



CROSS-BORDER LITIGATION AND INTERNATIONAL ARBITRATION

Summer School

12-18 JULY 2026

AULA TUMIDEI, VIA A. MARIANI 5
RAVENNA - ITALY

IN PERSON OR ONLINE



ALMA MATER STUDIORUM
UNIVERSITÀ DI BOLOGNA

DEPARTMENT
OF LEGAL STUDIES

INTRODUCING THE SUMMER SCHOOL



The **world-wide relevance** of cross-border civil litigation is growing. The diffusion of global online activities, the higher mobility of people and families across national borders, the globalisation of economic and financial activities have contributed to increase the relevance of transnational disputes. Such disputes present complicated issues of jurisdiction, applicable law, available remedies, recognition and enforcement of foreign decisions and it is fundamental, for both **law students** and **law practitioners**, to have a deep understanding of this dimension.

Several years ago, the Department of Legal Studies of the University of Bologna has started a specific program dedicated to this area of the law: the **Ravenna Summer School on cross-border litigation and international arbitration.**

It all started in 2019, when Prof. Michele Angelo Lupoi decided to create, at the University's Ravenna Campus, a space for discussion and dialogue on cross-border litigation. His goal was to create a community of scholars and enthusiasts of the subject, to explore together issues of common interest, in a convivial atmosphere.

A Summer School was considered to be the best way to create such a community: an intensive event, of necessarily concentrated duration, to enable the creation of a community for studying and researching.

The place was immediately identified in the city of Ravenna, an ancient imperial capital, rich in history and culture, where Dante's poetry meets the joy of living of the Romagna Riviera.

The rest, as they say, is history.



In July 2019, therefore, the first edition of the Summer School was held. After a "ghost" second edition in 2020, year after year, the Summer School established itself as an important reality in the field of private international law. Every year, the Ravenna Summer School offers a different program, in an effort to always bring something new to the participants (especially because several of them keep returning).

Since 2024, the program combines topics of transnational litigation before State courts and international arbitration.

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While at the core of the program lies the European space of justice and its private international law regulations, the comparative and international perspective has strengthened over time.

The approach is both theoretical and practical: **lectures mix with workshops** and also with **roundtables** dedicated to specific topics.

The Faculty of the Summer School is composed of experts from different jurisdictions with very diverse professional and cultural backgrounds.

The Director of the School is **Prof. Michele Angelo Lupoi**, who teaches Civil Procedural Law at the University of Bologna. The Vice-Director of the School is **Marco Farina**, Adjunct Professor of Civil Procedural Law in Rome.

The Ravenna Summer School is directed at law **students** as well as **law graduates** and law practitioners who want to obtain a specialised knowledge in this complex and fascinating area of international civil procedure.

It is possible to attend the Ravenna Summer School **both in person or online.**

MAIN INFORMATION

Registrations to the Ravenna Summer School are open now

Applicants may register following the procedure described at **<https://site.unibo.it/transnational-litigation/en/fees-and-forms>**.

IT IS POSSIBLE TO REGISTER UNTIL 28 JUNE 2026.

The registration fee is 400,00 €

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For information on the program, please contact the Director, Prof. Michele Angelo Lupoi, at micheleangelo.lupoi@unibo.it.



If you need specific information to participate or after the application, please address your e-mail to the Tutor, Barbara Cazzani, at barbara.cazzani@unibo.it



The Ravenna Bar Association has granted **20 formative credits** to Italian lawyers who participate in the Summer School.



A **certificate of attendance** will be released to every participant at the end of the Summer School.

In September 2022, a newsletter called "Transnational litigation pills" was created on LinkedIn. It has been conceived as a virtual companion to the Ravenna Summer School and it aims at letting jurists from all over the world present, all through the year, their views about the topics to which the Summer School is dedicated, to spread information, start discussions, share opinions, expand the network of Private International Law and Cross-Border Litigation enthusiasts.



