

Prof. Paola Severino

Paola Severino is President of the Luiss School of Law, Emeritus Professor of Criminal Law and Chair of the Law and Governance: Compliance, Security and Sustainability Research Centre at Luiss Guido Carli University, where she also serves on the University's Board of Directors.

From June 2018 to July 2023, she served as Vice President of Luiss University, having previously held the positions of Rector (2016–2018) and Deputy Rector. From 1 May 2003 to 29 May 2006, she was Dean of the Department of Law.

From 1998 to 2018, she was Full Professor of Criminal Law at Luiss Guido Carli University, where she held the Chair of Criminal Law within the Department of Law until the end of the 2024-2025 academic year. Since the 2018–2019 academic year, she holds the Chair of Cybersecurity.

She has served as Director of the Master's Programme in Corporate Criminal Law, the Master's Programme in Compliance and Anti-Corruption in the Public and Private Sectors, and the Master's Programme in Cybersecurity: Public Policy, Regulation and Management at Luiss.

She teaches Criminal Law at the Carabinieri Officers' Academy in Rome.

From September 2021 to July 2026 she served as President of the Italian National School of Administration (SNA).

Since April 2025, she has served as Counsellor to the Grand Chancellor of the Sovereign Military Order of Malta.

Since May 2025, she has been a member of the ABI (Italian Banking Association) Advisory Board on Cybersecurity, Anti-Financial Crime and Data Protection.

From March 2024 to November 2025, she was a member of the Coordinating Committee for Capital Markets Reform, and from October 2025 to March 2026 she also served on its Technical and Scientific Council.

Since May 2021, she has chaired the Scientific Committee (Supervisory Board) of the National Recovery and Resilience Plan (NRRP), established by the Italian Ministry of Universities and Research.

She also served as Co-President of the Scientific Committee and Italy's Citizens' Representative for the Conference on the Future of Europe.

From June 2022 to March 2025, she was a member of the Technical and Scientific Committee of the National Cybersecurity Agency.

From January 2018 to December 2020, she served as Special Representative of the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office on Combatting Corruption.

She was appointed by Italian Prime Minister Paolo Gentiloni and French President Emmanuel Macron to serve on the Franco-Italian Committee of Experts responsible for drafting the Quirinal Treaty.

In March 2019, she was appointed Chevalier de la Légion d'Honneur by the President of the French Republic, Emmanuel Macron. In February 2019, she received the Shahamir Shahamiryan Gold Medal from the Republic of Armenia.

In July 2023, she was awarded an Honorary Doctorate in Public Administration by the University of Messina.

In June 2018, she received an Honorary Doctor of Laws (LLD) from the University of Glasgow.

In 2015, she was appointed a Knight Grand Cross of the Order of Merit of the Italian Republic.

From 2016 to 2022, she served on the Council of the Order of Merit of the Italian Republic.

Since 2019, she has served as Vice President of the International Association of Penal Law (AIDP). From January 2015 to April 2025, she was President of the Association's Italian Group, a role that also made her Vice President of the Siracusa International Institute for Criminal Justice and Human Rights. She currently serves as Honorary Vice President of the Institute.

She was also a member of the Strategic Policy and Advisory Committee established by the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation.

From 2014 to 2018, she chaired the Observatory for Monitoring the Impact of Justice Reforms on the Economy and Evaluating the Effectiveness of Reforms Necessary for National Growth, established by the Italian Ministry of Justice.

From November 2011 to April 2013, she served as Italy's Minister of Justice in the Monti Government.

From 1997 to 2001, she served as Vice President of the Military High Council of the Judiciary.

Professor Severino has also served on numerous ministerial commissions responsible for drafting legislative and organisational reforms in the fields of criminal justice, judicial administration and corporate criminal liability. These include, in 2006, the commission established to examine legislative and organisational measures to improve the efficiency of the justice system (*Commissione per lo studio e la proposta di riforme di interventi sul piano normativo e organizzativo che razionalizzino l'esercizio della giurisdizione e conferiscano efficienza al sistema*) and, in 2007, the commission responsible for proposing reforms to harmonize and simplify procedures relating to pecuniary sanctions for corporations, costs of proceedings, the management of confiscated and seized assets, and measures to combat economic crime (*Commissione per lo studio e la proposta di riforme ed interventi per la razionalizzazione, armonizzazione e semplificazione delle procedure processuali ed amministrative relative alle sanzioni pecuniarie da reato applicate a norma del decreto legislativo 8 giugno 2001, n. 231, alle spese processuali ed alla gestione dei beni confiscati ed in giudiziale sequestro nonché la verifica ed ampliamento delle forme di contrasto alla criminalità economica con riferimento particolare all'ambito di applicazione della responsabilità degli enti*).

