



Ideal Model in Law: Journalists and Application in Press Reporting

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ABSTRACT

The appointment of journalists, especially in the field of legal coverage, is extremely urgent and has a wide-ranging impact on conveying information containing truth values, in order to realize a free and responsible press. The manifestation of this responsibility, however, is not accompanied by a system for the appointment of journalists, leading to the dissemination of information that triggers inaccuracies in news, resulting in legal claims, both criminal and civil. These claims continue to occur, and the number of journalists entangled in legal issues also continues to increase. All of this is caused by laxity, both in Law Number 40 of 1999 and in the Press Council Regulations, which do not regulate the standards for the appointment of the journalistic profession. This laxity has triggered the idea of creating a system for the appointment of legal journalists based on the affirmation of a profession that meets professional standards through an ideal model, the regulation of which lies within a legal framework.

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1. Introduction

Writing news carries the significance of ensuring the public receives accurate information, whether sourced from events or from opinions or thoughts.⁷ The standard for this forms the basis of the legal framework that binds everyone, explicitly and clearly encapsulated in Article 5, Paragraph 1 of Law Number 40 of 1999 on the Press. This is implementationally guided by the Press Council for journalists in news writing, as regulated in the provisions of Article 3 of the Journalistic Code of Ethics.

The subsequent question arises: Who is legally authorized to write news? Various regulations have been scrutinised, yet no specific requirements for appointment as a

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⁷ Manning, P. (2000). *News and news sources: A critical introduction*, UK: De Montfort University, p. 1-264.

journalist have been found.⁸ The Press Law is a legal product, wherein the provisions of Article 5, Paragraph 1 emphasize that reporting must always uphold the principle⁹ of the presumption of innocence.¹⁰ Therefore, it should correlate with individuals who possess legal knowledge¹¹ to avoid using language in news writing that is "judgmental", thereby suggesting that journalists should have the competence and expertise to write news respecting the principle of the presumption of innocence.¹² However, in scouring various regulations, no legal regulation concerning the competence of journalists has been found.

The absence of regulated professional standards and competency standards for journalists has given rise to impacts, both quantitatively and qualitatively. Quantitatively, the number of journalists has been increasing alongside the rise in the number of media outlets. According to data from the Press Council, from 1997 to 2017, there were as many as 46.497 media outlets in Indonesia, comprising 2.000 print media, 674 radios, 523 televisions, and the largest being 43.300 online media outlets. Qualitatively, it appears that the increase in the number of journalists has not been accompanied by an improvement in the quality of reporting, leading to various incidents such as the destruction of media offices, the emergence of derogatory terms towards journalists like "envelope journalists", "fake journalists", "bodrex journalists"¹³ etc., and not a few journalists have faced legal issues ending up in prison. Moreover, the Press Council, as an institution safeguarding the dignity of press freedom, receives complaints every year about news errors. These complaints show a continually increasing trend. According to data from the Press Council, there are 1.711 media companies in Indonesia that had been verified by January 2023. Of these, digital media dominate with 970 companies. Here is an overview of the number of verified media companies by type.¹⁴

Given the aforementioned phenomena, the presence of legal instruments is necessary to prevent a free press that must be accompanied by legal responsibility in order to safeguard and protect the rights¹⁵ of others who also possess freedom. Therefore, the standards for news writing already regulated by the Press Law should be aligned with the standards for the appointment of the journalist profession and the competency standards for journalists, which should also be required by law. Consequently, the news reported to the public can prevent "judgment" of the press. Facts show that the appointment of the journalist profession is seen by many as being too easy and has triggered the occurrence of press reporting that does not

⁸ Gant, S. (2007). *We're all journalists now: The transformation of the press and reshaping of the law in the internet age*, New York: Free Press, p. 121.

