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ANALYSIS OF THE ENFORCEMENT OF THE ADVOCATE CODE OF ETHICS REGARDING VIOLATIONS IN THE RELATIONSHIP WITH CLIENTS

ANALISIS PENEGAKAN KODE ETIK ADVOKAT TERHADAP PELANGGARAN DALAM HUBUNGAN DENGAN KLIEN

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Abstract

This study examines the enforcement of the advocates' code of ethics concerning violations in attorney-client relationships. It focuses on the forms of ethical violations, enforcement mechanisms, and the effectiveness of sanctions in protecting clients and maintaining advocates' professionalism. This research employs a normative legal method using statutory and conceptual approaches. The data were collected through a literature review of relevant legislation, books, and scholarly journals. The findings indicate that ethical violations may include neglecting clients' interests, disclosing confidential information, conflicts of interest, and dishonesty in providing legal services. Enforcement is conducted through complaints and examinations by the Honorary Council of the advocates' professional organization, with sanctions imposed according to the severity of the violations. The effectiveness of ethical enforcement depends on consistent sanctions, objective examinations, and continuous supervision and professional development. Therefore, strengthening the enforcement of the code of ethics is necessary to protect clients' rights and maintain public trust in the legal profession.

Keywords : Advocates, Code of Ethics, Clients, Law Enforcement, Professionalism.

Abstrak

Penelitian ini membahas penegakan kode etik advokat terhadap pelanggaran dalam hubungan dengan klien. Permasalahan yang dikaji meliputi bentuk pelanggaran kode etik, mekanisme penegakan, serta efektivitas penerapan sanksi dalam melindungi klien dan menjaga profesionalitas advokat. Penelitian ini menggunakan metode hukum normatif dengan pendekatan perundang-undangan dan konseptual. Data diperoleh melalui studi kepustakaan terhadap peraturan perundang-undangan, buku, dan jurnal ilmiah yang relevan. Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa pelanggaran kode etik dapat berupa

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pengabaian kepentingan klien, pembocoran rahasia, konflik kepentingan, dan ketidakjujuran dalam pemberian jasa hukum. Penegakannya dilakukan melalui mekanisme pengaduan dan pemeriksaan oleh Dewan Kehormatan organisasi advokat dengan penerapan sanksi sesuai tingkat pelanggaran. Efektivitas penegakan kode etik bergantung pada konsistensi penerapan sanksi, objektivitas pemeriksaan, serta pengawasan dan pembinaan yang berkelanjutan. Oleh karena itu, penguatan penegakan kode etik diperlukan untuk melindungi hak klien dan mempertahankan kepercayaan masyarakat terhadap profesi advokat.

Kata Kunci : Advokat, Kode Etik, Klien, Penegakan Hukum, Profesionalitas.

1. INTRODUCTION

The legal profession plays a crucial role in providing legal assistance and protecting the interests of people facing legal issues. In carrying out their duties, advocates are not only required to understand laws and regulations but also to maintain honesty, responsibility, and a professional attitude toward clients. The relationship between advocate and client is built on trust, as clients entrust their legal interests to advocates in the hope of receiving assistance in accordance with legal provisions. Therefore, advocates' behavior in carrying out their profession must be guided by a code of ethics to protect client interests and maintain trust in the legal profession.

Regulations regarding the legal profession in Indonesia are stipulated in Law Number 18 of 2003 concerning Advocates. This law affirms that advocates are law enforcers who have a free and independent status in carrying out their profession. This freedom does not mean advocates can act without limits, but rather must be accompanied by legal responsibility and professional ethics. The Indonesian Advocates Code of Ethics serves as a guideline for advocates in maintaining professional behavior, including in their relationships with clients. Problems can arise when advocates fail to properly fulfill their obligations, for example, by neglecting the interests of clients, failing to provide honest information, abusing trust, or failing to fulfill agreed-upon responsibilities. These circumstances demonstrate that the existence of ethical codes must be accompanied by effective implementation and oversight.

