

# THE RULE OF LAW AS A LEGAL ANALYSIS: INSTITUTIONAL PERFORMANCE AND PUBLIC GOVERNANCE IMPLICATIONS

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## Abstract

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This study examines the implementation of the rule of law through civil and criminal justice systems in Indonesia within an electoral democratic context, focusing on institutional performance and public governance implications. The study adopts a qualitative research design integrating doctrinal legal analysis, normative interpretation, and bibliometric techniques. Secondary data were collected from peer-reviewed publications indexed in Dimension AI and Google Scholar, alongside institutional data from the World Justice Project's (WJP) Rule of Law Index. Scientometric analysis using VOSViewer was employed to map dominant research themes, scholarly networks, and trends related to civil and criminal justice (Zulfa, 2020; Zulaeha & Mangkurat, 2023). The findings indicate that Indonesia's civil and criminal justice systems contribute to the rule of law at a moderate level but continue to face structural challenges, including procedural delays, institutional capacity constraints, and public trust deficits. Bibliometric results reveal that governance, public administration, and judicial accountability dominate scholarly discourse, highlighting the interdependence between justice systems and democratic governance. This study contributes to rule-of-law scholarship by offering an integrated analysis of civil and criminal justice as complementary governance mechanisms. Methodologically, it demonstrates the value of combining legal analysis with bibliometric mapping to generate macro-level insights relevant to judicial reform and public governance.

**Keywords:** Civil Justice, Criminal Justice, Electoral Democratic System, Rule of Law Index

**Authors' individual contribution:** Conceptualization — S. and A.L.P.; Methodology — M.Y.; Data Curation — M.Y. and H.A.M.; Formal Analysis — H.A.M.; Writing — Original Draft — S. and A.L.P.; Writing — Review & Editing — M.Y. and H.A.M.; Supervision — S. and A.L.P.

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

The rule of law is a foundational principle of democratic governance, ensuring that power is exercised within legally defined limits, rights are protected, and public authority is accountable. In electoral democracies, the effective implementation of the rule of law depends not only on constitutional commitments but also on the performance of judicial institutions that translate legal norms into enforceable outcomes (Lev, 2014). Civil and criminal justice systems play a central role in this process, functioning as institutional mechanisms through which legal certainty, equality before the law, and access to justice are realized in practice.

In Indonesia, the rule of law is constitutionally enshrined and historically shaped by a complex interaction between civil law traditions inherited from Dutch colonialism, customary (*adat*) law, and religious legal norms. Since the Reformasi era, Indonesia has pursued judicial and governance reforms to strengthen democratic accountability and legal integrity (Garcia et al., 2020). Despite these efforts, persistent challenges — such as procedural delays, institutional capacity constraints, corruption risks, and uneven public trust — continue to affect the performance of both civil and criminal justice systems. These challenges underscore the importance of examining how judicial institutions operate within broader governance structures rather than as isolated legal domains (Bilyalova & Musilimova, 2023).

Existing scholarship on the rule of law in Indonesia and other developing democracies has expanded significantly in recent years. However, much of this literature examines civil justice and criminal justice separately, often focusing on normative legal principles, sector-specific reforms, or individual performance indicators. As a result, limited attention has been paid to the structural interdependence between civil and criminal justice systems and how their combined functioning shapes rule-of-law outcomes such as institutional legitimacy, legal certainty, and public trust (Mutawalli et al., 2023). Moreover, empirical studies that integrate doctrinal legal analysis with macro-level bibliometric and scientometric evidence remain scarce, particularly in the Indonesian context. This gap limits our understanding of how scholarly discourse, institutional performance, and governance outcomes intersect in shaping the rule of law (Zulfa, 2020).

Responding to this gap, the present study advances an integrated analytical perspective that conceptualizes civil and criminal justice as complementary governance mechanisms within an electoral democratic system. Rather than treating these systems as parallel or independent institutions, this study examines how they jointly contribute to — or constrain — the implementation of the rule of law. By combining legal analysis with bibliometric mapping, the study seeks to bridge normative legal scholarship and empirical governance research, offering a holistic assessment of judicial performance and its broader public administration implications (Simes et al., 2023).

