

Symposium  
**The role of think tanks in  
modernizing the Country**  
*Innovation, Security, Competences*

November 14th | 3.00 pm - 6.30 pm

Palazzo Reale - P.za del Duomo, 12 - 20122 Milano

• University of Milan • Centro Studi Grande Milano •

Partners:



William Griffini  
Carter & Benson  
Search, Advice, Innovate



Daniela Mainini  
CENTRO STUDI GRANDE MILANO



Francesca Zanasi  
GRINT  
COMMISSIONE RAPPORTI INTERNAZIONALI  
ORDINE DEGLI AVVOCATI DI MILANO  
COSTITUITA NEL 1983

Moderator:



Nicolò Zanon  
UNIVERSITÀ DEGLI STUDI DI MILANO

Keynote speakers:



John Yoo  
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA BERKELEY



Edoardo C. Raffiotta  
CENTRO STUDI GRANDE MILANO  
BICOCCA



Marilisa D'Amico  
UNIVERSITÀ DEGLI STUDI DI MILANO



Lorenza Violini  
UNIVERSITÀ DEGLI STUDI DI MILANO

Moderator:

Panelists:



James Donovan  
Goldman Sachs



Dean Reuter  
THE FEDERALIST SOCIETY



John Malcolm  
The Heritage Foundation



David Gerson  
AEI AMERICAN ENTERPRISE INSTITUTE



Steve Hayward  
PACIFIC RESEARCH INSTITUTE



Linda Denno  
ASU ARIZONA STATE UNIVERSITY



Charles Kesler  
THE CLAREMONT MCKENNA CLAREMONT INSTITUTE



Danielle Pletka  
AEI AMERICAN ENTERPRISE INSTITUTE

The conference will address the need for think tanks in Italy to provide a forum for the free and open discussion between businesses, social groups, and universities to develop public policy to modernize Italy.

We intend to begin the discussion by examining the role that think tanks play in the United States. Such institutions, which find their origins in a wide range of intellectual perspectives, serve as places for the open critique of social, economic, and political problems and free debate over their reform. American think tanks have become important actors in the conduct of analysis the development of new public policies. They produce work product that goes beyond purely academic books and articles, with an eye toward practical solutions. They depend on charitable contributions like universities, but without a body of alumni who donate out of school loyalties.

This conference will create an open forum to discuss whether the American think tank can take root in Italy. Italy has a related, but different, political, economic, and social context that may call for a different model. But the purpose of the institution will remain the same: to produce high quality research and recommendations to solve difficult public policy challenges. The initiative will be attended by representatives of important US and Italian public policy institutions, together with leaders from academia, culture, consulting, law and business.



## **James Donovan**

**Goldman  
Sachs**

**Managing Director of Goldman Sachs, he is also an Adjunct Professor at the University of Virginia Law School. He has served as Deputy Secretary of the Treasury and was appointed as a member of the U.S. President's Intelligence Advisory Board.**



## Dean Reuter



Senior Vice President and General Counsel at the Federalist Society for Law and Public Policy Studies. He has served in two federal government agency Offices of the Inspector General, as Counsel to the Inspector General and Deputy Inspector General, responsible for policing the use of federal funds granted and contracted through those agencies. As such, he helped conduct and oversee criminal investigations across the country. He is the principal author of the non-fiction book, *The Hidden Nazi: The Untold Story of America's Deal with the Devil*, and editor of *Liberty's Nemesis: The Unchecked Expansion of the State and Confronting Terror: 9/11 and the Future of American National Security*. He was appointed by the President and served as Vice-Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Corporation for National and Community Service, and recently served as an appointee on the U.S. Commission on Presidential Scholars.



## **John Malcolm**



Vice president for the Institute for Constitutional Government and director of the Meese Center for Legal and Judicial Studies. He was nominated to serve on the Board of Directors of the Legal Services Corporation by President of U.S., and the U.S. Senate confirmed his nomination on August 1, 2019.



## David Gerson



Vice President at American Enterprise Institute, VP-Level.  
He is currently based in Washington, D.C.



**Steve Hayward**



He is a resident scholar at UC Berkeley's Institute of Governmental Studies, and a fellow of the Law and Policy Program at Berkeley Law.



**Linda Denno**



She is Associate Dean of the University of Arizona, College of Applied Science and Technology headquartered at the branch campus in Sierra Vista, Arizona. Dr. Denno's strategic vision and commitment to academic excellence is demonstrated by the fact that two of the College's academic programs—Cyber Operations and Intelligence & Information Operations—have been designated as National Centers of Academic Excellence.



