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She obtained a PhD degree in Law from the Complutense University of Madrid (Extraordinary PhD Award), and an LL.M. in European Community Law from the University of Essex (United Kingdom). She was a Visiting Researcher at Harvard Law School in 1995 and carried out a stage at the Legal Service of the European Commission (Brussels) in 1996.

Prof. Plaza has collaborated in several national and European research projects in the areas of European Union law, environmental law, climate change, and competition law. She has also attended working meetings in the realm of environmental protection, human rights, and gender equality convened by EU institutions (such as the Council of the European Union or the European Parliament) and international organizations (such as the OECD and the United Nations). She has delivered courses and lectures on European Union Law, Environmental Law and Policy, and Equal Opportunities Law and Policy at various Universities in Europe and Latin America.

From May 2015 to October 2022, she was Legal Counsel of the Spanish Constitutional Court, and from January 2012 to April 2015 she was General Director for Equal Opportunities and Director of the Women's Institute (Ministry of Health, Social Affairs and Equality). She has likewise collaborated with legal foundations and law firms at different stages of her career.

Carmen Plaza is the author of several books, chapters of books, and articles on European Union Law and Environmental Law, among which we can highlight the following:

- “Climate Governance: New Challenges to the So-Called ‘Environmental Democracy’”, *European Review of Public Law*, Vol. 35, 1/2023, pp. 109-141.
- “Climate Change: Turning the World (and Public Law) Upside-Down”, en K. Gromek-Broc (Ed.), *Public Law in a Troubled Era. A Tribute to Professor Patrick Birkinshaw*, 2023, pp. 67-86.
- “Gobernanza y participación pública frente al cambio climático”, en J.F. ALENZA y L. MELLADO (Dir.) *Estudios sobre cambio climático y transición energética*, 2022, pp. 633-654.
- “Grietas en el techo de cristal: instrumentos jurídicos para promover el equilibrio entre mujeres y hombres en los puestos de responsabilidad”, *Revista General de Derecho Administrativo* nº 58, Iustel, 2021, pp. 1-51.
- “Los principios del Derecho ambiental de la Unión Europea y su impacto en la jurisdicción Contencioso-Administrativa” en R. Alonso García y J.I. Ugartemendia (Dir), *La incidencia del Derecho de la Unión Europea en la jurisdicción contencioso-administrativa*, IVAP, 2019, 180-203
- “La aplicación de las disposiciones del segundo pilar del Convenio de Aarhus en España. Los avances y los viejos retos” | Revista Catalana de Dret Ambiental (raco.cat), 2018.
- “The Interface between EU Energy, Environmental and Competition Law in Spain”, XXV FIDE Congress (International Federation of European Law), Tallin, 2012: *Volume 2 - The Interface Between European Union Energy, Environmental and Competition Law*, Tartu University Press, 2012.
- L. Ortega, L. Arroyo y C. Plaza (Ed.) *Spanish Administrative Law under European Influence*, Europa Law Publishing, 2010.
- “State liability for legislative injustice, National Procedural Autonomy and the Principle of Equivalence”, *Review of European Administrative Law*, vol. 3, nr.2, 2010, pp. 27-51.
- Normas aplicables a los procedimientos de exigencia de responsabilidad medioambiental, en B. Lozano, *La Ley de responsabilidad ambiental*, Cívitas, 2008, pp. 419-451.
- *Tratado de Derecho Ambiental de la Unión Europea*, Tirant lo Blanch, 2005, pp. 1250.