

Judge Robert D. Gifford (Cherokee) is the Chief Judge for the District Courts for the Kaw Nation and the Iowa Tribe of Oklahoma. In addition, he also serves as an Associate Judge for the Miami Tribe of Oklahoma and is an Appellate Judge for the Comanche Nation. Judge Gifford began his legal career as a Cherokee Nation law clerk under Chief Wilma Mankiller and then-Chief Prosecutor Chad Smith and served as an Editor on the American Indian Law Review at the University of Oklahoma College of Law.

In his daily capacity, Mr. Gifford is the founder of GIFFORD LAW, P.L.L.C. in Oklahoma City as a criminal and civil litigator with a practice in federal, state, tribal, and military courts. Prior to starting his own firm, Mr. Gifford was a Senior Trial Attorney with the law firm of Gungoll, Jackson, Box, and Devoll for nearly two years, for fifteen years as an Assistant U.S. Attorney in Oklahoma City, Washington D.C., and Reno, NV where he served as the Tribal Liaison, Human Trafficking Coordinator, Pardons and Commutations for the President, and Anti-Terrorism Coordinator. Judge Gifford also spent a year as an Tulsa County Assistant District Attorney, and nearly five years on active duty as an active duty Army JAG and is currently a Colonel in the U.S. Army Reserves (IRR), an Army War College graduate, and mobilized back to active duty in 2007-08 to work on the War Courts at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. Mr. Gifford has also served as an adjunct law professor teaching Trial Practice, National Security Law and Military Law at the law schools at the University of Oklahoma, Oklahoma City University, and taught law a semester at the University of Arkansas. Judge Gifford has also served as an instructor at the Department of Justice National Advocacy Center, the National Judicial College, the National District Attorney's Association, and at the U.S. Army Judge Advocate General's School.

Judge Gifford is previously served as the Chair of the OBA's Criminal Law Section (2018), founded and served as Chair of the Military and Veteran's Law Section (2012-14) and previously served on the OBA's Board of Governors 2013-16), was named the "Prosecutor of the Year" by the OBA's Criminal Law Section in 2013, and received the Justice Cardozo Award in 2016.