



MAURICE R. JOHNSON

**Tribal Attorney, Tribal Judge and
Transaction Navigator
Of-Counsel**

Attorney

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Maurice R. Johnson serves as of-counsel to the firm. Maurice has over 22 years' experience in federal Indian and tribal law and is an Associate Judge of the Meskwaki Tribal Court. In addition, Maurice is a transaction navigator. He works to simplify your company's complex transactional needs while protecting cash flow and turning your brewing business deals into reality. He represents CEOs, business owners, tribal councils and executives when they are buying, selling, employing and doing deals. With over 28 years of legal experience, Maurice has successfully represented clients in numerous settings including but not limited to: business, real estate, employment, gaming, regulatory, municipal, telecom, arbitrations, mediations, tribal, federal and civil courts. Maurice's passion and experience helping businesses and governmental entities land big deals means protected cash flow, more successful companies, and happier clients – worth it.

Education:

Creighton University School of Law, Omaha, NE J.D., 1990

University of Nebraska at Omaha, Omaha, NE, Bachelors of Arts in International Relations, 1987

Employment:

Sac & Fox Tribe of the Mississippi in Iowa: (Meskwaki) Tama, IA

Associate Tribal Judge, March 2018-Present

Omaha Tribe of Nebraska: Macy, NE

Attorney General, February 2014 –February 2017

- Established and directed the Office of the Attorney General to serve as legal advisor to the Tribal government.
- Developed agendas and materials for board and membership meetings; prepared minutes, resolutions and subject matter memos; prepared all required notices. Served on committees, task forces, and special projects.
- Judged the merits of major court cases filed against or on behalf of the Tribe, worked with the appropriate leaders to define a strategic defense; negotiated/ approved settlements where warranted.
- Updated and modernized outdated codes, policies, and procedures.

- Successfully represented the Utility Department in action filed by the Environmental Protection Agency.

Thompson Law Offices: Omaha, NE

Lead Attorney, April 2013–January 2014

- Responsible for legal representation of firm’s Tribal clients.
- Areas of practice included gaming, land claims, employment law, taxation, land acquisition, Tribal jurisdiction, construction contracting, code drafting/revision, and all facets of Tribal operations.
- Coached, mentored, trained and developed firm’s Attorneys and staff.
- Utilized construction law expertise to assist a Tribal client in the rebuilding of a casino and Tribal housing destroyed during state-wide flooding.

Sac & Fox Tribe of the Mississippi in Iowa: Tama, IA

Attorney General, June 2008–March 2013

- Represented the Tribe and its Casino in all aspects of Tribal government and gaming business including commercial transactions, contracts, corporate, economic development, environmental, employment, family, jurisdiction, land use, law enforcement, litigation, and tax issues.

Johnson Thompson LLP: Omaha, NE

Senior Partner, July 2002–June 2008

- Represented the firm’s Tribal clients and their governmental departments, businesses and committees.
- Litigated in Tribal, State and Federal Courts.
- Interpreted law and policies, developed Tribal codes, analyzed legal documents, review and drafted contracts.
- Negotiated on behalf of Tribes with government agencies.
- Performed pro-bono work on behalf of California Tribe on cultural land use issue.
- Volunteer Attorney with Justice for Our Neighbors.
- Represented clients in state courts regarding international adoptions.

Fredericks Peebles & Morgan LLP: Omaha, NE

Associate Attorney, February 1995- July 2002

- Represented Tribes in the Midwest and California, prepared pleadings and briefs, took and defended discovery, conducted hearings and litigated actions or proceedings through trial.
- Developed a specialty in federal statutes as they relate to land acquired in trust by the United States on behalf of Tribes, prepared complex Indian land opinions.
- Communicated with opposing Counsel, Co-Counsel and Federal/State/Tribal agency representatives.
- Cases of note include: Santee Sioux Tribe. United States, 174 F.Supp.2d. 1001 (D. Nebr. 2001); In Re Desiree F (Co-Counsel, admitted to California Court pro hac vice) 2000 Cal. App. Lexis 733 (2000); and, Missouri River Services, Inc. v Omaha Tribe, 267 F. 3d 848 (8th 2001).

Douglas County Nebraska Public Defender: Omaha, NE

Assistant Public Defender, March 1991- October 1994

- Extensive Juvenile Court experience involving daily courtroom practice.
- Developed significant experience representing Indian children under the Indian Child Welfare Act.
- Served as Guardian Ad Litem to children involved in dependency, neglect and/ or abuse cases in the Juvenile Court.

- Interpreted and applied statutes, case law and legal precedent. Prepared motions, briefs and other pleadings including comprehensive citation of cases, opinions and legal precedent.

Bar Admissions:

Iowa and Nebraska

Professional Organizations & Community Involvement:

- American Bar Association, Business Law Section
- Tribal In-House Counsel Association
- Nebraska State Bar Association, Indian Law Section, and Employment Law Section
- Iowa State Bar Association, Real Estate and Title Sections

Articles, Presentations and Achievements:

- Co-author of “Due Diligence in Business Transactions with Tribal Governments and Enterprises”
The Nebraska Lawyer, August, 2005
- Successfully represented the Omaha Tribe of Nebraska before the U.S. Supreme Court as co-counsel in *Smith v. Parker*, which solidified precedent the Supreme Court follows in reservation diminishment issues.
- Established successful government-owned Agricultural Business Corporation.
- Prepared new leasing policies and agricultural resource management plans resulting in increased revenue and more efficient use of land.
- Established business corporations and acted as Co-Counsel in a bank acquisition.
- Created In-House Legal Department, reducing client’s use of outside counsel resulting in substantial savings.
- Progressive, proactive approach to municipal code drafting resulting in enhanced protection of health, safety and welfare of communities.
- Counseled 17 Native American Tribes and the University of Nebraska on a culturally sensitive issue resulting in an unprecedented, unified historic agreement.
- Executed several complex “Fee-to-Trust” real estate transactions for Tribes resulting in land added to reservations for gaming and other purposes.
- Acted as Co-Counsel in lawsuits against the U.S. Government on behalf of 16 Tribes regarding mismanagement of funds held in trust by the U.S. Government, resulting in multi-million dollar settlements for the Tribes.