She has participated in and coordinated research teams within numerous national and international research projects.

Professor Severino has received numerous awards in recognition of her academic and professional achievements, including the Minerva Prize (2003), the Marisa Bellisario Prize (2009), the Dell'Andro Prize (2012), the Scanno Prize for Law (2015), the Guido Carli Prize, the Il Perugino Prize and the Atena Donna Prize (all 2018), the Le Fonti Award in Criminal Law (2019), the Il Normanno Prize and the Menorah d'Oro Award of Benè Berith (2021). In 2025, she received the Farnese d'Oro Award in recognition of her outstanding contribution to the education and training of young people.

She is a member of the scientific committees of the Istituto Affari Internazionali (IAI), Confindustria's Sea Economy Group, the Centro Alti Studi of the Italian Ministry of the Interior, the Occorsio Foundation, the Ethos Observatory of Luiss Business School, AREL, and Eastwest.

She is a member of the Legal and Ethics Committee of the Carabinieri, serves on the Board of Directors of the Fondazione Cortile dei Gentili, and is Honorary President of Women4Cyber Italia ETS.

She is also President of the Advisory Board of the Italian Association of Corporate Counsel (AIGI – Associazione Italiana Giuristi d'Impresa), President of the Board of Arbitrators of the Italian General Entertainment Association (AGIS – Associazione Generale Italiana dello Spettacolo) and a member of the Committee of Guarantors for Olympic Education of the Italian National Olympic Committee (CONI).

She was a member of the Advisory Board of Fondazione Leonardo ETS.

She is a member of the Executive Committee of the Council for Relations between Italy and the United States, the General Council of the Italian Chapter of ICON-S (International Society of Public Law), and the International Advisory Board of Think7 (T7) Italy.

She has been appointed Ambassador of Neapolis 2500 and is a member of the Honorary Committee of the 26th edition of the Race for the Cure.

Professor Severino was a member of the editorial boards of the Treccani Encyclopaedia of Law (*Enciclopedia Giuridica Treccani*) and the journal *Banca, borsa e titoli di credito*. She currently serves on the scientific committees of the journals *Archivio Penale*, *Rivista della Guardia di Finanza*, *Rivista del Diritto della Navigazione*, *Sistema Penale*, *The Future of Science and Ethics*, *Diritto dell'Internet* and *Notariato*. She is also a member of the Editorial Board of *Diritto Penale Contemporaneo – Rivista Trimestrale* and President of the Technical and Scientific Committee of *Rassegna dell'Arma dei Carabinieri*.

In 2019, she established the Fondazione Severino, a non-profit foundation that provides free legal assistance to prisoners and former prisoners, promotes merit and educational opportunity, and supports rehabilitation and reintegration into society through education, vocational training and employment.

She is a frequent keynote speaker at national and international conferences on criminal law, corporate criminal law, cybersecurity and artificial intelligence.

An advocate admitted to practise before Italy's Supreme Court of Cassation, Professor Severino advises and represents clients in matters relating to corporate and business criminal law.

ACADEMIC EDUCATION

Professor Severino graduated with honours in Law from Sapienza University of Rome in 1971 and subsequently attended the University's School of Specialisation in Criminal Law and Criminology.

From 1972 to 1975, she held a research fellowship funded by the Italian National Research Council (CNR) at Sapienza University of Rome.

In 1975, she was appointed Full Assistant Professor in the Second Chair of Criminal Law at Sapienza University, where she remained until 1987.

In 1983, she was awarded a research fellowship at the Max Planck Institute for Foreign and International Criminal Law in Freiburg im Breisgau, Germany.

Following her successful qualification as an Associate Professor in the first national competition, she took up her appointment in 1987 at the Faculty of Economics and Business of the University of Perugia, where she held the Chair of Business Criminal Law.

In 1995, she was appointed Full Professor of Criminal Law after successfully competing in the national selection procedure and subsequently held the Chair of Criminal Law at the University of Perugia. In 1998, she joined Luiss Guido Carli University in Rome, where she continues to teach.