



THE ROLE OF LAW AND CULTURE IN STRENGTHENING ANTI-CORRUPTION INTEGRITY IN INDONESIA

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Received: 01/03/2026. Reviewed: 03/04/2026. Accepted: 03/05/2026. Publications: 30/06/2026

Abstrak: Hukum dan budaya memiliki peran yang sangat penting dalam memperkuat implementasi integritas anti-korupsi di Indonesia, mengingat meningkatnya jumlah kasus korupsi yang menghambat terwujudnya tata kelola pemerintahan yang efektif. Untuk menjawab permasalahan tersebut, peneliti menggunakan metode penelitian hukum normatif dengan pendekatan studi kepustakaan yang bersumber dari bahan hukum primer, sekunder, dan tersier. Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa tercapainya integritas anti-korupsi tidak hanya ditentukan oleh kuatnya landasan hukum, tetapi juga dipengaruhi oleh budaya yang mencerminkan nilai, sikap, dan kesadaran masyarakat terhadap anti-korupsi. Rendahnya integritas aparatur negara dan penegak hukum, serta adanya budaya toleransi terhadap praktik korupsi, menjadi faktor utama yang menghambat terwujudnya integritas anti-korupsi. Oleh karena itu, pentingnya sinergi antara sistem hukum dan integritas akan mendorong terbentuknya budaya hukum yang kuat dalam membangun sistem anti-korupsi yang efektif. Sebagai kesimpulan, penguatan integritas anti-korupsi memerlukan pendekatan yang komprehensif melalui penegakan hukum serta penanaman nilai-nilai integritas dalam masyarakat. Maka hukum berfokus pada aspek penegakan, tetapi mengedepankan pendekatan humanis melalui peningkatan kesadaran dalam membangun budaya anti-korupsi.

Kata Kunci: Hukum, Budaya, Anti-Korupsi, Integritas.

***Abstract:** Law and culture play a crucial role in strengthening the implementation of anti-corruption integrity in Indonesia, given the rising number of corruption cases that hinder the realization of effective public administration.. To address these issues, the researcher employed a normative legal method using a literature review approach based on primary, secondary, and tertiary legal sources. This study demonstrates that the achievement of anti-corruption integrity is not solely determined by the strength of the legal foundation but is also influenced by a culture that reflects the values, attitudes, and awareness of society regarding anti-corruption. The low integrity of state officials and law enforcement personnel, as well as a culture of tolerance toward corrupt practices, are the primary factors hindering the realization of anti-corruption integrity. Thus, the importance of synergy between the legal system and integrity will foster a strong legal culture in building an effective anti-corruption system. In conclusion, strengthening anti-corruption integrity requires a complex approach through law enforcement and the instillation of cultural values of integrity within society. To this end, the law must not be solely focused on enforcement but must also adopt a humanistic approach through awareness in fostering an anti-corruption culture.*

Keywords: Law, Culture, Anti-Corruption, Integrity.

How to Cite : Setiawan, R., & Muthalib, D. A. (2026). The role of law and culture in strengthening anti-corruption integrity in Indonesia. *JUDGE: Journal of Law, Democracy, Governance and Ethics*, 1(1), 33-39. <https://doi.org/XX.XXXXXX/JUDGE.v1i01.59>



INTRODUCTION

Corruption cases in Indonesia remain a serious problem that hinders the realization of a corruption-free Indonesia. Although the legal framework for combating corruption has been established through Law No. 31 of 1999 as amended by Law No. 20 of 2001 on the Eradication of Corruption Offenses, corruption continues to rise. This indicates that legal measures alone have not been sufficiently effective in curbing the rise in corruption cases in Indonesia (Wiranti & Arifin 2020). Repressive and preventive measures have been implemented to combat corruption in Indonesia. However, their implementation often faces obstacles, such as weak law enforcement agencies and a lack of anti-corruption awareness (Effendi & Susanti 2024). These conditions pose the primary challenges in strengthening anti-corruption integrity.