## Charles Kesler



Professor of Government at Claremont McKenna College. Senior fellow of Claremont Institute. His main areas of Expertise are American Constitutionalism; American Political Thought; American Politics; Conservative Movement in America; Constitutional Law; Greek and Roman Political Thought; Idealism and Nihilism; Political Philosophy Term Limitations.



## Danielle Pletka



**Distinguished Senior Fellow- Research. Her main areas of expertise are: U.S. foreign & defense policy, Middle East, International terrorism, Nonproliferation.**



## John Yoo



He is the Emanuel Heller Professor of Law at the University of California at Berkeley. He is also a Nonresident Senior Fellow at the American Enterprise Institute, and a Visiting Fellow at the Hoover Institution, Stanford University.

He has served in all three branches of government. He was an official in the U.S. Department of Justice, where he worked on national security and terrorism issues after the 9/11 attacks. He served as general counsel of the U.S. Senate Judiciary Committee. He has been a law clerk for Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas and federal appeals Judge Laurence Silberman. He has been a visiting professor at Seoul National University in South Korea, the Interdisciplinary Center in Israel, Keio University in Japan, Trento University in Italy, the University of Chicago, and the Free University of Amsterdam.

He supervises the Public Law and Policy Program, the Korea Law Center, and the California Constitution Center. He also serves on the boards of the Pacific Legal Foundation, the Federalist Society's Separation of Powers and Federalism Division, the Universidad Científica del Sur Law School, and the Asia-Pacific Law Institute at Seoul National University. He is a winner of the Federalist Society's Paul Bator award.



## **Edoardo C. Raffiotta**



Qualified as Full Professor of Constitutional Law, he is currently Associate Professor at the Department of Economic and Business Sciences and Law for the Economy at the University of Milan Bicocca, where he teaches Public Law and Law of Innovation and Artificial Intelligence.

He is also a member of the Research Centre in Public Law and Policy at the Berkeley School of Law - University of California. In particular, his research assignment is aimed at investigating the legal profiles of artificial intelligence and cybersecurity.

Since 2021, he has been Legal Advisor to the Italian Data Protection Authority.



## Marilisa D'Amico



She is Full Professor of Constitutional Law at the University of Milan, School of Law, Department of Italian and Supranational Public Law. She is Vice-Rector for Legality, Transparency, and Equality of Rights, at the same University. She is currently Chair Holder and Academic coordinator of the Jean Monnet Chair Program, “European Fundamental Rights and Women’s Rights (EFRIWoR)”. She teaches Constitutional Law, Women’s Rights within the Constitutional State, and Constitutional Justice. She is a Member of the Equal opportunity Working Group, Ministry of Equal opportunity; Co-founder and Member scientific board of “Osservatorio sulla violenza contro le donne”/“Observatory on violence against women” at University of Milan. She is the scientific coordinator of several specialization courses in the fields of fundamental rights and women’s rights at the University of Milan and a post-graduate course on violence against women. She possesses a long standing international experience: in Europe, where she spent a research period of study in Germany; in the United States, where since 2015, she has been nominated Visiting Professor at the School of International and Public Affairs of Columbia University, New York City and in 2022 she spent research periods at UC Berkeley School of Law. As a lawyer, registered in the register of lawyers of Milan, she represented several NGOs and individuals before the Italian Constitutional Court, the European Court of Human Rights, and the European Committee of Social Rights in the fields of women’s fundamental rights, anti-discrimination-law, disability rights as well as before Italian administrative judges in the field of women’s political representation. As a Professor of Constitutional Law and Constitutional Justice, she has always investigated issues on constitutional justice, fundamental rights, and their system of protection, especially concerning the most marginalized categories. She is the author of several articles and monographic books in Italian and in English.



## Nicolò Zanon



Italian jurist and lecturer, he is a judge of the Italian Constitutional Court, of which he is also the Vice-President. He is currently full professor of Constitutional Law in the Faculty of Law of the University of Milan. In 2017, he was awarded the title of Cavaliere di Gran Croce dell'Ordine al merito della Repubblica italiana. After obtaining a PhD in Comparative Law at the University of Florence, he was active as a researcher at the Faculty of Political Science of the University of Turin between 1991 and 1996. He began his experience as a lecturer at the Bocconi University in Milan, teaching Institutions of Public Law. He then lectured in the Faculty of Political Science at the University of Padua and in the Faculty of Law at both the University of Milan-Bicocca and the University of Milan. He is also the author of scientific texts and articles published in Italian and foreign law journals. He has also been a columnist for newspapers such as 'Il Sole 24 Ore', 'Il Giornale' and 'Libero'. During his career, he was a member of the 'Working Group for the Reform of the Regional Statute', following his appointment by the Director General of the Presidency of the Lombardy Region. For this Region, he has been also a member of the Legislative Committee from 2000 to 2010. He has been a member of the Board of Directors of the Italian Foundation for Cancer Research (FIRC).



