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ANÁLISIS OF THE ACTIONS OF EFFECTIVE JUDICIAL PROTECTION IN CIVIL MATTERS BASED ON PERCEPTIONS AMONG HONDURAN LEGAL PROFESSIONALS.



CORRELATIONAL ANALYSIS OF EFFECTIVE JUDICIAL PROTECTION IN CIVIL MATTERS BASED ON THE PERCEPTIONS OF HONDURAN LEGAL PROFESSIONALS

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Abstract—In civil matters, appearing in court is merely the starting point of judicial protection: equally important are the right to a defense, the opportunity to present evidence, timely notification of proceedings, and the reasons underlying the judgment. This study examined, from the perspective of Honduran legal professionals, how these guarantees are interrelated. A total of 171 legal practitioners, selected through purposive sampling and contacted directly, participated in a quantitative, cross-sectional, and non-experimental study. The instrument was a custom-designed questionnaire consisting of 40 items distributed across eight dimensions with three response options; a pilot test administered to 10 professionals yielded a Cronbach's alpha of .917. Spearman's correlations were positive in all four cases analyzed: judicial protection with access to the courts ($\rho = .589$), adversarial proceedings and equality of arms with the right to present evidence ($\rho = .276$), legal aid and summons with a reasoned judgment ($\rho = .435$), and judicial protection with a reasoned judgment ($\rho = .289$), all with $p < .001$. These figures reflect weak or moderate relationships between the perceptions studied and do not, on their own, allow for the establishment of causality or the measurement of the courts' actual performance.

Keywords—access to justice, right to present evidence, human rights¹, reasoning in the judgment, effective judicial protection.

Abstract-- In civil matters, going to court is only the starting point of judicial protection; the right to a defense, the opportunity to present evidence, timely notice of proceedings, and the reasons given for a judgment are just as important. This study examined how legal professionals in Honduras perceive the relationships among these guarantees. A total of 171 legal practitioners, selected through purposive sampling and contacted directly, participated in a quantitative, cross-sectional, non-experimental study based on a 40-item questionnaire developed by the author, covering eight dimensions with three response options; a pilot test with 10 professionals yielded a Cronbach's alpha of .917. Spearman correlations were positive across all four relationships examined: judicial protection with access to courts ($\rho = .589$), the right to be heard and equality of arms with the right to evidence ($\rho = .276$), legal assistance and service of process with the reasoning in judgments ($\rho = .435$), and judicial protection with reasoning ($\rho = .289$), all at $p < .001$. These figures indicate weak-to-moderate relationships among the perceptions studied and do not, on their own, establish causation or measure how courts actually perform.

¹ The term "human rights" corresponds to a preferred descriptor in the UNESCO Thesaurus.

Keywords—access to justice, effective judicial protection, human rights², reasoning in judgments, right to evidence.

INTRODUCTION

Effective judicial protection is a fundamental right recognized by the Constitution, and it refers to an extremely broad guarantee in the sense that it encompasses other relevant rights, such as access to the courts, the right to a reasoned decision, and respect for due process; and it is through this guarantee that the necessary conditions are established to conduct proceedings and enforce rights within a state governed by the rule of law (Cuenca, 2024). This right, however, is not limited to mere timely access to the courts; rather, it is understood today as a rather complex concept that encompasses several elements—access to justice, the right to a defense, and a judgment in accordance with the law—which case law first developed in Europe and were subsequently incorporated into Latin American legal systems (Ayerim & Mila, 2023).

In civil matters, the fact that the Constitution recognizes effective judicial protection does not prevent difficulties from arising when applying it in practice, since access to a court does not in itself guarantee the effective fulfillment of all the procedural safeguards; Diestra (2025) links this gap between law and practice to the barriers that still limit the exercise of judicial protection today.

