



# CONFERENCE ON ETHIOPIAN LAW AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Hosted by the Addis Ababa University Faculty of Law

**THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2008**

**SHERATON ADDIS | ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA**

## **SPEAKERS AND PANELISTS**

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We are honored by the participation of these speakers and panelists at the Conference on Ethiopian Law and Economic Development.

**Distinguished Representatives from the Government of The Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia**

**Neway Gebreab, Chief Economic Advisor to the Prime Minister**

**Tadesse Haile, State Minister of Trade & Industry**

**Fasil Nahoum, Legal Advisor to the Prime Minister**

**Tsehai Tadesse, Vice President, Federal Supreme Court**

**Representatives from International Agencies and Businesses Entities**

**Haregewein Ashenafi, Managing Directress, Ethiopian Arbitration & Conciliation Center.** Ms. Ashenafi is the Managing Directress of the Ethiopian Arbitration and Conciliation Center (EACC), an organization established by a group of Ethiopian lawyers with the aim of providing an alternative mechanism for private dispute resolution. The Center provides arbitration and mediation services on commercial, labor, construction and family disputes. It is an independent body and facilitates the resolution of disputes in a non-adversarial atmosphere, by providing a service that is less costly and time saving than court litigation. Currently, the program is implemented in Addis Ababa with future plans to expand to the regions, in order to make the service accessible nation wide.

**Teshome Beyene, Secretary General, Addis Ababa Chamber of Commerce and Sectorial Associations.** Teshome Beyene was appointed Secretary General of the Addis Ababa Chamber of Commerce and Sectorial Associations in August 2007. In this position he oversees the Chamber's administrative affairs and daily operations. Mr. Beyene served as the President of the Mekele Chamber of Commerce and was also Deputy President of Nyala Insurance Company before being appointed to this post.

The Addis Ababa Chamber of Commerce, which was established in 1947, is the oldest chamber in Ethiopia. Its mandate is to promote Ethiopia's products to the world, develop international trade and promote investment in Ethiopia, thereby fostering the development of a vibrant and dynamic private sector in the country. As an effective secretariat for the private sector, it also acts to defend the interests of the business community and acts as a bridge between the government and the private sector.

**Jovan Jekic, USAID WTO Accession Project, Serbia.** Jovan Jekic is Chief of Party for the USAID WTO Accession Project in Serbia. The WTO General Council established a Working Party to examine Serbia's application on 15 February 2005. Serbia's Memorandum on the Foreign Trade Regime was circulated in March 2005 and the Working Party held its first meeting in October 2005. Bilateral market access negotiations are underway on the basis of revised offers on goods and services. The Working Party met for the fifth time in May 2008 to continue the examination of Serbia's foreign trade regime.

**Riaan de Lange, MComm (Economics) and Masters in Business Leadership (MBL),** is a lecturer in International Economics at the Department of Economics at the University of Pretoria. He has been specializing in matters pertaining to customs, excise

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and international trade for the past 17-years. Riaan was previously employed by Pricewaterhouse-Coopers, Deloitte & Touche, the South African Chamber of Business (SACOB), the then Board on Tariffs and Trade, now International Trade Administration Commission of South Africa (ITAC), and the Department of Trade and Industry (dti).

Riaan has developed two Customs & Excise courses in association with the African Tax Institute (ATI), and also lectures for ATI. He writes four weekly columns, which appears in the national media, as well as a monthly column which he co-authors. He has written a book on trade remedies in South Africa and the Southern African Customs Union, that was published by the International Trade Centre (ITC), and have contributed chapters to a number of publications.

**Getaneh Gobezie, Deputy Managing Director, Amhara Credit and Savings Institution (ACSI).**

Mr. Getaneh Gobezie has a number of years experience in rural development planning and management, the last eight years being directly on microfinance. Currently, he is working at the Amhara Credit & Saving Institution, at the level of a deputy managing director (Operations). He has also been involved in a number of consultancy work for organizations such as CGAP/IRIS Center, IFAD/RUFIP-Ethiopia, AEMFI. He has written papers on microfinance and poverty, some published, and posted at various websites, including at the CGAP/microfinancegateway.org. He is a graduate of the Addis Ababa University, B.A in Economics, 1987, as well as M.Sc. degree in Economic Policy Analysis, 1999 (Thesis on Rural Poverty).

**April Rinne, Director of Venture Development, Unitus Investment Group.** April Rinne is the Director of Venture Development at Unitus ([www.unitus.com](http://www.unitus.com)), a global microfinance accelerator and provider of innovative solutions to global poverty. She is part of the team that is spearheading Unitus Investment Group (UIG), a new commercially-

oriented investment initiative for microfinance funds, companies and related opportunities, and is also responsible for launching the organization's presence in San Francisco.

