

Theory of Interest Jurisprudence for the Development of the Notarial System

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ABSTRACT

This paper focuses on the integration of interest jurisprudence and notarial system, and discusses in depth its dilemma and development path. In terms of research methodology, it makes use of jurisprudence analysis, comparative method and literature review method to discuss the difficulties that exist in the theoretical cognition, practical operation and system articulation in the integration of the both. The main problems include the definition of interests is unclear, the role of subjective measurement is large, and the system articulation is not fluent. In view of the above problems, this paper provides a series of solutions, including precise definition of the concept of interest, the development of objective measurement standards, and the improvement of the legal system connection etc.. Through these researches and strategies, this paper aims to provide a comprehensive and in-depth theoretical basis and practical guidance for promoting the effective integration of the legal theory of interests and the notary system, to promote the notary system to play a more positive and crucial role in the coordination of interests and the construction of the rule of law in modern society, and also to provide useful references and insights for the subsequent development of related researches and practices, and to contribute to the construction of a more scientific and reasonable system that is adapted to the needs of the society. It also provides useful references and insights for the development of subsequent related research and practice, helping to build a more scientific and reasonable system and application mode of legal theory that meets the needs of society.

1. Introduction

1.1 Research Background

In Latin countries with a notarial system, the notary not only certifies civil legal facts and civil acts of legal significance by virtue of its credibility and probative power, but also plays an important role in the preservation of evidence [1]. In the context of socio-economic development and the awakening of civil rights awareness, notarial practice can play an important value in civil law societies [2].

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In China's notarial theory research, scholars generally divide the theory of notarial system development into statutory notarial theory and intended notarial theory [3]. The statutory notary system (or the mandatory notary system) is a compulsory notary system [4]. Its characteristics are embodied in the legal nature of the notary system, that is, the notarial matters and the content of justice must be confirmed by the normative legal documents. In addition, the statutory notarisation also has the characteristics of effectiveness, the notarial act can be used as a legal act of the effective elements (or against the legal act of others against the elements), without notarisation of the legal act can not play the legal effect. Besides, the statutory notarisation also has the characteristics of compulsory, that is, notarisation is the only way to help the citizens to obtain legal recognition of the act of confirmation [5]. Finally, statutory notarisation also has the characteristic of importance, i.e. the legal acts included in the scope of statutory notarisation are mainly those involving significant changes or adjustments in personal and property relations, such as guardianship, real estate transactions and inheritance. Under the theory of statutory notarisation, general legal acts can be regulated only by party autonomy and legal remedies. The intended notary system (or known as the agreement notary system) is another type of notary system as opposed to the statutory notary system, which emphasises full respect for the citizens' autonomy of meaning [6]. In other words, citizens choose whether or not to apply to a notary public for notarisation of relevant civil legal facts or legally significant acts in accordance with their own wishes. If a citizen does not apply to a notary public, it will not affect the legal effect of the relevant facts or acts. Thus, under the theory of intended notarisation, the notarial procedure is not a necessary condition for the validity of a legal act.

Originating in the late 19th century, interest jurisprudence is a legal theory and methodology that emphasises that law is a mechanism for distributing and protecting interests, and that the formation and application of legal norms should be centred on the balance of interests [7]. The main purpose of the birth of interest jurisprudence is to critique the old concept of jurisprudence, which tries to provide a more adaptable to the needs of social reality of jurisprudence [8]. Interest jurisprudence believes that law arises from the conflict of various interests in society. For example, in civil law neighbourhood relations, the interests of land use right holders in the use of land may be in conflict with the interests of neighbouring land use right holders. Therefore, the task of the law is to reconcile these interests, such as stipulating the content of reasonable neighbouring rights, in order to achieve a balanced state. In addition to this, interest jurisprudence emphasises that legal provisions cannot be simply applied in the judicial process, and that the judiciary should explore the legislator's interest considerations behind the law and weigh the interests according to the interest situation in a specific case. For example, in contractual disputes, not only the interests of the parties embodied in the contract should be considered, but also other relevant interests such as social public interest and transaction security. Furthermore, interest jurisprudence holds that the measurement of interests should be governed by legal principles, social values and other factors, such as the principle of fairness and the principle of good faith. Accordingly, the process of legal interpretation should also be based on the relevant principles and the measurement of interests in order to provide a reasonable and lawful interpretation.

