

# GUNS & GAVELS

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COMMON LAW COURTS, MILITIAS & WHITE SUPREMACY

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Devin Burghart  
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COALITION FOR HUMAN DIGNITY  
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The authors,

Devin Burghart  
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# Introduction

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*This report is an examination of a new development, or better the reemergence of an old tactic, in the Christian Patriot wing of the contemporary far right: common law courts. Common law courts, known more grandiloquently as citizen grand juries, are self-elected vigilante organizations that claim the authority of law. Such "courts" have their theoretical roots in the Posse Comitatus of the 1980s and are intricately connected with that other spin-off of the Posse, the militia movement. Like the militias, common law courts are dominated by conspiratorial and bigoted ideas and favor tactics—armed confrontation, threats and pseudo-legal pronouncements—that attack the very basis of democratic society: the rule of law.*

*To date, the Coalition for Human Dignity (CHD) has uncovered common law court activity in thirty states in every region of the country. CHD has also documented efforts to coordinate common law court activity on a national level. These efforts are dominated by a constellation of leaders associated with the Oklahoma-based organization United Sovereigns of America and by fugitive Montana common law activists. Given the current level of common law activity and potential for violence associated with those involved, it is past time to take a closer look at this growing phenomenon.*

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**J**ust prior to Thanksgiving day, 1995, judges in Madison County, Idaho found themselves served with "Notices of Felony." A group of far right activists demanded their arrest by order of "common law" jurisdiction. The threatening notices, while lacking any legal basis, provided a chilling reminder of the existence of a far-right political underground that has survived—indeed thrived—following the Oklahoma City bombing. The notices warned:

Should any person try to cover up the felony complained of herein, BE YOU HEREBY PUT ON NOTICE: You may be indicted.

The notice concludes with a palpable threat, stating that

Pursuant to the Law of the POSSECOMITATUS, should you fail in the discharge of your sworn duty, WE the PEOPLE shall bring you to JUSTICE under the Law of the POSSE COMITATUS.

Less than a month later, on December 14, 1995, more than one hundred people sat in folding chairs, crammed into a Boise, Idaho meeting room dubbed Freedom Hall. The all white crowd

spent the day learning the nuts-and-bolts of forming common law courts, a modern-day twist in a long tradition of racist violence. This particular seminar, sponsored by the Idaho Sovereignty Association (ISA), attracted men and women from twenty of Idaho's forty-four counties, as well as individuals from Oregon, Washington and Utah.

After a few chaotic moments distributing information packets, Gary DeMott, head of the Idaho Sovereignty Association, introduced featured speaker Dick Kegley.

Kegley, a used car dealer from Walla Walla, Washington, stepped up to the microphone, spread out his materials on the obligatory folding table, and proceeded to harangue the audience about sovereign citizenship and the "remedies" offered by common law. "They absolutely work," he claimed, and alluded to many supposed success stories.

Four and a half hours later Kegley finally wound down with a shop-worn Christian Patriot truism: "The principle is this: everything they [judges, bureaucrats] do is a lie."

The political vision of Henry Lamont "Mike" Beach, the Oregon-based founder of the Posse Comitatus (a white supremacist, paramilitary outfit that swept the American plains during the early 1980s) was ever present during this gathering. According to Daniel Levitas, an expert on the Posse Comitatus and author of a forthcoming book on the subject, it was the original "Blue Book" of the Posse, authored by Beach, which provided the initial impetus and road-map for establishing common law courts. Early editions of the Blue Book made it clear what the fate of those who defy common law court authority would

... [B]e removed by the Posse to the most populated intersection of streets in the township and at high noon hung by the neck, the body remaining until sundown as an example to those who would subvert the law (*Sheriff's Posse Comitatus*, p.33).

The threats made against judges and other public officials comprise one aspect of a pattern of events which is increasingly important to those concerned about the health of democratic institutions in the Northwest. In the last year judges and prosecutors in Montana and Idaho have been served with warrants of arrest from self-appointed common law courts. Sheriffs have been threatened with violent reprisals if they fail to do their duty—as interpreted by a growing faction of the far right. The pattern has repeated time and again around the country, from California, where a common law activist faces felony charges for veiled death threats to judges, to Florida, where court activists ordered a judge to appear before their "Fugitive Warrants Unit" director.

### More than Militias

Closely linked to militias, common law courts and citizen grand juries are part of a system of parallel institutions which constitute a virtual alternative government. These institutions—the armed militias, the Posse Comitatus, common law courts and warehouse banks along with political, lobbying and media organizations—are intended to be the embryo of an exclusive white Christian republic. Far from being an "anti-government" movement, Christian Patriots believe in forming their own.

In the months since the bombing of the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building in Oklahoma City,

increased public attention has been focused on private paramilitary groups calling themselves "citizen militias." The revelation that alleged bombers Timothy McVeigh and Terry Nichols had attended meetings of the Michigan Militia and shared many of the militias' ideas led to hearings by the US Senate and to a level of media scrutiny not directed at the far right in over a decade.

A variety of tendencies on the American far right—white supremacists, Second Amendment extremists, anti-abortion advocates, states rights/local control groups and property rights activists—have seized upon the idea of forming militias as a tactic and a recruiting device. These factions agree on some issues, disagree on others, and are often at odds with each other. There is no doubt, however, that the most important faction in fomenting militias has been the so-called Christian Patriot movement. Defined by anti-Semitic conspiracy theories, racist ideas about citizenship, selective constitutional fundamentalism, and opposition to the income tax and the Federal Reserve Bank, the Christian Patriot movement has supplied leaders for the most influential militia groups and has provided the publications most widely circulated among militias members.

Christian Patriots employ elaborate and convoluted conspiracy theories and pseudo-Constitutional arguments to justify confrontations with law enforcement, public servants and civil rights advocates. Patriot activists file "sovereignty" or "state" citizenship documents declaring themselves immune from federal authority; they create "warehouse" or "alternative" banking institutions to launder money; they form common law courts and citizen grand juries to assert "legal" authority; and they organize private armies—militias—to enforce their bogus decrees.

In order to better understand the function of Christian Patriot ideology and activity, and the potential threat that is posed to democratic institutions, it is useful to consider the origins of the movement in the Posse Comitatus of the 1970s and 1980s.

### The Posse Comitatus

"Mike Beach and his infamous 'Blue Book' were a significant inspiration to generations of radical right activists," states Daniel Levitas. Beach, now deceased, wrote the Blue Book while

living in Portland, Oregon in 1968. Once an activist in the Portland chapter of William Dudley Pelly's Silver Shirts—an organization modeled on the Sturmabteilung (SA), or brownshirts of Adolf Hitler's Nazi Party—Beach developed many of the ideas which became the foundation for the contemporary Christian Patriot movement, including common law courts.

The first known reference to a "citizens grand jury" is contained in the original Posse Comitatus Blue Book. According to Levitas the first reported instance of a common law grand jury actually being impaneled is in Lane County, Oregon. According to a June 1974 classified FBI report which quoted the Eugene, Oregon *Register-Guard* newspaper, the Lane County Sheriff's Posse Comitatus was believed to have "established a secret grand jury to review incidents of alleged harassment of citizens by government officials."

Beach's Blue Book provides the foundation upon which the current common law courts have been built. In fact copies of this work are sold and used as a training manual by the Del City, Oklahoma-based United Sovereigns of America, the leading national proponent of common law courts, linked to court efforts in at least thirteen states. According to the United Sovereigns' Blue Book reprint, "The County Sheriff is the only legal law enforcement officer in these United States of America...", and if he fails in his all-encompassing duties, it is the role of the Posse—self-appointed agents of law—to step in and do the job.

The Posse Blue Book also outlines the process by which the jury is employed and provides the blueprint for the current trend in which "warrants of arrest" are issued to public officials by the self-appointed officers of the common law courts. The Blue Book advises that any official who attempts to enforce "unconstitutional" laws—e.g. the tax code or gun control laws—is subject to arrest by the Posse and trial "by a Citizen's jury." The jury, it continues "should be impaneled by the Sheriff from citizens of the local jurisdiction," as "the present method of impaneling juries by the Courts is unlawful and should be repudiated by the local Posse (*Sheriff's Posse Comitatus*, [United Sovereigns of America], p.18).

As noted above, the Blue Book, as reprinted by United Sovereigns, prescribes that an official found guilty of such crimes by a citizens' jury is

### What is Common Law?

**Common Law**—the term "common law" refers to a body of law developed by royal judges following the 11th Century Norman conquest of England. These judges based their decisions on local customs, business standards and the traditions of the people as well as their own notions of "justice," thus creating a body of law based on precedent. Common law was distinguished from the 14th Century system of equity law which made use of injunctions and demands of specific performance which threatened imprisonment if disobeyed; by contrast, common law relied largely on demanding payment of money damages for harm done. When English colonists came to North America, they brought with them many components of the English legal system. Many states subsequently adopted constitutional provisions incorporating English Common Law. Today common law often refers to judge-made laws built on precedents and not on legislative enactments or laws interpreting these enactments (adapted from James L. Houghteling, Jr., *The Dynamics of Law*, 1963).

As developed by Posse Comitatus organizers in the 1970s and 1980s and used by contemporary Christian Patriots, so-called common law provides a blanket justification for pseudo-legal activities, including the issuance of non-consensual liens and the formation of self-appointed common law courts. Although the idea of a common law is valid, the uses Christian Patriots attempt to make of the common law tradition are spurious attempts at self-justification and a tool for harassing government officials and fomenting confrontation.

