

What the HELL just happened?

Well, this is exactly what happens when you cannot tolerate anything appearing about you in public without your explicit authorization—unless, of course, it praises you.

You find yourself here, among the distinguished winners of SLAPP Addict of the Year, as the owners of Hell Energy, the Barabás brothers, Ernő Barabás and Zsolt Barabás.

Almost heavenly, isn't it?

Thank you very much for the opportunity to receive this award tonight on behalf of the Hungarian “meta slappers”!

Our winners truly did not cut corners: sparing neither money, time, nor energy, they literally fought tooth and nail to bring this triumph into existence. Such determination is rare.

We do in fact have one thing in common: the astonishing amount of work that went into allowing us to stand here tonight. The only difference is that our goals...well, let's just say, diverged somewhat.

We are talking about truly creative individuals who know no limits. Since 2019, they have persistently sued Forbes for reporting on them, but the real breakthrough came last year, when they even sued us, the Hungarian Civil Liberties Union simply for reporting on that very litigation. That is the kind of multi-layered strategic thinking that really should be taught!

Their determination is perhaps best demonstrated by the fact that they even tried to censor us for describing their attempts to silence the press as censorship. This is no longer simple consistency: it is HELL of an art.

But let the numbers speak for themselves.

Since 2019, our distinguished awardees have brought 31 proceedings across 10 separate cases against Forbes—including personality rights claims, GDPR-based data protection actions, and press rectification lawsuits.

In their case against us they submitted a 28-page long statement of claim challenging 71 different statements published on our website or social media platforms. For the record, all of these claims have been dismissed by the court of first instance. And what do you think: did they appeal?

Of course, they did. Relentlessly.

And so are we. In the past year alone, we have won six out of six proceedings against them.

The tremendous dedication they have invested in silencing the press and civil society organizations has now finally borne fruit. Our heartfelt congratulations on this well-deserved success!