

Strengthening Advocates' Professional Ethical Values as an Effort to Prevent Corruption in the Law Enforcement System: An Anti-Corruption Education Perspective

Penguatan Nilai-Nilai Etika Profesi Advokat sebagai Upaya Pencegahan Korupsi dalam Sistem Penegakan Hukum: Perspektif Pendidikan Anti-Korupsi

Laura Sulistania^{1*}, Reisy Salsabila² 

^{1,2}Universitas Islam Negeri Sumatera Utara, Indonesia

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ABSTRAK

Korupsi merupakan salah satu permasalahan serius dalam sistem penegakan hukum di Indonesia yang tidak hanya merugikan keuangan negara, tetapi juga melemahkan kepercayaan masyarakat terhadap institusi hukum. Profesi advokat sebagai bagian dari aparat penegak hukum memiliki peran strategis dalam menjaga integritas dan mewujudkan keadilan yang berlandaskan etika profesi. Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk menganalisis penguatan nilai-nilai etika profesi advokat sebagai upaya preventif dalam mencegah praktik korupsi dalam perspektif pendidikan anti korupsi. Metode yang digunakan adalah penelitian kualitatif dengan pendekatan normatif melalui studi literatur terhadap peraturan perundang-undangan, kode etik advokat, serta karya ilmiah yang relevan. Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa internalisasi nilai kejujuran, tanggung jawab, independensi, dan profesionalisme dalam pendidikan anti korupsi berperan penting dalam membentuk karakter advokat yang berintegritas. Pendidikan anti korupsi tidak hanya berfungsi sebagai sarana pembentukan kesadaran hukum, tetapi juga sebagai instrumen preventif dalam mencegah penyimpangan etika profesi dalam praktik penegakan hukum. Oleh karena itu, penguatan pendidikan anti korupsi berbasis etika profesi advokat menjadi langkah strategis dalam mewujudkan sistem peradilan yang bersih, transparan, dan berkeadilan..

ABSTRACT

Corruption is one of the most serious problems in Indonesia's law enforcement system, as it not only causes financial losses to the state but also weakens public trust in legal institutions. The legal profession, particularly advocates, plays a strategic role in maintaining integrity and ensuring justice based on professional ethics. This study aims to analyze the strengthening of advocates' professional ethical values as a preventive effort to combat corruption from the perspective of anti-corruption education. The method used in this research is a qualitative approach with normative legal research through literature review of statutory regulations, advocates' code of ethics, and relevant scholarly works, including studies by Budi Sastra Panjaitan. The results show that the internalization of values such as honesty, responsibility, independence, and professionalism within anti-corruption education plays an important role in shaping advocates with strong integrity. Anti-corruption education functions not only as a means of developing legal awareness but also as a preventive instrument to reduce ethical violations in law enforcement practice. Therefore, strengthening anti-corruption education based on advocates' professional ethics is a strategic step toward establishing a clean, transparent, and just judicial system.

*Corresponding author

E-mail addresses: laurasulistania@gmail.com (Laura Sulistania)*

E-mail addresses: reisyasalsabila827@gmail.com (Reisy Salsabila)

1. INTRODUCTION

Corruption remains one of the most serious challenges facing the law enforcement system in Indonesia. Corrupt practices not only cause financial losses to the state but also undermine public trust in law enforcement institutions and weaken the authority of law as an instrument of social justice. According to Indonesia's Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI) report in 2024, Indonesia scored 37 on a scale of 0–100, indicating that corruption remains a structural problem in governance and national law enforcement (Transparency International, 2024). Furthermore, the 2024 Anti-Corruption Behavior Index published by the Central Statistics Agency (Badan Pusat Statistik) recorded a score of 3.85, reflecting a decline compared to the previous year and indicating that anti-corruption culture within society remains relatively weak (Badan Pusat Statistik, 2024). These conditions demonstrate that corruption eradication cannot rely solely on repressive measures but also requires preventive approaches through the strengthening of anti-corruption education.