**Common Law Lien**—often used as part of a campaign to harass and intimidate, these phony liens are filed with a county clerk by Christian Patriots as monetary claims against the property or personal assets of public officials and government agencies. Although such liens (unilaterally declared without contract or authority of any competent jurisdiction) have no legal basis, they can create legal and financial difficulties for victims of this form of paper terrorism who are sometimes forced to prove that these spurious liens have no legal basis. Patriots often claim that the authority to file these bogus documents stems from the Magna Carta, the United States Code or the Uniform Commercial Code.

subject to public execution by the Posse: "He shall be... hung by the neck" in the most populous section of the township, and "...the body remaining until sundown as an example to those who would subvert the law" (p.33).

This passage resulted in a considerable amount of negative publicity for the Posse. "As a result," according to Levitas, "Mike Beach deleted it from subsequent printings, although by that time the document had been reprinted by so many other groups that it was effectively out of his hands." For example, some versions of the Blue Book circulated by the Wisconsin Posse Comitatus in the late 1970s and early 1980s omitted this passage, but the United Sovereigns of America has retained the "hanging" quote in the version it distributes.

### Bigotry and Violence

"While Mike Beach helped launch the early Posse as an organization, credit for inspiring the original concept of the Posse Comitatus really belongs with another man, retired army Lt. Colonel William Potter Gale," according to Levitas. Gale, who served under General Douglas McArthur in the Philippines, was an early leader in the racist, anti-Semitic Christian Identity movement.

Not every Posse member expressed Gale's particular brand of racism and anti-Semitism, but central to the Posse enterprise were notions that the Federal Reserve Bank, as an instrument of an International Jewish Banking Conspiracy, was the main cause of the suffering of white, Christian Americans, particularly farmers. In fact, it was during the farm crisis of the 1980s that the Posse achieved its greatest successes.

In a decade which saw the demise of fully 25% of owner-operator family farms throughout the Midwest, Posse leaders offered phony loan schemes, bigoted conspiracy theories and, when all else failed, armed confrontation, as the solution to the problems of family farmers. Posse members in the early 1980s engaged in and were convicted of counterfeiting; they operated paramilitary training camps; and they engaged in stand-offs with local law enforcement. In 1983, three members of the Colorado Posse were convicted of manufacturing explosives. Among dozens of incidents of threats of violence, a man

identifying himself as a Posse member threatened to bomb a Kansas school unless both the sheriff and undersheriff turned themselves over for execution. In November 1983 over one hundred county sheriffs in Kansas received letters demanding the arrest of ten judges for ordering the seizure of private property. The most infamous incident occurred in North Dakota in February 1983, when two federal marshals were killed in a shoot-out with several Posse members led by Gordon Kahl, a notorious racist and anti-Semite. Kahl was eventually killed in a showdown with state and federal authorities in Arkansas (James Ridgeway, *Blood in the Face*, [Thunder's Mouth Press, 1990], pp. 119-120).

Another prominent Posse leader of the 1980s was Jim Wickstrom, a Wisconsin-based Christian Identity "minister" and virulent anti-Semite. Wickstrom made radio appearances with Gale and the two conducted paramilitary seminars

### What is a Christian Patriot?

**Christian Patriot**—a term of self-reference for the largest portion of the contemporary white supremacist movement in America. Christian Patriots generally hold to a literal and selective interpretation of both the Bible and the Constitution and they typically believe in a monolithic conspiracy (sometimes centuries old) directed against white Christians. For most Patriots, Jews are ultimately behind this conspiracy, although they may be deemed to work through a variety of front organizations such as the United Nations, the Trilateral Commission, the Bilderburgers, the Federal Reserve Bank, etc.

Christian Patriots generally recognize two classes of citizenship in the United States: "white state citizens" who derive their rights from God and the Constitution, and "14th Amendment citizens," meaning people of color, whose rights are a matter of mere legislation. Patriots believe that formally declaring themselves "sovereign" or "state" citizens legally places them outside the jurisdiction of the federal government. Christian Patriots have created a variety of quasi-governmental bodies in the course of challenging the authority of the existing government. Among these are "warehouse" or "alternative" banks, militias and common law courts. Christian Patriots are also known as "Freemen" and "Constitutionalists."



## Common Law Court Chronology

Though the earliest common law court of recent origin was founded around 1992 in Tampa, Florida by far right leaders Susan Mokdad and Emilio Ippolito, it was the formation of courts in Montana and Oklahoma in December 1993 through January 1994 that has spurred the growth of this strategy nationwide. From the beginning these courts, and the organizations and individuals that have come to prominence through them, have been in close contact.

Both the Montana and Oklahoma common law courts had their origins in the racist constitutionalism of Christian Patriotism. Both appeared by January 1994 and according to one source, Dennis Smith and Warren Ensminger, founders of Oklahoma's first such court, "established their common law supreme court in Oklahoma based upon the court in Montana" (*The American's Bulletin*, October 1995, p.3). In all likelihood, the program developed by United Sovereigns, which has appeared in at least thirteen states, found its origin in its trial and error application by Montana and Oklahoma activists. Early editions of documents from both courts share more in common—in their wording and their form—than either do with the now "polished" court "rules."

Whatever the specific origins, the court activists from Oklahoma and Montana have remained close. By June 1995 Melvin Griffith, an Oklahoma common law court "Justice" close to United Sovereigns leadership, was distributing the small circulation *Free(Man) Newsletter* distributed from what was then the home of Montana common law leader and fugitive Rodney Skurdal. In October 1995, Montana common law leaders LeRoy Schweitzer and Dale Jacobi were scheduled as trainers at a common law seminar near Checotah, Oklahoma along with United Sovereigns' leaders and associates Ronn Jackson, Eugene Schroder, Wayne Gunwall and Dennis Smith. Their ongoing legal problems, however, kept Jacobi and Schweitzer from attending the event in person.

Both the Montana group and the United Sovereigns have had a disproportionate impact on the

growth of common law courts around the country. Activists from Washington, Oregon, California, Nevada, Minnesota, Texas, Kansas, Nebraska and Ohio have attended training sessions given by LeRoy Schweitzer and the far right fugitives presently holed up in Jordan, Montana. Florida leader Susan Mokdad has sought the aid of LeRoy Schweitzer in her plans to bring courts under one umbrella and Schweitzer and company have provided inspiration for far right activists around the country. The constellation of leaders connected to the United Sovereigns of America and the rules developed by the Oklahoma activists have been linked to courts in at least thirteen states, including California, Colorado, Idaho, Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska, New Hampshire, Ohio, Oregon, Texas and Wyoming.

By mid-1995 common law courts had become a regular feature on the far right landscape. Active courts could be found in Ohio, Texas and Wisconsin, and common law courts were underway in Arkansas, California, Kansas, Louisiana, Missouri and North Carolina.

On June 3-4, 1995 some six hundred people flocked to Wichita, Kansas to attend a national Common Law Grand Jury. For the first time, common law court advocates gathered in a forum that gave their developing strategy the appearance of a national movement. Attendees heard testimony by far right leaders such as Eugene Schroder, California state senator Don Rogers and longtime Christian Patriot leader Byron Dale and adopted a statement declaring the United States government unconstitutional. Shortly thereafter common law courts formed in Colorado, adopting almost verbatim the proclamation from Wichita. By fall 1995 courts were established in Iowa, Nebraska and Tennessee with early 1996 seeing the formation of courts in New Hampshire and Alaska.

In spite of the early appearance of common law courts in Montana, courts have been relatively late appearing elsewhere in the Northwest. Courts appeared in Washington, Oregon and Idaho in the fall of 1995. Despite their late start, the Northwest courts have taken off rapidly.

around the country, including a March 1982 meeting attended by far right leader and contemporary common law court proponent Gene Schroder. In a crude flyer (c. 1983) depicting a Posse-led vigilante hanging and signed by Wickstrom, the Wisconsin leader predicted a future of "guerrilla warfare" against average Americans led by "the Jew communist specially trained Soviet and Cuban agents." The flyer goes on to warn that

The scene at the left [the hanging] will be a very common situation in rural America *when and if* the above information [Jewish led guerrilla warfare] takes place. The White Anglo/Saxon Posse's [sic] across this Christian Republic await for the opportunity to clear up America of which the Jews and their 'lackey' jerks called politicians have made a GARBAGE DUMP (*Blood in the Face*, p.114).

Wickstrom also ran a paramilitary encampment outside of Tigerton, Wisconsin and was arrested in 1983 on criminal charges for impersonating public officials and in 1988 faced charges of attempting to finance paramilitary groups with counterfeit money (*Wisconsin State Journal*, February 5, 1995).

One of the most important of the precursors to the contemporary efforts to form common law courts was William Potter Gale's Committee of the States, a mid-1980s Posse organization whose leaders were jailed for issuing threatening "Constructive Notices" to IRS officials and federal judges. In its founding "Compact" of July 4, 1984, signed by, among others, Aryan Nations leader Richard Butler, the group declared that under the authority of the Articles of Confederation it was replacing the U.S. Congress as the governing body of the country. Foreshadowing the activity of common

**Christian Identity**—a theo-political movement derived from British Israelism. Adherents believe that white, Northern Europeans are God's "chosen people," literally descended from the "Lost Tribes of Israel." Central to Christian Identity doctrine is the idea that Jews are "impostors" and "children of Satan" and that people of color are sub-human "mud people." Identity provides a theological justification for racist and anti-Semitic violence. Christian Identity is often used interchangeable with Identity, Kingdom Identity and Christian Israel.

law courts, it "indicted" the Congress, stating,

The attached Indictment brought against the Constitutional Congress of the United States of America is brought by this Committee of the States sitting as a Grand Jury of the People.