The problem, therefore, lies precisely in that gap between what the laws dictate and what occurs on a daily basis in civil courts, since those who turn to a court expect, above all, equality between the parties, an effective defense, and a duly reasoned decision; according to Borbor (2023), judicial protection consists of the right to file a lawsuit and to receive a substantive response, in accordance with both the Constitution and the law. This guarantee is, likewise, intertwined with others in the legal system, which requires consideration of both the initiation of the process and its outcome; for a judgment that is never enforced ultimately renders the recognized protection meaningless. Hence, the State must have mechanisms in place that effectively guarantee compliance with the court's decision (Cachimuel-Bonifaz & Molina-Andrade, 2023). Access to the courts, as the starting point of any proceeding, constitutes in and of itself a fundamental right; however, its mere constitutional declaration is insufficient when the actual conditions for exercising it are lacking, which is why Pachacama-Chacha and Sáenz-de-Viteri (2023) associate this requirement with timely and equitable access to justice, which prevents individuals from being left in a state of defenselessness.

² The term “human rights” corresponds to a preferred descriptor in the UNESCO Thesaurus.

A thorough understanding of effective judicial protection therefore requires going beyond the written law, as it is necessary to observe how it actually translates into practice and how far it falls short of the experience of those directly involved in the proceedings, given that Mejía-Suárez and Ramon-Merchán (2023) link such application to legal certainty and the constant pursuit of a duly substantiated judicial response. This guarantee functions simultaneously as a means of access and as a mechanism for procedural balance between the parties; thus, when the actual conditions for exercising recognized rights are lacking, its protective function tends to weaken. Consequently, its analysis must address both the protection of human rights and the effective opportunities afforded to the parties during the course of the proceedings (Osorio et al., 2023).

This research seeks to understand how legal professionals perceive the interconnection of the guarantees that constitute effective judicial protection in civil proceedings in Honduras. This study analyzes how access to the courts, the adversarial process, equality of arms, the right to present evidence, legal assistance, service of process, and the reasoning behind judgments are interrelated. It examines how each of these elements connects with the others.

From a theoretical perspective, the study seeks to delve deeper using empirical data. We will quantitatively analyze the relationship between the elements that the legal literature identifies as essential to effective judicial protection. Effective judicial protection includes access to justice, the ability to defend oneself on an equal footing, and the right to a well-reasoned decision (Cuenca, 2024; Mejía-Suárez & Ramon-Merchán, 2023).

On the other hand, from a social perspective, the state must ensure that individuals who go to civil courts can defend their rights under fair conditions. Individuals must be able to present evidence, know the status of their case well in advance, and receive clearly explained decisions. This helps prevent situations of defenselessness, where a person cannot adequately protect themselves before the courts (Pachacama-Chacha & Sáenz-de-Viteri, 2023; Osorio et al., 2023).

In this regard, it is the State's responsibility to provide the necessary means for the exercise of fundamental rights, which, in the specific case of effective judicial protection, means having an impartial judge, being tried within a reasonable time, receiving legal counsel, being able to present evidence, as well as ensuring that the proceedings are public and that rulings are effectively enforced (Machado-López & Castillo-Moreno, 2025). Based on the foregoing, this study set out to analyze the relationships between various dimensions of effective judicial protection in civil matters, drawing on the responses of legal professionals in Honduras.

In this regard, four specific relationships were examined, namely: judicial protection and access to the courts; adversarial proceedings and equality of arms with the right to present evidence; legal assistance and service of process with a reasoned judgment; and judicial protection with a reasoned judgment. This gives rise to the question that guided this study: How are these guarantees related in the application of effective judicial protection in civil matters?

Its central function, therefore, is to protect fundamental rights, and within Honduran law, it is directly related to the right to a defense, access to the courts, equality between the parties, and the right to adversarial proceedings, whereas the reasoning behind judicial decisions is connected, for its part, to due process, insofar as it allows one to understand the reasons for a decision and examine its basis (Bustamante & Molina, 2023). Although this guarantee applies to various branches of law, this study focused exclusively on civil matters, the conduct of which depends, in fact, on the proceedings themselves but also requires certain minimum conditions so that such proceedings may be considered fair and the ruling, consequently, effective (Villagómez et al., 2022).

