

TAMERU WONDM AGEGNEHU, Attorney & Consultant At-Law, LLB (HSIU), LLM (Manchester), Bole S/C  
W.3 H. No. 181, Tel. +251 115531645, 5519548, 09 11228101, Addis Ababa Ethiopia.

### Profile

ESTABLISHED: February 1992 Lic., No. 164/84, granted by the Ministry of Justice , to practice law before all Courts in Ethiopia. With the adoption of the Federal system in 1995, the issuing authority was renamed the Federal Ministry of Justice and the scope of the license was redefined to include appearance before all Federal Courts.

#### Back ground

##### a) Academic

Mr. Tameru Wondm Agegnehu, born in 1942 in Ghinnir, Bale, was trained as a lawyer both in Ethiopia and in England graduating with an LLB degree from Haile Silassie I University School of Law, in 1972 in Addis Ababa, and an LLM degree from the Victoria University of Manchester in 1981.

#### Experience & Exposure:

##### i) Professional:

- Head Registrar of the High court, Addis Ababa, 1971-1973
- Judge of the High court, Addis Ababa, 1973-1976
- V/President of the High Court of Ethiopia, 1977-1982
- President of the Specialized court 1982-1987
- V/President of the Supreme Court of Ethiopia, 1987-1991
- Practicing lawyer, 1992----
- President of the Ethiopian Bar Association, (2007-2009), attending several meetings, and conferences in East Africa, and at IBA in the Netherlands representing the Bar.
- Founding member of the Pan African Lawyers Union, (PALU)

##### ii) Extra curricular services:

- Teaching the Law of Business organization at the newly opened post graduate school, 2005.
- Has written substantially on Ethiopian law, the recent ones include:
  1. A monograph on Ethiopian Labor Law with a brief history of the country, published on the International Encyclopedia of laws, by KLUWER, 2013, where he was the active co-author, revising the latest edition by himself.
  2. A paper on 'the future of law and legal institutions in Ethiopia' (2013) published by the Justice Research center of the Ministry of Justice in association with the UNDP.(available on line)
  3. The Regime of Etra-Territoriality under the Anglo-Ethiopian Treaty of 1857 (Journal of Ethiopian Law, Vol 14)

4. Some thoughts on the organization of Law Firms in Ethiopia (submitted for publication late last year)
5. Many other Articles in Amharic and English on such legal subjects, as product liability, breach of trust, etc.

b) Public service:

Tameru Wondm Agegnehu was among the first four lawyers , who challenged the mass arrest and gross violation of constitutional rights following the 2005 election in Ethiopia. He also acted as lead lawyer to defend the detainees when they were brought before the court following the challenge by the four lawyers and their followers. 18 months later he was asked by the chairman of the coalition of Elders, Prof. Ephrem Isaac, to join the elders to resolve the political dead lock. Mr. Tameru agreed , worked as a core member of the Elders and helped to negotiate an agreement that resulted in the release of the opposition politicians. He has also served :

As a board member of two banks , Bank of Abysinia, and Zemen Bank.

He is currently Chairing the Board of Habesha Cement Co., a company with majority South African interest and represented on the board by three South African Directors.

- c) Recognition. Chambers Global as leading law firm in general business law for 2013. Acquisition International as Ethiopian Tax Firm of the year for 2013.
- d) Certificates. Ato Tameru is awarded numerous certificates for his contributions by such institutions as, International Financial Corp., (IFC), World Justice Project, Chamber of Commerce, Ethiopian Lawyers Association, etc.
- e) Focus Areas

Lawyers seldom specialize in their practice in Ethiopia. But Mr. Tameru has leaned towards business law from the start. That was mainly because he was himself chair of the commercial division while at the High court, and section head of no fewer than seven civil Benches composed of three justices, at the Supreme court. In addition he was a deputy chair of the court of cassation which was the highest court of final resort in the country. He has written numerous judgments at both levels on business and other disputes. In his legal practice he has provided numerous advisory services as well as appearing in litigation both in civil and corporate criminal cases mainly relating to tax and very rarely corruption cases. As a matter of fact a team of lawyers himself included have managed as recently as January 25/17 to obtain acquittal for a group of defendants who were arrested for close to five years, after losing a plea to be released on bail, charged on tax evasion and money laundering in the amount of

Eth Bir over a billion, which is the highest amount ever brought to court to date. The office is now no more interested in litigation, unless absolutely necessary, and is focusing on advisory services. Main areas of service so far include the following:

- Business law, which includes formation, registration, etc of companies in all areas including, Insurance, Banking, mining, gas, and oil, Power, product liability, finance, hospitality, ip and other related services including contract management, etc.
- Providing advisory and related services, in general business law, in such areas as finance, hospitality services, all forms of companies, product liability cases, arbitration etc.
- Appeared as defense lawyer in almost all high profile criminal cases including one where the prime minister of the interim period was a party.
- Labor cases, etc.

f) The following were some of the most prominent clients of the law office:

- Midrock Gold PLC
- Ericsson AB Ethiopia Branch
- Boing Company.
- UKEF, RBS
- Liberty Metals & Mining Holding , LLC.
- Delonex Ethiopia, a British Oil prospecting co
- East Africa Bottling co. Ethiopia.
- Ayat Share co, a leading and pioneer real estate company in Ethiopia,
- Ethio Nippon Technical Co, S.C
- National Insurance Company of Ethiopia, (NICE) S.C., etc.

h). Organization of the law office

At present the two laws governing legal practice ( licensing and cannons of conduct) are based on the principle of sole practice. ( the Article under (II) 4 above aims at allowing lawyers to organize themselves into law firms.) As it is lawyers cannot form de jure legal firms , but work with associates on defacto basis to maximize the effectiveness of their legal service. Tameru Wondm Agegnehu Law Offices has been using the mechanism for a long time and currently has three associates, with the number increasing depending on the work load and skill required. Tameru Wondm Agegnehu.

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Ranked as the leading lawyer in general business law by Chambers Global [2013] and Tax Firm of the year by Acquisition In'l [2013]; Addis Ababa, Africa Ave., Kirokos S/C., K. 1 Apt.988 Suite 39, POB. 30504; Mobile +0911 228101 Tel 2511-553 16 45, Fax + 5519548, Email [tameru.wondm@gmail.com](mailto:tameru.wondm@gmail.com)