The attached Declarations of Alteration and Reform are hereby enacted by the Committee of the States sitting as the Congress of the United States, and every official of government and citizen of these United States shall be bound to obey said Acts of this Congress as the "law of the land" under penalty of removal from office, impeachment or imprisonment ("Compact of Committee of the States in Congress," [July 4, 1984]; special thanks to the Montana Human Rights Network for this document).

A 1985 document by Arthur Stigall, a signer of the Committee of the States Compact, provides the organization's most detailed discussion concerning the formation of the common law grand jury. Titled *How to Form a Common Law Grand Jury: The Way to Regain a Self Governing Republic*, the publication explains the process of impaneling a so-called citizens grand jury. "Twenty-four citizens shall be summoned to attend on the grand jury," Stigall explains, but the "number of jurors is a matter of local regulation" (p.29). In a section titled "Formation of Grand Juries," Stigall goes on to argue that the "District" or "County" director is legally entitled to select a responsible group of people to act as a "County Common Law Grand Jury if the local sheriff 'abdicates' from his/her duty" (p. 32).

Stigall outlines the steps for conducting "grand jury" investigations, preparing a complaint, delivering it to the clerk of the court, choosing a grand jury and notifying the sheriff and district attorney of the "intention to perform an investigation as a grand jury." After examining the evidence through its power to "subpoena" witnesses and voting "to determine if there will be an indictment," the grand jury then begins the process of enforcing it.

In a section titled "Jurisdiction," Stigall makes clear that "the people's" power extends to arrest:

The power of arrest, law, and jurisdiction of courts rest with the citizens both DIRECTLY and INDIRECTLY through his lawful representatives [sic]. The DE FACTO GOVERNMENT called the federal government has no authority other than that voluntarily submitted to by the citizens of THE UNITED STATES... (p.49).

All of these elements in Stigall's guide to establishing a common law grand jury appear in one form or another in the common law courts of today.

**Conclusion**

The emergence of far right common law court activity in the 1990s, like the reemergence of far right paramilitary organizing in the form of citizen militias, is cause for considerable concern on the part of people who value democratic ideals and institutions. As the ideological descendants of the Posse Comitatus, the common law courts, no less than the militias, are tainted with a legacy of bigotry. Moreover, even looking beyond the racist books and citizenship schemes, the anti-Semitic conspiracy theories and the continued leadership of old time Posse activists, both common law courts and citizen militias represent a contempt for and a challenge to the rule of law.

In claiming the authority of law, common law courts reserve onto themselves the right to pass judgment on private citizens, public officials and the law itself. In fact they claim the American judicial system as it actually exists is unconstitu-

**Quiet Title**—a common law court action acknowledging the “sovereignty” or “state citizenship” of an individual, declaring such an individual to be a “freeman” over whom the federal government has no authority. Granting Quiet Titles is often among the first actions of a newly formed common law court.

tional and therefore without authority. It is important to understand that the actions of the common law courts are neither publicity stunts nor civil disobedience. There is no effort on the part of these activists to reform the existing system or to highlight specific instances of injustice, rather common law court proponents seek to displace existing judicial authority by investing themselves with the power of law and employing private armies—“militias” and “posses”—to enforce their decisions.



# I. Profiles

## Key Individuals and Organizations

**T**he following individuals and organizations have played an important role in contemporary efforts to establish common law courts and/or are key proponents of Christian Patriot common law theory.

### **Martin J. "Red" Beckman**

Martin J. "Red" Beckman is regarded as an elder statesman among Posse Comitatus and Christian Patriot judicial strategists. Beckman is credited with introducing Larry Dodge, the founder of the Fully Informed Jury Association (FIJA), to the strategy of jury nullification—a term which refers to the right of jurors to "nullify" or disregard laws with which they disagree. Since its founding, FIJA has forged a coalition of tax protesters, white supremacists, anti-choice activists and assorted libertarians to press for laws demanding that jurors be instructed in their "right" to overrule the law. Red Beckman is a Montana contact for the organization.

Beckman has also been looked to by movement leaders for his knowledge of common law "grand juries." Documents obtained by the Montana Human Rights Network show that members of William Potter Gale's Committee of the States sent copies of that group's common law grand jury

manual to Beckman for his input. Committee of the States figure Richard King described common law grand juries as Beckman's "bailiwick."

Beckman remains a respected leader whose knowledge is sought by contemporary common law court activists. Dan Meador, head of the Kay County Patriots and a central figure in Oklahoma common law organizing, cites Beckman with contributing "major" research to a "writ" petitioning for legislative recognition of Oklahoma common law courts.

Like other Christian Patriots and Posse leaders, Beckman envisions these judicial strategies as a means of mounting a war on democracy in the United States. In his 1990 booklet *Walls in Our Minds*, he declares that "Our present government should be thrown onto the junk heap of history...." According to Beckman, "Our jury votes can trash our present government and bring our lawful government back in a peaceful and orderly process...." after which the "sacred cow, we call democracy and majority rule" will find itself "on the junk heap" (Red Beckman, *Walls in Our Minds*, [Common Sense Press, 1990], pp. 42-43).

In addition to his prominence as a "judicial" strategist, Beckman has built a reputation as a leader in the tax protest wing of the movement.

Through his Billings, Montana-based Common Sense Press, Beckman produces and distributes the numerous books and booklets he has written, including *Born Again Republic*, *Do Unto the IRS As They Would Do Unto You*, *The IRS and the Black Robed Cover Up*, *The Church Deceived* and *The Law That Never Was*.

Beckman's status amongst organized bigots, however, is most firmly rooted in his own vicious anti-Semitism. In his 1984 book *The Church Deceived*, Beckman interweaves his tax protest beliefs with an anti-Semitism that locates Jews as an all encompassing evil at war with Christianity and society. His anti-Semitism culminates in his opinion concerning the murder of six million European Jews by the Nazis:

They talk about the terrible holocaust [sic] of Hitler's Nazi Germany. Was that not a judgment upon a people who believe Satan is their God? The true almighty God used the evil Nazi government to perform judgment upon the evil anti-christ [sic] religion of those who had crucified the Christ.... The Anti-Christ church was not a victim during World War II because they were getting their just reward for their evil choices (*The Church Deceived*, [Common Sense Press, 1984], pp. 42-43).

Beckman's stature across the full spectrum of the far right was demonstrated in 1994 when he was evicted from his property after a more than twenty year battle with the IRS over unpaid taxes. On the weekend of January 29-30, 1994, just one day before his scheduled appearance in District Court, Beckman held a gathering titled "No More Wacos" at a Holiday Inn in Billings, Montana. Among those attending the meeting in support of Beckman were Colorado Christian Identity leader Pete Peters, James "Bo" Gritz, Gerald "Jack" McLamb, Rudy Stanko, a former high ranking member of the neo-Nazi Church of the Creator, and Dory Ritrovado, publisher of the *Montana Vigilante Report* (Montana Human Rights Network, "Background Report on Red Beckman and his supporters who gathered at 'No More Wacos' Meeting in Billings, MT on January 29 and 30, 1994"). The presence of this wide range of racist leaders, many of whom have harshly criticized one another, speaks to Beckman's stature amongst a broad array of movement leaders.

### **Darrell Frech**

United Sovereigns of America figure Darrell Frech has played a leading role in establishing

common law courts in Oklahoma. Based in Jet, Oklahoma, Frech is the author of United Sovereigns' training materials. He is also a proponent of bigoted conspiracy theories claiming an international plot to destroy the white race and a promoter of Christian Patriot judicial tactics of dubious legality.

In a Frech pamphlet titled *The American Experience*, he charges the government with "Conspiracy, fraud and collusion to destroy a National Ethnic [sic] Race of People: *Genocide*." He writes:

When the People of this Nation learn that the Income Taxes, Interest on Loans made by the Banks, and earnings from FORECLOSURES [sic] were used by the Federal Reserve to Finance this Conquest of World Dominion By the People who are the Owners of the Federal Reserve, and the Corporation of the District of Columbia, DBA The United States Government; *it will be said that Babalon [sic] is falling and the stars are falling*. Babalon [sic] is Washington DC and the Federal Reserve, and the Stars are your elected officials who helped with the perpetuation of *genocide* (*The American Experience*, pp. 4-5, emphasis in original).

Elsewhere in *The American Experience*, Frech expresses Christian Patriot notions of racial citizenship based on the spurious distinction between "organic state citizens" (i.e. white people) and "14th Amendment citizens" (i.e. people of color). He goes on, in a notice "to all public office holders in America," to state that any public official from President to judge who fails to recognize the unconstitutionality of the 13th, 14th, 16th and 17th Amendments will have "no immunity for such disregard." He continues, "when the knowledge of these *Treasonous Acts* are known by the People of this Nation, there will not be a rock big enough to hide under for those who have violated their Oath to the Constitution of the United States of America" (*The American Experience*, pp. 5-6, emphasis in original).

In late October 1994, Frech began advocating a scheme by Roy Schwasinger, head of the Colorado-based group We the People, to sue the federal government and force it to declare that the IRS and the Federal Reserve Bank are unconstitutional. Individual patriots were asked to contribute \$300 as a "processing fee" to join the case and were told there would be a large future settlement for those who became principles. In a series of memos "From the Office of Darrell Frech," the Oklahoma leader promoted the scheme which

eventually led to the arrest and conviction of Roy Schwasinger and his cohorts Joe Mentlick and Gary Widman on charges of fraud. According to an indictment issued in the case of a We the People member in Iowa, some sixty-eight hundred people in forty-nine states and two Canadian provinces were defrauded of more than \$2 million dollars (*Kansas Real Estate Today*, April 4, 1995; *Rocky Mountain News*, Oct. 7, 1995).

