

## REFORMULASI PENGATURAN ADVOKAT VIRTUAL DALAM SISTEM LAYANAN HUKUM DIGITAL BERBASIS KEPASTIAN HUKUM DI INDONESIA

### *Reformulation of Virtual Advocate Regulations in a Legal Certainty-Based Digital Legal Services System in Indonesia*

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#### Abstrak

Perkembangan Legal Technology (*LegalTech*) dan Kecerdasan Buatan (*Artificial Intelligence*) telah mendorong transformasi layanan hukum menuju praktik advokasi virtual. Namun, sistem hukum Indonesia belum memiliki pengaturan yang secara khusus mengatur konsep, ruang lingkup, standar layanan, maupun tanggung jawab profesi advokat virtual, sehingga menimbulkan kekosongan hukum dan ketidakpastian dalam penyelenggaraan layanan hukum digital. Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk menganalisis kekosongan hukum terkait advokasi virtual serta merumuskan konsep reformulasi pengaturannya yang berbasis kepastian hukum di Indonesia. Penelitian ini menggunakan metode yuridis normatif dengan pendekatan peraturan perundang-undangan dan pendekatan konseptual. Bahan hukum dianalisis secara preskriptif melalui penafsiran gramatikal, sistematis, dan teleologis. Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa Undang-Undang Nomor 18 Tahun 2003 tentang Advokat, Undang-Undang Nomor 1 Tahun 2024 tentang Informasi dan Transaksi Elektronik, Undang-Undang Nomor 27 Tahun 2022 tentang Pelindungan Data Pribadi, serta Kode Etik Advokat Indonesia belum mengakomodasi praktik advokasi virtual. Reformulasi yang diusulkan meliputi pembentukan definisi hukum advokat virtual, pembatasan penggunaan Kecerdasan Buatan, standar identifikasi elektronik, pelindungan data klien, transparansi penggunaan teknologi, mekanisme pertanggungjawaban profesi, serta harmonisasi regulasi guna menjamin kepastian hukum dalam layanan hukum digital.

#### Kata Kunci:

Advokat Virtual  
Kecerdasan Buatan Kepastian  
Hukum  
Teknologi Hukum

#### Keywords:

Virtual Advocate  
Artificial Intelligence  
Legal Certainty  
Legal Technology

#### Abstract

The development of Legal Technology (*LegalTech*) and Artificial Intelligence has driven the transformation of legal services towards virtual advocacy practices. However, the Indonesian legal system does not yet have regulations that specifically regulate the concept, scope, service standards, or responsibilities of the virtual advocacy profession, resulting in a legal vacuum and uncertainty in the provision of digital legal services. This study aims to analyze the legal vacuum surrounding virtual advocacy and formulate a concept for reforming these regulations based on legal certainty in Indonesia. The study employs a normative juridical method with a statutory and conceptual approach. Legal materials are analyzed prescriptively through grammatical, systematic, and teleological interpretations. The results show that Law Number 18 of 2003 concerning Advocates, Law Number 1 of 2024 concerning Electronic Information and Transactions, Law Number 27 of 2022 concerning Personal Data Protection, and the Indonesian Advocates Code of Ethics do not yet accommodate virtual advocacy practices. The proposed reforms include establishing a legal definition for virtual advocates, setting limits on the use of Artificial Intelligence, electronic identification standards, client data protection, transparency in technology use, professional accountability mechanisms, and regulatory harmonization to ensure legal certainty in digital legal services.

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## INTRODUCTION

The development of digital technology has fundamentally transformed the governance of legal services in various countries, including Indonesia. This transformation is marked by the emergence of Legal Technology (LegalTech), which integrates information technology, artificial intelligence (AI), cloud computing, data analytics, and digital communication systems in the delivery of legal services. LegalTech's presence is no longer limited to law office administration, but has evolved into a key instrument for providing legal consultations through applications, websites, video conferencing, chatbots, and even and even Automated AI-based legal document preparation (Kamila, 2025). This situation has transformed the relationship between lawyers and clients, from a face-to-face relationship to an electronic legal relationship, unrestricted by time and space. The transformation of digital legal services has also been implemented in various countries, such as the United Kingdom through the development of Online Courts and the use of digital technology in legal practice; Singapore through the Legal Technology Platform; Australia through various integrated online legal services; and the United States, which has begun developing the use of Artificial Intelligence in legal research and legal document preparation (Irfan, B., 2023). These changes demonstrate that the legal profession has entered the digital era, demanding regulatory updates to accommodate technological developments without neglecting the principles of legal certainty, client rights protection, and professional accountability.