Enforcing the code of ethics is crucial for maintaining the dignity of the legal profession. Mardiana discusses the application of ethical sanctions to advocates who commit professional violations in Indonesia, while Nardo examines ethical accountability for violations committed by advocates. Both studies demonstrate the importance of accountability mechanisms in ensuring that the profession adheres to applicable ethical regulations. Furthermore, Suwandi and Mardani outline the enforcement of the code of ethics in cases of client theft or seizing from colleagues, including the complaint mechanism and sanctions through the Advocates' Honorary Council. These studies can serve as a foundation for understanding that enforcing the code of ethics is not simply a matter of prohibiting clients; it also requires an investigation process and the imposition of sanctions commensurate with the severity of the violation.

Attention to the professionalism of advocates can also be found in the writings of Budi Sastra Panjaitan and other authors regarding reforms in advocate regulations and strengthening the role of sharia advocates. Meanwhile, Panjaitan's discussion of the role of advocates in legal aid in the contemporary era demonstrates that the implementation of the legal profession is related to the public's need for responsible legal services. Although this discussion does not specifically focus on violations in the advocate-client relationship, his thoughts are relevant to understanding the importance of professionalism, competence, and responsibility in providing legal services. Within this professional relationship, ethical violations must be handled proportionately to maintain client protection without violating the advocate's right to a fair hearing.

Enforcement of the advocate code of ethics against violations in client relationships remains crucial, particularly regarding the types of violations, complaint handling mechanisms, and the application of ethical sanctions. This research aims to analyze how legal provisions and codes of ethics regulate advocates' responsibilities to clients and how these regulations are enforced when

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violations occur. This study is expected to provide an understanding of the importance of supervision and accountability within the legal profession in building professional relationships with clients. Furthermore, this research is expected to serve as a basis for strengthening the enforcement of the code of ethics so that the legal profession can carry out its functions responsibly and maintain public trust.

In addition to regulatory aspects and enforcement mechanisms, the effectiveness of the advocate code of ethics enforcement is also influenced by the advocate's professional awareness and the client's courage in filing a complaint when they feel aggrieved. In some circumstances, clients may not understand their rights as users of legal services or are unaware of the procedures to be followed when an advocate is suspected of committing a violation. This situation can lead to problems in the advocate-client relationship, preventing appropriate treatment. Therefore, understanding of the rights and obligations of each party needs to be improved so that professional relationships can operate openly and responsibly. Furthermore, advocate organizations play a crucial role in ensuring that every complaint is examined based on evidence and the provisions of the code of ethics, rather than on personal interests or pressure from certain parties.

Enforcement of the code of ethics also requires a balance between client protection and respect for advocate independence. Advocates must have the freedom to determine the legal steps necessary to defend their clients' interests, but this freedom remains limited by law and professional ethics. When alleged violations occur, investigations must be conducted objectively, taking into account the actions taken, the obligations breached, and the resulting consequences. The imposition of sanctions commensurate with the severity of the violation is necessary so that enforcement of the code of ethics is not merely formal but also provides a coaching and preventative effect. In this way, the code of ethics can function as a guideline for behavior and an accountability mechanism that maintains the quality of legal services.

The growing public demand for legal services requires advocates to continuously improve their professionalism. Clients not only require assistance capable of resolving legal issues but also expect clear communication, transparency of information, and treatment that respects their rights. Advocates who can meet these expectations can build healthy professional relationships and increase public trust in law enforcement institutions. Conversely, if allegations of ethical violations are not handled appropriately, trust in advocates and their professional organizations can be eroded. Therefore, enforcement of the code of ethics should be viewed as part of efforts to improve the quality of legal services and maintain the honor of the profession, not merely as a means of imposing sanctions on advocates who commit errors.

Research on the enforcement of the advocate code of ethics in relationships with clients is crucial for providing a picture of the alignment between applicable regulations and the implementation of professional responsibilities. This study is expected to explain how the code of ethics enforcement mechanism can provide certainty in handling complaints, encourage advocate accountability, and protect client interests from actions that conflict with professional ethics. Furthermore, the research findings are expected to provide input for advocate organizations in strengthening oversight and increasing the ethical awareness of their members. Consistent and fair enforcement of the code of ethics is expected to create a more professional relationship between advocates and clients and support the realization of legal services that can be trusted by the public.