The call for contributions to the newsletter is always open. It is possible to read the newsletter editions and to subscribe to it here: <https://www.linkedin.com/newsletters/6963604527434354688/>



It is also possible to follow news, activities and information about the Ravenna Summer School on transnational litigation on **LinkedIn:** <https://www.linkedin.com/company/86636461/admin/dashboard/>



SCHEDULE OF CLASSES

12
July

14:45 PM

Welcome to the Summer School

MarePineta Milano Marittima

15:30-16:15 PM

Keynote Speech: Drafting, Challenging, and Defending Choice of Forum Agreements
Ronald A. Brand

16:30-17:45 PM

Introductory notions of cross-border litigation and IA
Michele Lupoi, Marco Farina and Carlo de Stefano

18:00-18:45 PM

Understanding Private International Law: Key Concepts, Connecting Factors and Methodology
Dominika Moravcova

19:00-21:00 PM

Opening cocktail

13
July

8:30-9:30 AM

Registration for participants at the Faculty building

Via Oberdan 1

9:30-10:15 AM

Conflict of Laws in Practice: Overlapping Regimes and Their Application in Cross-Border Disputes
Dominika Moravcova

10:30-11:15 AM

Working on a Hague Convention on parallel proceedings
Ronald A. Brand

123 Anywhere St., Any City

11:30-12:15 AM

The law applicable to excessive penalty clauses
Verona Tio Perez-Albert



SCHEDULE OF CLASSES

13
July

12:30-13:15 PM

Gender perspectives on Strategic Lawsuits Against Public Participation (SLAPPs): the recent EU Directive in context
Sara De Vido

15:30-16:15 PM

Seat of arbitration and lex arbitri
Marco Torsello

16:30-17:15 PM

Climate, Energy and Private Environmental Governance with a Comparative Analysis of EU and USA Regulations
Charles De Monaco

14
July

10:00-13:30 AM

Round Table: Litigation and ADR in the European Patent Framework: The Role of the UPC and PMAC
Chair: Francesca Ferrari
Panel: Paolo Catalozzi, Marina Tavassi, Elisabetta Papa, Andrea Scilletta, Adriano Sponzilli, Sir Robin Jacob, Pier Francesco Fasano, Massimiliano Bina

15:00- 15:45 PM

Recognition and enforcement of decisions under the Brussels I bis Regulation: case studies
Ester di Napoli

16:00-17:45 PM

Overriding mandatory provisions in the EU, between market integration and geopolitical interests
Francesca Ragno



SCHEDULE OF CLASSES

15
July

9:30-10:15 AM

From judges to algorithms?
Jurisdiction and cross-border
civil justice in the age of AI
Edoardo Piermattei

10: 30-11:15 AM

Evidentiary Difficulties in
Civil Trial
Maria-Fanouria Papantonaki

11:30-12:15 AM

Jurisdiction over non-EU
Defendants and Recognition of
Judgements
Milana Rankovic

12:30-13:15 PM

'Guerrilla tactics' in
arbitration
Mark MacLaughlin

15:00-17:00 PM

The nexus of jurisdiction and
applicable law in EU
immovable property litigation
Ioana Olaru

17:00-18:00 PM

The pursuit of justice 2.0:
Forum – and applicable law
shopping in 'Business and
Human rights' claims
Geert Van Carlster

16
July

9:30-10:15 AM

**The New York Convention as
an Instrument of Uniform Law**
Friedrich Rosenfeld



SCHEDULE OF CLASSES

16
July

10:30-13:00 PM

**Round Table:
Duties and obligations of
arbitrators and arbitral
institutions**

Chair: Marco Farina

**Panel: Anna Chiara Amato,
Mario de Nitto Personè,
Nina Jankovic,
Friedrich Rosenfeld, Marco
Torsello, Francisco Trebucq,
Miriam Zari**

