

ITP: **Ethiopia 2008**

Faculty Advisor: **Prof. Sam Tenenbaum**

Research Group Members: [**Andrew Batchelor, Thomas Kelly, Rachel Margolis**]

Paper Title: **“Every Ethiopian Is More or Less a Lawyer” : A Study of the Ethiopian Lawyer**

Abstract: Our paper attempts to address the lack of information outside of Ethiopia about the status of the legal profession. The paper addresses the history of the Ethiopian legal system and the role of the law in traditional and modern Ethiopian culture. It then describes and addresses specific issues in modern Ethiopia. These include the status and process of legal education in the country, the structure of the modern Ethiopian legal system, the professional structure of the Ethiopian legal profession, employment opportunities for lawyers in both the public and private sectors, the status of women in the legal profession, and the regulation of the legal profession. Finally, the paper offers analysis of specific challenges facing the legal profession and the law in general in Ethiopia including: government oppression of lawyers, lack of public notions of “rule of law”, issues surrounding traditional and western legal practices, and threats to public confidence in lawyers and judges.