2. RESEARCH METHOD

This research employs a normative legal research method, focusing on the study of legal norms, laws, and principles related to the legal issues under study. This method was chosen because the research aims to analyze the regulation and enforcement of the advocate code of ethics regarding violations occurring in relationships with clients. Normative legal research is used to examine the alignment between advocates' professional obligations and the legal provisions governing the practice of their profession. This approach also allows researchers to identify provisions that form the basis for advocates' accountability in the event of alleged ethical violations.

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The approaches used include a statutory approach and a conceptual approach. The statutory approach is conducted by examining Law Number 18 of 2003 concerning Advocates and the Indonesian Advocates Code of Ethics, which relate to advocates' obligations to clients and the mechanisms for enforcing the code of ethics. Meanwhile, the conceptual approach is used to understand the principles of professionalism, responsibility, client confidentiality, and the protection of legal interests in the relationship between advocates and clients. The use of these two approaches is expected to provide a comprehensive understanding of the legal basis and ethical principles that underlie the handling of legal professional violations.

The legal materials used in this research consist of primary and secondary legal materials. Primary legal materials include laws and regulations and ethical code provisions directly related to the research object. Secondary legal materials include law books, scientific journal articles, and previous research findings discussing the legal profession, legal aid, ethical accountability, and client protection. This research also utilizes the work of Budi Sastra Panjaitan on the renewal of regulations for sharia advocates and a critique of the role of sharia advocates in providing legal aid as supporting materials for understanding the professionalism and responsibilities of advocates. All legal materials were obtained through library research, exploring relevant and academically credible sources.

Legal materials were collected through searching and documenting regulations, books, journal articles, and scientific publications relevant to the research focus. The collected materials were then grouped based on their main issues, namely the regulation of advocates' obligations to clients, forms of ethical code violations, and mechanisms for enforcing and applying ethical sanctions. This grouping was done to ensure each source had a clear connection to the problem being analyzed. A review of previous research was also used to compare the authors' perspectives and identify aspects that still need further study in enforcing the advocate code of ethics.

3. RESULT AND DISCCUSSION

The Position and Code of Ethics of Advocates in Relations with Clients

Advocates are a legal profession that holds a crucial role in protecting and upholding the legal interests of the community. This position relates not only to an advocate's ability to resolve cases but also to their responsibility to carry out their profession honestly, independently, and professionally. In their relationships with clients, advocates act based on the trust placed in them to handle specific legal matters. This trust imposes an obligation on advocates to provide services in accordance with the client's legal interests, maintain confidential information, and avoid actions that could harm those using their services.

The position of advocates as law enforcers is regulated by Law Number 18 of 2003 concerning Advocates. Article 5 paragraph (1) of this law states that advocates have the status of free and independent law enforcers, guaranteed by law and regulations. This provision demonstrates that advocates hold a crucial position in the law enforcement system, but the exercise of their authority must remain within legal boundaries and professional ethics. The freedom of advocacy does not mean the ability to act as they please in handling cases, but rather ensures that advocates can independently defend clients' interests without neglecting their professional responsibilities.

In carrying out their profession, advocates are also bound by the Indonesian Advocates Code of Ethics, which serves as a guideline for behavior in providing legal services. The code of ethics is necessary to determine the standards of attitude and action that advocates must adhere to, both when dealing with clients, fellow advocates, and other parties related to the performance of their duties. Relationships with clients require transparency of information, good communication, and responsible performance of obligations. Advocates must provide explanations regarding legal steps that can be taken, convey case developments fairly, and refrain from making promises about outcomes beyond their control. These ethical provisions are essential to ensure that professional relationships are based not only on service agreements but also on moral and legal responsibility.

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Regulations regarding the advocate-client relationship also relate to the obligation to provide legal services responsibly. Budi Sastra Panjaitan, in his book "From Advocates for Social Justice," positions the role of advocates in relation to efforts to achieve justice for society. This thinking can be used to understand that the legal profession is not solely oriented towards personal interests or compensation, but also has a dimension of social responsibility. In relationships with clients, this responsibility is reflected through seriousness in handling cases, providing understandable explanations, and treating clients with respect for their rights. Advocates must avoid actions that could cause harm due to negligence or abuse of trust, as a healthy professional relationship is a crucial element in providing legal services.