⁹ Ambarwati, A., Rahman, S., Qahar, A., & Poernomo, S. L. The Essence of the Principle of Good Faith in the Agreement For The Parties. *IOSR Journal of Humanities and Social Science*, 27, 36-43. <https://doi.org/10.9790/0837-2708063643>

¹⁰ Quintard-Morénas, F. (2010). The presumption of innocence in the French and Anglo-American legal traditions. *The American Journal of Comparative Law*, 58(1), 107-149. <https://doi.org/10.5131/ajcl.2009.0005>

¹¹ Purwanda, S., Rado, R. H., Susanti, D. S., Zainuddin, A., & Syahril, M. A. F. LEGAL PROTECTION OF YEI PEOPLE'S KNOWLEDGE OF LOCAL MEDICINES AND MEDICINAL PLANTS FROM EXTINCTION. *Masalah-Masalah Hukum*, 53(3), 245-256. <https://doi.org/10.14710/mmh.53.3.2024.245-256>

¹² Pasquale, F., & Cashwell, G. (2018). Prediction, persuasion, and the jurisprudence of behaviourism. *University of Toronto Law Journal*, 68(supplement 1), 63-81. <https://doi.org/10.3138/utlj.2017-0056>

¹³ The term "Bodrex Journalist" emerged around the 1980s in Indonesia. It was taken from a drug advertisement featuring the Bodrex Troops, the name of the troops must be a crowd. The ad had the slogan "Bodrex comes Bodrex attacks". Well, they work like that, coming and attacking sources. On average, they don't have newspapers, aka journalists without newspapers or their publications are unclear. Ginulur, G. G. T. (2010). *Mengapa Wartawan Gadungan Disebut Bodrex?*. Available online from: <https://news.okezone.com/read/2010/06/23/340/345711/mengapa-wartawan-gadungan-disebut-bodrex>

¹⁴ Media Publications. (2024). *Verified Media in Indonesia Is the Indonesian Press Council More Credible?*. Available online from: <https://www.publikasimedia.com/media-terverifikasi-dewan-pers>

¹⁵ Purwanda, S., Wiwin, W., Pransisto, J., & Musran, A. (2024). Testing the Omnibus Law Concept in Legal Theory: Evaluating its Effectiveness as a Tool for Social Engineering. *Indonesia Private Law Review*, 5(1), 11-22. <https://doi.org/10.25041/iplr.v5i1.3370>

apply the principle of the presumption of innocence, which needs to be reviewed.¹⁶ The appointment of the journalist profession should adopt the system for appointing the advocate profession by formulating requirements and conditions to be appointed as a profession based on legal instruments, thus becoming a generally applicable reference to support the standard of news writing that refers to Law Number 40 of 1999 on the Press and the Journalistic Code of Ethics.

In this context, the competence of journalists in writing legal news needs to refer to the professional competence standards according to Presidential Regulation Number 8 of 2012 concerning the Indonesian National Qualifications Framework and the Regulation of the National Professional Certification Agency Number 3/BNSP/III/2014. This can perfect the implementation of journalist competency standards in Indonesia, supporting the realization of a responsible press to prevent violations of the principle of the presumption of innocence in press reporting, such as the application of specific competencies based on a spirit that emphasizes the national press in reporting events always upholding the principle of the presumption of innocence as emphasized in Article 5 Paragraph 1 of Law Number 40 of 1999 on the Press and Article 3 of the Journalistic Code of Ethics. The appointment of the journalist profession in Indonesia must be immediately rectified by reformulating the press reporting system in terms of regulation into Law Number 40 of 1999 on the Press, which can be a solution to the complexity of issues in Press Reporting that must be based on the philosophy of free and responsible news.

2. Method

This research is a combination of normative legal research and empirical legal research,¹⁷ with a focus on the approach of statutory regulations and related policy¹⁸ regulations. The materials and data collected, ranging from primary, secondary, tertiary sources, and information from experts, are analysed using content analysis.¹⁹ This analysis is connected to the existing statutory regulations, and conclusions are drawn to provide references and considerations for legal solutions on how the provisions of the Indonesian Press Law should address issues within the press reporting system.

3. Results and Discussion

3.1. Journalist Professional Standards

Based on the aforementioned phenomena, a prominent legal issue is the system of appointing journalists and its application in press reporting, which tends to be inadequate, both in terms of regulation, journalist competency, and law enforcement²⁰. From the aspect of legal regulation, according to preliminary observations by researchers, the existing legal rules on press reporting still contain weaknesses and greatly influence journalistic work, particularly the lack of regulation that standardizes the appointment of journalists to correlate between

¹⁶ Plaisance, P. L. (2013). *Media ethics: Key principles for responsible practice*, LA: Sage Publications, p. 99.