Accordingly, this study aims to examine how the rule of law is implemented through civil and criminal justice systems in Indonesia, with particular attention to institutional performance and public

governance implications. To achieve this aim, the study is guided by the following research questions:

*RQ1: How do civil and criminal justice systems contribute to the implementation of the rule of law within Indonesia's electoral democratic system?*

*RQ2: What dominant themes, trends, and scholarly patterns characterize global research on civil and criminal justice in relation to the rule of law?*

*RQ3: What institutional challenges and opportunities emerge from Indonesia's performance as reflected in the World Justice Project's (WJP) Rule of Law Index?*

The study adopts a rule-of-law governance framework that situates civil and criminal justice within broader public administration and accountability structures. Conceptually, civil justice is understood as a mechanism for dispute resolution, rights protection, and legal predictability, while criminal justice functions as an instrument of deterrence, punishment, and social order. Both systems are embedded within governance arrangements that shape their effectiveness, independence, and legitimacy (Bryan et al., 2020). This integrated framework enables a more comprehensive evaluation of how judicial performance influences democratic consolidation and institutional trust.

Methodologically, the study employs a qualitative research design that integrates doctrinal legal analysis, normative interpretation, and bibliometric techniques. Secondary data were collected from peer-reviewed publications indexed in Dimensions AI and Google Scholar, alongside institutional data from the WJP Rule of Law Index. Scientometric analysis using VOSViewer was applied to map research networks, keyword co-occurrence patterns, and thematic evolution in scholarship related to civil and criminal justice (Widjaja, 2022). This mixed analytical strategy allows the study to combine in-depth legal interpretation with macro-level insights into knowledge production and research trends.

The findings indicate that Indonesia's civil and criminal justice systems contribute to the rule of law at a moderate level but continue to face structural limitations (Zulaeha & Mangkurat, 2023). Civil justice performance is constrained by access barriers, procedural delays, and uneven institutional capacity, while criminal justice is affected by enforcement gaps, prison overcrowding, and public trust deficits. Bibliometric results further reveal that governance, public administration, judicial accountability, and institutional effectiveness dominate contemporary scholarly discourse, highlighting the close relationship between justice systems and democratic governance (Herlin-Cornell, 2019).

This study makes several significant contributions. Theoretically, it advances rule-of-law scholarship by offering an integrated conceptualization of civil and criminal justice as interdependent governance mechanisms (Suripto et al., 2021). Methodologically, it demonstrates the value of combining legal analysis with bibliometric mapping to generate macro-level insights into judicial systems and research dynamics. Practically, the findings provide policy-relevant insights for judicial reform by emphasizing the need to strengthen institutional capacity, reduce

procedural inefficiencies, enhance accountability mechanisms, and rebuild public trust in legal institutions. In doing so, the study contributes to ongoing debates on judicial reform and democratic governance in Indonesia and comparable electoral democracies.

The rest of this paper is structured as follows. Section 2 reviews the relevant literature by defining the core concepts of law, rule of law, and civil and criminal justice, and by situating the Indonesian context within broader theoretical and comparative perspectives. Section 3 explains the research methodology, outlining the qualitative research design, data sources, and analytical techniques, including doctrinal legal analysis and bibliometric mapping using VOSViewer. Section 4 presents the results, encompassing scientometric network and overlay visualizations as well as findings derived from the Rule of Law Index on civil and criminal justice. Section 5 discusses the main results. Section 6 concludes the paper by summarizing the main findings, highlighting theoretical and practical contributions, acknowledging limitations, and proposing directions for future research.

## 2. LITERATURE REVIEW

### 2.1. Defining the law

The law refers to the general guidelines and norms that govern behavior in society and whose application may be subject to penalties (Zhang et al., 2022). The law is distinct from other social norms because it has strong and actual penalties. However, in order for the law to be applied and its provisions to be followed, authority must be granted; hence, the law is necessary to prevent abuse of power (Oloka-Onyango, 2020). Customs or laws that are formally recognized as binding and validated by the head of state or government are known as laws. A society or government establishes laws as a set of rules and regulations to uphold justice and order (Iqbal & Yasmin, 2019).

It includes rules of conduct, court decisions, and legal precepts that settle conflicts. Ensuring societal harmony, safeguarding individual rights, and advancing fairness are the main goals of the law. Every country has a different legal system, with common law and civil law being two examples (Rousseau, 2022). Legislative bodies enact statutes; courts interpret and apply the law. Judges and other legal experts are essential to maintaining and enforcing the law. Respect for the law is necessary for a fair and efficient society (Putriyana & Rochaeti, 2021).

Recent scholarship increasingly conceptualizes the rule of law as an institutional governance mechanism rather than a purely normative legal principle. Studies published between 2022 and 2025 emphasize that effective rule-of-law implementation depends on the interaction between judicial institutions, public administration, and accountability frameworks within democratic systems (Karman, 2021). Contemporary governance research highlights how institutional quality, legal certainty, and enforcement capacity shape public trust and democratic consolidation, particularly in electoral democracies where formal legal structures coexist with political contestation and administrative

discretion. This shift in perspective positions civil and criminal justice systems as central components of governance performance rather than isolated legal domains (Lattimore, 2022).