This paradigm shift in legal services has also seen significant growth in Indonesia. Online legal consultations are increasingly available through various digital platforms, including app-based services, websites, social media, and video communication. Furthermore, advocates are beginning to use Artificial Intelligence (AI) to prepare legal opinions, business contracts, lawsuits, responses, replies, and duplicates, as well as to analyze court decisions and laws. This phenomenon is further reinforced by advocates' increasingly active use of social media as a means of education and legal consultation for the public, giving rise to forms of legal services previously unknown in the legal profession. This development is actually a consequence of the recognition of electronic systems as regulated in Article 1 number 5 and Article 1 number 6 of Law Number 11 of 2008 concerning Electronic Information and Transactions as last amended by Law Number 1 of 2024 concerning the Second Amendment to Law Number 11 of 2008 concerning Electronic Information and Transactions. The use of electronic documents as valid evidence has also been legitimized through Article 5 paragraph (1), paragraph (2), and paragraph (3) of the law (Fransisko, Rendra Edwar, 2024). However, these technological developments have not been accompanied by specific regulations regarding the concept of virtual advocates, resulting in the development of digital legal services outpacing the development of regulations governing them.

This situation has given rise to various legal issues, indicating a normative vacuum in the Indonesian legal system. Current laws and regulations do not provide a definition of virtual advocates, the scope of digital legal services, or the limitations of the use of Artificial Intelligence in the provision of legal services. The benefit of AI technology in the preparation of legal documents even has the potential to produce inaccurate information (hallucinations), which can cause harm to clients if not verified by an advocate. Other issues relate to the lack of standards for electronic client identification and identity verification, the lack of standard mechanisms for storing client digital data, and the lack of provisions governing professional liability if errors in legal services occur due to the use of electronic systems or Artificial Intelligence (Mecca, Anggil Syahra Putri, Wahab Aznul Hidayat, 2025). This situation has the potential to conflict with the obligations of advocates as regulated in Article 4 of Law Number 18 of 2003 concerning Advocates regarding the advocate's professional oath and Article 19 of Law Number 18 of 2003 which requires advocates to keep confidential everything they know or obtain from clients due to their professional relationship (Khairun, 2025). The absence of

regulations regarding the implementation of these obligations in the digital space has resulted in legal uncertainty for both advocates and the public as users of legal services.

This lack of norms becomes even more apparent when analyzed based on the construction of existing laws and regulations. Law Number 18 of 2003 concerning Advocates is fundamentally based on the conventional legal services paradigm and therefore does not regulate the mechanism for providing legal services through digital platforms or the use of Artificial Intelligence in the practice of the legal profession. The Indonesian Advocates Code of Ethics also does not provide guidelines regarding the use of digital technology, the management of client electronic data, the obligation to be transparent about the use of artificial intelligence, or cybersecurity standards in the provision of legal services. Law Number 27 of 2022 concerning Personal Data Protection does regulate the obligation of personal data controllers to protect personal data through Articles 35 to 39, but does not specifically address the relationship between personal data protection and the obligation to maintain professional confidentiality for advocates. Similarly, regulations regarding electronic case administration, through various Supreme Court Regulations concerning electronic case administration and trials, only regulate the mechanism for administering justice, not the professional standards for virtual advocates in providing legal services to the public (Lorenza, Armenia, Artika Sophia Maharani, 2021). This disharmony demonstrates a legal gap between the development of digital technology and the substance of the legal profession's regulations, which remain oriented toward conventional legal services.