¹⁷ Purwanda, S., & Wulandari, A. S. R. (2023). Socio-Legal Studies: Methodical Implications of Legal Development in Indonesia. *Al-'Adl*, 16(2), 152-163. <http://dx.doi.org/10.31332/aladl.v16i2.6129>

¹⁸ Djanggih, H., Syam, E. S., & Gunawan, S. (2023). The Prosecutor's Legal Policy In Enacting Restorative Justice On Criminal Case. *Russian Law Journal*, 11(3), 1349-1357. <http://repository.umi.ac.id/2370/>

¹⁹ Wärtl, B., Bonczek, G., Scepankova, E., & Matthes, F. (2019). Semantic types of legal norms in German laws: classification and analysis using local linear explanations. *Artificial Intelligence and Law*, 27(1), 43-71. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10506-018-9228-y>

²⁰ Astuti, T., Purwanda, S., Prasisto, J., & Prayudi, P. (2024). PENEGAKAN HUKUM TERHADAP TINDAK PIDANA PEREDARAN OBAT TANPA IZIN EDAR:(Studi Putusan Nomor 1/Pid. Sus/2023/Pn. Pre). *Jurnal Hukum Positum*, 9(1), 1-16. <https://journal.unsika.ac.id/positum/article/view/11132>

journalists with competence and the reporting of legal coverage in print media as a journalistic work that upholds the principle of the presumption of innocence.

Furthermore, the human resources of journalists in applying the principle of the presumption of innocence, especially in reporting in print media, tend to still be prone to violations, thus not yet contributing to an increase in professionalism for journalists. Similarly, the enforcement of the law regarding the application of the principle of the presumption of innocence in the Press Law cannot be separated from the responsibility²¹ of the press publishing companies, press organizations, and the Press Council itself in producing professional journalists.

Journalists, also known as reporters, are individuals engaged in journalistic activities or those who regularly write news reports and have their articles published in various mass media.²² These reports can be published in newspapers, television, radio, magazines, documentary films, and online²³ platforms. Journalists seek out sources for their reports and are expected to write in the most objective manner without bias, serving the public interest.²⁴ To achieve this, journalists adhere to professional standards to ensure they act professionally in accordance with journalistic ethics. A professional journalist in the press has qualifications for recruiting journalists. These qualifications, which form the standards of the journalism profession, include:

- 1) Mastering Journalistic Skills: A journalist must have expertise in writing news according to journalistic norms. They should be adept in news writing techniques, as well as features and articles. Therefore, a journalist should at least have undergone basic journalism training.
- 2) Mastering the Coverage Area: Ideally, a journalist is a “generalist”, understanding and mastering everything, enabling them to write accurately about any subject. However, most importantly, they must master their coverage area. For example, a sports journalist should understand sports terminology, an economic journalist should be familiar with economic theories and terms, and so on.
- 3) Adhering to Journalistic Ethics: A good (professional) journalist adheres strictly to journalistic ethics. With these ethical guidelines, a journalist should not confuse facts with opinions in their news writing; they should avoid libelous, sadistic, or obscene news; not compromise their freedom by accepting bribes; and only report the truth or factual information, among other principles.

According to the researcher, the qualification in the field of coverage, complemented by educational standards in the respective academic disciplines at universities, is a factor in preventing news errors. The higher the education²⁵ of a journalist in their field, the more accurate the information they can provide, and the more trustworthy their writing becomes to readers. Conversely, the lower the education of a journalist in their field, the less information they can provide, and their writing becomes less credible.