The concept of effective judicial protection originated in Germany at a time when the country was in the midst of consolidating the rule of law; in this context, the term was developed as a response to potential procedural abuses that might be committed by judicial authorities. Thus, as Ramírez (2020) argues, judges should view this concept as a tool that enables them to improve the quality of justice, provided they ensure their decisions adhere to the relevant procedural safeguards. In Europe, Article 47 of the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union enshrines this guarantee, which encompasses, among other elements, the right to a public hearing within a reasonable time before an independent and impartial judge, as well as the right to legal aid for those who lack the necessary resources (European Parliament, 2009).

In the Americas, meanwhile, the American Convention on Human Rights enshrines this protection; its Article 25 guarantees a simple, prompt, and effective remedy before competent judges or courts in cases of violations of fundamental rights recognized by the Constitution, by law, or by the Convention itself (Inter-American Specialized Conference on Human Rights, 1969).

This guarantee is also linked to various constitutional principles and rights, in that access to the courts is essential for the implementation of other guarantees and to ensure that individuals can be heard by judicial bodies without delay, without bureaucratic hurdles, without financial barriers, and without discrimination of any kind (López & Del Valle, 2024). While access to the courts

marks only the beginning of the process, access to justice, on the other hand, goes much further, as it encompasses institutions, tools, procedural principles, and guarantees designed to adequately address a claim; for it is not enough that justice be done, but it must also be possible to verify that it was indeed done (Rosas & Ayala, 2024).

The principle of equality of arms falls precisely within this concept of access to justice; it requires equal opportunities for all parties to participate, defend themselves, present evidence, and cross-examine witnesses throughout the entire process (Florencia, 2022). Maintaining this equality throughout the entire process prevents, in this sense, undue advantages, insofar as each party must be in a genuine position to defend itself, present evidence, and challenge the disputed facts; according to Teatino (2025), equality of arms expands the guarantees of due process and requires the courts to treat both parties fairly and equally. This guarantee is also closely linked to the right to present evidence and the adversarial principle, in that, according to the principle of immediacy, there must be direct communication between the judge and the parties; in oral systems, such direct contact allows for a firsthand assessment of both the procedural activity and the evidence (Orovio & Batista, 2024). The right to present evidence is essential in that it allows for the clarification of facts that the mere assertions of the parties cannot resolve on their own, since the judge forms his or her conviction based on the evidence offered and admitted, in accordance with the tools that the law itself makes available (Arévalo, 2024).

This guarantee is also linked to the right to a defense, in that free legal aid ensures that individuals with limited resources can access legal services at no cost, whether such funding comes from the State or from private organizations (da Penha de Melo, 2022).

Precisely because it facilitates the exercise of the right to defense, free legal aid is closely linked to effective judicial protection; Álvarez (2022) characterizes it as a right of a service-based nature, whose conditions are legally regulated, and which ultimately fulfills an instrumental function with respect to judicial protection. In this context, “service of process” refers to the act by which a person is notified of the existence of a proceeding in which they must participate; doing so in a timely manner protects the right to a defense and allows the party to appear within the specified time limit, whereas errors or delays, on the other hand, can compromise the regularity of the entire proceeding (Molina, 2024).

It is necessary for the parties to carry out communication procedures in a timely manner so that they are aware of matters affecting them and can prepare their defense. The courts are overburdened with work, and the use of digital media is growing; therefore, electronic service of process becomes an alternative well worth exploring, provided that procedural safeguards are not sacrificed (Marchal, 2024). This safeguard is clearly evident when the judge explains the ruling. The judge must explain why the decision was made; this prevents arbitrariness and allows the parties to understand the ruling. Some judgments use technical language but are written in a way that anyone can read, without compromising legal precision (Alcívar & Estrella, 2025). The reasoning thus incorporates the guarantees inherent in due process, in that its function is to justify the decision with clear reasons, linked to both the facts and the applicable law; consequently, when that explanation is merely superficial or insufficient, the protection that judicial review should offer is compromised (Batista, 2025).

METHODOLOGY

This study was conducted using a quantitative approach, which is both descriptive and correlational in scope, with a non-experimental, cross-sectional design. It examined the perceptions of legal professionals regarding the guarantees associated with effective judicial protection in civil matters, without manipulating variables or seeking to establish cause-and-effect relationships among them (Hernández-Sampieri & Mendoza Torres, 2023).

