

# Martin Niven Walker, Esq.

## Counselor & Educator

*Executive Private Attorney, Dedicated Leader and Counselor, possessing many years of refined expertise in the successful legal advisement of municipalities & small business owners. Demonstrated successes in university lecture, clinical research, circuit research, and overall legal and academic excellence.*

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### QUALIFICATIONS PROFILE

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#### **Achievements:**

- Possess a proven trial record in Civil Law- Landlord Tenant issues and contracts, Criminal Law, and Department of Human Rights Claims.
- Appointed member of Public Schools Ethics Commission.
- Administrative Hearing Officer for County Seat for 3 years
- Former Conflict Attorney for 19<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit Court of Lake County.

#### **Real Estate Development Experience:**

- Serve as current in-house counsel for Key Realty Group, Inc. and Principal Walker Apartments, successful closing 90% of all commercial and residential sales, purchases, and leases through expert negotiation and corporate acquisition skills.
- Acquired \$3.6M rental project and provided real estate strategy from conception throughout all phases of project.
- Special Counsel to Waukegan Park District in successful purchase of several Commercial Real Estate projects.
- Commercial lease and negotiation specialist for several Lake County small franchise business owners

#### **Local, State, and Federal Agency Experience:**

- Current Administrative Adjudication Hearing Officer, Chairman of Waukegan Emergency Telephone Systems Board, and Deputy Local Liquor Commissioner for the City of Waukegan.
- Served as Associate Attorney for 6 years on Waukegan Township Board, attending all board meetings and serving as a Commercial Real Estate Attorney to consult on all township real estate purchases.
- Drafted legal strategy and filed and/or appealed the following: Complaint under AIDS Confidentiality Act, Employment Discrimination Charges (EEOC & IDHR), and Discrimination Charges under Fair Housing.

#### **Housing & Urban Development (HUD) Regulations Experience:**

- Served as counsel for hundreds of HUD sales, compiling legal reports for executive-level decision making.
- Served as Corporate Attorney for low-income houses and apartment complexes (Walker Apartments), overseeing 12-years worth of lease enforcement, evictions, possession orders, and judgment collections.

#### **Labor Law Experience:**

- Identified client needs and drafted sensitive and confidential legal strategy to file and negotiate IDHR & EEOC sexual harassment charges, maintaining client interest as primary focus during proceedings.
- Spearheaded severance package benefit negotiations for both state and private employees in addition to victims of racial discrimination, demonstrating an ability to reach resolutions for clients.

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### PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

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#### **WALKER LAW FIRM, LLC**

2010 – Present

##### ***Founder / Owner***

Direct and execute daily legal operations related to investigations into attorney misconduct, prosecutorial violations, and judicial corruption as Conflict Attorney of the 19<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit. Complete investigations and compile findings into informed reports for client and legal review, making executive-level decisions regarding legal strategy and court proceedings.

##### ***Key Accomplishments:***

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- Identify and address client legal needs through informed legal work, fostering excellent professional relationships with key industry leaders to enhance client legal services and to promote efficient legal proceedings.
- Maintain high-level of accountability, confidentiality, and integrity during all client and legal communications.

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## UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-PARKSIDE

2009 – 2011

### *Lecturer*

Served as Professor of Criminal Justice, educating students on Race, Crime, and Law with a focus on the application and use of policy, theory, history, and practice to understand intersecting legal and racial environments. Through rigorous coursework, examined the impacts of personal prejudice, ideological racism, and institutional racism.

### **Key Accomplishments:**

- Developed and maintained relationships with students, serving as a consultant and advisor for a series of academic and personal issues; demonstrated ability to counsel students effectively through sound leadership.
- Designed and implemented engaging and effective learning strategies to optimize academic outcomes.
- Assessed student performance through the generation of real-life scenarios to test student knowledge.

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## JOHN L. JOANEM & ASSOCIATES, P.C.

