

The Influence of Digitalization in Improving the Integrity and Ethics of the Notary Profession

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Digitalization has become a strategic step to enhance the integrity and ethics of the notary profession in the globalization era. Technologies such as electronic signatures and cloud-based document management systems improve security, transparency, and accountability. Using a normative juridical approach, this study analyzes the impact of digitalization on the notary profession and identifies challenges such as technological infrastructure, digital literacy, and regulatory gaps. Proposed solutions include improving infrastructure, digital training, regulatory updates, and data security. The findings show that digitalization strengthens public trust through safer, more efficient, and transparent document management.

Keywords: Digitalization, Notary Profession, Integrity, Ethics, Technology

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1. Introduction

In the era of globalization and rapid technological development, digitalization has become a strategic step to increase efficiency and effectiveness in various fields, including the notary profession. As public officials with a crucial role in ensuring legal certainty for official documents, notaries face the challenge of maintaining professional integrity and ethics in carrying out their duties. However, cases of ethical violations, such as document forgery and abuse of authority, remain a serious concern, potentially eroding public trust in the profession.

Digitalization offers significant opportunities to address these challenges. Technologies such as electronic signatures and cloud-based document management systems can enhance security, transparency, and accountability in notarial processes. Furthermore, the implementation of digitalization can help notaries minimize the risk of administrative errors, ensure document authenticity, and strengthen oversight of the implementation of duties in accordance with the professional code of ethics.

However, the implementation of digitalization in the notary profession is not without challenges. Some frequently encountered obstacles include the readiness of technological infrastructure, the level of digital literacy among notaries, and regulatory gaps that have not yet fully accommodated digital transformation. Therefore, an in-depth study is needed to understand the extent to which digitalization can influence the improvement of the integrity and ethics of the notary profession, and how strategic steps can be taken to optimize the use of technology in this field.

This research aims to analyze the influence of digitalization on strengthening the integrity and ethics of the notary profession. It will also explore relevant digital technologies, identify implementation challenges, and provide recommendations for creating a digital ecosystem that supports the values of professionalism and public trust in the notary profession. With its holistic approach, this research is expected to make a

significant contribution to developing more modern, transparent, and ethical notarial practices in the digital era.

2. Method

The research approach used in this thesis is Normative Juridical Research. This research method focuses solely on the principles, systematics, and synchronization of laws and regulations. This research aims to reveal problems, circumstances, or events as they exist, thus revealing the true facts (fact finding) (Nawawri, 1993). This legal writing specification utilizes two approaches: the statute approach and the conceptual approach.

The data sources used in this legal writing are Normative Juridical Research methods, which are derived from primary and secondary data. This legal writing falls under normative research, therefore, the data collection method used is documentation, which is a method of obtaining data about a problem by tracing and studying secondary data, including documents, archives, books, journals, articles (both printed and online), and other materials related to the research (Soekanto, 2020). Data analysis is the interpretation of data processing. As a normative juridical research, the data required is primary data and secondary data, with the emphasis on secondary data using the data analysis method used in writing this thesis which is descriptive qualitative.

3. Results and Discussion

Opportunities for Digitalization to Improve the Integrity and Ethics of the Notary Profession

Digitalization in the notary profession offers significant opportunities to improve the integrity and ethics of the profession, particularly in document management and the implementation of notarial duties that are more transparent, accountable, and secure (Dwitriani, 2023). One technology with significant potential in this regard is the use of electronic signatures and cloud-based document management systems. Electronic signatures, which are legally valid in many countries, simplify and speed up the process of creating and authenticating documents, while ensuring their authenticity. This technology enables notaries to verify the identities of parties involved in a transaction more efficiently and securely, reducing the possibility of forgery or document manipulation, which are often problematic in traditional notarial practice.

Furthermore, the use of cloud-based document management systems offers further advantages in electronic document management and storage. These systems enable notaries to store documents in digital form, accessible anytime and anywhere, with a high level of security through encryption and technology-based monitoring. The use of cloud computing also simplifies the process of searching and archiving documents, thereby reducing the risk of document loss or damage that can occur with physical archives. Furthermore, cloud systems enable a clear audit trail, where every change or access to documents is automatically recorded, thereby increasing transparency and accountability in the notarial process.

This increased transparency is crucial for maintaining public trust in the notary profession. In many cases, a lack of transparency in document management or abuse of authority can damage a notary's reputation and undermine the integrity of the profession. With digitalization, every step in document creation and management can be tracked electronically, minimizing the potential for misuse. Furthermore, the use of this technology can expedite administrative processes that were previously time-consuming and expensive, allowing notaries to focus more on the legal and ethical aspects of their profession.

Positive Impact of Digitalization on Notary Professional Ethics

Digitalization has a significant positive impact on notary professional ethics, particularly in minimizing the risk of administrative errors and document forgery. In traditional notarial practice, administrative errors such as typos or document filing errors frequently occur, which can have fatal consequences for both notaries and clients. However, by using a digital document management system, notaries can manage, store, and access documents more efficiently and in a structured manner. This not only reduces the possibility of human error but also improves the accuracy of document management. Digital systems can automatically verify and review created documents, identifying errors before they become major problems.

