkit* (prepared for Freedom House and Lawyers for Human Rights).
- *Revitalizing the Role of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights in Conflict and Crisis Situations: What can the Commission do?* [A study submitted to the Commission by the Center for the Advancement of Democracy and Human Rights in Ethiopia].
- Ethiopia's Draft Law on Civil Society Organizations: *Preliminary Comments* [A study submitted to the Legal and Justice Affairs Advisory Council by the Center for the Advancement of Democracy and Human Rights in Ethiopia and the Solidarity Movement for a New Ethiopia].
- Human Rights Impact Assessment on the Regulation of the Council of Ministers to Provide for the Registration and Regulation of Civil Society Organizations.
- Training Manual: *Lawyering and Advocacy at the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights*, (prepared for Avocats Sans Frontières in the implementation of the Kalima Project).
- *The Role of Islamic Groups in Egypt's Democratic Transition and Regression*, expected to be published on Edited Volume of the IIIT Conference on the Arab Spring (Eds. Abdulaziz Sachedina & Ermin Sinanovic - under development).
- *Born to be Free but only where, when, and how Big Brother Decides: A Critical Review of Judicial Independence and the Future of the Judiciary in Ethiopia*, prepared for Vision Ethiopia ESAT Fourth Conference on Building Democratic Institutions in Ethiopia (September 23 - 24, 2017).
- A Review of Contemporary Islamic Discourses on Slavery, Human Trafficking and Labor Standards.
- Islam's Ethical Contribution to LGBT Rights: A Critical Review of the Prospects and Limitations (or The Daunting Task of Making the Closet Safe: A Review of Contemporary Islamic Discourse on Homosexuality).
- Baring the Undercover Author(s) in the Hermeneutic Structure of Islam (Analysis of Quranic and Hadith Hermeneutics).
- Not Taking Rights Seriously Enough? A Review of Ethico-Legal Discourse of Contemporary Reformist Islamic Movements.
- Transformation from the OAU to the AU: A Human Rights Perspective.
- The Fate of the Ecological Approach to Environmental Protection: Two Tales of Legalization from Ecuador and Ethiopia.
- A Skeptic's View on Legal Interpretation: Study on Ethiopian Constitutional Law and Supreme Court Jurisprudence.
- A Comparative Perspective on the Role and Effectiveness of Regional Human Rights Systems.
- Rendering Support to Terrorism: An Innovative Principle of Criminal Responsibility or a Legal Dhegdheer?
- Article 6 of the Anti-Terrorism Proclamation in Light of Regional and International Human Rights Standards.

Select Training and Speaking Engagements

Panelist, “Ethics and Technologies in Developing Countries” at an event organized by Digital Davos 2021 around the World Economic Forum Annual Meeting (online 2021)

Speaker, “The Golden Rule and Principles of Human Trafficking” Dire Dawa American Corner (online 2021)

Speaker, “Integration beyond Assimilation: In Search of Social Values that Hold Ethiopians Together” at an event organized by the Center for National and Regional Integration Series (CeNRIS) on “National Workshop on “Etiyopiawinet” as an Integrative Scheme” (Addis Ababa, Mar. 2020)

Trainer, “Human Rights Law and Strategic Litigation for Ethiopian Lawyers” a two-day training organized by Freedom House (Addis Ababa, Mar. 2020)

Speaker, “Strategic Litigation and Case Selection Considerations in the Ethiopian Legal System” at a workshop organized by Lawyers for Human Rights (Addis Ababa, Jan. 2020)

Speaker, “National Integration and Nation Building in Ethiopia” at a seminar organized by the Center for National and Regional Integration Studies - CeNRIS (Addis Ababa, Dec. 2019)

Speaker, “Reform of Ethiopia’s Access to Information, Media and Internet Legislation: An Update” at an event organized by the Collaboration on International ICT Policy for East and Southern Africa (CIPESA) on “Forum on Internet Freedom in Africa FIFAfrica19” (Sept. 2019)

Trainer, “Introduction to Civil Society Legislation in Ethiopia” at a training organized by USAID for employees of the Civil Society Organizations Agency on the implementation of the new civil society law Proclamation No.1113/2019 (Addis Ababa, Apr. 2019)

Trainer, “Introduction of Social Justice”, “Understanding Privileges and Oppressions”, and “Social Justice in Practice” at “Training on Social Justice” organized by Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (FES) (Addis Ababa, Mar. 2019)

