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Kurt V. BlueDog

Mr. BlueDog has been in the active practice of federal Indian law for nearly 30 years almost exclusively on behalf of Indian Tribal governments and the various instrumentalities of Tribal government. He was born and raised on the Sisseton-Wahpeton Sioux Indian Reservation in South Dakota. After he graduated from the University of South Dakota he served as a Commissioned Officer in the Army paratroopers. Kurt graduated from the University of Minnesota School of Law in 1977. He is a member of the State Bars of Minnesota and Wisconsin, several Tribal Courts, the United States Supreme Court and numerous Federal District and Appellate Courts.

Prior to working in private practice, he worked for the non-profit Native American Rights Fund (NARF) in Boulder, Colorado as a Staff Attorney. His experience at NARF involved extensive litigation experience in the areas of Indian education, economic development, tribal sovereignty, American Indian religious freedom, land rights, tribal recognition, corrections and housing. His experience at NARF also provided him with Legislative activity in a broad range of Tribal Sovereignty matters, Indian religious activity, tribal acknowledgment, tribal colleges and enactment of and implementation of the Texas Band of Kickapoo Act, P.L. 97-429, and the American Indian Religious Freedom Act, P.L. 95-431. Currently, Mr. BlueDog is involved in litigation, administrative and legislative activity representing tribal concerns. The emphasis of his practice has been in the area of tribal commercial law, corporate law, gaming, and economic development.

Mr. BlueDog has served as an adjunct professor at William Mitchell College of Law and the Hamline University School of Law in St. Paul, Minnesota. Additionally, he serves as the Chief Judge for the Fond du Lac Reservation Tribal Court (10 years), and on the Executive Committee (15 years) of the National Indian Gaming Association.

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Andrew M. Small

Andrew M. Small began his practice with the Gros Ventre and Assiniboine Tribes of the Fort Belknap Reservation in Montana in 1981, after he had interned with them for two years. He also served as counsel for the Blackfeet Nation, the Rocky Boy's government, and the Crow Tribe. His practice has included all aspects of Tribal government including development of courts, Tribal child welfare protection, promulgation of laws, natural resources and water protection, sovereignty defense, housing, taxation, tribal membership, domestic relations, treaty rights negotiation and litigation.

Andrew Small has served as general counsel and special counsel for thirteen Tribes and is admitted to practice in fourteen Tribal jurisdictions throughout Indian Country, as well as Circuit Courts of Appeal and the United States Supreme Court. Andrew Small was one of the principal drafters of the Iowa ICWA law of 2003 and he has worked with others to prepare similar legislation for consideration by other state legislatures.

Andrew served as an Associate Judge for the Lower Sioux Indian Community from 1995 to September 2005 and as the Children's Court Judge for the Prairie Island Mdewakanton Dakota Community from 1994 through 2002. During his decade as a judge, he assisted in the successful petition to the Minnesota Supreme Court for a recognition rule, now known as Rule 10 of the General Rules of Practice.

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[about us](#)[services](#)[resumes](#)[links](#)[contact us](#)**Attorneys** (back to [resumes](#))***Greg S. Paulson***

Mr. Paulson has been practicing federal Indian law with the firm since being admitted to practice in the State of Minnesota in 1994. In 2002 he became a partner in the firm. He graduated from William Mitchell College of Law in June of 1994, after receiving his Bachelor of Arts degree in political science from Augsburg College.

Mr. Paulson has experience in federal, state and tribal court litigation, and successfully briefed and argued a case before the Eighth Circuit Court of Appeals on behalf of a tribal entity that established the latest pronouncement by the 8th Circuit on the extent to which tribal entities are protected by a tribe's sovereign immunity. Mr. Paulson also has substantial experience in gaming law, employment law, including Tribal Employment Rights laws and Indian preference, representation of community colleges and tribally controlled schools, drafting tribal legislation, fee-to-trust acquisitions, health, environmental, and many other tribal government concerns. His practice in Indian law also includes assisting non-profit organizations aiding the Indian community, and individual criminal representation of Native American people.

