

Urgency of Legal Theory Renewal in the Digital Era

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Abstract

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The post-COVID-19 digital transformation has accelerated the adoption of technology across various sectors, including the legal system, creating both significant opportunities and complex challenges for legal theory. This study employs a literature review method on several relevant scholarly articles to examine the urgency of renewing legal theory in response to technological advances. The findings indicate that theoretical updates are essential to address critical issues such as electronic evidence, cybersecurity, personal data protection, and the legitimacy of online courts. The proposed reform strategies include revising the legal conceptual framework, integrating cyber law into legal education, adopting principle-based regulations, and utilizing data-driven legal research to support evidence-based decision-making. Practical implications cover the establishment of adaptive regulations, the strengthening of digital democracy, the enhancement of online justice quality, and international legal cooperation. In conclusion, the renewal of legal theory is urgent and must be pursued collaboratively, oriented toward justice, transparency, and sustainability in the digital era.

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1. Introduction

Digital transformation has emerged as an unavoidable global trend, particularly following the COVID-19 pandemic that significantly hastened technology adoption across multiple sectors, including the legal field. The pandemic compelled courts to shift from traditional governance to technology-driven practices, such as virtual hearings, digital case management, and the application of artificial intelligence in law enforcement.¹ These transformations create significant opportunities for modernizing the legal framework, yet simultaneously expose the core limitations of conventional legal theories that remain static and rooted in pre-digital social contexts. Classical legal theories were developed within settings of physical interactions, manually obtained evidence, along with hierarchical and bureaucratic judicial processes.² When faced with the speed of technological development, a rigid legal framework becomes inadequate to answer complex and cross-border new legal problems.

The post-pandemic period demonstrates that the legal system encounters numerous emerging challenges, including proof relying on electronic data, cross-border cybercrime, the application of big data and algorithms within evidentiary processes, as well as shifts in community interaction patterns that influence legal relationships.³ This transformation generates a dual challenge: on one side, the law must effectively safeguard public interests, while on the other, it needs to adjust to

¹ Mery Christian Putri, and Erlina Maria Christin Sinaga. "Disrupsi Digital Dalam Proses Penegakan Hukum Pada Masa Pandemi Covid-19," *Jurnal Rechts Vinding: Media Pembinaan Hukum Nasional* 10, no. 1 (2021): 79.

² I Dewa Gede Atmadja and I Nyoman Putu Budiarta. *Teori-teori hukum*, Malang: Setara Press, (2018): Page.6.

³ Wawan Fransisco. "Interaktif Masyarakat Terhadap Hukum Dalam Kehidupan Normal Baru Pasca COVID-19," *Journal of Judicial Review* 22, no. 2 (2020): 157.

technological progress that advances more rapidly than legislative processes. Current regulations frequently fall behind technological realities, producing legal grey areas with the potential to generate uncertainty within the legal system.⁴

Beyond normative challenges, epistemological issues also arise within legal scholarship. To date, legal theory has largely emphasized written norms, doctrines, and judicial interpretations as the primary sources of legal truth, whereas digital realities demand a more dynamic, multidisciplinary approach that integrates technological perspectives. Within this framework, the urgency of renewing legal theory becomes undeniable. Such renewal is not merely a revision of terminology or adjustment of regulations, but rather a conceptual transformation enabling legal theory to be more adaptive, responsive, and contextually relevant. Internationally, numerous countries have addressed this issue by formulating new frameworks such as digital law theory or techno-legal theory, which blend legal principles with computational logic and digital ethics.⁵ This concept not only addresses the substance of the law, but also pays attention to how the law enforcement process can be carried out effectively with the support of technology.

Indonesia must adopt comparable measures to guarantee that legal theories remain aligned with global technological advancements. Without renewal, the gap between legal theory and evolving social reality will widen, ultimately weakening the legitimacy of law in public perception. This study aims to provide a conceptual contribution to the progress of legal theory in Indonesia, particularly in addressing

⁴ Sahat Maruli Tua Situmeang. *Cyber law*, Penerbit Cakra, (2020): Page.61.