The integrity of law enforcement officials is a fundamental factor in establishing a fair, transparent, and accountable judicial system. Advocates, as one of the key components of law enforcement, occupy a strategic position in ensuring the supremacy of law and the protection of human rights. The legal profession is recognized as an *officium nobile*, requiring a high level of moral and professional responsibility in carrying out its duties. Advocates not only serve as legal representatives for clients but also bear a social responsibility to safeguard the integrity of the judicial system and ensure that law enforcement processes are conducted in accordance with the principles of justice and legal certainty (Panjaitan, 2022). Furthermore, advocates have a moral obligation to ensure equal access to justice, particularly for vulnerable and economically disadvantaged groups within society (Panjaitan, 2025).

However, various challenges continue to emerge in the practice of the legal profession, particularly concerning violations of professional ethics that may create opportunities for corruption and other forms of unprofessional conduct within the law enforcement process. Such ethical violations not only damage the image of the advocate profession as an *officium nobile* but also contribute to declining public confidence in the judicial system as a whole. Advocates are entrusted not only with normative professional responsibilities but also with moral and spiritual obligations to uphold the values of justice as part of an integrity-based legal practice (Panjaitan, 2025).

Anti-corruption education plays a strategic role as an instrument for character building and legal awareness among law enforcement officials, including advocates. It functions not only as a medium for transferring knowledge about the dangers of corruption but also as a process of internalizing integrity values such as honesty, responsibility, discipline, courage, and concern for the public interest. The internalization of these values is expected to shape advocates with strong integrity and a commitment to clean and equitable law enforcement. This is consistent with research findings emphasizing that strengthening advocates' capacities through value-based and professional ethics education is an essential component in supporting a legal aid system oriented toward substantive justice and the protection of citizens' rights (Panjaitan, 2025). In line with this perspective, previous studies indicate that advocates play a crucial role in promoting access to justice and maintaining professionalism within the law enforcement system, particularly through the reinforcement of legal and ethical values in legal practice (Panjaitan et al., 2024). This role demonstrates that advocates function not merely as legal representatives but also as integral components of the law enforcement structure with a moral responsibility to preserve the integrity of the judicial system. Moreover, within contemporary legal aid practices, advocates are expected to integrate the values of justice, humanity, and professionalism as the foundation of legal services provided to society (Panjaitan, 2025).

Based on the foregoing discussion, this study is conducted to analyze the strengthening of advocates' professional ethical values as a preventive effort against corruption within the law enforcement system from the perspective of anti-corruption education. This research is expected to contribute academically to the development of anti-corruption education studies and serve as a reference for strengthening the integrity of the advocate profession as part of a clean, transparent, and just judicial system.

Literature Review

Concept of Anti-Corruption Education

Anti-corruption education is one of the strategic instruments in preventing corruption through a preventive approach based on character development and legal awareness. It is not merely oriented toward transferring knowledge about the dangers of corruption but also emphasizes the internalization of integrity values such as honesty, responsibility, discipline, social awareness, and courage in rejecting unlawful practices. These values serve as an essential foundation for developing individuals with integrity who contribute to a social system that supports clean and transparent governance.

Research has shown that anti-corruption education plays a significant role in developing the integrity of university students as future law enforcement officers and leaders. Through a systematic and continuous process of internalizing integrity values, anti-corruption education can become an effective means of fostering a legal culture grounded in honesty and social responsibility (Putri, 2024).

Furthermore, anti-corruption education serves as a preventive measure to strengthen public legal awareness regarding the importance of maintaining integrity in both social and professional activities. Therefore, anti-corruption education is not only the responsibility of formal educational institutions but also an integral part of the national strategy for establishing a fair law enforcement system free from corruption (Putri, 2024). Professional Ethics of Advocates in the Law Enforcement System

Advocates constitute one of the essential elements within the law enforcement system and hold a strategic role in upholding justice, protecting human rights, and ensuring the implementation of the rule of law. The advocate profession is required to uphold professional ethical values as the foundation for providing legal services to society. Professional ethics serve as moral and professional guidelines that regulate advocates' conduct, ensuring that they remain within the framework of the law and the principles of justice. Advocates bear responsibilities not only as legal representatives of their clients but also as guardians of justice within society through the provision of legal assistance oriented toward the public interest (Panjaitan, 2025). This role demonstrates that advocates are an integral part of the law enforcement system and possess a moral responsibility to ensure that access to justice can be enjoyed by all members of society. The existence of advocates within the legal aid system occupies a strategic position in bridging society's need for fair and equal legal services. Therefore, the professionalism of advocates is measured not only by their legal technical competence but also by their commitment to integrity and social responsibility in carrying out their professional duties (Panjaitan, 2025).

