

## **Contempt of Court in Judicial Practice**

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**Abstract:** This study aims to determine and analyze the forms of contempt that can be categorized as contempt of court in the legal perspective in Indonesia. To determine and analyze the legal basis that regulates contempt of court in the legal system in Indonesia. This study uses the research method used is the Normative research method, namely a legal research method that is sourced from regulatory and secondary document data in the form of collection from library and tertiary materials which are documents containing concepts and information such as dictionaries. The results of this study indicate that 1) Contempt of court is a form of violation of the honor, dignity, and authority of the court, whether carried out inside or outside the courtroom, which can hinder the judicial process and damage public confidence in the judicial system. Enforcement of contempt of court is important to protect the authority and dignity of the judicial institution, so that the court can carry out its judicial functions fairly, without pressure or interference from any party. This act can be a real action or a statement delivered inside or outside the court that can affect the course of the trial or legal process. The act of contempt of court is regulated in statutory regulations, 2) although there are no rules that specifically regulate it, several articles in the Criminal Code regulate the issue of contempt of court such as articles 207, 217, 224 and so on. This research recommendation states that there is a need for more stringent and detailed regulations in the law regarding contempt of court, so that there is legal certainty in taking action against violations of the dignity and authority of the court.

**Keywords:** *Contempt Of Court; Legal Acts; Court;*

## **A. INTRODUCTION**

According to Black's Law Dictionary, contempt of court is defined as any act that may be regarded as scandalizing, obstructing, or interfering with the administration of justice by judicial bodies, or any conduct that tends to diminish the authority or dignity of the court. Such acts are committed by a person who intentionally defies or violates the court's authority, obstructs the performance of judicial duties, or by a party to a case who deliberately fails to comply with a lawful court order.[1]

The term *Contempt of Court* is derived from the word *contempt*, which means insult or contempt, and *court*, which means a court of law. Accordingly, *Contempt of Court* is understood as conduct intended to insult or undermine the judicial institution. Furthermore, in order to understand the concept of *Contempt of Court* in Indonesia, reference can be made to the General Explanation point 4 of Law No. 14 of 1985, as amended by Law No. 5 of 2004 on the Supreme Court, which states: "In order to further ensure the creation of the most conducive atmosphere for the administration of judicial proceedings in the enforcement of law and justice based on Pancasila, it is necessary to enact a law regulating measures against acts, behavior, attitudes, and/or statements that may degrade, undermine, or encroach upon the authority, dignity, and honor of the judicial institution, which is known as *Contempt of Court*.[2]

At present, Indonesia does not yet have a specific statute that explicitly regulates *Contempt of Court*. Nevertheless, several provisions in the Indonesian Criminal Code (KUHP) address acts related to contempt of the judiciary, including:[3] Article 207 of the Indonesian Criminal Code (KUHP): Regulates disturbances during court proceedings, punishable by imprisonment of up to three weeks or a fine. Article 217 of the Indonesian Criminal Code (KUHP): Governs acts of disorder or commotion in court sessions, with a penalty of up to three weeks' imprisonment or a fine. Article 224 of the Indonesian Criminal Code (KUHP): Regulates witnesses who fail to fulfill their legal obligations, with a penalty of up to nine months' imprisonment in criminal cases and up to six months' imprisonment in other cases. Article 218 of the Indonesian Criminal Procedure Code (KUHAP): Stipulates that all persons are required to show respect during court proceedings; any violation of this obligation may result in removal from the courtroom.

Provisions in the New Criminal Code (Law No. 1 of 2023) With the enactment of the New Criminal Code (Law No. 1 of 2023), the regulation of *contempt of court* has been clarified under Chapter VI concerning criminal offenses against the judicial process. Several key provisions include:[4] Article 279: Creating a disturbance in the vicinity of the courtroom and failing to leave after being ordered to do so three times: Category I fine. Creating a disturbance during court proceedings and failing to leave after being ordered to do so three times: Imprisonment of up to six months or a Category II fine. Article 280: Failure to comply with a court order: Category II fine, Displaying disrespectful behavior toward court officials despite having received a warning: Category II fine., Undermining the integrity of law enforcement officials or broadcasting court proceedings live: Subject to prosecution based on a written

complaint submitted by a judge. Article 281: Obstructing or intimidating officials performing duties of investigation, prosecution, or examination in court: Imprisonment of up to seven years and six months or a Category VI fine.