Mr. Paulson is a member of the Minnesota State Bar Association and has been admitted to practice in the Sisseton-Wahpeton Tribal Court of the Lake Traverse Reservation, the Court of the Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux (Dakota) Community, the United States Eighth Circuit Court of Appeals, the U.S. District Court for Minnesota, U.S. District Court for South Dakota and the U.S. Court of Federal Claims.

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[about us](#)[services](#)[resumes](#)[links](#)[contact us](#)**Attorneys** (back to [resumes](#))**Jessica L. Ryan**

Ms. Ryan is an enrolled member of the Brothertown Indian Nation. She graduated from Hamline University College of Liberal Arts in 1994 and from Hamline University School of Law in 1997. After graduating law school, Ms. Ryan served as a law clerk in Hennepin County Juvenile Court and then as the clerk of court for the Prairie Island Mdewakanton Dakota Community Tribal Court and the Lower Sioux Community in Minnesota Tribal Court prior to becoming an associate attorney at the firm. Ms. Ryan practices in the area of federal Indian law. Much of her practice has centered on litigation on behalf of various Tribes and Bands in state and tribal courts on issues related to child welfare; as well as drafting and analyzing legislation and policies affecting Indian families in Minnesota, South Dakota and Iowa. In addition, Ms. Ryan has addressed various issues related to jurisdiction, sovereignty, contracts, employment, child custody and child support. Ms. Ryan has successfully briefed and argued before the Minnesota Court of Appeals regarding the Indian Child Welfare Act as well as briefed and argued jurisdictional issues before the South Dakota Circuit Court, and has been invited to present at various state and nation-wide conferences.

Ms. Ryan serves on the Board of Directors for the Indian Child Welfare Law Center as vice-president and the American Indian Policy Center, as the secretary. She is a member of the Minnesota State Bar Association and the Minnesota American Indian Bar Association. Ms. Ryan has been appointed by the Minnesota Supreme Court to serve on the Implementation Committee on Multi-cultural Diversity & Racial Fairness in the Courts Task Force Committee; the Minnesota Tribal Court/State Court Judges Association; and the Minnesota Supreme Court's Children's Justice Initiative. Ms. Ryan continues to volunteer as a Guardian ad litem on the panel serving American Indian families in Hennepin County and recently assisted in preparation of a Petition for Federal Acknowledgment on behalf of a tribe.

Ms. Ryan has been admitted to practice law in Minnesota, the Court of the Sac & Fox Tribe of the Mississippi in Iowa, the Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux (Dakota) Community Tribal Court, the Sisseton-Wahpeton Tribal Court of the Lake Traverse Reservation, and the Northern Plains Intertribal Court of Appeals. Ms. Ryan has appeared *pro hac vice* in the states of Iowa, South Dakota and Wisconsin.

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Todd Roen has practiced Indian law for nine years, both as in-house counsel with the Bad River Band of Chippewa Indians and Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe, as well as with the firm since 2000. Todd routinely represents tribal governments, tribal governmental entities and tribal businesses. He has worked with tribal governments in the areas of gaming regulation, housing, enrollment, environmental protection, tax law, education, construction law and child welfare. Todd has drafted many tribal codes, ordinances, resolutions and policies. Todd also has litigation experience at both the trial and appellate levels in many areas affecting tribes and tribal businesses.

Education: B.A., University of the State of New York (1992); J.D., University of Minnesota (1996).

Admitted to Practice: Tribal – Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Tribal Court; Bad River Band of Chippewa Tribal Court; Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux (Dakota) Community Tribal Court; Spirit Lake Tribal Court. State – Minnesota; Wisconsin. Federal – U.S. District Court for the Western District of Wisconsin.

Professional Associations: Minnesota American Indian Bar Association; American Bar Association.

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