The obligation of advocates to provide legal services can also be seen in the provisions regarding free legal aid. Article 22 paragraph (1) of Law Number 18 of 2003 concerning Advocates states that advocates are required to provide free legal aid to justice seekers who cannot afford it. This provision demonstrates that the profession's responsibility extends not only to clients who can afford legal services but also to those in need of legal assistance but who face economic limitations. In his study of legal aid, Panjaitan emphasized the importance of the role of advocates in helping the public obtain justice through legal services. Therefore, the implementation of the code of ethics needs to be understood as part of an effort to ensure that legal services are provided responsibly and do not ignore the interests of justice seekers.

Strengthening the position of advocates must be accompanied by improvements in professionalism and institutional support. Panjaitan, in his study on the role of legal aid organizations in Islamic universities, demonstrated that legal aid institutions play a role in helping communities overcome obstacles to accessing justice. Although the study focused on legal aid institutions, the discussion is relevant to the importance of institutional support in the delivery of legal services. In the relationship between advocates and clients, professional organizations play a crucial role in establishing standards of conduct, providing complaint mechanisms, and ensuring that alleged ethical violations are handled through accountable procedures. The existence of these mechanisms is necessary so that clients have a channel to file complaints when they feel aggrieved, while advocates still have the opportunity to provide explanations and defense.

Panjaitan's study on law enforcement by advocates also demonstrates that the presence of advocates is necessary to help communities understand and navigate legal processes that are sometimes difficult to access without assistance. This notion reinforces the view that advocates hold broader responsibilities than simply representing clients in a case. Advocates must carry out their duties with due regard for the principles of fairness, responsibility, and adherence to professional regulations. Therefore, the regulation of a code of ethics in relationships with clients serves a dual function: as a guideline for advocate behavior and as a basis for assessing whether certain actions deviate from professional obligations. Consistent enforcement of the code of ethics is necessary to ensure that advocates' positions as law enforcers are accompanied by behavior consistent with the trust placed in them by the public.

The position and regulation of the advocate code of ethics in relationships with clients demonstrate that professional freedom must be balanced with ethical responsibility. The law provides the basis for advocates to practice their profession independently, while the code of ethics directs professional conduct to maintain integrity and the interests of clients. In practice, these regulations need to be supported by advocates' understanding of their obligations, clients' awareness of their rights, and an objective oversight mechanism. With the link between the legal basis, ethical guidelines, and professional oversight, the advocate-client relationship is expected to operate professionally and support the realization of fair and reliable legal services.

Violations of the Advocate Code of Ethics in Client Relations

The relationship between an advocate and a client is not only based on the provision of legal services, but also entails trust and professional responsibility that must be maintained throughout the relationship. Clients entrust their legal matters to advocates with the expectation of receiving legal

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assistance. Therefore, every advocate is obligated to carry out their duties honestly, maintain the confidentiality of information, and consider the client's legal interests. If these obligations are neglected, the advocate's actions can raise ethical issues that must be assessed based on applicable professional regulations.

The Indonesian Advocate Code of Ethics regulates several obligations directly related to the advocate-client relationship, particularly in Article 4. These provisions include a prohibition on providing misleading information, a prohibition on promising victory in a case, the obligation to consider the client's capabilities when determining fees, and the obligation to maintain professional confidentiality. The code of ethics also stipulates that advocates must not leave their duties at a time that could be detrimental to the client's interests. This provision demonstrates that ethical violations are not only related to actions that violate the law but can also arise when advocates fail to meet the standards of conduct required in carrying out their profession.

One form of violation that requires attention is providing false or misleading information to clients. Advocates have an obligation to objectively explain the circumstances of a case, including the likelihood of success, obstacles, and potential legal risks. If an advocate promises a win without a justifiable basis, such actions can create false expectations and influence the client's decision. Such behavior contradicts the principle of honesty that must be maintained in a professional relationship. Leo Nardo's research also identified client neglect, issues with revocation of power of attorney, and disclosure of client secrets as forms of violation that can occur in the advocate-client relationship. This indicates that ethical violations can relate to how advocates communicate and carry out their responsibilities regarding the cases entrusted to them.