In light of the increasing number of cases involving contempt of court and the declining level of public trust in judicial institutions, the Supreme Court has proposed the enactment of a specific law on *Contempt of Court* within the National Legislation Program (Prolegnas) for the 2015–2019 period. Such regulation is considered essential to safeguard judicial independence and to ensure that legal proceedings are conducted without interference from external parties.

One of the earliest recorded cases of *Contempt of Court* in the history of Indonesia's judicial system occurred in 1986, as reported by *Tempo* magazine. The Chief Judge of the Central Jakarta District Court stated that Adnan Buyung Nasution, who at the time acted as legal counsel for H.R. Dharsono, was deemed to have committed contempt of court due to his protest actions while defending his client, who was charged with the crime of subversion. Consequently, Adnan Buyung Nasution was sanctioned with a one-year suspension from practicing his profession, based on a Decree of the Minister of Justice, on the grounds that he had violated the *адвокат* code of ethics pursuant to the deliberation of the Honorary Council of IKADIN.

Research findings by the National Law Reform Consortium (KRHN) indicate that contempt of court no longer occurs solely outside court proceedings but has increasingly taken place within courtrooms themselves. One notable example is the case involving the killing of M. Taufiq, a judge of the Sidoarjo Religious Court, who was fatally stabbed during a court session by Colonel M. Irfan in a dispute over marital property between the colonel and his former wife. This incident severely undermined the authority of the judiciary by eroding the sense of security necessary for judges to perform their duties based on the principle of judicial independence, which constitutes an absolute and fundamental element of judicial power within a state governed by the rule of law.[5]

The discussion of *contempt of court* is of significant importance, as it is closely related to judicial proceedings as an integral part of courtroom order and to the sense of respect owed to the judiciary as the highest legal institution.

The term *contempt of court* is commonly used in Anglo-Saxon countries, such as the United Kingdom, the United States, and other jurisdictions that adhere to the common law system. In contrast, in European countries that follow the civil law system, the term is not formally recognized. Nevertheless, this does not mean that regulations addressing issues of contempt of court are absent in such countries; rather, the relevant provisions are incorporated into the articles of their respective criminal codes. Contempt of court refers to conduct that demeans the dignity of the court. According to Abdul Hakim Garuda Nusantara, contempt of court constitutes any act intended to disgrace, disrupt, or diminish the authority or dignity of the judiciary.[6]

In Islamic law, acts of insult or humiliation are prohibited because they may cause harm to fellow human beings and lead to negative consequences in social life. This principle is based on the Qur'an, Surah Al-Hujurat, verse 11: "O you who believe, let not one group ridicule another group, for it may be that the latter are better than the

*former. Nor let women ridicule other women, for it may be that the latter are better than the former. Do not insult one another, nor call each other by offensive nicknames. How evil is a name of disobedience after faith. And whoever does not repent then it is they who are the wrongdoers.”*

## **B. METHOD**

The type of research employed in this legal study is normative or doctrinal legal research. This approach is adopted because the object of the study focuses on sources of legal materials and the legal framework concerning the legal review of contempt of court as a state institution. Normative legal research (legal research) examines legal issues by referring to and relying upon sources of legal materials and legal approaches, including prevailing laws and regulations, legal theories and doctrines, jurisprudence, and other relevant scholarly literature related to the research topic. The nature of the research applied in this study is descriptive-analytical, aiming to comprehensively describe and analyze the legal framework governing contempt of court as a state institution, thereby aligning the study with the characteristics of normative legal research. The sources of legal materials in this study refer to the subjects from which data are obtained. As this research constitutes normative (doctrinal) legal research, the type of data employed is secondary data, which encompasses primary, secondary, and tertiary legal materials. Primary legal materials consist of authoritative sources of law and concrete legal regulations applicable within the legal system. These include written rules (*recorded rules*) that are enforced by the state, particularly statutory regulations relevant to the subject of the research. In this context, the primary legal material examined is Law No. 1 of 2023 concerning the Criminal Code (KUHP). Secondary legal materials comprise legal textbooks, scholarly legal journals containing fundamental legal principles, expert opinions and doctrines, legal research findings, legal dictionaries, and legal encyclopedias. Tertiary legal materials are materials that provide guidance or clarification regarding primary and secondary legal materials, such as legal dictionaries, general language dictionaries, encyclopedias, and legal encyclopedias.

