

JÁNOS RAUSCH

MANAGING PARTNER, BÁN, S. SZABÓ, RAUSCH & PARTNERS

25 **Bán | S. Szabó | Rausch**
years in practice & PARTNERS



BACKGROUND INFO

János Rausch graduated from the law faculty of Eötvös Loránd University in 1995. During his university years, he started working as a legal assistant in the Budapest office of Shearman & Sterling. After graduation, he continued with the firm as a junior associate. From 1998 he has been a partner with Bán, S. Szabó, Rausch & Partners, an independent Hungarian law firm that is the successor of the Budapest S&S office. He became the firm’s managing partner in 2021.

Rausch is a passionate sailor, although he says it is not only a passion but a mental condition. He considers himself lucky to be the helmsman of a Corinthian sailing team of seven sailors (and most importantly friends),

with whom he has twice won the Hungarian National Champion title and stood on the podium at countless regattas, including the Kékszalag (or “Blue Ribbon”) Balaton event.

WHAT HAS BEEN THE HIGHLIGHT OF YOUR LEGAL CAREER TO DATE?

It is difficult to choose, as the perspective changes over time. As a young associate, it was a highlight for me to be able to contribute some bits and pieces to privatization transactions led by the likes of the late John E. Baltay (head of the S&S office and my mentor), as well as the late Michael Gruson (for me the brightest banking and finance lawyer of the world and a senior partner of S&S

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in New York). Later, when I landed my first big-ticket client, I was proud to represent Vodafone Hungary as counsel in groundbreaking regulatory litigations, successfully defend them in cartel proceedings and assist them in their efforts to be the infrastructure provider wholesale partner to the first MVNO (Mobile Virtual Network Operator) in Hungary.

Recently, as a team player by nature, I am proud to see my young partners and associates provide excellent service to our clients and not only be exceptionally skilled lawyers but serve our clients with integrity, and above all, with honesty. The latest challenge was to coordinate the renewal of our office appearance with a new logo, new branding and a new website and connect it with our 25th anniversary this year. I trust that the best is yet to come.

WHY WOULD YOU RECOMMEND LAW AS A GOOD CAREER CHOICE?

When making my personal choice to study law in the late ’80s, the world was a different place. Now, in hindsight, it was pure luck or at least out of my control that the world

has changed so that becoming a corporate lawyer was no longer impossible due to the constraints of a command economy. This tells me that luck is a significant factor when making choices, not only regarding one’s career.

Being a lawyer is not everybody’s cup of tea, but if you like to constantly learn new things and are not afraid of challenges, hard work and some responsibility, the legal profession could be the right choice. I was never bored and always found new challenges during my career to date, but most importantly, as an attorney, I always enjoyed the freedom to choose the work I desired.

You can constantly develop yourself and get valuable insight into industries and businesses. Law is the perfect choice for individuals who have good communications skills, are ready to take the initiative and are not reluctant to be in charge. As the law is the glue that holds society together, there will always be a need for lawyers who understand the challenges faced by humanity. The hot topics and emphasis may change over time, but the law will remain attractive for those with an affinity for social issues.

WHAT IS THE MOST INTERESTING NEW FIELD OF LAW, IN YOUR OPINION, AND WHY?

From the perspective of a corporate lawyer, rapid technological evolution (development and application of AI, quantum computers, and roll-out of 5G mobile networks) will create the need for urgent regulation and opportunities for lawyers who are eloquent in these areas. For instance, 5G mobile technology significantly decreases the so-called “latency,” enabling almost real-time data transfer and feedback. This, combined with new computing capacities, may allow remote control of various items (including vehicles and surgical equipment.) Regulating these services and dealing with the liability associated with these new services will require significant legal work not only on the side of the regulator but also the service provider and the service recipient. A further interesting topic will be the privacy



and data protection aspects of these services. One can only hope that regulation will cope with the pace of services being invented and offered to the public.

It is also apparent that the global COVID-19 pandemic has created a social and business environment that has confused supply chains and impacted the human rights of the public. Tensions have reached an all-time high between the United States, Russia and China. These tensions combined with the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic have resulted in supply shortages, racing inflation, and soaring raw material prices. These situations lead to potential and actual disputes and protective transactions, which need the involvement of lawyers.

WHAT ARE THE BIGGEST CHALLENGES FACING LAW IN HUNGARY?

The situation of Hungary is not very different from that of other European Union member states. Therefore, the legal challenges are also similar. From my perspective, the biggest challenge Hungary faces is to maintain and develop a legal system and regulatory framework that is predictable and supportive of local businesses and also attractive for foreign direct investment.

Name of law firm	Bán, S. Szabó, Rausch & Partners
Name of associate non-Hungarian law firm or cooperation network	IBLC (International Business Law Consortium)
Address	1051 Budapest, József nádor tér 5–6.
Website	www.bansszabo.hu
Top Local Executive	János Rausch
In charge of position since	2021
Year of Hungarian law firm’s establishment	1997
No. of attorneys with license to practise in Hungary on Sept. 15, 2021	12