

# PORTRAIT

## Dr. Péter Darák



### **Career**

1987: Legal degree, graduation from the Faculty of Law of Janus Pannonius University, Pécs

1987–1991: Trainee prosecutor, then prosecutor at the Prosecutor's Office in Zalaegerszeg

1991–1999: Judge at the Local Court of Zalaegerszeg, then judge assigned temporarily to the Supreme Court of Hungary

2000: Judge at the Administrative Department of the Supreme Court of Hungary

2007: PhD degree, PhD paper on the European integration of the Hungarian court adjudication of administrative cases

2012: President of the Curia of Hungary

### **Professional commissions, teaching and academic positions, publications**

2002 to date: Chairman of the National Association of Administrative Judges

2003 to date: Chairman of the Public Law and Administrative Law Department of the Association of Hungarian Lawyers

2003 to date: Delegated representative of the Supreme Court of Hungary at the European Union Forum of Judges for the Environment (EUFJE), then member of its Board

2010 to date: Member of the International Association of Tax Judges

1999 to date: Training of judges

2001 to date: Program director of the legal training of traders in real estates at the Faculty of Law of Pázmány Péter Catholic University

2005 to date: Assistant lecturer, then senior lecturer at the Financial Law Department of the Faculty of Law of Eötvös Loránd University

He is the author or co-author of numerous law books published in Hungarian, English and German, he regularly publishes study papers and gives lectures at domestic and international conferences.

2009 to date: Member of the Editorial Board of the law journals “New Hungarian Public Administration” and “Law, State, Policy”

### **Openness and intense professional work**

During his hearing in December 2011 as a candidate for the Curia’s Presidency, he presented his programme with an impressive confidence to the Committee on Constitutional Affairs of the National Assembly. He ensured the members of the National Assembly and the members of the audience that he sought to guarantee the Curia’s professionalism, the harmonisation of the courts’ jurisprudence, compliance with the rules of constitutionality, a reduction in the number of incoming petitions for judicial review due to legislative changes, easily understandable judgements and the Curia’s complete openness.

He drew up a list of interrelated and interacting tasks. The Curia’s professionalism and the harmonisation of the courts’ case-law can be better ensured if the supreme judicial body forges closer professional relations with the lower instance courts and pays more attention to their significant decisions, and if lower instance judges and other legal professionals are given the opportunity to get an insight into the Curia’s activities as trainees. It is clear that the Curia will be enriched by these relations and traineeships and it will be able to carry out its constitutional duties in a more efficient manner.

One year after his election as President of the Curia, he welcomes the fact that the work has started in each field and his programme has been given even greater impetus. Jurisprudence-analysing working groups have been set up, a number of high court judgements have been published as court rulings of principle and the Curia has received many lower instance judges and professionals from outside the judiciary to help them deepen their knowledge. The caseload of Curia justices has decreased due to legislative changes in respect of the minimum value of the subject matter of petitions for judicial review in civil cases. As a member of the National Judicial Council, he is pleased to note that the National Office for the Judiciary has supported the Curia in various professional issues, which mainly encourages Curia justices to express their opinion on draft pieces of legislation.

The Curia is more open not only for lower instance judges and other legal professionals, but also for the representatives of various non-legal professions from both Hungary and abroad. Last year, he represented the Curia on more than fifty occasions at meetings, discussions and conferences, including a visit to the Court of Justice of the European Union, an auditors’ symposium in Balatonalmádi and a professional conference in Munich.

In the forthcoming period, he seeks to increase his efforts to ensure that the Curia’s professional work and the analysis and harmonisation of the courts’ case-law are appropriately carried out. In addition, he intends to open the Curia’s doors to other professionals, students, laymen and clients. He esteems that the tax law conference of ELTE University can be held up as a good example among many others in that regard. He is very concerned to make sure that judgements are published in an easily understandable manner, which has been required for a long time and is of strong social interest with regard to the transparency of the administration of justice and the development of legal culture.

He admits that, one year ago, he was surprised that he was nominated to lead the Curia. Today, he makes no secret of the fact that he feels comfortable in this position, primarily not because of the Presidency's prestige – which may undoubtedly help him achieve his professional objectives –, but due to the many opportunities the position offers in respect of the Curia's topical development. Fortunately, he finds more and more supporting partners. He is encouraged by their support, which are indispensable for promoting the Curia's work in influencing and orienting the courts' jurisprudence.