Aspects of the theoretical integration of interest jurisprudence and the notarial system. In terms of theoretical foundations, interest jurisprudence emphasises the need for consistency in value orientation and the necessity of weighing interests [9]. Consistency of values emphasises that the law should balance conflicting interests with a view to achieving fairness and justice. The notary system was originally established to safeguard the legitimate rights and interests of citizens and prevent disputes by proving the authenticity and legality of civil legal acts, facts of legal significance and instruments, which is in line with the value orientation of interest jurisprudence [10]. The

necessity of measuring interests emphasises that notaries should refer to the judge’s initiative of considering interests in the judicial process, and apply it in the exercise of the legal function of proof. For example, in a notarial will, the will should balance the will of the testator and the interests of the legal heirs, to ensure that the will is consistent with the true will of the testator, and does not violate the laws and regulations and public order and morals, in order to protect the legitimate rights and interests of all parties [11]. In terms of notarial practice, the Law of Interests emphasises that notaries should fully consider the interests of all parties, use the notarial effect to comprehensively safeguard their interests, and require notarial organisations to actively formulate plans and countermeasures against conflicts of interest [12]. In terms of interest consideration, notaries should fully consider the relevant interest factors when dealing with all kinds of notarial matters [11]. For example, when dealing with contractual notarisation, they should fully consider the economic interests of the parties, the social and economic order, the public interest and many other aspects. For contracts involving social public interests (such as infrastructure construction contracts, major investment contracts, etc.), notaries shall examine them carefully to ensure that the content of the contract is legal and feasible in order to safeguard social public interests. In the notary effect in the interest of guarantee, notary has evidence effect, legal effect and enforcement effect. These effects provide strong protection for the legitimate rights and interests of the parties, and help to effectively safeguard and realise their interests in civil activities. For example, after the notarisation of the creditor’s instrument, when the debtor refuses to fulfil the obligation, the creditor can directly apply to the people’s court for compulsory execution, without the need to go through the cumbersome litigation procedures, so as to protect the interests of the right holder in a timely and effective manner. In terms of conflict of interest prevention and management, notaries should strictly abide by professional ethics and laws and regulations in the course of their practice to avoid conflicts between their own interests and those of the notary. In addition, consideration should be given to improving and perfecting the mechanism for reviewing conflicts of interest, and strengthening the supervision and management of institutions and practitioners, so as to avoid the credibility of notarisation being affected by conflicts of interest.

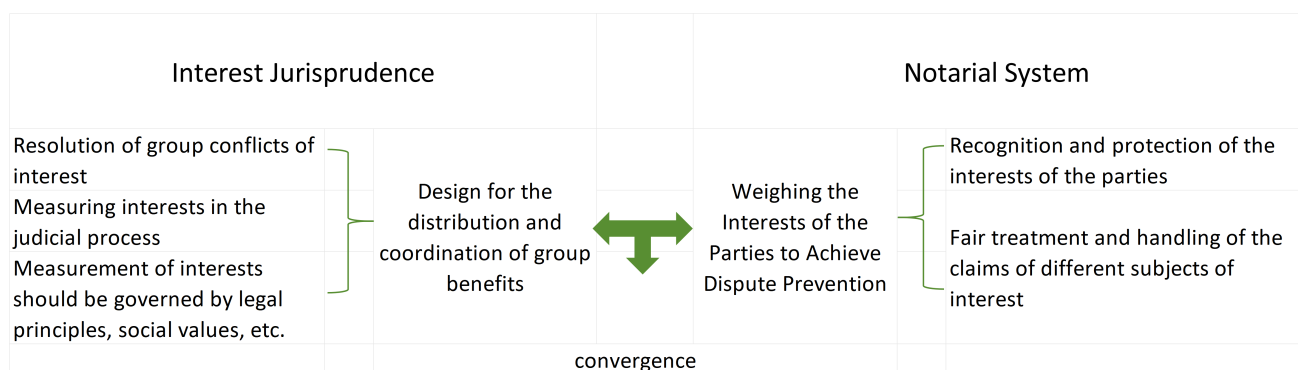


Fig. 1. Diagram of the relationship between interest-based jurisprudence and the notarial system