²¹ Purwanda, S., & Syahril, M. A. F. (2021). Bentuk Tanggung Jawab Negara Melalui Pemerataan Buku Bacaan Ke Pulau-Pulau Kecil Terluar. *JUSTISI*, 7(2), 155-166. <http://ejournal.um-sorong.ac.id/index.php/js/article/view/1405>

²² O'Neill, D., & O'Connor, C. (2008). The passive journalist: How sources dominate local news. *Journalism practice*, 2(3), 487-500. <https://doi.org/10.1080/17512780802281248>

²³ Balla, H., Jumardin, J., Kasim, A., & Pappa, A. K. (2024). Peran Locus dan Tempus Delicti dalam Menentukan Kompetensi Pengadilan pada Kasus Kejahatan Siber. *Jurnal Litigasi Amsir*, 11(4), 390-395. <https://journalstih.amsir.ac.id/index.php/julia/article/view/564>

²⁴ Kolodzy, J. (2006). *Convergence journalism: Writing and reporting across the news media*. NY: Rowman & Littlefield, p. 65-66.

²⁵ Purwanda, S. (2020). The Existence of the Right to Books for Frontier, Outermost and Disadvantaged Regions as Part of the Right to Enjoy Education. *JL Pol'y & Globalization*, 95, 42. <https://doi.org/10.7176/JLPG/95-07>

Journalism is a noble profession, as it serves the wider public interest. If this profession is utilized well and without violating journalistic norms, a journalist will gain full trust from the community or readership.²⁶ The diverse nature of news coverage, be it in education, culture, law, politics, social issues, economics, and more, presents unique challenges for journalists in performing their duties in the field.²⁷

The lack of standard professional requirements for journalists in the Press Law differs from other professions, such as lawyers and notaries. However, journalism is also a profession that requires special skills, an association, and a code of ethics. Journalists have the right to refuse to disclose sources if it endangers their safety. The press defines a journalist as someone who regularly engages in journalistic activities. Meanwhile, Article 1 Paragraph 1 of Law Number 40 of 1999 on the Press states: The press is a social institution and a mass communication medium that carries out journalistic activities including searching, obtaining, possessing, storing, processing, and presenting information in the form of writing, sound, images, sound and images, as well as data and graphics or in other forms using printed media, electronic media, and all available channels. Generally, there are several characteristics inherent in a profession, including:

- 1) Specialized Knowledge: Usually obtained through years of education, training, and experience.
- 2) High Moral Standards: Professionals base their activities on a code of ethics specific to their profession.
- 3) Serving Public Interest: Professionals should place public interest above personal gain.
- 4) Specific Licensing: To engage in a profession that impacts public interests like safety and security²⁸, one requires special permission.
- 5) Professional Association Membership: Professionals typically belong to an association related to their field.

These characteristics also apply to the journalism profession, technically regulated in the journalistic code of ethics as mandated by Article 7 Paragraph 2 of Law Number 40 of 1999 on the Press. The regulation of the journalistic code of ethics emphasizes the duties and responsibilities of journalists in writing news but does not include regulation regarding appointments that form the standards of the journalism profession. A journalist is a professional and should possess specific skills, extensive knowledge in their field, and an attitude that aligns with applicable ethics, namely the journalistic code of ethics.²⁹ Like doctors, midwives, teachers, or lawyers, journalists have a code of ethics.

The absence of standardization regulation for the journalism profession in the Press Law allows anyone to become a journalist without any specific requirements.³⁰ The ease of becoming a journalist also means that the number of journalists is unknown and their performance is difficult to monitor. Weak qualifications coupled with lax supervision lead to issues related to the quality of journalists, including a weak understanding of journalistic

²⁶ Saragih, M. Y. (2021). Law, journalistic profession and mass media ethics. *Budapest International Research and Critics Institute-Journal (BIRCI-Journal) Vol. 4(2)*, 2532-2540. <https://doi.org/10.33258/birci.v4i2.1957>

²⁷ McNair, B. (2006). *Cultural chaos: journalism and power in a globalised world*. London: Routledge.

²⁸ Kasim, A., Suhariyanto, D., Ramdhani, W., Rahim, E. I., & Danial, D. (2024). Scenarios For Limiting The Veto of Permanent Members Of The United Nations Security Council. *Pena Justisia: Media Komunikasi dan Kajian Hukum*, 23(1), 499-517. <https://jurnal.unikal.ac.id/index.php/hk/article/view/4163>

²⁹ Gollmitzer, M. (2023). Journalism ethics with Foucault: Casually employed journalists' constructions of professional integrity. *Journalism*, 24(5), 1015-1033. <https://doi.org/10.1177/14648849211036301>

³⁰ Waisbord, S. (2013). *Reinventing professionalism: Journalism and news in global perspective*. UK: Polity Press.

ethics. Consequently, unprofessional journalists emerge, harming press freedom by fostering public antipathy and devaluation of the profession.

