

The Role of Institutions in the Implementation of the Family Tree System for the Protection of Inheritance Rights in Peru

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ABSTRACT

The recognition and protection of inheritance rights constitute one of the fundamental pillars of the legal system in various jurisdictions. However, despite regulatory advancements, the accurate identification of kinship remains challenging, especially when records are incomplete. In this context, the use of family trees emerges as a crucial tool to guarantee transparency, legality, and the proper distribution of inherited assets. Therefore, this article seeks to analyze the application of family trees as evidence that allows for the real-time identification of heirs in inheritance proceedings. It was concluded that the application of family trees as evidence in inheritance proceedings is a fundamental tool for the accurate and efficient identification of heirs, as evidenced by the analysis of the perceptions of judges, lawyers, and notaries. This system not only facilitates the documentary and genealogical verification of inheritance relationships but also contributes to ensuring transparency, fairness, and equity in the distribution of inherited assets, preventing conflicts and irregular exclusions within families.

Keywords: Lawsuit, Civil Law, Family, Inheritance, Kinship

INTRODUCTION

The recognition and protection of inheritance rights constitutes one of the fundamental pillars of the legal system in various jurisdictions. However, despite regulatory progress, the accurate identification of family ties and reliable evidence in probate proceedings continues to present challenges, especially when records are incomplete. Therefore, the precise identification of family relationships and the evidence provided for these processes remain challenging, particularly in contexts where the registry does not contain complete and detailed information on the deceased's family ties. In this scenario, the use of the family tree emerges as a crucial tool, not only to verify kinship relationships but also to guarantee transparency, legality, and the proper distribution of the estate.

In recent times, a problem has become increasingly evident within the field of inheritance law, affecting many individuals who consider themselves heirs to an estate. This is because they lack up-to-date documentation in the civil registry to establish their kinship with the deceased (Selmer, 2023). The root of this problem lies in situations where one or more heirs intentionally attempt to exclude others from their inheritance rights. This act of bad faith manifests itself through the deliberate exclusion of relatives from notarial proceedings, the manipulation of data and documents, or by exploiting these proceedings when other heirs are unaware of the situation (Saucedo et al., 2024).

Given this situation, lacking access to a database and the ability to digitally verify information, some individuals may submit documentation for the unjust exclusion of heirs, thus harming their legitimate rights (Montenegro et al., 2024). The fraudulent exclusion of heirs is not an isolated incident, but rather a situation that reveals the vulnerability of probate proceedings due to a lack of oversight. The ignorance, fear, and silence of many families leads to their inability to claim their legally mandated inheritance rights, resulting in broken relationships, frustration, and the dispossession of their inherited assets.

To ensure the proper management and oversight of each inhabitant's information, most countries have a Civil Registry and Personal Identification office, which serves as a database storing important data on every person born alive within their nation (Glöckler et al., 2023). This office provides reliable data services to public and private sector institutions, as well as to individuals, for official procedures. However, access to this information is limited by the genealogy of each registered person, as some countries lack family tree information, which is an essential mechanism for identifying kinship and blood ties (Smart et al., 2022).

This problem is evident internationally, as several nations, including Jamaica, through their Civil Registry network, provide a genealogical tree system as part of their birth, marriage, and death registration procedures. This system contains a database of information on each registered citizen, allowing various state entities to access information regarding each citizen's degree of kinship and consanguinity with other individuals (AbouZahr et al., 2015). Panama also provides this genealogical tree service to state entities, granting them access to information on each individual registered within its territory to legally certify their ancestors and descendants.

In Peru, institutions such as RENIEC (National Registry of Identification and Civil Status), SUNARP (National Superintendency of Public Registries), notaries, and the judiciary play a fundamental role in the management, validation, and certification of genealogical and registry information. Conversely, the integration of digital technologies and integrated systems into these processes is still limited. There is a need to modernize these mechanisms, coordinating management between institutions with technological solutions, which is crucial for the proper handling of inheritance rights to avoid prolonged legal disputes or errors in identifying legitimate heirs.

