

PARTNER

Sarah R. Monkton

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📍 Bend



Native American Law / Federal Indian Law

Sarah began her career in the field of Indian Child Welfare, representing tribes across Alaska as a non-attorney advocate in foster care proceedings. She currently advises tribes and tribal organizations on a variety of matters, including sovereignty and the trust relationship, public safety, litigation, contracts, inter-governmental partnerships such as Indian Managed Care Entity (IMCE) agreements, contracts, and the Indian Child Welfare Act.

General and Special Counsel

Sarah provides a range of general and special counsel services to tribal clients as well as public and private entities, including advising with respect to governance and compliance, executive leadership, contracting, and employment. She has significant experience advising on discrimination law and public safety. Her advice emphasizes good governance and risk management to enable her clients to achieve their operational goals while remaining compliant and true to organizational values.

Investigations and Trainings

Sarah previously served as the Chief of Enforcement/Deputy Director of the Alaska State Commission for Human Rights, where her work included overseeing the team of investigators responsible for responding to discrimination complaints. Today, she provides comprehensive investigation services to a range of clients in highly sensitive matters, including allegations of discrimination, misconduct, and other violations of law or policy. Sarah also has significant experience responding to administrative investigations by both state and federal agencies, including Oregon's Bureau of Labor & Industries (BOLI), U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), Office of Inspector General, and U.S. Department of Justice's Office of Civil Rights. She also provides trainings ranging from governance concerns to employment topics.

Notable Experience

- Representation of tribes and tribal organizations on matters including trust litigation, sovereignty issues, and governance
- Representation of nonprofits and community associations focusing on employment matters and governance

CORE PRACTICES

Native American Law
Labor & Employment
Investigations
Special Districts
Police & Public Safety

EDUCATION & ADMISSIONS

Education

University of Maine School of Law,
J.D., cum laude
Skidmore College, B.S.

Bar Admissions

Alaska
Oregon

- Investigation services and defense for employers and other public and private entities
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Accolades

- Sarah received the Edward S. Godfrey Leadership Award for her work as the Editor-in-Chief of the *Ocean and Coastal Law Journal*
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Professional & Community Involvement

- Attorney Admission Fund, U.S. District Court for the District of Oregon
 - Deschutes Public Library Foundation Board
 - Oregon State Bar, Indian Law Section
 - Oregon State Bar, Labor & Employment Section
 - Alaska State Bar, Alaska Native Law Section
 - Alaska State Bar, Alternative Dispute Resolution Section
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Thought Leadership

Presentations

- "The Americans with Disabilities Act & Law Enforcement: Accommodating Individuals in a Mental Health Crisis," National Sheriff's Association Annual Conference, June 25, 2025