



## Erick J. Giles

### Attorney

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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.

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

## Practice Areas

Business & Corporate  
Tribal Nations Law

## Admissions

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

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 Tpaskuwakonol 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*