The absence of comprehensive regulations regarding virtual advocates has created various legal implications that could potentially disrupt legal certainty. Advocates lack clear guidelines regarding the limits of the use of Artificial Intelligence in the preparation of legal documents or in providing legal consultations to clients. The public, as consumers of legal services, also lacks clear assurance regarding the quality standards of digital legal services, the protection of electronic data confidentiality, and accountability for errors arising from the use of digital technology. This regulatory uncertainty creates opportunities for the misuse of advocate identities, the unauthorized provision of legal services, breaches of client confidentiality, and increased risks of personal data leakage. Other countries have begun to respond to these developments by developing guidelines for the use of Artificial Intelligence in legal practice, strengthening digital data security, and developing technology-based professional ethical standards. Conversely, Indonesia currently lacks regulations specifically governing virtual advocates as a new form of legal service, thus urgently needing legal reform to ensure that technological developments align with the principles of legal certainty, justice, and the protection of public rights (Kurniawijaya, Aditya, Alya Yudityastri, 2021).

Research on the digitalization of the legal profession, LegalTech, legal ethics, and the use of Artificial Intelligence in the legal field has been extensively conducted, but most still discuss the utilization of technology from a conceptual perspective without formulating a comprehensive legal construction regarding virtual advocates. Previous research also has not integrated the concepts of virtual advocate authority, limits on the use of Artificial Intelligence, electronic client identification and verification mechanisms, digital data protection standards, professional responsibility, and harmonization between Law Number 18 of 2003 concerning Advocates, Law Number 1 of 2024 concerning the Second Amendment to Law Number 11 of 2008 concerning Electronic Information and Transactions, Law Number 27 of 2022 concerning Personal Data Protection, and the Indonesian Advocates Code of Ethics within a single, comprehensive regulatory framework. Based on these conditions, a reformulation of virtual advocate regulations is needed that provides a legal definition, classification of digital legal services, standards for the use of Artificial Intelligence, mechanisms for protecting client data confidentiality, and regulations regarding the accountability of the technology-based legal

profession. This reform is expected to become the foundation for legal reform that can realize legal certainty, maintain the honor of the legal profession, and provide optimal legal protection for the public in the era of digital transformation.

## METHOD

This study employs a normative juridical research method that focuses on the study of positive legal norms, legal principles, doctrines, and legal concepts related to the regulation of virtual advocates in the digital legal services system in Indonesia. The approaches used include a statutory approach and a conceptual approach. The statutory approach is carried out through a systematic analysis of various relevant laws and regulations, including Law Number 18 of 2003 concerning Advocates, Law Number 1 of 2024 concerning the Second Amendment to Law Number 11 of 2008 concerning Electronic Information and Transactions, Law Number 27 of 2022 concerning Personal Data Protection, the Civil Code, Supreme Court Regulations concerning electronic case administration and trials, and the Indonesian Advocates Code of Ethics to identify synchronization, disharmony, or normative gaps related to virtual advocate practices. A conceptual approach is used to examine various theories, principles, doctrines, and expert opinions regarding the legal profession, legal certainty, legal protection, professional responsibility, Legal Technology (LegalTech), Artificial Intelligence, and digital legal services as a basis for developing a reformulation concept for virtual advocate regulations that are adaptive to technological developments. The legal materials used consist of primary legal materials in the form of relevant laws and court decisions, secondary legal materials in the form of books, scientific journals, research results, and expert opinions, and tertiary legal materials in the form of legal dictionaries, encyclopedias, and other supporting sources. All legal materials are analyzed using prescriptive legal methods through grammatical, systematic, and teleological interpretation to develop legal arguments and formulate a legal reform framework that ensures legal certainty, protects advocates and legal service users, and accommodates the development of digital technology-based legal services in Indonesia.

