

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

COLOMBIA | PretorIA

PretorIA is an artificial intelligence project in ongoing development by the Colombian Constitutional Court that has the purpose of **making the selection process of cases of judicial protection of fundamental rights more efficient, from which the Court jurisprudence's is established.**

The objective of the system is to classify or label the fundamental rights protection sentences, which must be sent by all the judges with jurisdiction in fundamental rights protection actions from all the country to the Constitutional Court for "eventual review", based on categories that have been previously defined and codified by the staff of the Court. As an example of the complexity of this issue, an average of about 12,000 weekly fundamental rights protection actions files were sent to the Constitutional Court in 2019.

Based on this classification, the system allows the information to be presented in summary cards indicating the concurrence or not of the categories in a text, thanks to a search engine that combines the words and categories, also it allows making statistics and identifying recurring themes. **This allows a more efficient identification process and pre-selection of cases, also it generates additional information on the general behavior of the constitutional jurisdiction of fundamental rights in Colombia.**

The PretorIA case raises interest due to the entity behind its development and for the context in which it unfolds. It is a project developed by the Constitutional Court to improve the screening of cases and to optimize their performance as the major interpreter of the Constitution. It also catches attention as part of the digital technology deploy processes in the justice sector, not only due its purely technical aspect, but also because of its impact on the organization.

This research seeks to describe **the process that was carried out to develop the project** from its original conception at the end of 2018, from the Prometea system, of the University of Buenos Aires, Argentina, until its current situation at the end of 2020, prior to its entry into production, with a pilot in relation to fundamental rights protection cases related to the right to health.

The detailed description of the phases of the project is useful because it allows to expose from a case study the difficulties of this type of initiative. Particularly, the discrepancy between techno-solutionist narratives and the specific problems to solve, between expectations and reality. It also makes it possible to describe the

difficulties in structuring and developing these projects in the public sector, the problems and financing alternatives, and their sustainability over time. Likewise, it illustrates the challenges of adequately communicate this sort of initiatives and adapt the strategy to the setbacks, changes and tangible progress of such projects.

The objective of this research is **to make PretorlA and its potential known**. We also seek to support a grounded understanding of this type of deployment, pointing to the importance not only of systems, but also of decision-making development and socialization processes.

This report is the result of the work of the Technology, Transparency and Human Rights area of the Center for Law, Justice and Society Studies -Dejusticia-. In order to carry this out, we resort to different sources. Among the primary sources we have the press releases of the Constitutional Court and interviews published in the media, contractual documents or alike, memorandums of understanding of the Constitutional Court, agreements and conventions of other actors with an impact on the development of the project, reports of management of the Court, responses to requests for information, telephone conversations with officials, and a semi-structured interview with the secretary of the Constitutional Court and with the technical team in charge of the development. Among the secondary sources we have the texts referring to both PretorlA and Prometea, consisting of press releases or opinion articles

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Inteligencia
artificial
e inclusión
en América Latina



**DERECHOS
DIGITALES**
América Latina

About Derechos Digitales

Derechos Digitales is a Latin American, independent, non-profit organization, founded in 2005, whose main objective is the development, defense, and promotion of human rights in the digital environment

Since 2019, Derechos Digitales has been part of the Cyber Policy Research Centers Network funded by the International Development Research Center (IDRC), along with leading organizations on technology and public policy issues in the Global South..

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