





Can Advocates' Legal Culture in Civil Law Enforcement Drive Reform in Indonesia's Modern Justice System?

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Abstract

This study examines the urgent need to reform the legal culture of advocates in Indonesia, specifically in relation to the use of e-court and e-litigation systems in civil law enforcement. These systems were designed to streamline legal processes, offering faster, cheaper, and more accessible trials for material parties. However, advocates have been slow to adopt these technologies, often sticking to traditional methods, which undermines their potential effectiveness. The novelty of this research lies in its exploration of how the legal culture of advocates can be reformed to better leverage e-court and e-litigation. Rather than focusing solely on the technical aspects of these systems, the study emphasizes the socio-legal implications of such reforms. Advocates, as

both legal professionals and agents of social change, play a critical role in bridging the gap between new technologies and the material parties they represent. This research contributes to the development of civil procedural law and aims to improve the legal culture of both advocates and clients. Using a qualitative, socio-legal approach, the study gathers data through interviews, observations, document analysis, and personal experiences. The urgency of this reform is underscored by the need for advocates to fully embrace their role in Indonesia's digital transformation of justice. The study also examines how regulatory tools like PERMA No. 1 of 2019 and No. 7 of 2022 can support these reforms, ultimately driving systemic change in Indonesia's legal culture and enhancing the effectiveness of e-court and e-litigation.

Keywords *Civil Law Enforcement, Advocates, Legal Culture, Modern Justice*

Introduction

The Constitution of the Republic of Indonesia, established in 1945, explicitly declares that Indonesia is a nation governed by the rule of law. This principle requires the assurance of equality before the law for all individuals. Consequently, the Constitution asserts that every person is entitled to recognition, guarantees, protection, and fair legal certainty, along with equal treatment under the law. To actualize the rule of law within society and the state, the role and functions of advocates or lawyers are essential. These professionals operate independently, freely, and responsibly, complementing judicial bodies and law enforcement agencies such as the police and the prosecutor's office. Advocates, through their legal services, carry out their duties to ensure justice in accordance with the law, benefiting those seeking justice and aiding in the empowerment of the community to understand their fundamental legal rights.¹

Advocates are a fundamental pillar of the judicial system, playing a crucial role in upholding the rule of law and safeguarding human

¹ Yahya Harahap, *Hukum Acara Perdata: Tentang Gugatan, Persidangan, Penyitaan, Pembuktian, Dan Putusan Pengadilan* (Jakarta: Sinar Grafika, 2017).

rights. While their primary function is within the courtroom, their professional services are increasingly sought outside of litigation, reflecting the growing legal needs of society—especially in the context of globalization. Advocates provide essential services such as legal consultations, negotiations, and the drafting of commercial contracts, thereby contributing significantly to societal development and the modernization of national legal frameworks.² Their work is particularly vital in the economic and trade sectors, where they also facilitate out-of-court dispute resolution. The advocacy profession transcends mere employment; it represents a calling, one that holds a higher moral and spiritual value. Advocates help cultivate legal awareness and a culture of law within society, further elevating the profession.³ It is regarded as noble due to its inherent responsibility to defend the rights of all individuals, irrespective of race, skin color, religion, culture, socio-economic status, wealth, political beliefs, gender, or ideology. Through their commitment to justice and equality, advocates play an indispensable role in ensuring the equitable application of law for all members of society.

The role of advocates in providing legal aid extends far beyond offering legal representation in various legal processes; it encompasses the critical functions of educating the public about the law and fostering a more informed, reflective engagement with existing legal frameworks. This dual role is realized through the provision of both legal and civic education. In the context of Indonesia, where legal culture and public awareness remain relatively weak, the advocacy profession—encompassing both litigation and non-litigation services—assumes

² See Daniel S. Lev, "The origins of the Indonesian advocacy." *Legal Evolution and Political Authority in Indonesia*. (Leiden: Brill Nijhoff, 2000), pp. 245-282; Nur Solikin, and Anis Rohmatullah. "The Regulatory Reform of Advocate Organizations in Proposing Oath of Prospective Advocates in Indonesia." *Jurnal Kajian Pembaruan Hukum* 2, no. 2 (2022): 133-154. See also Zico Junius Fernando, et al. "Robot Lawyer in Indonesian Criminal Justice System: Problems and Challenges for Future Law Enforcement." *Lex Scientia Law Review* 7, no. 2 (2023): 489-528.

³ See Albert M. Sacks, "Legal Education and the Changing Role of Lawyers in Dispute Resolution." *Journal of Legal Education* 34, no. 2 (1984): 237-244; Carrie Menkel-Meadow, "Ethics in alternative dispute resolution: New issues, no answers from the adversary conception of lawyers' responsibilities." *Mediation*. (London: Routledge, 2018), pp. 429-476.

growing importance. A significant portion of the population remains "law-illiterate," often leading to legal violations born of ignorance and a propensity to be misled by the implementation of legal regulations.⁴ In this regard, advocates play an essential role in raising legal awareness and offering education through outreach programs.⁵ By fulfilling both litigation and non-litigation functions, they help the public understand the significance of the law in societal life and encourage critical reflection on legal products. The enactment of Law No. 18 of 2003 on Advocates further legitimizes this pivotal role, affirming the advocates' responsibility in delivering legal aid and promoting legal awareness. This law emphasizes the importance of advocates in strengthening law enforcement and advancing public understanding of legal matters within the broader community.

The Supreme Court's Regulation Number 1 of 2019, issued on August 9, 2019, addresses the electronic administration of cases and court proceedings.⁶ This regulation introduces significant advancements in the e-Court system by incorporating an e-Litigation feature (for electronic court proceedings) and expanding user categories into registered users and other users.⁷ Presently, e-Court services for online case registration are exclusively available to advocates. To become registered users, advocates must obtain an account and undergo a validation process conducted by the High Court in which they are registered.⁸

⁴ Iskandar Khalil, "Overview of The Advocate Profession and Its Role in Supporting the Rule of Law." *JLAST: Journal of Law and Social Transformation* 1, no. 1 (2023): 51-66.

