von Briesen
von Briesen & Roper, s.c. | Attorneys at Law



Frank W. Kowalkowski

Attorney

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Frank Kowalkowski is a Shareholder in the Green Bay office. He has an extensive Native American Law practice representing municipalities, counties, state governments, businesses and individuals relative to fee-to-trust applications, reservation boundary disputes, jurisdictional disputes, land use issues, mining operations, tribal permitting, tribal taxation, tribal business licenses, contracting with Native American tribes, tribal jurisdiction over non-tribal members, on and off reservation hunting and fishing rights, EPA regulations, and tribal policing authority. He has handled cases in state, federal and tribal court, as well as the Interior Board of Indian Appeals in Washington, D.C. On appeal, he has had dozens of Bureau of Indian Affairs decisions to place land in trust vacated, thereby preserving his clients' jurisdiction over the land, as well as its tax base. In 2019, he was lead counsel in a federal lawsuit filed against a municipality and, ultimately obtained a ruling (currently under appeal in the 7th Circuit Court of Appeals) that the plaintiff's reservation had been substantially diminished thereby preserving the municipality's jurisdiction. He has given numerous presentations, authored articles and has been quoted in various publications on the topic of Native American Law.

Frank is also a member of the Construction Law and Litigation Section where he represents contractors, material suppliers, architects, engineers, municipalities and owners on issues in both commercial and residential real estate projects, including real estate acquisition and development, contracts, construction claims, insurance coverage disputes and the establishment and foreclosure of liens. He has represented clients throughout the country in Wisconsin-based construction disputes. Frank was featured in the *Wisconsin Law Journal* as one of the Top Construction Lawyers in Wisconsin in 2008. He has successfully represented builders, developers and lumber companies in several states defending against copyright infringement claims relating to architectural plans. He developed the curriculum for the Construction Law and Builder Qualifier courses at Northeast Wisconsin Technical College, which he also teaches.

Frank has a significant appellate practice and has represented clients before the 7th Circuit Court of Appeals, the U.S. Supreme Court, the Wisconsin Court of Appeals and the Wisconsin Supreme Court.

Frank is very active in the community and currently serves as a member of the Executive Committee of the Board of Directors for Neville Public Museum Foundation Inc., where he also chairs the Governance Committee. He also coaches high school track and serves on the board of AP Vaulting, Inc., a non-profit athletic organization specializing in pole vaulting. He previously served on the Board and Executive Committee for the Lakeland Chapter of the American Red Cross and as President of the Notre Dame of De Pere School Board.

Areas of Practice

- Government Law
- County and Municipal Governance
- Native American Law
- Construction Law and Litigation
- Commercial and Business Litigation
- Litigation and Risk Management
- Dispute Resolution
- Appellate

Education

- Marquette University, J.D., *magna cum laude*, 1992
- University of Wisconsin-Green Bay, B.S., 1987

Bar Admissions

- Wisconsin
- U.S. District Court, Eastern and Western Districts of Wisconsin

- U.S. Court of Appeals, 7th Circuit and 8th Circuit
- U.S. Supreme Court

Professional and Civic Associations

- Eastern District of Wisconsin Bar Association (EDWBA)
- 7th Circuit Bar Association
- American Bar Association
- State Bar of Wisconsin
- Brown County Bar Association

Honors and Accomplishments

- *The Best Lawyers in America*©, Native American Law (2018-2021)
- Top Construction Lawyers in Wisconsin, *Wisconsin Law Journal* (2008)

Community Involvement

- Neville Public Museum Foundation Inc., Board of Directors Executive Committee, Governance Committee Chair