

Annual Report of the Dean (2010/11)

By Dean Zekarias Keneaa

I. Overview

During the last academic year, there were four programs that were run by the School of Law. The Regular undergraduate LL.B Program, the Evening undergraduate LL.B Program, the graduate LL.M Program, and the Summer In-Service Program for Prosecutors from the Oromia Regional State.

The 2010/11 academic year was a challenging academic year for the School of Law at AAU. The usual budgetary constraints were there and the School wouldn't have been able to meet crucial ends had it not been for the income it generated by training Prosecutors for the Oromia Regional State.

The School of Law is not staffed with qualified instructors in adequate number. For many undergraduate courses the school depends on part-time instructors many of whom are quite busy with their own businesses and commitments. The problem of not having qualified fulltime instructors is even more glaring in the currently running LL.M Program of the School. The offering of quite a number of courses are postponed due to not being able to find instructors. The pervasive problem of finance has been a hindrance to the School's LL.M Program and because of this problem; the School has not been able to even employ foreign professors willing to come and teach provided their expenses are fully covered.

Preparing our students for Exit Exams that were offered for the first time is another mentionable challenge of the year as was deploying our prospective LL.B graduates on externship which was also the first of its kind. The School has gained some experience with respect to both and it is hoped that the handling of both programs in the current academic year will improve.

II. Some Highlights for the Year

Statistics

There were about 620 students in the 5 different batches in the Law school. 100 out of this total have graduated last July and now the School of expects to have about 80 new students joining the school for the 2011/12 academic year.

Public Lecture

In March 2010 a public Lecture was organized by the School of Law in cooperation with the Ethiopian Arbitration and Conciliation Center (EACC). Ms Gina Barbieri, a lawyer from South Africa with rich experience in settling international disputes, delivered a lecture on the topic "Best Practice Lessons in Implementing ADR in Africa" which was followed by a very fruitful

discussion with lots of questions and comments both from faculty and students.

Hosting of the Final Round of the National Arbitration Moot Competition

The final round of the National Moot Court Competition for 2010 organized and sponsored by the Ethiopian Arbitration and Conciliation Center (EACC) was hosted by AAU School of Law on Hidar 22, 2003. Ato Zekarias Keneaa, then Acting Dean of the School of Law, served as one of the judges for the final round. The final round competition was conducted in the Auditorium in the Nelson Mandela Building and was a very colorful event.

Participation in the National Moot Court Competition on Human Rights

Three third year students of the School headed by an instructor coach participated in the National Human Rights Moot Court Competition organized and sponsored by The Ethiopian Human Rights Commission held in Bahr Dar. The Competition was held between 29th Megabit and Miazia 04, 2003. Students Bantayehu Demlie, Sousena Kebede and Alemayehu Begna represented the school and achieved a good result.

Participation in Jessup International Law Moot Court Competition

The Jessup International Moot Court Competition is held every year in Washington D. C. The School of Law at AAU is one of the schools that regularly and annually take part in the competition. With the guidance and coaching of the Assistant Dean of the School of Law W/zt Blen Asemrie, four students of the School Students Bthel Genene, Chaan Koang, Ermias Kassaye and Mintesinot Kebede took part in the competition held between Megabit 12-17, 2003 in Washington D.C. after winning the National Round competitions against law schools in the country. Several staff members have participated as judges in the screening rounds to select team members for the competition and also in the public rehearsal sessions organized to help prepare the team.

Ato Wondwossen Demissie a faculty member of the School of Law also took part by serving as a judge in the various rounds of the competition.

The participation in the competition of students of the School materialized only through the assistance extended to the participants by the University's central administration.

Participation in the Jean-Pictet International Humanitarian Law Moot Court Competition

Three students of the School Feben Regassa, Ermias Dejene and Tamrat Lapiso participated in the Jean-Pictet International Humanitarian Moot Court Competition held in France in March 2011.

Participation in the Regional Training on Arbitration - in preparation for an upcoming Arbitration Moot Competition

Two students of the School, members of a future International Arbitration Moot Team led by Ato Fekadu Petros, a faculty member of the School, participated in the Regional Training Program on Moot Arbitration held in Ghana Accra from Megabit 19-25 2003.

Exit Exams

Exit Exams (National exams for students graduating from Ethiopian Law Schools with L.L.B Degrees) were administered for the first time through out Ethiopia. They were administered in April 2010. 101 graduating students in the regular program in the undergrad program in law of AAU took part in the exams and all of them managed to clear the exams.