Apart from law enforcement factors, cultural factors also play a significant role in shaping public behavior regarding corruption. Tolerance of practices such as bribery, nepotism, and abuse of authority is still prevalent across various segments of society. In this context, *legal culture*, as articulated by Friedman, is a key element within the legal system that influences the effectiveness of law enforcement and anti-corruption efforts (Loilewen et al., 2025). Concrete problems can be seen in various corruption cases involving public officials, both at the central and regional levels. One example is the COVID-19 social assistance corruption case involving officials from the Ministry of Social Affairs in 2020. This case demonstrates how a disaster situation was exploited for personal gain, reflecting low integrity and a weak anti-corruption culture. Furthermore, corruption cases in the licensing sector reveal systemic patterns involving individuals within the bureaucracy. Bribery practices in business licensing remain a common phenomenon in some regions. This indicates that corruption is not merely individual in nature but has become deeply entrenched within the bureaucratic system and culture.

These conditions raise questions regarding the effectiveness of existing regulations and law enforcement. Has the law been able to create a *deterrent effect*, or does it still provide loopholes for corrupt actors to evade accountability? This question is crucial to examine from both legal and cultural perspectives. Furthermore, fostering an anti-corruption culture as a means to prevent corruption cases has become increasingly relevant. Values of integrity, honesty, and accountability should be integral to societal culture, instilled from an early age. However, in practice, these values are

often eroded by the pragmatic and materialistic culture that has taken root within society (Valentina 2024).

Given these circumstances, the success of anti-corruption efforts depends not only on the existence of legal regulations but also on the internalization of cultural values that support anti-corruption integrity. Therefore, synergy between legal and cultural approaches is crucial in fostering anti-corruption integrity within society. Strengthening anti-corruption integrity through legal and cultural approaches can be developed across all aspects of societal life. Specifically, the legal approach must be able to harmonize legal norms with the cultural values embedded in society (Loilewen et al., 2025). This is essential to produce regulations that are not merely legal provisions but also aligned with the cultural context of society.

The role of law and culture in strengthening anti-corruption integrity in Indonesia must be grounded in the need to prevent corruption cases from occurring at an early stage. Law cannot operate effectively without cultural support; therefore, efforts to combat corruption and promote anti-corruption must integrate legal and cultural aspects (Santoso et al., 2014). Thus, it is crucial to understand the roles of law and culture in strengthening anti-corruption integrity in Indonesia. The aim is to reinforce the role of law as a set of rules, as well as the role of culture in supporting the implementation of those rules. Consequently, anti-corruption efforts will be more effective and simultaneously enhance public awareness of the importance of integrity as a foundational value in the fight against corruption.

METHOD

This study employs a normative legal research method, which focuses on examining and analyzing existing legal materials to address the issues under discussion. The approach relies primarily on secondary data sources, including books, academic journals, legal regulations, and other relevant scholarly publications. By utilizing these materials, the research seeks to understand legal principles, doctrines, and norms that govern the subject matter.

Normative legal research, often referred to as doctrinal research, emphasizes the study of law as it is written in statutes and interpreted in legal literature. In this context, the researcher systematically reviews and evaluates various legal sources to identify relevant rules, concepts, and frameworks. This process enables a comprehensive

understanding of the legal issue and supports the development of well-grounded arguments.

Furthermore, this study adopts a library research approach, meaning that data collection is conducted through the examination of written documents rather than fieldwork or empirical observation. The materials analyzed include authoritative texts and credible references that provide insights into the legal problem being investigated. Through this method, the study aims to produce a thorough and coherent analysis, offering clear conclusions and recommendations based on established legal theories and regulations.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Results

Corruption is behavior that not only violates legal regulations but also contradicts the cultural values embedded in society. Under the Anti-Corruption Law, corruption is classified as a criminal offense subject to strict legal provisions. However, the enforcement of these laws can be influenced by the legal culture prevalent in society. According to Lawrence M. Friedman, the legal system is divided into three parts: *legal structure*, *legal substance*, and *legal culture*. These three are interrelated and determine the success of law enforcement (Siagian, 2023). In the context of combating corruption, legal culture plays a crucial role as it reflects the attitudes, values, and perceptions of society regarding corrupt behavior.

