

MARINA TAVASSI

Born in Milan (Italy). Degree (magna cum laude) at the Law School of the University of Milan (Università degli Studi di Milano).

For several years researcher of the National Council for Research scholarship at the Institute of Civil Procedural Law of the University of Milan.

Having entered in magistrature (in 1977) she has continued to contribute regularly to academic activities.

In 1977 she has been appointed to the Milan Tribunal, in the first civil section, where she has specialized among other things in antitrust law, industrial and intellectual property, commercial law, and European Union law.

From 1991 to September 2004 she has been appointed to the first civil section of the Court of Appeals of Milan, where she has been in charge of procedures concerning subjects such as company and bank law, intellectual property, competition, appeals against arbitration awards and professional liability.

From October 2004 to October 2009 she has been counsellor at the Supreme Court, appointed to the first civil section, where she has been in charge of procedures concerning subjects such as commercial, industrial and competition law.

In October 2009 she has been appointed as President of the Intellectual Property Court of Milan. This Court exercises its competence (Industrial and Intellectual Property – i.e. patents, trade-marks, designs and models, copyright, unfair competition, know how, commercial secrets), on the whole Region of Lombardy and is specialized also in competition law (antitrust), by direct implementation of Community rules.

In those tasks Tavassi had the opportunity to follow several cases of high economic value, important social impact, and of international and European relevance in the antitrust, commercial and industrial sectors. Many of these judgements have been published by important law reviews and have received favourable comments by the doctrine.

She has been member, appointed by the Superior Council of Judiciary (CSM), involved in the European Community programme PHARE, which aims to train judges coming from the candidate countries of the European Community; also member of the Study Commission Judges-Lawyers-Administrative Staff established at the Court of Appeals of Milan, specialized in international and community programmes.

She has vice-president of the Association of European Competition Law Judges funded in London in 2001 on the initiative of several European judges.

She is also in the group of the Italian Supreme Court that works as interlocutor of the European Court of Justice and of the European Commission for the application and enforcement of EC competition law by national judges. She has played a central role in the working group established at Italian Supreme Court who has prepared the paper of comments on the White Paper on compensation of damages for breach of EC antitrust rules.

Since the establishment in Italy of the Forensic Schools (biannual post-degree training schools for the legal professions) in the years 2001/2002, she is member of the Directive Council of the School of Specialization for the Legal Professions at the University of Milan, also teaching in the same school classes in commercial law.

She has taken part in several seminars, as speaker and chairman, and have conducted in-depth studies concerning the special procedures of civil trials, and in particular urgent measures and reforming projects of civil trials. In the Department of civil procedural law of the University of Milan she participated in the study of bills publishing articles and cooperating at the compilation of the volume “Reform Projects of the Civil Trials” (“I progetti di riforma del processo civile”) edited by the University of Milan.

She has published several articles, two monographies (“Civil Antitrust Procedure” and “Patent, Trademarks, Trade name and Outdoor sign”); as a speaker and chairman she has participated in a number of national and international congresses on topics such as urgent measures, civil trials, industrial and intellectual property, competition, European Union law (speaking in English and French).

Recently she is organising a web site in collaboration with the University of Trento, that collects all the Italian decisions in the field of Competition Law.

She is also founder and co-director of a specialised law review, entitled “Italian IP Courts Case Law Report”, that publishes the decisions of the Italian IP Courts, in Italian and English.