## **C. DISCUSSION**

### **1. Forms of Conduct That May Be Classified as Contempt of Court from the Perspective of Indonesian Law**

In Indonesia, there have in fact been numerous cases related to contempt of court and acts of disrespect toward law enforcement officials. Such incidents have affected the integrity and authority of the judiciary as the last bastion for the pursuit of justice. However, to date, Indonesia has not enacted a specific legal provision that comprehensively regulates the institution of *Contempt of Court*. [7]

This section constitutes part of a completed study conducted using a normative juridical method, which primarily emphasizes secondary data, complemented by primary data obtained through field research carried out in several district courts across Indonesia. The discussion focuses on the issues of the existence of

regulatory frameworks and the enforcement of *Contempt of Court* law, as well as on determining an appropriate regulatory model for Indonesia. To date, there is no specific statutory regulation governing *Contempt of Court*. However, related provisions are dispersed within the Indonesian Criminal Code (KUHP). Consequently, among the numerous cases associated with *Contempt of Court*, whether in the form of actions or conduct that in fact disrupt safety, psychological or physical well-being, or otherwise constitute insults to the judiciary, firm sanctions have not been consistently imposed. Instead, such conduct is often addressed merely by removing the offender from the courtroom. *Contempt of Court* may occur both inside and outside the courtroom, and may arise in criminal, civil, as well as industrial relations cases. As the range of actions that may be categorized as *contempt of court* continues to expand, there is an increasing need to regulate *Contempt of Court* through a specific and comprehensive legal framework.[8]

Contempt of Court is generally understood as conduct that undermines the authority, dignity, and honor of the judiciary. Within the Indonesian judicial system, the term *Contempt of Court* is not a new concept. As cited from the official website of the Medan High Court, this term has been mentioned in Law No. 14 of 1985 on the Supreme Court, which was subsequently amended by Law No. 3 of 2009. At present, Indonesia does not yet have a specific statute that explicitly regulates *Contempt of Court*. Nevertheless, several provisions within the Indonesian Criminal Code (KUHP) address acts constituting contempt of the judiciary, including:[9]

1. Article 207 of the Indonesian Criminal Code (KUHP): Regulates disturbances during court proceedings, punishable by imprisonment of up to three weeks or a fine.
2. Article 217 of the Indonesian Criminal Code (KUHP): Governs disorderly conduct or commotion during court hearings, carrying a penalty of up to three weeks' imprisonment or a fine.
3. Article 224 of the Indonesian Criminal Code (KUHP): Regulates witnesses who fail to fulfill their legal obligations, with penalties of up to nine months' imprisonment in criminal cases and up to six months' imprisonment in other cases.
4. Article 218 of the Indonesian Criminal Procedure Code (KUHAP): Stipulates that all persons are required to show respect during court proceedings; failure to do so may result in removal from the courtroom.

Provisions in the New Criminal Code (Law No. 1 of 2023) With the enactment of the New Criminal Code (Law No. 1 of 2023), the regulation of *contempt of court* has been clarified under Chapter VI concerning criminal offenses against the judicial process. Several key provisions include:[10]

Article 279:

1. Creating a disturbance in the vicinity of the courtroom and failing to leave after being ordered to do so three times: Category I fine.

2. Creating a disturbance during court proceedings and failing to leave after being ordered to do so three times: Imprisonment of up to six months or a Category II fine.

Article 280:

1. Failure to comply with a court order: Category II fine.
2. Displaying disrespectful behavior toward court officials despite having been warned: Category II fine.
3. Undermining the integrity of law enforcement officials or broadcasting court proceedings live: Subject to prosecution based on a written complaint submitted by a judge.

Article 281:

1. Obstructing or intimidating officials performing duties of investigation, prosecution, or examination before the court: Imprisonment of up to seven years and six months or a Category VI fine.

In view of the increasing number of cases involving contempt of court and the declining level of public trust in judicial institutions, the Supreme Court proposed the enactment of a specific law on *Contempt of Court* within the National Legislation Program (Prolegnas) for the 2015–2019 period. Such regulation is considered essential to safeguard judicial independence and to ensure that legal proceedings are conducted free from interference by external parties.[11]

The term *contempt of court* first appeared in Indonesia in Law No. 14 of 1985 concerning the Supreme Court. Under this law, contempt of the judiciary is defined as acts, conduct, attitudes, and statements that may undermine the authority, dignity, and honor of judicial institutions. There are five categories of acts classified as contempt of court: (1) improper behavior in court (*misbehaving in court*); (2) failure to comply with court orders (*disobeying court orders*); (3) attacks on the integrity of the judiciary (*scandalizing the court*); (4) obstruction of judicial proceedings (*obstructing justice*); and (5) contempt of court through publication (*the sub judice rule*). These five categories were formulated based on observations conducted by the Supreme Court in 2002.[1]

