



John Williams is a member of the Conner & Winter's Native American/American Indian practice team with over 25 years experience in energy and Indian law. He concentrates his practice in Indian Country business transactions, energy development, tribal law, tribal corporate structure, regulatory law, FERC compliance and other natural resources law. As the project lead for a 1,000 megawatt power plant on tribal trust land in the Pacific Northwest, Mr. Williams managed a number of complex legal and business issues ranging from lease

and permitting issues to tribal corporate structure and joint development agreements. He originated the concept for Yaka Energy, LLC, the first tribally-owned energy marketing firm with a national presence. Mr. Williams' experience provided the framework for his most recently published work, *Paving the Way for the Future: Potential Structures for Tribal Economic Development*.

Mr. Williams possesses an excellent blend of legal, technical and business expertise. He began his professional career as a reservoir engineer with a leading oil and gas corporation. Later, he returned to law school where he specialized in Native American and natural resources law. During an internship with the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Mr. Williams wrote a model environmental code for use by tribal governments. This experience provided the basis for his first publication, *The Effect of the EPA's Designation for the Tribes as States on the Five Civilized Tribes in Oklahoma*. Additionally, he drafted the Cherokee Nation's original environmental code.

Mr. Williams gained in-depth energy expertise as an attorney and business development manager for a leading energy corporation and has practiced before the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) and the Comisión Reguladora de Energía in Mexico. His diverse experience in energy matters involved such areas as FERC regulated pipelines, power generation and transmission, energy marketing, and FERC compliance. He has applied his energy, business and regulatory expertise to projects in Indian Country.

Mr. Williams earned his Bachelor of Science degree in Chemical Engineering in 1988 from The University of Tulsa graduating cum laude. He also earned his Juris Doctor degree in 1992 from The University of Tulsa. In law school, Mr. Williams was awarded both the Eastern Mineral Law Foundation and the Rocky Mountain Mineral Law Foundation scholarships. He was also one of the first recipients of the Indian Law Certificate. Mr. Williams served on the *Energy Law Journal* as managing editor for ABA publications.