⁵ See Cahya Wulandari, Sonny Saptoajie Wicaksono, and Umi Faridatul Khikmah. "Paralegal Existence in Providing Access to Justice for the Poor in Central Java." *Indonesian Journal of Criminal Law Studies* 4, no. 2 (2019): 199-206; Dian Latifiani, et al. "Advocate as law enforcer in the implementation of e-court." *International Journal of Innovation, Creativity and Change* 11, no. 4 (2020); Heru Pratama Adnan Amrullah, "The Existence of Legal Aid Institutions in Providing Legal Aid Amidst COVID-19 Outbreak." *The Indonesian Journal of International Clinical Legal Education* 3, no. 2 (2021): 223-234.

⁶ Rio Satria, "Persidangan Secara Elektronik (E-Litigasi) Di Pengadilan Agama," Badilag MA, 2019.

⁷ Mahkamah Agung RI, "PERMA No.7 Tahun 2022 Tentang Administrasi Perkara Dan Persidangan Secara Elektronik," 2022, 1-13.

⁸ Dian Latifiani, *Hukum Acara Perdata Dalam Praktik Peradilan Secara Elektronik* (Semarang: UNNES Press, 2023).

The implementation of the e-Court application has led to changes in judicial institutions' procedural handling, notably enhancing time efficiency.⁹ This transformation involves altering the interaction environment with court officials, aiming to reduce the need for parties to physically attend court, thereby easing public access to justice.¹⁰ It also makes it easier for advocates to obtain information and knowledge. Consequently, advocates experience substantial benefits from using e-Court.¹¹ However, since their introduction in 2019, their use has not been fully optimized. Many parties, whether represented by advocates (formal parties) or acting independently (material parties), still consider e-court and e-litigation to be complex.¹² Advocates often stick to conventional court proceedings due to their extensive experience with in-person trials over many years. Reluctance of advocates to adopt e-court and e-litigation can lead to delays in civil law enforcement, impeding access to justice and the attainment of fairness, certainty, and utility for litigants. Legal provisions through Supreme Court Regulations (*Perma*) and the Civil Procedure Code (*HIR*), as well as the legal framework within the judiciary, cannot be fully effective if the legal culture among advocates (formal parties) does not fully embrace e-court and e-litigation.

The research adopts a constructivist paradigm, which ontologically views reality as relative. The legal culture reality of justice seekers represented by advocates (formal parties) concerning e-court and e-litigation varies depending on their cognitive constructions. Knowledge about e-court results from the cognitive construction of reality based on the information an individual acquires. Cognitive construction encompasses values in the form of descriptive data, written or spoken words, and observable behaviors.

⁹ Dian Latifiani, Baidhowi Baidhowi, Rohmat Rohmat, Florentina P, Winarno FR. *Teknis Penggunaan E Court*, 1st ed. (Semarang: Fastindo, 2021).

¹⁰ Dian Latifiani, "Human Attitude And Technology: Analyzing a Legal Culture On Electronic Court System In Indonesia (Case of Religious Court)," *Journal of Indonesian Legal Studies* 6, no. 1 (2021), <https://doi.org/10.15294/jils.v6i1.44450>.

¹¹ Angreani Triana and Taun, "Efektivitas Implementasi E-Court Sebagai Perwujudan Peradilan Cepat, Sederhana Dan Biaya Ringan Di Pengadilan Negeri Karawang," *Jurnal Kertha Semaya* 9, no. 7 (2021).

¹² Dian Latifiani, *Budaya Hukum E-Court Masyarakat Desa*, ed. Ridwan Arifin (Semarang: BPFH UNNES, 2020).

This study employs a qualitative approach because its findings related to legal culture are not derived from statistical procedures or quantitative measures. The research aims to holistically and contextually reveal phenomena by collecting data from natural settings, with the researcher acting as the key instrument. Broadly categorized under socio-legal research, this study focuses on the legal culture of e-court and e-litigation implementation by advocates/formal parties. This implementation is influenced by non-legal factors such as economics, education, society, and culture. Law is viewed interdisciplinarily, meaning various disciplines are needed to explain different aspects related to the presence of law in society.¹³

The research centers on the cognitive constructions and behaviors that embody the values of justice, certainty, and utility in the enforcement of civil procedural law through e-court and e-litigation. The study is conducted at four law offices in Semarang, and at the District and Religious Courts in Semarang, chosen based on the advocates' areas of practice. The research partners have welcomed the study, agreeing to participate and provide their premises as research locations. Data collection involves interviews, observations, document and material interpretation, and personal experience. In-depth interviews are conducted with open-ended questions, but may also include closed questions, particularly with informants possessing extensive information.¹⁴ Data analysis follows an interactive model comprising data collection, data condensation, data display, and conclusion drawing/verification

Result and Discussion

¹³ Kornelius Benuf and Muhamad Azhar, "Metodologi Penelitian Hukum Sebagai Instrumen Mengurai Permasalahan Hukum Kontemporer," *Gema Keadilan* 7, no. 1 (2020), <https://doi.org/10.14710/gk.2020.7504>; Satjipto Rahardjo, *Ilmu Hukum Cetakan Kedelapan*, NPT Citra Aditya Bakti, 2014; Hans Gerd Ridder et al., "Qualitative Data Analysis. A Methods Sourcebook," *Zeitschrift Fur Personalforschung* 28, no. 4 (2014).

¹⁴ Sugiyono, "Metode Penelitian Kuantitatif, Kualitatif Dan R&D. In Metode Penelitian Kuantitatif, Kualitatif Dan R&D," *Koleksi Buku UPT Perpustakaan Universitas Negeri Malang*, 2006.