At present, *contempt of court* is regulated through various legal provisions. For instance, Articles 207, 217, and 224 of the Indonesian Criminal Code (KUHP) govern acts of insult against public authorities or public bodies, including courts, conduct that causes disorder during court hearings, and parties who fail to appear when duly summoned to court proceedings

Furthermore, Article 218 of the Indonesian Criminal Procedure Code (KUHP) obliges all persons to show respect for the court during judicial proceedings. In the event of a violation, the presiding judge shall issue a warning. Should the violation be repeated, the judge may order the individual to be removed from the courtroom and may even impose criminal sanctions. At present, the Government and the House of Representatives (DPR) are in the process of reformulating the regulation

of contempt of the judiciary. One such initiative is reflected in Chapter VI of the Draft Criminal Code (RKUHP), which addresses criminal offenses against the judicial process.

However, in Article 281 of the Draft Criminal Code (RKUHP), there are two provisions that have drawn particular attention due to their potential to function as so-called “rubber articles,” namely points (b) and (c).[12]

- Any person who, during court proceedings,
- (1) fails to comply with a court order issued in the interest of the judicial process;
  - (2) displays disrespectful behavior toward the judge or the court, or attacks the integrity of the judge during court proceedings; or
  - (3) without the permission of the court, records, broadcasts live, or allows the publication of court proceedings, shall be punished with a fine of up to Category II (IDR 10 million).”

Points (b) and (c) above potentially pose a threat to the public’s freedom to express opinions or to criticize judges and judicial proceedings if the law is not applied with due care and precision. Furthermore, the prohibition on recording or publishing court proceedings may hinder public oversight of the judicial process, despite the fact that such oversight is essential. This is particularly relevant to the public’s ability to report judges to the Judicial Commission in cases where judges are alleged to have violated codes of ethics or procedural law. Should these provisions be enacted, it would become difficult for the public to obtain authentic evidence in the form of photographs or video recordings. These provisions also carry the potential to criminalize the press and journalists, as they fail to clearly define the scope and subjects covered by the regulation. News reporting that is perceived as biased or as showing insufficient respect toward judges could be construed as contempt of court and may ultimately result in criminal liability.[13]

Approximately one-quarter of judges in Indonesia have experienced acts or criminal conduct classified as contempt of court. Such incidents occurred in the course of performing their duties, both inside and outside court premises. Regrettably, to date Indonesia has not yet enacted a specific and detailed regulation governing contempt of court, either through a standalone statute or within legislation concerning the judicial office. This issue was highlighted during an international seminar entitled “Law Enforcement against Contempt of Court in Realizing a High-Quality Judiciary,” organized by the Indonesian Judges Association on Monday (21 April 2025). The seminar, which was opened by the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, Sunarto, featured several prominent speakers, including the Chair of Commission III of the House of Representatives (DPR), Habiburokhman; the Chair of the Criminal Chamber of the Supreme Court, Prim Haryadi; and the Chair of the Judicial Commission, Amzulian Rifai. Also in attendance were senior advocate Luhut MP Pangaribuan, Professor of Criminal

Law at the Faculty of Law, University of Indonesia, Harkristuti Harkrisnowo, as well as representatives of supreme court justices from other countries.

In his presentation, Habiburokhman revealed research findings indicating that one-quarter of judges in Indonesia have experienced or become victims of contempt of court. The forms of contempt of court suffered by judges vary widely, including acts that insult and demean the dignity of the judiciary, arson attacks on district court buildings, physical assaults during the reading of judicial decisions, and disorderly conduct within courtrooms.[14]

Although a specific Contempt of Court Act has not yet been enacted, contempt of court is regulated in a limited manner under Articles 207, 217, and 224 of the Indonesian Criminal Code (KUHP).

Article 207 of the Indonesian Criminal Code (KUHP)

“Any person who creates a disturbance during court proceedings or at a place where a public official is lawfully performing his or her duties in public, and who refuses to leave after being ordered to do so by or on behalf of the competent authority, shall be punished with imprisonment for a maximum of three weeks or a fine of up to four thousand five hundred rupiah.”

Article 217 of the Indonesian Criminal Code (KUHP)

“Any person who causes disorder during a court session or at a place where an official is lawfully performing his or her duties in public, and who fails to leave after being ordered to do so by or on behalf of the competent authority, shall be subject to imprisonment for a maximum of three weeks or a fine of up to one thousand eight hundred rupiah.”