15:00-17:00 PM

**The pursuit of justice 2.0:
Forum – and applicable law
shopping in ‘Business and
Human rights’ claims**

Geert Van Carlster

17:00-18:00 PM

**Brussels *Ibis* vs GDPR: a
jurisdictional tug-of-war
over personal data?**

Kirsten Henckel

17
July

9:30-11:15 AM

**Evidence in international
commercial arbitration**

Mark MacLaughlin

11:30-13:15 AM

**Jurisdiction in cross-border
insolvency cases**

Christian Koller

15:00-17:00 PM

**Parallel proceedings in cross-
border disputes: *lis alibi
pendens*, *forum non
conveniens* and the
arbitration interface**

Elena D’Alessandro



SCHEDULE OF CLASSES

17
July

17:15-18:00 PM

**The pursuit of justice 2.0:
Forum – and applicable law
shopping in ‘Business and
Human rights’ claims**
Geert Van Calster

18
July

9:30-10:15 AM

**Workshop: Inside the
Hearing Room: Practising
Witness Examination**
Cristina Antonello

10: 30-11:15 AM

**Workshop: Establishing
jurisdiction in collective
claims under the Brussels
Ibis Regulation: some
insights from case C-34/24**
Giovanni Chiapponi

11:30- 12:15 AM

**Workshop: Practical
insights of arbitration**
Tatev Karapetyan

12:30-13:15 PM

**Googling Justice: What
Supreme Court Websites
Reveal About
Transparency and
Democratic Openness**
Davide Castagno

**Closing of the
Summer School**

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Cristina Antonello

Associate at **PARAGON Advocacy** in Vienna. She specializes in international arbitration and litigation.



Ronald A. Brand

University Professor of Law and Academic Director of the Center for International Legal Education at the **University of Pittsburgh School of Law**.



Davide Castagno

Assistant Professor of Civil Procedural Law and International Litigation at the **University of Turin**.



Giovanni Chiapponi

Legal secretary at the **Court of Justice of the European Union**.



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Elena D'Alessandro

Full Professor of **Civil Procedure** at the **University of Turin**. She is a leading expert in EU judicial cooperation in civil and commercial matters.



Charles De Monaco

Adjunct professor of **Conflict of Laws** at the **University of Pittsburgh**. US lawyer on commercial litigation, corporate compliance and white-collar criminal defense.



Carlo de Stefano

Associate Professor of **International law** at the Department of Law of **Roma Tre University**.



Sara De Vido

Full Professor of **International Law**, Department of Economics, Ca' Foscari **University of Venice**.



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Ester di Napoli

Attorney specialised in **Private International Law**, with a focus on family matters and children's rights. She teaches European Private International Law at the LUMSA University in Rome and at the University of Ferrara.



Marco Farina

Associate Professor of **Civil Procedure**. He also teaches international arbitration at the **European University of Rome**.



Kirsten Henckel

Assistant professor of **Private International Law** at the **University of Groningen**. Specialized in cross-border commercial transactions and the impact of digitalisation and new technologies.



Tatevik Karapetyan

International arbitrator, and currently serving as the Deputy Chair of Arbitration and ADR Commission of **ICC Armenia**, and Director of **Resolve Academy**.



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Christian Koller

Professor and Vice Dean at the **University of Vienna**. He specializes in **international commercial arbitration** and **litigation**.



Michele Angelo Lupoi

Director of the Ravenna Summer School, is Full Professor of **Civil Procedure** at the Department of Legal Studies of the **University of Bologna** and Lawyer of the Bologna Bar Association.



Mark McLaughlin

Assistant Professor of Law at the **Yong Pung How School of Law, Singapore Management University** and the **Singapore International Dispute Resolution Academy**.



Dominika Moravcova

Assistant Professor at the Faculty of Law, **Trnava University** and Vice-Dean for International Relations at the Faculty of Law. She focuses on **International Private** and **Procedural Law** and **European Union Law**.