The sample consisted of a total of 171 practicing professionals with direct experience in civil matters, distributed as follows: 125 private defense attorneys, 27 public defenders, 12 court clerks, and 7 judges. The sampling method used was purposive and non-probabilistic, based on direct professional contacts, and although the call for participants reached professionals from different regions of the country, since the department of origin of each participant was not recorded, the sample cannot be considered representative of Honduras as a whole.

In this regard, practicing professionals with experience in civil proceedings who agreed to complete the questionnaire were included, with no minimum years of experience required; each participant also indicated whether their location was urban or rural, and responses from those lacking specific experience in the subject matter under study were excluded.

Table 1. *Profile of the unit of analysis by position.*

Unit of analysis	
Legal professionals	No
Judge	7
Court clerk	12
Private defense attorney	125
Public defender	27

Total	171
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Source: *Compiled by the author.*

To collect data, a custom questionnaire was designed, consisting of 40 items distributed across eight dimensions, each with five items, namely: judicial protection, access to the courts, the adversarial principle, equality of arms, the right to evidence, free legal aid, service of process, and the reasoning behind the judgment. Responses were coded on a scale from 1 (Disagree) to 3 (Agree), with a neutral midpoint. Its relevance and clarity were also evaluated by two legal experts and one methodological expert, and the pilot test, administered to 10 professionals, yielded high internal consistency (Cronbach's alpha = .917).

Table 2. *Reliability Statistics.*

Summary of Case Processing				Reliability Statistics	
Cases	Valid	N	%	Cronbach's alpha	Number of items
	Excluded	10	100.0	.917	40
	Total	0	,0		
		10	100.0		

a. List-based elimination is based on all variables in the procedure.

Source: *Prepared by the author using SPSS version 27.*

Data were collected between February and April 2026 using Google Forms, which were distributed via email and messaging apps. Participants were informed that their responses would be anonymous; however, it should be noted that formal informed consent was not obtained, although the study did receive the necessary ethical approval from the Technological University of Honduras. Data cleaning was performed in Microsoft Excel, and the analysis—using frequencies, percentages, and Spearman's correlations—was conducted in SPSS version 27, with some dimensions grouped according to the specific objectives set forth. Since neither the original dataset nor the syntax used to calculate the composite scores was retained, the reproducibility of the analysis is consequently limited.

The results are presented below in tables and figures. The associations found were interpreted based on their direction, magnitude, and statistical significance, without attributing any causality to them, given the cross-sectional and correlational nature of the study design.

ANALYSIS OF RESULTS

Regarding the distribution by sex and position, as illustrated in Figure 1, among private defense attorneys, 92 women (53.80% of the total) and 33 men (19.30%) participated, while among public defenders

, 8 women (4.68%) and 19 men (11.11%) participated, along with 7 female court clerks and 5 male court clerks, as well as 4 female judges and 3 male judges; thus, women collectively represented 64.91% of the sample, compared to 35.09% for men.



Figure 1. Cross-tabulation of gender and position.

Source: Prepared by the author using SPSS version 27.

Regarding length of service based on the location self-reported by each participant (Figure 2), in urban areas, 99 people (57.89%) had 11 or more years of experience, 31 (18.13%) had between 6 and 10 years, and 21 (12.28%) had between 1 and 5 years, while in the rural area, these figures were 13 (7.60%), 4 (2.34%), and 3 (1.75%), respectively.

Overall, therefore, 151 participants (88.30%) identified with the urban area and 20 (11.70%) with the rural area, while 112 professionals (65.50%) reported having 11 or more years of service; these data describe only the composition of the sample, and no conclusions can be drawn from them regarding job stability, career development, or the conditions actually offered by the government.