## RESULT AND DISCUSSION

### Transformation of Legal Services Towards Virtual Advocates in the Digital Era

The development of information technology has brought fundamental changes to the provision of legal services in various countries, including Indonesia. This change is marked by the birth of the concept of Legal Technology (LegalTech), namely the use of digital technology to increase the efficiency, effectiveness, and accessibility of legal services. The implementation of LegalTech is no longer limited to the digitization of law office administration, but has evolved into a technology-based legal service system that includes online legal consultations, electronic document management, analysis of court decisions, automated contract drafting, and the use of Artificial Intelligence in the legal decision-making process. This transformation is a consequence of the development of a digital society that demands legal services that can be accessed quickly, transparently, and without geographical limitations. In the context of national law, this development is legitimized through Law Number 11 of 2008 concerning Information and Electronic Transactions as most recently amended by Law Number 1 of 2024 concerning the Second Amendment to Law Number 11 of 2008 concerning Information and Electronic Transactions, which recognizes the existence of electronic systems, electronic information, and electronic documents as part of legal activities. Article 1 number 5 defines an Electronic System as a series of electronic devices and procedures that function to prepare, collect, process, analyze, store, display, announce, send, and distribute electronic information, while Article 5 paragraph (1), paragraph (2) and paragraph (3) emphasizes that Electronic Information and/or Electronic Documents and their printed results constitute valid legal

evidence (Putro, 2020). This recognition demonstrates that legal activity is no longer limited to conventional media but has expanded into the digital space, requiring the legal profession to adapt to technological developments.

The legal profession, as a pillar of law enforcement, has also undergone significant transformation due to the development of LegalTech. Article 1, number 1 of Law Number 18 of 2003 concerning Advocates states that an advocate is a person whose profession is to provide legal services, both inside and outside the court, who meets the requirements stipulated by law. Article 1, number 2, defines legal services as services provided by an advocate in the form of legal consultation, legal assistance, exercising power of attorney, representing, assisting, defending, and carrying out other legal actions for the legal interests of clients. The provision affords advocates broad discretion to provide legal services without restricting the means through which such services are delivered. Advances in technology have consequently given rise to the concept of virtual advocates, who provide legal services primarily through electronic systems, including digital applications, video conferencing, email, chat platforms, and internet-based legal service portals. This service model allows for online legal consultations, document signing using certified electronic signatures, electronic submission of legal documents, and even case coordination without the parties' physical presence. These changes demonstrate that digital transformation is not changing the nature of the legal profession, but rather transforming the mechanisms for delivering legal services to be more adaptive to developments in modern society (Candra, 2025).

The next development is marked by the increasingly widespread use of Artificial Intelligence in the practice of the legal profession. This technology can help advocates conduct legal research, analyze thousands of court decisions in a short time, draft legal opinions, draft business contracts, prepare lawsuits, responses, replies, duplicates, legal memoranda, and even analyze the legal risks of a transaction. The use of Artificial Intelligence also increases the efficiency of administrative work, allowing advocates to focus more on developing litigation strategies and resolving disputes that require professional judgment. However, this technology cannot replace the function of advocates as a profession with ethical and legal responsibilities. The provisions of Article 14 of Law Number 18 of 2003 concerning Advocates provide advocates with the freedom to express opinions or statements in defense of cases under their responsibility while adhering to the professional code of ethics and statutory provisions. In addition, Article 15 provides protection to advocates in carrying out their professional duties in good faith for the benefit of defending clients in court. The use of Artificial Intelligence must therefore be positioned as a supporting instrument (decision support system), not as a substitute for the professional judgment of advocates who remain responsible for every legal opinion and legal document produced (Asyiah, Ai Kusmiati, 2026).

This digital transformation has transformed the legal relationship between advocates and clients, which was previously based on face-to-face meetings, into one that takes place electronically. Legal consultations, granting powers of attorney, exchanging documents, paying honorariums, and coordinating case resolutions can now be conducted through an integrated electronic system. The validity of this legal relationship is supported by the recognition of electronic transactions as stipulated in Law Number 1 of 2024 concerning the Second Amendment to Law Number 11 of 2008 concerning Electronic Information and Transactions. Furthermore, digital legal relationships create new consequences in the form of obligations to maintain information security and client data confidentiality. Article 19 of Law Number 18 of 2003 concerning Advocates requires advocates to maintain confidentiality of everything learned or obtained from clients due to their professional relationship, unless otherwise stipulated by law. This obligation is further strengthened by Law Number 27 of 2022 concerning Personal Data Protection, specifically Article 35, which regulates the obligation of personal data controllers to protect personal data from unauthorized processing, and Article 39, which requires data controllers to maintain personal data security in accordance with the level of risk involved in data

processing. Thus, the digitalization of the relationship between advocates and clients not only requires mastery of technology, but also demands increased standards for protecting the confidentiality of legal information in the digital space (Endarto, Budi, 2024).

