



## The 18<sup>th</sup> Annual **INDIGENOUS LAW CONFERENCE**

*Hosted by the Indigenous Law and Policy Center & Tribal In-House Counsel Association*

MICHIGAN STATE  
UNIVERSITY  
COLLEGE OF LAW

HOSTED VIRTUALLY NOVEMBER 4-5, 2021 • ALL TIMES ET

# Paul Spruhan

Assistant Attorney General, Navajo Nation Department of Justice

**Party or Amicus? Deciding When Your Tribal Nation Should Participate in Litigation**  
November 5, 2021, 10:30-11:45am ET

Paul Spruhan is Assistant Attorney General of the Litigation Unit at the Navajo Nation Department of Justice in Window Rock, Arizona. In that capacity, he litigates civil cases in federal, Navajo Nation, and state courts on a wide range of issues, including tribal sovereignty, environmental regulation, and labor and employment. He currently represents the Nation in *Hopi Tribe v. Trump*, concerning the validity of the reduction of Bears Ears National Monument, and *Brackeen v. Haaland*, concerning the constitutionality of the Indian Child Welfare Act. He received his A.B. in 1995 and his A.M. in 1996 from the University of Chicago. He received his J.D. in 2000 from the University of New Mexico. He has taught Indian law topics for Arizona State, Montana, New Mexico, and Tulsa Law Schools as well as Navajo Technical University. He has published law review articles in the *American Indian Law Journal*, *Tribal Law Journal*, the *North Dakota, South Dakota, and Tulsa Law Review*, as well as the *Rutgers Race and the Law Review*. He and his wife, Bidtah Becker, have two children and live in Fort Defiance on the Navajo Nation.