## Lorenza Violini



Full Professor of Constitutional Law at the University of Milan, she has acquired an accurate and vast scientific knowledge in the field of human rights and a proven experience in the organisation and management of various public bodies such as the Ministry of Labour, the Ministry of Education, the Lombardy Region and the Piedmont Region.

She has been a member of the Scientific Committee of the Lombardy Region Research Institute - IReR. She has been involved since its inception (2002) in the management of the Foundation for Subsidiarity, of which she is a member of the Board of Participants, the social body in charge of the organisation and development of the Foundation in the pursuit of its objectives in the fields of Education and Training, Welfare and Social Enterprise, Economy and Labour and Human Rights.

She has extensive experience in international relations, having coordinated and directed the Erasmus/Socrates, Tempus and Double Diploma programmes set up at the Faculty of Economics of the University of Pavia from 1996 to 1999.

She is an executive member of numerous Italian and European scientific associations and of the Board of Directors of the journal *Le Regioni*.

She is currently a member of the Management Board of the European Agency for Fundamental Rights. She is President and Board Member of social cooperatives and non-profit organisations active in the field of education and employment of disadvantaged people.



## William Griffini

**Carter & Benson<sup>®</sup>**

Search, Advice, Innovate

CEO - Carter & Benson. He started his first professional experience as Consultant within an Executive and Middle Management Search company of which he became Partner afterwards. In 2003, together with a team of professionals and managers, he founded Carter & Benson of which he is still CEO and Partner. In 2007 he widened the activity of Carter & Benson adding to the Executive Search division, the Middle Management one, specialized in the search and selection of Quadri and Neo Dirigenti and, in 2018, he furtherly evolved the business model with the establishment of the Strategy Division. Throughout his more than 20-year career, he has developed a strong multi-sector experience that allowed him to achieve successfully many search projects in different industries working closely with complex and articulated companies. Fond of life and people, he has been able to create within his company a climate where the concept of team, collaboration and responsibility is very strong. His motto is “The effort makes more sense if you share it with friends”.



## Daniela Mainini



Appointed among the first Honorary Deputy Public Prosecutors at the Milan Magistrate's Court, from 1990 to 2002 she was Secretary General and Member of the Board of Directors of COLC Italia (Comitato Lotta alla Contraffazione). From 2002 to the present she has been President of the Centro Studi Grande Milano and of the Centro Studi Anticontraffazione (Anti-Counterfeiting Study Centre) and responsible for the Milanese Anticounterfeiting Council of the Municipality of Milan for the three-year period 2013/2016. On 21 January 2011, she was appointed President of the National Anti-Counterfeiting Council (CNAC) by delegation of the Minister of Economic Development, coordinating the work of eleven ministries and the National Association of Italian Municipalities and editing the National Anti-Counterfeiting Plan presented on 19 November 2012 at the first States General Against Counterfeiting. On February 5th, 2014, she was appointed as a full member representing the Ministry of Economic Development in the National Anticounterfeiting Council for the years 2014/2015. On 7 February 2015 she is a member of the thematic working table n. 9 on the fight against counterfeiting on the occasion of Expo of Ideas for the Milan Charter. On 5 March 2015 she was appointed as a consultant to the Parliamentary Commission of Inquiry on the fight against counterfeiting.



## Francesca Zanasi



COMMISSIONE RAPPORTI INTERNAZIONALI  
ORDINE DEGLI AVVOCATI DI MILANO  
COSTITUITA NEL 1983

**I.F.L founder. Advises on all areas of family law and inheritance.**

**Lecturer at masters and professional-specialist courses.**

**Author of publications by Giuffrè Editore and Wolters Kluwer; longtime contributor for La Stampa.**

**Since the beginning of her career she has provided legal assistance in family planning clinics in Milan. This long experience translates into an in-depth knowledge of the needs and social problems of the Lombard capital.**

**Co-founder of the Camera Minorile, the Juvenile Chambers of Milan, she is in the board of Child Priority, a private foundation supported by Condé Nast Publications. She is member of the International Academy of Family Lawyers (IAFL), of the British Italian Law Association (BILA) and of the Society of Trust and Estate Practitioners (STEP).**

**Board Member of the Milan Bar Association since March 2019, Mrs. Zanasi is currently serving as Chair of the Foreign Affairs Committee (CRINT) of the Milan Bar Association. She is also Deputy Councilwoman for the Family Law Committee of the same Bar Association.**

**In 2021, she is the Founder and First President of the Union of Italian Foreign Affairs Committees, an association of representatives from all Italian CRINTs.**

**She is the founder of the International Forum on Inheritance law.**