Civil law enforcement is supported by various elements of the legal system. According to Lawrence Friedman, the legal system consists of three key components: legal substance, legal structure, and legal culture. These three elements are interconnected and form a unified whole.¹⁵ Legal substance, which includes the content of regulations, cannot function effectively without the legal structure, which consists of the institutions and stakeholders responsible for enforcing the law.¹⁶ However, the implementation of legal regulations by the legal structure does not always meet expectations. Legal culture, encompassing ideas, expectations, and mindsets reflected in the behavior of law enforcers, makes legal regulations dynamic rather than static.¹⁷

In 2018, the Supreme Court of Indonesia, which oversees all judicial bodies in the country, initiated the concept of modern courts. A modern court system is characterized by the use of electronic court systems (e-court) and e-litigation, which aim to realize the principles of speed, simplicity, and low cost in legal proceedings.¹⁸ The success of civil law enforcement in the era of modern courts is supported by both the courts and the users of the court system, such as litigants represented by either advocates or principals. Advocates, who provide legal services to clients, are key players in this system, possessing legal knowledge and authorization to practice law.¹⁹

¹⁵ Sumartono NND Latifiani D, Al Fikry AH, Winarno FR, *Panduan Beracara Perdata Secara Elektronik Bagi Pencari Keadilan* (Semarang: UNNES Press, 2021).

¹⁶ Annisa Dita Setiawan, Artaji, and Sherly Ayuna Putri, "Implementasi Sistem E-Court Dalam Penegakan Hukum Di Pengadilan Negeri," *Jurnal Poros Hukum Padjadjaran* 2, no. 2 (2021): 198–217, <https://doi.org/10.23920/jphp.v2i2.352>.

¹⁷ Dian Latifiani et al., "Reconstruction of E-Court Legal Culture in Civil Law Enforcement," *Journal of Indonesian Legal Studies* 7, no. 2 (2022): 409–48.

¹⁸ Dian Latifiani et al., "Implementation of Simple, Fast and Low-Cost Principles in E-Summons With the E-Court System," *Diponegoro Law Review* 8, no. 1 (2023): 107–23.

¹⁹ Ahmad Habib Al Fikry, Muhammad Riyan Afandi, and Dian Latifiani, "National Law Development through Civil Procedure Law Reform as a Manifestation of State Goals during the Covid-19 Pandemic," *Lex Scientia Law Review* 5, no. 2 (2021), <https://doi.org/10.15294/lesrev.v5i2.50483>; Farah Nur Laily and Fatma Ulfatun Najicha, "Penegakan Hukum Lingkungan Sebagai Upaya Mengatasi Permasalahan Lingkungan Hidup Di Indonesia," *Wacana Paramarta: Jurnal Ilmu Hukum* 21, no. 2 (2022): 17–26; Fadhilah Rizky et al., "Hambatan Pembuktian Dalam Pelaksanaan E-Litigasi Guna Mendukung Pembaharuan Hukum Di Era Revolusi Industri 4.0," *Jurnal Hukum Prioris* 8, no. 2 (2020): 152–77.

I. The Urgency of Reforming the Legal Culture of Advocates in Civil

There are four critical urgencies for an advocate as a legal practitioner in the civil justice system of Indonesia:

1. Advocates as Independent and Autonomous Law Enforcers

Advocates, as "law enforcers," hold a profession susceptible to various interest-based interventions, fragile trust relationships within the profession, and, naturally, public scrutiny²⁰. Article 5, paragraph (1) of Law No. 18 of 2003 on Advocates stipulates that advocates hold the status of independent and autonomous law enforcers, guaranteed by law and regulations. This status underscores the crucial role of advocates in the judiciary system, on par with other law enforcers such as judges and prosecutors. The independence and autonomy of advocates are fundamental principles that allow them to carry out their duties without interference or pressure from any party, be it the government, police, or clients. Legal guarantees for the independence and autonomy of advocates are vital in maintaining the integrity of the legal profession and ensuring that advocates can provide legal assistance objectively and professionally. Article 5, paragraph (1) explicitly affirms that advocates are independent and autonomous law enforcers, as guaranteed by law and regulations. Therefore, the position of advocates is recognized as equal to the Police, Prosecutors, and Judges as part of the four pillars of law enforcement.²¹ As stated in Article 24, paragraph (3) of the 1945 Constitution, other institutions with functions related to judicial power are regulated by law. The law referred to is Law No. 48 of 2009 on

²⁰ Muhammad Reza Winata et al., "Criminal Legal Policy and Unconstitutionality on Contempt of Ruler or Public Body," *Jurnal Hukum Dan Peradilan* 9, no. 1 (2020), <https://doi.org/10.25216/jhp.9.1.2020.71-98>.

²¹ Mutiara Nora Peace Hasibuan and Mujiono Hafidh Prasetyo, "Kedudukan Advokat Dalam Sistem Peradilan Pidana Di Indonesia," *Jurnal Ius Constituendum* 7, no. 1 (2022), <https://doi.org/10.26623/jic.v7i1.4629>; Muhammad Helmi, "Penemuan Hukum Oleh Hakim Berdasarkan Paradigma Konstruktivisme," *Kanun Jurnal Ilmu Hukum* 22, no. 1 (2020): 111–32, <https://doi.org/10.24815/kanun.v22i1.14792>; Eko Sugiarto, "Menyusun Proposal Penelitian Kualitatif Skripsi Dan Tesis," *Penelitian*, no. Yogyakarta: Suaka Media (2015).

Judicial Power.²² Although they all serve as law enforcers, their roles and functions differ. Judges act on behalf of the state, while prosecutors and police act on behalf of the government. Meanwhile, advocates function independently to represent the interests of society (clients) and are not influenced by state power (either judicial or executive).

