

**CHRISTOPHER L. BURFORD**

P.O. Box 428  
La Grande, Oregon 97850  
(541) 377-8501

**RESUME**

**SUMMARY OF QUALIFICATIONS**

- Nineteen years' experience as legal counsel to diverse governmental organizations.
- Eleven years' experience managing in-house legal departments.
- Four years' experience owning and operating a private law firm.
- Broad general experience in such governmental legal topics as: public meetings law, public records law, public contracting law, administrative law, civil litigation, government administration, employment law, contract law, criminal law, and real property law.
- Specialized knowledge of higher education law, municipal law, federal Indian law, and environmental law.
- Experience lobbying the Oregon Legislature and the U.S. Congress.
- Experience litigating in federal, state, and tribal courts.
- Licensed in Oregon, Washington, and the U.S. District Court of Oregon.

**WORK EXPERIENCE**

**University General Counsel and Board Secretary  
Eastern Oregon University**

**January 2015 - Present**

General legal counsel to regional state university. Advise and represent the university in legal matters such as student privacy law, Title IX compliance, disability law, employment and labor law, First Amendment law, public records and meetings law, contract law, real property law, and internal governance. Compile, publish, and manage the University's policies. Manage the university legal office. Oversee work of contract counsel.

Principal staff person providing support to the university's governing body, the Board of Trustees of Eastern Oregon University. Plan and organize board and committee meetings. Oversee production of minutes and maintenance of board records. Advise the Board Chair and Vice Chair, and the Chair of the Board's Governance Committee. Train and advise trustees in their duties.

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**Attorney at Law / Owner  
Burford Law Office, LLC**

**July 2011 – January 2015**

Operate a general practice law firm predominately representing and advising clients in municipal law, real property law, civil litigation, and estate planning and probate.

Served as contract Special Counsel to the City of Pendleton, predominately for civil transactional work relating to commercial leases, real property development, and environmental mitigation.

**Attorney General  
Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation**

**April 2003 – April 2011**

Senior staff attorney to the governing body and management team of a sovereign government that had a staff of over 500 persons and a budget of over \$120 million.

Supervised and administered the tribal Department of Justice, which consisted of four programs with a total of 10 staff and a budget of \$1.8 million. Directly supervised 5 staff attorneys. Administratively coordinated the work of four contract attorneys. Managed departmental budget and prepared administrative reports. The programs of the DOJ included: Legal Counsel, Prosecutor, Child Support Enforcement, and a contract for Legal Aid Services.

Attended all meetings of the governing body. Advised and represented the government in legal matters such as government administration, development of laws and regulations, intergovernmental relations, real estate transactions, criminal prosecution, child welfare law, environmental law, contract law, employment law, and diverse other areas of law. Drafted statutes, regulations, and resolutions. Worked with the public and administration at many levels. Advised and represented management in employment matters. Negotiated and documented real property acquisitions of several million dollars. Drafted intergovernmental agreements. Represented government in state and tribal court.

From April 2003 to November 2004 the title of this position was "Managing Attorney."

**In-House Attorney  
Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation**

**April 1998 – April 2003**

General legal counsel to government. Lead attorney on high-value real property transactions. Represented and advised the government in such diverse issues as intergovernmental relations, environmental law, cultural resource law,

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employment law, land use planning law, and child dependency. Represented government in federal, state and tribal court.

**Policy Analyst**

**April 1993 – April 1998**

**Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation**

Legally-trained member of an interdisciplinary team of scientists advising the tribal government about cleanup and natural resource management at the Hanford Nuclear Reservation in southeast Washington.

Developed expertise in various federal pollution control and natural resource protection laws. Contributor to a major environmental impact statement for the Hanford site. Drafted testimony to U.S. House and Senate committees and attended hearings regarding Superfund reauthorization. Served on the Hanford Natural Resource Trustee Council.

During this time period I actually had three successive position titles: Land Use Planner, Policy Analyst, and Legal / Legislative Coordinator, but the duties of the positions were the same. For the sake of brevity, I have let the title Policy Analyst cover the entire period.

**Supervised Attorney**

**September 1992 – March 1993**

**Law Clerk**

**Summer of 1991, Summer of 1990**

**Sorenson Law Office, Eugene Oregon**

Drafted pleadings and motions for federal court environmental litigation under the Endangered Species Act, Clean Water Act and Safe Drinking Water Act.

**EDUCATION**

**Juris Doctor (J.D.), University of Oregon School of Law,  
Eugene Oregon, 1992**

Study emphasized administrative law, civil litigation, federal Indian law, and environmental law.

**Bachelor of Arts (B.A.), Western Kentucky University,  
Bowling Green Kentucky, 1986.**

History Major, English Minor, Cum Laude.

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### **LICENSES AND MEMBERSHIPS**

Attorney at Law, Oregon State Bar, since 1992.  
Attorney Counselor and Advocate, U.S. District Court for Oregon, since 1993.  
Member, Umatilla Tribal Court, since 2000.  
Attorney and Counselor at Law, Washington State Bar Association, since 2004.

Institutional Representative, National Association of College and University Attorneys, since 2015.  
Institutional Representative, Association of Governing Boards of Colleges and Universities, since 2015.

### **OTHER PROFESSIONAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

I drafted amendments to sections 202, 803 and 902 of the Oregon Evidence Code which were enacted by the 2007 Oregon Legislative Assembly as HB 2364 and were signed into law by the governor.

I drafted amendments to the Oregon law of corporations and partnerships (Chapters 56 - 70 of the Oregon Revised Statutes), which were enacted by the 2009 Oregon Legislative Assembly as HB 2312 and signed into law by the governor. I testified in support of these amendments before the Oregon House and Senate Judiciary Committees.

I have drafted testimony presented to committees of the U.S. House and Senate.

Member of the Executive Committee of the Indian Law Section of the Oregon State Bar, 2001 - 2007 (Chair, 2006).

I have given over twenty public speeches at CLEs, professional conferences, schools and other public forums, including twice giving the main address at the Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Celebration in Pendleton, Oregon.

### **PERSONAL**

My personal interests are diverse, including year-round recreation in the blue mountains; singing in a chorale; sailing; literature and poetry; and reading about science, natural history and history.