2005 – 2010

### **Associate Attorney, General Practice**

Oversaw case management, evaluation, and conduction for criminal, civil, family, and personal injury cases. Spearheaded legal negotiations to achieve plea deals and agreed-upon verdicts that satisfied client needs and expectations. As Associate Attorney, completed several legal projects taken by firm, including residential and commercial real estate title work, overseeing closing of sale and ensuring optimal legality during deal negotiation.

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## CAREER NOTES

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**International Clinical Research & Writing Assistant**, Sam Moseley & Co., Solicitors, London, England  
**ABA Judicial Clerk of the 19<sup>th</sup> Circuit & Private Research Assistant**, Lake County 19<sup>th</sup> Circuit, Waukegan, IL  
**Music Clearance Coordinator**, Warner Bros. Television  
**Current Celebrity Clientele:**  
Tiffany Brooks, HGTV designer and television personality

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## EDUCATION & CREDENTIALS

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**Juris Doctor & Certificate in Dispute Resolution**, Pepperdine University of Law  
**Masters in Writing/Journalism**, DePaul University  
**Bachelor of Arts, Finance**, Morehouse College

### **BAR ADMISSIONS:**

- State of Illinois
- State of Wisconsin
- Federal Bar, Northern District of IL

### **PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS:**

- Waukegan Public Schools Ethics Commission
- Lake County Bar
- Cook County Bar
- U.S. Bankruptcy Court, Northern District of Illinois
- American Bar Association

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## **SPECIFIC QUALIFICATIONS**

### **Real Estate Development**

- Current in-house counsel for Key Realty Group, Inc., closing 90% of all residential and commercial sales, purchases, and leases
- Corporate counsel for Principal Walker Apartments, LLC
  - Negotiated and closed corporate acquisition of \$3.6mm rental project in Milwaukee, WI
  - Inter-corporate buyout
  - Incorporated entity and reviewed all loan documents
  - Phase 1 considerations, ALTA Survey Review
- Commercial Real Estate Attorney for Waukegan Township
  - Negotiated possible acquisition of Waukegan Savings and Loan
  - Review of all lease agreements, sales documents
  - Phase 1 & 2 considerations, EPA Superfund site review
- Commercial Real Estate Attorney for Waukegan Park District
  - Purchase and renovation of corporate headquarters from conception to completion

### **Experience with Local, State and Federal Agencies**

- Current Administrative Adjudication Hearing Officer for the City of Waukegan
- Prior corporate counsel to the Zion Board of Fire and Police Commissioners
- Waukegan Township Board- associate attorney for 6 years
  - Attended all Board meeting
  - Researched numerous township and state law issues
  - Drafted Resolutions
  - Reported to Township Supervisor regularly
- Waukegan Township Board- private Commercial Real Estate attorney and consultant for potential purchases; consulted all members of the Board on various commercial real estate matters
- Waukegan Emergency Telephone Systems Board- newly appointed Chairman for 2016
- Illinois Department Of Human Rights (IDHR)- Plaintiff's attorney
  - Negotiated several Confidential Separation and Release Agreements for local state employees
  - Filed negligence complaint under the AIDS Confidentiality Act
  - Filed employment discrimination charges under race and sex
  - Filed and appealed discrimination charges under fair housing
- Of counsel to the Waukegan Park District Board of Commissioners and Commercial Real Estate Attorney for recent purchase of Waukegan Savings & Loan Building
- Code Enforcement and Negotiations- Village of North Barrington

### **Knowledge of HUD Regulations**

- Purchaser counsel for hundreds of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) home sales
- Title Agent for First American Title Agency and Chicago Title
- Corporate Attorney for Principal Walker Apartments, LLC and Walker Apartments
  - Walker Apartments has provided quality, low-income housing and apartments to families in Waukegan, North Chicago, and Zion since the inception of all programs
  - Lease enforcement, evictions, possession orders, and judgment collections for over 11 years