

ALICE DESSEWFFY



**FOUNDING MEMBER AND MANAGING PARTNER
DESSEWFFY, DÁVID, FELSMANN**

**BACKGROUND INFO**

With almost 50 years of experience in the legal profession, Alice Dessewffy is the founding member and managing partner of Dessewffy Law Office, one of the first private law firms established in Hungary in the 1990s. It is frequently selected as a legal advisor even with intense competition from international law firms in Hungary.

After graduating *summa cum laude* from Eötvös Loránd University (ELTE), Budapest, Dessewffy

completed a two-year training program on IP laws, special postgraduate courses in economic law, and gained qualifications in EU program and funds management as well. She is a board member of the Budapest Lawyers' bar.

Based on her expertise in representing foreign investors in Hungary, Dessewffy has been classified by Euromoney as one of the top privatization lawyers in the '90s.

During the decades of her practice, she has represented dozens of Austrian and German investors in property investments, property developments and maintenance projects in the industrial, commercial and retail sectors. Investors from Israel, the Middle East, Scandinavia, and the United States have also sought her expertise. Recently, she has been working with local Hungarian property investors and developers.

“We experienced massive and very rapid changes in Hungarian legislation during the pandemic. I think that specialization is a must nowadays; that needs to be reconciled with teamwork for legal professionals because otherwise success cannot be achieved.”

She runs the firm in close cooperation with the other managing partner, her eldest daughter Aliz Dávid. The family basis of the management ensures not only the transfer of broad professional experience and rich legal tradition but also a broad perspective on legal issues and a growth mindset. Dessewffy says she is “in constant intellectual competition with my daughter, which keeps us motivated to improve ourselves every day.” She adds that she is equally proud of her other daughter, Zita Sükösd, a surgeon.

Dessewffy says family means a lot to her; therefore, she finds it particularly important to spend quality time with her five grandchildren. She is obsessed with tennis, having earlier been a competitive player, and still plays several times a week as a hobby. She also likes skiing, sailing and horseback riding. Furthermore, she enjoys reading books on politics and economics in her free time.

Name of law firm	Dessewffy, Dávid, Felsmann Valamint Társaik CEE Attorneys Ü.I.
Name of associate non-Hungarian law firm or cooperation network	CEE Attorneys
Address	1125 Budapest, Lóránt út 1/B
Website	www.ceeattorneys.com
Top Local Executive	Alice Dessewffy
In charge of position since	1992
Year of Hungarian law firm's establishment	1992
No. of attorneys with license to practise in Hungary on Sept. 15, 2021	9

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

Honestly, there have been so many peak moments (besides, naturally, some downfalls, from which I learned a lot) it is not easy to pick one event or transaction as the highlight of my legal career. Or, I would rather say in “our career,” since we work as one in our legal office. We achieved our most significant successes in real estate law and acquisition law transactions.

My daughter, Aliz, who has been my partner at the law office for almost 25 years now, has a critical role. Under her leadership, we joined as the exclusive Hungarian member, the London-based MSI Global Alliance (a network of independent legal and accounting firms), then became active members of CEE Attorneys, a cooperation of law offices in the Central and Eastern European region. Since several members of our office speak excellent German, we represented large German companies and have one of the largest financial institutions in the world among our clients. The “legal domestication” of several large shopping centers and restaurant chains in Hungary is also connected to our name.

WHY WOULD YOU RECOMMEND LAW AS A GOOD CAREER CHOICE?

This highly diverse job requires logic, creativity, and even psychology and good rhetoric, with excellent communication skills. Still, if you have any of these qualities, this profession can apply in almost every area of our modern lives.

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

Our office has always been very open to the legal issues caused by technological developments. Recently, we finished an extensive study on the legal environment for autonomous vehicles. My daughter, Aliz, is a vital expert for policymakers concerning the national electromobility; currently, she acts as Government Affairs Director at the Jedlik Ányos Cluster (a platform organization of the relevant

stakeholders). She is also the leader of the Legislation Workgroup at the Mobility Platform, a professional-scientific forum whose task is to coordinate the work of public, industrial, educational and research stakeholders involved in the future of mobility. The platform seeks to establish professional cooperation at the initiative of the Hungarian state and under the professional guidance of the KTI Institute for Transport Science Nonprofit Ltd.

WHAT ARE THE BIGGEST CHALLENGES FACING LAW IN HUNGARY?

We experienced massive and very rapid changes in Hungarian legislation during the pandemic. I think that specialization is a must nowadays; that needs to be reconciled with teamwork for legal professionals because otherwise success cannot be achieved.

