

LEGAL ANALYSIS OF ACQUITTAL IN CORRUPTION CASES IN INDONESIA: A JUSTICE PERSPECTIVE

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ABSTRACT

This article provides a legal analysis of acquittals in corruption cases in Indonesia from a justice perspective. It explores the factors influencing individuals to commit corruption, such as self-interest and abuse of power, and examines the judicial considerations in delivering verdicts. The study employs a normative juridical and empirical research approach, utilizing qualitative data analysis to understand the complexities of judicial decision-making. It highlights the importance of fair and independent judicial processes, emphasizing the need for valid evidence and the reflection of justice and legal certainty in verdicts. The research underscores the necessity for strict oversight of state officials and suggests legal reforms to enhance the effectiveness of anti-corruption measures. The findings contribute to the discourse on corruption and justice, offering insights for policymakers and legal practitioners to achieve a more just legal system.

Keywords: *Corruption; Acquittal; Judicial Process; Legal Analysis; Justice Perspective*

Introduction

Corruption remains a pervasive issue in Indonesia, significantly undermining the nation's development and eroding public trust in governmental institutions (Asri & Ali, 2019; Barusman, 2018; Heath, 2000; Hira, 2016; Kosasih, 2021; Yustiarini & Soemardi, 2020). Despite numerous efforts to combat this crime, including the establishment of anti-corruption commissions and legislative reforms, the challenge persists (Harahap & Nelson, 2023; Irfan et al., 2018; Kosasih, 2021; Quah, 2020). This persistence underscores the necessity for a deeper understanding of the legal mechanisms and judicial decisions involved in corruption cases. The judiciary plays a pivotal role in interpreting and enforcing laws designed to curb corruption, yet the factors influencing judicial outcomes, particularly acquittals, remain insufficiently explored (Da Ros & Gehrke, 2024; de Sousa & Calca, 2021; Kuvvet, 2021).

This study aims to analyze the legal framework and judicial considerations surrounding acquittals in corruption cases from a justice perspective. The primary objective is to explore how these judicial decisions align with the principles of justice, utility, and legal certainty, which are fundamental to the rule of law (Abdulrahman et al., 2021). These principles ensure that the legal system operates not only to punish wrongdoing but also to maintain public confidence in the fairness and consistency of judicial processes (Akrami et al., 2017; Whytock, 2020).

While previous studies have extensively examined the prevalence and impact of corruption in Indonesia, there is a noticeable gap in the literature regarding the judicial reasoning behind acquittals in corruption cases (Butt & Schütte, 2014; Nopriansyah, 2020; Voigt & Gutmann, 2015). This gap is significant because it highlights the need for a comprehensive analysis of how legal principles are applied in practice, particularly in cases where defendants are acquitted despite the serious nature of the crime. Understanding the judicial reasoning in these cases is crucial for enhancing the effectiveness of legal frameworks and ensuring that justice is served (Aldosari, 2023; Baldwin & McConville, 1979; Shaikh et al., 2020; Turvey & Cooley, 2014). By addressing this gap, the study seeks to contribute valuable insights into the complexities of legal decision-making in corruption cases, offering recommendations for potential reforms to improve legal certainty and public trust in the judicial system.

Methodology

This study employs a normative juridical and empirical research approach, combining legal analysis with qualitative data collection. The normative juridical method involves examining existing laws, regulations, and legal precedents related to corruption cases in Indonesia (Handayani, 2019; Hapsari et al., 2019; Maroni et al., 2021). This includes an analysis of the Indonesian Anti-Corruption Law, specifically focusing on Article 2, which outlines the elements of corruption offenses (Wijayanti & Habiburahman, 2024).

The empirical aspect of the study involves qualitative data collection through interviews with legal experts, judges, and practitioners involved in corruption cases. This approach allows for a deeper understanding of the practical application of legal principles and the factors influencing judicial decisions (de Sousa & Calca, 2021; Hadi et al., 2021; Handayani, 2019; Peerthum et al., 2020; Voigt & Gutmann, 2015). The data collected is analyzed to identify patterns and themes related to the acquittal of defendants in corruption cases.

