

## The Role of Ethics in Ensuring the Validity and Credibility of Legal Opinions in Court in the Settlement of Sharia Economic Disputes

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*Professional Ethics; Legal Opinion; Credibility; Advocate code of ethics.*

### Abstract:

Legal opinions are an important instrument in the legal decision-making process, both in court and in non-litigation dispute resolution. However, the validity and credibility of a legal opinion depend heavily on the application of ethics in its preparation. This study aims to analyze the role of ethics in ensuring the validity and reliability of legal opinions used as legal considerations in court. The research method used is a normative approach by analyzing laws and regulations, the advocate code of ethics, and related case studies. The results show that the application of the principles of honesty, objectivity, and professionalism by legal opinion compilers can increase judges' trust in the content and arguments presented. Furthermore, ethical violations in the preparation of legal opinions, such as plagiarism, manipulation of facts, or deviations from professional standards, can harm clients and hinder the achievement of justice. Thus, the application of ethics is not only a moral and professional obligation but also serves as a primary foundation in ensuring the quality and integrity of legal opinions in the eyes of the law. This study recommends strengthening oversight of professional ethics to support the credibility of advocates and a fair trial process.

### Kata Kunci:

*Etika Profesi; Legal Opinion; Validitas; Kredibilitas; Kode Etik Advokat.*

### Abstrak:

Legal opinion merupakan salah satu instrumen penting dalam proses pengambilan keputusan hukum, baik di pengadilan maupun dalam penyelesaian sengketa non-litigasi. Namun, validitas dan kredibilitas sebuah legal opinion sangat bergantung pada penerapan etika dalam penyusunannya. Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk menganalisis peran etika dalam memastikan keabsahan dan keandalan legal opinion yang digunakan sebagai bahan pertimbangan hukum di pengadilan. Metode penelitian yang digunakan adalah pendekatan normatif dengan menganalisis peraturan perundang-undangan, kode etik advokat, dan studi kasus terkait. Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa penerapan prinsip kejujuran, objektivitas, dan profesionalisme oleh penyusun legal opinion mampu meningkatkan kepercayaan hakim terhadap isi dan argumen yang disampaikan. Selain itu, pelanggaran etika dalam penyusunan legal opinion, seperti plagiarisme, manipulasi fakta, atau penyimpangan dari standar profesi, dapat merugikan klien dan menghambat tercapainya keadilan. Dengan demikian, penerapan etika tidak hanya menjadi kewajiban moral dan profesional, tetapi juga berfungsi sebagai landasan utama dalam menjamin kualitas dan integritas legal opinion di mata hukum. Penelitian ini merekomendasikan penguatan pengawasan etika profesi untuk mendukung kredibilitas advokat dan proses peradilan yang berkeadilan.



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### Introduction

As times continue to evolve and society's needs in the field of legal services increase, the role of a lawyer is no longer limited to representing clients before judges and/or in court. As individuals engaged in the legal field, lawyers frequently interact with various people both within and outside their professional scope—ranging from those who understand the law to those with no legal background. These individuals often seek advice and opinions from lawyers regarding legal issues. (Nurwandri et al., 2023)

A lawyer must be able to respond and explain matters in the simplest way possible so that those with limited legal knowledge can understand. (Ayu et al., 2021) This is evident in the growing demand for legal consultants across various sectors, one of whose roles is to provide legal opinions. Furthermore, the tradition of law often emphasizes the explanation of decisions to lawyers, who may not always translate court rulings into easily understandable language for their clients. This requires lawyers to formulate such decisions in a way that is comprehensible to their clients.

Based on the above, it is essential for legal professionals to possess the ability to provide legal opinions on specific issues. (Weruin, 2024) A legal opinion is essentially a response from a legal scholar to a client's question regarding a legal problem. When such an opinion is used by a judge as a reference in legal reasoning, it can be regarded as a legal doctrine. (May Shinta Retnowat, 2022)

Doctrine is one of the sources of law. This indicates a connection between legal opinion and doctrine as sources of law. Satjipto Rahardjo (2008) states that one of the processes of lawmaking is socio-political in nature, meaning that legal ideas originating from the public aim to regulate certain issues. These ideas are processed within the community, debated, criticized, and defended through discourse among various societal groups and powers. Therefore, legal opinions play a crucial role in lawmaking; without legal opinions, the means to resolve issues within society would remain unclear.