1.2 Literature Review

There is currently a research gap in the theory of the integration of the doctrine of law of interests and the notarial system. As far as research results in the field of notarisation are concerned, the reform of the notarial system in China has been well researched. However, changes in the notarial system (especially the development of the statutory notary system) are often discussed from the perspective of notarial organisations, and the expansion of the scope of statutory notarisation is often discussed in order to fulfil the function of the notary. In terms of system design, researchers

often suggest expanding the scope of acceptance of notarisation, strengthening the notary's proof of effectiveness, which is undoubtedly an expansion of the notary's power, thus forming the phenomenon of pan-notarisation 'without notarisation, it is ineffective' [13]. However, looking at the reform process of China's civil law codification, it is not difficult to find that the legal priority of the notary is gradually weakened. This can be demonstrated by analysing the change from article 20 of the China's Law of Succession to article 1142 of the Civil Code.

Table 1

Comparison of the provisions of the old and new laws on notarisation of inheritance in China

Sources of Laws	Legal Provisions	Contents
Inheritance Law of the People's Republic of China (Repealed)	Article 20	Where several wills have been made and their contents contradict each other, the last will shall prevail. Self-written, written, recorded or oral wills shall not revoke or alter a notarised will. A testator may revoke or alter a will made by him. If, after making a will, the testator commits a civil legal act contrary to the contents of the will, it shall be regarded as a revocation of the relevant contents of the will. If several wills have been made and their contents contradict each other, the last will shall prevail.
Inheritance Part of the Civil Code of the People's Republic of China	Article 1142	

Source: China Government Network

In the evolution of Article 20 of the Inheritance Law to Article 1142 of the Civil Code, the legal priority of notarial wills has been abolished in the Chinese probate system [14]. This is precisely the legislator in perfecting the law, give full consideration to the testator in changing the will of the convenience of the system optimisation. It is thus clear that the design of notarisation in the civil legal system is centred on simplifying the process of proving civil legal facts (or acts) in order to meet the expectations of group interests.

As far as the results of interest law research are concerned, the core of the research lies in the design of the distribution and coordination of group interests.^[15] Its core research ideas include the resolution of group conflicts of interest and the weighing of interests in the judicial process, with a view to closing legal loopholes and realising case-by-case disputes. The research results of interest law mainly focus on showing that it breaks the rigid mode of legal application of conceptual law, and makes the law move from abstract provisions to concrete interest considerations, thus providing more flexible strategies for solving complex social problems. This reconceptualisation of the nature of law lays the theoretical foundation for the integration of interest-based jurisprudence with the notarial system. The reason for this is that notarial activities are also situated in a network of social interests and inevitably need to reconcile various conflicts of interest.

In terms of research on the relevance of interest jurisprudence to the notarial system. In terms of value orientation, this paper shows that there is a high degree of convergence between interest-based jurisprudence and the notarial system.^[16] One of the important purposes of notarisation is to weigh the interests of the parties in order to prevent disputes, which overlaps with the purposes pursued by the law of interests. Notarisation confirms and protects the interests of all parties in civil interactions, whether it is notarisation of wills to safeguard the will to dispose of one's property, or notarisation of contracts to balance the interests of heirs, or notarisation of contracts to promote the coordination of the interests of both parties to a transaction and the social and economic order, which are all inseparable from the weighing of the interests of all parties. In addition, as a statutory certification body, the credibility of the notary public is also based on its ability to fairly treat and deal

with the claims of different subjects with different interests, which is in line with the concept of seeking a fair solution to conflicts of interest advocated by the law of interests.

Although the current research on the relevance of interest law theories to the notarial system is beginning to bear fruit, there are still gaps. The main point is that, although the close connection between the two can be found through the theoretical constructs, there is still a lack of theoretical integration of the constructs and the support of empirical legal research data. Theoretical construction and data support is an important criterion to objectively judge the synergistic development of interest law theory and notary system, which is used to confirm the specific effect of the theory. It can be found that in the current academic research, it is particularly necessary to sort out the theory of interest law and use it to guide the design and development of the notary system, and to judge its value and function in objective social activities.