### Jerry Henson

Jerry Henson is a director of United Sovereigns of America (see p.17), managing the organization's book and tape distribution and acting as its spokesman. As distribution manager for United Sovereigns, Henson makes available common law court training materials, including the Posse Comitatus Blue Book, militia training manuals, and tapes and booklets that outline the core doctrine of Christian Identity. One "training tape" titled *The Jews That Are and Are Not* purports to "expose those who are called Jews and have no genetic or racial ties to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob" and "are of the Synagogue of Satan." A tract written by North Carolina Identity leader Nord Davis and reprinted by United Sovereigns reads in part, "...from the very earliest records of Scripture... we again have Talmudic Jews ruling over us from behind the scenes" (*Star Wars*, p.65), an idea cribbed from the notorious anti-Semitic forgery *The Protocols of the Elders of Zion*, which is also distributed by United Sovereigns.

The appearance of hard-core racist material on the United Sovereigns literature list is apparently a reflection of the views of Jerry Henson. Speaking to the *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*, Henson described the United Sovereigns as,

Christians uniting together to bring this country back to where God is in control instead of the stinking people that run this country, and the elitist people that are devil, satanistic worshippers (February, 17, 1996).

Henson went on to denounce "Czarian, Zionist pigs" and express the hope that he will soon republish the *Protocols*, leaving no doubt as to who the "Satan worshippers" are in Henson's formulation.

### Idaho Sovereignty Association

The Boise-based Idaho Sovereignty Association (ISA) is the organization most responsible for

promoting common law courts in the state of Idaho. The group is headed by Gary DeMott, a former campaign organizer for H. Ross Perot and former executive director of United We Stand, Idaho. The ISA describes itself as a "state sovereignty" organization "committed to uphold, protect and preserve our union of sovereign states by defending the 10th Amendment which guarantees our constitutional republic" (ISA flyer, c. 1994).

The ISA's common law court seminars, its selection of training material and the words of Gary DeMott point to the organization's commitment to racist ideas of "sovereignty" and "state" citizenship. DeMott recently told the *Idaho Statesman* that he is an "American National" (i.e. *not* a U.S. citizen in Patriot jargon) and therefore the existing government and court system have no jurisdiction over him (December 14, 1995). A book entitled *Why Call A Constitutional Common Law Jury* bearing the ISA distribution stamp proclaims that only "citizens" can be jurors. This work defines citizen as "one of a sovereign people" and uses the notorious Dred Scott decision to clarify that the term pertains "to the white race only" (Velma Griggs, *Book Two: Why Call A Constitutional Common Law Jury*, [Sep. 27, 1994], p. 43).

ISA head Gary DeMott also emphasizes the need to attack democracy. Referring to the motive behind common law courts, DeMott told the *Lincoln County Journal* :

All we're doing is restoring our constitutional courts. A republic is where the rights of individuals are protected by the majority. A democracy is where 50 percent rob, pillage and plunder the other 49 percent (November 28, 1995).

ISA officials have been associated with some of the most active militia organizers in the Pacific Northwest. Stew Schmidt, the North Idaho contact for ISA was a featured speaker at a Concerned Citizens of Idaho (CCA) event on July 23, 1994. Schmidt shared the stage with CCI leader Eva Vail Lamb, a militia organizer and activist in James "Bo" Gritz's 1992 presidential campaign; Tom Stetson, a militia supporter and contributor to the Identity publication the *Jubilee*; and John Trochmann, Militia of Montana founder (*Patriot Games*, [Coalition for Human Dignity, 1994], pp. 8-9).

ISA has also worked closely with the Boonville,

Indiana-based North American Freedom Council (NAFC), distributing its literature stamped with the ISA name and phone number (see p.15).

### **Justus Township**

So-called Justus Township has become a focal-point of common law court activity and militant white supremacy since Christian Identity figures LeRoy Schweitzer and Rodney Skurdal and anti-Semite Dan Petersen relocated to the Ralph Clark ranch near Jordan in September 1995 and renamed it Justus Township. Charged with criminal syndicalism in March of that year for a series of threats against public officials, the three had previously been holed-up in Skurdal's Roundup home. These leaders have established what has become a hub of common law organizing. Dug in and reportedly heavily armed, the group exerts an influence on the national movement through a steady string of phone calls and visitors seeking the "knowledge" of Schweitzer, Skurdal and company. To date visitors from at least nine states have attended training seminars at Justus and the increasingly violent posturing of Justus leaders (see Montana section) have inspired court activists around the country.

Christian Identity adherent LeRoy Schweitzer, a longtime tax protest leader, has become an important figure in the national movement through his common law leadership at Justus Township. A co-founder of Montana's first common law court based in Garfield county, Schweitzer has become a leading mentor of the Christian Patriot strategy of filing bogus liens against political enemies and circulating bogus "certified bankers checks" to pay his debts. In the common law approach pioneered by Schweitzer and taught at Justus Township, activists send a "true bill," or confession sheet, to their target enemy. The so-called true bill details, in the form of a confession, the heinous deeds alleged by the sender and paves the way for the common law lien, claiming the rights to the target's assets for damage done. If the target of the true bill does not respond, he/she is proclaimed guilty and a lien is filed. Schweitzer, for instance, filed a \$100 million lien in November 1994 against then treasury secretary Lloyd Benson because IRS agents "attacked the sovereign LeRoy M. Schweitzer" for tax evasion. Once the lien is filed, the "sovereign" can then write "checks"

against the bogus line of credit. Schweitzer has written copious checks based on an imaginary account at the Northwest Bank Anaconda-Butte N.A. which he claims holds some \$1.2 billion. With this imaginary wealth, Schweitzer has even proclaimed "we're the new Federal Reserve."

On one level, Schweitzer's lien and check schemes are simply a variation on Christian Patriot maneuvers aimed at avoiding taxes and debt. However, the use of liens is also a means of harassing political foes and, as Schweitzer has implied in seminars at Justus Township, a prelude to violence:

We sent this little UCC 4 out to them, this confession sheet we call it, the true bill, as an agreement. And when they don't answer, it becomes a binding contract. Now we get 'em for failure of consideration, breach of covenant. That has value to it. Every time they breach a covenant with me, it's a hundred million. And if I'm feeling a little bit bad that day, I charge them a billion that day.

My liberty is worth a lot more than their hanging. So we're not hanging them yet. We don't have enough people to make the arrest, yet.... So what we're doing is going after the property first. We're attaching the property. We'll get to the clean-up later.

Schweitzer has also described the use of liens as a prelude to confiscating public property. Again, in a training seminar at Justus Township, he has described how liens against public institutions would be made good:

Let's say a road grader come by here today, a county road grader. Now we go out there and we say: "Step off, walk to town, we want to take that road grater." See we got a \$50 million lien on the probation state here....

That's coming, in the future. We haven't done it yet. We will. We're working in another way. First we're going to the banks, taking it from the banks, teach our people, then we will go out and specifically pick up a county pick-up, a cop car, you name it. We're gonna take it into the township. There's gonna be a sale the next day. And we'll put out a warning and say 'Any public hireling that wants to mess around with this lawful writ of execution, one year solitary confinement, first offense.'

Schweitzer's lien and check strategy has been used around the country. Check's bearing Schweitzer's name have shown up in Washington, Ohio and Tennessee. In addition the core of activists assembled at Justus Township have prepared some twenty-four true bills against United States officials, reporters, officers of the court, financial institutions and county employees.

At the heart of LeRoy Schweitzer's drive to oppose the actual law and institute a government



of his choosing is his commitment to the racist tenets of Christian Identity. Speaking to trainees assembled at a Justus Township seminar, Schweitzer described just who could occupy the seats of justice, and just who held the title of God's "chosen people:"

This is in the family. Israel. The lost sheep. The select, the elect, the peculiar treasure, the royal priesthood, the Aryans, the battle axe. There's fifty-some names for God's people in the Bible. This is it. The King's Bench.

Keeping with the Christian Identity system of anti-Semitic demonology, Schweitzer also described who was behind the system of law of "Babylon."

...positive law is the law of the Jew. This is positive law (pointing to law books on a shelf behind him, ed.), but it's for aliens. So we read in the book of Jude, in the Bible ...certain men have crept in unnoticed amongst you. Evil and wicked men from time immemorial through their acts of licentiousness.

LeRoy Schweitzer's commitment to waging an Christian Identity inspired war against the government is matched by that of his common law compatriot Rodney Skurdal. In September 1992 Skurdal had made a public "Declaration of War" in order to "honor my God and the Laws of the [MY] Bible," to "regain my rights to acquire private allodial property" and "to regain our Justices' Court." Skurdal made it very clear in the declaration that "my duty is to God and this Republic... and to 'NO' other, of the 'de facto'/Democracy form of government" (Declaration of War, September 10, 1992, p.1).

A document produced by Skurdal in November 1994 gives insight into the racist leader's understanding of his God and his vision for "this Republic." In the document Skurdal declares himself a "Notary Public" of the "one Supreme Court in and for Musselshell County." Skurdal writes that "God is not a God unto the other races, but only that of Israel, the White [sic] Race"; that Jews "were fathered by Satan" and "will never enter the Kingdom of Heaven," and that people of color are the "beasts of the field" described in Genesis.

