

Editorial Tribute: Guido Alpa (1947-2025)

MADS ANDENAS & IRIS H-Y CHIU

The European Business Law Review mourns the sad passing of one of our founding general editors, Professor Guido Alpa (aged 77).

Professor Alpa was a towering academic in Italian private law, as well as comparative and European Law. The European Business Law Review is proud to have carried many of Professor Alpa's English publications, which brought unique perspectives in Italian private law, especially contract law to a European audience and more widely to an international readership, integrating it smoothly with a deep understanding of comparative and European law. He made major contributions to European consumer law and the emerging European principles of private law, and their increasingly central role in domestic general contract and tort law. His *The Right to be Oneself*, published by Bloomsbury in 2024, and a new monograph on Principles of Law, are only his most recent important outputs. Professor Alpa contributed to resolving the pressing problems of the law throughout his career. That required in his view that scholars looked across the boundaries that divide the law to bring out the underlying unities and fundamental principles. He did.

Professor Alpa was born in Ovida, north of Genoa, in November 1947, and died in Genoa on 7 March 2025. He graduated magna cum laude in law at the University of Genoa in the early 1970s, rising remarkably quickly from his first assistant professor post in 1974 to full Professor of Private Law there in 1980, and from 1981 Director of the Private Law Institute. In 1991 he took up a full professorship at La Sapienza in Rome, retiring in 2018, and becoming Professor Emeritus in 2019. A full tribute to his long and distinguished academic and legal career can be found at <https://www.law.ox.ac.uk/institute-of-european-and-comparative-law/professor-guido-alpa-1947-2025-tribute>.

Professor Alpa was one of the founding general editors of the European Business Law Review since its launch in 1990. Over the years, Professor Alpa introduced many academic colleagues in Italy and in Europe more widely to the Review, and the Review also carried many publications from Professor Alpa's students who have gone on to successful legal and academic careers. The Review is proud to carry in this Issue one of Professor Alpa's final works on the impact of artificial intelligence on the legal profession. Professor Alpa was keenly enthusiastic on changing developments, while raising critical questions regarding the timeless values for law and the legal profession. This article will no doubt remind many of our readers of the importance of uniquely human values even in the advance of artificial intelligence that intends to substitute many facets of human endeavour.

We remember Professor Alpa as a distinguished academic whose perspectives changes our paradigms. We also remember Professor Alpa as a wonderful mentor at the Review, a most enthusiastic colleague, and above all, a precious friend to all in the legal academic community who has had the opportunity to engage with him.