

## **JIMMA UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW LEGAL AID CENTER 2018/2019 REPORT: THE SUCCESS STORIES AND CHALLENGES**

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### **I. INTRODUCTION**

It is believed that ensuring human rights in general and the right to fair trial should not depend on individual's pocket power. On the other hand, justice has never been equal for the rich minority and the poor majority as they are unable to hire a lawyer for their case. What makes the problem worse is that it is the most vulnerable groups: women, children, prisoners, HIV/AIDS victims, refugees and migrant returnees who are unable to seek and enforce their basic constitutional and human rights.

Jimma University School of Law Legal Aid Center (here in after 'JUSL-LAC') was established to nut out the gap between access to justice and indigence as its main objective among others. Although it is a long aged experience in the developed world to help the poor by establishing such kind of centers, JUSL-LAC is the first of its kind in South, Southwest and West Ethiopia, and is one of a handful number of pioneers in the nation.

JUSL-LAC runs its daily business by utilizing the generous support of the clinical students and volunteer law students in addition to the academic staff of the School of Law and the full time employed lawyers of the centers located outside Jimma town. Each volunteer and clinical student is expected to contribute four hours per week and academic staff members are expected to handle and supervise clients' cases.

Currently, JUSL-LAC is rendering legal services at ten centers in Jimma Zone: namely, *Jimma main office, Jimma Woreda Court, Jimma High Court, Jimma Zone prison administration, Agaro, Gera, Shabe, Dedo, Serbo and Omo Nada* and is keen to keep up the already started good work. JUSL-LAC is also on the verge of opening three new centers at *Manna and Limu Seka woredas of Jimma Zone and Dima Woreda of Gambella National Regional State*.

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## **II. PROVISION OF LEGAL AID SERVICE: OVERVIEW**

Jimma zone is one of the largest zonal administrations in Oromia regional state with an estimated total population of three million. Half of the total populations are women. Jimma University (here in after 'JU') is a public higher educational institution established in December 1999 by the amalgamation of Jimma College of Agriculture (founded in 1952) and Jimma Institute of Health Sciences (established in 1983) to contribute its best to the academia world and serve the population of the zonal administration in many spheres. The two campuses are located in Jimma city 335 km southwest of Addis Ababa with an area of 167 hectares.

Jimma University is Ethiopia's first innovative Community Oriented Education Institution of higher learning. In line with this philosophy, JUSL-LAC was established based on the unanimous decision of the Academic Commission of the then Law Faculty (now School of Law) on Dec 25, 2008 primarily with the vision of providing free legal services to indigents and vulnerable groups like the poor, women, veterans, HIV/AIDS victims and children in and around Jimma town on one hand, and to expose students of the Law School to the practical aspect of law on the other hand.

Justice is the major concern of our democracy that we cannot take for granted. Our laws guarantee basic rights and protection for all of us – not just for those who can afford to hire a lawyer only. The Constitution also requires that justice should be available without unnecessary delay. By contrast, we usually find family cases in which women's rights are violated, children abused by trafficking and domestic ill-treatments, and other classes of the society adversely affected by the system. To the contrary, the people have failed to defend the injustice and even when they want to do so, they face many tackles. These problems resulted because of the deep rooted financial problem the society is entrenched in. Indeed, vulnerable people who have the means to pay for a lawyer also face a problem of getting access to justice. Providing free legal service to these vulnerable groups means the difference between food on the table and hunger, life and death penalty, shelter and homelessness, economic stability and insolvency, productive work and unemployment.