Strengthening the Integrity Values of the Advocate Profession through the Perspective of Anti-Corruption Education

Strengthening the integrity values of the advocate profession is one of the essential steps in supporting corruption prevention efforts within the law enforcement system. Integrity serves as the primary foundation for maintaining the professionalism of advocates as part of the law enforcement apparatus responsible for promoting social justice. The strengthening of advocates' integrity can be achieved through the internalization of values such as honesty, responsibility, moral courage, and concern for the public interest. Advocates play a strategic role in providing legal assistance to society as a manifestation of social justice values based on moral principles and professionalism (Panjaitan, 2025). Advocates function not only as legal practitioners but also as agents of social change who contribute to strengthening an integrity-based judicial system (Panjaitan, 2025).

2. METHOD

This study employs normative legal research using a descriptive qualitative approach. Normative legal research is conducted through the examination of primary and secondary legal materials related to the issues under investigation in order to obtain arguments, theories, and concepts that serve as the basis for addressing the research problem (Marzuki, 2019). The study focuses on strengthening the ethical values of the advocate profession as a preventive measure against corruption within the law enforcement system through the perspective of anti-corruption education.

The research applies both the statutory approach and the conceptual approach. The statutory approach is conducted by examining various laws and regulations related to the advocate profession and anti-corruption education, including Law Number 18 of 2003 concerning Advocates and provisions regarding the professional code of ethics for advocates. Meanwhile, the conceptual approach involves examining concepts related to professional ethics, the integrity of law enforcement officers, and anti-corruption educational values as preventive measures against corrupt practices within the law enforcement system.

The sources of data in this study consist of primary and secondary legal materials. Primary legal materials include laws and regulations related to the advocate profession and anti-corruption education. Secondary legal materials include textbooks, scholarly journals, and previous studies relevant to the research topic, including the works of Budi Sastra Panjaitan discussing the role of advocates in the law enforcement system and access to justice. In addition, official institutional reports are utilized as supporting data to strengthen the research analysis.

Data collection in this study is conducted through library research by collecting and reviewing various primary and secondary legal materials relevant to the research problem (Soekanto, 2014). The collected data are then analyzed using descriptive qualitative methods by classifying, interpreting, and

systematically connecting relevant legal materials to generate comprehensive conclusions in accordance with the research objectives. The analysis emphasizes strengthening the ethical values of the advocate profession as part of preventive efforts to combat corruption through an anti-corruption education approach within Indonesia's law enforcement system.

3. RESULT AND DISCUSSION.

The Role of Professional Ethics of Advocates in the Law Enforcement System

Advocates play a strategic role in ensuring access to justice and maintaining balance within the law enforcement process (Panjaitan, 2025). This role demonstrates that advocates function not only as defenders of their clients' interests but also as guardians of justice within the legal system. Advocates are one of the essential elements of the law enforcement system and occupy a strategic position in ensuring the realization of justice and the protection of human rights. They serve not only as providers of legal assistance but also as part of the judicial system responsible for maintaining the integrity and professionalism of law enforcement (Panjaitan, 2025).

The correlation between the ethical values of the advocate profession and the values of anti-corruption education can be observed in the following table.

Table 1. Correlation between the Ethical Values of the Advocate Profession and Anti-Corruption Education Values

NO	Ethical Values of the Advocate Profession	Anti-Corruption Education Values	Forms of Implementation in the Advocate Profession
1	Integrity	Honesty	Refraining from manipulating legal facts and upholding the truth in legal proceedings.
2	Independence	Responsibility	Remaining free from external pressure or influence in carrying out professional duties.
3	Professionalism	Discipline	Performing legal duties in accordance with legal standards and the advocate code of ethics.
4	Loyalty to the Law	Social Awareness	Prioritizing the interests of justice over personal interests.
5	Accountability	Transparency	Being accountable for every legal action undertaken in professional practice.
6	Professional Morality	Courage	Demonstrating the courage to reject bribery and improper intervention in legal processes.