The development of digital legal services presents both opportunities and challenges for the legal profession. Technology-based legal services enhance access to justice by reducing operational costs, accelerating service delivery, and improving the efficiency of case resolution. They also enable advocates to manage electronic documents, collaborate across regions, and provide legal consultations remotely. However, the digitalization of the legal profession presents significant challenges, including personal data breaches, cyberattacks, misuse of advocate identities, unverified use of artificial intelligence, and the dissemination of inaccurate legal information resulting from AI hallucinations. These challenges are further complicated by the lack of specific regulations governing the use of Artificial Intelligence in legal practice or the lack of professional accountability mechanisms for errors caused by electronic systems. This situation demonstrates that technological development has moved faster than the formation of regulations, necessitating legal reforms that can keep pace with the dynamics of digital legal services (Jayanti, 2017).

Virtual legal practice has developed in various countries as part of the modernization of legal service systems. The United Kingdom has developed digital-based legal services through the use of Online Courts and various guidelines for the use of technology by the legal profession. The United States has encouraged the use of Artificial Intelligence to support legal research, contract analysis, and case document management while maintaining the obligation of professional verification by lawyers. Singapore has developed a Legal Technology Platform that integrates various digital services for law firms, thereby increasing the efficiency of public services. Australia has developed online legal consultation practices supported by ethical guidelines for the use of digital technology in the legal profession. The experiences of these various countries demonstrate that virtual legal practice is no longer merely a technological innovation but has become a real necessity in modern legal practice, requiring clear regulatory support. Indonesia has a legal foundation in the form of Law Number 18 of 2003 concerning Advocates, Law Number 1 of 2024 concerning Electronic Information and Transactions, and Law Number 27 of 2022 concerning Personal Data Protection, but these three regulations do not yet comprehensively regulate the concept of virtual legal practice (Widjaja, 2021).

### **Legal Gaps in the Regulation of Virtual Advocates in the Digital Legal Services System in Indonesia**

Regulations regarding the legal profession in Indonesia are currently still based on Law Number 18 of 2003 concerning Advocates, which was formulated in the context of conventional legal service practices. Article 1, number 1, defines an advocate as a person whose profession is to provide legal services, both in and out of court, while Article 1, number 2, defines legal services as providing legal consultations, legal assistance, exercising power of attorney, representing, accompanying, defending, and carrying out other legal actions for the legal interests of clients. Although this formulation provides ample scope for the form of legal services, the law does not regulate the mechanism for providing electronic-based legal services or the concept of virtual advocates as a new form of profession in the digital era. Provisions regarding the rights, obligations, authorities, legal protection, and responsibilities of advocates are still assumed to occur through conventional interactions between advocates and clients. This condition results in a lack of legal certainty regarding the status of legal services provided entirely through digital platforms, whether using applications, websites, video conferencing, or Artificial Intelligence technology. This regulatory gap demonstrates that Law Number 18 of 2003 has not been able to accommodate the rapidly evolving paradigm of legal services resulting from digital transformation, creating a legal gap between the development of legal professional practice and the substance of applicable positive law.

This gap is reflected in the Indonesian Advocates' Code of Ethics, which primarily regulates advocates' professional relationships with clients, fellow advocates, the courts, and the public within the context of conventional legal services. Although it upholds the principles of independence, integrity, professionalism, and confidentiality, and prohibits conduct that undermines the dignity of the legal profession, it does not establish ethical standards for the use of digital technology in the provision of legal services. There are no provisions regarding the obligation for advocates to disclose the use of Artificial Intelligence in the preparation of legal documents, limitations on the use of automated systems in legal consultations, verification mechanisms for analysis results generated by digital technology, or security standards for the storage of client electronic data. This lack of regulation may lead to ethical violations that are difficult to account for because there are no normative parameters regarding permitted and prohibited actions in virtual legal practice. As a result, advocate organizations also face difficulties in supervising and enforcing the code of ethics for digital legal services because the available ethical instruments have not kept pace with technological developments that are constantly changing.

