

Curriculum vitae

CURRICULUM VITAE of Francesco Lo Voi, born on November 5th, 1957 in Palermo (Italy).

I got the degree in Law at the University of Palermo, magna cum laude, in July 1979.

I entered the judiciary in 1981; after the training period, I started serving as a Judge in a misdemeanor Court in Sardinia for two years, dealing with civil and criminal cases (at that time, also playing the role of investigative Prosecutor); afterwards (1984-1987) I've been a Judge at the Court of Caltanissetta (Sicily, Italy), dealing both with civil and criminal cases and also chairing for one year a special Court section in charge of cases of confiscation of illicit assets. Subsequently, I have been a Judge at the Court of Palermo, dealing with criminal cases.

I am fully **member of the Prosecution since July 1990**, in different positions (totally, **more than 25 years**, even not considering the High Council for the Judiciary):

- **Prosecutor at PPO Palermo from July 1990 to April 1997.** During this period, I dealt with complex cases mainly concerning organized crime and mafia organizations – “Cosa Nostra” – with dozens of suspects. I also represented the Prosecution in Court in many trials, where the Courts usually accepted my requests. I achieved some dozens of “life sentences” and highly severe convictions, with penalties from 20 to 30 years, for the crimes of “participation in a criminal association”, multiple murders, drug trafficking, money laundering, and so on. I have been also responsible for leading some sections of the Prosecutor Office of Palermo, particularly the section in charge of the execution of the penalties and the one in charge of the investigation aimed at identifying illicit assets of organized crime members, for the purpose of their confiscation. I was also responsible of seeking some “Cosa Nostra” fugitive members, some of them at the highest position in the said criminal organisation: all of those I was responsible of have been found and arrested by the Police, under my instructions and coordination.

- **Prosecutor at GPO Palermo from 1997 to 2007** (see below for the period 2002-2006, during which I was member of the High Council of the Judiciary). In that Office, I represented the Prosecution before the Court of Appeal of Palermo in hundreds of trials, so increasing my Courtroom experience, mostly again in complex criminal cases concerning organized crime. I have been tasked with many organizational aspects of that Office, personally delegated by the Prosecutor General, who also appointed me as Secretary General of the said GPO. Also in this activity, I achieved a great number of convictions for the responsible of very serious offences.

- **Member of the Italian Council for the Judiciary from July 2002 to July 2006.** The High Council for the Judiciary is a Constitutional, independent body, chaired by the President of the Republic and is in charge of all the decisions concerning recruiting, career, appointment to directive positions and disciplinary aspects of all the Italian Magistrates, both Judges of Prosecutor. The preliminary examination of each paperwork is made by one of the ten Committees, and the final decision is taken at the Plenary sessions, composed by all the members (27). I also chaired and vice-chaired some of the said Committees, giving a new organisation to the work thereof and reducing the backlog. I've been also the Director of the Study Office of the Council (for nearly two years), that is competent for giving legal advices to the Committees, the Presidency Team and the Plenary and for preparing the documents and opinions to be used before the administrative Courts, in case of litigation. Since the High Council is in charge of the approval of the

organizational aspects of the judicial offices, this gave me the possibility to improve my experience in the organizational aspects of different sectors and in the management of offices, particularly when it comes to the best use of human resources.

I also actively took part in the setting up of the Network of the European Judicial Councils (ENCJ), participating in the preparatory meetings (and, subsequently, to the official meetings) and also directly contributing to the creation of the web-site of the Network. At the end of the four-year term of the Council, I went back to GPO Palermo, until October 2019, as said above.

- **Prosecutor at GPO before the Supreme Court in Rome from October 2007 to December 2009.** The Italian Supreme Court deals with civil and criminal cases only as far as their “legal aspects” are concerned, namely the correct application of law in the decisions of the Courts of Appeal of the entire Italian territory. I represented the Prosecution before different chambers of the Supreme Court, particularly in criminal, civil and “labor rights” cases. My activity was highly appreciated by the Supreme Court Directive Council in the final report that has been issued after the end of my service there.

