

**I. Brief Firm Profile**

Conceived and formally established by a group of highly experienced lawyers including Ali, Almaw, Alemu, Amare & Ashenafi (5A Jurists Consultancy Group PLC) is an aspiring full-service consultancy office in Ethiopia. The firm has highly experienced lawyers with a diverse legal experience of more than 30 years of legal experience in consulting and representing clients on wide range of legal issues in the country. Since its establishment, our firm has begun to make its early influence felt on the Ethiopian legal system including in drafting some of the major proclamations such as drafting the new Computer Crime Proclamation, the new Mass Media Proclamation 138/2021 as well as providing inputs and position paper on the draft Personal Data Protection Proclamation of Ethiopia. Our Law firm has experienced legal professionals with years of legal and administrative experience in the legal field making it easier for our team to have a pull of resourceful colleagues who can easily navigate through the legal landscape of the Ethiopian legal system.

In relation to the particular legal experience on personal data protection and legal drafting, our partner and lead expert Dr Mesenbet Assefa has published on the data protection regime in Ethiopia in various outlets. He has prepared a position paper that indicated the positive aspects of the draft proclamation as well as the areas where improvement is needed in the draft. He was also the lead drafter of the draft Computer Crime Proclamation which is tabled for approval by the parliament. He was active in the legal reform process of Ethiopia working under the Legal and Justice Advisory Council of the Ministry of Justice, in whose capacity he drafted the new Mass Media Proclamation 1238/2021.

Our managing partner Mr Ali Mohammed is one of the most prominent legal experts with extensive experience in legal drafting. He has also served in numerous senior positions including as a judge of the Cassation Division of the Federal Supreme Court and before that as Head of the Amhara Justice Bureau and Anti-Corruption Commission. He has been in volved in the preparation of numerous legislative and institutional reforms in Ethiopia and continues to be one of the leading lawyers in the country.

Mr Amare Ashenafi, who is a partner at 5A has also extensive experience who served as a judge in the Amhara region for many years. He continued his legal professional career by being appointed as the Court Manager of the Federal Supreme Court. As the court manager of the federal supreme court, Mr Amare was responsible for drafting different court directives and different regulations and by doing so he helped share many of the institutional reforms of the Federal Supreme Court. After leaving the supreme court, Amare become the founder of 5A Jurists Consultancy Group and has been one of the leading lawyers and legal experts in the country.

5A is a rapidly growing consultancy office committed to providing clients with world-class services. Providing high quality and timely consulting services in core public, legal and business sectors is the main objective of our Office. Our team capitalizes on a strong local expertise and international experiences to enable our clients make sound decisions. Our focus is a long-term relationship and we take time to understand the peculiar demands that each of clients have. And this approach allows us to build an innovative and tailored service to suit each relationship we have with our clients.

5A’s Consultancy office, while ensuring quality services, takes also in to account our clients cost concerns and their personal issues as our own and strive to create an environment where there is mutual trust and relationship based on honesty. Professionalism and excellence are hallmarks to the consultancy services our office offers its clients. Our Highly trained team is comprised of professionals with utmost discipline and ensures the specific needs and expectations of our clients are served and work to achieve the timely disposal of our client’s needs on lesser time as possible.

Deploying innovative and timely legal strategies to fulfill our client’s best interest and our team’s willingness and experience to work hand in hand with our clients to form timely deals to serve the best interest of our clients in another peculiar feature and culture we take pride in our Consultancy Office.

**II. VISION**

To be the most trusted consulting service Office in Ethiopia and the African Continent.

**III. Our Mission**

To provide consultancy services according to the highest ethical and professional standards and high integrity. We strive to make our office to be a synonym for prestige through our high caliber and experienced staffs and by providing tailored services that meet each of our client’s specific needs.

**IV. Our Promise**

Our promise is that we will put you first – always – and handle your affairs with integrity, diligence, and discretion.

**V. Our Motto**

“PERSONALIZED SOLUTIONS WITH PERSONAL ATTENTION.”