Regarding integrity, within the legal context, it is defined as the consistent application of values, principles, and actions in accordance with legal norms and ethics. According to Huberts, public integrity encompasses honesty, transparency, and accountability in the exercise of power (Loilewen et al., 2025). Therefore, low integrity among the government, law enforcement, and the public is a primary factor contributing to the frequent occurrence of corrupt behavior. Meanwhile, legal culture encompasses not only public legal awareness but also reflects the values that are alive and evolving within society. In the Indonesian context, corruption, collusion, and nepotism are often viewed as commonplace; this serves as a factor that can undermine anti-corruption efforts (Rosisca et al., 2024). Therefore, the application of cultural values is the path toward integrity that will support law enforcement.

According to Klitgaard's perspective, corruption occurs when there is a monopoly of power and a lack of accountability. This indicates that combating

corruption requires more than just law enforcement; it also necessitates institutional reform and the strengthening of integrity values within the bureaucracy (Nasir, 2022). Based on corruption perception index data, countries with a low corruption perception index generally have a strong culture of integrity and a robust legal system. This underscores that the synergy between law and culture is a key factor in combating corruption (Effendi & Susanti 2024). Therefore, strengthening anti-corruption integrity requires an integrated approach, through the refinement of the legal system and the reinforcement of legal culture.

Strengthening anti-corruption integrity in Indonesia cannot be separated from the mutually supportive relationship between the legal system and legal culture. Although Indonesia already has a solid legal foundation for combating corruption, its implementation still faces various cultural obstacles (Rosisca et al., 2024). The enactment of Law No. 31 of 1999 as amended by Law No. 20 of 2001 on the Eradication of Corruption has clearly defined various forms of conduct categorized as criminal acts of corruption, along with stringent penalties for perpetrators. However, in practice, law enforcement still demonstrates a lack of seriousness throughout the investigative, prosecutorial, and judicial processes (Wiranti & Arifin, 2020). This is because the values of integrity that underpin law enforcement have not yet been fully instilled.

Integrity values rooted in legal culture have a significant influence on the success of corruption prevention. In this context, normalizing corrupt behaviors, such as gratification and nepotism, becomes a barrier. A society that tends to condone such corrupt behaviors as part of social norms weakens law enforcement (Windiarti, 2024). Furthermore, the low integrity of state officials is a cause of corrupt behavior. This lack of integrity is evident in the abuse of authority and a lack of transparency in the performance of public service duties (Rahman & Lituhayu, 2024). This indicates that public integrity, which emphasizes the importance of ethical values in governance, has not been properly implemented.

Similarly, regarding societal conditions, low public legal awareness contributes to high levels of corrupt behavior. To avoid such , the internalization of anti-corruption values through education and culture can restore public awareness (Rosisca et al., 2024). The implementation of the Corruption Eradication Act, as it has been applied so far, has not been able to have a significant impact on reducing corruption levels. This indicates that laws designed to regulate and impose sanctions must be balanced with

prevention efforts rooted in strengthening a culture of anti-corruption integrity. Thus, anti-corruption strategies must be aligned and sustainable. The effectiveness of law enforcement is greatly influenced by the level of the public's legal cultural awareness. The higher the legal awareness, the lower the likelihood of legal violations (Effendi & Susanti 2024). The need to strengthen anti-corruption integrity is not limited to law enforcement but also involves fostering a culture of integrity. The government must promote the internalization of anti-corruption values through education, legal reform, and bureaucratic reform. Additionally, strengthening oversight institutions is a crucial step toward enhancing accountability (Hendarto & Sulistiyono, 2023).

Thus, the relationship between law and culture in understanding corrupt behavior demonstrates that both the legal system and culture play a vital role in fostering anti-corruption integrity. Synergy between law and culture serves as the primary foundation for creating an effective anti-corruption system. Therefore, efforts to leverage the roles of law and culture in instilling anti-corruption values must be consistently implemented through legal reforms and the cultivation of a culture of integrity within society.

CONCLUSION

Strengthening anti-corruption integrity in Indonesia requires not only a legal approach but also a robust synergy with the cultural values embedded in society. While the Corruption Eradication Act serves as the legal foundation, its implementation remains hindered by low levels of integrity and a lack of anti-corruption culture. Success in realizing anti-corruption integrity is determined by the alignment between the law and legal culture. Therefore, integrating legal and cultural aspects is an appropriate step in understanding and addressing corruption, while also affirming that law and culture are determining factors in establishing a sound anti-corruption system in Indonesia.

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