⁵ Meg Leta Jones. "Does Technology Drive Law? The Dilemma Of Technological Exceptionalism In Cyberlaw," *U. Ill. JL Tech. & Pol'y* (2018): 249.

post-pandemic digital transformation. Employing a literature review, the research examines contemporary developments in legal theory, highlights the shortcomings of conventional approaches, and proposes renewal directions suited to the national context. The scope of this study goes beyond normative elements, extending to the philosophical, sociological, and practical dimensions of law in the digital era. Building on this foundation, the research formulates three key objectives: first, to assess the urgency of renewing legal theory in response to post-COVID-19 digital transformation; second, to identify the limitations of traditional legal theories in dealing with digital challenges; and third, to present recommendations for updating legal theory based on recent scholarship.

The research questions to be addressed are: how shifts in the legal ecosystem resulting from digital transformation influence the relevance of existing legal theories; which factors create the urgency for updating legal theory in the digital era; and how legal theories can be developed to suit the Indonesian context. This study is expected to yield theoretical benefits by offering contributions to the advancement of legal theories that adapt to technological progress, as well as practical benefits in the form of recommendations for policymakers, academics, and legal practitioners in constructing legal systems responsive to digital innovation. Nevertheless, this research is limited to a conceptual analysis grounded in academic literature from the past five years, including both international and national indexed journals relevant to digital transformation and legal theory. Within this framework, it is anticipated that the renewal of legal theory can be established on a solid, relevant, and academically prepared foundation to meet contemporary challenges.

2. Literature Review

The advancement of digital technology has influenced nearly every aspect of life, including the legal sector. Several studies indicate that the COVID-19 pandemic accelerated digitalization in the judiciary through the adoption of e-courts, online hearings, and electronic administration of legal documentation.⁶ This transformation compels legal theory to address shifts by embracing a more flexible and interdisciplinary perspective.⁷ Traditional legal theory, which is built on the paradigm of legal positivism, often emphasizes certainty and formal codification.⁸ Yet, within the digital sphere, this method encounters constraints since the law must govern emerging and fast-developing issues, including blockchain-based transactions, Artificial Intelligence (AI) applications in legal analysis, and transnational forms of cybercrime.⁹ This is where the urgency arises for the renewal of legal theory that is able to integrate the perspectives of technology, ethics, and digital sociology.

The notion of Digital Law Theory formulated globally integrates legal principles with computational logic, stressing regulatory adaptability and cross-system interoperability.¹⁰ In Indonesia, several researchers have proposed a progressive legal approach that utilizes data analytics, legal expert systems, and

⁶ Mery Christian Putri, and Erlina Maria Christin Sinaga. "Disrupsi Digital Dalam Proses Penegakan Hukum Pada Masa Pandemi Covid-19," *Jurnal Rechts Vinding: Media Pembinaan Hukum Nasional* 10, no. 1 (2021): 79.

⁷ Natangsa Surbakti. "The Ideology of Law: Its Reflection in the Legal Products of Indonesia." *Varia Justicia* (2020): 51.

⁸ I Dewa Gede Atmadja and I Nyoman Putu Budiarta. *Teori-teori hukum*, Malang: Setara Press, 2018: Page.6.

⁹ Sahat Maruli Tua Situmeang. *Cyber law*, Penerbit Cakra, (2020): Page.64.

¹⁰ Meg Leta Jones. "Does Technology Drive Law? The Dilemma Of Technological Exceptionalism In Cyberlaw," *U. Ill. JL Tech. & Pol'y* (2018): 249.

strengthening cybersecurity to maintain justice and protection of human rights.¹¹ This perspective likewise involves revising law enforcement techniques, such as digital verification utilizing cyber forensics and metadata authentication.¹² Beyond substantive aspects, digital transformation also impacts enforcement procedures, for instance by expediting case handling, lessening administrative workload, and enhancing public transparency.