Public lecture, “Political Transition in Ethiopia: Human Rights, Democracy, and the Politics of Hope” at the “Africa at Noon Lecture Series” organized by the African Studies Program at the University of Wisconsin-Madison (Madison, WI, Dec. 2018)

Presenter, “Prospects for Indigenous Peoples’ Rights at a Time of Transition in Ethiopia” at the International Human Rights Law Institute of DePaul University School of Law (Chicago, IL, Nov. 2018)

Trainer, “The Impact of Anti-Terrorism Law on Human Rights” at the “Ethiopian Anti-Terrorism Proclamation, policy and their application for the protection of Human Rights” Conference organized by Justice for All-PF Ethiopia (Adama, Nov. 2018)

Panelist, “Neutral Mediators: The Role of the CSOs in Consolidating Democracy in Ethiopia” organized by Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (FES) (Addis Ababa, Oct. 2018)

Panelist, "The Conditions needed to Prevent Future Gross Violations of Human Rights in Ethiopia" at the "Consensus for Ethiopia Conference" organized by seven Ethiopian human rights and peace/reconciliation organizations under the "Ethiopians for Consensus United Network" (Washington, D.C., Jul. 2018)

Presenter, "The Role of the Diaspora in Giving 'Revolutionary-Secularism' the Red Card!" at the "30th Annual meeting of the First Hijrah Foundation" organized by the First Hijrah Foundation (Springfield, Virginia, Jul. 2018)

Presenter, "The Harari and Cosmopolitan Identity" at the "23rd Annual Harari Sports and Cultural Festival" organized by the Harari Heritage Association (Annandale, Virginia, Jul. 2018)

Presenter, "The Role of Political Culture and Political Discourse in Ethiopia's Transition Towards Democracy" at a symposium "Transition and Development for a Democratic Ethiopia" organized by Ethiopiawinet: Council for the Defense of Citizens' Rights (Silver Spring, Maryland, Aug. 2017).

Presenter, "Seeking Dialectical and Redemptive Relief in the Midst of Crisis: A Discussion on the Dialogical Agendas of Contemporary Ethiopia", Political Contradictions and State Building in Ethiopia: The Limits of Authoritarian Democracy and Development, School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS) University of London (Jul. 2017).

Presentation on the role of religious leaders and organizations in building bridging social capital and narratives of forgiveness at the annual conference of the Ethiopian Muslim Movement Association (Washington, D.C., Jul. 2017).

Presentation of a report on the state of human rights and specifically the freedom of religion in Ethiopia, Ethiopia in Crisis, Center for African Studies at Stanford University (Stanford, California, Feb. 2017).

Presenter, two public lectures on "Human Rights and/in/through Islam in a 'Glocal' Context," made an additional presentation on "Introduction to Human Rights Law and 'Lawyering,'" and had significant interaction with students through the Visiting Scholar Program at Texas Christian University (Fort Worth, Texas, Nov. 2016).

Presenter, "The Effects of Anti-Terrorism Laws on the Freedom of Religion in Eastern Africa," Fourth Annual Conference of the International Consortium for Law and Religion Studies, University of Oxford, St. Hugh's College (Oxford, United Kingdom, Sept. 2016).

Presentation on the significance of meaningful political reform and reconciliation-focused discourse in contemporary Ethiopia, Ethiopian Council on Reconciliation and Restorative Justice (Minneapolis, Minnesota, Apr. 2016).

Presentation on human rights cases currently being litigated in Ethiopia and internationally and how the Ethiopian diaspora can support strategic litigation efforts, Exploring the Past, Imagining the Future of Ethiopia, United Ethiopian Muslims Peaceful Movement Support Group (Lanham, Maryland, Jul. 2016).

Speech on the need for reconciliation and restorative justice in Ethiopia, Ethiopian People-to-People Forum on Our Future, Solidarity Movement for a New Ethiopia (Washington, D.C., Feb. 2016).

Presenter, "Freedom of Religion in 'Revolutionary-Secular' Ethiopia," Ethiopia: Identity Politics, Human Rights and Democratization, London School of Economics and Political Science (London, United Kingdom, May 2015).

Presenter, "Freedom of Religion in 'Revolutionary-Secular' Ethiopia," Third Conference on Law and Religion in Africa, African Consortium for Law and Religion Studies, University of Namibia (Windhoek, Namibia, May 2015).

