



Frances is known for her deliberative approach and ability to find creative solutions to difficult problems.

Frances Sjoberg is a partner in the firm's Tribal Affairs, Gaming and Business Transactions practices. Her work focuses on economic development in Indian country, including real estate and commercial transactions, intergovernmental negotiations, and legislative and regulatory matters.

Frances's experience includes:

- compact and contract negotiation
- land acquisition and project development
- land-into-trust applications and analyses
- development of tribal business entities
- legislative and regulatory drafting
- jurisdictional challenges
- leasing and rights-of-way in Indian country
- self-determination contracts
- loan workouts
- settlement negotiations
- outside general counsel work

Practices

- Indian Law
- Real Estate
- Indian Gaming
- Tribal Lands and Natural Resources
- Energy and Utilities Regulation
- Gaming
- Government Relations
- Regulatory Compliance

Industries

- Indian Tribal Nations
- Gaming
- Real Estate and Construction
- Construction

- complex project management

Personal Approach

Frances is driven by her work supporting Native American tribal governments, tribal businesses, and entities doing business on tribal land to support development projects in Indian country. She enjoys tough questions and finding opportunities in adversity. Frances is a trusted consultant and a steadfast advocate. Known for finding creative solutions to difficult problems, Frances can lead and facilitate complex negotiations and conclude challenging matters, both directly and in a supporting role.

Frances was raised in a reservation border town, where she observed firsthand the positive impacts of tribal gaming and its role in the community and economic development. She also developed a keen appreciation for indigenous language, art, and culture. In her free time, Frances hikes, gardens, and cooks.

Education

- J.D., with honors, University of Arizona, James E. Rogers College of Law
- M.F.A., Warren Wilson College
- B.A., University of Arizona

Bar Admissions

- Arizona, 2012

Court Admissions

- Arizona Supreme Court

Community

- California Indian Law Association, Member, 2019-present
- University of Arizona Foundation, President's Club, 2014-present
- University of Arizona Poetry Center, Development Committee Member, 2014-present
- Arizona Center for Civic Leadership, Flinn-Brown Fellow, 2012-present
- Federal Bar Association, Indian Law Section
- State Bar of Arizona, Real Property Section, Indian Law Section
- Maricopa County Bar Association, Member
- Native American Bar Association, Arizona

- Woodlea Irrigation Water Delivery District No. 2, Board of Trustees, 2013-2015

Representative Matters

- Advising tribal governments and tribal entities in matters relating to tribal public health state of emergency due to the COVID-19 pandemic, including emergency election procedures, federal CARES Fund matters, and responsible reopening and operating procedures.
- Negotiation of Tribal-State gaming compacts in Arizona and California.
- Leasing and financing transactions related to leasehold interests on tribal lands.
- Represented tribe in development and opening of a \$400 million gaming facility after more than a decade of overcoming political obstacles and legal challenges, including drafting tribal law and policies, tribal authorizations, negotiation of contracts, and preparation of a fee-to-trust application involving *Carcieri*
- Represented tribal entity in acquisition of assembled fee land for economic development.
- Represented tribe in settlement agreement with the federal government relating to a law enforcement contract under the Indian Self-Determination and Educational Assistance Act.
- Represented tribe in fee acquisition of real property and liquor licenses to eradicate nuisance businesses affecting tribal and neighboring communities.
- Indian law counsel to lessee restaurateur in negotiating lease agreements with a tribal gaming authority for space lease in a new tribal casino.
- Represented lender in acquisition of luxury resort, hotel, and related assets in lieu of foreclosure.
- Represented court-appointed receiver in reacquisition and divestment of various real property interests and assets in New Mexico, Texas and Hawaii in conjunction with litigation and value-maximizing endeavors by joint defense parties.
- Represented preferred equity lender in acquisition from special servicer of \$142 million multifamily portfolio with 14 properties across six states.
- Represented limited liability company owner of assembled property in condemnation actions involving a state entity and lone wolf member expelled from company owner.
- Represented a small business in purchase and financing of its first commercial property.

Honors & Recognitions

- AZ Business Leaders, Native American Law, 2021
- Southwest Super Lawyers Rising Star, Native American Law, 2016-2021
- AZ Big Media, Top 100 Lawyers in Arizona, 2020
- Pro Bono Service Award, Lewis Roca Rothgerber Christie, 2015, 2016
- *Arizona Law Review*, Editor-in-chief, 2010-2011

- Tucson Business Edge, 40 Under 40 Award for Young Leaders, 2007
- Frances Sjoberg Named AZBusiness Leader 2021 in Native American Law
AZBusiness, 12/14/2020
- Matt Sweger and Frances Sjoberg Named Top 100 Lawyers in Arizona 2020
AZBusiness, 01/1/2020

News

- Lewis Roca Lawyers Recognized as 2021 *Southwest Super Lawyers*® and *Southwest Rising Stars*®
Honors & Recognitions | 04/8/2021
- Lewis Roca Lawyers Recognized as 2020 *Southwest Super Lawyers*® and *Southwest Rising Stars*®
Honors & Recognitions | 04/6/2020
- Lewis Roca Rothgerber Christie Lawyers Recognized as 2019 *Southwest Super Lawyers*® and *Southwest Rising Stars*®
Honors & Recognitions | 04/15/2019
- Lewis Roca Announces 13 Lawyers Named As Partner
Press Release | 01/10/2019
- Lewis Roca Rothgerber Christie Lawyers Recognized as 2018 *Southwest Super Lawyers*® and *Southwest Rising Stars*®
Lewis Roca Rothgerber Christie announced 25 attorneys have been recognized as 2018 *Southwest Super Lawyers*®
and 13 attorneys have been named as 2018 *Southwest Rising Stars*®.
Honors & Recognitions | 04/23/2018
- Freeman Named in Top 25 Arizona Women Lawyers
Annual listings reflect professional achievements for Arizona, New Mexico attorneys
Press Release | 04/11/2017
- DeWald, Freeman Share John P. Frank Pro Bono Attorney of the Year Award
59 attorneys earn recognition for providing more than 50 pro bono hours in 2016
Press Release | 04/4/2017
- Indian Country Land Use Contracts Complex, Challenging
Attorneys from Lewis Roca Rothgerber Christie to discuss strategies, challenges
Press Release | 01/26/2017
- Arizona, New Mexico Lawyers Selected as *Southwest Super Lawyers*
Annual listings reflect peer recognition and professional achievement
Press Release | 04/12/2016
- Pro Bono Service Awards Presented by Lewis Roca Rothgerber Christie
Annual awards honor memory of lawyer dedicated to equal justice and professionalism
Press Release | 03/22/2016

Publications

- 6 Things To Know When Developing on Tribal Land
AZRE, 04/4/2017
- Tribal Land Use Q&A
Commercial Executive Magazine, 03/12/2017

Events

- Presenter, "Ninth Circuit Recognition of Tribal Court Jurisdiction," Western Indian Gaming Conference, February 2020
- Moderator, "The Expansion of Tribal Court Jurisdiction," Western Indian Gaming Conference, February 2020
- Presenter, "Christie v. NCAA, Is Sports Betting on the Way?" 23rd Annual Western Indian Gaming Conference, Rincon Reservation, San Diego County, February 2018
- Presenter, "Negotiating Contracts on Tribal Lands, Resolving Easements and Rights of Way Issues on Reservation Lands," NBI Seminars, Flagstaff and Phoenix, February 2017
- Phoenix: Negotiating Contracts on Tribal Lands
02/9/2017