The lack of access to genealogical records significantly restricts each citizen's right to their identity with respect to their ancestors, as they lack full knowledge of their origins and their maternal cultural identity recognized by the State (Yildirim, 2023). This situation can be observed in the area of inheritance rights, particularly in cases of intestate succession, when the deceased does not leave a will. Under these circumstances, notaries often face difficulties in verifying the legitimacy of the information provided by those claiming to be the sole heirs.

This exclusion of forced heirs from inheritance prevents them from exercising their legal rights to inherit, leading to conflicts and injustices. For these same individuals excluded from their intestate succession rights, the only way to claim these rights is by filing a claim for inheritance, a costly and time-consuming legal process. This is because it requires proving one's status as an heir, which is complicated and protracted, creating a significant procedural burden in terms of time.

Regarding the theories underpinning this research, the first is Personal Identity Theory, initially proposed by Charles Taylor (1989 with the publication of his book "The Source of Meaning"). Taylor considered that the identity of a group and of individuals are entities that are articulated and related, and that the sum of these elements constitutes the creation of one's own originality (Zárate, 2015). In this context, genealogical ties are essential foundations for constructing each subject's identity, as they reflect not only an individual's ancestry but also their cultural identity and sense of belonging to a shared family history. This identity implies the search for the authentic self within a network of shared meanings, with identity being the balance between individual uniqueness and social belonging (Hoffmann & Furlan, 2020).

In an integrated family tree system of legal processes, this theory responds to the understanding of strengthening identity as a fundamental element for the strict exercise of other fundamental rights. Identity, by considering the dialogue of the self as a dialogical and embodied entity, is understood within a moral and cultural horizon shared by the entire community. Identity is not autonomous or isolated but rather constructed through belonging to a culture and society with common values and meanings (Shareef and George, 2023). Linked to the theme of the family tree, this vision incorporates legal identity and inheritance rights not as individual subjects, but as the result of communal, cultural, and historical relationships. Belonging to a family or lineage becomes fundamental in defining who is entitled to inherit and access rights.

The second theory is the well-known Kinship Systems Theory, proposed by Claude Lévi-Strauss (published in 1949 in his book "Les structures élémentaires de la parenté"). Kinship does not simply consist of objective ties of affiliation or consanguinity but exists only in the consciousness of each subject as a social system of representation; that is, it is the set of relationships based on alliance and exchanges that guarantee the subsistence and preservation of human groups (Chen, 2000).

Therefore, this theory is fundamental to understanding how a family tree represents not only biological ancestry but also the structural and legal framework of the family in relation to filiation and inheritance, thus revealing how this framework has been constructed throughout history. This understanding allows us to grasp how

technological tools respect and can value this structure, facilitating the verification of relationships and the fair management of inheritance rights, as well as recognizing family relationships across cultural diversity.

Therefore, this article seeks to analyze the application of the family tree as a means of proof that allows the real-time identification of heirs in inheritance claim processes.

METHODOLOGY

The research adopted is basic in nature, as it seeks to understand the scientific phenomenon or its properties without implying an immediate practical application. This type of research is driven by curiosity and the desire for knowledge (Higashide et al., 2024). This type of research is fundamental to the study because it allows for the analysis of key aspects of inheritance law, ensuring that the research responds to the identified reality and need.

The approach used is qualitative, as it seeks to understand perspectives and behaviors from the participants' point of view, based on the collection of detailed and in-depth information. Inductive reasoning is used to generate theories from the data obtained, allowing for an understanding of the how and why of the phenomenon under study (Bazen et al., 2021). This approach allows for a deep understanding of the experiences and perceptions of the actors involved (institutions, professionals, etc.) from their own perspectives, thus contextualizing the idea of the family tree within the processes and improving the protection of inheritance rights.