Article 224 of the Indonesian Criminal Code (KUHP)

“Any person who is summoned as a witness, expert, or interpreter and intentionally fails to fulfill the obligation imposed by law shall be punished as follows:

1. In criminal cases, by imprisonment for a maximum of nine months;
2. In other cases, by imprisonment for a maximum of six months.”

Article 218 of the Indonesian Criminal Procedure Code (KUHAP)

“All persons are required to show respect toward the court. If an individual behaves in a manner inconsistent with the dignity of the court and fails to comply with courtroom order after receiving a warning from the presiding judge, such person may, by order of the judge, be removed from the courtroom. Where the violation of courtroom order constitutes a criminal offense, the offender may be subject to prosecution.”

Furthermore, the New Criminal Code enacted through Law No. 1 of 2023, which will come into force next year, regulates *contempt of court* under Chapter VI concerning

criminal offenses against the judicial process. This chapter encompasses offenses related to misleading the judicial process, disrupting and obstructing judicial proceedings, destruction of court buildings, courtrooms, and trial equipment, as well as the protection of witnesses and victims.

The provisions in the New Criminal Code relevant to *contempt of court* include Article 279 of Law No. 1 of 2023 (the New Criminal Code), which stipulates:[15]

1. *Any person who creates a disturbance in the vicinity of the courtroom while a court session is in progress and fails to leave after being ordered up to three times by or on behalf of an authorized officer shall be punished with a fine of up to Category I.*
2. *Any person who creates a disturbance during court proceedings and fails to leave after being ordered up to three times by or on behalf of the judge shall be punished with imprisonment for a maximum of six months or a fine of up to Category II.*

Article 280 of the New Criminal Code stipulates that:

1. Any person who, during court proceedings, shall be punished with a fine of up to Category II if he or she:
  - a. fails to comply with a court order issued in the interest of the judicial process;
  - b. displays disrespectful conduct toward law enforcement officials, court officers, or the court after having been warned by the judge;
  - c. attacks the integrity of law enforcement officials or court officers, or broadcasts court proceedings live.
2. The criminal offenses referred to in paragraph (1), letters (b) and (c), may only be prosecuted upon complaint.
3. The complaint as referred to in paragraph (2) may be submitted in writing by the judge.

Article 281 of the New Criminal Code:

“Any person who obstructs, intimidates, or influences an official performing duties of investigation, prosecution, examination during court proceedings, or the execution of a court decision, with the intent to coerce or persuade such official to perform or refrain from performing his or her duties, shall be punished with imprisonment for a maximum of seven years and six months or a fine of up to Category VI.”

## **2. Criminal Liability of Perpetrators of Contempt of Court from the Perspective of Indonesian Law**

Explicit regulation concerning *contempt of court* in Indonesia has not yet been enacted. Nevertheless, several provisions within the Indonesian Criminal Code

(KUHP) intersect with the concept of *contempt of court*, including the following articles:

a. Article 207 of the Indonesian Criminal Code (KUHP)

“Any person who intentionally, in public, verbally or in writing, insults a public authority or a public body in Indonesia shall be subject to imprisonment for a maximum of one year and six months or a fine of up to four thousand five hundred rupiah.”

b. Article 217 of the Indonesian Criminal Code (KUHP)

“Any person who causes disturbance during a court hearing or at a place where a public official is lawfully performing his or her duties in public, and who refuses to leave after being ordered by or on behalf of the competent authority, shall be subject to imprisonment for a maximum of three weeks or a fine of up to one thousand eight hundred rupiah.”

c. Article 224 of the Indonesian Criminal Code (KUHP)

“Any person who, having been lawfully summoned as a witness, expert, or interpreter, intentionally fails to fulfill an obligation imposed by law shall be subject to the following penalties:

1. In criminal proceedings, imprisonment for a maximum of nine months;
2. In other proceedings, imprisonment for a maximum of six months.”

Contempt of court was once raised as a topic of discussion during the deliberation of Draft Law No. 14 of 1985 concerning the Supreme Court in the House of Representatives in 1985. However, the discussions at that time were very limited, and the regulation of contempt of court was merely included in the Explanatory Section. In the General Explanation of Law No. 14 of 1985, a mandate was provided for the formulation of specific provisions governing contempt of court.”