The initiative to establish JUSL-LAC came up because of this apparent growing need of our society to have access to justice. The Civil Procedure Code and FDRE Constitution have made

an attempt to help the poor to have access to justice by allowing suit by pauper and bestowing the right to get appointed counsel respectively. But this attempt alone does not suffice to watch justice in motion. First, allowing suit by pauper in civil matter by itself alone is not a guarantee to have access to justice. It simply means that one can bring his/her claim to courts without paying court fees. Although, it is one step in creating access to justice, it is way far from creating access to justice in its full sense. The person should be able to effectively defend his/her rights upon initiating a civil suit. This can be done if the person gets legal support even after s/he institutes her claim. In civil matters, our laws (like the laws of other nations) do not provide a duty that the government shall appoint a counsel for a needy person in civil matters. Therefore, the attempt to create access to justice for the needy in civil matters is very limited.

Secondly, the Constitutional guarantee that accused persons have the right to be represented by a state appointed counsel if they do not have financial means and thereby a miscarriage of justice may happen is hampered by the government's limited resource. Besides, the law provides legal assistance when the accused has no sufficient financial means – it does not address other vulnerable groups such as women, children, HIV/AIDS victims, veterans, and disabilities who are usually underserved. Therefore, the constitutional guarantee to create access to justice in criminal matters is hampered by lack of resource and lack of comprehensive focus on all types of vulnerability. It is with the aim of achieving these objectives that the JUSL-LAC is established.

Apart from helping the society, the JUSL-LAC would help the students to know how law is being practiced. Law students should be able to acquire practical knowledge to be able to serve the society in the future and be able to cope up with the dynamic world under tornado of change. Traditionally, law students were not exposed to the practice of law. This had been making the students unable to live up to what is expected from them. The Justice and Legal Systems Reform Institute of Ethiopia (which is renamed the Federal Justice and Legal Research and Training Institute in 2018) has also noticed this problem, and has spearheaded the inclusion of practical courses in Ethiopian Law School Curriculum.

For prospective law graduates, trying to serve the society without having a glimpse of the legal practice could be like trying to walk while you do not have one leg. Providing free legal service to the society without equipping graduates of law with practical legal knowledge would not solve

the legal problems of the society in the long run. Doing so would be like '*hitting a snake on the tail – not on the head*'.

Indeed, creating access to justice for the needy should be coupled with producing competent legal professionals who work in the justice system. The last decades practice in legal education in Ethiopia shows that law students were being taught merely based on theory. In this type of legal education, it is difficult to produce law graduates who understand legal problems of the society and who put their effort into solving those problems rather than watching as a passerby. When graduates are theory based, they will have a reduced capacity to create access to justice and play a role in the democratization process of the nation. In fact, this is why the vision of JUSL-LAC should be both creating access to justice for the needy and equipping law graduates with practical legal knowledge. The experience law students acquire by working at JUSL-LAC would make them agents of change in Ethiopian legal system, and would give them the exposure to see legal problems of the society ahead and makes them aspire to solve the problems upon their graduation.

In order to remedy the problems stated in the above paragraphs, and reach out to the ardent hope and fervent desire of the society, a further justice for all initiative is still required. The best, actually the prominent initiative is to employ the ripe and talented skill of the junior lawyers, law school instructors and students in order to cast this prevailing problem aside. Thus, organizing to make use of this skilled man power by sustaining the existing centers and opening new legal aid centers has paramount importance in the lives of hundreds of thousands of people JUSL-LAC aspires to serve.

So far, JUSL-LAC has rendered its multifaceted and cherished legal service at ten centers including the one at the head office. Initially, service delivery was started by opening two centers at Jimma Zone High Court and Jimma Woreda Court. However, the number of centers was increased to six in the year 2003 E.C by opening new centers in *Agaro, Dedo, Serbo* and Jimma Zone Prison Administration. In 2008 EC, new centers have been opened at *Gera, Omo Nada, and Shabe Woreda* courts. Currently, the center has a total of ten (10) centers

### **III. ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE OF THE CENTER**

To enable the center, attain its objective and contribute effectively in the furtherance of access to justice, the organizational structure of JUSL-LAC was framed to different structures. On the top of the organizational structure is the director who is empowered to supervise the day-to-day activities and operation of the Center. Under the director, there are two vice directors: one vice director for service provision and quality management with the power and the duty to manage and coordinate the different activities of the Centers and the other vice director for research and capacity building with the power and duty to direct and conduct capacity building activities for service providers, beneficiaries and organs involved in the administration of justice; to direct and conduct researches related to the vision and mission of the Center; and to conduct promotions about the availability of free legal service and build the public image of the Center.