The research design employed is grounded theory, as it allows for the development of explanatory theories from the collection and analysis of empirical data, ensuring that the theory is properly grounded in the collected data (Charmaz & Thornberg, 2021). A case study approach will also be used, addressing what and how to study in order to generate detailed and contextualized knowledge, providing a deeper understanding of the problem (Roseli & Araujo, 2020). The study setting was limited to the Tarapoto Judicial District, where cases resolved with a final judgment between 2022 and 2024 were selected, excluding those without a final judgment and those outside the analysis period.

Similarly, 5 specialists in the field were interviewed: 3 Notaries (coded under the letter "N"), 1 judge (coded under the letter "J"), and 2 lawyers (coded under the letter "AE"). The inclusion criteria considered were having more than 5 years of experience in professional practice and holding a master's degree and residing in the city of Tarapoto. Professionals without more than 5 years of experience and without a master's degree were excluded from the list.

This research used interviews as its data collection technique, as they allow for the interpretation of reality based on the experience and particular meaning of the other (González et al., 2022). Similarly, documentary analysis was used, as it consisted of organizing and examining the information into fundamental aspects, which allows for understanding the most important elements and constructing knowledge (Martínez et al., 2023).

The hermeneutic method was used for data processing, as it focuses on the interpretation and understanding of the experience as lived by those involved, highlighting fundamental aspects of the problem and thus seeking to achieve a deep understanding of the phenomenon studied (Alsaigh & Coyne, 2021). Similarly, the triangulation of results was employed, as it allows for the systematization of the information obtained through the research with previously considered data to validate the findings and provide reliability to the results (Moon, 2019).

In conclusion, the ethical principles of legal research were respected, regarding the autonomy of the participants to decide on their participation, confidentiality in the research, the veracity of the sources consulted, and the integrity in the analysis of the information, thus guaranteeing an ethical and scientifically sound process.

RESULTED

The results of this research focused on analyzing the application of family trees as evidence for the real-time identification of heirs in inheritance proceedings. Therefore, the results presented here, based on the research objective, demonstrate significant tensions between current legal practices and the intention of using this technological tool as a new form of evidence in inheritance proceedings.

Usefulness of the Family Tree for the Protection of Inheritance Rights in Inheritance Claim Processes

Regarding the participants' statements, N1 said: *"The main benefit of implementing and using this family tree system is to correctly identify who the heirs are"*. N2, on the other hand, stated: *"The benefit lies in clearly identifying who the heir is and working from there"*. N3 responded: *"The benefit of implementing and using this family tree system is fundamentally identifying who the heir or heirs are and using that information to begin the corresponding process"*.

The notaries' statements reveal a substantial point of agreement regarding the central function of the family tree in inheritance proceedings, as it is based on a single objective: the correct identification of heirs. This mechanism is fundamental in this respect, since accurately determining family ties forms the basis for exercising

inheritance rights. The participants acknowledge that this system not only serves an informational purpose but also has legal standing, guaranteeing that inheritance processes are conducted transparently and without disputes regarding the legitimacy of the beneficiaries. In this sense, the family tree serves as a technical and evidentiary tool that allows institutions to organize family information and avoid conflicts arising from unfounded claims.

Similarly, opinions agree that the usefulness of the family tree transcends the simple registration of kinship, as it enables the effective protection of inheritance rights through the verification of legitimate heirs. This instrument, when properly used by the competent institutions, would contribute to the efficiency of inheritance claim processes, reducing discretion and administrative errors. Consequently, this system is configured as an essential means to guarantee that claims for inherited assets are carried out in accordance with the law and with due respect for the heirs, thus consolidating the institutional framework for the defense of inheritance rights.