From the explanation above, it is evident that a Legal Opinion serves as a doctrine primarily presented for practical purposes. (May Shinta Retnowat, 2022) Since doctrine is considered a source of law, and legal opinion is equated with doctrine, the status of legal opinion as a source of law becomes a central topic of discussion. This brief article aims to explore the essence of what constitutes a legal opinion. It will present an overview of the history of legal opinions and their role as one of the sources of law. The issues addressed include the historical development of legal opinions and their legal standing as a source of law.

## Methodology

The research method used in this study is descriptive qualitative research, employing library research techniques on legal sources, or in other words, a normative legal research method, which involves examining doctrines, theories, and applicable laws and regulations. (Efendi & Ibrahim, 2018) The literature review utilizes secondary data sources derived from books or writings related to the scientific language used in legal opinions. Data analysis was conducted using descriptive analysis by applying content analysis methods, which describe the ethical position of legal opinion authors in a conceptually legal framework (legal meaning analysis) as well as from sociological, historical, or moral perspectives. (Angela Artha Tyara Ananda, 2024)

## Results and Discussion

### A. Ethics in Communication

Public service can be interpreted both narrowly and broadly. In a narrow sense, public service refers to the provision of goods and services by the government to society in order to fulfill its responsibility to the public. These goods and services can be provided directly by the government or through partnerships with the private sector and the community, depending on the type and intensity of public needs, community capacity, and market conditions. (Nurwandri et al., 2023)

This concept emphasizes how public services are successfully delivered through a sound delivery system. Broadly, the concept of public service is synonymous with the principles of public administration, which prioritize public interest. In this context, public service focuses more on how public administration elements such as policy making, organizational design, and management processes are optimized and utilized effectively and efficiently, as the government acts as the designated provider.

Ethics is described in various meanings: habit, custom, morality, and character. (Bisri & Asmoro, 2019) According to Bertens, Aristotle used the term "ethics" to describe moral philosophy, namely the science of what is commonly done or the study of human behavior in doing good.

Ethical communication plays a central role in shaping the mental health of young people. First, communication practices based on values such as honesty, respect, and empathy can create healthy interpersonal environments. Youth who engage in respectful and supportive interactions are more likely to feel emotionally safe and connected with those around them. This helps reduce stress and anxiety levels, and strengthens self-confidence and overall mental well-being.

In addition, good communication ethics have a positive impact on young people's ability to resolve conflicts and face everyday challenges. They learn to express themselves clearly and thoughtfully, facilitating effective problem-solving and

minimizing the potential for harmful conflict. This skill is crucial in building strong coping mechanisms that can help manage pressure and daily life challenges. (Bakri, 1970)

### **B. Definition of Legal Opinion**

Legal Opinion is a term used in countries that adhere to the Common Law (Anglo-Saxon) legal system, while in the Civil Law (Continental European) system, it is known as Legal Critics, pioneered by the legal critics school of thought. Legal Opinions became familiar to Indonesian legal advisors during international commercial transactions involving foreign legal counsel. In making a contract, foreign legal counsel usually requires a condition precedent, which includes a Legal Opinion prepared and issued by the Indonesian legal advisor. (Arif, 2021)

In a country like ours, where law plays a fundamental role in social life, it is essential that all regulatory aspects governing various legal phenomena function effectively. For example, issues such as rising costs, delays, unequal income distribution, or inefficient case resolution systems in courts—often resulting in time-consuming or costly proceedings—may leave clients feeling that they have not received justice at all. If a defendant asserts a defense that the plaintiff deems legally inapplicable, the plaintiff still feels compelled to conduct discovery to refute the defense, investing time and money in document gathering, depositions, expert witnesses, and briefings. These are legal issues that need to be analyzed and addressed through regulation. (Purnamasari et al., 2023)

A legal advisor must not act arbitrarily when issuing a Legal Opinion, especially in matters involving international dimensions. To provide a well-founded Legal Opinion, the advisor must understand and grasp the legal issues at hand and the causes behind them. The practice of Legal Opinion originated in the United States across various commercial transactions such as mergers, acquisitions, bank loan agreements, and securities transactions. However, some countries like France, the UK, and Indonesia are reluctant to issue Legal Opinions to resolve legal problems. This reluctance is based on two main reasons.