However, the implementation of technology also raises new challenges such as reliance on digital infrastructure, potential privacy violations, and digital gaps between regions.¹³ Accordingly, the literature underscores the necessity of revising legal theories that integrate substantive justice principles while remaining adaptive to technology. Current scholarship indicates that renewing legal theory in the post-pandemic context demands an interdisciplinary method uniting law, technology, and digital ethics. This framework is anticipated to establish a legal order that not only responds to technological change but also preserves fundamental legal values such as justice, certainty, and utility.¹⁴

3. Methods

This research employs a literature review method as the primary approach to examine the urgency of renewing legal theory in response to digital transformation

¹¹ Wawan Fransisco. "Interaktif Masyarakat Terhadap Hukum Dalam Kehidupan Normal Baru Pasca COVID-19," *Journal of Judicial Review* 22, no. 2 (2020): 157.

¹² Danurahman, Jeni, and Eny Kusdarini. "Dampak Pandemi Coronavirus Disease (Covid-19) Dalam Perspektif Hukum Di Era Digital." *Masalah-Masalah Hukum* 50, no. 2 (2021): 151-160.

¹³ Philipe Nonet, and Philipe Selznick. *Hukum responsive*, Nusamedia, 2019 : Page.97.

¹⁴ Muhammad Fadli. "Pembentukan undang-undang yang mengikuti perkembangan Masyarakat," *Jurnal Legislasi Indonesia* 15, no. 1 (2018): 56.

after the COVID-19 pandemic. The choice of this method is grounded in the conceptual and theoretical orientation of the study, which demands comprehensive mapping of ideas, empirical findings, and relevant academic discourse. Through literature review, researchers can identify knowledge gaps, trace trends in the development of legal theory, and understand the dynamics between law and technology in the post-pandemic era.

The data sources of this study derive from academic publications accessed through Google Scholar, Elsevier, Researchgate, and e-books. Literature selection followed strict inclusion criteria: publications within the last five years, relevance to legal theory renewal and digital transformation, and applicability to the Indonesian legal system or at least potential adaptation to it. Selected articles consist of works in both Indonesian and English, provided they passed a peer-review process. Popular publications, non-relevant writings, or materials unrelated to the post-pandemic situation were excluded from references. Data collection involved searches using keywords such as “legal theory”, “legal digital transformation”, “judicial digitalization”, “legal theory update”, and “COVID-19 legal transformation”. Search results were filtered by title, abstract, and article content to ensure alignment with the research focus. Literature that satisfied the criteria was analyzed to identify major arguments, applied theoretical frameworks, and significant findings.

Data analysis was conducted through thematic analysis, whereby the researcher marked essential parts of each source that address normative challenges, global legal theory developments, innovations in legal technology, and their practical implications. These findings were subsequently organized into major themes and

synthesized to form a structured narrative. This process not only consolidates information but also contrasts different perspectives and approaches among scholars, thus producing a more comprehensive understanding of the studied issue. To ensure validity, cross-verification of sources was carried out across multiple academic databases, confirming thematic relevance and publication credibility. Research reliability was reinforced through consistent application of selection criteria and systematic documentation of the analysis stages. With this approach, the study is expected to provide substantial theoretical contributions by formulating a framework for legal theory renewal in Indonesia, particularly in addressing the acceleration of digital transformation triggered by the COVID-19 pandemic.