Now, regarding the statements made by the judge and lawyers, J1 indicates: *“It constitutes the fundamental evidence for the plaintiff to claim and recover the inheritance rights that were violated. Its usefulness lies in proving that the plaintiff has a better or equal right to inherit than the current possessors of the assets”*. In contrast, AE1 states: *“The family tree is a very important tool to guarantee justice and transparency in inheritance distribution processes, ensuring that all assets are distributed to those to whom they are entitled by law”*. And AE2 responds: *“Technology as a digital tool is one of the digital tools that facilitates the development of many companies, thus serving as a secure access channel that allows for the consolidation of genealogical information in the Kardex in a secure and reliable manner, just like birth, marriage, and death certificates”*.

Analysis of the judge's and lawyers' statements reveals that the family tree serves both as evidence and as a safeguard within inheritance claim proceedings. Judge J1 emphasizes its value as a fundamental means of proof to establish the succession link and, consequently, the legitimacy of the plaintiff's claim against the current possessors of the assets. This perspective reinforces the idea that the family tree is not merely an informative document, but a highly relevant legal instrument that supports the restitution of the violated right, provided the process is based on truth and equity in inheritance. In this respect, the family tree contributes to consolidating the principle of inheritance justice by ensuring that the claimant has a better or equal right to inherit.

Similarly, participants AE1 and AE2 broaden the perspective to include institutional and technological elements, considering the family tree as a modern tool that promotes transparency, security, and efficiency in inheritance procedures. For example, AE1 highlights its role in the fair distribution of assets, while AE2 introduces it more as an added value to the digitization of the genealogical system, which allows for the integration of vital information into secure and verifiable platforms. Therefore, we can summarize the above in the following figure:

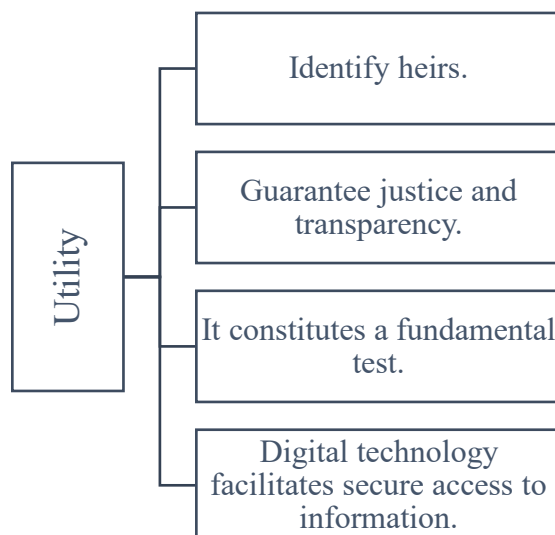


Figure 1. Final summary of interviewees

However, the reality is quite different in the cases analyzed. For example, Case File 00324-2022-0-2208-JR-CI-02, whose ruling dates from November 18, 2022, involved one brother suing the other two because he had been excluded from the inheritance of property left by their deceased mother. After the lawsuit was filed and went unanswered, the judge decided to continue the proceedings. In this case, the brother who registered as the sole heir did so through a process called intestate succession before a notary, declaring himself the sole heir. Therefore, the fundamental evidence presented to establish the relationship was documentary evidence, specifically the birth certificate of the person claiming to be the next of kin. Finally, based on the analysis, the judge determined the status of the excluded brother as an heir and declared the claim **FOUNDED** and, consequently, ordered the registration of the action for petition of inheritance in favor of the plaintiff under equal conditions in law and actions with respect to the percentage that corresponded to his predecessor.

Another case is File No. 00282-2022-0-2208-JR-CI-02, whose judgment was issued on March 27, 2023. In this case, the son sued his mother because she had initiated the intestate succession process for her husband, the plaintiff's father. This process began in 2008 before a notary public, and she was registered as the sole heir. During the proceedings, the judge declared the mother in default for failing to respond to the lawsuit, despite having been duly notified. The evidence presented in this case included the registration of the intestate succession in the Public Registry in favor of the mother, as well as the plaintiff's birth certificate. This evidence convinced the judge, who ruled in favor of the plaintiff and ordered the registration of the intestate succession and his inclusion in the estate of the deceased, thus declaring him an heir alongside his mother.