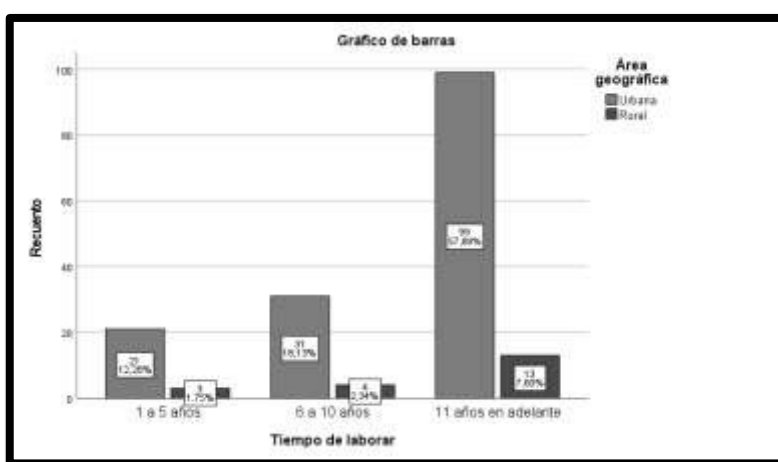


Figure 2. Cross-tabulation of length of service and geographic location.

Source: Prepared by the author using SPSS version 27.

Of the four relationships analyzed, the strongest in this case corresponded to judicial protection and access to the courts, with $\rho = .589$ ($p < .001$, $n = 171$); the positive sign indicates that those who scored higher on access also tended to rate judicial protection more favorably. This reflects a moderate intensity, in that the two measures are not equivalent to one another, and the coefficient does not support the claim that one is a direct consequence of the other; rather, what these data actually reveal is a noticeable, albeit incomplete, joint variation. This finding thus provides evidence of the perceived closeness, in the eyes of professionals, between these two guarantees, although their possible institutional causes are beyond the scope of this questionnaire and would, in any case, require additional information to be explored.

Table 3. *Relationship between effective judicial protection and access to the courts.*

Correlations			Judicial Protection	Access to the Courts
Spearman's Rho	Judicial Protection	Correlation Coefficient	1.000	.589**
		Significance (two-tailed)	.	.000
		N	171	171
	Access to the Courts	Correlation Coefficient	.589**	1.000
		Significance (two-tailed)	.000	.
		N	171	171

** . The correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (two-tailed).

Source: *Prepared by the author using SPSS version 27.*

When considering contradiction and equality of arms together—since both correspond to the same specific objective—their relationship with the right to evidence proved, in this case, to be weak: $\rho = .276$ ($p < .001$, $n = 171$). Although both scores moved in the same direction, the correlation between them was, however, quite low, which does not justify speaking of independence between the variables, much less of a proven gap between the norm and its practical application. Consequently, a question remains open for future research: What specific aspects of the admission, cross-examination, or evaluation of evidence ultimately explain the variance not accounted for by these dimensions? It should be noted that the instrument used in this study does not provide sufficient data to answer this question.

Table 4. *Relationship between the principle of adversarial proceedings and equality of arms and the right to evidence.*

Correlations			Principles of Contradiction and Equality of Arms	Right to Evidence
Rho of Spearman	Principles of Contradiction and Equality of Arms	Correlation Coefficient	1.000	.276**
		Significance (two-tailed)	.	.000
		N	171	171
	Right to a Trial	Correlation Coefficient	.276**	1.000
		Significance (two-tailed)	.000	.
		N	171	171

****.** The correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (two-tailed).

Source: Prepared by the author using SPSS version 27.

A correlation of .435 ($p < .001$; $n = 171$) was found between legal assistance and venue, on the one hand, and the reasoning in the judgment, on the other; given its magnitude, this correlation was classified as moderate and positive. The responses obtained show that these assessments generally tend to occur together; however, this does not imply that adequate legal assistance or proper service of process necessarily leads to a better-reasoned judgment. It should also be noted that neither case files nor judicial decisions as such were reviewed. This result should therefore be interpreted as a relationship specific to professional perceptions, in which other elements of the process not included in this questionnaire may also play a role.

Table 5. Relationship between legal representation and summons and the reasoning in the judgment.

Correlations			Legal Assistance and Summoning	Reasoning in the Judgment
Rho of Spearman	Legal Aid and Significance	Correlation Coefficient	1.000	.435**
		Significance (two-tailed)	.	.000
		N	171	171
	Reasons for the Judgment	Correlation Coefficient	.435**	1.000
		Significance (two-tailed)	.000	.
		N	171	171

****.** The correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (two-tailed).

Source: Prepared by the author using SPSS version 27.