**VI. Our Legal Team**

**Dr Mesenbet Assefa (Partner)**

Mesenbet earned his LL.B from Bahir Dar University in 2006 and graduated with distinction. He further pursued his graduate education and studied his LL.M in 2008 at the University of Pretoria in South Africa. He received his PhD at the National University of Ireland Galway (NUIG) in 2017. Mesenbet has extensive experience in international law, comparative constitutional law, criminal law, business law, and human rights. Mesenbet has published in numerous international and local journals. He has presented his research findings in numerous Universities including Yale School of Law, London School of Economics, and University of Seville. His particular research interests include data privacy and protection, Security/counterterrorism, computer crime law, human rights, development, constitutional law and freedom of expression. Mesenbet has served in numerous positions including as Head of the School of Law Addis Ababa University, Associate Dean for Graduate Studies of Addis Ababa University School of Law and Director of Mekelle University Human Rights Centre. Mesenbet has also extensive experience in consulting governmental, inter-governmental and non-governmental organizations at various levels. He also served in the Legal Reform Council of Ethiopia in whose capacity he drafted the Computer Crime Proclamation and the newly adopted Mass Media Proclamation 1238/2021.

**Ali Mohammed Ali (Founding and Managing Partner)**

Founder and Managing Partner of 5A , Ali Mohammed Ali has earned his Bachelor of Law /LL. B/ from Addis Ababa University, and his Master of Laws /LL.M/ from Stockholm University. First, he was appointed as a High Court Judge and served for 5 years and then he was upgraded to the Amhara National Regional State Supreme Court there he served for about 10 years. He was then appointed as Head of Amhara National Regional State Prosecutor’s Office; and then appointed as Head of Amhara National Regional State Anti-Corruption Office and served for 3 years. Mr. Ali has showed unprecedented performance in his career and hence he was appointed in the Federal Supreme Court and served at the Cassation Bench for over 10 years. He has published so many articles, provide a number of trainings.

**Amare Ashenafi (Founder and Deputy Manager)**

Founder and Partner of 5A, Amare earned his law degree (LLB) from Bahir Dar University, his LLM from Mekelle University in Tax and investment Law and two years post graduate certificate from Federal Judges and Prosecutors Training Center. In his stay in Bahir Dar University, he was Student`s Union President and Ethiopian Universities President for more than three years. He worked as a District Prosecutor, Appellate Court Presiding Judge and President, Court Manager in Federal First Instance and Supreme Court of Ethiopia prior to founding 5A. With over 12 years of administrative and legal experience, he has advised government, national and multinational companies on reorganization, legal drafting, and investment issues. He presides as a judge in arbitration and advice clients on court cases. He has also lectured law at Saint Merry University on a Part-time basis.

**Almaw Wolie (Founder and Principal Partner)**

Founder and Partner of 5A, Almaw has received his Bachelor of Laws /LL. B/ from Addis Ababa University in July 2000 and his Master of Laws /LL.M/ in Constitutional and Public law from the same University in July 2007. He served for over 19.6 years in Ethiopian Judiciary. From this extensive judicial service, he had served as a High Court Judge for about 3 years and 4years as a judge of Amhara National Regional State Supreme Court. For the last 12 Years he had served as a judge at the apex of Ethiopian Judiciary- Federal Supreme Court. From these Twelve Years of service, he served for about 9 months in appellate bench and for about 11 years and 3 months in the cassation division with not less than five judges. He served in the cassation division with not less than five judges as a judge and Presiding judge. He has prepared many training materials and delivered trainings for different justice professionals. He wrote a book (forthcoming) on Ethiopian Construction Law. He is vibrant in client handling and training delivery.

**Alemu Korme (Founder and Principal Partner)**

Founder and Partner of 5A, Alemu earned his law degree (LLB) from Addis Ababa University, his MBA from Lead Star University in collaboration with Ashland University and a two years post graduate certificate from Federal Judges and Prosecutors Training Center. He worked as an Assistant judge in Oromiya Supreme Court, First Instance and Appellate Court Judge, and Ethiopian Federal Revenue Authority Legal Expert prior to founding 5A. With over 12 years legal experience, he has advised national and multinational companies on corporate and investment issues. He represents clients in arbitration and court cases. He has also lectured law at Rift Valley University on a Part-time basis.

**Ashenafi Yirga (Founder and Principal Partner)**

Founder and Partner of 5A, a graduate of the Law School of Bahir Dar University as an outstanding student, Ashenafi heads the Litigation Section in 5A. He has over 12 years of experience as a judge in Amhara State Supreme Court and Federal High Court of Ethiopia. He is a licensed Trademark Agent; he gets his license from Ethiopian Intellectual Property Office.