Skurdal's bloodthirsty fantasies are displayed when he uses Leviticus 20:15-16 to argue that "If a woman approaches any beast (i.e., person of color, ed) and lies with it, you shall kill the woman and the beast; they shall be put to death..."

Skurdal continues, stating that "*nor are we [Adam/Israel] to make any covenants with the other races*" and that "when we move into a new land, *We are to kill all of the inhabitants of the other races*" (p.4, emphasis in original). To bolster his call for racist murder Skurdal goes on to cite the Biblical passages used to justify the so-called Phineas Priesthood, a Christian Identity "honor" bestowed upon those who commit racist, anti-Semitic and homophobic murders.

For Rodney Skurdal the means of achieving this vision, and re-establishing "the Republic," is the common law and the common law court. Establishing common law courts, arming "militias" or "posses," threatening public officials and digging in for violent confrontation follows logically his understanding of the "right" of white people to make up their own laws: "Either We the People, 'Israel' can make up 1) our own laws and constitutions, 2) follow man made Laws pursuant to the Word of Almighty God *and/or* 3) *disregard 1 and 2, and just follow the Word of Almighty God*" (p.13, emphasis in original).

Others involved in Justus Township and close to Schweitzer and Skurdal have also made known their commitment to white supremacy and anti-Semitism. Daniel Petersen, an activist in Skurdal's former Musselshell court and a Justus Township trainer, has displayed his interest in this racist "religion" as well, using material from the Canadian British-Israel Association in common law court seminars given at Justus Township. At one such training in late 1995, Petersen demonstrated his belief in the anti-Semitic conspiracy theories that form the backbone of the racist right. Petersen asked the seven or so assembled for the training if anyone had read the "Jewish Manifesto."

"The Protocols—you talking about?" asked an audience member.

"Yep," Petersen affirmed, explaining that it says that "we will all be made into chattels."

Dale Jacobi, a participant in Skurdal's Musselshell county court, has also signed onto Christian Identity bigotry. A document dated September 7, 1995 and signed by Jacobi and Skurdal refers to the "Preamble People/white race/Israel" and states that only white males "have a right to participate in its (government) administration" (True Bill, September 7, 1995, p.2).

### Medford Citizens Bar Association

The Medford Citizens Bar Association, a Christian Patriot organization based in Medford, Oregon, sells a common law court kit consisting of video and audio tapes and written material produced by the Jordan, Montana-based Justus Township—the common law court led by racists LeRoy Schweitzer and Rodney Skurdal (see above). The publication has also provided a forum for Florida common law court leader Susan Mokdad.

Through the *American's Bulletin*, (formerly the *CBA Bulletin*) MCBA provides the largest forum in the region for regular discussion of the variety of legal tactics taken by Christian Patriot tax protesters and *pro se* litigators.

Regular writers for the *American's Bulletin* promote various versions of the conspiracy theories that form the core of the group's pseudo-Constitutional arguments. One example is Joyce Rosenwald who promotes the view that police officers are part of a global conspiracy. Other contributors to the publication have promoted openly anti-Semitic and racist views. Francis Christen, the head of Serpent Slayer Publishers, which distributes a litany of anti-Semitic tracts, has expressed the idea that mainline "Judeo-Christianity" is a Jewish doctrine manipulated by the "controllers of society" to maintain world domination (*American's Bulletin*, Dec. 1993, p. 11).

The MCBA commitment to promoting race hatred and anti-Semitism becomes clear with a browse through the book list printed in the back of each issue of the *American's Bulletin*. The list is broken into twelve sections covering topics ranging from tax and banking to Bible principles, history and a section ominously titled the "Jewish Issue." Nearly every section includes books by well know racists and anti-Semites. The Jewish Issue section includes such anti-Semitic tracts as the *Protocols of the Elders of Zion*, the Holocaust denying *Did Six Million Really Die*, *Jewish Religion: It's Influence Today* by Elizabeth Dilling and *The Secret Holocaust* by Eustace Mullins.

In the section on Bible principles the MCBA emerges as an ardent supporter of Christian Identity. Ten of the fifteen titles listed in the section are written by leading national proponents of the racist religion, including Pete Peters' *The Bible: Handbook for Survivalists, Racists and*

*Tax Protesters, Cinderella: A Bible Story* by the late Sheldon Emry, and books by Minnesota Identity leader and genocide advocate Charles Weisman such as *America: Free, White & Christian*, *Who is Esau-Edom*, *Sodomites on Trial*, *The Christian and Civil Government* and the *Handbook of Bible Law*. The history section includes such tracts as *Our Nordic Race* and *War Cycles/Peace Cycles* by Richard Kelly Hoskins. The latter book is the first to describe Hoskins' ideas concerning the Phineas Priesthood, an "honor" granted to those who "righteously" engage in racist, anti-Semitic and homophobic murder.

The May 1994 *American's Bulletin* reprints an article titled "Understanding American Authority and the 'Militia'" by the late C. H. McClendon. The article makes clear the future confrontation with the government envisioned by its author, the solution to which is the armed militia. It praises far right leader Arch Roberts for describing "the U.N.O. [sic] world-government as a racist, socialist organization whose charter is programmed for national interdependence and a New World Order based on economic socialism, secular humanism and world-wide racial integration." The article goes on to ask:

... [H]ow do we remove the nearly total control of non-voting artificial-entity corporations, and return control to informed sovereign individuals where Nature declares it belongs? We must arm, and defend our individual liberties with the same determination as those who first purchased our freedom over 200 years ago, mindful that "POWER COMES FROM THE BARREL OF A GUN..." Only by the activation of the UNORGANIZED MILITIA will we regain and reaffirm that honorable form of government.... Only they, better trained to draw aim on the dragon we war against, can defeat the corporate human group organism which would otherwise eat us all, and our children, alive (C. H. McClendon, "Understanding American Authority and the Militia," reprinted in *American's Bulletin*, May 1994, p.11, emphasis in original).

The *Bulletin* has also promoted the Militia of Montana based in Noxon, Montana, running an article by leader Randy Trochmann. In addition, the MCBA offers such books as William P. Fall's *Get America Up in Arms Irregular Warfare: The Militia* which outlines organization, tactics and techniques—including sabotage, ambushes, counter-intelligence and public relations—and the weapons involved in putting together a militia (*American's Bulletin* April and May 1994).

**Susan Mokdad and Emilio Ippolito**

Susan Mokdad, along with her father Emilio Ippolito, leads an ambitious effort to bring common law courts around the country under the wing of her Tampa-based court. Avid militia advocates, the two were charged with contempt of court in 1994 for disobeying a court order to stop practicing law without a license.

Mokdad and Ippolito's activism extends back at least as far as 1992 when they were involved with the group Pro Se Litigants, which proclaimed its own court and vowed to abolish the Florida Bar Association. A court order issued following a scuffle with court bailiffs—which resulted in an August 1993 conviction for obstructing a police officer and disorderly conduct—demanded that several Pro Se Litigant members be escorted by bailiffs when entering Hillsborough courts. Named with Ippolito and Mokdad in the order was Charles Eidson, head of the rabidly anti-Semitic Church of the Avenger based in Tampa. In 1993 Eidson posted a document in a local courthouse calling for a "posse comitatus" to be armed and empowered with the right to arrest people (*St. Petersburg Times*, March 3, 1993; August 5, 1993; November 17, 1993).

**North American Freedom Council**

The Boonville, Indiana North American Freedom Council has taken on a unique role in efforts to establish common law courts, acting as a clearinghouse and repository for Christian Patriot documents and filings. In addition to an array of quasi-governmental services—which include assistance with "sovereignty" filings, setting up trusts to hide assets from the government and providing home schooling information—the NAFC also serves as a national recorder for common law court and related documents. For a fee of \$6 for the first page and \$2 for each additional page, the group will record documents under the auspices of its Independent Recording Service of Indiana and Bill of Rights Enforcement Center—an increasingly necessary service as county recorders refuse to file bogus Christian Patriot documents. Among those who have filed their documents with the NAFC are the Montana activists who have established Justice Township in Jordan.

Common law court activists in Idaho have

also worked with the Freedom Council. The Idaho Sovereignty Association (ISA) has distributed NAFC literature stamped with the ISA name and phone number. The literature includes a contact number for Joe Holland, the NAFC national director and the leader of the North America Volunteer Militia. Holland was indicted under Montana's law against criminal syndicalism in connection to threats sent to Judge Jeff Langston at the Ravalli County, Montana courthouse. The letter read in part:

When you violate the oath of office you become renegade to the Constitution and guilty of treason. I am sure you know what the penalty is for treason....

We would prefer that you take a good hard look at what you and your agencies are doing and amend your ways immediately.... How many of your agents will be sent home in body bags before you hear the pleas of the people?

Proceed at your own peril!

On December 8, 1995, Holland plead guilty to the charge. Cal Greenup, the Montana State Coordinator of Holland's militia, was charged with criminal conspiracy in the spring of 1995 for planning to kidnap local officials, try them in a Common Law Court, and hang them if found guilty (*Ken Stern, A Force Upon the Plain*, [Simon & Schuster, 1996], p.86).

**Larry Pratt**

Larry Pratt is the executive director of the one hundred thousand member Gun Owners of America (GOA), a radical alternative to the NRA. He has earned a place for himself in the white supremacist movement by his support for militias and common law courts and his willingness to work with the most notorious racist figures of the far right. Pratt's links to the racist right drew national attention when it became public that he was one of four co-chairmen of ultra-conservative columnist Patrick Buchanan's presidential campaign. When his connections to the far right were exposed just prior to the 1996 New Hampshire Primary, Pratt took a voluntary leave of absence from Buchanan's campaign but maintains a position as co-chair as of this writing.