### 2.2. Defining the rule of law

There are many ways to interpret and comprehend the rule of law, which is a cornerstone of many legal and political systems (Brooks et al., 2016). One viewpoint highlights the notion that everyone is bound by the law and accountable to it, even public servants. This maintains equality and stops power from being used arbitrarily (Martzoukou et al., 2022). The rule of law also encourages legal certainty by mandating that laws be interpreted clearly, predictably, and uniformly. From a governance perspective, it safeguards individual rights and acts as a check on the power of the government.

Another point of view emphasizes how crucial access to justice is to the rule of law (Ogwora, 2022). It promotes a fair and inclusive society by guaranteeing that everyone, regardless of socioeconomic background, has access to legal remedies. Furthermore, the rule of law preserves the legality concept, which states that people should not be punished for actions that are not specifically forbidden by the law (Goelzhauser & Konisky, 2020).

Globally, it is believed that the rule of law is essential to safeguarding human rights. It provides the framework for international legal systems, encouraging collaboration and amicable conflict settlement between states (Mrisho et al., 2023). In this situation, upholding the rule of law is crucial to preserving international peace and advancing diplomatic relations. All things considered, the rule of law is a complex idea that includes the concepts of justice, accountability, clarity in the law, and human rights (Lacey, 2019). It is essential to the operation of legal systems both nationally and globally because it promotes a society in which people are shielded from arbitrary action and the law is enforced justly (Fauzia et al., 2021).

According to Indonesian scholars, the rule of law (*hukum*) is fundamentally about establishing a society governed by justice, fairness, and the supremacy of law, where laws are applied equally to all citizens and government actions are bound by legal constraints. For instance, Herlin-Cornell (2019) emphasizes that the rule of law in Indonesia aims to create a society where laws are transparent, predictable, and upheld consistently, ensuring that government authority is exercised within legal boundaries. Similarly, Suropto et al. (2021) describe the rule of law as a principle that ensures legal certainty, accountability, and the protection of human rights, which are vital for democratic development and social justice.

In the context of Indonesia's legal history, local scholars note that the rule of law signifies not only adherence to written laws but also the integrity of judicial institutions and their independence from extralegal influences (Wen et al., 2021). It encompasses the effort to strengthen judicial independence, promote legal transparency, and foster public trust in the judiciary as essential components for effective governance and social order (Zaman & Bhatti, 2023).

### 2.3. Defining the civil and criminal justice

Systems of criminal and civil justice have different functions in legal frameworks across the globe. (Zaman & Bhatti, 2023). Civil justice deals with disagreements between private parties, including people or organizations, who want to settle their differences or get compensation (Treglia et al., 2021). The objective is to financially compensate the impacted party or take specific steps to return them to their pre-affected state. Contract disputes, personal injury claims, and family law lawsuits are all considered civil proceedings.

Criminal justice, on the other hand, is concerned with crimes committed against the state or society (Lattimore, 2022). Its goals are to hold criminals accountable for their deeds and discourage others from committing the same offenses. In criminal situations, the state prosecutes the offender and imposes fines and jail time. In criminal proceedings, the burden of proof is higher, and evidence must be shown beyond a reasonable doubt (Pan & Zheng, 2019).

From a social point of view, the goal of civil justice is to settle disputes fairly while compensating parties and preserving social order (Nur et al., 2022). On the other hand, criminal justice works to safeguard society by punishing transgressions and deterring similar ones in the future (Raihani & Bshary, 2019). Contributing to a well-balanced legal framework, both systems resolve personal grievances and uphold communal security. These two aspects of the legal system are distinguished, nevertheless, by the focus on punishment as opposed to compensation (Mrisho et al., 2023).

Within this evolving literature, civil justice is increasingly examined through the lenses of access to justice, procedural efficiency, and institutional transparency. Recent studies underscore that delays, cost barriers, and uneven legal capacity weaken the rule of law by undermining equality before the law and citizen confidence in judicial institutions (Iqbal & Yasmin, 2019). At the same time, research on criminal justice governance stresses the importance of prosecutorial independence, due process, and anti-corruption safeguards in sustaining legal legitimacy. Empirical contributions published in recent governance and law journals demonstrate that weaknesses in criminal justice enforcement — such as selective prosecution or institutional capture — have direct spillover effects on broader governance outcomes and public accountability (Simes et al., 2023).

### 2.4. Civil and criminal justice in Indonesia

The criminal and civil judicial systems are essential to preserving social order and respecting the law in Indonesia (Zulfa, 2020). The goal of the civil justice system is to settle conflicts between private parties or organizations. It covers situations involving property, contracts, and family law. With a focus on codification and statutes, the continental European legal tradition serves as the primary source of Indonesian civil law (Karman, 2021).