### **IV. PARTNERS**

JUSL-LAC is currently working with Addis Ababa University Center for Human Rights, Ethiopian Human Rights Commission, United Nation Development Programme (UNDP), Oromia Supreme Court and Oromia Justice Bureau as its partners. Addis Ababa University Center for Human Rights is working in Joint Project with the center as a funder on Human Rights Protection and Promotion, while UNDP funds the establishment legal aid center and its implementation at *Dima* Woreda of Gambella Regional State. The Ethiopian Human Rights Commission has also been the main funder of the center. In similar stand, the Oromia Supreme Court supports the center with service delivering offices while Oromia Regional State Attorney General supports the center by giving and renewing of advocacy license.

### **V. LINKAGES WITH THE STAKEHOLDERS**

To be effective, legal aid service requires the cooperation and coordination of various stakeholders. JUSL-LAC has many stakeholders with which their cooperation are vital in the accomplishment of the center's objectives. Accordingly, Jimma zone high court, different woreda courts, Jimma zone Justice office, different woreda justice offices, Jimma zone prison administration, police offices, woreda labor and social affair offices, women and children affairs

offices, Ethiopian human rights commission Oromia branch office and kebele administrations are among the main stakeholders with which JUSL-LAC has a linkage.

## **VI. THE SERVICES PROVIDED BY THE CENTER**

There are three main activities that JULAC provides. These are legal services, legal education and research and capacity building.

### **A. Legal Services**

These services are those services which in one way or other connected with justice sectors and administrative government organ. Through its legal services the Center provides the following major services to its clients:

- ❖ Free Legal Counsel
- ❖ Writing Statement of Claim
- ❖ Writing Statement of Defense
- ❖ Writing different applications to the court and other organs
- ❖ Advocacy (Representation before the court)
- ❖ Mediation (with the view to reach on amicable solutions)

The Center is offering these legal services to the population in its ten (10) service centers located in seven towns (*Dedo, Serbo, Agaro, Shebe, Gera, Omo Nada and Jimma*). In six of the service centers, at *Dedo, Serbo, Shebe, Gera, Omo, Nada and Agaro*, the Center has managed to employ junior lawyer to run the services. The Center however relies on the Law students to run the services at Jimma University (Main Center), *Jimma Woreda Court, Jimma zone High Court and Jimma Zone prison Administration*. The students are assisted by the academic staffs of the School. The office of the Center located in the JU Main campus functions as a coordinating center for all the services and functions.

### **B. Legal Education (Awareness Raising Program)**

The Center understands that majority of abuses and human rights violations suffered by the vulnerable parts of the population are the result of lack of awareness especially of the rights of these groups. Accordingly, it strongly believes that ensuring respect for their rights can better be realized through effective and broad-based community legal education programs. Thus far the

Center has relied on the Jimma University Community Radio in which it has been able to run four hours-long awareness raising program per week in two languages (Amharic and Afan Oromo).

Accordingly, different laws related to Prisoners' Rights, Child and Woman's Right, Human Rights Laws, Procedural law and Self-Advocacy skill, Oromia Land Law, Family Law, Law of Property and Succession, Employment and Labor Law, Tort Law, Anti-Corruption Law, Administrative law and good governance, Law of Contracts and Commercial Laws have been broadcasted through the community radio so as to enhance the society's basic knowledge on those subject matters. But still there are critical limitations both in terms of the structure, breadth, effectiveness and sustainability of running the program through this medium.