- **National Member for Italy at Eurojust from January 2010 to December 2014,** appointed by the Italian Minister of Justice with the favorable opinion of the High Council for the Judiciary. The particular mission of Eurojust led me to assist national and European judicial authorities in the procedures of judicial cooperation and assistance, as well in facilitating the coordination of transnational investigation. The Italian Desk of Eurojust has been, during my mandate, at the top positions for number of cases dealt with and I personally committed myself and my assistants to provide the best possible assistance for the positive results of the cooperation or coordination, also thanks to the “coordination centres” specifically created, the relationship with Europol and national Police Forces, the coordination meetings between judicial and police authorities of all the Member States of the E.U. and, in several cases, also with third countries.

I had the opportunity to deal with transnational crime cases in the field of organized crime, money laundering, child-pornography, drug trafficking, carousel frauds, European arrest warrants, financial and economic crimes, trafficking and smuggling of people and goods.

I have been member of some of the Teams of Eurojust, particularly the External Relations Team, in charge of the relationship with Third Countries and the EJM-LM Team (contacts with European Judicial Network and Liaison Magistrates). I chaired the Financial and Economic Crime Team, which was – at that time – the Team with the higher number of members and with wide competence in the mentioned area.

All this activity increased my knowledge of the European and international Institutions thanks to several working missions to European and non-European countries.

Moreover, it gave me the possibility to live and work in a multi-cultural environment, thus confronting different cultures, different historical and legal traditions and always trying to find positive solutions and the right balance between different positions.

During my permanence at Eurojust, I was called to give speeches – on issues related to international judicial cooperation and different forms of serious crimes affecting many States around the world – by training institutions, foundations, Committees of the European Parliament; I also participated, with a speech, in a world conference organized in Australia on trafficking of human beings and exploitation of children, also for sexual abuse.

I have also been appointed as Contact Point for Child Protection at Eurojust, so increasing my expertise in protection of particularly vulnerable victims and investigative means to fight exploitation of minors.

- Chief District Prosecutor in Palermo since December 2010, upon appointment of the Italian High Council for the Judiciary.

My Prosecutor Office is currently composed by seven (7) Deputy Prosecutors and sixty-one (61) Prosecutors, with an administrative staff of more than 350 employees, and an Administrative Director.

As Chief District Prosecutor, I supervise (and sometimes also carry out personally) large scale investigation against many forms of organized crime, including mafia crimes, financial crimes, THB, money laundering, international drug trafficking, etc.. I am responsible for the prosecution in the area of competence of my Office, monitoring and directing the activities of the Prosecutors, according to the law, the regulations and the internal rules of the Office (that include the selection of priorities).

I currently direct and lead a complex structure (PPO Palermo). This activity increased my directive capability. The Office is divided into four Divisions, according to the choice I made after having consulted all the Prosecutors working there. One of such Divisions, set up a few weeks after my taking of office, is competent for investigation concerning crimes against “vulnerable victims”; another working group has been created to fight against the trafficking and smuggling of human beings, which is a phenomenon of particular relevance in our territory, due to the geographical position of Sicily in the Mediterranean area, close to the North African countries. Also in this respect, particular attention has been paid to the rights of the victims of such crimes, ensuring them with all the form of protection provided by the Italian laws. Several convictions have been issued against many responsible, including “life sentences” and other severe penalties.

The Antimafia Unit is personally led by me and deals with all the crimes committed by mafia-type associations and Cosa Nostra members (like murders, extortion, drug trafficking, money laundering, and so on). In several investigations, special attention (and, if necessary, personal protection) has been given to the position of victims, stimulating and taking advantage of the local civil society associations and anti-racket organisation, which assist many victims of extortion in their cooperation with justice.

A number of trans-national investigations have been carried out or are still ongoing – many of them personally conducted by me – with the use of all the available international legal instruments (treaties, conventions, decisions, bi-lateral or multi-lateral agreements). My Office is also member of a **“Joint investigation team” that includes the participation of the ICC-OTP.**

In her recent speech before the U.N. Security Council pursuant to Resolution 1970 (2011), **the Prosecutor of the ICC specifically mentioned an investigation carried out by PPO Palermo** as a recent development. It concerns convictions for the crime of torture, after an investigation carried out – and arrests obtained - by my Office (although the trial took place in the city of Messina, due to procedural issues linked to the place of arrest). The report of the speech so states (para 27):

“The Office welcomes several recent developments that have taken place in this regard. This includes the sentencing of three individuals to 20 years imprisonment by the Court of Messina in Italy for crimes committed against migrants in Zawiyah.”

