

## **NIÁ:WEN KOWA!**

My professional mandate with Kahnawà:ke clients ends on December 31, 2022 and, after almost 30 years of serving Kahnawà:ke in various capacities, I have decided it is time to step away. I admit it was a difficult decision and one that I made after long and careful deliberation.

I began my legal career in Kahnawà:ke in 1993, at which time, I co-founded and managed MCK's Legal Services department. Over the years, I had the privilege of working closely with Grand Chief Joseph Tokwiro Norton and many other legendary Kahnawà:keró:non, too numerous to name.

During the time I acted as senior legal counsel for MCK, my principal mandate was always clear: find ways to advance and strengthen Kahnawà:ke's jurisdiction in all areas. To this end, I drafted, or assisted in drafting, a variety of Kahnawà:ke laws and regulations, all grounded on Kahnawà:ke's own inherent jurisdiction; provided legal and political advice; attended meetings with federal and provincial authorities; and appeared on behalf of MCK before judicial and administrative bodies—including the Supreme Court of Canada. They were exciting and memorable times.

Over the past several years, the focus of my practice has been on helping build the gaming industry in Kahnawà:ke. I have worked closely with the Kahnawà:ke Gaming Commission, Mohawk Internet Technologies and Mohawk Online Kahnawà:ke—and helped them develop robust and sustainable structures for both online and land-based gaming. I had the pleasure of working with some of the best and most knowledgeable in the gaming industry, including Dean Montour and Marnie Lahache—two of my closest friends.

My wife, Lynne, and I now look forward to taking some time to travel and to 'smell the roses'. That said, I hope to maintain my personal friendships and professional relationships with many in Kahnawà:ke.

I have always been proud to serve Kahnawà:ke and have done so to the best of my ability. I would like to thank everyone I have ever worked with for their kindness, friendship and support. Most of all, I want to thank Kahnawà:keró:non for allowing me to play a role in the evolution of your incredible and unique community. It has been the experience of a lifetime.

Niá:wen kowa!

Murray Marshall