Judges play the role of decision-makers, whose decisions determine the future of the law, as they function as legal finders (*recht vindend*). This aligns with Jeremy Waldron's explanation that "Judges have an obligation to be faithful to the existing law and established legal sources, even if the existing law does not align with their desires and even if some established legal sources do not align with their moral views." Furthermore, advocates must keep all information known or obtained from their clients confidential due to their professional relationship unless otherwise specified by law (Article 19, paragraph (1) of the Advocate Law). Even in the United States, confidentiality of information is highly upheld by advocates, where all information provided by the client must remain confidential, even if the information could help an innocent person get out of prison. However, the rules on confidentiality now have exceptions, meaning they can be breached to prevent "substantial bodily harm or reasonably certain death"²³. In the context of legal culture reform and adaptation to the e-Court and e-Litigation systems, this independence and autonomy become increasingly relevant. Without legal guarantees for independence and autonomy, advocates would struggle to function effectively as pillars of justice in the modern judicial system.

2. Advocates as Providers of Legal Services and Legal Aid

Article 1, paragraph (1) of the Advocate Law states that an advocate is an individual who practices the profession by providing legal services, both inside and outside the court, in accordance with the requirements set by this law. Additionally, Article 9, letter (d) of the Legal Aid Law mandates that advocates provide legal aid services. In the context of e-court and e-litigation, these services must be adapted to digital technology to ensure efficiency and speed in resolving cases.

²² Fenny Cahyani et al., "Kedudukan Hak Imunitas Advokat di Indonesia," *Jurnal USM Law Review* 4, no. 1 (2021), <https://doi.org/10.26623/julr.v4i1.3328>.

²³ Winata et al., "Criminal Legal Policy and Unconstitutionality on Contempt of Ruler or Public Body."

Advocates must be capable of managing documents electronically, presenting legal arguments effectively on digital platforms, and upholding high standards of ethics and professionalism at every stage of the legal process. The implementation of technology not only facilitates accessibility to legal aid but also demands that advocates continuously develop their skills and knowledge in the field of digital law. Article 9, letter (d) of Law No. 16 of 2011 on Legal Aid and Article 1, paragraph (2) of Law No. 18 of 2003 on Advocates further specify that advocates are tasked with providing legal aid services. This includes directly assisting clients in legal processes, both in and out of court. The advocate profession is recognized as a noble office (*officium nobile*), granted based on the trust of the principal or client. The advocate's role is to defend and uphold the rights of their clients in the designated forum. An advocate's role in providing legal services is to ensure justice and the rule of law for the benefit of those in need. The advocate profession also contributes to empowering society and legal reform in Indonesia, particularly in the areas of economy and commerce, including the resolution of disputes outside the courtroom. These efforts are carried out through services such as consultation, negotiation, and the drafting of commercial contracts.²⁴ The legal basis governing the advocate profession in civil justice can be found in Article 123 HIR (*Herziene Indonesisch Reglement*) and Article 147 R.Bg. Article 123 HIR and Article 147 R.Bg paragraph (1) state:

“If desired, both parties may be assisted or represented by an authorized representative to do so with a special power of attorney, unless the principal in the petition signed and submitted according to the first paragraph of Article 118 or if the lawsuit is conducted orally according to Article 120, then in the latter case, this must be mentioned in the note made with this lawsuit.”

Therefore, Article 123 HIR/147 R.Bg establishes a system of representation in civil procedural law. This allows advocates/lawyers to

²⁴ Risdalina Siregar, “Hubungan Antara Advokat dengan Klien dalam Penegakan Hukum Perdata,” *Jurnal Ilmiah Advokasi* 7, no. 1 (2019), <https://doi.org/10.36987/jiad.v7i1.241>.

assist parties in a dispute in upholding substantive civil law. For an advocate, civil law is an interpretation and a scientific battleground, so they are obligated to defend the essential elements of civil procedural law.

3. Advocates' Responsibility to Provide Free Legal Aid to Indigent Seekers of Justice

Article 56, paragraph (1) of the Judicial Power Law, Article 22, paragraph (1) of the Advocate Law, and Article 2 of Government Regulation No. 83 of 2008 concerning the Requirements and Procedures for Providing Free Legal Aid emphasize that advocates have a responsibility to provide legal aid free of charge to seekers of justice who are unable to afford it. This provision highlights that advocates are not only responsible for offering legal advice and defending the rights of financially capable clients but also have a moral and professional duty to ensure that access to justice is available to all segments of society, including those who are less fortunate. This role makes advocates the frontline in realizing principles of equitable and non-discriminatory justice. By providing free legal aid, advocates help ensure that every individual, regardless of their economic situation, has an equal opportunity to receive legal protection and recognition of their rights.

Advocates are required to provide free legal aid to indigent or poor seekers of justice. However, this free legal assistance should not be based on charity but should be seen as a form of respect for Human Rights in the pursuit of justice within society. This responsibility underscores the advocate's role in ensuring that every individual, regardless of their economic condition, has equal access to justice. Providing free legal aid also reflects the advocate's commitment to humanitarian values and social justice principles. In the current digital era, advocates are also expected to utilize technology to deliver legal aid, such as through e-Court and e-Litigation, to enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of their services. This not only strengthens the advocate's position as a protector of the rights of the poor but also helps reduce bureaucratic barriers and expedite legal processes. Consequently, advocates play a crucial role in reinforcing an inclusive and equitable justice system for all segments of society.