First, providing a legal opinion to a client regarding the validity of documents in a transaction merely summarizes the work that should already be done as part of the client-attorney relationship. In such cases, issuing a legal opinion is deemed unnecessary as it neither provides added value nor avoids potential future harm.

Second, when a legal opinion is provided to a third party other than the client, legal advisors may face a conflict of interest, where they are required to disclose confidential information to a party that should not have access to it.

### C. Ethics in the Preparation and Presentation of Legal Opinions

Legal professional ethics are essential guidelines that must be followed by all legal professionals to uphold integrity, justice, and public trust. Ethical principles in the legal profession include honesty, independence, confidentiality, and responsibility in providing legal services. (Arif, 2021) The advocate's code of ethics serves as a guide to ensure that legal opinions are prepared in an objective, professional manner that does not conflict with the law or the interests of the client. If there is a breach of ethics in drafting a legal opinion, sanctions may include warnings, suspensions, or even the revocation of a license to practice as an advocate. (Kurniawan et al., n.d.) With the strict application of ethics, the quality of the legal profession can be maintained and public trust in the legal system preserved.

Ethics in the context of a profession refers to work that requires specific expertise, supported by knowledge and a sense of responsibility for the public interest. Such professions usually have professional organizations, are recognized by society, and are governed by a code of ethics. In this regard, ethics serve as a disciplinary mechanism for members of the profession. Clearly, the role of ethics in a profession can be understood as a guide to conscience or as a code that regulates conduct. (Ginting Suka et al., 2024)

A judge, as part of the legal enforcement apparatus, bears a significant responsibility in considering and deciding cases. Awareness of this responsibility is crucial, as judicial decisions have direct impacts on the lives of the parties involved. Judges must fully comprehend this responsibility and not merely act fairly based on situational conditions. This highlights the obligation of a judge to uphold honor and dignity as a representative of divine justice. In performing their duties, judges are obliged to adhere to the code of ethics. This compliance aims to provide clear boundaries on how a judge should carry out their duties in accordance with their authority. (Huda & Mukhlis, 2023)

A legal opinion is a legal assessment provided by a legal expert or legal institution on a specific legal issue. Unlike the code of ethics, professional standards are formulated and established by a legal body formed by the association's board and ratified by the association's chairman. This special body is responsible for drafting and revising the association's Professional Standards, interpreting them, and providing recommendations to the Honorary Council of the Association when necessary (Articles of Association of the Capital Market Legal Consultants Association as outlined in the Statement of Meeting Resolutions No. 01 dated November 20, 2013, Article 26 paragraph (4)) (Junaedi, n.d.)

Based on the above explanation, research on \*\*\*“The Role and Challenges of Capital Market Legal Consultants: Independence, Integrity, and Ethical Violations in Professional Practice”\*\*\* is essential, using doctrinal legal research methods. This document plays a crucial role in decision-making, whether in the business sector, government, or by individuals. Therefore, the preparation and presentation of legal opinions must be conducted with the utmost respect for professional ethics.

### 1. Ethical Principles in Drafting Legal Opinions

Several ethical principles must be considered in the preparation and presentation of legal opinions, including:

- a. *Integrity*: A legal expert must act honestly, objectively, and impartially. The legal opinion provided must be based on existing facts, applicable law, and careful legal analysis. The opinion must comply with professional standards, including ensuring that the legal analysis is based on proper interpretation of relevant legal provisions. If there is legal uncertainty, this should be acknowledged by presenting alternatives or identifying grey areas, rather than covering them up or ignoring them. (Muqorobin et al., 2023)
- b. *Confidentiality*: Information obtained from clients must be kept confidential. Legal professionals must not disclose such information to third parties without the client's permission, unless required by law. According to the professional code of ethics, lawyers are obligated to maintain client confidentiality. The data and information used as the basis for drafting the legal opinion must be protected to prevent misuse or unauthorized disclosure. This confidentiality is crucial to maintain the trust between client and lawyer.
- c. *Expertise*: Legal experts must possess adequate expertise in the relevant area of law. If there are aspects beyond their competence, they should consult with other experts or decline to provide an opinion.
- d. *Independence*: Legal experts must be free from the influence of other parties, whether clients, superiors, or third parties. The legal opinion must be based purely on objective legal considerations. (Lubis & Nasution, n.d.)
- e. *Responsibility*: Legal experts are responsible for the opinions they provide. If there are errors in the legal opinion, the legal expert must be ready to correct them. Legal opinions must not ignore social impact or justice. In certain cases, particularly those involving public interest, lawyers must also consider broader ethical implications such as effects on society or the environment. (Trenggono, 2020)

### 2. Ethical Violations in Drafting Legal Opinions

Ethical violations in drafting legal opinions can have serious consequences for both the client and the reputation of the legal expert. Common ethical violations include: (Priyono, 2020)

- a. *Conflict of interest*: The legal expert provides legal opinions to two parties with conflicting interests.
  - b. *Biased opinions*: The legal expert delivers opinions inconsistent with the facts or applicable laws, influenced by personal or third-party interests. Legal opinions must be prepared with honesty and objectivity. Lawyers or legal consultants must present honest, accurate legal analysis that aligns with existing laws and facts. Opinions should be prepared without pressure from clients or third parties to favor any side. (Setiawan & Resviani, n.d.)
  - c. *Disclosure of confidential information*: The legal expert discloses confidential client information to third parties without authorization.
  - d. *Abuse of power*: The legal expert uses their position for personal gain or to benefit others.
3. Presentation of Legal Opinions

In addition to their preparation, ethics must also be observed in the presentation of legal opinions. Key aspects include: (Muhammad, 2019)

- a. *Clear and understandable language*: Legal opinions must be written in language that is clear and easily understood by clients, avoiding overly technical legal jargon.
  - b. *Complete and accurate delivery*: All relevant information must be conveyed comprehensively and accurately, including potential risks.
  - c. *Responding to client inquiries*: Legal professionals must be ready to respond to client questions clearly and patiently.
4. The Importance of Ethics in Legal Opinions

Ethics in the preparation and presentation of legal opinions is essential to maintaining public trust in the legal profession. By upholding ethical standards, legal professionals can make a positive contribution to law enforcement and justice. (Dianputri & Rasji, 2024)

#### **D. The Role of Ethics in Ensuring the Validity and Credibility of Legal Opinions**

The relationship between ethics and the validity of legal opinions is very close, as ethics play a vital role in ensuring that legal arguments are formulated objectively, honestly, and based on facts and applicable legal principles. Compliance with the code of ethics of the legal profession is a key factor in maintaining the validity of a legal opinion. Legal opinions that violate ethical principles risk losing credibility and can

negatively impact the interests of clients as well as the integrity of the judicial system. (Ulfa et al., 2024)

Ethical violations in the preparation of legal opinions can lead to serious consequences, both for the lawyer and for the party relying on the opinion. (Iskandar & O'tkirov, 2024) Cases of misuse of legal opinions in court demonstrate that opinions drafted unethically can be used to justify unlawful actions. As a result, lawyers who provide unethical legal opinions may face legal sanctions, including warnings, suspensions, license revocation, or even criminal charges if proven to have harmed others or violated the law.

To safeguard the integrity of legal opinions, strict oversight by bar associations and effective enforcement mechanisms for professional ethics are necessary. Bar associations play a crucial role in monitoring their members' compliance with ethical standards through education, training, and disciplinary actions for violations. In addition, the imposition of sanctions and supervision of non-credible legal opinions are important steps to ensure that every legal opinion issued remains rooted in honesty, objectivity, and professionalism. (Nadwan et al., n.d.)