Prior to Unitus April was a private lawyer focusing primarily on international microfinance-related transactions for several years, both in the United States and abroad. She was most recently with the international law firm of O'Melveny & Myers LLP in San Francisco, where she brought 17 new microfinance clients to the firm and advised on microfinance-related matters in Asia, Latin America and Africa. Before that she was with the international law firm of Allen & Overy LLP in London, where she advised on the formation of the Blue Orchard Loans for Development (BOLD) 2006 securitization which funded microfinance institutions in 13 countries and won international legal awards. She has worked on cross-border and domestic corporate financings, mergers and acquisitions, and other transactions involving banks, private equity funds, and other financial institutions.

In addition to her work at Unitus, April is also an international trainer for the International Development Law Organization (IDLO) and periodically teaches at IDLO's law-and-microfinance courses in Asia, Africa and Latin America. She frequently serves as a panelist and speaker on microfinance-related topics at conferences and universities both in the United States and abroad.

April is a graduate of Harvard Law School (J.D.) and the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy (M.A. in International Finance and Development Economics). She is a member of the New York and California bars. She is fluent in Italian and Spanish, and proficient in French.

**Wondwossen Shiwareged, USAID WTO Accession Project, Ethiopia.** Mr. Shiwareged is a senior attorney for the USAID WTO Accession Project in Ethiopia. Ethiopia formally applied for WTO membership in January of 2003 and in 2005,

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USAID launched the Doha Project for World Trade Organization (WTO) Accession and Participation, in Ethiopia. The Project is focused on assisting Ethiopia with the legal and regulatory aspects of WTO accession. The USAID Doha project, administered by the U.S. firm Booz Allen Hamilton, has assisted a number of countries with WTO accession and has been working at the Ministry of Trade and Industry (MoTI) since last year. Members of the Project Team are currently reviewing existing laws and regulations and helping to draft new ones. This legal work is an essential part of the accession process. The Project also assists with capacity building activities.

**Thina Siwendu, Partner, Siwendu & Partners, South Africa.** Thina Siwendu is the founding partner and CEO of Siwendu & Partners Inc. and heads the firm's Corporate Commercial Law Department with offices in Durban and Johannesburg.

Thina matriculated with first class from Mount Arthur Girl's High School, Eastern Cape. She holds a B.SocSc (Hons) from the University of Cape Town (1988) and an LLB from the then University of Natal, Durban (1991). She was employed as a Fellow (Intern) by the Centre for Applied Legal Studies in 1992, attached to the department's Wits University and during that year taught Labour Law for the University's Law Academic Support Programme. In 1993 she served Articles of Clerkship with the Johannesburg firm Cheadle Thompson & Hayson. In 1995 she was admitted as an Attorney of the High Court of South Africa.

Within the profession, Thina serves as a member of the KwaZulu Natal Law Society Special Complaints Committee, and was appointed in November 2004 by the Judge President of the Kwa-Zulu Natal Law Society as Practice Procedure and Bookkeeping Examiner for the next five years.

Within the business environment, Thina previously served as a representative of NAFCOOC in the interim Council charged with the merger of NAFCOOC Durban and the Durban Chamber of Commerce as well as a Board Member of the Durban Investment Promotion Agency (DIPA) an agency of the Ethekwini Municipality focusing on attraction and retention of business in to the city.

Her board appointments include position as a non-executive Director of East Coast Radio, Thebe Investments Corporation (Pty) Ltd, Ayavuna Women's Investments as well as serving as Regional Vice Chairman of the South African Property Owner's Association (SAPOA). She also serves as a member of the Board of Governors of Kearsney College.

Thina was awarded the Regional Business Achiever (Professional Services) for the year 2004/5 by the Businesswomen's Association sponsored by Nedbank.

## **Members of DLA Piper**

**James P. Duffy IV, DLA Piper.** J.P. Duffy is an associate in the Litigation practice group in New York, currently on secondment in Dubai. He focuses on international arbitration and complex and international litigation.

Mr. Duffy has represented clients in international arbitrations administered under the ICC, ICDR, ICSID and UNCITRAL rules in the US, Europe, Asia, and Latin America, and regularly advises on matters such as drafting dispute resolution clauses, enforcing arbitral awards in the US and abroad, obtaining prospective relief in aid of arbitration and structuring foreign investments to take advantage of bilateral and multilateral investment treaties. His expertise lies primarily in investment, accounting, and merger and acquisition claims, with a focus on the power generation and distribution industry.

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Mr. Duffy has also represented clients in litigations before several US state and federal courts in a variety of international, commercial and securities disputes, as well as in actions before regulatory bodies in the Federative Republic of Brazil and the Republic of India. He has participated in internal corporate investigations and has expertise with specialized areas of US law, such as the Foreign Sovereign Immunities Act and the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act.