**Aynalem Zenebe (Junior Associate-Oromia Region)**

Aynalem Zenebe earned her LLB degree from Hawassa university and has also received a two years post graduate certificate from Federal Justice Organs training centre and she has an LLM in commercial and investment law from Oromia State University / in view 2020/. She has served as a public prosecutor at Oromia Regional state justice bureau for seven years and from 2015 to now is a private lawyer and associate of this office.

**Berihun Adugna (Junior Associate-Amhara Region)**

Berihun Adugna Mihretu has earned his Bachelor of Laws (LL. B) from Mekele University Faculty of Law, in 2007 and, his Master of Laws (LL.M) in Fundamental Rights from university of South Africa in 2012. He was appointed as High Court Judge in Amhara National Regional State /ANRS/and served for 3 years and then he joined ANRS Justice Professionals Training and Research Institution, and served as a senior trainer for 3 years. Mr. Berihun’s last experience in government office was his appointment as a judge in ANRS Supreme Court and there he served for more than five years. Now he is working as an Attorney and consultant at Law.

At Alemu, Amare and Associates, legal services are principally provided by the Partners. We also make use of other professionals such as tax experts and accountants as may be needed. Additionally, the Office maintains close working relationships with other outstanding lawyers with the view of employing their expertise on need basis.

We understand that professionalism is of paramount importance to our clients. Therefore, we give utmost value for work ethics, team work, and confidentiality of clients’ information, responsiveness and deadlines.

5A ’s Law office, while ensuring quality legal services, takes also in to account our clients cost concerns and their personal issues as our own and strive to create an environment where there is mutual trust and relationship based on honesty. Professionalism and excellence are hallmarks to the legal services our office offers its clients. Our Highly trained legal team is comprised of legal professionals with utmost discipline and ensures the specific needs and expectations of our clients are served and work to achieve the timely disposal of our client’s cases and disputes on lesser time as possible.

Deploying innovative and timely legal strategies to fulfill our client’s best interest and our teams willingness and experience to work hand in hand with our clients to form timely deals to serve the best interest of our clients in another peculiar feature and culture we take pride in our Legal Office.

**VII. Practice Areas**

**1. Data privacy and personal data protection**

5A Consultancy Group has the most advanced understanding of the issue of personal data protection and privacy. Our lead expert Dr Mesenbet Assefa has extensively published on the subject and participated in international conferences such as with national regulators. He has prepared a position paper on the draft data protection law of Ethiopia which was widely discussed among the Ethiopian digital rights groups. Dr Mesenbet is also the lead drafter of the draft Computer Crime Proclamation which has also significant relevance on issues related with personal data protection and data privacy as well as digital ID.

**2. Corporate and Commercial**

5A Jurists Consultancy Group PLC regularly work with domestic and international clients on business formation and financing as well as myriad corporate transactions, contracts, securities, mergers, acquisitions and joint ventures. Our clients have come to rely on our practical problem-solving skills and our know-how to optimize opportunities when they arise. Our experience in drafting and reviewing contracts enables us to quickly and economically address complicated business issues. Since its beginning, 5A Jurists Consultancy Group PLC has assisted a number of clients with advisory services in corporate and investment areas. Our team assists clients to understand the Ethiopian legal and investment atmosphere by providing general Ethiopian law related legal memos, opinions and helps to achieve this same objective through addressing jurisdictional questionnaires relevant to the Client’s investment sector. Our Law Office has a team of legal experts with many years of experience and in-depth local legal knowledge in corporate law, investment, taxation, competition, labour and immigration areas to provide clients with down to earth and effective legal approaches to do their business in Ethiopia.

### 3. Litigation

5A s engagement with clients facing or initiating litigation begins by developing a strategy in the best interests of our clients. We consider a range of options such as trial, mediation and arbitration and work closely with clients to determine the best plan of action.

We provide a high level of quality representation for commercial, civil and criminal cases with a commitment toward cost-effective litigation management. Our litigation lawyers are active in federal and state courts as well as administrative agencies. The group is comprised of dozens of skilled litigators with extensive trial experience. Former judges and president of Supreme Court and the higher court forms part of our litigation team.

Areas of litigation include Criminal, Civil and Family cases, real estate and construction, employment, creditors’ rights, contract disputes and interference, shareholder derivatives, ownership disputes, intellectual property and misappropriation of trade secrets, insurance and other matters. Our lawyers also work to resolve issues when clients are served with subpoenas and with appeals. We also cover a range of issues from contract disputes, personal injury, insurance coverage, to real estate issues and business wrongdoings.

