

Judicial Narratives of Undue Delay: A Hermeneutic Interpretation of Case files for Understanding Transformative Justice In Venezuelan Civic Education

Author: Dr. Manuel Oswaldo Silva

Retired

Email: silvamanueloswaldo@gmail.com

ORCID: <https://orcid.org/0009-0008-2696-3565>

Main Research Line: Solid, Effective, and Transparent Management. **Associated Line:** Comprehensive Educational Management. **Thematic Axis:** Knowledge Management.

How to cite this article: Manuel Oswaldo Silva, "Judicial narratives of undue delay: a hermeneutic interpretation of case files for understanding transformative justice in venezuelan civic education" (2026), (1,17).

Received: 12/01/2026

Revised: 16/01/2026

Accepted: 20/01/2026

ABSTRACT

Undue delay in the Venezuelan criminal justice system constitutes a structural violation of fundamental rights, but also a cultural text awaiting interpretation. This article presents the results of documentary research with a hermeneutic approach, whose purpose was to understand how the narratives contained in court files regarding undue delay can reveal meanings of transformative justice relevant to civic education in Venezuela. Based on the interpretation of documentary sources, court rulings, criminal law doctrine, and critical educational theory, three main findings were identified: first, narratives of undue delay construct a paradoxical temporality that delegitimizes the State; second, these narratives contain silences and justifications that reveal tensions between legal ideals and institutional practice; third, from a hermeneutical perspective, court records operate as unintentional formative devices that shape citizens' civic consciousness. It was concluded that Venezuelan civic education requires the incorporation of the interpretive analysis of judicial narratives as a tool for the critical understanding of transformative justice, beyond positive law.

Keywords: undue delay, judicial narratives, documentary hermeneutics, transformative justice, Venezuelan civic education.

Biographical Sketch: Bachelor of Education from UNESR, Lawyer from UBA, Bachelor of Social Communication from UBV, Master's studies: Master in Educational Management from UBA, Master of Science in Higher Education with a specialization in University Teaching from UNELLEZ, Master in Criminal Law and Criminology from UBA, Doctoral studies: Doctor of Educational Sciences and currently completing a Doctorate in Advanced Management and a Doctorate in Legal Sciences from UNELLEZ.