Another form of violation relates to the management of fees and case handling costs. Advocates are entitled to receive fees for legal services rendered, but their determination must comply with ethical requirements and the agreement with the client. Problems can arise when advocates charge unnecessary fees, fail to adequately explain the cost components, or fail to provide transparent information regarding the use of funds entrusted to them. Clients have the right to receive a reasonable explanation of legal service fees to avoid misunderstandings in the professional relationship. The Indonesian Advocates' Code of Ethics explicitly stipulates that advocates must consider the client's capabilities when determining fees and are not permitted to charge unnecessary fees. Therefore, the issue of fees concerns not only payment agreements but also the advocate's honesty and responsibility in maintaining the client's trust.

Another form of violation is neglecting a client's interests or failing to carry out entrusted duties. Neglect can occur when an advocate fails to take necessary legal action without justifiable reason, fails to provide information on case progress, or allows a case to stall without adequate explanation. These actions have the potential to harm the client, especially when there is a deadline for filing legal action or when procedural action must be taken immediately. Research by Nurhaliza, Dwi Utamika Mutiara, and Fauziah Lubis on ethical code violations in the preparation of powers of attorney also highlights the issue of legal services that are not carried out properly and can be detrimental to clients. Therefore, advocates need to ensure that every action in case handling is carried out carefully, in accordance with the authority granted, and while still taking into account the client's legal interests.

Violations can also occur through the disclosure of confidential information obtained during the professional relationship. Clients often provide facts, documents, and personal information necessary for developing legal strategies. This information should not be used or disseminated carelessly, as it could harm the client's legal position or personal interests. The obligation to maintain confidentiality must remain in place even after the legal service relationship has ended, in accordance with applicable ethical codes. Furthermore, advocates must avoid conflicts of interest, particularly when dealing with the conflicting interests of multiple parties. If these conflicts are not managed properly, advocates risk losing their ability to advocate independently and objectively. A study of violations of the advocate code of ethics by Muhammad Fathony, Akbar Maulana, and Fauziah Lubis emphasized the importance

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of the code of ethics as a guideline for limiting professional actions and maintaining advocate accountability.

In assessing an action as a violation of the code of ethics, it is necessary to distinguish between client dissatisfaction with the outcome of a case and the advocate's actions that genuinely deviate from their professional obligations. Losing a case does not in itself prove a violation, as the outcome is influenced by facts, evidence, legal provisions, and the considerations of authorized parties. Ethical assessments should be directed at the advocate's behavior, implementation of their obligations, and evidence supporting the complaint. Therefore, alleged violations must be investigated through the mechanisms of authorized professional organizations, while still providing the advocate with the opportunity to present a defense. This approach is necessary to balance client protection with the principle of a fair hearing for advocates.

Violations of the advocate code of ethics in relationships with clients can include providing misleading information, promising victory, charging inappropriate fees, neglecting duties, disclosing confidentiality, and conflicts of interest. These various forms demonstrate that ethical violations involve not only actions that directly harm clients but also behavior that undermines integrity and trust in professional relationships. Therefore, understanding these violations is an important basis for assessing an advocate's accountability and determining appropriate ethical enforcement measures in accordance with applicable regulations.

Code of Ethics Enforcement Mechanism and Sanctions for Advocates

Enforcing the code of ethics is a crucial part of maintaining the honor and responsibility of the legal profession, particularly when performing duties that directly relate to clients. Advocates are not only required to possess the ability to understand and apply the law but also to adhere to the standards of conduct applicable to their profession. When alleged violations arise, resolution must be conducted through accountable mechanisms to protect the client's interests and ensure the advocate's right to advocate. Regulations regarding the code of ethics and supervision of advocates are contained in Article 26 of Law Number 18 of 2003 concerning Advocates, which affirms the obligation of advocates to comply with the code of ethics and places the advocate organization as the oversight body.

