



Erick J. Giles

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Bio

Erick Giles represents federally-recognized Tribal Nations, Indian families, and non-profit organizations. He concentrates his practice on a wide array of complex legal issues facing tribes, including federal Indian law, treaty rights, Tribal and individual land stewardship, state and federal regulations, commercial contracts, economic development, labor and employment, cannabis and alcohol regulations, and federal recognition. As a LEED-accredited professional with a technical understanding of environmental design, Erick delivers substantial value to his clients on land use and planning legal issues.

Erick brings a wealth of personal experience to his work. He is a citizen of the Mvskoke (Creek) Nation of Oklahoma from the Rekackv (Broken Arrow) Tribal Town and the Katcv (Big Cat/Tiger/Panther) Clan. When he was growing up, Erick's family fought to keep their Broken Arrow land allotment from being sold and developed.

In his non-profit practice, Erick efficiently advises clients on non-profit organization development and management, and helps them to successfully navigate commercial transactions.

Practice Areas

Business & Corporate
Tribal Nations Law

Admissions

Maine
Muscogee (Creek) Nation Tribal Court
New Mexico
Oglala Sioux Tribal Court
Quapaw Nation Tribal Court

Erick is a recognized thought leader in the Indian law field. In 2016, he authored *Indian Law Resource Center, Native Land Law: General Principles of Law Relating to Native Lands and Natural Resources*, Lawyers ed. In 2015, he authored *Climate Change Adaptation in Indian Country: Tribal Regulation of Reservation Lands and Natural Resources* in the William Mitchell Law Review. Prior to joining Drummond Woodsum, Erick worked for the Indian Land Tenure Foundation concentrating on American Indian property rights and tribal economic development.

In his free time, Erick enjoys playing club league lacrosse, and he formerly played for the Haudenosaunee Nationals lacrosse team. He also gives back to the community through many organizations including the National Tribal Land Association, the Intertribal Tax Alliance, and the Haudenosaunee Nationals Development Group.

Education

University of Maine School of Law, J.D., 2016

University of Southern Maine, Certificate of Graduate Study, Applied Research and Evaluation Methods, 2012

University of Oklahoma, Master of Regional and City Planning, 2005

University of Oklahoma, Master of Public Administration, 2005

University of Oklahoma, B.A., Native American Studies, 2002

Professional Certifications

American Institute of Certified Planners (AICP)

Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design Accreditation Professional (LEED AP)

Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED)

Environmental Systems Research Institute: ArcGIS I

Publications

Eli-Tpitahatomek Tpsakuwakonol Waponahkik (How We, Native People, Reflect on the Law in the Dawnland), 74 Me. L. Rev. 209 (2022)

Indian Law Resource Center, Native Land Law: General Principles of Law Relating to Native Lands and Natural Resources, Lawyers ed., Thomson Reuters (2016)

Climate Change Adaptation in Indian Country: Tribal Regulation of Reservation Lands and Natural Resources, William Mitchell Law Review (Vol. 41 Spring 2015 Edition)

Recognition

Best Lawyers “Ones to Watch” – Native American Law (2022-2026)

Chambers & Partners, USA Guide, *Nationwide, Native American Law, Up and Coming*

University of Oklahoma American Indian Student Leadership Award (2002)

Community/Public Service

Haudenosaunee Nationals Development Group
Chair, Board of Directors, 2021-present

National Intertribal Tax Alliance
Board Member, 2023-Present

National Tribal Land Association
Board Member, 2021- Present

South Portland Youth Lacrosse
Coach, 2022 – present

South Portland Planning Board, South Portland, Maine
Planning Board Member, August 2013 – June 2015

Indian Land Tenure Foundation, Little Canada, Minnesota
Board of Directors, June 2006 – October 2011
Chairman (2011)
Secretary/Treasurer (2008 – 2011)

Riverside Indian Boarding School, Anadarko, Oklahoma
Counseling Specialist, August 2001 – December 2001

Habitat for Humanity, Cheyenne River Indian Reservation, Pierre, South Dakota
Volunteer, July 1999