



Indian Law

CONNER & WINTERS

ATTORNEYS & COUNSELORS AT LAW



Our Firm

Founded in 1933 in Tulsa, Conner & Winters, LLP, is among the oldest law firms in the Southwest. Originally the firm focused on general business counseling and litigation. Today, Conner & Winters is a highly diversified law firm with practices in a number of specialty areas—including employee benefits, securities law, international law, construction law, labor and employment law, tax law, not-for-profit entities, environmental law, corporate and securities law, financial and banking, energy law, American Indian law, and others.

In addition to Tulsa, C&W today has other offices in Oklahoma City, Northwest Arkansas/Fayetteville, Washington, D.C., Houston, Santa Fe, and Jackson, Wyoming.

Conner & Winters has developed a reputation for hiring top law graduates, for providing quality legal services, and for maintaining a casual environment that makes our firm a great place to work and to do business.



Our Indian Law Practice

In the field of Indian law, we represent clients throughout the United States. One aspect of our practice focuses on the representation of tribal interests. We also assist corporate, business, and other clients in matters in Indian Country. Our work in this field is diverse—recent matters have ranged from Indian law litigation to cultural properties law counseling, from representation of tribal governments to complex Indian Country business transactions, and from trust matters to matters involving tribal sovereignty.

Our clients receive not merely Indian law counseling, but also assistance in the specialized areas of law that arise in business and in governmental affairs. Our Indian law clients have access to all of the specialty practices and resources of a large firm.



Cultural Resources

We provide counseling in a variety of areas of the law relating to cultural and historical resources in Indian Country. We have provided assistance to clients on matters involving the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act and other cultural protection laws. We also have experience with issues under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. Our Indian law team recently helped implement a program enabling telecommunications companies to satisfy the requirements of Section 106 in Indian Country in a speedy and efficient manner.

In all of our legal work in Indian Country, we recognize that each tribe is unique. We strive to develop a knowledge of the history and customs of each of the tribes we represent.



Tribal Representation

Our Indian law team has extensive experience in representing tribal governments and in handling matters involving tribal law. Our work in this area has involved serving as tribal general counsel, and in handling matters ranging from real estate transactions to housing issues, from assisting with contract administration to handling matters in tribal taxation, and from providing counsel in tribal-state compact negotiations to assisting with business and financial transactions. We also assist tribes with code development.

We have handled a range of Indian law matters in litigation, including cases involving sovereignty and sovereign immunity, tribal tort claims, Indian Country environmental matters, and others. We also have extensive experience in tribal-state negotiations.



Environmental

Our firm has a broad range of expertise in environmental matters, and in particular we have experience in handling environmental matters in Indian Country. Our attorneys regularly handle environmental litigation involving CERCLA, RCRA, the Clean Water Act, and other statutes. We currently represent a tribe in litigation involving one of the largest Superfund sites in the nation. We also handle a variety of matters involving regulatory compliance.

Aside from litigation, our team has assisted tribes in successful negotiations and mediations involving environmental issues. We regularly assist with tribal-state initiatives designed to foster better intergovernmental cooperation relating to the environment.



Trust & Trust Asset Management

We work extensively in the field of tribal and Indian trust law—one of the most dynamic and important areas of Indian law today. Our team has experience in major matters involving federal management of tribal and individual Indian assets. We have handled major litigation in this area, including litigation involving a tribal government's request for a historical accounting of the fund and nonfund management of its trust assets. In that case, our team assisted with a successful mediation that resulted in a unique settlement under which the tribe is conducting its own historical accounting pursuant to a federal contract.

In addition to tribal trust counseling, we assist with a number of projects to help individual tribal members gain more of an active role in the management and oversight of their trust assets.



Indian Country Business

Conner & Winters has well-established and experienced practice groups that support Indian Country business transactions. These include our corporate, securities, construction, real estate, taxation, charitable organizations, and tobacco practice teams and attorneys. Our attorneys who practice in the areas of employment, employee benefits, and labor law also have experience in Indian law matters.

Among other recent Indian Country transactions, our corporate and securities group recently has assisted tribes with large corporate acquisitions and a \$200 million private bond offering to finance a new casino and resort project. We also support smaller Indian Country business deals. Our team that focuses on representation of not-for-profit entities recently assisted a Native American Church chapter in obtaining recognition as a charitable organization under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.



Litigation

In the field of litigation, we have the experience and resources of a large law firm. The attorneys in our trial department litigate in federal and state courts and in administrative tribunals around the nation. We represent a number of national and regional corporations in a broad range of matters, including cases involving labor and employment law, tort defense, energy and oil and gas law, construction law, and environmental law.

