

GERGELY BÁN

MANAGING PARTNER, ACT BÁN & KARIKA ATTORNEYS AT LAW

**BACKGROUND INFO**

Gergely Bán is the managing partner of act legal Bán & Karika, the Hungarian arm of the 400-professionals act legal Alliance, an attractive alternative to major international law firms. He holds a law degree from Pázmány Péter University and two Master of Laws degrees in EU law and banking law.

Bán started his professional career at the Budapest offices of the top legal brands Baker & McKenzie and then Salans (now Dentons). During this time, he has gained deep professional expertise and built close relationships with exceptional clients for a decade.

Even at a young age, he realized that one of his most significant visions was to build an office with the service profile of a large international law firm and the efficient structures of a boutique. To this end, together with his long-standing partner Márton Karika, he founded Bán & Karika Attorneys at Law in 2010, which became act legal Bán & Karika in 2018. Today, act legal Bán & Karika is a well-known player on the Hungarian corporate legal market.

Bán is the father of a 13-year-old son. His entrepreneurial mindset combined with a love for movies and cinemas

led him to another well-established enterprise constructing turnkey home cinemas for prominent clientele.

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

I always dreamed about building an office with a serious international footprint. Besides that, I have always been driven by entrepreneurship and a business mindset. I am incredibly proud that, as a result, our alliance now has 10 fully integrated offices with more than 400 professionals working for local and international manufacturing, trade and service companies in a wide range of industries.

Apart from our offices, we use a well-established global network of "best friend" law firms with well-respected local lawyers and advisors to assist our clients in regions such as China and the United States. Our lawyers have local expertise and experience in handling complex issues. Thus, clients can rely on us being strong and loyal partners, even in comparison with "magic circle" law firms. We have become real alternatives to my alma mater firms, which I still deem as my superior schools.

Name of law firm	act Bán & Karika Attorneys at Law
Name of associate non-Hungarian law firm or cooperation network	act legal
Address	1117 Budapest, Alíz utca 1/A.
Website	www.actlegal-bk.com
Top Local Executive	Gergely Bán
In charge of position since	2010
Year of Hungarian law firm's establishment	2010
No. of attorneys with license to practise in Hungary on Sept. 15, 2021	8

I am very proud to represent leading Hungarian and powerful international corporations for the last two decades and mentor young talents through their journey to the bar exam. I sit back with pride when I see our ex-trainees promoted at our biggest competitors. It is always very challenging to conserve our position as one of the top firms youngsters target to start their careers.

"Technology is another challenge for our generation: it will send law and legal practitioners to the cloud soon, without a doubt. If we are lazy and uninterested, stick to our older practices, competition and technology may outpace us."

WHY WOULD YOU RECOMMEND LAW AS A GOOD CAREER CHOICE?

Honestly speaking, surely not because of the law itself, but because a legal education offers a huge variety of professional careers. Compared to very law-focused and honorable legal professions like judges, government administrations, classical lawyers offices, the position of a partner or professional in a renowned corporate law firm allows for an ideal combination of entrepreneurship, legal expertise, commercial business sense, and internationalism. You always encounter a business-like atmosphere when dealing with clients from various industries. You cannot be bored when facing constant professional challenges and, therefore, you are always inspired to improve. Both business-wise and in the legal profession. Shaping our professional life, our social life and our personal life is what matters to me.

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

Technology. Specifically, smart technology, such as the digital appliances that are increasingly present in our home and work environments. These small devices

collect data, images, voice messages, and other recordings. We are constantly working on these issues with our clients and see how this sector evolves day-to-day.

My extra IT interest also supports my drive in this area. Lawyers do not like technology as much as I do; this was always my strong impression. I was present at the birth of the internet era and was reading and trying to draft legal language in my high school years in this regard. In these times, I regularly participated in programming and coding competitions with my schoolmates. This also shaped my brain and approach, I believe. My IT blood was at that time stronger than my legal leaning.

WHAT ARE THE BIGGEST CHALLENGES FACING LAW IN HUNGARY?

It is challenging to plan and handle slow, unpredictable lawsuits and bureaucratic administration. The danger is that these can damage or even destroy client relationships. This has sadly happened several times in my professional life. This makes life difficult for a lawyer, as some of your resources will not necessarily be spent on finding a legal solution but explaining the same to the client. I hope that technology and related simplification will bring the result we very much desire.

Technology is another challenge for our generation: it will send law and legal practitioners to the cloud soon, without a doubt. If we are lazy and uninterested, stick to our older practices, competition and technology may outpace us. As a result, we could regress to a pajama-lawyer with old-school services and clientele.