Based on the above, the researcher believes that the regulation of press reporting that respects the principle of presumption of innocence in the Press Law, the Indonesian Press Council's Regulation on Journalist Competence, and the freedom of press companies to set journalist professional standards should not conflict with national press reporting laws.³¹ Through the press reporting system, the competence of legal journalists and journalist professional standards must be within the same regulation to create harmony, promoting legal certainty. If legal certainty is followed unequivocally, the law will be beneficial for itself and society.³² Therefore, a revision is needed regarding regulations related to press reporting, oriented towards preventing violations of the principle of presumption of innocence in news writing. It is also necessary to harmonize journalist professional standards and competencies, integrating them into the press reporting system to achieve the goal of reporting that respects the principle of presumption of innocence.

3.2. Application in Press Reporting

The lack of legally defined professional standards for journalists impacts press reporting, particularly in the inaccurate use of legal terminology.³³ Journalists from non-legal educational backgrounds often report facts in a judgmental manner. Examples include incorrect terms like "perpetrator" instead of "suspect", "acquitted" instead of "not guilty", "investigation" instead of "inquiry", "expert witness" instead of "expert testimony", and so on. These issues highlight the weaknesses of journalists in covering and presenting legal matters, leading to frequent misuse of terms based on misconceptions and context misunderstanding. This often results in the violation of the presumption of innocence principle, indirectly leading to its disregard. Such errors in reporting can lead to news being perceived as incorrect by the public. The accuracy of news is a benchmark for justification, referring to Article 3 of the Journalistic Code of Ethics, which states: Indonesian journalists must always verify information, report in a balanced manner, not mix facts with judgemental opinions, and apply the principle of presumption of innocence.

If Article 3's of the Journalistic Code of Ethics, stipulations are qualified as professional journalistic conduct in legal reporting, there are four elements to be fulfilled: First, verifying information; Second, reporting in a balanced manner; Third, not mixing facts with judgemental opinions; Fourth, applying the principle of presumption of innocence. According to the researcher, the fourth element, applying the presumption of innocence, need not be a required element in the professional conduct of journalists in legal reporting, as the first three elements are integral parts of a system to apply the presumption of innocence. Essentially, if any of the first three elements are not fulfilled, it can be considered a violation of the presumption of innocence in legal reporting. The researcher suggests that applying the presumption of innocence should be regulated as a standard in legal news writing, comprising the following elements: First, verifying information; Second, balanced reporting; Third, not providing judgemental opinions. However, these three elements alone are insufficient to effectively apply the presumption of innocence, as the effectiveness of legal news writing standards also depends on the journalist's legal knowledge. The higher the

³¹ Mustawa, M. (2019). Journalist Competence in Applying the Presumption of Innocence Principle on Press Release. *Amsir Law Journal*, 1(1), 36-42. <https://doi.org/10.36746/alj.v1i1.20>

³² Mustawa; Judhariksawan; Karim, Said; Maskun. (2019). Harmonization of Regulations regarding Press Coverage Respect the Principle of Presumption of Innocence in the Press Law. *JL Pol'y & Globalization*, 91, 75. <https://repository.unibos.ac.id/xmlui/handle/123456789/6277>

³³ Haltom, W., & McCann, M. *Distorting the Law: Politics, Media, and the Litigation Crisis*, Chicago: The University of Chicago Press, p. 11-12.

journalist's legal knowledge, the greater the likelihood of preventing violations of the presumption of innocence. Therefore, the researcher proposes a concept of journalistic competence with standards for news writing that apply the presumption of innocence, encompassing four elements: First, verifying information; Second, balanced reporting; Third, not providing judgemental opinions; Fourth, possessing legal knowledge. The unregulated professional standards for journalists, which contradict the presumption of innocence principle as an important aspect of press reporting as clearly outlined in Article 3 of the Journalistic Code of Ethics. Mustawa's book shows the perception of unbalanced and judgmental reporting, using terms such as "perpetrator", "murderer", "robber", "thief", "dealer", "addict", "selling drugs", "thief", "lecturer making hate speech",³⁴ these terms tend to portray the reported parties as guilty before a competent judge has declared them so. In covering criminal cases³⁵, journalists should only reveal facts without passing judgement.

