

MEKONNEN FIREW AYANO
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CURRENT POSITION

University at Buffalo School of Law, Buffalo, NY
Associate Professor, September 2021
Courses: Immigration Law, Natural Resources Law, Property

EDUCATION

Harvard Law School, SJD, Feb. 2016
Dissertation: *Formalizing Rural Land Titles in a Multicultural State: A Study of the Approaches, Expectations, and Outcomes with Regard to the Case of Ethiopia* (2015)
Summer Academic Fellow, Harvard Law School, 2014
Cravath Fellow, Harvard Law School, 2014

Harvard Law School, LL.M., June 2009
Research Assistant to Professor Joseph W. Singer, Oct. 2008 – May 2009
Thesis: *Agrarian Law and Development in Ethiopia* (2009)

American University in Cairo, Egypt, Dec. 2007
Academic Honors
African Graduate Fellow
Thesis: *Judicial Review in Ethiopia: A Comparative Appraisal* (2007)

Addis Ababa University, Ethiopia, LL.B., June 2003
Great Distinction (top 5 %)
Belgian Embassy In-country Scholarship Award
Thesis: *The Perils of Tax Exemption as an Incentive for the Private Sector Investment* (2003)

PUBLICATIONS

Tenants without Rights: Immigrants' Experiences in the U.S. Low-Income Housing Market, 28 GEO. J. ON POVERTY L & POL'Y 2, 159 (2021)

Law and Social Conflict in Transitional Market Economies, 18 INT'L. J. CONST. L. 3, 988 (2020)

Land Registration in Ethiopia: Myths and Realities, 52 LAW & SOC'Y REV. 4 (2018)

The Nile Basin Initiative: An Overview of the Challenges and Opportunities, 3 ETH. BAR REV. 166 (2010)

Book Review, William Beinart et al., *Rights to Land: A Guide to Tenure Upgrading and Restitution in South Africa*, 89 J. INT'L AFRI. INST. 9 (2019)

Touted as a Model Abroad, Ethiopia's Land Registration Raised Questions at Home, Reuters Foundation (Dec. 6, 2018)

Why Ethiopian Rural Land Registration Program has not Protected the Rights of Women and Vulnerable Social Groups, Law and Society Association (Nov.18, 2018)

The ICC and Pan-Africanism: A Preliminary Observation, African Independent Magazine (Dec. 2017)

WORK IN PROGRESS

The Legal Profession in Africa's Encounter with China (Research Funded by Harvard Law School's Center on the Legal Profession, work in progress)

PluriLand: Theorizing Conflict and Contestation in Plural Land Rights Regimes (Collaborative Research Project Funded by the Norwegian Research Council, FRIPRO, 2020 – 2024)

Formalization and Land Tenure: An Ethiopian Case Study (under review)

Standardizing Legal Rules in a Multicultural Setting: Ethiopia's Recent Experience in the Field of Law and Rural Development Reform (book project, manuscript conditionally accepted by the University of Rochester Press)

PRESENTATIONS

Tenants without Rights: Immigrants' Experiences in the U.S. Low Income Housing Market, SEALS New Scholars Conference (Aug. 3, 2020)

Credit Screening in Housing Rental Market: Law and Experiences of African Immigrants, AALS Section on Property Law, New Voices in Property Law (Jan. 4. 2020)

Populist Legality and Politics of Cultures, Historical and Contemporary Expressions of Populism in Africa and Beyond, LSA African Studies Center, University of Michigan (Nov. 18, 2019)

Law and Social Conflict in Transitional Economies, Center for African Studies, Harvard University (Nov. 26, 2018)

Land Law Reforms in Africa: How Political History Matters, Innovation and African Past, 7th Annual African Economic History Network Conference, Stellenbosch, South Africa (Oct. 26, 2017)

Violence and Social Justice, Commemorating Legacies of Nelson Mandela, Harvard Law School (Mar. 2014)

Re-Theorizing Liquidity, Pro Seminar, Institute for Global Law and Policy, Harvard Law School (June 2011)

Securing Women's Land and Property Rights in Africa, Women and the Law Program, American University College of Law (Apr. 2011)

The Judiciary and Law Reform in Ethiopia in the 1960s, Harvard Law School (Oct. 2008)

RESEARCH AND TEACHING INTERESTS

Primary interests: Property, Immigration Law, Natural Resources, Energy Law, International Law

Additional interests: Law and Race relations, Critical Legal Studies, International Human Rights Law, Globalization & Legal Profession, Law & Development

OTHER TEACHING EXPERIENCE

University of Missouri School of Law, Columbia, MO
Visiting Assistant Professor of Law, July 2019 – July 2021
Courses: Immigration Law, Natural Resources Law

Center for African Studies, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA
Post-Doctoral Fellow, Jan. 2016 - 2019

Harvard Law School, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA
Lecturer on Law, Fall 2016
Course: Law & Development in Contemporary Africa

LEGAL PRACTICE EXPERIENCE

Eastern & Southern African Trade & Development Bank, Bujumbura, Burundi

Legal Officer, 2012-2014

- Drafted and negotiated legal and policy documents with governments and private sector clients
- Provided operational and advisory legal services for infrastructure projects, trade finance facilities, investor relations, and corporate affairs
- Developed and updated operational policies, strategies, and procedures

The World Bank Group, Legal VP, Washington, D.C.

Legal Associate, Sep. 2009 – Jul. 2011

- Provided advisory and operational legal services on Concept Notes, Project Appraisals, Implementation Reports, Waivers, and Restructuring regarding projects and program in several African countries
- Drafted, reviewed and negotiated Loan Agreements, Grant Agreements, and Amendments legal agreements concerning development projects in Ethiopia, Ghana, Malawi, Nigeria, South Sudan, Rwanda, and Uganda
- Served as Country Lawyer for Ghana and Malawi providing transactional and advisory legal services
- Served on the Editorial Board of Justice and Development Working Paper Series

Supreme Court of Oromia, Oromia, Ethiopia

Judge, 2003 - 2006, 2007 - 2008

- Decided cases of administrative, banking, contract, commercial, criminal, insurance, family, labor, property, and tort disputes
- Served as Acting President of the South West Shoa High Court

REFERENCES

Professor Joseph W. Singer

Harvard Law School
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Phone: 617-496-5292

Professor Duncan Kennedy

Harvard Law School
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Phone: 617-496-4619

Professor William P. Alford

Professor Paul Litton

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