### 4. Merger and Acquisition

5A represents buyers, sellers and advisers in sophisticated, complex mergers and acquisitions in Ethiopia and Africa. We deal with transactions across scores of industries, including financial services, manufacturing, technology, industrial, consumer, retail, agribusiness, food and beverage, and travel and hospitality. Mergers and acquisitions is hence oneof the key practice area at 5A Jurists Consultancy Group PLC.Our office has been a part of some major merger and acquisition deals involving various actors; private equity and investment firms, strategic investors, development funds, banking institutions and global corporations.  Usually,5A ’s role in M & A transactions involves:

* To review or assess the nature of the acquisition and ascertain its compatibility with Ethiopian laws.
* Advise on ways to formalize deals and provide realistic mechanism to the client’s investments.
* Carry out legal due diligence on the specific company.
* Prepare and organize transaction documents such as Shareholders and Agreements, Term Sheets, Memorandum of Understandings, Subscription and Sale-Purchase agreements and assist in the amendment of company’s major documents in line with shareholder’s decision.
* Give counsel on competition aspects of the acquisition. Facilitating merger notifications and approvals from the relevant Ethiopian Authority.
* Assisting in the acquisition of shares by adhering to the legal procedures and compliance to the requirements of regulatory institutions such as the Ministry of Trade, the Ethiopian Revenue and Customs Authority, the Ethiopian Investment Commission, the TCCPA, and the Document Authentication and Registration Agency.

### 5. Construction, Surety & Design Professionals

5A ’s construction attorneys routinely deal with issues in the construction industry from contracts to complex litigation and provide legal advice to local and international companies in the industry. We represent project owners, general contractors, subcontractors, engineers, architects, design professionals, suppliers, sureties, governmental entities and construction lenders. Our services include advising real estate developers, private owners, contractors engaged in large scale infrastructure projects such as roads, bridges, railway lines , power transmission and distribution lines.

In addition to their legal training, some of the attorneys in our team hold technical degrees in civil engineering and/or have real world construction experience allowing them to give cost effective and practical solutions.

**Our office legal services include;**

* Data protection and data privacy;
* Law and technology
* Construction Litigation
* Construction Defect and Scheduling Claims
* Design Professional Liability
* Surety Defense and Indemnification
* Government Contracts and Claims
* Facilitation in acquiring title deeds, construction and building permits.
* Preparing and reviewing lease agreements, construction contracts, sub-contracting arrangements.
* Collaborating with relevant regulatory agencies such as the Ministry of Construction, land

### 6. Intellectual Property

When intellectual property is one of your primary assets, you need attorneys who understand how to blend legal and business strategies in your best interests. You also need attorneys with a fierce command of litigation when your IP assets are being challenged. Ethiopia is now a new horizon for business opportunities and lots of foreigner investors and companies are flocking in to capitalize with the same. This has made the need for quality legal service in intellectual property high and mandatory. It is in line with these demands that our office has gathered a well-qualified lawyers in the field and ready to offer its one of a kind legal advice to our highly esteemed and often demanding clients on board. We offer a full spectrum of intellectual property services, including patents, trademarks, copyrights, trade regulation, trade secrets, domain names, litigation and dispute resolution.

**Our intellectual property services include:**

* [Intellectual Property Litigation](https://www.pillsburylaw.com/en/services/intellectual-property/intellectual-property-litigation.html)
* [Patent Counseling, Prosecution & Litigation](https://www.pillsburylaw.com/en/services/intellectual-property/patent-counseling-prosecution-and-litigation.html)
* [Trademark Counseling, Prosecution & Litigation](https://www.pillsburylaw.com/en/services/intellectual-property/trademark-counseling-prosecution-and-litigation.html)
* [Trade Secrets Counseling & Litigation](https://www.pillsburylaw.com/en/services/intellectual-property/trade-secrets-counseling-and-litigation.html)
* [Copyright Counseling & Litigation](https://www.pillsburylaw.com/en/services/intellectual-property/copyrights-counseling-and-litigation.html)
* Processing of patents and taking care their renewals, border measures, anti-counterfeiting and enforcement of IP rights.
* Search, registration, renewal, recordal of assignments, recordal of change of names and addresses, drafting and registration of license agreements etc. in respect of trademarks

### 7. Dispute Resolution

Our Dispute Resolution team consists of experienced, trained mediators and arbitrators who assist parties in resolving disputes outside of a court setting. Collectively, the members of our alternative dispute resolution group have participated in settling or resolving more than dozens of mediation and arbitration proceedings.5A Jurists Consultancy Group PLC represents clients both in formal and alternative dispute resolution platforms on disputes and claims related to but not limited to breach of contracts, labor disputes, share transfers, tax claims and anti-competitive claims.

