

PORTRAIT

Dr. Katalin Simon-Gombos



Career

1989: Juris Doctor degree from József Attila University, Faculty of Law and Political Sciences

1993-2003 May: judge at the Szeged District Court hearing civil and economic cases

2003 May-2013 August: judge, then head of panel judge at the Szeged Court of Appeal; since 1 September 2013 judge at the Curia hearing civil cases

1999: LLM in European Law from József Attila University, Faculty of Law and Political Sciences (“excellent”)

2008: Phd dissertation on Judicial Rights Protection in the European Union (“summa cum laude”)

Other professional activities, teaching, publications

Associate professor at Szeged University, lecturing on EU law

Lecturer in an LLM postgraduate law programme at Pécs University

Member of the Scientific Committee of the Competition Law Research Centre of Pázmány Péter Catholic University

President of the EU Law Section of the Hungarian Pan-European Union; member of the Public Body of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences; member of the Economic Law Working Committee of the Specialised Legal Committee of the Szeged Academic Committee of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences

Active member of the Association of Expert Advisory Judges on European Law

1999-: national trainer, expert advisory judge on European law;

Since 25 November 2013: deputy-coordinator of the Association of Expert Advisory Judges on European Law in the field of civil and economic law

Delivers lectures in trainings organised by the Hungarian Judicial Academy and participates in the development of the training curricula

2013: member of the jurisprudence-analysing working group on “Application of EU law: experience gained from references for preliminary rulings”

Author of several articles and books in her field of study

A judge whom cases and colleagues find

She would make it a regular practice for lower court judges to gain experience at higher courts. She is convinced that judges and courts would equally benefit from such a practice. Judges thereby would have an opportunity to familiarise themselves with the higher-level units of a rather conservative organisation not very readily giving way to “mobility”; such a practice would surely help judges’ promotion and, at the same time, would enrich their “mother courts” with better-informed and better-prepared colleagues.

Dr. Katalin Simon-Gombos also worked for a time as a judge appointed to the Curia and during this period she acquired a lot of valuable experiences. When a call to fill a Curia judge vacancy at the Civil Department was made, it was self-evident for her to apply for the position. It gives her satisfaction that her application was supported by the professional body of the judges, the Civil Division, the Curia’s judicial council and the President of the Curia. It is important for her to work in a team where the colleagues acknowledge, accept and esteem each other.

She has been a Civil Department judge at the Curia since 2013 and by now she has finished her apprenticeship, as she says. She emphasises that only in dealing with petitions for review can it be really learned how limited a judge’s possibilities in extraordinary review proceedings are. As the legal institution of review is designed only to redress a legal error in a final decision, where a case could have been adjudicated differently, and she herself would indeed have adjudicated it differently if it had been assigned to her, it does not necessarily mean that the decision at issue cannot be accepted from a legal point of view.

Her home is in Szeged. In addition to her family, the university – her home region, where she has been teaching ever since she received her law degree – also binds her to this town. She is an associate professor at the Department of International and European Law of Szeged University. She likes and enjoys higher education workshop-like teaching. She has published several books and regularly publishes papers at present, too. Taking the task as a challenge, she has undertaken to obtain academic qualification. She holds that teaching is the best way to keep one’s mind fresh, as it opens the world beyond judicial work and demands constant preparedness from teachers who wish to share up-to-date professional knowledge with their students.

Her life is complete. She is welcomed and accepted at the Curia. She is happy to have a lot of tasks. Since November 2013 she has acted as EU law expert advisor to the Curia in civil and economic matters and deputy coordinator in the field of civil and economic law in the reorganised national Network of Legal Expert Advisors on EU Law. Cases, primarily disputes related to the law of obligations, regularly find her and colleagues also often find her in order

to hear her opinion on various EU law-related issues. In Hungary she was among the firsts to receive an LLM in EU law. She participated in the initiation of several preliminary ruling proceedings; she is proud of the Cartesio-case, which received international attention. Recently she has initiated, with urgency, another set of preliminary ruling proceedings before the Court of the European Union.