

Jay Spaan, a citizen of the Cherokee Nation, serves as the Executive Director of Tribal Self-Governance, a 501(c)3 non-profit organization (formerly named Self-Governance Communication & Education Tribal Consortium). In this role, Jay has led a transformation of the organization into a hub for innovation, forging strategic partnerships and creating impactful educational initiatives. Under his leadership, SGCETC launched the acclaimed original docuseries *For Our People: Stories of Tribal Self-Governance and Sovereignty*, showcasing powerful narratives that celebrate Tribal autonomy and innovation.

In addition to his role at Tribal Self-Governance, Jay is an educator, sharing his knowledge as an Adjunct Faculty at both Arizona State University and the University of Nevada - Las Vegas. Since 2021, he has developed and taught courses on Tribal Self-Governance, crafting curriculum that bridges legal theory and practical application.

Prior to his current roles, Jay honed his analytical and policy expertise during a 13-year tenure as a Senior Analyst at the U.S. Government Accountability Office. There, he led critical evaluations of federal programs that serve Tribal Nations and their citizens, identified systemic challenges, and provided actionable recommendations to enhance government effectiveness.

Jay holds a Master of Jurisprudence in Indian Law from the University of Tulsa and a Master of Public Affairs.