On the other hand, crimes against society or the state are dealt with by the criminal justice system (Sunismi et al., 2022). It entails looking into, trying, and ruling on criminal activity. The criminal code of Indonesia has elements of both traditional and contemporary legislation. Certain areas are subject to Sharia law, which further complicates the legal system (Wen et al., 2021). The efficacy and equity of both systems have raised questions from the standpoint of human rights. Concerns have been expressed about possible abuses, delays in the legal system, and access to justice. To strengthen the overall legal framework and guarantee justice for all Indonesians, continuing legal changes and initiatives are being made to increase the effectiveness and openness of the court.

## 3. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

### 3.1. Type of research

This study adopts a qualitative research design to examine the implementation of the rule of law through civil and criminal justice systems in Indonesia. A qualitative approach is particularly appropriate for this research because the rule of law is a multidimensional concept that involves legal norms, institutional practices, governance structures, and societal perceptions. Rather than measuring causal relationships statistically, this study seeks to develop an in-depth and contextual understanding of how civil and criminal justice systems contribute to legal certainty, accountability, and public trust within an electoral democratic system.

### 3.2. Research location

The WJP website (<https://worldjusticeproject.org/>) and scholarly journals served as our research sources for this essay. However, our analysis shows that academic journals — which offer in-depth analyses of expert research — have emerged as a reliable source of data and knowledge. We obtained academic journal-related data from several online database sources, including Dimension AI, Google Scholar, Scopus, and so on. The data were subjected to peer assessment, guaranteeing their dependability and accuracy. Also, classical legal methodology typically involves doctrinal analysis, case law studies, legal interpretation, and normative analysis. This paper blends legal inquiry with scientometric and bibliometric techniques, leveraging powerful data analytics tools like VOSViewer. This interdisciplinary approach to law-related research has gained macro-level insights into scholarly discourse and thematic evolution. As shown below in Table 1.

**Table 1.** Data sources website list

Source name	Website link
Dimension AI	<a href="https://app.dimensions.ai/discover/publication">https://app.dimensions.ai/discover/publication</a>
Scopus	<a href="https://www.scopus.com/pages/home">https://www.scopus.com/pages/home</a>
Google Scholar	<a href="https://scholar.google.com/">https://scholar.google.com/</a>
WJP	<a href="https://worldjusticeproject.org/rule-of-law-index/global">https://worldjusticeproject.org/rule-of-law-index/global</a>

Source: Authors' elaboration.



**Table 2.** Taxonomy of research data

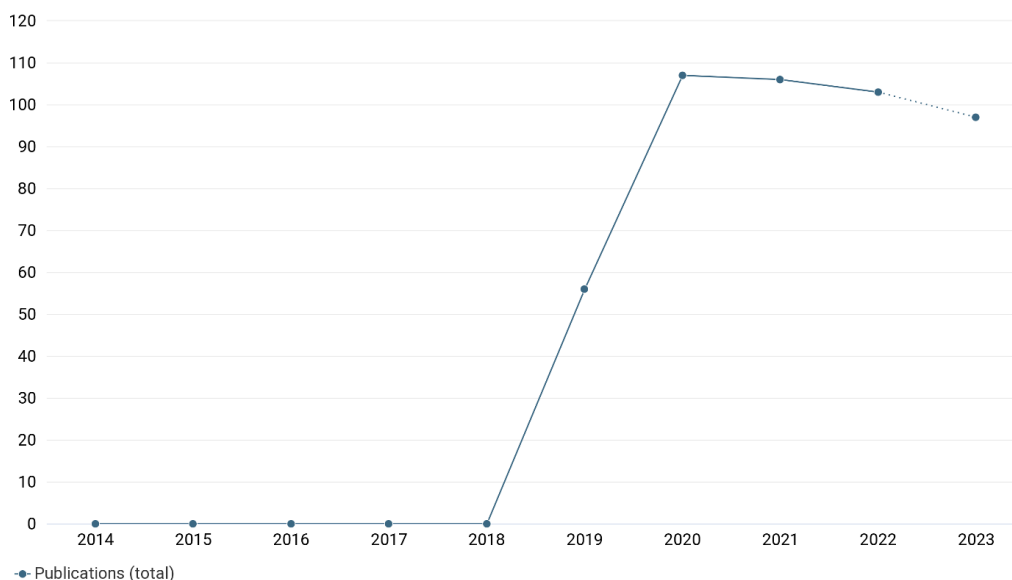
<i>Authors</i>	<i>Papers</i>	<i>Summarized abstract</i>	<i>Results</i>
Lugo (2023)	Resistencia civil:	The paper explores the concept of civil resistance in Colombia. It examines the experiences of social organizations in the Montes de María region.	The paper explores the concept of civil resistance in Colombia. The paper discusses the experiences of social organizations in the Montes de María region.
Kapahi et al. (2023)	A CFD-based methodology to design an explosion prevention system for Li-ion based battery energy storage system	A methodology was developed to design an explosion prevention system for Li-Ion battery storage. CFD analysis is used to model failure scenarios and assess ventilation performance.	Developed a performance-based methodology for designing explosion prevention systems for Li-Ion-based battery energy storage systems (BESS). Used computational fluid dynamics (CFD) analysis to model failure scenarios and evaluate ventilation performance.
Yanacopulos and Hanlon (2006)	Civil war, civil peace	The paper discusses the causes and consequences of civil wars. It explores the role of ethnicity, identity, and external factors in civil wars.	The paper discusses the causes and dynamics of civil wars. It explores the role of external factors in internal conflicts.
Quirino Steiner et al. (2022)	Civil society: Nongovernmental organisations, public opinion, and individuals	Civil society's role in environmental governance has increased since the 1990s. They influence marine environmental governance through diplomacy, advocacy, and education.	Increased influence of civil society in environmental governance. Success and failure in influencing marine environmental governance.
de Lima (2023)	Civil disobedience: A dispute of concepts	Genealogical methodology used to explore conceptualizations of civil disobedience. The liberal model imposes theoretical constraints, while the radical approach focuses on real political actions.	Selective appropriation of Thoreau's concept of civil disobedience. The imposition of theoretical constraints on civil disobedience by the liberal model.