The same problem is found in Law Number 1 of 2024 concerning the Second Amendment to Law Number 11 of 2008 concerning Electronic Information and Transactions. This law recognizes electronic systems, electronic information, electronic documents, electronic transactions, and electronic evidence as part of the national legal system. Article 5, paragraphs (1), (2), and (3), recognize Electronic Information and/or Electronic Documents as valid legal evidence, while Article 1, number 5 defines Electronic Systems. However, the substance of this law does not regulate the specific legal relationship between advocates and clients in the digital space. There are no regulations governing the legality of artificial intelligence-based legal consultations, the validity of AI-generated legal advice, advocates' obligation to verify AI-generated outputs, or the security standards for electronic systems used by law firms. In fact, the use of Artificial Intelligence in legal practice has different characteristics from the use of electronic systems in general because it concerns civil rights, litigation strategies, and the confidentiality of legal information that has high evidentiary value. The absence of these norms demonstrates a normative vacuum that has the potential to create legal uncertainty if errors in legal analysis occur or losses arise from the use of digital technology.

This regulatory vacuum also relates to the protection of personal data in the relationship between advocates and clients. Law Number 27 of 2022 concerning Personal Data Protection regulates the rights of personal data subjects, the obligations of personal data controllers, and data protection mechanisms through Articles 35 to 39. These provisions require data controllers to maintain the security of personal data from unauthorized processing and to implement protection measures appropriate to the level of risk posed. However, the law does not specifically regulate the position of advocates as personal data controllers in professional relationships, standards for storing digital legal documents, mechanisms for protecting electronic communications between advocates and clients, or procedures for handling data leaks containing professional secrets. On the other hand, Article 19 of Law Number 18 of 2003 concerning Advocates requires advocates to keep confidential everything they know or obtain from clients due to their professional relationship. The relationship between the obligation of professional confidentiality and the obligation to protect personal data has not yet been normatively harmonized, resulting in a lack of clarity regarding the digital security standards that must be applied by advocates in providing legal services electronically.

Another aspect that indicates a legal vacuum relates to the electronic administration of cases within the judiciary. The Supreme Court has modernized the judicial system through Supreme Court Regulation Number 1 of 2019 concerning Electronic Administration of Cases and Trials in Court, as amended by Supreme Court Regulation Number 7 of 2022. This regulation governs the mechanisms for registering cases, summoning parties, submitting court

documents, paying court fees, and conducting electronic trials. However, this regulation focuses more on the governance of judicial administration than on the legal profession. The regulation does not address standards for electronic client identification and authentication, mandatory use of information security systems by advocates, mechanisms for granting legal representation entirely digitally, or advocate liability in the event of misuse of electronic identity documents or system disruptions that result in losses for clients. As a result, the practice of virtual advocacy has developed without the support of legal instruments specifically governing the provision of digital legal services, leading to inconsistent practice in the field.

The accumulation of these various normative gaps indicates a legal gap and normative vacuum in the regulation of virtual advocacy in Indonesia. The lack of a legal definition for virtual lawyers, the lack of standards for the use of Artificial Intelligence, the lack of regulation of electronic client identification mechanisms, the lack of regulations regarding the protection of digital data confidentiality, and the lack of professional accountability mechanisms in technology-based legal services have resulted in legal uncertainty for both lawyers and the public as users of legal services. This situation opens up opportunities for technology misuse, leaks of confidential client information, inaccurate legal advice due to the use of Artificial Intelligence, legal consultation practices by unauthorized parties, and difficulties in determining the basis for legal accountability in the event of a dispute. From the perspective of legal certainty, this scenario contradicts the principle that every legal relationship should have a clear normative foundation, enabling the effective implementation of the parties' rights and obligations. Therefore, the establishment of specific regulations governing virtual lawyers is an urgent necessity as part of national legal reform that will ensure the development of digital legal services occurs in an accountable manner, provides legal protection for the public, and upholds the honor and independence of the legal profession amid the era of digital transformation.