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Ioana Olaru

Trainer at the **Romanian Notarial Institute**, teaching **European Union Private International Law**.



Maria-Fanouria Papantonaki

PhD candidate in **Civil Procedural Law** at the **Aristotle University of Thessaloniki**, with research interests in Property, Inheritance Law and Dispute Resolution.



Edoardo Piermattei

He holds a PhD in **Civil Procedural Law** from the **University of Bologna**. His research focuses on matters of transnational litigation, international trade law, insolvency law, and other areas of civil procedure.



Francesca Ragno

Full Professor of **International Law** at the Department of Political and Social Sciences of the **University of Bologna** and Director of the Bachelor's Degree in International Studies.



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Milana Rankovic

PhD Candidate at the **University of Novi Sad**, Faculty of Law, and a Teaching Assistant at the **University of Montenegro**, Faculty of Law.



Friedrich Rosenfeld

Partner at Hanefeld, a GAR 100 dispute resolution boutique. Counsel in **international arbitrations** with a focus on construction, post-M&A, commercial and investment disputes.



Verona Tió Pérez-Albert

Teaching Fellow and PhD candidate at **ESADE Law School**. She focuses on the distinction between substance and procedure under **Rome I Regulation** in the field of contractual remedies.



Marco Torsello

Marco Torsello is a Full Professor at the **University of Verona**, School of Law, where he teaches **Comparative Private Law** and **Transnational Commercial Law**.



Geert van Calster

Full professor at **KU Leuven Law**, visiting professor at Melbourne University School of Law. He focuses in **international litigation** and **conflict of laws**.



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Massimiliano Bina

Associate at Battaglia e Bina avvocati associati. Adjunct professor at the **University of Insubria**.



Paolo Catalozzi

Judge at the **Supreme Court of Italy**, dealing with cases in the field of intellectual property and competition law. Legally qualified judge of the **Unified Patent Court**, assigned to the Court of Appeal of Luxembourg.



Pierfrancesco Fasano

Partner for Italy of **Aria Grace Law CIC**, arbitrator and mediator by Italian and European institutions, as well as counsel. Member of Expert Committee at **Patent Mediation and Arbitration Centre of the Unified Patent Court**.



Francesca Ferrari

Professor of **Civil Procedure** at the **University of Insubria**. She is IP and Consumer Protection attaché at the Italian Permanent Representation at the European Union.



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Robin Jacob

Arbitrator, Mediator, Expert Witness and Expert Determiner at 8 **New Square, Lincoln's Inn**. Active Professor at Faculty of Law, **University College London**.



Elisabetta Papa

European Patent Attorney, Technically-Qualified Judge at the Unified Patent Court (Mechanics). V.P. of the Italian Institute of IP Consultants.



Andrea Scilletta

Andrea is currently a **National Advisory Expert** for overseas intellectual property dispute resolution at the China IP Society.



Adriano Sponzilli

Associate at **Costa-Creta Law Firm** in Bologna. He is a lawyer specialized in Intellectual Property matters, with experience in trademark and patent litigation.



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Marina Tavassi

Of Counsel at **Bonelli Erede**. She deals with commercial law, competition and industrial law. Vicepresident of **IPJA**, Intellectual Property Judges Association.



Anna Chiara Amato

International arbitration lawyer and legal researcher with experience in both investor-State and commercial arbitration as well as public international law.



Nina Jankovic

Senior Associate at **Aceris Law**, holds an LLM in Public International Law from Leiden University and an LLB from Belgrade University



Mario de Nitto Personè

Is the Founder of **Festina Lente Investments**. He is a lawyer specializing in **international investment and commercial law**, and a member of the Milan Bar Association.



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Francisco Trebucq

Counsel at the **ICC International Court of Arbitration**.
He is a qualified lawyer both in Argentina and Italy.



Miriam Zari

Associate in the International Arbitration group at **Curtis, Mallet-Prevost, Colt & Mosle LLP**.



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