2. Methodology

This paper focuses on the connection between the theory of interest law and the design and development of the notary system, aiming to analyse how interest law provides theoretical support for the optimization of the notary system and explore the development path of the notary system under the perspective of balance of interests. In order to achieve the above research objectives, this paper mainly adopts the qualitative research method to construct the research system.

2.1 Literature Research Method

Data Acquisition Method. This paper collects academic journal articles, dissertations and research reports related to interest jurisprudence through Google Scholar, CNKI and other databases, in order to obtain a wide range of theories of interest jurisprudence, such as the core concepts, framework theories, and their evolution. In addition, this paper collects a wide range of legal norms, government documents and case law compilations related to the notarial system, so as to understand the notarial system's principles, operation mechanisms and challenges in practice from different levels and perspectives. Finally, we use professional legal websites, official government websites, and official websites of notary public associations to obtain relevant data to ensure that the literature is extensive, authoritative, and up-to-date.

Data analysis method. In the research of interest law theory, this paper applies the content analysis method to classify and analyse the collected literature. Through sorting out the theoretical viewpoints, research methods and applications of interest law in different legal fields, the key elements and theoretical insights related to the notary system are extracted. In the study of notarial system, this paper applies both horizontal and vertical analyses to systematically research the relevant literature. The purpose of the vertical analysis is to explore the development of the notarial system in different historical periods, as well as the concept of balancing interests in the notarial system. Horizontal analysis focuses on the differentiation of the notary system in different countries (or regions) in terms of the theory of coordination of interests, and provides a basis for the development of China's notary system.

2.2 Jurisprudence Analysis Method

Data Acquisition Method. This paper collects the basic principles, value system and methodology of jurisprudence as the theoretical cornerstone for analysing the relationship between interest law theory and notary system. Reference to the jurisprudence of related academic views, in order to

obtain the basic information on the nature of law, legal value and the theory of law and social relations. In addition, this paper pays attention to the research results of jurisprudence on emerging legal issues and social phenomena, such as the research dynamics of the law in responding to the multiple interests of the society, in light of the current social development. The above theoretical acquisitions provide a macroscopic theoretical vision for analysing the function of notary system in modern society.

Data analysis method. This paper uses the value analysis method to discuss the intrinsic connection between the concept of balance of interests advocated by interest jurisprudence and the value objectives of social order in the notary system. It discusses how to maximise the value through the measurement of interests in the design and operation of the notary system, and how to resolve the contradictions and conflicts between different interests. In addition, this paper uses the logical analysis method to deduce and argue the logic of the application of interest law theory in the notary system. The main embodiment is that this paper analyses the specific embodiment and mechanism of the principle of interest law in the process of formulating legal norms, implementing notarial acts and realising notarial effects, so as to explain the internal logic and operation law of the notarial system based on the balance of interests.

2.3 Comparative Methods

Data acquisition method. This paper selects the notary system of representative countries (or regions) in different legal systems as the object of comparison, and collects the texts of laws and regulations, judicial precedents, statistical data and relevant academic research results of the notary system of the countries (or regions) concerned. In addition, this paper explores the characteristics and differences in the development of interest jurisprudence in different countries (or regions), and its impact on the design and practice of notarial systems. First-hand information is obtained through relevant academic seminars and research reports to ensure the comprehensiveness and accuracy of the comparative study.

Data analysis method. This paper provides a comparative analysis of the notary system in different countries (or regions), including the organisational form of notary institutions, the qualifications and duties and authorities of notaries, the scope of notary business impartial procedural rules and the legal effect of notary. Under the influence of interest jurisprudence, this study explores the characteristics of notarial systems in different countries in terms of interest coordination mechanism, risk prevention measures and protection of parties' rights and interests. In addition, this study combines empirical comparative analyses with specific cases, selecting the practice and judicial decisions of different countries (or regions) in dealing with similar notarial matters (e.g., wills, contracts, property inheritance, etc.), and analysing the considerations of interests and the logic of legal application embodied in them. The comparison of the cases will provide reference for the reform and development of China's notarial system.

