

SHORT BIOGRAPHY -Dr. Mihály Ficsor

Dr. Mihály Ficsor is a national of Hungary.

From 1966 to 1968, he was *judge* at the *Central District Court* of Budapest, and, from 1969 to 1975, he was *Section Head* at the Codification Department in the *Hungarian Ministry of Justice*.

In 1975, Dr. Ficsor became *Deputy Director General*, and, in 1977, *Director General* of the *Hungarian Copyright Bureau* working also as the Hungarian authors' society (ARTISJUS). In the latter capacity, he served until May 1985, and was also a member, and, during the last four years, the Vice Chairman, of the Executive Bureau of the *International Confederation of Societies of Authors and Composers (CISAC)*.

Between 1985 and 1999, Dr. Ficsor worked, first, as *Director* and, then, from 1992 as *Deputy Director General* of the *World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO)* in charge of copyright and related rights. He was responsible for a great number of important projects. *Inter alia*, he is recognized as having played the most important role in the preparation, negotiation and adoption of the so-called „Internet treaties:” the WIPO Copyright Treaty (WCT) and the WIPO Performances and Phonograms Treaty (WPPT).

At the *World Trade Organization (WTO)*, Dr. Ficsor is a *member of the roster of intellectual property experts for dispute settlement panels*. He has been a member of a panel in one of the most important intellectual property disputes (between the European Union and Canada), and, in another dispute (between the United States and Japan), the parties reached agreement in the consultation phase, *inter alia*, on the basis of his expert opinion.

Dr. Ficsor has also served as *consultant* or *lecturer* in various *Phare, Tacis, Taiex, Cards, IPR2* and other intellectual property (mainly copyright-related) *projects* of the European Commission, in particular in the Russian Federation, China, Bulgaria, Romania, Lithuania, Croatia, Georgia, Serbia, Ukraine, Turkey, Moldova and Albania.

At present, Dr. Ficsor is *President* of the *Hungarian Copyright Experts Council* (a 200 member advisory and arbitration body appointed by the Minister of Justice – in agreement with the Minister of Culture – and linked to the Patent Office), *Chairman* of the *Hungarian Copyright Forum Association*, *member of the Executive Committee* of the *International Intellectual Property Association (ALAI)*, *Chairman* of the *Central and Eastern European Copyright Alliance (CEECA)* with permanent observer status at WIPO, and *International Legal Consultant* of *Greenberg Traurig LLP*.

Dr. Ficsor was the *Chairman of the UNESCO Working Group* preparing the draft UNESCO Convention on the Protection of Cultural Diversity, which later was adopted with some amendments and entered into force in 2007.

Dr. Ficsor holds a doctor's degree in law and political sciences from the Law Faculty of the *Eötvös Lóránd University of Budapest*. He has written numerous articles and books on various copyright issues, particularly on the impact of new technologies (especially digital technology and the Internet) on copyright and on collective management of copyright and related rights, and participates in a number of seminars, symposiums, workshops as a speaker throughout the world. He is also the honorary professor of the *University of Alcalá, Spain*, and *guest lecturer of universities in various continents*.

His recent books are as follows:

- “The Law of Copyright and the Internet – The 1996 WIPO Treaties, their Interpretation and Implementation”, Oxford University Press, 2002.
- “Collective Management of Copyright and Related Rights”, WIPO publication, 2003.
- “Guide to the Copyright and related Rights Treaties Administered by WIPO and Glossary of Copyright and Related Rights Terms”, WIPO publication, 2004.
- “WIPO Guide on the Licensing of Copyright and Related Rights” (as co-author), 2005.
- “Collective Management of Copyright and Related Rights,” (as co-author) Kluwer Law International, 2006.
- “International Copyright Law and Practice” (as co-author of the annually upgraded two-volume book), Matthew Bender – LexisNexis, 1993-2008.

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