

Aurene M. Martin

Aurene Martin is the President of Spirit Rock Consulting, Incorporated, and a member of the Bad River Band of Lake Superior Chippewa. She has extensive experience in federal Indian Law and Policy, having served in several Tribal and Federal key government positions.

At Spirit Rock Consulting, Ms. Martin represents Indian tribes on Federal law and policy issues. She specializes in the areas of Tribal land acquisition and the fee to trust process, Tribal gaming and general Tribal government issues. She also handles a significant number of legislative policy issues, and has recently successfully advocated on behalf of her clients on issues relating the Federal land transfers and Federal tax issues.

Prior to entering private practice, Ms. Martin had a lengthy career in public service. As a high level political appointee at the Department of the Interior, she originally served as Counselor to the Assistant Secretary of Indian Affairs. She was elevated to Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary, and served for over a year as the Acting Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs before leaving the Department.

Before joining the Department of the Interior, she was Senior Counsel to the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs chaired by U.S. Senator Ben Nighthorse Campbell (R-CO), where she had a key role in developing legislation involving tribes, particularly in the areas of gaming and health care.

Ms. Martin came to the Committee from the position of Director of Congressional and Public Affairs for the National Indian Gaming Commission in Washington, D.C. Aurene began her career as Senior Staff Attorney of the Oneida Tribe of Indians of Wisconsin, where she worked for over five years. As in-house counsel to the Tribe, she was responsible for Indian Child Welfare Act litigation, state legislative affairs and gaming matters, and served on the Tribe's compact negotiation team in 1998. While at the Oneida Tribe, Aurene was responsible for the day to day litigation of Indian Child Welfare Act cases for the tribe, and also developed legislative testimony provided by the Tribe before Congress regarding the Act.

Ms. Martin attended the University of Wisconsin-Madison and the Università di Bologna in Bologna, Italy. She majored in History, Italian and History of Culture and received a Bachelor of Arts degree in 1989. She received her Juris Doctorate degree from the University of Wisconsin Law School in 1993. She is a member of the District of Columbia and Wisconsin State Bar. Aurene has been active in the Wisconsin State Bar Indian law section, having served as an officer of the section.