



Education: Bachelor of Arts, University of Nebraska-Lincoln; JD, Columbia Law School

Company Name: Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld LLP

Industry: Law

Company CEO: Kim Koopersmith

Company Headquarters Location:

Number of Employees: 1,836

Your Location (if different from above): Washington, DC

Words you live by: How can my actions and decisions I make today result in a sustainable and better world seven generations into the future?

Who is your personal hero? My mom and my sister

What book are you reading? The Harry Potter series, with my oldest son

What was your first job: Gardening

Favorite charity: Notah Begay III Foundation

Interests: Tennis, yoga, Pilates, and reading

Family: Jackson Brossy (husband), Evan Brossy (son, 7 years old), and Jacob Brossy (son, 3 years old)

Equality Honors the Past and Informs the Future

When I was a young girl, I vividly remember stories my mother would tell me of her grandfather, the last Chief of the Second Rank of the Ponca Tribe, and of her mother who served on our Tribal Council, and their work on behalf of our Tribe.

I also remember when our Tribe was going through the process of being federally restored in 1990. At the time, I did not quite grasp the significance of our Tribe having been terminated by the United States government in the 1960s and then restored by an Act of Congress. However, I saw the unrelenting and tireless work that our tribal leaders undertook to regain our status as a federally recognized tribe and I knew that I wanted to follow in their footsteps to work on behalf of native people and native issues.

I was very fortunate to have strong role models and mentors growing up, most significantly my mother, a

single mother who put herself through college and graduate school, and went on to become the executive director of the Nebraska Commission on Indian Affairs. She always taught me and my sister that leadership and hard work starts at home.

With that strong background and encouragement, I set out to be one of the first members of my Tribe to go to law school, which is ultimately what led me to choose to represent Tribal Nations on critical policy and legal issues.

During my legal career, I have continued to be blessed to have amazing mentors who have helped shape, develop, and cultivate my legal career. The late Rodney Lewis from the Gila River Indian Community, and the first Native American to argue successfully before the United States Supreme Court, and Don Pongrace, the head of Akin's American Indian Law and Policy group, have been instrumental

in supporting me and providing sound legal and career advice.

Having been privileged to have such incredible mentors in my life, I try to pay it forward to support the next generation of Native business leaders and young Native attorneys. When I meet with young Natives, I emphasize that you have to put in the hard work, keep an open mind about career opportunities, and follow the path that is right for you.

The young Natives I meet with are passionate, motivated, and driven to continue to fight for tribal sovereignty and racial justice; I feel confident that the next generation of Native business leaders and attorneys will carry on the important work of our ancestors. In the spirit of Ponca Chief Standing Bear, we must all strive to make the United States a place of equality that honors the past and informs the future.