4. Results

4.1. Challenges of Legal Theory in the Era of Digital Transformation

The rapid expansion of digital transformation, particularly following the COVID-19 pandemic, has introduced fresh challenges for legal theory. Such shifts influence not only procedural elements, including judicial administration digitalization, but also the substance of law, normative interpretation, and the interaction between state and citizens in digital spaces. According to Ardilla et al.¹⁵, The pandemic has driven faster technological adaptation within the legal sector, yet the current theoretical framework is not entirely prepared to address emerging issues, including the legitimacy of digital documents, electronic evidence, and protection of

¹⁵ Merti Ardilla, Elis Rusmiati, and Ijud Tajudin. "Peliputan Secara Langsung Persidangan Perkara Pidana oleh Media Televisi dihubungkan dengan Asas Pemeriksaan di Pengadilan Terbuka Untuk Umum dalam Rangka Pembaharuan Hukum Acara Pidana," *Jurnal Hukum & Pembangunan* Vol 50, no. 1 (2020): 43.

personal data. A primary challenge arises from the inability of classical legal theory to adequately respond to the phenomenon of borderless law. As revealed by Manurung and Heliany¹⁶, legal theories formulated in the pre-digital period were grounded in definite boundaries of physical jurisdiction. Yet, in today's digital era, legal violations may happen across borders within seconds, creating challenges regarding mechanisms for enforcing cross-jurisdictional law.

Moreover, digital transformation influences the paradigm of justice. Whereas justice was once perceived through physical encounters involving judges, prosecutors, and litigants, the emergence of online judicial processes has shifted these interactions into technology-driven formats. According to Baihaqi¹⁷, this shift demands a reinterpretation of due process of law principles to ensure continued relevance while safeguarding litigants' rights. The situation becomes more complicated when factoring in unequal access to technology within society, which risks generating new forms of inequality. From the lens of progressive legal theory, as emphasized by Fadli, law should consistently align with societal progress. Yet in practice, within the framework of digital transformation, the law frequently falls behind, making it necessary to update existing legal theories so they can deliver swift and suitable responses to emerging dynamics.

¹⁶ Edison H. Manurung, and Ina Heliany. "Peran Hukum Dan Tantangan Penegak Hukum Dalam Menghadapi Era Revolusi Industri 4.0," *SOL JUSTISIO* 1, no. 2 (2019): 130.

¹⁷ Muhammad Rizal Baihaqi. *Demokrasi Digital: Memahami Dampak Dan Tantangan*, Penerbit Adab, (2020): Page.73.

In the literature, several academics such as Shahrullah and Cokro¹⁸ suggest a cyber law theory approach that unifies international law principles, privacy safeguards, and data regulation within a single theoretical construct. Consequently, the central challenge lies not only in technological adaptation but also in ensuring legal theory experiences philosophical and methodological reorientation. This challenge serves as the basis for shaping strategies to update legal theory in line with post-pandemic digital era requirements.

4.2. Legal Theory Renewal Strategy

The renewal of legal theory amid digital transformation following the COVID-19 pandemic demands a multidimensional strategy integrating philosophical, normative, and practical dimensions. Such transformation cannot be limited to technical regulatory adjustments but must entail revisions to the legal conceptual framework to adequately address the challenges presented by the digital era. According to Shahrullah and Cokro¹⁹, the renewal of legal theory amid digital transformation following the COVID-19 pandemic demands a multidimensional strategy integrating philosophical, normative, and practical dimensions. Such transformation cannot be limited to technical regulatory adjustments but must entail revisions to the legal conceptual framework to adequately address the challenges

¹⁸ Rina Shahriyani Shahrullah, and Henry Hadinata Cokro. "Penegakan Hukum Bagi Pedagang Usaha Mikro, Kecil Dan Menengah Terhadap Para Pelaku Usaha Monopoli." *Journal of Law and Policy Transformation* 5, no. 2 (2020): 113-127.

¹⁹ Rina Shahriyani Shahrullah, and Henry Hadinata Cokro. "Penegakan Hukum Bagi Pedagang Usaha Mikro, Kecil Dan Menengah Terhadap Para Pelaku Usaha Monopoli." *Journal of Law and Policy Transformation* 5, no. 2 (2020): 113-127.

presented by the digital era. This is in line with the view of Ardilla et al.²⁰ who stressed that reinforcing digital legal theory in academia will produce legal professionals attuned to technological concerns, including cybersecurity, digital forensics, and personal data protection. Technology-oriented legal education not only conveys regulatory content, but also develops analytical abilities regarding legal phenomena emerging from novel technological advancements.