Pratt's links to the common law courts are through the United Sovereigns of America. Pratt is listed as a contributing editor to the United Sovereigns' publication *The 50 States Constitutionalist*. When contacted by the *Pittsburgh Post Gazette*

in the wake of revelations that Pratt was connected to far right and militia groups, United Sovereigns book and tape distributor Jerry Henson confirmed Pratt's involvement with United Sovereigns. He told the *Post-Gazette* that Pratt had written for their publication and referred to Pratt as "one of the finest gentlemen that ever walked the face of the earth." Henson went on to denounce "the Czarian, Zionist pigs" who run the country and expressed his aspirations to reprint the *Protocols of the Elders of Zion* (Feb. 17, 1996).

Pratt is also an admirer of common law leader Gene Schroder, a close associate of the United Sovereigns of America. Speaking before a crowd at the Seattle Preparedness Expo in September 1995, Pratt mimicked Schroder's pet conspiracy theory which holds that President Franklin Roosevelt instituted martial law after overthrowing the Constitution. Pratt called Schroder a "pioneer in this research." And then he went on to describe how a "common law grand jury" can issue "orders" to prosecutors to "sick the law" on people who violate the "common law."

In 1995 Pratt was editor of the book *Safeguarding Liberty: The Constitution and Citizens Militia* in which he wrote "Had the Feds feared a militia the massacre of the Branch Davidians in Waco, Texas... would never have occurred." At the Seattle Expo Pratt told those gathered that "We [GOA] work with the Militia of Montana. We get all their material." The Noxon-based Militia of Montana is led by John Trochmann, a former attendee at Aryan Nations' events who has declared his "sovereignty" on the basis of his race. Pratt's eagerness to support the leaders and central activities of the racist movement has led to a string of appearances by the leader at far right events (See CHD Background Brief *Larry Pratt and the White Supremacist Movement*).

### Gene Schroder

Campo, Colorado-based far right leader Eugene Schroder has had an enormous impact on the formation of common law courts. He is listed as one of eight "private directors" of the key organization United Sovereigns of America, though he has recently taken to denying any relationship with the organization. United Sovereigns leader Jerry Henson has followed suit, stating Schroder was placed on the group's letterhead "by mistake."

Despite Schroder and Henson's backpedaling, Schroder has undeniably had a close relationship with the group. According to Henson, the Colorado leader has spoken to the United Sovereigns on several occasions, Schroder's name remains on a list of United Sovereigns' guest speakers, and Schroder's writings have appeared in the group's *50 States Constitutionalist* newsletter.

Elsewhere, on a list of state contacts for information about Gene Schroder's constitutional theories and speaking engagements on the American Freedom Coalition Worldwide Web Page David Schecter and Darrel Frech are the point persons for Schroder in Kansas and Oklahoma, respectively. Both are listed among the eight directors of United Sovereigns of America.

Schroder played a central role in the June 3-4, 1995 National Grand Jury meeting in Wichita, Kansas, the first such meeting to take on a national posture. Schroder was involved in a seminal meeting for Colorado Common Law Court activists in Canyon City in August 1995 where he stated, "This is just the beginning. We're just seeing the tip" (*USA Today*, Aug. 28, 1995).

Schroder's current stature in the far right derives from the popularity of his particular conspiracy theory. In books such as *Constitution: Fact or Fiction*, Schroder puts forward the idea that FDR overthrew the Constitution in 1933 and the country has existed under martial law since. His current place in the movement, however, follows a long history of involvement with paramilitary and far-right causes.

Schroder was an activist in a Colorado-based faction of the American Agricultural Movement (AAM) in the 1970s, lobbying for more and better farm subsidies. But by the early 1980s, Schroder aligned himself with the Posse Comitatus and its racist ideas and violent tactics. In March 1982 he attended a three-day paramilitary training camp in Weskan, Kansas along with American Agriculture leader Jerry Wright—although Schroder later told a reporter that he could not recall the names of instructors, others in attendance, or the subjects covered (*Denver Post*, February 13, 1983). The *New York Times*, however, reported that the seminars were taught at least in part by Christian Identity and Posse Comitatus leaders Jim Wickstrom and William Potter Gale (June 11, 1983). Kansas Bureau of Investigation Director

Thomas E. Kelly told the House Judiciary Committee in February 1983 that the training sessions in question included courses in "Munitions and Techniques," "Perimeter Defense and Penetration," "Guerrilla Warfare" and "Usable Poisons." Another session, "Killer Teams and Troop Movements," instructed attendees in "the use of two and three men killer teams to make quick lethal attacks in hit and run operations against the enemy."

According to the *Denver Post*, by fall 1982 Schroder was no longer just attending paramilitary trainings. In October and November of that year Schroder taught bomb-making at his father's farm in Southeastern Colorado. Drawing from an Army demolition manual, Schroder taught attendees how to make black powder by combining crushed charcoal, sulfur from a local drugstore and fertilizer, according to fellow American Agriculture leader Alvin Jenkins (February 13, 1983).

Schroder's approval of the paramilitary wing of the movement seems not to have changed since his involvement with the Posse. According to an article in the *Dallas Morning News*, Schroder was a speaker at an October meeting of a "National Common Law Seminar" held in Mountain Springs, Texas, sponsored by the North Texas Constitutional Militia. He reportedly told attendees that "we continue in this country with our Constitution permanently suspended" and praised the militia for attempting to remedy this problem. The meeting, an apparent effort to coordinate militia trainings and political activities, was guarded by militia members who patrolled the perimeter with rifles and walkie-talkies (*Dallas Morning News*, October 15, 1995).

### **United Sovereigns of America**

It is the Del City, Oklahoma-based United Sovereigns of America, more than any other group, that has provided leadership and training in common law court efforts. United Sovereigns' leaders have been directly involved in courts in California, Colorado, Kansas, Missouri and Nebraska and

they have consulted with influential court activists in Montana and Florida. United Sovereigns' has been influential in the formation of courts in at least thirteen states, including Alaska, California, Colorado, Idaho, Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska, New Hampshire, Oklahoma, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Texas and Wyoming. Court activists from around the country have attended United Sovereigns-sponsored trainings in Oklahoma.

United Sovereigns shares a post office box with the Militia of Oklahoma State and distributes materials such as the *Militia Operation Plan American Viper* which promote and teach the techniques of armed insurrection. In addition to various common law "how-to" tracts—including reprints of the original Posse Comitatus "Blue Book"—United Sovereigns also sells the classic anti-Semitic tract the *Protocols of the Learned Elders of Zion*, Jack McLamb's *Operation Vampire Killer 2000* (a manual for recruiting police officers into the patriot movement), and *Silent Weapons for Quiet Wars*, a manual detailing the manufacture of poisons for guerrilla warfare, by Oregon Christian Identity figure Maynard Campbell.

The *Militia Operation Plan American Viper* mentioned above details the role of militias in a prolonged guerrilla war against the United States. "Militia elements," it states, "must come together to work in small cells/teams under an organized chain of command" and the militia will "implement active low level guerrilla infrastructure operations." In the plan's "Phase 7," the militia will engage in "active high level guerrilla operations," which "consist of attacking and eliminating defended targets, larger troop concentrations and key leaders." Targets are to be eliminated by "sniper tactics," "explosives," "ambushes," or "chemical and biological agents."

Other United Sovereigns leaders include Oklahoma figure and early court activist Dennis Smith, Kansas leader Dave Schechter, Wayne Gunwall and Ronn Jackson (United Sovereigns of America flyer, c. 1995).



## II. Northwest

### Idaho, Montana, Oregon, Washington

**C**hristian Patriot activity, including common law court organizing, is by no means restricted to any one region of the country. The leadership of Montana common law activists and the large number of active Christian Patriot organizations in the region (see *The Northwest Imperative: Documenting a Decade of Hate* [Coalition for Human Dignity, 1994], for an extensive, if by no means exhaustive, account of such organizations), combined with proximity and depth of available information has led us to concentrate on the four Northwest states of Idaho, Oregon, Montana and Washington. The concentration is not meant to imply that common law court and Patriot organizing in other regions of the country is not equally prevalent.

#### Idaho

Common law court activity in Idaho has included threats of violence. Judges and public officials in Madison County, Idaho, have received threatening "Notice of Felony" proclamations. One such "Notice," dated November 10, 1995, concludes with a palpable threat, stating that "Pursuant to the Law of the POSSE COMITATUS, should you fail in the discharge of your sworn duty, WE the PEOPLE shall bring you to JUSTICE under the Law of the POSSE COMITATUS."

In December 1995 the Idaho Sovereignty Association (ISA) convened a common law court training session attended by representatives from twenty of Idaho's forty-four counties, including Ada, Adams, Blaine, Boise, Canyon, Cassia, Elmore, Gem, Gooding, Idaho, Jerome, Kootenai, Lincoln, Madison, Minidoka, Owayhee, Payette, Twin Falls, Valley and Washington.

The ISA—using materials from the United Sovereigns of America, the California Jural Society and others—urged seminar participants to form ad hoc committees of twenty-three or more people from the same area to "stand together as Our One Supreme Court"—that is to assume upon themselves judicial power.

According to ISA leader Gary DeMott, if area residents publish a common law court's rules in the "paper of record" for three consecutive weeks (or just post a notice on a bulletin board in the county courthouse), then the court is legitimate. It would then, supposedly, command the full force and legitimacy of law.

Dick Kegley, a used-car dealer from Walla Walla, Washington delivered a four-and-a-half hour keynote presentation during the December ISA seminar. Kegley covered standard Christian Patriot fare, including State vs. 14th Amendment citizenship, Admiralty Law and some of the more

celebrated common law court "victories."