Based on the table above, it can be understood that the ethical values of the advocate profession are closely related to the values embedded in anti-corruption education. This relationship indicates that strengthening the professional ethics of advocates can serve as a preventive measure against corruption within the law enforcement system. This finding is consistent with the view of Panjaitan (2024), who argues that advocates, as an integral part of the judicial system, bear the responsibility of maintaining professional integrity in order to support the realization of access to justice based on the principles of professionalism and legal morality.

The value of integrity possessed by advocates correlates with the value of honesty in anti-corruption education. Integrity serves as the primary foundation for advocates in carrying out their professional duties without engaging in the manipulation of legal facts or the abuse of authority. Anti-corruption education

places honesty as a fundamental value in developing individuals with integrity and commitment to clean and accountable law enforcement (KPK, 2020).

Furthermore, the value of advocates' independence is closely related to the value of responsibility in anti-corruption education. Independence implies that advocates must be capable of carrying out their profession freely and without interference from any party, including clients or other interested groups. The independence of the advocate profession is an essential requirement for maintaining objectivity in the law enforcement process, as stipulated in Law Number 18 of 2003 concerning Advocates. The value of professionalism is also strongly associated with the value of discipline in anti-corruption education. Professionalism is reflected in advocates' ability to perform their duties in accordance with legal provisions and the applicable professional code of ethics. Such professionalism constitutes part of the advocate's responsibility to maintain the quality of legal services provided to society and to prevent irregularities in law enforcement practices (Panjaitan, 2025).

In addition, advocates' loyalty to the law is closely linked to concern for the public interest. Advocates are not only responsible to their clients but also have a moral obligation to uphold justice within society. This is in line with Soerjono Soekanto's (2014) view that the legal profession performs a social function in maintaining order and justice within community life.

The value of accountability is associated with transparency in anti-corruption education. Accountability requires that every action undertaken by advocates be legally and morally justifiable. Transparency is one of the key principles in establishing a clean law enforcement system and enhancing public trust in judicial institutions (Marzuki, 2019).

Likewise, professional morality is closely related to the value of courage in anti-corruption education. Courage is required for advocates to reject all forms of corruption, bribery, and improper intervention that may undermine professional integrity. Anti-corruption education emphasizes the importance of moral courage as a preventive effort in developing a legal culture based on integrity (KPK, 2020).

Anti- Education as a Preventive Measure in the Law Enforcement System

Corruption is one of the most serious challenges that hinders the realization of a fair, transparent, and accountable law enforcement system. Corrupt practices not only cause economic losses to the state but also contribute to declining public trust in law enforcement institutions. Therefore, systematic and sustainable preventive efforts are required through anti-corruption education as part of a national strategy for corruption prevention. Anti-corruption education plays a significant role in shaping individuals with integrity and fostering legal awareness regarding the dangers of corruption in national and social life (KPK, 2020).

Anti-corruption education is a learning process aimed at instilling values such as honesty, responsibility, discipline, courage, social awareness, and commitment to the public interest as the foundation for anti-corruption behavior. These values constitute the primary basis for developing a legal culture oriented toward preventing corrupt practices from an early stage, particularly within higher education institutions, including legal education. This is consistent with the view that education plays a strategic role in developing legal awareness as part of efforts to establish an effective and just legal system (Soekanto, 2014).

Anti-corruption education serves as an important instrument for enhancing the integrity of law enforcement officers, including advocates as one of the key elements of the judicial system. As a profession recognized as an *officium nobile*, advocates possess a moral responsibility to maintain professionalism and integrity in performing their duties. Therefore, the internalization of anti-corruption educational values within the advocate profession represents a strategic step toward preventing legal misconduct that may lead to corrupt practices. The professionalism of advocates is closely associated with their moral commitment to maintaining access to justice and supporting the supremacy of law (Panjaitan, 2024).