The Center however, aims to run the program effectively by utilizing various available means and media such as community organizations, centers and other channels with broad audiences but this requires the availability of adequate financial and infrastructure (including transportation) supports.

### **C. Research and Capacity Building**

It is crucial that legal service and legal education programs at the Center be supported by appropriate evidence. Research is therefore a critical part of its strategic approach as it helps to identify the need and areas of focus for its services. In addition, it also helps engage with the community and stakeholders in addressing the problems in a more effective and sustainable manner. Research also plays a crucial role in empowering and building the capacity of the community, stakeholders and the Center itself in dealing with the root causes of the problem of human rights violations and lack of access to justice to the vulnerable members.

Thus far, the Center has not conducted a baseline study on the state of need for legal aid service due to multiple factors such as the scarcity of resource. Perhaps, no study has also been conducted so far at the national level as well. What is more, no standard has been developed in relation to the provision of the service. It should be born in mind, in fact, that the level of awareness of the idea of free legal aid and its role is at a critically low level in the Country. The Center aims to address these problems by using research and capacity building as its strategic

approach. To this end the following are areas in which the Center needs strong support for its areas of activities

- ❖ organizing thematic and generic conferences and workshops and training programs
- ❖ publication
- ❖ conducting baseline survey for legal aid service need in Jimma Zone
- ❖ developing standards and guidelines for the provision of services

In this regard, amongst the listed activities, the center unable to conduct baseline survey in Jimma Zone due to high budgetary constraints.

## **VII. SERVICE DELIVERY MODE AND SERVICE QUALITY MANAGEMENT SYSTEM**

JUSL-LAC employs different modes of service delivery. The service delivery model varies purposely to attain the objectives of the center, which are community services and equipping law students with practical skills. For centers found in Jimma city, JUSL-LAC uses fourth and fifth year law students to deliver the services and in those centers outside of Jimma town, the center uses junior lawyers as they are at a distance place from the university.

Besides, the center also uses volunteer law school staff and licensed lawyers. The center does not compromise the service quality and employs different service quality controlling mechanisms to these ends. Accordingly, the center has a daily and weekly meeting with the students and it has also developed a strict reporting.

## **VIII. SUMMARY OF OVERALL ACTIVITIES**

The JUSL-LAC service shows tremendous progress from time to time in quality and accessibility and currently thousands are benefiting from the service of the center annually. Resisting all the challenges it faced, the center has managed to reach six thousand eight hundred forty seven (6847). The service distributions were counseling 3338, ADR/ mediation 301, document preparation 2650 and representation 558. Out of the total cases it represented and disposed by the court, the center won 94 and lost only three. The cases the center won were represented and litigated by fifth year law students. The service fee the center provided is estimated to 13,694,000 birr. The winning rate of the center is 99.5%. This is mainly due to the fact that clients who come before the center have strong cases but lack only the financial capacity



to litigate before the court. An estimated 450,000 peoples have benefited from the Radio program and over 5,000 brochures were distributed on various legal issues. The types of the services rendered and the beneficiaries together with the centers that have provided the legal service are summarized as follows.

Table 8.1. Subject matters on which legal awareness education has been delivered through JUFM

Type of legal Service	Jimma Woreda Court	Jimma Zone High	Head Office	Jimma Zone Prison	Agaro	Serbo	Dedo	Gera	Shebe	Omo Nada	Total
Counseling	560	410	288	760	210	221	253	183	219	234	<b>3338</b>
ADR	72	26	45	-	59	24	17	25	13	20	<b>301</b>
Documents	452	310	178	642	208	284	131	149	179	117	<b>2650</b>
Representation	190	74	56	32	81	29	17	28	18	33	<b>558</b>
<b>Total</b>	1274	820	567	1434	558	58	418	385	429	404	<b>6847</b>

Based on the assumption that at least 10% of the population the FM Radio reaches would listen to the broadcast, the total number of beneficiaries is estimated to be about 460,000.