**4.1. Document publication by years**

Document publication has a schedule in Figure 2 that shows the release of findings from 2019 to 2023. One document was added to the Dimension AI database between 2019 and 2023. As illustrated by these statistics, in 2020, there was an increase in

publications, with 110 articles. In 2021, 107 publications were made; in 2022, 105; and in 2023, 97. This suggests that, although not statistically significant, there is less research on the application of the rule of law in civil and criminal courts, as shown in Figure 2.

**Figure 2.** Publication of documents by years



Source: Authors' elaboration using Dimension AI.

**4.2. Document publication by subject area**

Figure 3 provides a visual representation of the application of the rule of law through administrative justice and criminal justice.

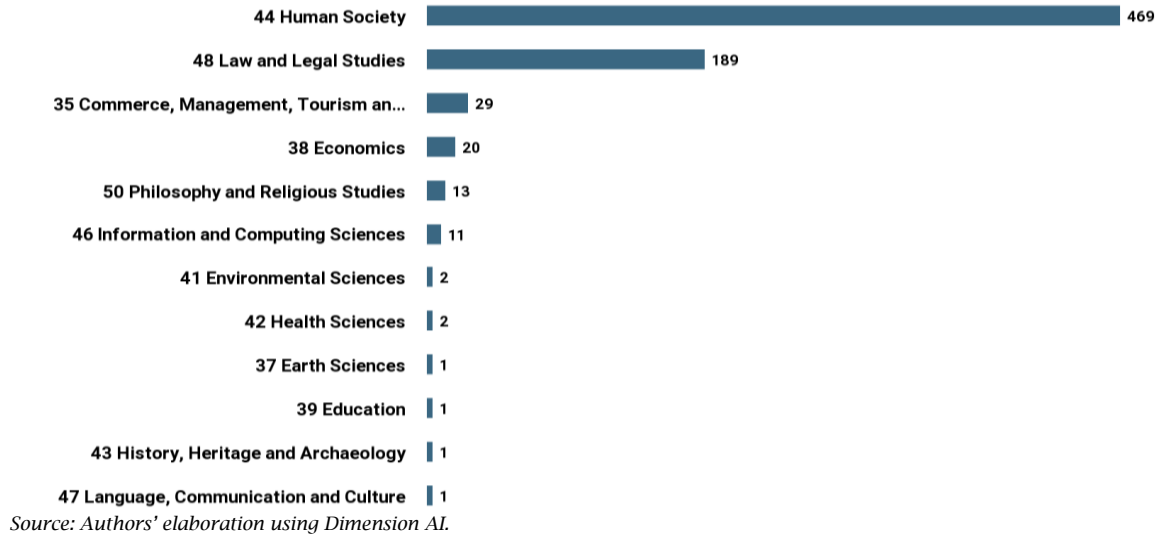
The Dimension AI database shows that the above graph pattern is dominated by the discipline of human society with 469 publications, followed by the discipline of law and legal studies with 189 publications, and finally, trade, management,

tourism, and services with 29 publications. These three disciplines dominate the application of the rule of law through administrative justice and criminal justice.