Similarly, in case file 00248-2022-0-2208-JR-CI-02, the mother of two children, acting on their behalf, filed a lawsuit against their paternal grandmother. The grandmother had initiated intestate succession proceedings for her son, declaring herself his sole heir, when the children he had with his current partner, the mother of his two children, should also have been considered. In this case, the defendant was declared in default, and the evidence presented, including the children's birth certificates and the public registry's record of the intestate succession declaring the grandmother the sole heir, was admitted. Based on the facts and evidence presented, the judge ruled in favor of the plaintiff and ordered the registration of the property left by the father in favor of his minor children.

Adding to case files 00111-2024-0-2208-JR-CI-02 and 00088-2022-0-2208-JR-CI-02, in both cases the intestate succession process was initiated through a notary public, where the defendants were declared the sole heirs of the deceased. In both cases, the defendants were declared in default and did not respond to the complaint. Again, the evidence presented consisted of the succession registrations from the public registry and the birth certificates of the minors. Finally, both judgments were declared **FOUNDED**, and the respective registration was ordered.

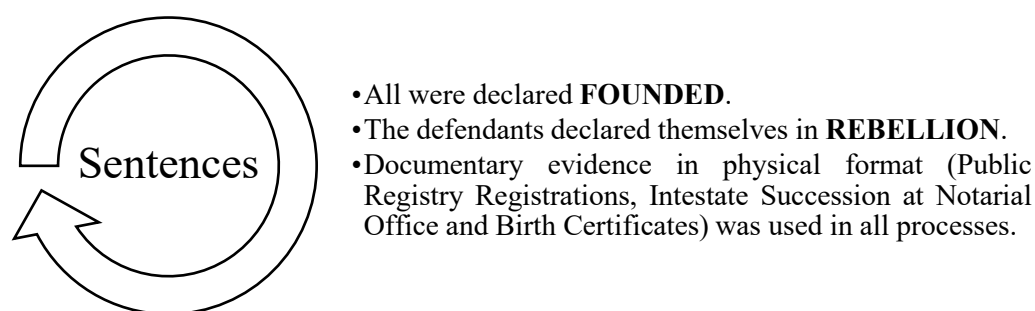


Figure 2. Results of the files

In these rulings, we can identify a reality different from that perceived by all participants. While they state that the family tree as a system can serve to prove genealogical ties and also as fundamental documentary evidence in inheritance proceedings, in all the cases analyzed, the documentation presented as evidence consisted of physical documents, as described in Figure 2. Therefore, the reality shows a current trend of using physical documentation in paper format to determine inheritance rights, rather than using or proposing the use of digitized systems or at least the idea of creating a family tree for the real-time and legitimate determination of those entitled to inherit.

Influence of the Family Tree on the Defense of the Right to the Legitimate Share

Regarding this section, N1 responded: *"Frankly, no violation is observed in this aspect, since whoever requests an inheritance does so solely in their capacity as heir, exercising the right that corresponds to them by succession. However, having a system like this would be very helpful, as it would allow us to identify if there are other people with the same right to inherit"*. In contrast, N2 clarified: *"The person requesting an inheritance only appears in their capacity as heir to access the right granted to them by succession. However, having such a system would greatly contribute to identifying if there are other people with that same right to inherit"*. Finally, participant N3 indicated: *"Opposition in intestate succession processes, since, while it is true that there are tools to combat this, these tools would definitely become obsolete if we had a family tree implemented by RENIEC or public registries, to guide us and tell us who the heir of a given person is"*.

