

## **The Onondaga Nation's Amicus Brief in response to the Columbus Monument Corporation's Lawsuit against the City of Syracuse**

### **What is The Columbus Monument Corporation's Lawsuit?**

In May 2021 The Columbus Monument Corporation filed a law suit against the City of Syracuse to block the planned move of the Columbus Statue and claims that Mayor Ben Walsh does not have legal authority to do so. <https://bit.ly/3l1TsBH>

### **What is an Amicus Brief?**

The formal name: 'amicus curiae' is Latin for "friend of the court".

A person or group who is not a party to an action, but has strong interest in the matter, will petition the court for permission to submit a brief in the action with the intent of influencing the court's decision. <https://bit.ly/3uz50zC>

### **Key Points of the Amicus** (from the brief)

"Columbus Circle is located within the boundaries of the Onondaga Nation Reservation recognized by the 1794 Treaty of Canandaigua; and within their original homelands of the Onondaga Nation. In Article 2 of the Canandaigua Treaty, the US government guaranteed the Nation the "free use and enjoyment" of their protected lands."

"The Onondaga Nation and it's citizens have been subjected to five centuries of devastation caused by European Colonialism, including ethnic cleansing and removal, illegal takings of 99% of its original lands and waters (from 2.5 million acres to approximately 7500 acres); boarding schools,; forced assimilation, and attacks on their culture and language,

Centuries of colonialism has been the historic trauma felt by the Onondaga Nation citizens, which continue to the present. This monument is a significant cause of historic trauma for the Onondaga Nation and its citizens."

"The Nation played an active role in the Mayor's Panel, The Nation supports the Mayor's June 26, 2021 publicly stated goal of the panel: "I think that we can come up with a solution that leads to healing for our community, and that's the goal".

**Read the complete Amicus Brief at: [wishcny.org](http://wishcny.org)**

**How to support the amicus:** Letters to the editor in support of the Amicus before and after the judges decision on Oct 27 are important. Please post your support on FB, Twitter, Instagram

**NOON-** Neighbors of the Onondaga Nation A program of the Syracuse Peace Council. Contact: [www.peacecouncil.net/noon](http://www.peacecouncil.net/noon)

**WISH CNY** - Women of Italian and Syracuse Heritage. NY State Registered Charity. Contact: [hello@wishcny.org](mailto:hello@wishcny.org). Website: [wishcny.org](http://wishcny.org)