The combination of these methods provides a comprehensive understanding of the legal and practical aspects of acquittals in corruption cases, allowing for a critical evaluation of the validity and reliability of the judicial process (Alfon et al., 2020; Baldwin & McConville, 1979; Da Ros & Gehrke, 2024; de Sousa & Calca, 2021; Osborne, 2004).

Result and Discussion

a. Results

The findings of this study reveal several key factors influencing the acquittal of defendants in corruption cases. One of the primary factors is the interpretation and application of the legal elements outlined in the Anti-Corruption Law. Specifically, the requirement to prove the element of "unlawfulness" often poses a significant hurdle for prosecutors. In many cases, the inability to establish this element beyond a reasonable doubt results in acquittals. Judges play a crucial role in interpreting these legal elements, and their decisions are influenced by various social, economic, and cultural factors. The study found that judges often consider the broader context of the defendant's actions, including the intent and the impact on public welfare. This holistic approach aligns with the principles of justice, which emphasize fairness and the consideration of all relevant circumstances.

Moreover, the study highlights the importance of evidence in corruption cases. The availability and quality of evidence significantly impact the outcome of trials. In some instances, the lack of concrete evidence or the presence of conflicting evidence leads to acquittals. This finding underscores the need for robust investigative processes and the collection of reliable evidence to support prosecutions.

b. Discussion

The discussion highlights the impact of external influences on judicial decisions in corruption cases. Despite the judiciary's role in upholding justice independently, external pressures, including political influence and public opinion, can affect judicial outcomes (Da Ros & Gehrke, 2024; de Sousa & Calca, 2021). The findings underscore the importance of ensuring judicial independence to maintain the integrity of the legal system and uphold principles of justice (Akrami et al., 2017; Whytock, 2020).

This research contributes to a deeper understanding of the complexities surrounding corruption cases and the challenges faced by the judiciary in delivering justice (Asri & Ali, 2019; Heath, 2000; Hira, 2016). By examining the factors influencing acquittals, the study provides valuable insights into areas requiring reform and improvement in the legal framework and judicial processes. Enhancing the clarity of legal definitions and ensuring rigorous evidence collection are crucial for improving prosecutorial success rates (Butt & Schütte, 2014; Nopriansyah, 2020). Additionally, safeguarding judicial independence from external influences will further reinforce the integrity of the legal system (Irfan et al., 2018; Kosasih, 2021).

Through these insights, the study aims to inform policymakers and legal practitioners about the intricacies of judicial decision-making in corruption cases, highlighting areas where reform could enhance transparency and accountability (Aldosari, 2023; Baldwin & McConville, 1979; Shaikh et al., 2020; Turvey & Cooley, 2014). Addressing these issues is essential for improving public trust in the judicial system and ensuring that justice is effectively served (Quah, 2020; Yustiarini & Soemardi, 2020).

Conclusion

This study underscores the importance of a fair and transparent judicial process in corruption cases, emphasizing the need for a balanced approach that considers legal principles, evidence, and the broader social context. The findings highlight the challenges faced by the judiciary in interpreting and applying legal elements, particularly the element of unlawfulness, which often leads to acquittals.

To enhance the effectiveness of the legal framework in combating corruption, it is crucial to address these challenges through legal reforms and capacity-building initiatives for judges and legal practitioners. Strengthening

the investigative process and ensuring the availability of reliable evidence are also essential steps in improving the prosecution of corruption cases.

Ultimately, this research contributes to the ongoing discourse on corruption and justice in Indonesia, providing valuable insights for policymakers, legal practitioners, and scholars. By advancing the understanding of judicial decision-making in corruption cases, this study lays the groundwork for future research and reforms aimed at achieving a more just and effective legal system

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