Howard & Howard
law for business

Tribal Law

Trusted Counsel for Tribal Nations, Tribal Enterprises, and Business Partners

Howard & Howard provides strategic legal counsel to tribal governments, tribal enterprises, and businesses seeking to engage with tribal nations. Our attorneys understand the unique legal, regulatory, governmental, and business considerations that arise in matters involving tribal sovereignty, economic development, and intergovernmental relationships.

We work closely with tribal leaders, governmental entities, and commercial organizations to develop practical solutions that support long-term growth, protect tribal interests, and navigate complex legal frameworks. Drawing on our experience across multiple practice areas, including business law, taxation, real estate, litigation, labor and employment, regulatory compliance, and economic development, we help clients address challenges while advancing their strategic objectives.

Supporting Tribal Governments and Tribal Enterprises

Tribal nations operate within a legal environment that often involves tribal, federal, state, and local laws. Howard & Howard assists tribal governments and enterprises with a broad range of legal matters, providing guidance that respects tribal sovereignty while addressing evolving business and regulatory needs.

Our services include:

- Tribal governance and legislative matters, including drafting and reviewing codes, ordinances, policies, and statutory language
- Advising elected officials, tribal councils, boards, and governmental departments
- Economic development initiatives and strategic planning
- Business acquisitions, joint ventures, and commercial transactions
- Entity formation and organizational structure planning

- Tax planning and related compliance matters
- Contract drafting, negotiation, and review
- Regulatory compliance and risk management
- Gaming and gaming-related regulatory matters
- Real estate, land use, and development projects
- Employment and labor law counseling
- Commercial litigation and dispute resolution

Economic Development and Commercial Growth

Successful economic development is essential to supporting tribal communities and creating opportunities for future generations. Howard & Howard advises tribal governments and enterprises on complex business transactions, financing arrangements, infrastructure projects, and commercial ventures.

Our attorneys help clients evaluate opportunities, structure transactions, negotiate agreements, and manage risk while pursuing sustainable growth and economic self-determination.

Business Relationships with Tribal Nations

Businesses seeking to work with tribal governments and enterprises often encounter legal issues that differ from traditional commercial transactions. Questions involving tribal sovereignty, jurisdiction, taxation, regulatory authority, contracting, and dispute resolution require careful analysis and planning.

Howard & Howard assists companies doing business with tribal nations by providing guidance throughout the transaction lifecycle, from initial negotiations and contract development to compliance and dispute resolution. We help clients build productive relationships while navigating the unique legal landscape that governs tribal commerce.

Government and Public Entity Counsel

In addition to serving tribal governments, Howard & Howard advises governmental and public-sector entities on a variety of matters, including:

- Drafting and revising ordinances, codes, policies, and contracts
- Public entity formation and governance

- Contract negotiation and dispute resolution
- Open meetings and public governance matters
- General counsel services for boards, commissions, and governmental bodies
- Legal representation at public meetings and administrative proceedings

A Collaborative Approach

We recognize that tribal nations face legal and business issues that require both technical legal knowledge and an appreciation for tribal governance, culture, and long-term objectives. Howard & Howard is committed to delivering practical counsel, responsive service, and solutions tailored to each client's unique needs.

Whether you are a tribal government, a tribal enterprise, or a business seeking to engage with a tribal nation, our attorneys are prepared to help you navigate complex legal issues and pursue your goals with confidence.

Contact Howard & Howard to learn how our Tribal Law team can support your organization.

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