The code of ethics enforcement mechanism essentially begins with a complaint regarding an advocate's actions that allegedly deviate from their professional obligations. Complaints can be submitted by any aggrieved party, including clients, as long as they comply with the provisions of the applicable Honorary Council procedural law. The complaint must explain the actions in question and be accompanied by supporting information or evidence to allow for an objective examination. In practice, the Honorary Council of an advocate organization plays a role in examining and assessing whether the reported action truly meets the elements of an ethical violation.

After a complaint is received, the examination process must provide the complainant and the advocate complained about with the opportunity to present their respective statements and evidence. This stage is crucial to ensure that the decision is not based solely on one party, but rather on an assessment of the facts and relevant ethical code provisions. The Honorary Council then assesses whether the reported action constitutes a violation and makes a decision based on the examination results. The Indonesian Advocates' Code of Ethics stipulates that the decision must contain considerations that form the basis for the determination and indicate the ethical code provisions violated. This provision provides the basis for a focused examination process and a rational explanation of the resulting decision.

The imposition of sanctions on advocates must consider the nature and seriousness of the proven violation. Article 16 of the Indonesian Advocates' Code of Ethics stipulates several forms of sanctions, including a simple warning, a severe warning, temporary suspension for a specified period, and dismissal from membership in the professional organization. A simple warning may be given for less serious violations, while more serious or repeated violations may constitute grounds for imposing more severe sanctions. Therefore, sanctions should not be imposed uniformly, but must consider the

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circumstances of the case, the impact on the client, and the advocate's conduct during the course of their profession.

In the advocate-client relationship, the imposition of sanctions becomes crucial when violations involve neglect of the case, unaccountable use of funds, leaking confidential information, or other actions contrary to professional obligations. Ethical sanctions serve as a form of professional accountability and a reminder for advocates to refrain from repeating similar actions. However, the imposition of sanctions should still be based on the results of the investigation, not solely on the client's dissatisfaction with the outcome of the case. This aligns with Budi Sastra Panjaitan's discussion on the importance of capacity building.

Enforcement of the code of ethics also requires consideration of the relationship between the authority of advocate organizations and other legal processes. Ethical audits aim to assess an advocate's compliance with professional standards, while criminal or civil investigations have their own basis, objectives, and procedures. Therefore, an action can raise both ethical and legal issues if the elements stipulated in the relevant regulations are met. However, the existence of an ethical complaint does not automatically prove that an advocate is guilty. Every process must be carried out in accordance with applicable authorities and procedures to ensure that ethics enforcement is not used as a means of pressure on advocates performing their duties.

Although provisions regarding supervision and sanctions are in place, the effectiveness of ethical code enforcement remains influenced by their implementation. Complaints that are not handled clearly, a lack of information regarding the progress of an investigation, or decisions that are not adequately justified can undermine client confidence in the profession's oversight mechanisms. Therefore, advocate organizations need to promote professional examinations, clear decision delivery, and consistent implementation of sanctions.

Effectiveness of Code of Ethics Enforcement in Protecting Clients and Maintaining Advocates' Professionalism

The effectiveness of enforcing an advocate's code of ethics can be seen in its ability to prevent violations, provide protection to clients, and maintain the quality of advocate behavior in carrying out their profession. A code of ethics is not sufficient as a written rule; it must be consistently implemented in practice. In relationships with clients, the existence of a code of ethics provides boundaries regarding actions that advocates may and may not take, including in conveying case information, maintaining confidentiality, managing honoraria, and exercising granted powers. Law Number 18 of 2003 concerning Advocates also places oversight of advocate behavior as a crucial part of maintaining the honor of the profession.

From a client protection perspective, enforcement of the code of ethics can be deemed effective if clients have clear access to file complaints and receive a fair hearing when they feel aggrieved by an advocate's actions. A complaint mechanism provides an opportunity for clients to demand accountability for behavior suspected of deviating from professional obligations. However, this protection is not solely determined by the availability of a complaint procedure. The examination process must also be conducted objectively, within a reasonable timeframe, and accompanied by clearly reasoned decisions. If complaints are not handled transparently, client trust in professional organizations can be eroded and the goal of enforcing the code of ethics may be less achieved.