### **E. The Use of Ethics in Writing Legal Opinions**

Ethics serves as the moral foundation guiding every profession, including the legal profession. In the context of writing Legal Opinions, ethics plays a crucial role in ensuring that the opinions provided are accurate, objective, and do not harm any party. (Baderan et al., 2021) The application of ethics in writing legal opinions (LO) is essential, as LOs not only affect the interests of clients but can also have an impact on other parties and the legal system as a whole. Below are several ways in which ethics is applied in the process of writing LOs:

#### **1. Transparent and Honest Approach**

Lawyers must use a transparent approach when writing LOs. Every assumption, piece of information, and legal interpretation used must be conveyed honestly. If there are unclear or doubtful facts, these should be explained to the client rather than concealed.

#### **2. Polite and Professional Language**

The language used in LOs must be polite, professional, and neutral. It must avoid misleading or provocative expressions. Lawyers must maintain objectivity and refrain from showing bias or partiality.

#### **3. Responsible Writing**

Lawyers are responsible for the recommendations or analyses they provide. Every opinion written must be based on strong legal grounds such as legislation,



jurisprudence, or relevant legal doctrines. The use of these sources must include proper references to avoid misunderstandings. (Sujendro, 2020)

4. Disclosure of Risks and Limitations

Ethics requires that in writing LOs, lawyers disclose any potential risks or limitations in the legal analysis. If a recommended course of action involves legal risks or negative consequences, these must be honestly conveyed to the client so they fully understand the implications of their decisions.

5. Accuracy and Precision

LOs must be free from factual errors and must comply with applicable laws. Accuracy in presenting legal arguments is critical, as even minor mistakes can be detrimental to the client. Therefore, every legal statement must be carefully reviewed and verified before the LO is delivered to the client.

6. Ethical Assessment of Facts and Laws

LOs must be prepared with consideration of justice and ethical aspects in the context of the case. If a particular fact or law is considered unethical or unjust, lawyers may provide a reasonable ethical assessment and suggest more ethical alternatives where possible. This may include advising against actions that may lead to legal conflicts or unfair harm to others.

7. Confidentiality in Writing

The writing of LOs must respect client confidentiality, especially when dealing with sensitive information. Lawyers must ensure that personal or strategic information is not disclosed in the LO. This includes avoiding unnecessary details that could violate client privacy or business interests. (Susianto, 2024)

8. Maintaining Independence and Avoiding Bias

A well-prepared LO is written based on an independent legal judgment, free from pressure or influence from the client or third parties. Lawyers must uphold high integrity to present a true legal view, even when it may differ from the client's expectations.

**F. Ethical Violations in the Writing of Legal Opinions**

Legal opinions are necessary to describe the condition or legal status of a company being examined from a legal perspective—for instance, its compliance with its articles of association and the prevailing laws and regulations, the legal commitments it has entered into, the assets owned by the company, as well as other relevant matters. (Decision No. 100 paragraph 3 of the HKHPM regarding professional standards for legal consultants requires them to be impartial and objective, which means that legal consultants must be free from any influence whatsoever. Therefore, the legal consultant must not hold shares or hold any position in the company or its

affiliates, and must not be an affiliated party, in order to produce an independent legal opinion.) Disclosure in the report and legal opinion is required if the legal consultant also acts as a legal advisor to the company and the company being reviewed or its affiliates (Decision No. 230 paragraph 5 of the HKHPM on Professional Standards for Capital Market Legal Consultants).

This measure is intended to prevent potential unfairness in the capital market, where information that is not yet known or is not publicly available (non-public information) becomes known to parties in strategic positions within the company, and such information is then used to gain advantage. (Aryani et al., n.d.)

Ethical violations in writing legal opinions can have serious consequences, both for the client and the reputation of the author. Several common examples of ethical violations include:

1. *Conflict of interest*: The author provides opinions to two parties whose interests are in opposition.
2. *Non-objective opinion*: The author provides an opinion that does not correspond to the facts or applicable law, influenced by personal or third-party interests.
3. *Disclosure of confidential information*: The author discloses the client's confidential information to third parties without permission.
4. *Abuse of authority*: The author uses their position for personal gain or the benefit of others.