### **Reformulation of Virtual Advocate Regulations in the Legal Certainty-Based Digital Legal Services System in Indonesia**

Reformulation of the regulation of virtual advocates must begin with the establishment of a legal definition expressly included in the amendment to Law Number 18 of 2003 concerning Advocates. This provision needs to add a new norm defining a virtual advocate as an advocate licensed to practice their profession in accordance with statutory provisions and providing some or all legal services through an electronic system while still adhering to professional standards, codes of ethics, and legal protection for clients. Formulating this definition is crucial to eliminating the ambiguity regarding the legal status of digital-based legal services, which have so far only developed in practice without a clear legal basis. In addition, the amendment to the law needs to regulate the classification of digital legal services that can be performed by advocates, including online legal consultations, electronic legal document preparation, legal research, legal assistance via video conference, online mediation, providing legal opinions, and electronic case administration assistance. This classification must be accompanied by a limitation that legal actions that, according to statutory regulations, require physical presence or direct verification will still be carried out conventionally in accordance with applicable procedural law. The formulation of these norms will provide certainty regarding the scope of authority of virtual advocates and serve as a legal basis for the development of digital legal services in Indonesia.

Subsequent reforms should regulate the use of Artificial Intelligence in the practice of the legal profession by adding specific norms to Law Number 18 of 2003 concerning Advocates and the Indonesian Advocates Code of Ethics. The use of Artificial Intelligence should be positioned as a supporting instrument (decision support system) that assists advocates in conducting legal research, analyzing court decisions, drafting contracts, drafting legal opinions, and preparing other legal documents without diminishing the advocate's professional responsibility for the results of such work. The

proposed norms should require advocates to verify all legal documents prepared with the assistance of artificial intelligence before they are submitted to clients or used in legal proceedings. Artificial intelligence should not serve as the sole basis for legal opinions, defense strategies, or legal fact analysis without an advocate's professional judgment. These norms should also prohibit the use of AI applications that fail to meet data security standards, process client data for system training without consent, or replace advocates' legal decision-making with automated systems. Such regulations would ensure that technological advancements remain subject to the control and professional responsibility of advocates.

Regulatory changes also need to detail client identity verification mechanisms and security standards for digital legal services. Every legal relationship conducted electronically must be preceded by a client identification and authentication process using electronic population documents, certified electronic signatures, or a digital identity system recognized by statutory provisions. Electronic power of attorney must be granted through electronic documents that meet the requirements of authenticity, integrity, and authentication, thus having the same legal force as conventional documents. Furthermore, every law firm providing digital legal services is required to implement cybersecurity standards in the form of communication encryption, multi-factor authentication, regular data backups, controlled access to electronic documents, and an information security audit system. All of these standards must be integrated with data protection obligations as stipulated in Law Number 27 of 2022 concerning Personal Data Protection to ensure the confidentiality of the advocate-client relationship remains protected at every stage of digital legal services.

Regulatory reforms must also mandate the principle of transparency (algorithmic transparency) in the use of Artificial Intelligence. Advocates are required to inform clients if they are using Artificial Intelligence for legal document preparation, legal analysis, or consulting services. Clients must receive an explanation of the scope of the technology's use, benefits, limitations, and potential risks arising from the use of automated systems. Client consent to the use of Artificial Intelligence must be given in writing or through legally verifiable electronic consent. This provision is crucial to ensure the client's right to receive accurate, clear, and honest information before receiving legal services. Furthermore, advocates are required to maintain digital records of the use of Artificial Intelligence in every case as part of their professional documentation, which can be used in the event of future ethical audits or legal disputes. Implementing this transparency principle will increase professional accountability and build public trust in digital legal services.