Enforcement of the code of ethics also impacts the professionalism of advocates. Professionalism is not only related to the ability to formulate legal arguments or win cases, but also concerns honesty, responsibility, independence, and adherence to professional obligations. Research by Putri Abella, Niken Dayu, and Heki Marzadi shows that violations such as conflicts of interest, information leaks, and abuse of the profession can undermine the integrity and public trust in advocates. Therefore, enforcement of the code of ethics must be oriented toward improving professional behavior, not simply imposing punishment after a violation occurs. Preventive efforts through ethics education and increasing understanding of professional obligations must go hand in hand with enforcement.

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The effectiveness of code of ethics enforcement further depends on the consistency of sanction application. Sanctions imposed must be commensurate with the type and seriousness of the violation and based on the results of the investigation. If similar violations are handled differently without justifiable reasons, code of ethics enforcement risks being perceived as unfair. Conversely, clear decisions and consistent application of sanctions can strengthen advocates' adherence to professional standards. In this context, the Honorary Council plays a crucial role in ensuring that complaint handling is not merely administrative but also results in accountability in accordance with the provisions of the code of ethics.

Another issue affecting the effectiveness of code of ethics enforcement is the ability of clients to understand their rights when using legal services. Not all clients are aware of the complaint procedures, the institutions authorized to investigate alleged violations, or the necessary evidence. Therefore, legal organizations need to provide easily understandable information regarding service standards, legal obligations, and the procedures for filing complaints. Access to this information is crucial to ensure clients are not placed in a vulnerable position when facing problems with legal service providers. Budi Sastra Panjaitan's thoughts on strengthening the role of advocates and legal aid also emphasize the importance of improving professional competence and institutional support to expand public access to justice.

In addition to enforcement mechanisms, professionalism needs to be strengthened through ongoing development and evaluation. Advocates' organizations can promote code of ethics education, training in client relationship management, and increased understanding of conflicts of interest and confidentiality obligations. These preventative measures can help advocates identify the risk of violations before they cause harm to clients. Panjaitan and other authors in a study on reforming regulations for sharia advocates highlighted the importance of improving competency and institutional support so that advocates can carry out their professional roles more optimally. Although the study focused on sharia advocates, the notion of

The effectiveness of code of ethics enforcement should ultimately not be measured solely by the number of complaints or the number of sanctions imposed. Assessments should also consider whether clients receive proper complaint handling, whether decisions are accountable, and whether similar violations can be prevented from recurring. Effective oversight requires accessible procedures, independent and objective audits, and evaluation of the implementation of decisions. In this way, code of ethics enforcement can serve as a means of client protection and a mechanism to maintain the dignity of the legal profession.

The effectiveness of enforcing the advocate code of ethics is determined by the integration of clear rules, accessible complaint mechanisms, fair hearings, consistent application of sanctions, and ongoing professional development. If these elements are implemented effectively, the code of ethics will not only serve as a basis for taking action against advocates found to have committed violations, but also serve as a guideline for building healthy professional relationships with clients. Therefore, strengthening the role of advocate organizations and increasing advocate awareness of ethical responsibilities are crucial steps to maintaining public trust in the legal profession.

4. CONCLUSION

Enforcing the advocate code of ethics is a crucial effort to protect client interests and maintain the professionalism of advocates in carrying out their duties. Violations of the code of ethics, such as neglect of cases, leaking client secrets, conflicts of interest, and dishonesty in the provision of legal services, need to be addressed through a complaint mechanism and investigation by the Honorary Council of the advocate organization. The imposition of sanctions must be based on objective investigation results and tailored to the severity of the violation. The effectiveness of code of ethics enforcement is determined not only by the existence of rules and sanctions, but also by the consistency of their application, the transparency of the investigation process, and ongoing professional development. Therefore, advocate organizations need to strengthen oversight and ensure that client

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complaints are handled fairly and responsibly. These efforts are expected to increase public trust, protect client rights, and maintain the honor of the advocate profession in achieving justice.

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