Externship

Prospective graduates of the regular program in the undergrad in law at AAU also were involved in a pioneer program of externship which was introduced for the first time and in which all prospective graduates in the undergrad law programs of all Ethiopian Law Schools participated. AAU's prospective graduates did their externship for 12 weeks From Miazia 03, 2003 to Hamle 01 2003 in 19 various institutions. The institutions that cooperated with our School of Law in accommodating our prospective graduates included among others, Federal Courts, Oromia Supreme Court, Ministry of Justice, various other ministries, state-owned commercial banks private banks and private insurance companies. Stipends were paid to the prospective graduates who went on externship by the University.

Research and Publications

In the course of the last academic year, two issues of the Journal of Ethiopian Law were out viz, Vol 24 No. 1 and Vol 24 No. 2. Moreover, Volume IV of the Ethiopian Constitutional Law Series as well as Vol IV of the Ethiopian Business Law Series were out. The coming out of Volume IV of the Ethiopian Human Rights Law Series is delayed.

III. Financial and Equipment Support

Financial Support

Grant Fund to support the publication of the Journal of Ethiopian Law

The DLA Piper Foundation donated \$25, 967.00 to the School of Law which is earmarked to support the publication of the Journal of Ethiopian Law. The money was credited to AAU's Account No. 0170417333300

Grant Fund to Support Individual Faculty Research

The DLA Piper Foundation donated \$8,310.00 to three faculty of the School of Law viz, Ato Muradu Abdo, Ato Seyoum Yohannes and Ato Tadesse Lencho to support their individual research projects.

Equipment Support

2.3.2.1 The DLA Piper Foundation also purchased equipment for the School and the following ICT items were purchased and delivered to the School.

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| 1. HP Laptops | 2pcs |
| 2. HP PCs | 20pcs |
| 3. HP Monitors(20 inch LCD) | 20pcs |
| 4. HP Printers (P2055) | 10pcs |
| 5. Canon Copiers (IR2318L) | 2pcs |
| 6. Sony LCD Projectors | 2pcs |

The Starting of a Computer Lab

Mikre Michael Ayele Memorial Foundation has established a Computer Center for the benefit of the School's faculty and graduate students. The Center is located in room 327 on the 3rd floor of the Nelson Mandela Building. The Center was inaugurated on May 27,2011 and has been functional since. Mikre Michael Ayele Memorial Foundation also employed an attendant for the whole of the current academic year

IV. Obituary

1. Professor James C.N. Paul (1923- 2011) The first Dean of the first ever law school in Ethiopia, the man that started Ethiopian legal education from scratch, one of the pioneer academic Vice Presidents of the then Haile Selassie I University, a great scholar and a memorable Ethiopianist, passed away mid September 2011.

Long before his death, Addis Ababa University has placed a plaque of Professor James C.N. Paul right at the entrance of the building where he came and founded the first School of Law and where he himself started conducting formal legal education classes in Ethiopia back in early sixties. More than the plaque to his name, the man that left behind a legacy that will never be erased, James C.N. Paul, will be remembered by pages of Ethiopian Legal History and through good memories of Ethiopian Legal Education.

2. Yohannes Hirouy Tibebe (1941-2011)

Fifteen days before Professor James C.N. Paul passed away; the Ethiopian legal community lost a remarkable Ethiopian legal professional and scholar to the brutal enemy of the human race -death. Yohannes Hirouy, one of the first Ethiopians taught law by Professor C.N. Paul, and one of the first Ethiopians that were recruited to teach law at the then Haile Selassie I University School of Law, passed away on the 31 of August 2011.

Gash Yohannes, as many of us referred to him when he was alive, tirelessly supported the School of Law. He not only served as a part-time law teacher, but oft served as an editor of the Journal of Ethiopian Law as well as a chair or member of the Editorial Board of the Journal.

Gash Yohannes has left behind his imprint on the Ethiopian legal scholarship. His many contributions will remain living witnesses of his works and will continue to inspire young and prospective legal professionals and scholars. The trade mark and meticulous editing services of Ato Yohannes is going to be missed by the community of Ethiopian legal professionals in general and the School of Law in particular,

This issue of the Journal of Ethiopian Law (Vol 25 No 1) a journal started by James C.N.Paul and in the publication of which **Yohannes Hirouy Tibebu** was involved from day one, is dedicated to **Professor James C.N. Paul** and Ato **Yohannes Hirouy Tibebu**.