The less linear disciplines associated with the application of legal supremacy through administrative justice and criminal justice are also

explained in Figure 2. With 20 publications, the discipline of economics was the smallest in terms of article publication. It was followed by the discipline of philosophy and religious beliefs with 13 publications, and the discipline of earth science with one publication.

Figure 3. Publication of documents by subject area

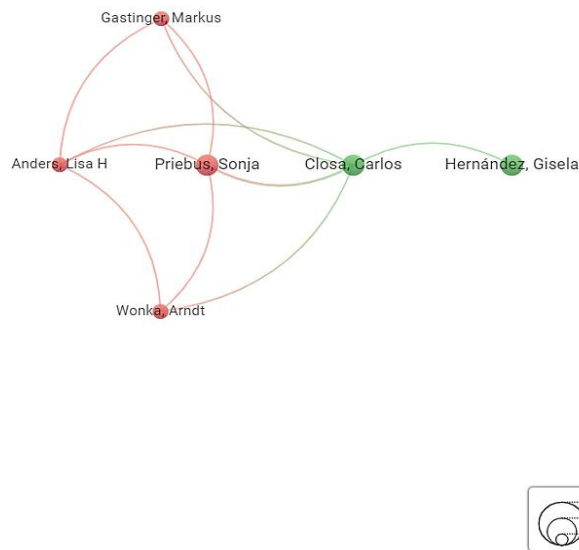


### 4.3. Document publication by authors

The association between one author and another may be seen in Figure 4. The University of Leipzig's Lisa H. Anders is represented by red clusters with four citation links, four total citations, and one publication. While Gastinger, Markus, the researcher from the University of Salzburg, is shown with three citation links, three total citations, and one publication, researcher Wonka, Arndt, from the University of Bremen, is shown with red clusters containing three citation links, three total citations,

and one publication. Priebus, Sonja, from European University Viadrina, is shown with red clusters containing four citation links, five total citations, and two publications. Closa, Carlos, from Instituto de Políticas y Bienes Públicos, is shown with green clusters containing five citation links, six total citations, two publications, and finally, Hernández, Gisela, from green clusters representing the Autonomous University of Madrid, has one citation link, one total citation, and two publications. Six researchers, ten citation linkages, eleven total citations, and two clusters are displayed in Figure 4.

Figure 4. Publication by the author



Source: Authors' elaboration using Dimension AI.

## 4.4. Findings from the Rule of Law Index

### 4.4.1. Civil justice

A judicial institution known as administrative justice is entrusted with investigating and rendering decisions in cases between people and civil legal entities and government agencies or officials that arise from the decisions made by these organizations. In the realm of administration, administrative justice is crucial to the realization of the rule of law. Ensuring that government administrative activities are conducted in compliance with the law is facilitated by administrative justice, as shown in Figure 5. According to data from civil justice, Indonesia is ranked 11th out of 15 East Asian and Pacific nations on the Rule of Law Index. The Rule of Law Index evaluates a nation's performance in putting the following rules into practice:

- An efficient and successful government upholds citizens' rights while carrying out its duties in an efficient and effective manner.

- Low levels of corruption: Low levels of corruption suggest that society and the government uphold the rule of law.

- Civil liberties: The right to assemble, protest, and voice one's ideas is guaranteed.

- Legal justice: Before the law, all citizens are treated equally.

With a civil justice score of 0.47, Indonesia is considered to have a reasonably excellent system. This is less than the average for the region of 0.52. Indonesia received an overall score of 0.53, as can be seen from the civil justice score. This implies that the rule of law is practiced in Indonesia to a reasonable degree. Compared to the area average of 0.55, this is lower. It can be stated that Indonesia's handling of civil cases is still generally mediocre and does not yet qualify as exceptionally well-served.