At the normative dimension, reform strategies necessitate harmonization between domestic law and international law. The digital era has obscured jurisdictional borders, requiring national legal theoretical frameworks to align with global principles, especially concerning matters such as cross-border data exchanges, international privacy protection, and cybercrime. Manurung and Heliany²¹ suggest that Indonesian legal theory adopt a transnational legal theory approach, which allows flexibility in responding to global legal dynamics. Another strategy is the application of principle-based regulation in legal theory, not just rule-based regulation. This approach, according to Baihaqi²² offers broader flexibility for adaptation in confronting swiftly evolving technological innovations. Rather than rigidly regulating individual technologies, updates to legal theory may emphasize overarching principles such as justice, transparency, accountability, and human rights protection, which are applicable across diverse and emerging technological contexts.

²⁰ Merti Ardilla, Elis Rusmiati, and Ijud Tajudin. "Peliputan Secara Langsung Persidangan Perkara Pidana oleh Media Televisi dihubungkan dengan Asas Pemeriksaan di Pengadilan Terbuka Untuk Umum dalam Rangka Pembaharuan Hukum Acara Pidana," *Jurnal Hukum & Pembangunan Vol* 50, no. 1 (2020): 43.

²¹ Edison H. Manurung, and Ina Heliany. "Peran Hukum Dan Tantangan Penegak Hukum Dalam Menghadapi Era Revolusi Industri 4.0," *SOL JUSTISIO* 1, no. 2 (2019): 130.

²² Muhammad Rizal Baihaqi. *Demokrasi Digital: Memahami Dampak Dan Tantangan*, Penerbit Adab, (2020): Page.73.

Moreover, updating legal theory must also incorporate data-driven legal studies. The digital shift has produced extensive big data within the judicial sphere, including electronic verdicts and virtual court records. When integrated into legal theory, such data can provide an empirical foundation for shaping more adaptive legal frameworks. Employing legal analytics assists in identifying ruling tendencies, regulatory compliance levels, and the practical effectiveness of legal norms. Efforts to reform legal theory demand cross-sector collaboration, uniting scholars, legal professionals, policymakers, and technology industry stakeholders. Through such synergy, legal theory can evolve into a system that is adaptive, inclusive, and sustainable in responding to the acceleration of digital transformation.

4.3. Practical Implications of Legal Theory Reform

The updating of legal theory in the digital transformation era after the COVID-19 pandemic is not merely conceptual, but also carries important practical consequences for both the legal system and society. These transformations directly influence legislation, judicial implementation, legal education, and the interaction between the state and its citizens within the digital sphere. First, in terms of legislation, the renewal of legal theory promotes the emergence of statutory products that are increasingly responsive to technological advancements. According to Shahrullah and Cokro²³, the revised legal theoretical structure enables the creation of flexible and adaptive norms, ensuring that laws do not quickly lose relevance when

²³ Rina Shahriyani Shahrullah, and Henry Hadinata Cokro. "Penegakan Hukum Bagi Pedagang Usaha Mikro, Kecil Dan Menengah Terhadap Para Pelaku Usaha Monopoli." *Journal of Law and Policy Transformation* 5, no. 2 (2020): 113-127.

confronted with technological advances. For instance, concerning personal data protection, the renewal of legal theory enables the formation of regulations that not only secure data in a static manner, but also anticipate emerging threats such as deepfakes, artificial intelligence, and the progression of quantum computing.

Second, in the realm of judicial practice, the renewal of legal theory enhances the legitimacy of electronic justice mechanisms. During the pandemic, virtual hearings functioned as a temporary solution, yet afterward, the system evolved into a permanent component of the legal framework. Through the revised legal theoretical foundation, electronic justice can operate while upholding the full principles of due process of law, including guarantees of transparency, accountability, and safeguarding the rights of litigating parties. Manurung and Heliany²⁴ note that without the support of relevant legal theory, the implementation of online justice risks ignoring certain rights, especially for those who experience limited access to technology. Third, in legal education, theoretical updates have an impact on a curriculum that is more contextual with digital reality. According to Ardilla et al.²⁵, 'The incorporation of cyber law and technological literacy into legal education produces graduates who not only master positive law, but are also capable of anticipating legal challenges emerging from technological advancements. This covers knowledge of digital evidence, data privacy regulations, and digital economy legislation.