*“A statute regulating the enforcement measures against acts, conduct, attitudes, and/or expressions that may undermine and erode the authority, dignity, and honor of the judiciary, commonly referred to as contempt of court”*

In the final opinions delivered by the parliamentary factions at the conclusion of the deliberations, only the Indonesian Democratic Party Fraction (FPDI) expressed a positive stance on the concept of contempt of court. This was largely because FPDI was the faction that initially proposed the inclusion of this clause. Meanwhile, the two other factions at the time the Functional Group Development Fraction (Fraksi Karya Pembangunan) and the United Development Party Fraction (Fraksi Persatuan Pembangunan) did not specifically address the issue of contempt of court. Beyond technical matters concerning the Supreme Court, the issues that attracted the greatest attention during the deliberation of the bill were judicial review authority and oversight of advocates and notaries. At that time, however, these issues were not substantially linked to acts of contempt of court committed by advocates.

In fact, the regulation of contempt of court has already been incorporated into several existing laws and regulations. Article 217 of the Indonesian Criminal Code (KUHP) regulates provisions against parties who cause disturbances during court proceedings. Meanwhile, Article 218 of the Indonesian Criminal Procedure Code (KUHP) obliges everyone present in the courtroom to demonstrate respect for the court. Paragraph (2) of Article 218 grants authority to the presiding judge to order the removal of any person who persistently fails to comply with courtroom decorum after being warned. Furthermore, if such a violation constitutes a criminal offense, the subsequent paragraph of this article allows for the possibility of criminal prosecution against the offender.

In Indonesia, the concept and terminology of contempt of court were explicitly and formally recognized only after the enactment of Law No. 14 of 1985 on the Supreme Court. Nevertheless, a closer examination reveals that even prior to the enactment of Law No. 14 of 1985, numerous provisions within the Indonesian Criminal Code could already be classified as ‘offenses against the administration of justice.’ In this regard, Din Mohammad, a legal practitioner serving as a judge, asserts that:”

*“The term contempt of court has never been explicitly found within our legal corpus, whether in legal literature, jurisprudence, or statutory regulations. However, this does not mean that the substance relating to contempt of court has not been regulated or remains entirely absent from Indonesian positive law. In fact, several provisions of the Indonesian Criminal Code (KUHP) implicitly regulate acts that fall within the scope of contempt of court, including Articles 207, 208 paragraph (1), 209 paragraph (1), 210, 211, 212, 216, 217, 219, 222, 224, 225, 227, and 231 of the KUHP.*

The definition and terminology of *contempt of court* explicitly referred to in the Law on the Supreme Court are contained in point 4 of the General Elucidation, which states, inter alia: ‘Furthermore, in order to better ensure the creation of the most conducive atmosphere for the administration of justice aimed at upholding law and justice based on Pancasila, it is necessary to enact a law regulating measures against acts, conduct, attitudes, and/or expressions that may degrade and undermine the authority, dignity, and honor of judicial institutions, which are known as *contempt of court*.

Based on the wording of point 4 of the General Elucidation of Law No. 14 of 1985, *contempt of court* may be understood as encompassing all acts, conduct, attitudes, and/or expressions that diminish or undermine the authority, dignity, and honor of judicial institutions. However, the inclusion of broad clauses such as ‘acts,’ ‘conduct,’ and similar terms that may undermine judicial authority, dignity, and honor raises the question of whether such a formulation alone is sufficient. In fact, this issue remains unresolved, as Law No. 14 of 1985 itself explicitly mandates the enactment of a separate (special) law governing *contempt of court*.

Accordingly, it is evident that no universally accepted definition currently exists to determine the precise benchmark by which an offense may be classified as *contempt of court*. Consequently, at present, it remains more appropriate to rely on existing offenses regulated under the Indonesian Criminal Code (KUHP) as a basis for categorizing acts as offenses against the administration of justice or as *contempt of court*.

#### **D. CONCLUSION**

Contempt of court constitutes a violation of the honor, dignity, and authority of the judiciary, whether committed inside or outside the courtroom, which may obstruct judicial proceedings and undermine public trust in the judicial system. The enforcement of contempt of court provisions is essential to protect the authority and dignity of judicial institutions, thereby enabling courts to perform their judicial functions fairly and independently, free from any form of pressure or interference from any party. Such acts may take the form of concrete actions or verbal expressions conveyed either within or outside the court that are capable of influencing the course of a trial or legal process. Acts constituting contempt of court are regulated within statutory provisions. Although Indonesia does not yet have a specific law governing contempt of court in a comprehensive manner, several provisions of the Criminal Code (KUHP) regulate conduct related to contempt of the judiciary, including Articles 207, 217, 224, and other related provisions.

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