Table 8.2. Some of the Cases the Center Represented and Won in 2018/19

Airing Time and Broad Cast Language	Subject matters on which the radio legal awareness creation education is delivered											Total
	Prisoner's Right	Child and Women's Right	Tort Law	Family law	Lab or Law	Illegal Human Trafficking	Land Laws	Oromia Land Law	Procedural and Self Advocacy skill	Human Rights Laws	Suc cession Law	
Afan Oromo	3 hours	4 hours	2 hours	3 hours	5 hours	2 hours	2 hours	3 hours	2 hours	6 hours	3 hours	35 hours
Amharic	3 hours	4 hours	2 hours	3 hours	5 hours	2 hours	2 hours	3 hours	2 hours	6 hours	3 hours	35 hours
<b>Total</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>70 hours</b>

Our center, in its different centers, has represented hundreds of cases on behalf its clients some of which are disposed while the rest are still pending. The numbers of cases have been increasing year to year and this year too. In the year 2018/2019 alone, until the time of the report about 80 cases have been decided in our favor. These cases were those whom our fifth year law students and lawyers in different centers have represented the clients and won at Jimma Woreda Court, Jimma Zone High Court, Agaro Woreda Court, Serbo Woreda Court, Shabe Woreda Court and Omonada Woreda Court. The following are the details of the sample cases entertained by the center:

S.N	Name of the client and story of his case	S ex	Type of the case	Court enterta ined	File no.	Judgment/awa rd
1	<p><b>Junedin Emam</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Our client was an employee of Ethiopian Road Construction Corporation (the defendant)</li> <li>✓ The defendant terminated the contract unlawfully</li> <li>✓ Our Center represented him in the litigation claiming different payments against the employer (defendant)</li> </ul>	M	Labor	Jimma Town Woreda Court	53624	22000 birr award for the damage
2	<p><b>Tafara Abraham</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Tafarra wasa worker of Gindebarat Construction (the defendant) for more than two years</li> <li>✓ Later the defendant company unlawfully terminated his employment contract and even without paying the employee even his six month salary</li> <li>✓ Our center prepared pleadings and</li> </ul>	M	Labor	Jimma Town Woreda Court	51972	Disposed totally in our favor and the client is entitled to an award of 16824.00 birr

	represented Tafarra on the litigation					
<b>3</b>	<b>Yibeltal Getahun</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Yibeltal is a minor of 14 years of age</li> <li>✓ He was charged with a crime of sexual outrage which is punishable from 13 yrs to 25 yrs</li> <li>✓ The public prosecutor disregarded his age and prosecuted him as an adult</li> <li>✓ Jimma Zone High Court sentenced him to 3 years of imprisonment with adults</li> <li>✓ Our Center represented him and appealed to Oromia Supreme Court</li> </ul>	M	Crim e	Oromia Suprem e Court		The court dismissed the decision of lower court and ordered him to be educated for 3 years under the supervision of his parents.
<b>4</b>	<b>Fatuma Siraj</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Fatuma's marriage was dissolved by Manna Woreda court</li> <li>✓ The lower denied her division of a common property including a house estimated to 200,000 birr and other movable properties</li> <li>✓ Our center takes an appeal on her behalf</li> </ul>	F	Famil y/Div orce/ Partiti on of Prope rty	Jimma Zone High Court	43431	A house which is estimated to 200,000 birr and other properties are decided to common and then she shared it.
<b>4</b>	<b>Zakira Abdela</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ She bore a child to the defendant who has later denied his paternity to the child</li> <li>✓ The claim was to prove paternity and then to claim maintenance</li> </ul>	F	Famil y/ Pater nity and Maint enanc e	Jimma Town W/Cour t	48100	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Paternity of the child is proved and</li> <li>✓ Award of payment of 600</li> </ul>

