



NEWSLETTER

OF

THE ETHIOPIAN BAR ASSOCIATION

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Message from the President

In the past three years, the Executive Committee of the Ethiopian Bar Association has been engaged in capacity building endeavors to enable the Bar realize its objectives. Accordingly, efforts to increase membership and their participation in the activities of the Bar have been undertaken.

Being cognizant of the decisive role of financial strength, the Bar has successfully designed and implemented ways to augment its revenue base. The Bar's plan to have a building of its own is showing encouraging results with the unceasing participation of its members and supporters. In view of achieving its goals, the Bar has designed ways to have its members involved in the provision of *pro bono* legal services, and have access to trainings on permanent basis through its Continuing Legal Education (CLE) program.

To strengthen the depth and success of the current engagements of the Bar, to enhance exchange of experiences and enable it to embark upon new programs as well, the Executive Committee has established reliable work relationship with Bar Associations, Law Societies, Foreign Missions, and International Organizations.

To give impetus, intensity and continuity to the above-mentioned activities, the Bar has currently employed two law professionals on permanent basis.

So far, the Bar has been communicating its members through workshops, seminars and regular meetings. Now it is beginning a new platform to keep in touch with its members in particular, and the public, in general. This new platform is this **Newsletter**, which is designed to appear once in two months.

This newsletter will serve as an organ of the Bar where the views, stands, aspirations and activities of the Bar, scholarly writings, legal issues and information can be published.

The launching of this newsletter is the expression of the momentum the Bar is gaining. The real strength, however, is our ability to use it for the purposes it is intended. The realization of this presupposes the participation of all members of the Bar.

On behalf of the Executive Committee, I would, therefore, express my great pleasure in the launching of this Newsletter and invite all members of the Bar, to contribute to the Newsletter to transform itself to a legal magazine which would definitely contribute towards the strength of our Bar.

Getachew Kitaw
President

ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION (ADR) WORKSHOP CONDUCTED

The Ethiopian Bar Association (EBA) in collaboration with the Canadian Bar Association held a four-day workshop on ADR from September 1st - 5th /2003 at Ghion Hotel. About 70 lawyers participated in the workshop. Presidents of the Federal High and First Instance Courts were among the participants.

ADR refers to mechanisms that assist people to settle their cases outside of courts.

The president of EBA, Ato Getachew Kitaw, in his inaugural speech addressed the importance of ADR in case flow management and increasing the efficiency of the judicial system.

Three Canadian experts conducted the training. At the end of the workshop certificates were handed out to participants.

EBA LAUNCHED CONTINUING LEGAL EDUCATION (CLE) PROGRAM

EBA launched its CLE program. To this end it has employed Ato Samuel Hailegiorgis, former judge of the Municipal Appellate Court of Addis Ababa City Government, as its Director. The CLE program is financed by a grant from the Canadian Bar Association.

The program aims at providing extensive on-the-job-trainings to practicing lawyers and publishing magazines and journals.

EBA TOOK PART IN PAN AFRICAN LAWYERS UNION'S (PALU) SECOND COUNCIL MEETING IN THE SUDAN

PALU's second council meeting was held on October 18th/2003 in Khartoum, the Sudan. EBA, a founding member of PALU, took part in the meeting. According to Ato Woldeselassie Birtu, Vice president of EBA, the meeting passed decisions on many issues and was a success. He added that he had the chance to visit the Ministry of Justice, the Supreme Court and the Parliament of the Sudan.

EBA's president, Ato Getachew Kitaw, is currently serving as the Secretary General of PALU.

SEMINAR FOR LEGAL AID PROVIDERS HELD IN ENTEBBE, UGANDA

A five-man delegation led by Col. Mengistu Hailemariam, Controller of the Ethiopian Bar Association, attended a five-day seminar for legal aid providers organized by the Uganda Law Society and The Law Society of England and Wales, held in Entebbe, Uganda from June 9th to 13th /2003.

FUND RAISING TOOK PLACE AT THE SHERATON ADDIS

"A Law Professionals Night" took place at the Sheraton Addis on the evening of Saturday August 2nd 2003. More than 700 guests including, high-level government officials, judges, as well as private practitioners have attended the grand ceremony. The revenue from the sale of the tickets to this grand ball is intended to finance the construction of the future head quarters of EBA. The cooperation and generosity of the management of the Sheraton Addis is highly appreciated.

EBA TOOK PART IN INTERNATIONAL BAR ASSOCIATION'S (IBA) ANNUAL MEETING

EBA, represented by its president Ato Getachew Kitaw, has attended IBA's annual meeting that took place in San Francisco on September 18, 2003.

CLE WORKSHOP CONDUCTED IN NAIROBI, KENYA

A three-man delegation, led by Ato Alemu Deneke, Executive Committee member of EBA, attended a three-day workshop from November 12th - 15th /2003 in Nairobi, Kenya. The workshop was organized for Continuing Legal Education providers and is believed to contribute a lot to Ethiopian Bar Association's CLE program, which was recently launched. The Canadian Bar Association sponsored the workshop.