The aspect of professional accountability also requires more comprehensive reform. Errors arising from the use of Artificial Intelligence or electronic systems must remain the responsibility of the advocate, provided the document or legal opinion has been verified and used in providing services to the client. New norms should stipulate that advocates cannot absolve themselves of responsibility by claiming that the error originated from an automated system. Conversely, if losses are caused by the failure of a digital service provider's electronic system or a data leak due to negligence on the part of the electronic system provider, the accountability mechanism must be shared proportionally according to the level of culpability of each party. Advocates' organizations also need to establish a special supervisory board with the authority to certify digital legal service competencies, develop guidelines for the use of Artificial Intelligence, conduct compliance audits of digital law firms, investigate alleged technology-based ethical violations, and impose administrative and ethical sanctions on advocates who violate digital legal service standards. Strengthening this oversight function will create a control system capable of maintaining advocate professionalism in the face of technological developments.

Ultimately, reformulation of virtual advocate regulations must be realized through comprehensive regulatory harmonization between Law Number 18 of 2003 concerning Advocates, Law Number 1 of 2024 concerning the Second Amendment to Law Number 11 of 2008 concerning Electronic Information and Transactions, Law Number 27 of 2022

concerning Personal Data Protection, the Indonesian Advocates' Code of Ethics, and the Supreme Court Regulation concerning electronic case administration and trials. This harmonization can be realized through the revision of the Advocates Law by adding a special chapter on digital legal services that regulates the definition of virtual advocates, the scope of authority, standards for the use of Artificial Intelligence, electronic identification mechanisms, client data protection, transparency in technology use, a professional accountability system, and a mechanism for monitoring advocate organizations. Furthermore, advocate organizations need to establish a Digital Advocate Code of Ethics as an operational guideline that binds all advocates in providing technology-based legal services. The Supreme Court should also issue technical guidelines for integrating virtual advocates into the e-Court system to ensure the uniform implementation of digital legal services across Indonesia. The establishment of these norms would transform virtual advocacy from a practical phenomenon into a legally recognized institution with a clear legal basis, professional standards, oversight mechanisms, and accountability framework, thereby promoting legal certainty, enhancing the quality of legal services, and strengthening public legal protection in the digital era.

## CONCLUSION

Based on the research results, it can be concluded that the development of Legal Technology (LegalTech) and the use of Artificial Intelligence have changed the paradigm of legal services from a conventional model to digital-based legal services that have given birth to virtual advocate practices as a real need in the modern legal system. This development has not been followed by the formation of adequate regulations because Law Number 18 of 2003 concerning Advocates, the Indonesian Advocates Code of Ethics, Law Number 1 of 2024 concerning the Second Amendment to Law Number 11 of 2008 concerning Electronic Information and Transactions, Law Number 27 of 2022 concerning Personal Data Protection, and the Supreme Court Regulation regarding electronic case administration have not yet comprehensively regulated the definition of a virtual advocate, the scope of digital legal services, the limits of the use of Artificial Intelligence, electronic client identification mechanisms, protection of digital data confidentiality, or a system of professional accountability in technology-based legal services, thus creating a legal gap and normative vacuum that has an impact on legal uncertainty for advocates and the public as users of legal services. Therefore, legal reform needs to be realized immediately through a revision of Law Number 18 of 2003 concerning Advocates by adding special regulations regarding virtual advocates that include a legal definition, classification of digital legal services, standards for the use of Artificial Intelligence based on the principle of human oversight, transparency obligations to clients, cybersecurity standards, personal data protection mechanisms, and a professional accountability system integrated with the Electronic Information and Transactions Law and the Personal Data Protection Law. Advocates' organizations must develop a Digital Advocate Code of Ethics along with a mechanism for certification of digital legal service competency and supervision of the use of technology in professional practice, while the Supreme Court needs to refine regulations on electronic case administration to align with the development of virtual advocates. This reformulation is expected to achieve legal certainty, maintain the independence and dignity of the legal profession, strengthen the protection of client rights, and build a digital legal service system that is safe, accountable, adaptive, and responsive to technological developments in Indonesia.

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