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By Brian Cox



Giuseppe Cattani
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Located in northern Italy, Milan was in the global spotlight when it recently co-hosted the 2026 Winter Olympics with the mountain resort of Cortina d'Ampezzo.

At a time when the world may seem especially splintered and afflicted with grievous strife, it seems fitting that “harmony” served as the theme of the opening ceremony at the 2026 Winter Olympics in Milan.

The traditional Olympic spectacle, which was held February 6 in San Siro Olympic Stadium, celebrated a world where differences inspire dialogue between peoples and cultures rather than conflict and accord between humans and nature rather than exploitation.

Giuseppe Cattani, a corporate attorney and managing partner with FDL Studio Legale in Milan, planned to attend the highly anticipated event with his family.

“Experiencing the Olympics in our own city is a rare privilege and a unique occasion that we did not want to miss,” he says. “Beyond the sporting excitement, the games create a unique atmosphere of unity and celebration that is felt throughout Milan. Being part of that experience is something we looked forward to with enthusiasm.”

The Milano Cortina Winter Olympics were the first winter Olympics held in Europe in 20 years. For the first time, the games had dual-host cities: the vibrant city of Milan and the posh Alpine resort town of Cortina d'Ampezzo. Covering an area of nearly 10,000 square miles, the 2026 Games was among the most widespread Winter Olympics and Winter Paralympics ever. Events took place across several top Italian ski resorts, including Livigno and Bormio in Alta Valtellina, Anterselva (Antholz) in South Tyrol and Tesero and Predazzo in Val di Fiemme.

There were 116 medal events over 19 days across 16 winter sport disciplines, which fall into three categories: snow sports, ice sports, and sliding sports. More than 3,500



Milan attorney Giuseppe Cattani (right) takes a short break to capture the beauty of the snow-capped Alps while skiing with his friend Alessandro Rebutti, a professor at Johns Hopkins Carey Business School in Washington, D.C.

athletes from 93 countries competed for 195 medals.

Milan, a dynamic global hub for fashion, finance, and design, showcased ice hockey, figure skating, short track speed skating, and speed skating.

The games have attracted major investment in various Milanese sectors, mainly in infrastructure and tourism. Infrastructure investments are primarily focused on creating permanent sports facilities and upgrading the public transport network. Total investments for the games were projected to be around €3.5 billion. There was also a significant influx of capital into the hotel sector and related real estate developments considering the expected increase in tourists during and after the event.

The games, according to Cattani, bring global attention to the city's capabilities.

But beyond the economic dimension, Cattani says hosting the Olympics is also a milestone for the city socially and symbolically.

"It reinforces Milan's identity as a dynamic, innovative, and internationally connected metropolis," he says.

The legal framework behind the Olympics is very wide and complex, according to Cattani. It involves large-scale contracts, procurement rules, sponsorship agreements, and compliance with international regulations and governance standards. IP protection, particularly regarding branding and broadcasting rights, is also crucial, as well as navigating environmental and public-law issues.

"Hosting the games requires seamless coordination between institutions, private partners, and global organizations," he explains, adding that his firm was involved

in numerous matters in the run-up to the games. "The Olympics has generated new professional opportunities for us, particularly among clients involved in hospitality and commercial or sponsorship projects linked to the games. The Olympics have served as a catalyst for certain innovative ventures, and we are pleased to support businesses seeking to contribute to this great event."

FDL Studio Legale is a boutique firm built on the idea that clients deserve both technical excellence and a highly personalized relationship with their legal advisors. Since 1974, it has provided high-quality legal expertise to national and international companies, ranging from small to middle-sized, up to large multinational groups.

The business law firm's work spans corporate and commercial law, labor law, domestic and international contracts

and litigation, and complex cross-border matters – areas where Cattani says strategic insight makes the difference.

"Over time, we have shaped an identity rooted in competence, reliability, and a forward-looking mindset," he says. "However, what truly defines us is our culture: we are intellectually rigorous but flexible and collaborative, as we believe that our legal work must always fit with the business needs of our clients."

For many years, the firm had its offices in Palazzo Borromeo, a renaissance palace built in the 16th century. The location was a reflection of both Milan's heritage and the firm's longstanding ties to the city's professional community. Recently, the firm relocated its offices to another historic and prestigious building in Via Saffi, an area known for its concentration of respected law firms and notaries. It is a very elegant and central neighborhood

Cattani and his wife Marcella enjoy hiking or skiing most weekends near their home in Milan, which is less than two hours' drive from the Alps and many popular ski resorts.



– rich in history and just steps away from Leonardo da Vinci's "Last Supper" – that captures the essence of Milan's cultural and intellectual life.

"This new location represents continuity in our identity, deeply rooted in tradition yet positioned at the heart of contemporary legal and business activity," says Cattani.

The 2026 Winter Olympics brought the world's finest athletes to Milan and Italy won a record-breaking 30 medals, including 10 gold. Italian athletes traditionally excel at alpine and cross-country skiing, which are also the sports where they have historically won the most Olympic medals. More recently, Italy has developed strengths in biathlon, snowboarding, and short track speed skating.

Cattani is especially passionate about downhill skiing.

"Sports offer a valuable balance to the intensity and sedentary lifestyle of legal work, therefore I try to remain active whenever my schedule allows," says Cattani, who enjoys hiking or skiing most weekends.

Milan is less than a two-hour drive from the Alps and from many popular ski resorts and only three hours away from the incredible Dolomites, a mountain range in northeastern Italy renowned for skiing and mountain climbing and a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

"If you live in Milan and want to enjoy outdoor sports, you'll be spoiled for choice," says Cattani proudly. 🇮🇹

