

PORTRAIT

Dr. Edit Hajdu

Judge, Head of Panel at the Administrative and Labour Department of the Curia



I seek to take justice into consideration to the greatest possible extent. The court decision I find good enough is not only lawful, but conforms to my sense of justice as well. I consider myself a lucky person, because I managed to find the profession that makes me happy. I can only add that I envisage to do my work in the best possible way as long as my health permits.

I was born in the town of Vásárosnamény, where I attended primary and secondary school, and I graduated from both of them with first-class honours. I graduated in law from the Faculty of Political and Legal Sciences of the Technical University of Heavy Industries in Miskolc. Taking up a legal career was not a conscious decision on my part – I had originally intended to turn into an artist by choosing to study music, play the piano, sing and dance –, it was rather my history teacher who inspired me to do so, since I loved to study history. At the Faculty of Law, I was interested in trying myself in working as a company lawyer or as a judge. After the completion of my university studies, I worked for a year as legal counsel at the Water Company of Borsod-Abaúj-Zemplén County. During that year, I could directly experience to what extent the employees' living conditions had depended on their salary and on whether they had a job or not. On the other hand, I came to realise that labour law was a tough field of law that affected most people, which had an emotional impact on me. Labour law has many points of contact with economic law, criminal law and company law, moreover, the labour courts' adjudicating activities are also influenced by administrative law in public service employment cases. A labour judge has to take all the above fields of law into account and has to apply them.

I started my career in the judiciary in 1991 when I became trainee judge at the Municipal Court of Miskolc. Following the completion of my professional legal exams, I worked as a court secretary. Between 1992 and June 2007, I adjudicated cases as a first instance judge at the Labour Court of Miskolc. Between July 2007 and January 2009, I dealt with civil and

labour law cases within an appellate panel at the High Court of Borsod-Abaúj-Zemplén County.

I began working at the supreme judicial forum on 1 February 2009, I was first appointed as acting head of panel in November 2012, then as head of panel in December 2013 at the Administrative and Labour Department of the Curia of Hungary. At this instance, labour law is considered to be a small field of law that is dealt with by three judicial panels and covered by one or two jurisprudence analyses – in which I am actively involved – per year. Moreover, I co-authored a labour law commentary published by CompLex Publishing, and participated in the elaboration and teaching of an e-learning material in respect of the new Labour Code. I had the honour of being a reviser to check a learning material on the new Code of Administrative Litigation as well. In addition, I give lectures at the University of Miskolc, participate in the professional legal examination of lawyers and regularly deliver presentations for judges at the Hungarian Academy of Justice. I also liaise between the Curia and the Regional Administrative and Labour College of Northern Hungary.

In addition to my ordinary judicial duties, I became, in February 2012, member of the Court Bailiffs' Disciplinary Tribunal attached to the Curia and have been, as of July 2012, member of the Second Instance Service Court attached to the Curia.

Since I am quite self-demanding in my work, I have always gained a great deal of pleasure from delivering a court decision that has been appreciated by practitioners of the legal profession. It is also important to me that I get feedback from my students and colleagues with regard to my teaching activities. I believe that all their critical remarks serve the purpose of my professional development.

I feel very privileged that I was bestowed the award “Judge of the Curia in 2017”. I am of the opinion that it was not only me but the whole labour law division of the Curia's Administrative and Labour Department as well that was rewarded in that way. Me and my colleagues work really hard and are faced with more and more challenges due to the entry into force of the new pieces of substantive and procedural legislation. I belong to a strong team of professionals, therefore the above acknowledgement is a supreme honour both for me and my judge colleagues.