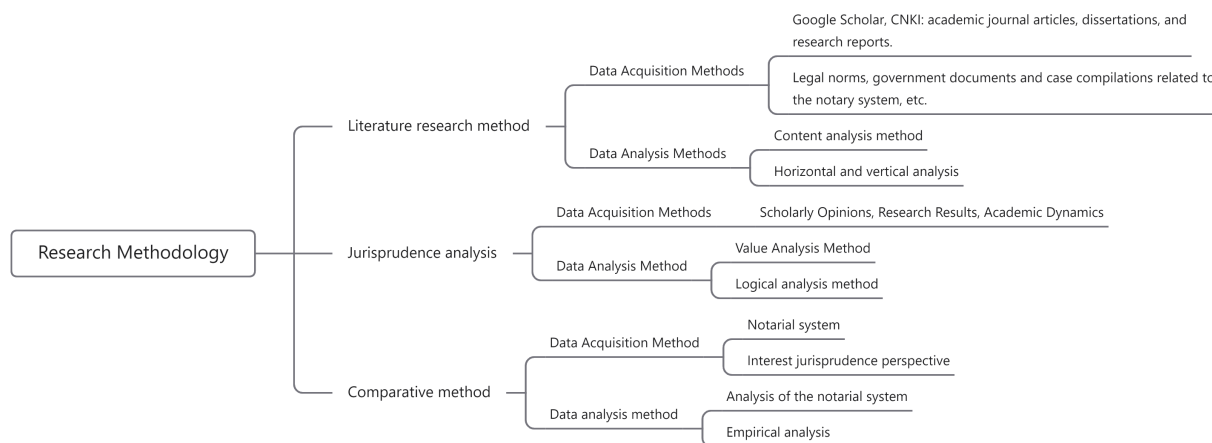


Fig. 2. Methodological framework of the study

3. Result

3.1 Problem Statement

The theory of interest law emphasises the weighing and coordination of the various interests involved in the law. As a preventive legal system, the notary system also plays its own role in safeguarding fairness and justice and protecting rights and interests [17]. The integration of the two has both theoretical and practical significance, but in the process of actual integration and development, it still faces many problems.

3.1.1 Theoretical cognitive dilemmas

There is ambiguity in the definition of interests. In the theory of interest jurisprudence, the core concept of natural interests, but there is a lack of precise and unified definition of the connotation and extension of interests. In the context of notarial system, the interests of groups involved in different notarial matters are varied and complex. For example, in inheritance notarisation, it involves the distribution of property interests among heirs, family emotional interests, social moral interests and possible debt settlement interests. Although the study of interest jurisprudence tries to classify interests, such as personal interests, social interests, public interests, etc., in specific notarial matters, the relevant interests are often intertwined with each other and the boundaries are blurred. It is difficult for notaries to judge the scope and proportion of each type of interest, resulting in a lack of clear theoretical guidance when applying the theory of interest law and an inability to accurately balance the interests of all parties.

Difficulty in accurately identifying the order of interest. When there is a conflict of substantive law powers, there are difficulties in identifying the order of interest.^[18] In certain notarial matters, such as conflicts between the protection of trade secrets and the public's right to know, or weighing the individual's right to privacy and the interests of public security, it is difficult to clarify which interests should be given priority based on the existing legal theories of interests. Different value orientations and social backgrounds may lead to differences in the judgement of the hierarchy of interests, and the lack of universally recognised and fixed criteria for the hierarchy of interests may lead to the inability of notaries to apply the relevant theories in the face of conflicting interests. The lack of a unified standard also affects the effectiveness of the integration of the notarial system and the theory of interest law.

3.1.2 Practical operational dilemmas

The standard of interest measurement is strongly subjective. It is true that, as mentioned above, when the notary conducts the measurement of interests in practice, due to the lack of objective and uniform measurement standards, it often relies on the individual's subjective judgement in practice.^[19] Different notaries may give different legal opinions to the parties based on different standards of judgement, thus resulting in individual variability in the assessment of interests. This subjectivity may lead to uncertainty in the notarial results, resulting in a lack of uniform standards for the parties to refer to. The legal opinion of the notary may influence the parties' judgement of the situation, and the expansion of the legal notary's competence is further exacerbated by the pan-notarisation of the situation.