Figure 5. Rule of Law Index scores

RANKING		HISTORICAL		TABLE		Filter By: East Asia & F		or INCOME		Sort By Rank				
	REGIONAL RANK	Government Powers	Absence of Corruption	Open Government	Fundamental Rights	Order and Security	Regulatory Enforcement	Civil Justice	Criminal Justice	OVERALL SCORE				
	Singapore	1/15	0.67	0.91	0.61	0.67	0.93	0.86	0.79	0.77	0.78			
	New Zealand	2/15	0.85	0.87	0.82	0.82	0.88	0.84	0.78	0.73	0.83			
	Japan	3/15	0.73	0.82	0.70	0.78	0.92	0.80	0.76	0.76	0.79			
	Korea, Rep.	4/15	0.71	0.67	0.72	0.75	0.84	0.74	0.75	0.71	0.74			
	Australia	5/15	0.82	0.81	0.81	0.78	0.87	0.82	0.75	0.73	0.80			
	Hong Kong SAR, China	6/15	0.57	0.83	0.69	0.60	0.93	0.79	0.71	0.69	0.73			
	Malaysia	7/15	0.57	0.57	0.42	0.49	0.78	0.55	0.62	0.56	0.57			
	Mongolia	8/15	0.53	0.42	0.49	0.56	0.76	0.48	0.54	0.48	0.53			
	China	9/15	0.31	0.53	0.40	0.25	0.81	0.49	0.52	0.43	0.47			
	Thailand	10/15	0.45	0.45	0.48	0.46	0.74	0.44	0.49	0.41	0.49			
	<b>Indonesia</b>	<b>11/15</b>	<b>0.66</b>	<b>0.40</b>	<b>0.55</b>	<b>0.50</b>	<b>0.71</b>	<b>0.57</b>	<b>0.47</b>	<b>0.40</b>	<b>0.53</b>			
	Philippines	12/15	0.47	0.43	0.47	0.40	0.67	0.47	0.45	0.31	0.46			
	Vietnam	13/15	0.45	0.42	0.45	0.45	0.78	0.44	0.45	0.46	0.49			
	Myanmar	14/15	0.29	0.42	0.30	0.20	0.58	0.42	0.32	0.25	0.35			
	Cambodia	15/15	0.26	0.23	0.24	0.33	0.66	0.26	0.25	0.26	0.31			

Source: WJP (<https://worldjusticeproject.org/>).

### 4.4.2. Criminal justice

Indonesia is ranked 12th out of 15 countries in East Asia and the Pacific in terms of the Rule of Law Index, according to data from the criminal justice in Indonesia survey. The Rule of Law Index evaluates a nation's performance in putting the following rules into practice, as shown in Figure 6.

- An efficient and successful government upholds citizens' rights while carrying out its duties in an efficient and effective manner.

- Low levels of corruption: These signify that society and the government uphold the law.

- The freedom to organize, protest, and voice one's thoughts are examples of civil liberties.

- Equality before the law is guaranteed to all citizens through legal justice.

Indonesia has a comparatively good criminal justice system, as seen by its 0.41 criminal justice score. The regional average of 0.47 is higher than this. The country of Indonesia has a relatively high degree of rule of law, as indicated by the magnitude (0.53) of its total criminal justice score. This value is less than the 0.55 regional average. It seems that Indonesia is doing a really decent job of resolving criminal justice issues. This adequate sentence modification has to be strengthened going forward. Since Indonesia is a nation of laws, the legitimacy of the government is taken into consideration.

Figure 6. Rule of Law Index scores

		Filter By:	East Asia & F	or	INCOME	Sort By Rank					
REGIONAL RANK		Government Powers	Absence of Corruption	Open Government	Fundamental Rights	Order and Security	Regulatory Enforcement	Civil Justice	Criminal Justice	OVERALL SCORE	
	Singapore	1/15	0.67	0.91	0.61	0.67	0.93	0.86	0.79	0.77	0.78
	Japan	2/15	0.73	0.82	0.70	0.78	0.92	0.80	0.76	0.76	0.79
	New Zealand	3/15	0.85	0.87	0.82	0.82	0.88	0.84	0.78	0.73	0.83
	Australia	4/15	0.82	0.81	0.81	0.78	0.87	0.82	0.75	0.73	0.80
	Korea, Rep.	5/15	0.71	0.67	0.72	0.75	0.84	0.74	0.75	0.71	0.74
	Hong Kong SAR, China	6/15	0.57	0.83	0.69	0.60	0.93	0.79	0.71	0.69	0.73
	Malaysia	7/15	0.57	0.57	0.42	0.49	0.78	0.55	0.62	0.56	0.57
	Mongolia	8/15	0.53	0.42	0.49	0.56	0.76	0.48	0.54	0.48	0.53
	Vietnam	9/15	0.45	0.42	0.45	0.45	0.78	0.44	0.45	0.46	0.49
	China	10/15	0.31	0.53	0.40	0.25	0.81	0.49	0.52	0.43	0.47
	Thailand	11/15	0.45	0.45	0.48	0.46	0.74	0.44	0.49	0.41	0.49
	Indonesia	12/15	0.66	0.40	0.55	0.50	0.71	0.57	0.47	0.40	0.53
	Philippines	13/15	0.47	0.43	0.47	0.40	0.67	0.47	0.45	0.31	0.46
	Cambodia	14/15	0.26	0.23	0.24	0.33	0.66	0.26	0.25	0.26	0.31
	Myanmar	15/15	0.29	0.42	0.30	0.20	0.58	0.42	0.32	0.25	0.35

Source: WJP (<https://worldjusticeproject.org/>).