²⁴ Edison H. Manurung, and Ina Heliany. "Peran Hukum Dan Tantangan Penegak Hukum Dalam Menghadapi Era Revolusi Industri 4.0," *SOL JUSTISIO* 1, no. 2 (2019): 130.

²⁵ Merti Ardilla, Elis Rusmiati, and Ijud Tajudin. "Peliputan Secara Langsung Persidangan Perkara Pidana oleh Media Televisi dihubungkan dengan Asas Pemeriksaan di Pengadilan Terbuka Untuk Umum dalam Rangka Pembaharuan Hukum Acara Pidana," *Jurnal Hukum & Pembangunan* Vol 50, no. 1 (2020): 43.

Fourth, regarding the relationship between state and society, the renewal of legal theory enables the establishment of a more participatory and inclusive legal structure. Digital transformation has widened communication avenues between authorities and citizens via online platforms. Backed by appropriate legal theories, these avenues can be maximized to promote openness, civic engagement, and monitoring of governmental policies. Baihaqi²⁶ emphasized that adaptive legal theory will strengthen the legitimacy of digital democracy and minimize the potential for abuse of power in cyberspace.

Fifth, on the international stage, the renewal of legal theory affects the strengthening of Indonesia's role in global legal collaboration. Since the digital sphere transcends borders, numerous legal challenges demand coordination across jurisdictions. Through legal theories embracing transnational principles, Indonesia may act more actively in international treaties concerning cybersecurity, privacy safeguards, and transboundary law enforcement. Hence, the practical outcomes of renewing legal theory involve producing adaptive legislation, enhancing electronic judiciary quality, reforming legal education, reinforcing digital democracy, and ensuring active participation in global legal partnerships. Altogether, these aspects shape the establishment of a responsive, relevant, and sustainable legal system suited to the era of digital transformation.

²⁶ Muhammad Rizal Baihaqi. *Demokrasi Digital: Memahami Dampak Dan Tantangan*, Penerbit Adab, (2020): Page.73.

5. Discussion

The post-pandemic digital transformation has reshaped how individuals communicate, conduct transactions, and settle conflicts. Within this situation, the necessity to revise legal theory becomes evident, as existing frameworks were often created in distinct social contexts, far before the swift rise of digital technology. This section connects the insights of the literature review, analytical outcomes, and the practical implications presented in the prior chapter. First, updating legal theory is crucial to overcome the disparity between rapid technological innovation and the normative structures that currently exist. Developments such as artificial intelligence, blockchain systems, and the Internet of Things have generated legal relationships that were previously beyond imagination. Manurung and Heliany²⁷ show that without theoretical reform, the law will always lag behind in responding to problems that arise. The pandemic has become a catalyst that accelerates digital transformation, so the need to adapt legal theory is increasingly urgent.

Second, the results of the study show that the renewal of legal theory is not enough just to revise the rules, but must touch the philosophical foundations of the law. Shahrullah and Cokro²⁸ stresses that the principles of justice, certainty, and benefit as the three fundamental pillars of legal theory must be redefined within the digital sphere. For instance, in the digital era, legal certainty involves comprehension of the validity of online documents, electronic signatures, and the admissibility of

²⁷ Edison H. Manurung, and Ina Heliany. "Peran Hukum Dan Tantangan Penegak Hukum Dalam Menghadapi Era Revolusi Industri 4.0," *SOL JUSTISIO* 1, no. 2 (2019): 130.