The implementation of e-Court and e-Litigation further emphasizes the urgency of reforming legal culture among advocates to

ensure that legal aid is provided more efficiently and effectively, reaching a broader audience. As such, the role of advocates in offering legal aid to those in need becomes increasingly relevant and critical in the context of judicial modernization. Advocates are required to register in the e-Court system to have their presence formally recognized. Advocates without an e-Court account will face difficulties representing their clients in various courts. This aligns with Article 6, paragraph 2 of PERMA No. 3 of 2018 concerning Electronic Court Administration, which states that the Supreme Court has the right to reject the registration of users who cannot be verified.²⁵ With the adoption of e-Court and e-Litigation, advocates must master technology and adjust their working methods to provide legal services that are fast, effective, and efficient. Therefore, advocates have a broad responsibility to ensure that the public, especially those who are less capable, receive adequate and quality legal assistance. Reforming the legal culture among advocates not only involves enhancing technical skills in using digital systems but also requires a change in mindset and a more proactive approach to client representation. This is crucial for overcoming traditional barriers in the judicial process and fostering greater transparency and accountability in handling civil cases. Thus, updating the legal culture of advocates is essential to ensure that their role as providers of legal aid remains relevant and effective in the digital age.

4. Advocates as Legal Aid Providers Recruited by Legal Aid Organizations

The modernization of legal culture among advocates in civil cases, particularly with the advent of e-Court and e-Litigation, has become increasingly urgent due to technological advancements and the need for efficiency in the judicial system. Advocates, as key legal aid providers recruited by legal aid organizations, play a crucial role in ensuring access to justice, especially for those who are less fortunate. This role is regulated by Article 9, letter (a) of the Legal Aid Law and Article 13, paragraph (1) of Government Regulation No. 42 of 2013 concerning the Requirements and Procedures for Providing Legal Aid and the Distribution of Legal Aid Funds.

²⁵ Ika Atikah, "Implementasi E-Court dan Dampaknya Terhadap Advokat dalam Proses Penyelesaian Perkara di Indonesia," *Jurnal UIN Sultan Maulana Hasanuddin*, 2018.

According to Article 9, letter (c) of the Legal Aid Law, advocates are tasked with providing legal consultation, legal education, and other activities related to legal aid. This means that advocates are not only involved in representing clients in court but are also required to actively engage in educating the public about legal matters. Legal education aims to raise public awareness about their rights and obligations under the law. Additionally, advocates must provide adequate legal consultation to help individuals understand their legal issues and offer solutions that comply with current regulations.

Advocates have two main functions in achieving justice that must be considered. First, they act as representatives of their clients in the pursuit of justice, which is crucial for the clients they represent. Second, they help clients maintain the legitimacy of the judicial system and their own role as advocates. Besides these functions, advocates also have a significant role in legal education. This includes providing legal outreach, disseminating information about various regulations, and offering legal consultations through print media, electronic media, and in-person interactions. Advocates' role in defending their clients also encompasses upholding the principle of "presumption of innocence".²⁶

Renewing the Legal Culture of Advocates in Civil Law Enforcement in Modern Courts

Civil cases fall under the authority of the general court and religious court. The number of civil cases in the Semarang Class 1A District Court as shown on Table 1.

TABLE 1. Number of Civil Cases in Semarang Class 1A Religious Courts

Period	The amount of e-court and e-litigation cases	The amount of non-e-court cases	The amount of cases
2022	831	3114	3945
2023	867	2792	3659
2024 (January-May 2024)	408	920	1328

²⁶ M. Wendy Trijaya Aria Alim Wijaya, Rilda Murniati, "Hak Eksekusi Kreditor Separatis Terhadap Benda Agunan Dalam Kepailitan," *Pactum Law Journal* 2, no. 03 (2019): 713–24.

Source: Religious Court of Semarang, May 2024

The Table 1 shows that the number of civil cases that use e-court e-litigation is less than non-e-court. Registration of cases in religious courts that use e court and e litigation is carried out by registered users (advocates). Material Parties (general public) do not use e court e litigation. In 2022 the number of non-e court cases will be 3,144, in 2023 there will be 2,792 and from 2024 to May 2024 there will be 920. The number of civil cases in the Religious Courts is more than in the Semarang Class 1 A District Court as shown on Table 2.

TABLE 2. Number of Civil Cases in Semarang Class 1A District Court

Period	The Amount of (E-Court)	The Amount of E-Litigation
2022	604	70
2023	636	230
2024 (January-May)	229	141

Source: Pengadilan Negeri Semarang, May 2024

The table above shows that the Semarang District Court has a relatively small number of civil cases. Litigating parties including advocates and non-advocates use e-court to register their cases. For non-advocate litigants, it is facilitated with the assistance of Corner E court officers, so that no cases are registered manually (non e court).

According to Judy Prasetya, S.H., M.H as Semarang District Court Judge regarding the validity of E-court e litigation that:

“In PERMA No. 1 of 2019 and Circular Letter of the Director General of the General Courts Number 4 of 2019, it is mandatory for advocates to register cases using e-court. Circular Letter from the Director General of the General Courts (Circular Letter Number 4 of 2019 concerning the Obligation to Register Civil Cases via E-Court) which requires that advocates in the Java-Bali region must e-court. Apart from that, if I'm not mistaken, since PERMA No. 1 of 2019 concerning E-Litigation, it is mandatory to be an advocate. Then in PERMA No. 1 of 2019, if there are many

parties, for example there are seven defendants, then there are those who don't want e-court, then e-court cannot be continued. But with PERMA No. 7 of 2022 it is known as the Hybrid Procedure” (Interview 13 May 2024).

The legal basis is important in the implementation of case registration using e-court and litigation for parties in dispute, especially advocates. Ruslan Hendra Irawan, S.H., M.H as a Semarang District Court judge said that the response from the litigants to the legal basis for implementing e-court e-litigation was as follows:

“I think they really understand, when we conveyed it they welcomed it. Because it makes things easier for them by not having to queue for court dates. Plus, this obligation lies with the advocates, along with the advocates' association, they also regulate advocates. So, an advocate who is registered in the oath report is the basis for obtaining an e-court account. All advocates now have accounts as registered users. And so far, no one has objected to that” (Interview 20 May 2024).