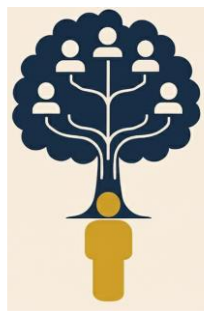
The responses from those interviewed indicate that, while there is currently no perceived direct violation of the right to a statutory share in inheritance proceedings, the implementation of an institutional family tree system would significantly strengthen its protection. The notaries emphasize that those who claim an inheritance do so in the strict exercise of a right to which they are entitled by succession; however, they also point out that this family tree system would allow for the identification of other individuals with the same right to inherit, preventing the fraudulent or unintentional exclusion of other members of the estate.

On the other hand, participants agree that the creation of an official family tree, administered by institutions such as RENIEC or the Public Registries, would add transparency and security to the defense of the right to a forced share of the inheritance. Its implementation would allow access to verified information about family ties, facilitating opposition to irregular inheritances. In this respect, the family tree is projected as a mechanism for the

active protection of the right to a forced share by guaranteeing distribution according to the legal order of succession and equality of rights among heirs.

On the other hand, J1 stated: *“Genealogical knowledge directly and conclusively influences the defense of inheritance rights, as it provides the essential factual and evidentiary basis for exercising any legal action in the area of inheritance”*. Meanwhile, AE1 stated: *“Genealogical knowledge is an extremely indispensable support tool for protecting the right to inherit, as it contributes to guaranteeing a fair distribution and the concrete application of the principles of inheritance law”*. Finally, AE2 responded: *“Genealogy provides verifiable evidence in inheritance proceedings, preventing errors and ensuring that the equity that the law provides to forced heirs is respected”*.

Regarding the analyzed cases, they coincide in that the judicial decisions recognize the equality of inheritance rights as established by the Peruvian Civil Code. In all cases, physical documentary evidence has been considered the most reliable record for determining kinship, with no evidence of the use of technological or digital systems for the automatic identification of heirs. These proceedings have been recognized as having been initiated due to omissions that led to lawsuits to guarantee the legitimate inclusion of the deceased's universal heirs. Despite technological advancements, the rulings, like the notarial protocols, maintain traditional methods and physical documents, leaving the use of computerized digital platforms to expedite the correct identification of heirs and their inheritance rights pending.



The family tree is a fundamental instrument for correctly identifying the heirs and thereby guaranteeing the protection of the legitimate share, avoiding exclusions or fraud in its execution, whose implementation must be observed and monitored by institutions such as RENIEC or the Public Registries, thus ensuring the correct distribution of the deceased's estate to his legitimate heirs.

Figure 3. Final constitution of the influence of the family tree

Institutions Responsible for Ensuring the Implementation of the Family Tree System

From the responses provided by the participants, it is clear that the implementation of the family tree requires the collaboration of various public and private institutions, each with a specific role that guarantees the accuracy, legality, and effectiveness of the inheritance process. Starting with the first institution where our identity is registered, the National Registry of Identification and Civil Status (RENIEC) plays a fundamental role, as it is the entity responsible for verifying parentage and family ties through an official registry of births, marriages, and deaths. Its participation ensures that the family tree is built upon verified and authentic data, thus becoming the primary source of information for determining legitimate kinship relationships.

On the other hand, another institution mentioned is SUNARP, which plays a complementary role, as it is the institution responsible for registering inheritance acts and guaranteeing what is known as public registration, thus providing legal certainty to the heirs and transparency in the process. In this way, notaries act as intermediaries in the intestate succession process (a power granted to them through Law 26662 and its subsequent amendment by Law 32377, which gives notaries the authority to handle non-contentious matters), providing public attestation and formalizing the acts that are later registered with SUNARP. Finally, the Judiciary intervenes in cases where there is controversy or conflict of inheritance interests, resolving the validity of family ties and ordering the proper registration when necessary. Therefore, by adding the purpose of each institution together, they form an integrated system for the protection and verification of inheritance rights, thus constituting an integrated system of protection and verification of inheritance rights, acting with the particularity of guaranteeing justice, equity and transparency in the transfer of assets.

