



## Brian L. Pierson

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### Practice Areas

Environment & Energy  
Strategies

Indian Nations

### Admissions

Wisconsin

### Education

Juris Doctor, University of  
Wisconsin Law School,  
1983, *cum laude*



Brian's Indian law practice began over twenty-five years ago with his representation of Chippewa Indians in a successful federal court lawsuit to enjoin interference with treaty-reserved off-reservation fishing rights. As leader of the firm's Indian Nations team, Brian's primary objective is to draw on the knowledge and experience of Godfrey & Kahn's attorneys to assist tribes in formulating and implementing strategies that strengthen tribal sovereignty, with a particular focus on business development, environmental protection, renewable energy and housing development. Brian also frequently advises tribes on tribal constitutional, ordinance and governance matters. He has extensive experience representing developers, lenders and others who partner with tribes to pursue Indian country business opportunities.

Brian has worked on Indian land title records reform with the National Congress of American Indians and leasing reform with the National American Indian Housing Council (NAIHC). A frequent conference speaker and author on Indian law issues, Brian's recent articles on Indian country housing development and the Indian Nonintercourse Act were published in the *American Bar Association's Affordable Housing Journal* and the *Federal Lawyer Magazine*, respectively. He is the author of the NAIHC's Indian Country Housing Development Handbook.

### Court Admissions

United States Supreme Court

United States Court of Appeals, Seventh Circuit

Various tribal courts

### Activities

Chair of Wisconsin State Bar Indian Law Section

Board Member, Gerald I. Ignace Indian Health Center, Milwaukee, Wisconsin

### Academic

Adjunct Professor, Marquette Law School

### Honors

Listed in *Best Lawyers in America* (Native American Law, 2013 - present)

Recognized as a *Wisconsin Super Lawyer* (2005 - 2017)

Wisconsin's Civil Libertarian of the Year award - American Civil Liberties Union

Service to Indian Country award - American Indian Chamber of Commerce Wisconsin

AV Preeminent® Peer Review Rated by Martindale-Hubbell®

*The National Law Review* Go-To Thought Leader Award (2019, 2021)

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