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He graduated from the University of Bologna with a degree in law in 1963. After graduation, he practiced in law in Italy. His academic career began at the University of Macerata and he subsequently held posts at the Universities of Cagliari and Ferrara. He joined the law faculty of Bologna University in 1979.

He holds the following positions in various professional organizations: Member of the Bar of Bologna; Member of the Academy of Sciences of Bologna; Secretary of the Italian Association of Scholars of Civil Procedure; President of the International Association of Procedural Law; Member of the Italian Association of Comparative Law; Member of the International Association of Family Law; General Editor of the Quarterly Review of Italian Civil Law and Civil Procedure; dr. h.c. University of Miskolc (Hungary) and University of Arequipa (Perù); Member of "Académie internationale de droit comparé"; Member of the Royal Academy of Belgium; Member of The Academy of Buenos Aires.

He has written numerous publications on civil procedural law including a widely used Commentary to the Code of Civil Procedure; Padua, 2006 (together with M. Taruffo).

He delivered general reports in many National and International Congress on Procedural Law and held conferences in many countries, all over the world.

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