



## LAW – Mark L. Stevenson (I.P.C.) Victoria, British Columbia

Mark L'hirondelle Stevenson's goal is working towards truth and justice for Indigenous people – including as a founding member and past President of both the Indigenous Bar Association and Aboriginal Legal Services of Toronto to a tireless advocate of treaties in British Columbia.

Mark's family originates from the historic Metis community of Lac Ste. Anne, Alberta. Mark was raised in the Comox Valley. He now practices law and lives in Victoria with his wife Kimberly, an artist and passionate horsewoman.

He has a Masters of Law from the University of British Columbia, Bachelor of Law from McGill University, and Master of International Relations from Jawaharlal Nehru University in India. His deep spiritual beliefs come from his mother and the time spent in India.

Mark's career began in 1982 at the Privy Council in Ottawa working on Indigenous constitutional matters. He then worked as Legal Counsel for the Ontario Native Affairs Secretariat from 1987 to 1991, and as a Chief Treaty Negotiator with the Government of British Columbia from 1991 to 1998, when he went into private practice.

In addition to his work in the British Columbia Treaty Process, Mark has negotiated a wide variety of agreements on behalf of Indigenous People including Oil, Gas and Mineral Revenue Sharing Agreements, Pipeline Agreements, Forestry Agreements, and Impact Benefit Agreements linked with Hydro mega projects. Mark also provides advice on best practices for structuring First Nations businesses to optimize tax advantages and limit liability. He was also instrumental in the development of the *First Nations Financial Management Act*, and the settlement legislation for the Tsawwassen Final Agreement.

Mark was a commissioner for the Law Commission of Canada, developing its Indigenous agenda, and urging the Commission to shape the debate on the Crown's fiduciary duty. He is also a board member of the Canadian Civil Liberties Association, bringing the urgent issue of the police's treatment of Indigenous offenders to the forefront.

In 2009 Mark received the Indigenous Peoples' Counsel (IPC) designation from the Indigenous Bar Association, which recognizes outstanding accomplishments achieved with honour and integrity – a fitting tribute to a tireless advocate and legal warrior.

### **CAREER MILESTONES**

- Founding Director and Past President, Indigenous Bar Association
- Founding Director and former Chair, Aboriginal Legal Services of Toronto
- Former Deputy Speaker for the Metis Nation of British Columbia
- Legal Counsel and Chief Negotiator for Lheidli T'enneh Final Agreement concluded in 2009
- Legal Counsel and Chief Negotiator for K'omoks First Nation Agreement in Principle concluded in 2012
- Legal Counsel and Negotiator for Kitselas and KitsumKalum First Nations Agreements in Principle concluded in (2015)
- Author of numerous publications on Indigenous Law and Metis Rights.