The role of anti-corruption education as a preventive measure within the law enforcement system can be observed in the following table.

Table 2. The Role of Anti-Corruption Education as a Preventive Measure in the Law Enforcement System

No.	Anti-Corruption Education Values	Value Indicators	Forms of Implementation in the Legal Profession (Advocates/Lawyers)	Preventive Impact on Corruption
1	Honesty	Transparency in legal actions	Not manipulating legal facts and not fabricating evidence	Prevents bribery practices and case manipulation
2	Responsibility	Awareness of professional obligations	Performing duties in accordance with authority and the advocate's code of ethics	Reduces abuse of power
3	Discipline	Compliance with legal regulations	Adhering to legal procedures and professional standards for advocates	Minimizes violations of the code of ethics
4	Social Awareness	Public interest orientation	Providing legal assistance professionally and without discrimination	Enhances public trust in the legal system
5	Moral Courage	Firmness in rejecting interference	Rejecting bribery, gratuities, and pressure from certain parties	Prevents judicial mafia practices
6	Justice	Objectivity in legal processes	Upholding the principle of fairness in legal defense	Supports a transparent judicial system
7	Simplicity	A lifestyle not oriented toward material gain	Avoiding conflicts of interest in legal practice	Reduces the potential for gratuities
8	Independence	Professionalism free from external pressure	Practicing the profession without political or economic intervention	Strengthens the independence of law enforcement officers

Based on Table 2, it can be understood that anti-corruption education plays a strategic role as a preventive measure in strengthening the integrity of law enforcement officers, particularly advocates as part of the judicial system. Values such as honesty, responsibility, discipline, social awareness, and moral courage serve as the foundation for developing professionals with integrity who are capable of rejecting legal misconduct. The internalization of these values is essential in creating a transparent, accountable, and public-oriented law enforcement system (KPK, 2020; Soekanto, 2014).

Furthermore, the values of justice, simplicity, and independence contribute to maintaining advocates' independence from external interference and preventing conflicts of interest in legal practice. Strengthening these values through anti-corruption education can enhance advocates' professionalism while supporting the realization of access to justice within the judicial system. The professionalism of advocates is determined not only by technical competence but also by their moral commitment to preserving integrity and the rule of law within society (Panjaitan, 2025).

In addition, anti-corruption education functions as a means of developing a legal culture based on integrity through the reinforcement of professional ethical values within the law enforcement system. The integration of anti-corruption education into legal higher education curricula represents an effective preventive strategy for shaping future law enforcement officers who possess ethical awareness and social responsibility. Preventive approaches through education are considered more effective than purely repressive measures because they foster legal awareness from an early stage and cultivate individuals committed to honesty and responsibility (KPK, 2020).

The strengthening of anti-corruption education within the law enforcement system can also be achieved through improving the quality of legal professional education, internalizing professional codes of ethics, and ensuring continuous supervision of professional practice. Such efforts are expected to produce law enforcement officers who possess not only professional competence but also strong moral integrity in carrying out their duties. Therefore, anti-corruption education plays a strategic role as a preventive effort in establishing a clean, transparent, and just law enforcement system in Indonesia (Marzuki, 2019).

Strengthening the ethical values of the legal profession from an anti-corruption education perspective

Strengthening the ethical values of the legal profession from an anti-corruption education perspective is a strategic effort to establish a legal system characterized by integrity and justice. As a profession recognized as *officium nobile* (a noble profession), advocates have a moral responsibility to uphold honesty, independence, professionalism, and accountability in carrying out their duties as an integral part of the judicial system. Anti-corruption education plays a significant role in shaping advocates who possess strong integrity and a high level of legal awareness. Legal awareness and the integrity of law enforcement officials are essential factors in determining the effectiveness of law enforcement within society (Soekanto, 2014).

The strengthening of advocates' professional ethical values can also be achieved through the integration of anti-corruption education into legal higher education institutions as well as continuous professional legal training programs. Such integration aims to cultivate ethical awareness among prospective advocates from an early stage, enabling them to perform their professional duties responsibly and professionally. Anti-corruption education constitutes a preventive strategy that emphasizes character building through the internalization of values such as honesty, responsibility, discipline, and courage in professional life. The Corruption Eradication Commission (KPK) emphasizes that anti-corruption education aims to instill integrity values as a preventive measure against corrupt practices from an early stage (KPK, 2020).