The judge stated that the legal basis for e-court e-litigation could be understood by the Advocate because the Advocate already had an understanding of the knowledge and abilities so that he did not object to the existence of e-court e-litigation. The authors use data collection techniques through interviews at several advocates' offices/institutions including the Antasena and PERADI Advocates and Legal Consultants Offices, Semarang City.

The research results related to the legal culture of advocates in e-court and litigation-based civil cases are described as follows.

a) Antasena Advocate and Legal Consultant Office

The legal culture of using e-court among advocates at the Antasena Advocate and Legal Consultant Office can be seen in the results of interviews with Advocate Mr. Rezky Tamelah, S.H., M.H. and Evan Ferdiyan Rachmanto, S.H. The understanding of e court is as follows.

“I use e court because it makes registration easier because it can be done anywhere, it is mandatory to use e court. and I

choose, accept and implement it as a form of compliance with the Supreme Court. Using e-court is fast, efficient and easy because it can be done anywhere as long as there is an internet connection in the area. 'The urgency of e-court can be to speed up and support the case registration process, then the completion of case examinations refers to the principles of fast, simple and low cost because it is easier' (Rezky Tamelah Interview Results, 22 April 2024)

According to Rezky, the important role of advocates as formal parties representing clients (material parties) in using e-court.

"Advocates are limited to providing services as requested by the material party (client), there is no need to educate about e-court. Advocates register cases with the court. From the court side, namely the court administration department, they will definitely notify you if there is an error via the WhatsApp application, then revisions can also be sent via WhatsApp. (Rezky Tamelah Interview Results, April 22 2024)"

Regulations on the use of e-litigation in accordance with Article 20 paragraph 1 Perma No. 7 of 2022 which stipulates "Cases registered electronically shall be heard electronically". Advocates' perceptions of the necessity are as follows.

"I think it's troublesome, because it has to be accompanied by continuous outreach to people who have registered for e-court and have to use e-litigation. From the Supreme Court itself, the introduction of e-court in advocate organizations has only been done once or twice and this has not been sustainable. I am still more comfortable using e court but not yet for e litigation. In practice, it is always conveyed by the panel of judges, but again it is still an option, the panel of judges has not yet made it mandatory that the trial must be tried by e-litigation method because the registration is e-court. 'Apart from that, there must be an agreement between the two parties

to carry out e-litigation” (Rezky Tamelah Interview Results, 22 April 2024).

Rezky's way of thinking, arguing and acting to criticize the necessity of using e-litigation, stating that it is troublesome, is an understanding that the adoption of new technology in legal practice requires continuous socialization and support. Rezky emphasized that the outreach carried out by the Supreme Court regarding e-court and e-litigation was still inadequate and unsustainable, causing inconvenience in its use. Even though e-court provides convenience, Rezky considers e-litigation not yet practical because it still requires an agreement between both parties and is not yet required by the panel of judges. This approach reflects the importance of ongoing education and clear policies to ensure a smoother transition that is accepted by all legal practitioners.

E-litigation/electronic trials as a form of necessity was also emphasized by advocate Evan Ferdiyan Rachmanto, S.H.

“Even though we have used e-litigation, there are still several agendas where we have to go to a conventional trial, for example mediation agendas and providing evidence. E court/electronic registration is more convenient, easier and more practical, but for e litigation there are still some people who still cannot use it, because in e litigation there are maximum upload hours determined by the panel of judges and if it is more than the specified hours 'It has been determined that it cannot be accepted and the file must be scanned first, so there are still many senior advocates who don't understand” (Interview Results with Evan Ferdiyan Rachmanto, 24 April 2024).

Evan's way of thinking, arguing and acting to explain the difference in the number of cases between e-court and e-litigation, which states that although e-court is more convenient, easier and more practical, there are still obstacles in using e-litigation. These constraints include time limits for uploading files set by the panel of judges, which if exceeded will result in the files not being accepted without additional processing. This means that several senior advocates still experience difficulties in adapting the use of e-litigation. This shows that although

e-court has become a convenient and practical option, the challenges of using e-litigation still affect their participation in the system.

a) Peradi Kota Semarang

The PERADI Advocate Organization in Semarang City, which was interviewed by the Writing Team, stated that legal culture includes views, expectations and attitudes towards e-court and e-litigation through its representative, Dr. Dwi Nuryanto Ahmad, S.H., M.H., M.M. (51 years old, working as an advocate for 26 years). The meaning of E Court is as follows.

“In my opinion, the meaning/definition of E Court is that the existence of E Court makes it easier to register cases because it can be done anywhere. Regulations for its use are in the Letter of the Director General of the Supreme Court of Republic of Indonesia Religious Courts No. 069/DJA/HK.021/2020 then I accept and implement it as a form of compliance with the Supreme Court. The Supreme Court requires advocates to use e-court because it fulfills the principles of accuracy, simplicity and low costs and can also make the work of advocates easier or make the performance of advocates more effective. The advantage of the e-court application system is that it saves costs and can be done anywhere so it is more efficient and effective to use. The urgency of registering cases electronically for the first judiciary in Indonesia is good progress in the current era of globalization. because this is a good progress in the world of justice, more specifically in Indonesia, more specifically for fast assets and low costs, in my opinion sometimes E Court can be said to be simple but for those who don't understand IT it's not so simple” (Interview results with Dwi Nuryanto Ahmad, May 2, 2024).

The views and attitudes regarding e court by Mr Dr Dwi Nuryanto Ahmad, S.H., M.H., M.M who responded positively are a form of legal culture renewal by responding to Supreme Court regulations through the attitude of carrying out registration via e court.