## 5. DISCUSSION

### 5.1. Network visualization

In this networking news, on 471 papers viewed from the Dimension AI database, scientometric analysis was conducted by the construction of network visualizations of overlays and density on VOSViewer. A scientometric network comprises edges and nodes. Nodes are depicted using circles that can be publications, journals, or keywords, and the edges represent the relationship between nodes. It illustrates the connection between two nodes. The border is also the strength of the relationship represented by distance. The less the distance between nodes, the more correlated the nodes are.

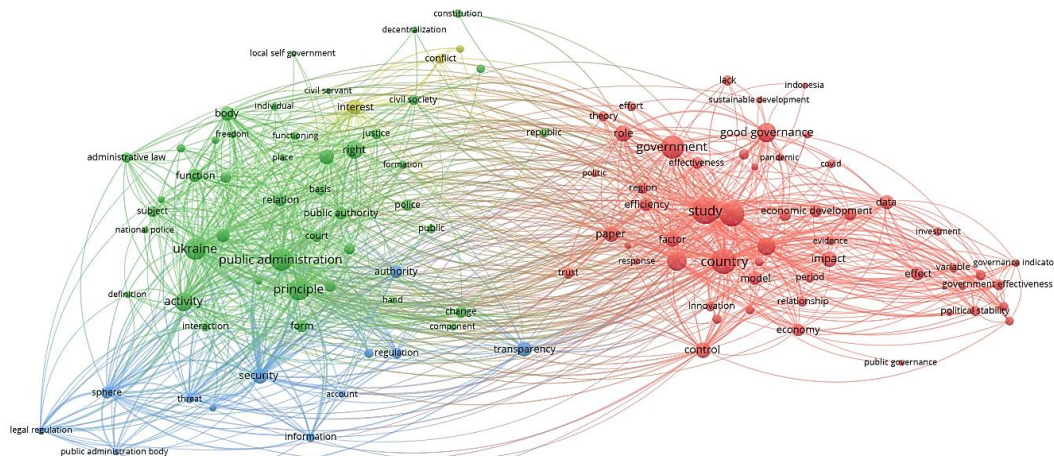
The subject of implementing the rule of law through civil and criminal justice cannot be divorced from public administration, government, and good governance. Public administration, governance, and enforcement of the rule of law through legal procedures in the criminal and civil arenas are grossly impacted. Implementation of the rule of law in public administration is the determinant of success and equity in delivering public services. A government that adheres to the rule of law

ensures citizens' rights against infringement, promotes accountability in decision-making, and exercises authority and justice in behavior.

In turn, the enforcement of the State of Law will create a favorable climate for the eradication of corruption and impartial enforcement of the law, and enable citizens to be involved in decision-making. The reciprocal influence among public administration, government, and judiciary by means of the enforcement of the rule of law, therefore, forms the basis for the sustained development and growth of society. The visualization of the network for civil and criminal justice keywords is clear from the analysis results on VOSViewer.

Figure 7 depicts keywords or common words, and the color depicts the cluster. Image mapping is utilized to have a clear picture of a scientometric network, whereas grouping is utilized to obtain insight or a snapshot of scientometric groupings. (Aribowo, 2019). A circle is used for each keyword or common term. The size of the circle represents the number of publications associated with that term as a title in the document. The bigger the circle, the higher the number of documents associated with the keyword or term.

Figure 7. Network visualization of research



Source: Authors' elaboration using VOSViewer.



scholarship by advancing an integrated conceptual understanding of civil and criminal justice as interdependent mechanisms within democratic governance. Methodologically, it demonstrates the value of combining legal analysis with bibliometric mapping to generate macro-level insights into judicial systems and research trends. Practically, the findings offer policy-relevant insights for judicial reform by underscoring the need to improve institutional capacity, reduce procedural delays, strengthen anti-corruption mechanisms, and enhance public trust in legal institutions.

Despite these contributions, this study has several limitations. The analysis relies exclusively on secondary data, which limits the ability to capture the lived experiences of court users, judges, and legal practitioners. In addition, bibliometric results are influenced by database coverage and keyword

selection, which may not fully represent all relevant scholarship or emerging research areas. The use of aggregate Rule of Law Index indicators also restricts the analysis of localized or sector-specific judicial dynamics.

Future research should address these limitations by incorporating primary data through interviews, surveys, or courtroom observations to better understand how civil and criminal justice operate in practice. Comparative studies across different electoral democracies could further illuminate institutional variations and best practices. Additionally, longitudinal analyses focusing on post-reform developments would provide deeper insight into the evolving relationship between judicial reform and the rule of law in Indonesia and similar democratic contexts.

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