Table 3. Examples of Strengthening Advocates' Professional Ethical Values from an Anti-Corruption Education Perspective

No.	Advocate Professional Ethics Values	Examples of Practical Implementation	Related Anti-Corruption Education Values	Impact on the Law Enforcement System	Reference
1	Integrity	Refusing clients' requests to manipulate legal facts	Honesty	Prevents case manipulation in judicial proceedings	KPK (2020)
2	Independence	Not accepting external interference in handling cases	Independence	Maintains the objectivity of legal processes	Soerjono Soekanto (2014)
3	Professionalism	Providing legal services in accordance with procedures and the advocate's code of ethics	Discipline	Improves the quality of legal services	Peter Mahmud Marzuki (2019)
4	Professional Responsibility	Providing legal assistance to the public without discrimination	Social Awareness	Expands access to justice	Budi Sastra Panjaitan (2025)
5	Moral Courage	Rejecting bribery and gratuity practices in legal processes	Moral Courage	Prevents judicial mafia practices	KPK (2020)

One example of implementing the strengthening of advocates' ethical values from an anti-corruption education perspective can be observed in advocates' refusal to engage in bribery or accept interference from certain parties during case proceedings. Advocates frequently encounter situations that

may create conflicts of interest, such as requests from clients to influence law enforcement officials through unlawful means. Advocates with high integrity remain committed to their professional code of ethics and reject any practices that contradict the principles of justice and the rule of law. Such conduct reflects the implementation of honesty and moral courage as fundamental values of anti-corruption education (KPK, 2020).

Another example can be seen in the role of advocates in providing professional legal assistance to society without discrimination, particularly to underprivileged groups through legal aid services. The fair and transparent provision of legal aid represents the implementation of social concern and professional responsibility in promoting access to justice. Advocates play a strategic role in maintaining the balance of the judicial system and ensuring that individuals' rights to obtain fair legal protection are fulfilled (Panjaitan, 2025).

Furthermore, strengthening the ethical values of the legal profession is closely associated with enhancing advocates' professionalism in safeguarding access to justice for the public. Professionalism is not solely determined by technical competence in understanding legal principles but also by a moral commitment to upholding justice and integrity within the judicial system. Advocates play a strategic role in maintaining the balance of the judicial system through professionalism and ethical responsibility toward society as part of efforts to realize access to justice (Panjaitan, 2025).

The strengthening of advocates' ethical values through an anti-corruption education perspective can also be carried out through the internalization of the nine core anti-corruption values: honesty, concern, independence, discipline, responsibility, hard work, simplicity, courage, and justice. These values serve as pillars of integrity that function as guidelines for professional conduct in preventing the abuse of authority within the legal enforcement system. Strengthening the ethical values of legal professionals is an essential component in developing a legal system that is transparent, accountable, and just (Marzuki, 2019).

4. CONCLUSION

Based on the discussion, it can be concluded that the ethics of the legal profession play a crucial role in supporting the realization of a law enforcement system that is characterized by integrity, transparency, and justice. As part of the law enforcement apparatus and recognized as an *officium nobile* (a noble profession), advocates are required to uphold the values of integrity, independence, professionalism, and responsibility in carrying out their duties. Strengthening the ethical values of the legal profession is a strategic measure to prevent legal misconduct that may lead to corruption within the judicial system. This is in line with the view of Budi Sastra Panjaitan (2025), who emphasizes that advocates' professionalism plays an important role in maintaining the balance of the judicial system and supporting public access to justice.

Furthermore, anti-corruption education serves a strategic preventive function in shaping advocates with strong integrity through the internalization of values such as honesty, responsibility, discipline, social awareness, courage, independence, and justice in legal practice. The integration of anti-corruption values into legal higher education and professional advocate training programs is an important step toward strengthening the ethical awareness of law enforcement officers from an early stage.

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