Another PERADI representative, Mr. Fajar Purnama, S.H., M.H., 42 years old, has experience as an advocate for 8 years, interprets e-litigation as follows:

“In my opinion, the meaning or definition of E Litigation is that all the choices are correct, where E Litigation is a form of fast, simple asset acceleration and low costs for the litigants. E Litigation must be carried out by advocates in accordance with Perma Number 7 of 2022 concerning amendments to Perma number 1 of 2019. E Litigation is a necessity for litigants because it is faster, cheaper and simpler. times, non-divorce lawsuits 10 times. The easiest stages to practice are for answers, replicas, duplicates, conclusions and decisions. Because we don't need to come directly to court and also to make administration easier” (Fajar Purnama interview results, 4 May 2024).

Mr Fajar Purnama, S.H., M.H understands the e-litigation/electronic trial process well, so that being able to behave in the e-litigation process well is a form of renewal of the legal culture of advocates. The e-litigation process is a hybrid with conventional.

“Registration uses the E Court, then the first trial is carried out by mediation, where the mediation cannot use the E Court but must come. But the procedural law must remain the same and appropriate, only the administration regarding answers, replicas, duplicates. That all must be appropriate. for evidence and witnesses must come directly to court and procedural law must continue in accordance with the legislation. So, E Court E Litigation only makes things easier for the administration” (Fajar Purnama interview results, 4 May 2024).

Fajar Purnama stated that the e court e litigation process still refers to civil procedural law which aims to facilitate the trial process.

As an advocate, it is very important to understand technology and its application in judicial practice because every advocate must be able to keep up with developments in the modern era.

“It is very necessary for advocates to understand technology in conducting electronic trials, as an advocate you have to keep up with the times, the laws are always being updated and the regulations still exist, all professions must be able to keep up with the times” (Results of interviews with Fajar Purnama, 4 May 2024).

In Indonesia, e-court is a cutting-edge legal idea that uses digital technology to streamline court operations²⁷. Understanding technology is a necessity for advocates in the digital era. By keeping up with the times and mastering technology, advocates can improve their competence, provide higher quality legal services, and contribute to the creation of a better judiciary in Indonesia. So, it is true that it is very necessary for lawyers to understand technology in conducting electronic trials.

Based on aspects/factors that influence an advocate to understand and use technology in using E Court and E Litigation, namely age and education.

“In my opinion, the factors that influence the advocate's use of E Court E Litigation are age and education” (Fajar Purnama interview results, 4 May 2024).

Age and education are two important factors that can influence the use of E-Court and E-Litigation by advocates. However, it is important to remember that there are many other factors that can also influence this. By increasing technology accessibility, providing training and guidance, and creating a culture that supports the use of E-Court and E-Litigation, we can encourage more advocates to use these systems and experience their benefits.

According to Friedman, legal culture can be divided into two types based on the subjects that shape it. *First*, there is an external legal culture that covers the general public at large. *Second*, there is an internal legal culture developed by law enforcers. These two types of legal culture influence each other. If the external legal culture is healthy, the internal

²⁷ Dian Latifiani et al., “The Revitalizing Indonesia’s Religious Courts System: The Modernization Impacts and Potentials of E-Court,” *Jurnal Hukum Unissula* 40, No. 1 (2024): 1–13.

legal culture will also adapt, because law enforcers are basically part of society itself. Friedman categorizes the work culture of law enforcement officers as internal legal culture. Daniel S. Lev also put forward a similar concept, stating that internal legal culture includes the legal culture possessed by people who practice law, one of which is lawyers. Legal culture includes attitudes and values that exist in society, both those related to society's view of the law (external legal culture) and those related to the legal apparatus itself (internal legal culture)²⁸. These two aspects of legal culture have a significant role in the success of law enforcement. The work culture of officers is one of the key elements in the effectiveness of law enforcement officers. The role of advocates as legal practitioners is very vital in the development of a country. Advocates are one of the pillars that determine the structure of society in various aspects, such as the economy, legal system, politics and socio-culture. The close relationship between law and legal practitioners plays an important role in creating a Law Society Minded, where compliance with the law is based on awareness, not fear.²⁹

Technological advances have encouraged the Supreme Court to update its legal system by implementing e-Court and e-Litigation. E-Litigation is a further development of the use of e-Court which was first regulated in Supreme Court Regulation (PERMA) No. 3 of 2018 concerning Electronic Administration of Cases in Court, later amended by PERMA No. 1 of 2019 concerning Electronic Administration of Cases and Trials in Court, and finally refined with PERMA No. 7 of 2022 concerning Amendments to Supreme Court Regulation no. 1 of 2019 concerning Electronic Administration of Cases and Trials in Court, as well as the issuance of Decree of the Chairman of the Supreme Court (SK KMA) No. 363/KMA/SK/XII/2022 concerning Technical Instructions for Electronic Administration of Cases and Trials in Court. Advocates are registered users as stated in Article 1 paragraph 4 of PERMA No. 7 of 2022 which reads 'Registered Users are advocates,

²⁸ Muhammad Budian Noor, "Upaya Peningkatan Kesadaran Hukum Masyarakat," *De Cive: Jurnal Penelitian Pendidikan Pancasila Dan Kewarganegaraan* 2, no. 8 (2022), <https://doi.org/10.56393/decive.v2i8.1599>.

