



## TE AO MĀRAMA JUDICIAL GOWN

*Artist: Ngaire Tuhua*

*Iwi: Waikato-Tainui*

### Introduction

When the Te Ao Mārama kaupapa for the District Court was announced in November 2020, Sir Derek Lardelli was approached to assist the District Court to create a tohu or design for our gowns that would represent the Te Ao Mārama kaupapa. Sir Derek nominated Ngaire Tuhua from the Toihoukura School of Māori Arts in Gisborne to create the Te Ao Mārama design. Ngaire is of Waikato-Tainui descent.

The Te Ao Mārama design is a visual representation of the District Court as a place where everyone – whether they are defendants, witnesses, complainants, victims, parties, or whānau - can come to seek justice, regardless of their means or abilities and regardless of their culture or ethnicity, and regardless of who they are or where they are from.

### Colours

The colours incorporate several concepts including 'Te Pō' (the night) followed by the transition to 'Te Ata Hāpara' (the rising of the dawn) followed by 'Te Atatū' (the golden sunrise) and leading to Te Ao Mārama – a more enlightened world. The design is relevant to 'Te Pūioio' or connection that tangata whenua have through whakapapa to Ranginui (sky father) and Papatūānuku (earth mother). These ideas form part of the wider creation narrative that involves Tane Mahuta separating his parents to create the world of light.

### Design concepts

The design incorporates patterns such as 'mangopare' or the hammer head shark which symbolises the resilience required from participants and stakeholders in the court, 'poutama' represents the path to transformative change and 'ngutukura' is in reference to accountability and the power of voice within the court. All of these concepts have been weaved together to take the shape of a 'whare tipuna', a visual representation of a courthouse where people can come to seek justice. Justice that is administered with wisdom and understanding in accordance with principles of judicial independence.

### Karakia whakawātea (blessing)

The Kaihautū along with Judge Bolstad and Judge Raumati from Gisborne were the first to wear the Te Ao Mārama tohu at the swearing-in of Judge Blake at Whangara Marae on 4 December 2021. Sir Derek Lardelli recited a karakia whakawātea (blessing) when the gowns were first worn by the judges immediately prior to commencing the ceremony. That karakia was also intended to clear the pathway for all who choose to wear the Te Ao Mārama gown in the future.





Judges will be free to choose whether to have the design affixed to their existing judicial gowns. The gown upgrade will be completed by CK Film Design, a Wellington based art company who provide quality costumes, props, and set design services to the film, theatre and wider entertainment industries.