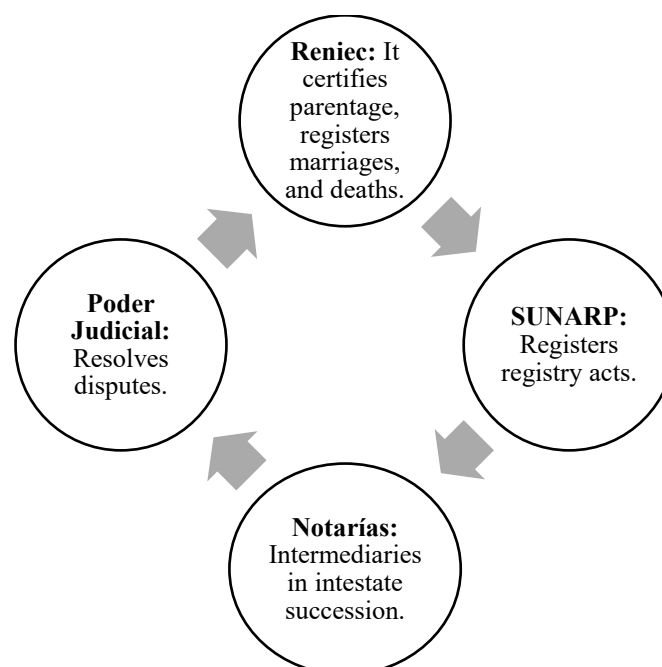


Figure 4. Interinstitutional support

DISCUSSION

The lack of technology and the underutilization of digital tools that would facilitate the identification, visualization, or automatic search of potential heirs involved in inheritance claims has become evident. This deficiency in technological support limits the speed, modernization, and effectiveness of the probate process. The technological shortcomings hinder the speed and modernization of the process, which continues to rely exclusively on traditional documentary methods and the literal application of the law.

In the cases analyzed, it was noted that most of the processes originated at the Notary's office, where the applicants were registered as the sole heirs, without acknowledging or perhaps ignoring the existence of the other heirs belonging to the estate. The judge then based their decision on the physical documentation presented and on the application of Articles 681, 816, and 818 of the procedural code. The lack of digital support mechanisms represents an unresolved challenge for the legal system, which requires modernization with tools that facilitate the identification and representation of inheritance relationships.

The evidence presented here is related to the findings of Mayta and Ortega (2024), who conclude that reforms are necessary to avoid differing interpretations in the regulation of inheritance and succession representation. This would strengthen inheritance law and improve legal certainty for litigants. This precedent is linked to the objective of identifying technological advancements and modernization. The cases reviewed reflect a lack of technological mechanisms that guarantee the effectiveness and speed of protecting rights, highlighting the importance of updating and modernizing legal processes.

Furthermore, this aligns with Zuta's (2024) assertion that inheritance representation has a very limited scope and requires precise interpretations to facilitate the correct visualization and management of family trees. This underscores the need for clarity regarding family ties in the absence of digital or graphic systems in the reviewed records, where heir identification is based solely on the presentation of physical documents, without leveraging the potential of technological tools to facilitate these processes.

However, this contrasts with the perspectives of Pap (2023) and Shinno (2023), who argue that advanced digitization and the incorporation of emerging technologies are driving significant improvements in judicial processes, as well as in the accessibility and efficiency of the system. This background suggests that the technological advancements in the analyzed case files do not reflect this, since in judicial practice the exclusive use of physical documents persists without the effective application of digital systems for the automatic identification and graphic representation of inheritance lines. This reveals a gap between technological advancements and their implementation in the legal system.

The evidence presented here aligns with the findings of Chang et al. (2021), who emphasize that constructing a family tree is fundamental to understanding the normative and practical context of inheritance in different legal systems. As noted by the interviewees, there is a need to strengthen civil registries and genealogical databases to improve the verification of family ties. This background underscores that a deeper understanding of family structure will be key to effectively regulating and processing inheritance, thus providing greater legal certainty.