Before joining DLA Piper, Mr. Duffy clerked for the Honorable Thomas C. Platt in the United States District Court for the Eastern District of New York and spent several years at a large international law firm. Mr. Duffy speaks both French and Spanish.

**Sheldon Krantz, Partner, DLA Piper.**

Sheldon Krantz is a partner at DLA Piper whose practice emphasizes preventive and litigation services on corporate and white collar criminal matters. His particular areas of focus include matters relating to the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act; federal and state regulation of health care, internet activities, and environmental law; money laundering and export controls; legal ethics; and internal investigations, corporate compliance and risk assessment programs. Mr. Krantz was named as a District of Columbia Super Lawyer in 2008 in the area of white collar criminal defense.

Mr. Krantz is a former Chair of the Criminal Justice Section of the American Bar Association. Earlier in his career, he was a prosecutor in the Organized Crime and Racketeering Section of the U.S. Department of Justice. Mr. Krantz was also the Dean of the University of San Diego School of Law, and, prior to that, a Professor of Law and Director of the Center for Criminal Justice at Boston University School of Law.

Mr. Krantz was named the DC Bar Pro Bono Lawyer of the year in 2004. Since 2005, Mr. Krantz has been the Director of New Perimeter, DLA Piper's unique

affiliated non-profit that provides global pro bono services. Mr. Krantz is also now serving as the President of the DLA Piper Foundation.

**Michael S. Lebovitz, Partner, DLA Piper.**

Michael Lebovitz concentrates in international business and tax planning. He has advised on the tax aspects of international joint ventures, cross-border mergers and acquisitions, post-transaction integration, international corporate finance, capital market transactions and general international tax planning matters. His clients include leaders in media and entertainment, life sciences, high technology, and private equity.

A frequent speaker on international tax matters, Mr. Lebovitz has given lectures throughout the United States and in Europe and Asia for many organizations, including the Council for International Tax Education (CITE), the Alliance for Tax, Legal and Accounting Seminars (ATLAS), the Tax Executives Institute, the American, California and Los Angeles County Bar Associations and the California Society of CPAs. He currently teaches advanced international tax as an adjunct professor for Loyola Law School's LL.M program and is also on the board of advisors for the program.

Mr. Lebovitz has written frequently on international tax topics. His articles have appeared in numerous publications including the *Journal of International Taxation*, *High Tech Industry*, *Tax Planning International Review*, *Loyola of Los Angeles International and Comparative Law Review* and *Major Tax Planning*. In 2007, Mr. Lebovitz was honored with a prestigious Burton Award for Legal Achievement, a recognition dedicated to rewarding effective legal writing. The award was conferred on him for his article "It's Not Easy Being Global -- International Tax Trends Across a Multinational Business Life Cycle," which appeared in *Major Tax Planning* in August 2006. He has held numerous leadership positions in the Tax sections of the Los

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Angeles County Bar Association, State Bar of California, and American Bar Association.

Mr. Lebovitz has been included in several listings of leading tax lawyers, including *International Tax Review's* World Tax 2008 list of the world's leading tax lawyers. He is the leader of DLA Piper's Los Angeles Tax practice which was recently named one of the finalists for the 2008 Los Angeles Tax Practice of the Year and 2008 Los Angeles Transfer Pricing Practice of the Year awards at *International Tax Review's* America's Tax Awards. This was the second year in a row in which DLA Piper was nominated.

**Edwin M. Martin Jr., Senior Counsel, DLA Piper.**

Ned Martin has practiced in the area of domestic and international business transactions and securities offerings for over 40 years, particularly with technology and rapid growth companies. He has served as counsel to a wide range of companies, from New York Stock Exchange-listed companies to start-ups, in a number of industries. In the U.S., he has served as issuer's counsel or underwriter's counsel on more than 40 public offerings and has served as a principal outside counsel for more than 20 companies listed on U.S. exchanges. He has also worked on more than 150 merger or acquisition transactions.

Mr. Martin was named one of the "Best Lawyers in America" for 2007 and for 2008 in the specialties of Merger and Acquisitions Law and Securities Law.

Since 2005, Mr. Martin has lived in London and southern France, bringing his U.S. capital markets expertise to a wide variety of capital markets transactions. During recent years he has worked on

a number of offerings involving listings on various exchanges outside the United States.

**Faculty Members, Addis Ababa University**

**Gebrehiwot Ageba, Faculty of Business and Economics**

**Fikremarkos Merso Birhanu, Dean, Faculty of Law**

**Tadesse Lencho, Faculty of Law**

**Zekarias Keneaa Tesgera, Faculty of Law**

**Seyoum Yohannes, Faculty of Law**