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The Making of Europe's (Unwritten) Supremacy Clause: A Relentless Professor, an Electricity Bill, and a Monarchist Connection at the Height of the Cold War

**Wednesday,
October 23, 2024**

5:00 - 5:30 p.m. | check-in

5:30 - 6:30 p.m. | program

In-person

**Fordham Law School
Hill Faculty Conference Room (7-119)
Seventh Floor**

CLE credits will be available



Register Here

Unlike the U.S. Constitution, which explicitly establishes the supremacy of federal law over state law, the treaty that founded the European Economic Community (EEC), the predecessor of the European Union (EU), was silent on the relationship between EEC law and the laws of its Member States. This issue was settled by the European Court of Justice in 1964 with its ruling in *Costa v ENEL*. Through biographical sketches, archival documents, and unpublished photographs, this presentation unravels the dramatic story behind that landmark case, highlighting the unexpected roles of a relentless professor, an unpaid electricity bill, and a monarchist connection in challenging Italy's nationalization of the electricity sector against the tense backdrop of the Cold War.

Speaker

Amedeo Arena is a Full Professor of European Union Law at the Department of Law of the University of Naples Federico II and an Alcide De Gasperi Fellow at the Historical Archives of the European Union. He is the Principal Investigator of the PRIN 2022 project "Rediscovering European Integration through Legal Storytelling (REILS)