At the same meeting DeMott claimed to have presented the Ada County Sheriff's office a "petition to establish a constitutional court" four months before the meeting. An "asservation" was delivered to the same office three months later demanding that the sheriff's office "serve" it upon the individual named therein. Just two weeks later, however, the Sheriff's office declared it wouldn't comply with DeMott's order. As a result, DeMott proclaimed, "when we have our court we'll have our own marshals serve the papers." He announced that his Ada County common law court would have "one hundred and fifty marshals within two weeks time."

Gordon Ormesher, a Coeur d'Alene contractor, who is associated with the Indiana-based North American Freedom Council (see above), also made a presentation at the December training session. Ormesher had recently returned from a common law court seminar and grand jury assembly in Oklahoma sponsored by the United Sovereigns of America. He announced that his court would be running by March 1996, when the United Sovereigns group is scheduled to come to Northern Idaho.

DeMott claimed his area's common law court would be hearing cases by the beginning of January. The group holds training sessions the first Tuesday of the month and claims to have convened mock courts.

Other common law court activity in Idaho includes that of Hyla Marie Clapier and Richard Dahl who published notices of the establishment of common law courts in Lincoln and Gooding Counties in November 1995 (*Lincoln County Journal*, November 28, 1995).

### Montana

Common law courts in Montana, some of the earliest and most influential in the country, have long issued threats of violence against public officials. In January 1995 Martha Bethel, a city magistrate in the Ravalli County, Montana town of Hamilton, received a "special visitation" from a man claiming to be part of the "Freeman" movement. The man appeared in Bethel's court in response to three routine traffic tickets, refused to cooperate with the proceedings, and announced that he was not bound by the laws of Montana.

On March 3, 1995, Judge Bethel was "served" with documents demanding the dismissal of all charges against the "Freeman" and alleging that she had violated her oath of office. The documents claimed the authority of a common law court. Soon thereafter she began to receive threats that she would be kidnapped and tried for "treason" (*Dignity Report*, Summer 1995, p.6).

During the same period (early 1995) that the common law court threats against Judge Bethel materialized, a series of real charges against and convictions of Montana common law activists, coupled with dramatic confrontations with law enforcement, thrust them into a position of national prominence within the Patriot movement.

William Stanton, a leader in the Garfield County Common Law Court, was convicted of criminal syndicalism in actual court under a Montana law that makes "advocating crime, malicious damage to property and violence or other methods of terrorism to accomplish industrial or political ends" a felony. The charges stemmed from a series of threats made by Stanton against public officials, including a \$1 million bounty upon specific individuals that he offered "to any Freeman or other person who successfully causes the arrest and subsequent conviction" of those he named (*In Justice Court Bounty*, 1994). In March 1995 Stanton was sentenced to ten years in prison for his activities.

More successful in their efforts to evade and confound the law have been Garfield County common law activists and Identity figures Rodney Skurdal and LeRoy Schweitzer, both of whom were charged with criminal syndicalism in March 1995, but remain at large. Undismayed by the charges against them, the two retreated to Skurdal's Musselshell County home, which was then legally owned by the IRS, and continued to issue threats under color of law. An April 10, 1995 "Constructive Notice and Caveat" to public officials from "Our One Supreme Court in and for Garfield county/comitatus" read in part:

We, the Honorable Justices, will not hesitate to use our Lawful force by whatever means necessary to fully support, protect guarantee and defend our Law, the supremacy Common Law in our state, meaning our sole and exclusive Right of self-governing as a free sovereign and independent State, implementing our Right under our just Power of summoning our militia, armed at all times and willing and able to Lawfully



defend our natural Law unalienable Right of Inheritance from Almighty God ("In our Supreme Court in and for Garfield county/comitatus by special Edict of Honorable Justices, Constructive Notice and Caveat," April 10, 1995, p.1-2).

In September 1995 the three fugitives relocated, traveling at night in an armed convoy from Skurdal's Garfield County home to the farm of common law court "Justice" Ralph Clark near Jordan, Montana, renamed "Justus Township." According to reports in the *Great Falls Tribune* the residents "are well armed and they have stock-piled numerous weapons and ammunition. They have built shelters and dugouts so they can put up a stand" (December 27, 1995).

In early October 1995 the far-right activists ensconced at Justus Township confiscated \$60,000 in equipment from an ABC-TV film crew that attempted to interview them. Subsequently they fired shots over the head of a Polish journalist (*Great Falls Tribune*, December 27, 1995).

### National Influence

The defiance of the Montana Court activists has had a marked impact on the development of common law courts elsewhere around the country. In addition to the impact on the Oklahoma common law courts the influence of Montana leaders has also reached Kansas, where Ronald A. Griesacker, a common law court leader from Topeka, claims that he "attended a school of learning, taught by LeRoy Schweitzer, Dale Jacobi, Rodney O. Skurdal, Daniel E. Petersen, and others of the infamous Montana Seven." Griesacker claims that he and his associates have since set up eighteen courts around Kansas (*The American's Bulletin*, December 1995, p.21).

Documents from the Musselshell County common law court have been filed as "evidence" by common law advocates in Missouri. Michael Hill and Bill Elwood the founders of the Columbus, Ohio common law court traveled to Montana in late 1995, paying a \$2,400 "donation" for a four day meeting with LeRoy Schweitzer (January 1996).

Despite the passage of more than a year since felony charges were first brought against them, Montana's common law activists continue to play a leading role in national efforts to establish courts. The Montana leaders continue to hold trainings at "Justus Township," where cars from Utah, Arkansas and California have been seen

and activists have come from at least nine states.

Recognizing the leadership role of the Montana activists, Florida Common Law leader Susan Mokdad, in her effort to unite Courts around the country under her Tampa-based model, has solicited the aid of LeRoy Schweitzer.

Further, the Montana leaders ongoing defiance of law enforcement and their apparent willingness to use violent means has inspired common law activists in other states. Bruce Craig, a Portland, Oregon-based activist with the Common Law Supreme Court for Oregon, wrote that "We recognize and appreciate the sacrifices and successes of those who have gone before, especially, in this context, of the work of those in Montana and Oklahoma."

Much like the spread of the citizen militias since 1992, the common law court phenomenon did not start in Montana, but the mixture of doctrinaire racism and vigilante sensibilities found in the Montana activists has proven itself predictably volatile. And given the national impact of the Montana efforts, it is all the more disturbing to find virulently racist and anti-Semitic ideas propounded by key leaders of Justus Township (see above).

### Militia of Montana

Other participants in Skurdal's Musselshell court included Daniel Warren Stone, Frank Ellena, Marc J. Basque and Richard E. Hilson ("Judicial Notice of Foreign Judgment by Letter Rogatory, From Musselshell County Court, Common Law Venue, Supreme Court," April 25, 1995).

The Montana common law court activists have predictably had a close relationship with John Trochmann's Militia of Montana (MOM). A Militia of Montana newsletter expressed unqualified support for the formation of Justus Township and the common law court: "Justus Township is alive and well today. They have reinstated the common law, their own justice court, Notary Clerk and Constable. After spending those couple of days with these guys I am totally convinced that they have the solution to the problem" (*Taking Aim*, Militia of Montana Newsletter, January 1995, p.2 and 4).

In March 1995 the relationship between the two organizations was manifest in a more demonstrative way. With their compatriots Skurdal,

Schweitzer and Petersen in hiding, Musselshell Court activists Frank Ellena and Dale Jacobi were arrested for driving without license plates or driver's licenses and carrying concealed weapons without a permit. The resulting confrontation brought common law activists and Militia of Montana supporters together in a potentially violent conflict with law enforcement. Three supporters of the common law activists appeared at the Musselshell County Courthouse armed and demanding the property of Ellena and Jacobi. The three were arrested. Militia of Montana leader John Trochmann and Musselshell common law activist Marc Basque were likewise arrested when officers saw weapons in their car as the two sat parked outside the Courthouse. Despite early suspicions by police that a plot was underway to kidnap a judge, and despite Ellena and Jacobi's possession of armor piercing bullets, plastic "flexi-cuffs," duct tape, more than \$80,000 in cash and sophisticated radio equipment, all charges were eventually dropped for lack of evidence.

Ironically, the common law activists have now issued a "warrant" for the arrest of their erstwhile-ally John Trochmann, apparently for making a remark that one way to end the standoff at Justus Township would be to shut off the electricity.

### **Oregon**

On the evening of January 22, 1996, some seventy-five people gathered at Springfield City Hall to hear about the Common Law Supreme Court of Oregon. Among those in attendance were prominent Lane County Oregon Citizens Alliance (OCA) activist Patty Duncan, "sovereignty" expert Johnny Liberty, common law "Judge" Floyd W. Beam, and Don Whittenburg of Beaverton, introduced as the "pro tem clerk" for Jefferson, Wasco, and Deschutes counties. Court representatives Bruce Craig and Tim Richardson told the audience about the theory and practice of "common law" and announced that "Court" sessions would be held every Thursday night in Salem.

One of two such common law courts established in the state, the Common Law Supreme Court of Oregon, was founded in November 1995. According to Craig, the Common Law Supreme Court of Oregon is an independent effort. "We recognize and appreciate the sacrifices and suc-

cesses of those who have gone before," he writes, "especially, in this context, of the work of those in Montana and Oklahoma." The Common Law Supreme Court for Oregon, though, "did not follow the Court Rules from Montana or Oklahoma" (Bruce Craig, Common Law Supreme Court of Oregon flyer, c. November 1995).