Difficulties in obtaining and verifying information. In order to accurately measure interests, notaries need to obtain comprehensive information related to notarial matters during the notarisation process. However, in practice, there are many obstacles to obtaining and verifying information. On the one hand, the parties may conceal or distort part of the information for their own interests. For example, in property notarisation, the parties may conceal debts or misrepresent the value of property. On the other hand, there are limitations in the channels through which notaries obtain information. For notarial matters involving complex business transactions, transnational affairs or privacy, it is difficult for notaries to conduct in-depth investigations to obtain appropriate information about the relevant interests [20]. For example, in the notarisation of foreign-related intellectual property transfers, due to the differences in the legal systems and registration systems of intellectual property rights in different countries, it is difficult for notaries to have a comprehensive understanding of the real state of rights and potential disputes over the interests of the intellectual property rights, thus affecting the accuracy of the measurement of interests and the quality of notarisation.

3.2 Suggestion

3.2.1 Establishing a theory of integration

Precisely define the scope of interests. Organise joint research by legal researchers, notary practitioners and scholars in related fields, and through further theoretical discussion and empirical analysis, carefully classify and precisely define the various types of interests involved in the notary system. For example, guidelines on classification of interests should be formulated to clarify the specific connotations and extensions of common interests under different types of notarial services (e.g., notarisation of wills, notarisation of contracts, notarisation of inheritance, etc.). Define the family emotional interest in inheritance notarisation as the emotional expectation of family property inheritance based on kinship and non-material litigation for the maintenance of family harmony. The social and moral interests are refined as the public expectation of the fairness of property distribution in accordance with the principle of public order and morality. At the same time, with the help of big data analysis and case database construction, we collect a large number of notary cases on the manifestation of interests, summarise the universal and regular interest definition standards, and provide a clear theoretical basis for notaries to identify interests in legal practice.

Constructing the system of interest hierarchy. Based on the social value orientation and the basic principles of law, a scientific hierarchy of interests applicable to the notary system is constructed. For example, when there is a conflict between basic personnel and general property rights, basic human rights are given priority. In addition, when weighing public interests against individual privacy interests, specific judgements are made based on the degree of urgency and importance of public

interests and the degree of infringement of individual privacy. Consider formulating the Rules for Assessing the Order of Interests of Notaries, clarifying the factors and judgement criteria that should be given priority in different types of conflicting interests, and providing model interpretations and training in conjunction with specific notary cases. This will help notaries, when faced with complex conflicts of interest, to make scientific and reasonable measurements of interests based on the established hierarchy of interests.

3.2.2 Regulating legal practice

Develop an objective measure of interest. The notary public industry association will take the lead in researching and formulating a unified operational process for notary public interest measurement standards. Taking into account laws and regulations, the concept of social justice, industry practices and the characteristics of various types of notarial business, the abstract principle of interest measurement is transformed into a concrete and operable index system. For example, in property notarisation, specific measurement indicators such as legality of property source, reasonableness of property distribution, urgency of parties' interest needs, etc. are set and given corresponding weight coefficients. Through the allocation of relevant coefficients, it helps notaries to be more objective, reasonable and lawful when providing legal solutions.

Optimise the information acquisition and verification mechanism. Construct diversified information acquisition platforms and appropriate channels to enhance the ability and efficiency of notaries to acquire and verify information. On the one hand, strengthen the information sharing and cooperation mechanism between notaries and government departments, financial institutions and social organisations. For example, notaries optimise the property information query process with housing management departments, and optimise the information query path with banks and other financial institutions. This can help notaries obtain timely and accurate information about the parties' houses, properties, credit and other relevant information. On the other hand, modern information technology means, such as big data and blockchain technology, are used to collect, store and verify notarial information. For example, through the non-tampering characteristics of blockchain technology, the notary information is deposited and traced back to enhance the credibility and security of the notary documents in the preservation. Furthermore, the notary information investigator system is optimised to strengthen the information investigation of complex notarial matters, verify the relevant interest information in depth, and provide reliable data support for notaries to provide professional legal advice through the weighing of interests.