Judges play a key role in the legal enforcement process in court. As part of the judiciary tasked with receiving, examining, and deciding cases, judges are expected to provide justice to the public seeking legal certainty. Therefore, a judge bears great responsibility in resolving cases under their authority. In carrying out their duties, judges are obligated to comply with the rules set forth in the professional code of ethics. (Bria et al., 2024) Compliance with these rules aims to provide guidance and limitations for judges in performing their duties in accordance with their authority.

The judicial code of ethics plays an important role in maintaining the integrity, stability, and performance of judges. Provisions regarding the ethics of the judicial profession are regulated in the Joint Regulation of the Supreme Court and the Judicial Commission, namely Article 1 Point 1 Number 02/PB/MA/IX/2012 Jo. Number 02/PB/P.KY/09/2012, which explains the Guidelines for the Enforcement of the Code of Ethics and Judicial Conduct.

### G. The Importance of Ethics in Legal Opinion Writing

Ethics in legal opinion writing is crucial to maintaining public trust in the legal profession. By upholding ethical principles, the writer of a legal opinion can make a

positive contribution to the enforcement of law and justice. (Nala Syandhira Suzeeta, 2023)

1. *Credibility*: Legal opinions written with high ethical standards will be more credible and trusted by clients as well as other parties.
2. *Sound Decision-Making*: Accurate and objective legal opinions will assist clients in making the right decisions.
3. *Preventing Disputes*: By avoiding conflicts of interest and providing objective opinions, legal opinion writers can help prevent legal disputes.
4. *Maintaining Professional Reputation*: Upholding strong ethical standards will preserve the good reputation of the legal profession.

#### **H. Duties and Responsibilities of Advocates Based on Law No. 18 of 2003**

As a profession that provides legal assistance to the public, advocates have duties and responsibilities that are regulated according to applicable laws in Indonesia. Based on Article 1 of Law No. 18 of 2003, it is stated that an advocate is a profession that provides legal assistance services, both in and out of court. (Chafid, n.d.)

According to Denny Kailimang, advocates also have the right to defend their clients by obtaining information, data, documents, or other necessary forms. These data or documents may be obtained from the government or other relevant parties in efforts to defend their clients. The legal profession plays a vital role, especially in litigation and court proceedings. This is closely related to the legal skills and knowledge possessed by an advocate in providing legal aid services to each of their clients. The legal assistance provided by advocates is not limited to a single level of the judiciary, but can also be extended to higher levels, such as filing an appeal or other legal remedies, starting from the district court to the higher courts. (Permata et al., 2022)

Provisions regarding the duties, rights, and responsibilities of advocates are set out in Article 14 of Law No. 18 of 2003. This article states that advocates have duties that include helping one another, providing legal advice, exercising legal authority, defending, and performing other legal actions in the interest of the client. In addition, advocates are also tasked with representing and providing legal aid. The law also explains that advocates have obligations that must be fulfilled.

#### **I. Guidelines, Code of Ethics, and Their Benefits in Writing and Delivering Legal Opinions**

The guidelines and code of ethics in writing and delivering legal opinions aim to maintain integrity, honesty, and professionalism. In writing and presenting opinions, transparency is essential in order to provide honest and accurate information. (Santosa et al., 2024) The author is required to cite the sources of data used and must not alter

facts for individual gain. (BAB 2 - 08108241013.pdf, n.d.) This falls under the domain of honesty in interpreting research findings—avoiding manipulation of statistics or omitting information that could change the essence of the message conveyed. In this way, readers or audiences can receive trustworthy information.

Ethics in writing and delivering legal opinions provides numerous benefits for both the writer and the audience. It ensures that the information received is objective, relevant, and not misleading. Moreover, the application of sound ethical standards can strengthen professional relationships between writers, speakers, and their audience. (4\_bab1.pdf, n.d.) With the presence of ethical guidelines and codes of conduct, society as a whole benefits from the improved quality of disseminated information. Ethically based information can promote the formation of healthy public opinion and prevent misinformation. In the long term, the application of such ethics can also foster the development of a culture of critical and responsible literacy within society, thereby creating a better communication environment. (Hayqal et al., 2023)

### **J. Code of Ethics Guidelines in the Writing and Delivery of Legal Opinions**

In the drafting and delivery of Legal Opinions (LO), lawyers or legal consultants are required to adhere to the professional code of ethics set by lawyer organizations or legal bodies. The following are commonly applied ethical guidelines: (Nadwan et al., 2022)

#### **1. Confidentiality**

Maintaining client confidentiality is one of the core principles. Lawyers are prohibited from disclosing confidential client information to third parties without the client's consent. This protects the client's privacy and builds trust between the client and the lawyer.