Based on Article 3 of the Journalistic Code of Ethics, which emphasis's factual, non-opinionated news writing standards, the coverage of such reporting incidents should not equate the reported individual with the perpetrator. The terms "reported" and "perpetrator" have different legal meanings. Reporting is part of the inquiry process under criminal procedure law³⁶ to clarify an incident. If a case advances to the investigation stage, it strongly suggests an incident occurred and the suspect is likely involved. This determination is the authority of the Police, Prosecutor's Office, or the Corruption Eradication Commission in special cases. In light of the above, the authority to declare someone as a "Perpetrator", "Murderer", or "Robber" lies not with journalists but with the competent judge.

3.3. Ideal Model of Law

The system for appointing legal journalists is crucial for supporting a free and responsible press reporting system.³⁷ This system initiates all journalistic activities, including searching, obtaining, possessing, storing, processing, and conveying information in written form using print media. This appointment phase is the process where all the criteria that set the professional standard are determined, encompassing legal knowledge and journalistic skills required for a candidate to be appointed as a legal and criminal journalist.

Achmad Ali states that legal knowledge, like any other knowledge, is a matter of position. It's no surprise if people are insufficiently knowledgeable about the legal system, as indeed everyone is insufficiently knowledgeable about many things. Legal advisors know the law, but they might have incorrect information about medicine, science, and world history. Generally, people tend to be satisfied with understanding how the law works in practice, to stay safe in their daily lives. In totality, people are expected to be more knowledgeable about rules that are relevant to themselves, their group, and their work and duties. A taxi driver, more or less, knows about taxi regulations and taxi licensing rules. Police officers are more familiar with laws regarding arrests than a plumber is. Conversely, a plumber knows more about building regulations than a police officer does. People involved in export-import transactions know

³⁴ Mustawa. (2020). *Hukum Pemberitaan Pers, Sebuah Model Menegak Kesalahan Berita*, Jakarta: Kencana (Prenada Media Grup), p. 143-144.

³⁵ Purwanda, S., Jabar, N. A. B. A., Rado, R. H., & Miqat, N. (2024). The Fate of Indigenous Peoples' Rights Recognition After the Enactment of the National Criminal Code. *IJCLS (Indonesian Journal of Criminal Law Studies)*, 9(2). <https://doi.org/10.15294/ijcls.v9i2.50321>

³⁶ Paluaran, D., Purwanda, S., Kasim, A., & Jumardin, J. (2024). Analisis Komparatif Tindak Pidana Penipuan Dalam KUHP Kolonial dan KUHP Nasional. *Jurnal Litigasi Amsir*, 11(3), 345-351. <https://journalstih.amsir.ac.id/index.php/julia/article/view/434>

³⁷ Ettema, J. S. (2007). Journalism as reason-giving: Deliberative democracy, institutional accountability, and the news media's mission. *Political Communication*, 24(2), 143-160. <https://doi.org/10.1080/10584600701312860>

little about taxi licenses, arrests, or plumbing regulations but are well-versed in export-import laws. And so on.

The researcher strongly agrees with Achmad Ali's assertion that legal knowledge is a matter of position, expected to be more relevant to the individual, their group, and their work and tasks. Similarly, a journalist must possess legal knowledge so that they can correctly provide legal information. Sri Herwindya Baskara Wijaya states that journalists without adequate knowledge only produce journalistic works containing superficial information, not enlightening the public. The requirement for a journalist to have legal knowledge is fundamental to placing responsibility³⁸ in carrying out the profession, ensuring that the principle of press freedom does not mean absolute freedom, but is underlined by the principle of responsible press freedom. Moreover, the Press Law threatens imprisonment and fines for anyone who obstructs and hinders the duties of a journalist. Conversely, the Press Law also emphasizes that reporting should always respect the presumption of innocence principle by broadcasting information that is not judgmental or concludes someone's guilt, especially in cases still under legal process, also threatened with criminal fines.