3.2.3 Optimise the convergence of legal systems

Improve notary-related laws and regulations. The legislature combines the theory of interest jurisprudence with the development needs of notarial practice, and timely revises and improves notary-related laws and regulations. On the one hand, it clarifies the legal authority and scope of responsibility of notaries in the process of interest measurement. For example, it stipulates the procedural requirements that notaries should follow when measuring interests, the standard of evidence examination and the way of assuming responsibility for the damage consequences caused by the wrong measurement of interests, etc., so as to provide notaries with a clear legal basis and systematic guarantee for the behaviour of measuring interests. On the other hand, for the new notary business field, timely introduction of corresponding rules. For example, it has formulated the Specification for Notarisation of Network Virtual Properties and the Specification for Notarisation Management of Big Data Transactions, etc., which clarify the scope of notary's business, notarisation

procedures, and measurement of interests in emerging fields, fill the legal gaps in a timely manner, and build a notary's legal framework that is adapted to the development of the times and promotes the implementation of the theory of the law of interests in the notary system.

Strengthening the synergy of legal systems in different fields. Establish a mechanism for coordination and communication between the notary system and other legal systems, and promote synergistic operation of the two in terms of coordination of interests. On the one hand, the notary system and the civil litigation system have been strengthened. For example, it should strengthen the linkage between notarial documents of claims and civil litigation, optimise the linkage between the enforcement of notarial documents of claims and civil litigation procedures, and avoid conflicts and contradictions in practice. On the other hand, the notary system should be expanded to co-operate with other legal departments such as administrative and criminal departments. In the fields of administrative licensing, administrative penalties, and criminal evidence proof, the notarial instrument's evidentiary effect and the role of proof of interests should be clarified, and an interdepartmental information-sharing and collaborative case handling mechanism should be established, so as to realise the unity of the legal system in terms of the protection of interests and coordination, and to enhance the efficiency and fairness of the entire legal system in dealing with interest relations.

4. Conclusion

The purpose of this paper is to discuss the connection between the theory of interest law and the notary system, and to analyse the dilemmas that exist in the process of integrating the two. Through the search for effective solution strategies, it promotes the notary system to play its function in the modern rule of law society, so as to realise the accurate measurement and reasonable coordination of multiple interests, thus safeguarding social justice, protecting the legitimate rights and interests of the citizens, and promoting the stable development of the social and economic order.

It is found that the application of interest jurisprudence to the notary system has difficulties in the ambiguity of the definition of interests and the determination of the order of interests. In order to solve such problems, it is necessary to conduct joint research in multiple fields, formulate guidelines for classifying interests and rules for assessing the order of interests, and build a case database with the help of big data analysis. This will provide notaries with a clear basis for identifying interests and a scientific standard for measuring interests, thus enhancing the guidance of the theory in practice.

In practice, notaries face the subjectivity of interest measurement standards and difficulties in obtaining and verifying information. Therefore, the notary public industry association should formulate unified operating procedures, and at the same time build diversified information acquisition platforms and verification channels, including strengthening the information sharing and collaboration mechanism, improving the application of modern information technology and the means of information investigation, reducing the subjective arbitrariness, improving the reliability of information, and guaranteeing the standard of the measurement of interests and the quality of notarisatation.

In terms of institutional convergence, there are currently problems of imperfect laws and regulations, as well as obstacles to co-ordination between different legal departments. The legislature should revise and improve notarial laws and regulations in a timely manner, clarify the responsibilities of the main body, and introduce standards for new notarial business in a timely manner. At the same time, it should strengthen the connection and coordination between laws, fill

in the legal gaps and avoid system conflicts, so as to realise the organic unity of the legal system in terms of interest protection and coordination.

The current society is constantly developing, and the pattern of interests is complex and changing. In the future, we should continue to pay attention to the new achievements of legal theory research and the new needs of social development, and further deepen the research on the application of interest law theory in the field of notary public. At the theoretical level, a more refined and scientific interest measurement model and theoretical system should be further constructed to provide more forward-looking and adaptive theoretical support for the notary system. In terms of time, the notarial profession should actively explore and innovate, strengthen exchanges and cooperation with other industries and fields, and make full use of emerging technologies to improve the quality and efficiency of notarial services.

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