²⁹ Marthen Indra Mangiwa, Elfrida Ratnawati Gultom, and Marthen Indra Mangiwa, "Peran Advokat dalam Menangani Tindak Pidana Kekerasan Seksual Terkait Budaya Hukum di Tengah Masyarakat," *UNES Law Review* 5, no. 2 (2022).

curators or administrators who meet the requirements as SIP users with rights and obligations regulated by the Supreme Court'. If the defendant is represented by a Registered User, namely an Advocate, then the trial will be carried out via e-Litigation in accordance with the provisions stated in Article 20 paragraph (4) PERMA No. 7 of 2022. Then, online case registration via e-Court can be done by Advocates (Registered Users) and Other Users. Advocates who become Registered Users must first register and obtain an account, as well as undergo a validation process by the High Court where they are sworn in.³⁰

Renewing the legal culture of advocates through the implementation of Supreme Court Regulations (PERMA) and the Decree of the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court (SK KMA) is a strategic step in realizing law as a tool of social engineering. Roscoe Pound introduced the theory of Law as a tool of social engineering, which means that law can function as a tool to change or engineer social values in society. Roscoe Pound argued that law does not only act as a successor to power but can also function as a tool for engineering society.³¹ This concept was then further developed by Mochtar Kusumaatmadja to suit the context of the situation and conditions in Indonesia. This thinking is at the core of the pragmatic legal realism school.³² To carry out its function as a social engineering tool, Roscoe Pound groups the interests that must be protected by law as follows:

1. Public interests: Public needs owned by individuals come from life, where every individual in society has a responsibility towards each other and uses goods that are open to the public interest.
2. Community interests: The demands of social life involve fulfilling all the needs of society as a whole so that society can function and remain well maintained.
3. Personal interests: Individual claims or demands originate from the individual's life perspective which includes

³⁰ Lisfer Berutu, "Mewujudkan Peradilan Sederhana, Cepat Dan Biaya Ringan Dengan e- Court," *Jurnal Ilmiah Dunia Hukum* 5, no. 1 (2020).

³¹ P Zhang et al., "IEEE Draft Standard for Spectrum Characterization and Occupancy Sensing," in *IEEE Access*, vol. 9, 2019.

³² Michael Blackman, "Intellectual Property: A Power Tool for Economic Growth," *World Patent Information* 25, no. 4 (2003), [https://doi.org/10.1016/s0172-2190\(03\)00075-9](https://doi.org/10.1016/s0172-2190(03)00075-9).

personal interests, domestic or household relationships, and other substantive interests.

Law as a tool of social engineering can be interpreted as a way to change people's behavior according to the desired goals. Factors that influence it include legislators, law enforcers, justice seekers, and others. Law not only plays a role in confirming habits and patterns of behavior that already exist in society, but also directs them in the desired direction by eliminating habits that are considered undesirable and creating new patterns of behavior. This view reflects the modern view which sees law as a means, especially as a tool of social engineering.³³

In the context of e-Court and e-Litigation based civil cases, these regulations function as instruments to encourage significant social change in legal practice. The Supreme Court Perma and Decree not only provide a clear and firm legal framework for the implementation of e-Court and e-Litigation, but also change the paradigm of advocates in handling cases. Justice represents an effort to create a fair and impartial alignment in supporting the interests of the relevant community. To achieve this ideal goal, law enforcement strength is needed by the government.³⁴ Thus, the implementation of e-Court and e-Litigation is a crucial step in efforts to renew the legal culture of advocates. The presence of e-Court and e-Litigation not only speeds up the judicial process, but also encourages advocates to develop new skills in using digital tools. In this way, the law enforcement powers carried out by the government can more effectively accommodate the needs of society in this digital era. The implementation of e-Court and e-Litigation not only changes the way lawyers work, but also changes the overall dynamics in the justice system. Advocates are no longer only expected to master traditional legal aspects, but also to understand and utilize technology effectively in their legal practice. This not only increases efficiency and accessibility in resolving cases, but also changes the legal culture of advocates to be more adaptive, responsive and

³³ M. Yusuf Yahya and Harwis Alimuddin, "Roscou Pound: Hukum Sebagai Alat Rekayasa Sosial (Keterhubungannya Dengan Kaidah La Yunkaru Tagayyur Al-Ahkam bi Tagayyuri Azzaman)," *Indonesian Journal of Shariah and Justice* 2, no. 2 (2022), <https://doi.org/10.46339/ijsj.v2i2.22>.

³⁴ Ade Adhari et al., "Analysis Of The Formulation Of Criminal Provisions In Law Number 12 Of 2012 Concerning Higher Education," *Jurnal Dinamika Hukum* 23, no. 2 (2023), <https://doi.org/10.20884/1.jdh.2023.23.2.3654>.

innovative. Thus, e-Court and e-Litigation are not only technological tools, but also as catalysts in renewing legal culture that is able to face the demands of the modern era.

Conclusion

This research finally concluded that the urgent need to renew the legal culture of advocates stems from their significant roles and authority in the legal system, including as: (a) independent and free law enforcers, (b) providers of legal services and legal aid, (c) distributors of free legal aid to indigent justice seekers, and (d) legal aid providers affiliated with legal aid institutions. These roles place advocates at the forefront of ensuring access to justice and upholding the rule of law. Reforming the legal culture of advocates requires systemic changes, which can be achieved through regulatory developments such as the promulgation of PERMA No. 1 of 2019, concerning the electronic administration of cases and trials in court, and its subsequent refinement by PERMA No. 7 of 2022, which amends the earlier regulation. Furthermore, the Decree of the Chairman of the Supreme Court (SK KMA) No. 363/KMA/SK/XII/2022, which provides technical instructions for the electronic administration of cases and trials, is another critical step in shaping the future of advocacy. These legal instruments act as tools for social engineering, facilitating the modernization and reform of the legal culture among advocates, and ensuring that the profession remains responsive to the demands of contemporary legal practice.

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*The whirlwinds of revolt will
continue to shake the foundations of
our nation until the bright day of
justice emerges.*

Martin Luther King, Jr.

Acknowledgment

Thank you to LPPM UNNES for funding our research, as well as the parties who have helped so that the research runs smoothly.

Funding Information

The research has been funded by LP2M UNNES 2024.

Conflicting Interest Statement

There is no conflict of interest in the publication of this article.

Publishing Ethical and Originality Statement

All authors declared that this work is original and has never been published in any form and in any media, nor is it under consideration for publication in any journal, and all sources cited in this work refer to the basic standards of scientific citation.