Furthermore, the use of legally valid electronic signatures equipped with advanced encryption helps ensure the authenticity and validity of documents. These electronic signatures validate that the signed document is legitimate and originates from an authorized party. This technology makes it much more difficult for irresponsible parties to forge documents, as any changes or manipulation of the document can be easily detected. This system minimizes the risk of document forgery, a major problem in the traditional notary profession.

Digitalization also strengthens oversight and compliance with the professional code of ethics. Overall, digitalization has significantly contributed to improving the integrity and ethics of the notary profession (Golu, 2024). By minimizing the risk of administrative errors and document forgery, and strengthening oversight of compliance with the code of ethics, technology ensures that notarial processes are more transparent, secure, and adhere to high ethical standards. The application of technology to notarial practice not only increases efficiency but also helps maintain the image and professionalism of the notary profession.

Challenges in Implementing Digitalization in the Notary Profession

While digitalization offers many benefits for the notary profession, its implementation is not without challenges. One major challenge is the readiness of technological infrastructure. Many notaries, especially in more remote areas, lack adequate access to the latest technology, such as robust hardware and a stable internet connection. Without adequate infrastructure, implementing technology in notarial practice will be difficult to implement effectively and efficiently. This inadequate infrastructure can hinder workflow, cause delays in processes, and potentially reduce the quality of service provided to clients (Sugianto, 2015).

Furthermore, digital literacy among notaries is also a significant challenge. Not all notaries have sufficient skills or knowledge to operate the advanced technology required for digitalization, such as cloud-based document management systems or electronic signatures. This gap in digital literacy has the potential to create resistance to technology adoption, which could ultimately hinder digital integration in notarial practice. To address this issue, ongoing training and efforts to improve digital literacy for notaries are needed so they can maximize their use of technology.

Regulations and policies that do not fully support digitalization also pose a significant challenge. Although many countries have legalized the use of electronic signatures, many regulatory aspects still do not fully accommodate the changes brought about by technology. For example, not all types of notarial documents or transactions can be conducted entirely digitally in accordance with applicable law, and there is uncertainty regarding the legal recognition of electronic documents in some jurisdictions. Furthermore, existing legal systems often lag behind technological developments, necessitating more in-depth regulatory updates and adjustments to ensure the smooth implementation of digitalization.

Implementing digitalization in the notary profession requires addressing technological infrastructure readiness, digital literacy, regulatory gaps, and data security issues. To address these challenges, collaboration between the government, professional associations, and technology providers is necessary to

create a digital ecosystem that supports the notary profession and ensures that the benefits of digitalization are maximized.

Solutions to Optimize the Implementation of Digitalization in the Notary Public Service

To optimize digitalization in the notary public service, several key solutions can be implemented. First, improve technological infrastructure by ensuring that notaries, including those in remote areas, have access to adequate devices and internet access. The government and professional associations can provide support such as subsidies or incentives to address the technology gap.

Second, improve digital literacy through ongoing training for notaries so they can maximize their use of technology. This training program could include the use of document management software and electronic signatures. Third, update regulations to better support the use of technology in notarial practice. The government needs to update laws to accommodate digital documents and electronic signatures to ensure their validity and legal recognition (Oktaviani, 2024). Fourth, strengthen data security systems, such as encryption and two-factor authentication, to protect important documents and information from cyber threats. Implementing strict security standards will maintain the integrity and confidentiality of data in notarial practice.

The Role of Digitalization in Increasing Public Trust in the Notary Profession

Digitalization plays a crucial role in increasing public trust in the notary profession by providing more transparent, secure, and efficient solutions for managing legal documents (Annisa, 2024). One key way digitalization strengthens trust is through the use of electronic signatures and cloud-based document management systems, which ensure greater document authenticity and security. This technology allows the public to feel confident that the documents they sign are legally valid and cannot be forged. High data security, coupled with authentication and encryption, provides greater protection for stored documents, reducing the risk of leaks or misuse of sensitive information.

Furthermore, increased transparency through digitalization also contributes to greater public trust in the notary profession. With an audit trail automatically recorded in the digital system, every action taken by a notary in managing documents can be tracked and accounted for. This provides assurance to the public that the document creation and management process is carried out with integrity and in accordance with proper procedures. When the public knows they can examine digital footprints and ensure nothing is hidden or falsified, their trust in the notary profession grows stronger.

Digitalization also speeds up notarial processes, reduces the time required to notarize documents, and allows the public to interact more easily with notaries. For example, through a cloud-based system, clients can access documents that have been notarized or are being processed without having to visit the notary's office in person. This more efficient process increases convenience and makes it easier for the public to conduct their legal affairs, while also conveying the impression that the notary profession is more modern and responsive to current needs.

4. Conclusion

Digitalization has proven to have a significant impact on enhancing the integrity and ethics of the notary profession. Through the implementation of technologies such as electronic signatures and cloud-based document management systems, notaries can perform their duties more efficiently, transparently, and accountably. This technology also helps strengthen public trust by minimizing the risk of document forgery and administrative errors.

However, challenges in implementing digitalization still need to be addressed. Infrastructure readiness, digital literacy among notaries, and regulations that do not fully support digital transformation are key obstacles. Therefore, strategic efforts are needed, such as improving technological infrastructure, digital literacy training, and updating relevant regulations. With these steps, digitalization can be optimally implemented to support professionalism and maintain the image of notaries in the modern era.

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