²⁸ Rina Shahriyani Shahrullah, and Henry Hadinata Cokro. "Penegakan Hukum Bagi Pedagang Usaha Mikro, Kecil Dan Menengah Terhadap Para Pelaku Usaha Monopoli." *Journal of Law and Policy Transformation* 5, no. 2 (2020): 113-127.

digital evidence in judicial proceedings. Third, in actual implementation, the modernization of legal theory has demonstrated its role in reinforcing the legitimacy and credibility of the electronic justice system overall. Ardilla et al.²⁹ observed that throughout the pandemic, numerous groups questioned the effectiveness of virtual hearings. Nevertheless, with the support of a solid legal theoretical framework, digital hearings are able to uphold the principles of due process of law, while simultaneously offering efficiency in both time and expenses. At this point, it becomes evident that the revised legal theory serves as an umbrella ensuring the legitimacy of judicial innovations introduced within the justice system.

Fourth, legal education constitutes a crucial domain in realizing theoretical renewal. Without the integration of legal theory into education, the next generation of jurists will remain confined to outdated frameworks that lack relevance to digital developments. Updating legal theory, accompanied by a cyber law-oriented curriculum, can generate graduates equipped to confront the intricacies of digital law, including matters of cybersecurity, data privacy protection, and a platform-driven economy. Fifth, the reform of legal theory equally influences the interaction between state and society within digital spheres. As the government becomes more active in using online platforms for public services, legal theory must also safeguard citizens' rights digitally, encompassing the right to data confidentiality, the right to obtain information, and the right to participate in decision-making processes concerning public policy carried out through digital channels.

²⁹ Merti Ardilla, Elis Rusmiati, and Ijud Tajudin. "Peliputan Secara Langsung Persidangan Perkara Pidana oleh Media Televisi dihubungkan dengan Asas Pemeriksaan di Pengadilan Terbuka Untuk Umum dalam Rangka Pembaharuan Hukum Acara Pidana," *Jurnal Hukum & Pembangunan Vol* 50, no. 1 (2020): 43.

Baihaqi³⁰ highlighted the significance of digital democracy as a manifestation of legal theory renewal directed toward community participation. In conclusion, this discussion demonstrates that reforming legal theory is multidimensional and demands collaboration across various sectors. Absent the engagement of scholars, legal professionals, decision-makers, and technology stakeholders, such reforms will progress slowly and remain fragmented. Thus, the recommended strategic measure is to create a multidisciplinary forum dedicated to advancing legal theories suited for the digital age, ensuring that legal responses to technological shifts become proactive rather than merely reactive.

6. Conclusion

The digital transformation following the COVID-19 pandemic has become an unavoidable phenomenon, influencing nearly every sphere of life, including the legal domain. The rapid advancement of technology requires a proportional response from legal theories so they remain relevant and capable of meeting the needs of contemporary society. Reforming legal theory is not merely a superficial adjustment of regulations, but rather a fundamental revision of the philosophical, methodological, and practical bases of law. Findings from the literature review emphasize that the urgency of legal theory renewal lies in its capacity to address emerging challenges such as electronic evidence, cybersecurity, data protection, and the legitimacy of online justice. Without reform, the legal system risks being outdated and unable to guarantee fairness in the digital era. The COVID-19 pandemic has

³⁰ Muhammad Rizal Baihaqi. *Demokrasi Digital: Memahami Dampak Dan Tantangan*, Penerbit Adab, (2020): Page.73.

functioned as a catalyst, accelerating technological adoption within legal practice while also revealing weaknesses in the existing legal framework.

Beyond its conceptual importance, updating legal theory carries practical implications, including the creation of adaptive regulations, enhancement of electronic justice, strengthening of digital democracy, and Indonesia's proactive participation in global legal cooperation. Legal education is crucial for sustainability, requiring a curriculum grounded in cyber law and technological literacy. Ultimately, renewing legal theory in the post-pandemic digital transformation era demands collaboration across sectors and the integration of justice values in digital contexts, ensuring law remains effective, fair, and responsive.

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