To achieve reporting that respects the presumption of innocence, journalists must be supported by legal knowledge to prevent violations of Article 18 Paragraph 2 of the Press Law. On this basis, a specific article in the Press Law is needed to regulate the system for appointing journalists, with various requirements to be met. Currently, many journalists write carelessly or inaccurately. One reason is that many media outlets are not selective in recruiting journalists. The question is: what are the professional standards for journalists? Indeed, becoming a journalist, specially creating a newspaper, cannot be done haphazardly or just published. A skilled and professional journalist must meet certain criteria.

The importance of implementing a model as a system to be appointed as a journalist becomes a standard of professionalism in carrying out journalistic duties, thus preventing irresponsible journalistic attitudes while upholding the presumption of innocence principle in press reporting. Based on the above thoughts, the journalist profession is increasingly demanded to work professionally in conveying correct information to the public. According to the researcher, a legal instrument is needed in the system for appointing journalists, referencing the Advocate appointment system formed under Law Number 18 of 2003 concerning Advocates. Involvement of the professional journalist organization is seen as crucial because this organization is the most responsible for improving the quality of journalists. On this basis, the researcher has devised an ideal legal journalist appointment system model through five (5) stages, as follows:

- 1) Educated in Law: The requirement for a journalist is to have a background in higher education in law from various universities in Indonesia. This requirement is essential because higher education in law will explain the legal knowledge that will become the foundation for a legal journalist candidate.
- 2) Specialized Journalist Professional Education (PKPW): Graduates with a Bachelor's degree (S1) in law who wish to become journalists must undergo specialized journalist professional education conducted by the professional organization.
- 3) Journalist Education Exam (UPW): The next procedure to be followed by someone who wants to become a journalist is to take the UPW after graduating from PKPW. This exam

³⁸ Rahman, M. S., Efendi, S., Amboro, Y. P., Simanjuntak, K. W., Elfikri, N. F., Rohani, A. A., & Agus, D. (2024). Responsibility and Accountability in the World of Futures Trading: Analysis of Futures Brokers and Broker Representatives Under the Spotlight of Civil Law and BAKTI Arbitration. *Pena Justisia: Media Komunikasi dan Kajian Hukum*, 23(1), 419-448. <https://doi.org/10.31941/pj.v23i1.4113>

is similar to the PKPA conducted by universities or institutions that have been approved by the Professional Organization. The requirements to take the UPW include being an Indonesian Citizen and completing the registration form with the following attachments: photocopy of identity card, photocopy of the bank transfer receipt for the journalist exam fee, four color passport photos, size 3×4, photocopy of the legalized S1 law education diploma issued by the university, and photocopy of the PKPW certificate.

- 4) Internship: After passing the UPW, a journalist candidate must undergo a 2-year internship at a press publishing company.
- 5) Confirmation of Journalist Profession: The next procedure to be carried out by a journalist candidate who has passed the above four stages is the confirmation of the journalist profession, performed at the Press Council.

This journalist appointment system is relevant to the responsive law theory proposed by Nonet and Selznick, which discusses how law can respond to finding ways towards change so that the law can address issues in the press reporting world often having legal implications, such as hoaxes (false news), defamation³⁹, and slander. Responsive law positions the law as a means of response to social regulations and public aspirations. With its open nature, this type of law prioritizes accommodation to accept social changes for the achievement of social justice and public emancipation.

4. Closing

An ideal model for press reporting law can implement the principle of presumption of innocence through a system of journalist appointments that correlates with the standards for writing legal news, determined by the journalists' legal knowledge in accordance with the provisions of Article 5 Subsection 1 of the Press Law, the implementation of which is guided by Article 3 of the Journalistic Code of Ethics. The regulation within this system equates the profession of journalism with other professions, thus the professionalism of the journalistic profession can realize a responsible press system. The absence of such regulation is viewed as a cause of press reporting that does not apply the principle of presumption of innocence.

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Kolodzy, J. (2006). *Convergence journalism: Writing and reporting across the news media*. NY: Rowman & Littlefield.

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The author declares that the research was conducted in the absence of any commercial or financial relationships that could be construed as a potential conflict of interest.

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