It seems particularly important to underline the above statement, made by the ICC Prosecutor, because it shows how narrow is the link between some national investigation – included the one above mentioned carried out, among others, by my Office – and the crimes against humanity that are the ones for which the ICC itself was established. In addition, it shows also, if correctly read and interpreted, that cooperation with national jurisdictions, through the instruments of the int'l judicial cooperation, can be of great support to the activity of the OTP and for the achievements of the goals of the ICC “mission”.

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Extensive use has been made, during my entire career, of special investigative techniques together with the wide use of electronic instruments, also inside my Office.

During these last nearly six years, I had to face many organizational aspects, together with the Administrative Director, which required strategic choices on the allocation of resources and cases. All the most important decisions have been taken after a thorough study, with the previous creation of “study groups” (composed both by Prosecutors and staff members) and this resulted in directives and annual or multi-annual organizational programs that have been adopted with the full consensus of all the Prosecutors of my Office.

I’ve issued dozens of directives addressed both to Prosecutors and Judicial Police Forces, aimed at improving the efficiency and effectiveness of investigative and prosecutorial activities, which resulted in a high rate of convictions by the competent Judges and in the significant reduction of the backlog, together with a special attention to the management of financial resources.

Furthermore, I actively participated – as I had already done during the period 1990-1997 (see above) in international activities linked with the execution of letters rogatory; just to mention the most important, very positive results were overall obtained through working missions in U.S.A., Canada, France, Germany, and more recently in Thailand and Andorra.

The Italian High Council for the Judiciary, as well as the Italian MoJ, recognized my leading and managerial capability when it comes, specifically, to the direction of PPO Palermo. Indeed, I’ve been confirmed in my position for a new “four-years term”, after the positive evaluation made by the District Judicial Council.

A specific mention needs to be done to the organizational commitment caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. The need to reduce the risk of infection has required the adoption of several new directives, following the numerous decrees issued by the national and local authorities, that required (often on a daily basis) new organizational forms of the work of my Office, also in accordance with other judicial authorities of the District and the Bar Association that represents the defense counsels. Several improvements have been made in the use of new technologies, in the computerization of many investigative and prosecutorial activities, in the re-allocation of human resources and cases according to the pandemic emergency and the available premises.

To sum up, a very complex managerial work that has been necessary due the big structure of the Office I currently lead, above mentioned.

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Consequently, after nearly 40 years of career, I am in the highest qualification level to be appointed to the highest prosecutorial or judicial offices: and indeed, the High Council for the Judiciary has appointed me in 2014 as Chief District Prosecutor in Palermo, one of the biggest PPOs in Italy.

As to the languages, I am fluent in Italian (C2) and English (C2), with a good knowledge of French (B1, particularly when it comes to legal documents) and a basic knowledge of Spanish (A1, whose legal documents I can anyway read and understand).

Since the '90s of last century, I played for many years an extensive role in the field of international judicial cooperation: I've been appointed as trainer for judges, prosecutors and police officers in several EU and CoE training programmes; as member of evaluation teams (JHA) in EU former candidate countries and for GAFI-FATF (evaluation mission in Liechtenstein) and UN (expert mission in Guatemala to verify the legal and political conditions to set up a special Prosecutor Office for fighting crimes committed by para-military groups); as contact point of EJM since its creation and as National Member of Eurojust for five years (see above).

I have been recently called (June, 2019) to participate in a "High Level Debate" at the UN premises in New York City, giving a speech on the "Role of Regional Groups in the fight against organized crime".

Considering the direction of PPO Palermo, of the Italian Desk at Eurojust, the membership at the High Council for the Judiciary and the chairmanship of some of its Committees, I've played high level directive roles (or senior management position) for many years.

I have already worked on drafting new rules of procedure, be at the Italian High Council for the Judiciary, be at PPO Palermo, be at Eurojust. Moreover, I have already experienced the opportunity to work in a multi-cultural environment; therefore, the possibility to work again in close contact with international Institutions and agencies may give me the chance to find an environment already familiar to me. The close cooperation with all the partners will be crucial. At the same time, legal systems and traditions of each country have to be carefully considered, with the aim of reaching the best possible results of investigation and prosecutions.

The full independence of the Prosecutors, in Italy, is widely known and taken as an example. The OTP will offer a serious guarantee of independence not only for the provisions of the Rome Statute, but also because the term of the Prosecutor is non-renewable. In this respect, being currently 63 years old, I will be able to serve for the entire nine-year term.

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