The evidence presented here aligns with the position of Gomes et al. (2021), who discuss how genetic analysis provides new knowledge to confirm or even challenge family relationships and strengthen the identification of heirs. This is complemented by the interviewees' proposal that genetic digitization can be reliable as long as it is kept up-to-date. This convergence highlights the importance of having technical and scientific tools to improve the security of inheritance processes.

The results demonstrate and reflect the widespread perception that family trees are an indispensable tool for clearly and documentably proving family ties, thus strengthening the protection of inheritance rights. Participants agree that technology, by enabling the secure and reliable consolidation of genealogical documents such as birth certificates and other records, facilitates the automatic creation of family trees, contributing to transparency and efficiency in inheritance processes.

To address this point in the debate on the use of family trees in protecting inheritance rights, it is important to consider Taylor's Theory of Personal Identity (1989), reinforced by Zárate's analysis (2015), which specifies that it is essential to understand why genealogical ties are fundamental not only from a legal perspective, but also from a cultural and anthropological one, maintaining that individual identity is articulated from belonging to a group and a shared history; in this respect, genealogy is the basis for constructing the authenticity of the "self".

Therefore, in the context of inheritance law, this perspective justifies the importance of incorporating a family tree as a tool to reaffirm the heir's identity and legitimacy in direct relation to the deceased, ensuring that the process respects not only legal aspects but also the individual's cultural and social identity. Furthermore, this also supports the rationale for using a family tree in protecting inheritance rights, as it serves to preserve identity and the social justice inherent in the distribution of family assets.

Furthermore, Lévi-Strauss's Kinship Systems Theory (1949) provides a sociocultural understanding of kinship structure that extends beyond the strictly biological link. This theory grounds not only genetic descent but also a system of social representations, alliances, and exchanges that sustain the continuity of the human group in this sense. This approach allows us to understand how the family tree functions not only as a legal instrument but also as a reflection of complex and culturally constituted family relationships. In this way, the theory justifies the value of the family tree in identifying how to respect the diverse family relationships and structures that impact succession.

By incorporating the ideas provided by the interviewees and the theoretical counterpoint of this research, the debate is enriched by considering not only individual and technical aspects, but also the social and cultural foundations that shape inheritance rights. This is achieved by combining the theory of personal identity, as an interdisciplinary perspective, with the theory of kinship systems, resulting in a much broader view that supports the family tree as a multidimensional tool, recognizing not only the identity of individuals, but also science and socio-familial structure within a context of inheritance protection.

CONCLUSIONS

The use of family trees as evidence in inheritance proceedings is a fundamental tool for the accurate and efficient identification of heirs, as demonstrated by the analysis of the perceptions of judges, lawyers, and notaries. This system not only facilitates the documentary and genealogical verification of succession relationships but also helps guarantee transparency, fairness, and equity in the distribution of inherited assets, thereby preventing conflicts and irregular exclusions within families.

Added to this is the institutional and technological implementation of the family tree managed by entities such as RENIEC (National Registry of Identification and Civil Status) or public registries, which allows access to verified and updated information in real time. This optimizes the judicial and administrative process by reducing errors and discretionary practices within this digitized and systematic genealogy system. It strengthens the defense of the right to inheritance, ensuring both legal and sociocultural protection for heirs, thus affirming personal identity linked to family belonging, something reaffirmed in the theories of Taylor and Lévi-Strauss.

Finally, the integration of the family tree into inheritance law not only satisfies an underutilized technical and legal need but also responds to the social demand for inheritance justice and recognition of identity. Its usefulness transcends the formal sphere, constituting a mechanism that guarantees the legitimacy of heirs' claims, consolidating a solid institutional framework that protects equity and truth in inheritance proceedings in Peru.

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