Our attorneys have extensive Arbitration and Mediation for backgrounds with issues such as:

* Business and commercial transactions
* Complex intellectual property transactions
* Real property and construction
* Medical malpractice and professional liability
* Personal injury
* Family
* Probate
* Leading and negotiating parties out of court settlements.
* Representing clients in all levels of the court.
* Handling clients before the Trade Competition and Consumer Protection Authority’s Administrative Tribunal
* Representing clients before the Ethiopian Revenue and Customs Authority
* Representing clients in arbitral and mediation proceedings.
* Acting as an arbitrator.

### 8. ICT & TELECOM

5A Jurists Consultancy Group PLC strongly believes the ICT and Telecom industry is a huge sector with significant benefits and potential for a country like Ethiopia with bright future. We guide technology companies through mergers and acquisitions, joint ventures, financings, and diverse agreements and contracts. We have lawyers who have deep knowledge of all aspects of the communications industry—the law, the technology and the markets. Our team provides legal advice to local and multinational ICT, telecom and tech companies in matters of information technology and telecommunications.

**Our roles in the field includes;**

* Advising foreign investors on possible areas of investment in the ICT & Telecom sector.
* Reviewing agreements signed with Ethio-telecom and other financial institutions.
* Identifying regulatory risks for providing different services in the sector
* Give legal support to tech, on-line, and mobile companies on amalgamation and merger.

### 9. Pro Bono

At 5A , we approach our long tradition of service to the community with the same passion, creativity and motivation we apply to all our work. We are convinced that by striving to strengthen the rule of law, assist the disadvantaged and bring top-quality legal thinking to those who might normally be overlooked by the legal system, we deliver tangible benefits to our clients, our firm and our community.

1. **Services**

Services provided by the Office include:

* The legal Preparation of legal due diligence;
* Preparation of legal updates;
* General investment and business as well as sector specific legal advisory services;
* Preparation of company incorporation documents and handling registration andlicensing of companies;
* Intellectual property registration and protection;
* High level review of Ethiopian and International Laws;
* Drafting contracts, memorandum of understanding, framework cooperation agreements and legal documents;
* Representation;
* Facilitation;
* Facilitation of immigration and residency applications;
* Legal research; and
* Negotiation

**VIII. Experience**

Since its formation, (5A ’s) has various clients which includes Share companies, Plcs, Start-up companies, government entities, Non-Governmental Organizations and multinational corporations.

Our legal team has the necessary expertise and experience to help our clients’ specific needs in areas such as drafting and negotiating of contracts, advising on structuring deals, or handling mergers and acquisitions, and dispute settlement. We also counsel companies on numerous operational and ownership issues, and support them in dealing with issues before they unfold or in advance in running their business and corporate strategies. The Partners have extensive experience in private and public sectors. Each Partner is well versed with general national laws. In addition, each Partner is an expert on specific areas of law.

Our Law Office is composed of Partners who have extensive experience on matters relating to investment, taxation, intellectual property, mining and energy, mergers and acquisitions, privatization, public-private partnership, corporate transactions and employment.

We have handled registration and licensing of non-governmental and international organizations, and have advised the same on compliance to Ethiopian law issues.

We are experts in labor law matters both in advisory capacity and court representation. Our clients include local and foreign corporate bodies and non-governmental organizations.

Profile of the Attorneys

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| No. | Name of Attorney | License No. | Qualification | Rank/  responsibility |
|  | Ali Mohammed Ali | 3306/10 | LLB, LLM | Managing Partner |
| 2 | Dr Mesenbet Assefa | 4698/14 | LLB, LLM, PhD | Partner |
|  | Amare Ashenfai Aragie |  | LLB, LLM | Deputy Managing partner |
|  | Almaw Wolle Ambe | 4235/12 | LLB, LLM | Partner |
|  | Alemu Korme Kebede | 1703/06 | LLB, MBA | Partner |
|  | Ashenafi Yirga Nigatu | 3362/10 | LLB | Partner |