Presentation on the arrest and torture of Muslim civil society leaders in Ethiopia, The Crooked Scales of Justice Conference, United Ethiopian Muslims Peaceful Movement Support Group (Washington, D.C., Sept. 2015).

Presenter, "Rights-Based Learning Environment: The Weak-Link in Ethiopia's Human Rights Education Framework," Fifth International Conference on Human Rights Education, American University Washington College of Law (Dec. 2014).

Presenter, "Transitional Justice in Africa: Lessons Learned," University of New Mexico School of Law (Albuquerque, New Mexico, Mar. 2014).

Moderated a panel discussion on and made a presentation on Current Human Rights Movements and the 2009 civil society law of Ethiopia at the 14th Annual Badr Diaspora Convention (Dallas, Texas, Aug. 2014).

Presentation on the interaction between Islamist thought and Western political ideals of constitutionalism and human rights as reflected in Egypt's 2012 Constitution, International Institute of Islamic Thought (Herndon, Virginia, Jun. 2013).

Media Engagements

Participated as a commentator, an interviewee, or a discussant on the following media organizations (with repeats on a number of them): the BBC, VOA, New York Times, The Economist, SRF (Swiss Public Radio), WPBR News Florida, ETV (Ethiopian National Television), OMN (Oromo Media Network), Arts TV World (African Renaissance Television Services), ESAT (Ethiopian Satellite Television), Sheger FM 102.1 (Addis Ababa), Walta TV (Ethiopia), Ethio FM 107.8 (Addis Ababa), BBN (Berekah Broadcasting Network), Forum65, Harar FM 101.4, Addis Mieraf, Conversations in Ideas, Abbay Media, Hiber Radio, Radio Nejashi, Reporter (Ethiopia), Ethiopia Insider.

Was featured in one human rights documentary.

Education

St. Thomas University School of Law, Miami Gardens, Florida

Juris Science Doctorate (J.S.D.) in Intercultural Human Rights Law, May 2015

Dissertation: *The Role of Civil Society in Africa's Quest for Democratization*

St. Thomas University School of Law, Miami Gardens, Florida

Master of Laws (LL.M.) in Intercultural Human Rights Law, summa cum laude, May 2010

Thesis: *The Role of the African Union in the Protection of Human Rights: A Case Study of the Darfur Situation*

Valedictorian

Awarded seven Book Awards

Intercultural Human Rights Law Review, recipient of Second-Best Journal Review award

Second Place, Intercultural Human Rights Essay Competition

Awarded merit-based scholarship

Addis Ababa University, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

Master of Laws (LL.M.) in International Law, Great Distinction, May 2009

Thesis: *The International Criminal Court in Light of Controlling Factors of the Effectiveness of International Human Rights Mechanisms*

Addis Ababa University, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

Bachelor of Laws (LL.B.), July 2005

Thesis: *The Human Rights Provisions of the FDRE Constitution in Light of the Theoretical Foundations of Human Rights*

Dean's Award for Most Outstanding Thesis

Dean's Honor List (2001-2005)

Runners-up Trophy at the Pan-African Moot Court Competition on International Humanitarian Law, Arusha, Tanzania

Honors

In addition to numerous scholarships and fellowships as a student I have received recognition for "Outstanding Contributions to Human Rights Advocacy and Pro-Bono Legal Work on Behalf of Prisoners of Conscience," granted by the United Ethiopian Muslims Peaceful Movement Support Group, et al. (2016).

Professional Affiliations and Service

Member: African Studies Association and African Consortium for Law and Religion Studies.

Founding Member: Ethiopian Council for Reconciliation and the Restorative of Justice and Centre for the Advancement of Human Rights in Ethiopia.

Editor: Ethiopian Human Rights Law Series.

Reviewed and refereed LL.B., LL.M. and J.S.D. dissertations and refereed/edited academic publications including for: Journal of Human Rights, Cambridge Univ. Press, Palgrave Macmillan, Brill, C Hurst & Co., Taylor & Francis Group, Lexington Books, Rowman & Littlefield Pub., Journal of African Law, the African Consortium for Law and Religion Studies, the Ethiopian Journal of Human Rights, Journal of Homosexuality, Journal of Ethiopian Law, the International Journal of Ethiopian Studies, Ethiopian Public and Constitutional Law Series and the Intercultural Human Rights Law Review.