When examining the relationship between judicial oversight and the reasoning behind the judgment, the correlation coefficient in this case was $\rho = .289$ ($p < .001$, $n = 171$), that is, a positive but weak association. It should be noted that the p-value indicates that the data are inconsistent with the null hypothesis of no association and should not, under any circumstances, be interpreted as a 99% probability that the observed relationship is true. Given the limited correlation between the scores, it is not prudent, in this regard, to attribute this result to the courts' workload, the judge's autonomy, or the quality of the reasoning in the judgments, since none of these aspects was directly measured in this study. In future research, it would be advisable to supplement this questionnaire with a direct review of judgments, so that the perceptions of legal professionals can also be compared with observable characteristics of the judicial reasoning.

Table 6. Relationship between effective judicial protection and the reasoning in the judgment.

Correlations			Judicial Judicial	Rationale for the Judgment
Spearman's Rho	Judicial Protection	Correlation Coefficient	1.000	.289**
		Sig. (two-tailed)	.	.000

	N	171	171
Reasons for the Judgment	Correlation coefficient	,289**	1,000
	Next (bilateral)	,000	.
	N	171	171

** . The correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (two-tailed).

Source: *Prepared by the authors using SPSS version 27.*

DISCUSSION OF RESULTS

Among the four relationships examined, the strongest in this case was that between access to the courts and judicial protection, which showed a moderate positive correlation. This aligns with the approach of Cuenca (2024), who argues that judicial protection begins precisely when there are real avenues for asserting a right, although it should be clarified that the questionnaire captured perceptions, rather than response times, court caseloads, or specific case outcomes. For Ayerim and Mila (2023), the mere filing of a lawsuit does not in any way exhaust the scope of judicial protection, and the data obtained in this study support this distinction; for although both concepts are related, a significant portion of their variation does not coincide—a difference that could be attributed to other stages of the process that this study does not allow us to identify precisely. The barriers described by Diestra (2025) and López and Del Valle (2024) undoubtedly constitute valuable background information for future research; however, since they were not included as variables in this questionnaire, they should not be presented as a proven explanation for the correlation found.

A subsequent evaluation could, in this regard, differentiate in greater detail the various stages of the process—entry into the system, processing, decision, and enforcement—which would ultimately allow us to determine at what point the perception of judicial protection changes.

By contrast, the relationship between adversarial proceedings and the equality of arms and the right to present evidence was significantly weaker, as Florencia (2022) and Teatino (2025) link procedural equality to the effective ability to present and debate evidence—a direction supported by the coefficient found, albeit with a rather weak correlation between the scores.

This magnitude suggests, in this regard, the advisability of studying the admission, production, cross-examination, and evaluation of evidence separately, since the instrument used did not allow for a precise determination of which of these stages best explains the responses obtained (Arévalo, 2024).

For their part, legal assistance and summons showed a moderate relationship with the reasoning in the judgment—a result that is also consistent with the defense function that Álvarez (2022) and Molina (2024) attribute to both guarantees, although it should be clarified that this study did not examine the specific conduct of attorneys or the content of specific judgments. The relationship between judicial protection and reasoning, on the other hand, was weak, suggesting that, although reasoning is part of

judicial protection, the responses given to both dimensions were not, ultimately, entirely equivalent, given that Batista (2025) specifically highlights its role as a safeguard against arbitrary decisions.

Overall, the four correlations were positive, albeit of varying magnitude; access to the courts showed the strongest correlation with judicial protection, while the right to a hearing and equality of arms showed, conversely, the weakest correlation with the right to evidence.

These results apply, strictly speaking, to the sample studied; given the intentional selection, the cross-sectional nature of the design, and the absence of the original dataset, it is therefore not possible to generalize them to all professionals in the country or to reproduce the calculations presented here.

CONCLUSIONS

Of the relationships studied, the clearest was ultimately that between judicial protection and access to the courts, in that, within this group of professionals, both perceptions tended to vary in tandem, although access alone does not explain the rating given to judicial protection.

Contradiction and equality of arms, for their part, showed a weak relationship with the right to evidence—a finding that is insufficient to support the existence of an institutional gap and that, at most, merely indicates that the responses coincided to a fairly limited extent.