We regularly handle litigation in Indian law matters. Recently, we have handled significant cases involving, among other issues, tribal sovereign immunity, tribal jurisdiction, Indian Country business transactions, Indian gaming and casino accounting, tribal trust, and the Indian Child Welfare Act.

Our Indian law team has practice experience in a number of federal courts across the Southwest, in tribal courts, in federal agency tribunals, and in the Courts of Indian Offenses and Appeals.



Appellate Litigation

Appellate litigation is a specialty area of the law in which our firm has extensive experience. Our Indian law team regularly practices in a number of the United States Courts of Appeals across the nation, and we have assisted with cases before the United States Supreme Court. In addition, our team has administrative law experience, and we frequently practice before agency tribunals including the Interior Board of Indian Appeals and the Civilian Board of Contract Appeals.

Among other recent Indian law appeals, we have represented tribal governments in cases involving tribal sovereign immunity, federal program jurisdiction over tribes, and environmental matters.



Stephen R. Ward ■ Partner, Tulsa

Mr. Ward, who leads the firm's Indian law practice, has extensive experience in litigation, appellate litigation, and administrative litigation. He has handled significant matters in Indian law—including litigation relating to tribal sovereign immunity and sovereignty, tribal and individual Indian trust, casino fraud, and environmental law. Mr. Ward has assisted with several large business transactions in Indian Country, including, recently, a \$200 million casino and resort project. He is General Counsel of the Quapaw Tribe of Oklahoma.

Throughout his career, Mr. Ward has been involved in litigation for regional and national entities. This has included litigation involving environmental matters, energy, employment, the federal False Claims Act, and intellectual property.

Before entering practice, Mr. Ward served as a judicial law clerk to a federal district judge, then to the chief judge of the United States Court of Appeals for the Tenth Circuit. He is a former journalist.

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Juanita Huntzinger ■ Legal Assistant, Tulsa

Ms. Huntzinger provides support for the firm's Indian law practice in the areas of litigation, in Indian Country transactions, and in the tribal governmental practice.

Ms. Huntzinger has worked on large and complex litigation throughout her career, including major environmental and energy law cases. In the field of Indian law, she has worked extensively in projects related to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, including the negotiation and implementation of tribal-federal memorandums of understanding and programmatic agreements. She also has experience in working with the Bureau of Indian Affairs and other federal agencies on a variety of matters, including permitting and real estate matters. She has assisted with several large business transactions in Indian Country.

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Nancy Scott Fields ■ Certified Legal Secretary, Tulsa

Ms. Scott, with over 24 years of experience in the legal field, provides support for our Indian law and tribal governmental practices. She has experience in supporting Indian law matters, general civil and corporate litigation and transactions.

Ms. Scott received a Bachelor of Fine Arts from the University of Oklahoma in 1977 in ballet pedagogy, and has extensive professional dance experience. She is a member of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation and the Cherokee Nation.

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IN
AMERICAN INDIAN LAW

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Our tribal clients impressively need the Indian law expertise and resources of a large law firm—in areas ranging from employment law to real estate transactions, and from business litigation to legal financial services.

They don't have to go far.

For 75 years, we've been right here in the heart of Indian Country.

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Quapaw Tribe go! This 134-year-old Quapaw culture gets better every year—example of how the Quapaw Nation is growing. It's an exciting time to be here proud to be a part of it.

Attend at Conner & Winters, Gun ne-gah!

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Dance Music Refreshments F-U-N!!!

Dance Costume Men's Lulu Men's War Whoop Misc Prizes & Give

Committee Would Like To Sponsor This Event!

CONNER & WINTERS ATTORNEYS & COUNSELLORS AT LAW

TRIBAL A
BUSINESS
LEADERS

ROUNDTABLE

First Place To
37th Floor

Wednesday
February 18, 2015
4:00 p.m.

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Our Commitment

We have a commitment to all of our clients and to Indian Country that goes beyond business. We buy powwow ads and sponsor dances, tribal golf tournaments, and other client activities in Indian Country. Recently, it has been our privilege to sponsor events of the National Congress of American Indians, and to contribute to the NCAI's Supreme Court project. We sponsor an award for the American Indian LLM program at the University of Tulsa College of Law. We provide legal assistance to an American Indian theater group. We have hosted roundtables for tribal and business leaders.

Conner & Winters strives not only to represent, but to be a part of Indian Country.

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