



I love being a criminal attorney because I love the adrenaline rush of court hearings when I fight for fundamental rights and equality before the law for everybody.

Nicola Canestrini

criminal defense lawyer

about

I am an Italian criminal defense lawyer: I defend rights in and outside the Courts.

My main fields of my practice are Italian and European criminal law and Italian criminal defense.

Having extensive in-court experience, dealing with human rights defense and international criminal cases (extradition, EAW, EIO), I have rights of audience in the higher Italian courts; I am also qualified to practice before the International Criminal Court.

I've been defense expert witness for Italian criminal law and procedure.

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experience

International criminal law

Due to my relevant experience in criminal proceedings and specific competence in international or criminal law and procedure I am admitted in ICC's list of admitted counsels; I've been managing director of the Italian Centre of peace studies of International Humanitarian law since 1999.

Publications

I am contributing author to several law journals, including the leading Italian criminal law review Cassazione Penale, with focus European and International criminal law. I am member of the editorial board of Giurisprudenza penale, an online law journal dealing with Italian criminal law and procedure.

Conferences and courses

I teach or speak at many conferences and courses, in Italy and abroad, including overseas (150 + speeches).

International memberships

Due to my interest for fundamental rights I am a (proud) member of the Legal Experts Advisory Panel (LEAP) of Fair Trials International; as LEAP Board member I am advisor for Fair Trials for Italy. I am also member of ECBA European Criminal Lawyer Association, the ELA Extradition Lawyers Association and the International Criminal Bar.

Italian memberships

Since 2009 I've been a member of the board of the regional Italian criminal lawyer association, which elected me as chair from 2014 to 2016. In 2016 the Union of Italian criminal lawyers associations UCPI designated me as coordinator of the project "avvocati minacciati | endangered lawyers", which collects and gives information about threatened lawyers worldwide. I am consultant in immigration law for a regional public immigration Informative center; I am also working pro bono for the Italian Democratic Lawyers Association and for Lawyers for solidarity, which defends or enforces rights on behalf of poors, minorities and disadvantaged.

Awards

The Italian Coalition for Civil Rights and Freedoms CILD rewarded me in 2018 with the "CILD Award for Civil Liberty Italian Coalition for Civil Rights and Freedoms" for my promotion and protection as human rights lawyer of civil liberties and my contribution in promoting fundamental rights.