						birr maintena nce per month
5	<b>Almaz A/Gojjam</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ she appeared at the center to write an application for divorce and partition of common property</li> <li>✓ her husband was not volunteer to share the properties and wants to deny it was a common one</li> <li>✓ the center represented her in court and succeeded</li> </ul>	F	Famil y/ Divor ce/Pr opert y	Jimma Town Woreda Court	60050	Divorced and Entitled to equally share the common property
6	<b>Abdella Ahimed</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Abdella was a waiter at the defendant's Hotel</li> <li>✓ The defendant terminated the contract unlawfully</li> <li>✓ Our Center represented him in the litigation claiming different payments against the employer (defendant)</li> </ul>	M	Labor	Jimma Town Woreda Court	49728	Disposed totally in our favor and the client is entitled to an award of 21012 Birr.
7	<b>Biranu Lama, Xilahu Sirna, Awal Abdo Siraj A/Chabsa Fikadu Abera and Abdela A/Nanno</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ The plaintiffs were all serving as employees of the defendant for about two years</li> </ul>	M	Labor	Jimma Town W/Cour t	60221	Each of the plaintiffs represented by our center are entitled to payment of 126,774 each, as a

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ The defendant terminates their contract claiming it to be it for definite period</li> <li>✓ As they approached our center, our center represented them in a litigation claiming different payments against the employer (defendant)</li> </ul>					compensation.
<b>8</b>	<p><b>Biya A/Garo</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Our client, Biya was serving as an employee of the defendant</li> <li>✓ The defendant then terminated his contract owing to the fact that it ceases operation, and without due compensations.</li> <li>✓ Our center represented him in a litigation claiming amount of compensation due to him and succeeded</li> </ul>	M	Labor	Jimma Town/W/Court	50564	Disposed totally in our favor and the client is entitled to an award of 8214.00 birr.
<b>9</b>	<p><b>Zenebech Bekele</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ The defendant's cow has caused a bodily injury to Zenebech/our client/</li> <li>✓ She approached us so that we represent her before court claiming compensation on her behalf</li> <li>✓ Our center accordingly prepared a pleading and actively engaged in the litigation and won the case.</li> </ul>	F	Tort	Jimma Town Woreda Court	49898	The court decided that the defendant surrender the cow as compensation to the victim together with one thousand as a moral damages.

10	<p><b>Hassan Mohammed</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ The issue arises when the defendant claims a succession to property to be his personal estate.</li> <li>✓ Hassan approached our center after which we have brought the case before court and won the case on his behalf.</li> </ul>	M	Succession	Jimma Town W/Court	17042	Entitlement to partition of the property from succession equally with the defendant.
11	<p><b>Roza Kelil</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ The defendant (government organ) closed Roza's micro enterprise shade and terminated her lease contract.</li> <li>✓ As soon as Roza approached our center, we have then instituted a suit against the office claiming Roza's contract be in action and compensation for the damages that she sustained due to the unlawful termination.</li> <li>✓ Finally, our center become successful as usual</li> </ul>	F	Property	Jimma Zone High Court	218435	<p>The court decides that,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Termination of the contract was illegal/unlawful</li> <li>✓ The shades be opened and returned to Roza</li> </ul>
12	<p><b>Fadila A/Zinab</b></p> <p>The client approached as to have a divorce petition written and then to get representation on issues of maintenance of her children</p>	F	Family/Divorce/Maintenance	Jimma Town Woreda Court	_____	Divorce is allowed and the court also ordered the claimed father to pay

