

FOREWORD

By *Marta Cartabia*^{*} and *Cesare Cavallini*^{**}

If one topic underscores the close relationship between civil justice, its methods of implementation, and the fundamental rights enshrined in constitutions worldwide, it is undoubtedly access to justice. This is why the conference organized by the Department of Legal Studies at Bocconi University¹, which serves as the focus of this debut volume

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^{**}Professor Cesare Cavallini is a Full Professor of Civil Procedure and Bankruptcy Law at Bocconi University and, since 2022, has served as the Head of its Department of Legal Studies. He is a member of the Board of Editors of the *Rivista di Diritto Processuale* and of *Global Jurist*. His expertise includes international and comparative civil procedure, Italian, European, and global bankruptcy law, and alternative and transnational dispute resolution.

¹The event titled "Class Action and New Forms of Aggregate Litigation in the United States" was held at Bocconi University on May 10, 2024. The keynote address was delivered by Prof. Arthur Miller, with Prof. Helen Hershkoff as the discussant. The event

in the Legal Book Series published by Bocconi University Press, is of utmost importance. It aimed to explore access to civil justice from an international perspective, ensuring that legal scholars, law students, and professionals in civil justice all over the world feel included and part of a global legal community. The focus was on class actions as a specific form of aggregate litigation.

Arthur R. Miller and Helen Hershkoff's comprehensive presentations were preceded by welcoming remarks from Bocconi's Rector, Francesco Billari², and a joint introduction by Marta Cartabia and Cesare Cavallini. They emphasized the topic's relevance, timeliness, and the values underlying class actions. Their focus on the importance of class actions in the education of law students, which embraces both domestic and international perspectives, is a core mission of the Department of Legal Studies at Bocconi University, as enhanced by the Rector Francesco Billari. This emphasis on class actions as a crucial part of legal education is informative, inspiring, and motivating for future legal professionals, igniting a passion for their roles in the global legal community.

Class actions, as both a tool and a phenomenon of access to civil justice, represent the perfect intersection of private interests (protected rights) and public interests (methods of enforcing violated rights) within the framework of upholding constitutional principles of due

opened with welcome remarks from the Rector, Prof. Francesco Billari followed by an introduction by Prof. Cesare Cavallini and Prof. Marta Cartabia.

² Professor Francesco Candeloro Billari is Rector and Full Professor of Demography at Bocconi University. He was previously Head of the Sociology Department University of Oxford from 2012 to 2017 before returning to Bocconi. From 1999 to 2002, he was Head of the Independent Research Group on the Demography of Early Adulthood at the Max Planck Institute for Demographic Research. He has also served as President, Secretary-General, and Treasurer of the European Association for Population Studies. He is Editor-in-Chief of the scholarly journal *Advances in Life Course Research*, a position he has held since its inception in 2009. His expertise covers fertility and family change, the transition to adulthood, life course analysis, population forecasting, and agent-based modelling, among other topics in demography, economics, epidemiology and public health.

process. There could be no better way to learn about the origin and evolution of class actions than from the founders and advocates of civil liberties within the Anglo-American legal tradition. In the past decades, class actions have proven to be an effective instrument for giving voice to the voiceless in civil rights. Today, they stand ready to address in legal terms the significant challenges of our times related to the environment, the digital revolution, and inequalities, thereby demonstrating their historical, urgent, and contemporary significance.

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