#### **2. Integrity and Honesty**

Legal Opinions must be prepared based on actual facts and applicable laws, without distorting information or omitting important data. Lawyers are prohibited from issuing dishonest legal opinions or siding unfairly at the expense of truthfulness. (Hayqal et al., 2023)

#### **3. Objectivity and Independence**

Lawyers must provide objective legal opinions that are not influenced by pressure or demands from the client. The code of ethics requires lawyers to maintain professional independence and avoid conflicts of interest in preparing Legal Opinions.

#### **4. Competence**

Competence means that lawyers should only issue Legal Opinions in areas of law they understand and master. The code of ethics obliges lawyers to continuously

improve their competence through training and ongoing professional development to ensure they deliver accurate and relevant legal opinions. (Ramadhan, 2024)

5. Avoiding Conflict of Interest

Lawyers must avoid situations where personal interests or those of third parties may influence their professional judgment. If a potential conflict exists, the lawyer must disclose it to the client and, if necessary, withdraw from the case.

6. Fairness and Courtesy

7. Lawyers are required to treat all parties with respect, including in the presentation of Legal Opinions. This code prevents lawyers from using rude, misleading, or inappropriate language in legal documents.

**K. Benefits of Ethics in the Writing and Delivery of Legal Opinions**

1. Building Trust with Clients

Good ethics in the writing and delivery of Legal Opinions enhances client trust in the lawyer. When clients feel that the Legal Opinion is written honestly and objectively, they will be more confident in making legal decisions based on it. (Ayu et al., 2021)

2. Avoiding Legal Liability

By adhering to ethical guidelines, lawyers can avoid potential lawsuits from clients or other parties. Violations of the code of ethics may lead clients to feel harmed and possibly file claims, which could negatively affect the lawyer's reputation. (Rozana Sukma Dewi et al., 2024)

3. Strengthening Professional Reputation

High ethical standards in drafting and delivering Legal Opinions will enhance the lawyer's professional reputation in the eyes of clients, colleagues, and the wider public. A good reputation is crucial in the legal profession as it attracts more clients and expands professional networks.

4. Reducing the Risk of Conflicts of Interest

Strictly enforced ethical codes help lawyers avoid or manage conflicts of interest. By maintaining objectivity, lawyers not only protect their clients but also avoid situations that could damage professional relationships. (Maghfira & Efendi, n.d.)

5. Promoting Legal Compliance

Legal Opinions based on ethical standards can guide clients to make legally compliant decisions, thereby minimizing the risk of legal violations. This also helps maintain order and justice in society.

6. Protecting Client Rights

By applying ethical principles, lawyers can protect the rights of their clients to the fullest extent without violating the law. Ethics ensures that Legal Opinions are

carefully prepared, include all relevant facts, and provide proper guidance according to applicable regulations.

### 7. Creating a Positive Professional Climate

Ethics upheld in the writing and delivery of Legal Opinions will establish high standards within the legal profession. This supports the creation of a positive professional environment where lawyers respect one another, collaborate, and maintain the quality of their profession. (Maghfira & Efendi, n.d.)

## Conclusion

The application of ethical principles such as honesty, objectivity, professionalism, confidentiality, independence, and responsibility serves as a fundamental basis for producing legal opinions that are reliable and legally acceptable. Ethics is not only a moral obligation but also functions as a professional guideline to maintain the quality and integrity of legal opinions. Violations of ethics such as conflicts of interest, manipulation of facts, or disclosure of confidential information can have detrimental effects, both for the client and the professional reputation of the legal opinion's author. Therefore, strengthening oversight of the implementation of professional ethics is essential to create a positive professional climate, support the enforcement of justice, and increase public trust in the legal profession.

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