

PORTRAIT

Dr. Ákos Székely



There is a critical need for a good, simple and unambiguous Code of Criminal Procedure that ensures the swift adjudication of criminal cases – told trustingly dr. Ákos Székely, Head of the Criminal Department of the Curia.

In 1981, he graduated from the Faculty of Law of Eötvös Loránd University. On 1 January 1985, he was appointed judge of the Buda Central Districts Court. On 1 September 1992, he was appointed judge of the Criminal Department of the Metropolitan High Court, in May 1995, he became head of panel. In January 2009, he was appointed judge of the Regional Appellate Court of Budapest. In September 2012, he was assigned to the Curia. In February 2014, he became Head of the Criminal Department of the Curia. He has three grown-up children, his son is a veterinarian, his older daughter works as a medical doctor, while his younger daughter is a university student in History.

He chose the path of a lawyer and criminal judge after some small digressions. He sought to become a chemical engineer, but he later decided to rather study legal sciences. The field of civil law was very close to his heart thanks to the inspiring lectures of university professors *dr. Imre Sárányi* and *dr. Lajos Vékás*. Later on, he was almost assigned to hear succession cases at the Buda Central Districts Court, but eventually he was appointed criminal judge. He was promised that his appointment as a criminal judge would last “only for a year”. He has been dealing with criminal cases ever since.

He believes that there is much to like in criminal law that has particular significance. Criminal judges have to decide on the fate or, if you like, on the life of the accused and the victim, even in case of a seemingly simple criminal offence against property.

He became Head of the Criminal Department of the Curia after having acquired a wealth of professional experience. In his formulation, the Curia is Hungary’s highest instance judicial body at which third instance cases, petitions for judicial review and petitions for the re-opening of a case ensure that Curia judges be in close touch with the lower courts’ practice, make decisions on legal issues with an impact on the country’s entire judiciary and address questions of principle by reviewing final judgements.

According to dr. Ákos Székely, one of the Curia's newest and most important tasks is the analysis of the courts' jurisprudence. The Criminal Department seeks to promote the harmonisation of the courts' case-law and to openly contribute to the high-level elaboration of the new Code of Criminal Procedure by carrying out in-depth examinations in various fields, such as by assessing the lawfulness of indictments and the implementation of defence rights. He emphasised that two members of the Curia, namely Vice-President *dr. István Kónya* and Head of Panel *dr. Zoltán Márki* are actively involved in the work of the Preparatory Committee on the new Code of Criminal Procedure.