Legal assistance and summons, on the other hand, were moderately correlated with motivation, whereas the direct relationship between judicial protection and motivation was, by contrast, weak—differences that ultimately suggest that the guarantees examined should not be treated as if they represented a single phenomenon.

These conclusions ultimately describe the responses of 171 participants who were intentionally contacted and do not, in any way, constitute an evaluation of the Honduran judicial system, nor do they allow us to assert that one safeguard influences, causes, or determines another.

FUTURE RESEARCH

Considering, therefore, the findings and limitations described here, the following lines of future research are proposed:

1. Conduct a qualitative exploration of how professionals and users experience access, defense, evidence, and reasoning in civil proceedings, documenting the country's inherent territorial diversity.
2. Repeat this study using probabilistic sampling, retaining the database and analytical framework, while also incorporating informed consent and evaluating

the validity of the instrument's structure; it is also recommended to compare the perceptions gathered with actual case files and judgments.

LIMITATIONS

The intentional and non-probabilistic nature of the sampling limits, in this regard, the possibility of generalizing these results; furthermore, the participants' departmental origin was not recorded, and the classification between urban and rural areas was self-reported. Although the questionnaire was anonymous and the study received ethical approval from the Technological University of Honduras.

STATEMENT OF ETHICAL APPROVAL

The Technological University of Honduras granted the ethical approval for this study. The questionnaire was administered anonymously, without collecting identifying data, and although formal informed consent was not obtained, this circumstance is acknowledged as one of the study's limitations.

FUNDING

The research was funded with the authors' own resources, without receiving external funding.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

The authors declare that they have no conflicts of interest related to the research or the publication of this manuscript.

DATA AVAILABILITY

The raw data and analysis files are not available; the retained results are presented in the tables included in this manuscript.

STATEMENT ON THE USE OF GENERATIVE ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

ChatGPT (OpenAI) was used in the preparation of this manuscript exclusively to assist with linguistic correction; the tool was not used to collect data, perform statistical analyses, or determine the interpretation of the results. The authors reviewed the entire content and assume full responsibility for its accuracy and integrity.

DECLARATION OF ORIGINALITY

The authors declare that this manuscript is unpublished and is not currently under consideration by any other journal.

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Software	Aurora Orellana Castillo, Willy Alexander Medina Pérez
Validation	Aurora Orellana Castillo, Adalid Medina Reyes
Formal Analysis	Adalid Medina Reyes, Willy Alexander Medina Pérez
Research	Willy Alexander Medina Pérez
Resources	Authors’ own resources
Data curation	Willy Alexander Medina Pérez
Writing—Preparation of the original draft	Willy Alexander Medina Pérez
Writing - Review and editing	Willy Alexander Medina Pérez
Visualization	Willy Alexander Medina Pérez
Supervision	Aurora Orellana Castillo, Adalid Medina Reyes
Project Management	Willy Alexander Medina Pérez
Fundraising	Authors’ own resources

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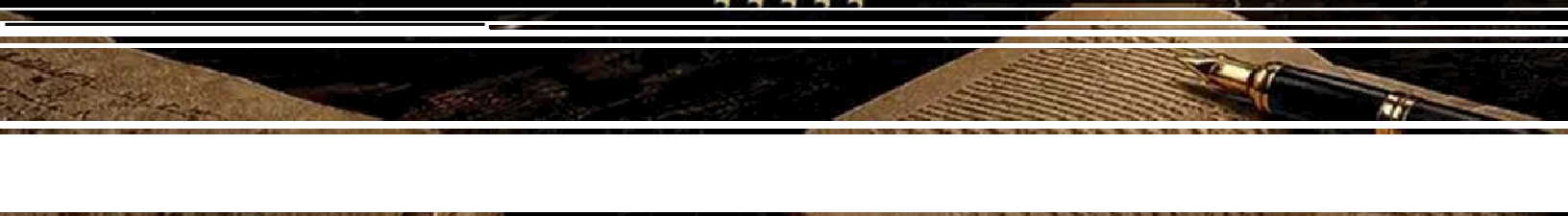
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