						maintenance of 400 per month
<b>13</b>	<b>Asrat Dosha</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ The case comes to our center on appeal stage</li> <li>✓ Considering the case, our center takes the appeal claiming the termination is wrongful and therefore Asrat be reinstated back to his office</li> </ul>	M	Labor	Jimma Z/H/Court	43746	The court has decided that the contract is not lawfully terminated and hence, the employer should reinstate Asrat as his job.
<b>14</b>	<b>Eshetu Seyoum and Feleka Zeleka</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Their employment contract was unlawfully terminated by their employer/the defendant.</li> <li>✓ As they approached our center, our center represented them in a litigation claiming different payments against the employer (defendant)</li> </ul>	M	Labor	Jimma T/Woreda Court and Jimma Zone High Court	50648 and 44061	The lower court awarded a payment of 26486.80 as compensation and the same is sustained by the appellate court.
<b>15</b>	<b>Yodit Katama</b> <p>✓The client approached as to have a divorce petition written and then to get representation on issue of partition of common property</p>	F	Family/Partition of Common Property	Jimma woreda court	50566	Divorced and Entitled to equally share the common property
<b>16</b>	<b>1. Basha Seboka Regasa</b> <b>2. Basha Wubishet Bogale</b>	M	Labor	Jimma Town	53706	The court gives it verdict that

	<p><b>3. Legese Tefera</b></p> <p><b>4. Basha Mekonnen Marsha</b></p> <p><b>5. Abera Mekonnen</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ The plaintiffs were all serving as employees of the defendant for seven (p. 1,2,3) and five (p. 4 and 5) years</li> <li>✓ The defendant (Commercial Nominees PLC) terminates their contract claiming it to be it for definite period</li> <li>✓ As they approached our center, our center represented them in a litigation claiming different payments against the defendant.</li> </ul>			W/Court		<p>termination was unlawful and accordingly entitled the plaintiffs with the following awards:</p> <p>P.1-3= <b>39012</b> Birr each</p> <p>P. 4-5 =<b>38205</b> Birr each</p>
<b>17</b>	<p><b>Almaz Abebe</b></p> <p>Almaz was an employee of Oromia Forest and Animals Authority at Jimma for about 11 years.</p> <p>The office has later terminated her contract and she approached or office to get representation on her litigation</p> <p>Then we have prepared a pleading and proceeded accordingly.</p>	F	Labor	Jimma Town Woreda Court	52804	She is entitled to payment 23805 birr.
<b>18</b>	<p><b>Keneni Assefa</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Keneni was a migrant returnee.</li> <li>✓ She started a business with the defendant and his spouse in Small Micro Enterprises</li> <li>✓ The defendant and his wife begun to manipulate their business income and even fail to pay the amount which is due to keneni</li> </ul>	F	Proerty	Jimma/ T/W/ Court	50351	The court has after making the Small Micro Enterprises office audit total profit of their business; it orders that



	<p>✓ Later Keneni approached our center demanded us to file a suit on her behalf</p>					<p>Keneni be paid 83,901 as her share of profit in the business.</p>
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## IX. CHALLENGES

Despite the challenges that surround it, JUSL-LAC is rendering an exemplary community service and equipping law students with practical skills. There are a number of challenges which hinder the center's service delivery. The followings are the major challenges, among others.

- ❖ **Financial Constraints** - the existing finance is not sufficient, timely and is not sustainable
- ❖ **High turnover**- there is high turnover of center lawyers due to very low salary paid by the center
- ❖ **Transportation** – lack of adequate transportation for students and supervisors
- ❖ **Lack of phone service**- particularly for center lawyers in order to communicate with their clients
- ❖ **Absence of secretaries**- specifically outside Jimma city where lawyers are carrying out the legal service and other jobs (particularly typing and reporting) without the support of secretaries.
- ❖ **Busy schedule**- from the coordinators of the center and the service providers, comparing to the increasing number of service seekers

## **X. SUMMARY**

JUSL-LAC is providing legal services such as counseling, preparation of pleadings and representation on litigations for children, women who are victims of domestic violence, peoples living with HIV, people living with disabilities, etc. In addition, the center admits students for clinical courses and externship program and they acquire basic knowledge of the practical world. Moreover, the center is providing basic legal education to hundreds of thousands of residents of Jimma Zone via Jimma Community FM Radio. Capacity building through training is also one of the core functions of the center which it carries out to enhance the knowledge of the lawyers working in the center.