The second common law effort in Oregon, the Our One Supreme Court of Wasco County, is derived explicitly from the Oklahoma-based United Sovereigns of America "Our One Supreme Court" model. According to Craig, the two common law courts are attempting to coordinate their activities and iron out differences in their court models. As Craig describes, "It is a fact that some of the groups were well along with plans for establishing a court, and that initial efforts to bring the groups into statewide cooperation were too late to slow some of the momentum,"

### **Common Law Supreme Court of Oregon**

The Common Law Supreme Court of Oregon was "founded" by issuance of an eight-page document dated "*Teste meipso* this 16th day of November, in the year of our Mighty One, Yahweh, through our Redeemer Yahshua the Messiah, Nineteen Hundred Ninety Five A.D." According to these documents, it was created as a statewide venue for cases in the "Oregon Republic":

Pursuant to these endowed and certain rights reserved unto ourselves, which rights we did not, do not, and will not waive to any government, and pursuant to the lack of justice courts in Oregon, and by necessity and resolve, we on Oregon republic have the authority to reestablish the common law courts as courts of justice (p.2).

In describing the "Supreme Court," co-founder Bruce Craig has stated that "the Heritage of Common Law is from the Ten Commandments" and that the Bible is "the origin of Common Law as recognized in America, which is based on the laws given to Israel."

Elsewhere, Craig elaborated on the relationship of the common law court to the state of Oregon, stating:

the State of Oregon, as a commercial municipal corporation has nothing to do with us or we with them. The Court is not founded under their statutes, nor even under the Constitution of Oregon. It is founded upon our pre-existing, endowed, certain and unalienable right to have At-law courts.

According to Craig, "A Common Law Jury is comprised of Twenty-four Good Men and True. We have established a Court that provides one state-wide Court. The Court is established in a manner that allows the election of as many Court Justices as are needed in the places where they are needed."

Section XI of the "Founding Document" indicates that the Court will have recourse to armed vigilantism under color of law; therein it describes the duties of "marshals" to be appointed by the "justices" of this "Court." It states:

A Marshal shall be responsible for security, service of papers as needed, enforcement of summons and orders and judgments, and enforcement of receiving payment for costs billed, for the Court within the venue assigned to the marshal by the Assistant Head Justice, and for other duties as may from time to time be assigned by a quorum of Justices (p.5).

Whatever rules the Common Law Supreme Court for Oregon may follow, at least one figure in the Christian Patriot wing of the white supremacist movement took part in its founding. Among a list of those who "set our seals to the original document entitled: Common Law Supreme Court for Oregon-Founding Document" was Rodney Elliot Askelson.

In the mid-1980s, Askelson, along with Christian Patriot Richard Flowers, was a director of the Boring, Oregon-based Christian Patriot Association (CPA), an organization involved in warehouse banking schemes and the distributor of racist and anti-Semitic books and various "how-to" manuals detailing techniques of guerrilla warfare, the use of explosives and paramilitary tactics.

In addition to Askelson, other signatories to the Common Law Supreme Court for Oregon Founding Documents include Floyd Wayne Beam, Glenn Alan Carlson, Kenneth Edward Chesley, Bruce Craig, Shiela Craig, Curtis LaMar Garrison, Jimmie Gulliford, LaVerne Rolland Hanson, John Homer Kelly, Richard LeRoy Kidwell, Stanley Mack McGill, James Alan McMurtry, John Whitney Newell, Fredric Rodney Nickel, Stephen Lynn Riley, Two Birds Soaring, Paul Richard Shepherd, Michael Stewart, and Donald Ray Whittenburg.

Although not a signatory to the Founding Document, another activist involved with the Common Law Supreme Court is John Van Hove, aka Johnny Liberty. Van Hove has attended the Court meetings in Cresswell and Springfield and has promoted the idea of common law courts in his

public presentations.

Van Hove has made a niche for himself in the Christian Patriot movement by reaching out to people involved in the counterculture on environmental, pro-choice, Native Sovereignty and other progressive issues. Van Hove's legal theories, however, are deeply rooted in the racist constitutionalism of the Christian Patriot movement. Despite protestations that his ideas are not racist, Van Hove bases his own "sovereignty" schemes on the distinction between "state" and "14th Amendment" citizens, declaring that "I am NOT a 'U.S. citizen' as described in... the 14th Amendment," but a "citizen of the United States, 1878, and citizen of the Union State in which I am domiciled" (*Reclaiming Your Sovereign Citizenship*, Cascadia Resource Center, p.A1/1). Van Hove also draws heavily upon the work of hard-core racists, anti-Semites and far right conspiracy theorists such as Eustace Mullins, Martin J. "Red" Beckman, Jack McLamb and Richard McDonald. At the September 1995 Preparedness Expo held in Seattle, Washington, Van Hove opined that for the common law courts to be successful, the militias must stand behind them and enforce their writs. "That's a strategy that will work," he told the audience.

### **Our One Supreme Court-Wasco County**

A second common law court has been established in Wasco County, Oregon, taking on the familiar "Our One Supreme Court" designation. According to Supreme Court for Oregon activist Bruce Craig, "the rules for the Wasco County Supreme Court are, in general, the same as the Court Rules which came from Montana or Oklahoma."

Upon examination, Craig's assessment rings true, though the Wasco County group has made important alterations in its court documents. For instance, whereas many courts modeled on the United Sovereigns' rules describe their enforcement arm as consisting of "marshals," the Wasco rules state,

Our Supreme Court appoints of necessity a special posse of any number who hold office at the pleasure of our appointing power, and their costs are taxed against the losing party on the civil side of our Supreme Court, and as against our county on the public side of our Supreme Court.

Our Supreme Court special terms will be enforced by militia protections *vi et armis* to prevent miscarriage of Justice based

upon the common knowledge by the second class citizens who are engulfed in statutes, a separate and voluntary jurisdiction from our common law venue (Our One Supreme Court, Common Law Venue; Original and Exclusive Jurisdiction in and for Wasco county, Oregon Republic United States of America, p.2).

The Wasco group's statement that the militia will enforce the "special terms" of the court "*vi et armis*" ("by force of arms") points clearly to the underlying logic of the relationship between so-called citizen militias and common law courts.

Like other common law courts, the Wasco Court describes its legal basis as "Holy Scriptures, with Magna Charta, our organic law, and our original common law of England as it was known at the time of territory of Oregon became one of the several States of our Union in America" (p.2). The group envisions itself as having jurisdiction "anywhere in our township, precinct, county or country at the pleasure of our Justices," (p.1). And, keeping with the Christian Patriot view of government, Wasco Court rules state that, "Our Supreme Court will exclusively be male Justices' no exceptions" (p.2).

"Justices" in the Wasco court include Jack Masterman, Jim Williams, Jeff Williams, Lewis R. Morgan, Don Hore, Gary R. Harvey, Stephen George Miljus, Larry Mann, Gary Rell, Stevens L. Hart, Donald Ray Markham, Ron Wardell.

## Washington

Common law court activity is underway in Snohomish, King and Cowlitz counties. In Snohomish a court has been formed by activists tied to the Idaho Sovereignty Association and influenced by Montana court leaders. "Freeman" Clayton W. McFarlan, John Kirk and Bill Hardisty have taken to forming their own township, much like in Montana, as well as their own common law court, in the rural Snohomish County community of Sultan. The three attended the common law court training session of the Idaho Sovereignty Association where Kirk announced that they had taken a unique approach to announcing the formation of their court.

In a move reminiscent of a bygone era, rather than simply publishing in the newspaper, the common law court had an individual cry out the information from the steps of the post office, Kirk

announced at the December 14 meeting in Boise.

Another court using the township model is the process of forming in Cowlitz County in South-west Washington. Activists participating in the founding include several leaders and supporters of the Ku Klux Klan-led Populist Party of Washington State. These include Cowlitz County party chair Howard Schaefer of Longview, Wakiakum County chair Herbert Weekly of Kathlamet, and Populist Party supporters Rodney Regennitter of Vancouver and Mervin Brown of Woodland.

The Cowlitz group has drawn on the model of the King County-based Justus Township — King County Common Law Court, a group using the same name as the Jordan, Montana common law court activists. Another model looked to by Cowlitz County activists is that of the Littlefield, Arizona-based Township of Desert Springs, a group that purports to have its own "Legislature, Executive, Judiciary, Grand Juries, Juries (and) Posse" and whose members are "natural born individual(s) being NOT enfranchised by the 14th Amendment."

Far right activists from Cowlitz county, and others from around western Washington, have played a role in a common law court in King County. In a January 10, 1996 "private judgment" against the Interwest Savings Bank on behalf of James Conrad Gutschmidt, Cowlitz county activists Howard Schaeffer and Mervin Brown appear as jurors. Another juror is Snohomish county Christian Patriot Benjamin Claire Sams, who elsewhere has declared his own "sovereignty" based on his "white" race. Glen Stoll, a self-proclaimed Ambassador of the far right Embassy of Heaven, signed on as the clerk of the court while John Kirk—an associate of Snohomish county court figures Clayton McFarlan and Bill Hardisty—signed the document as a "magistrate."

Thomas Paul Haumann, another juror for the King County court, was the contact for a February 25, 1996 appearance in Snohomish county for Colorado common law court leader Gene Schroder. Those in attendance at Schroder's meeting included a range of far right and white supremacist activists, including Ben Sams, far right figure David Montgomery and hard-core anti-Semite Tom Bly.

## GENERAL INFORMATION SHEET REGARDING COMMON LAW LIENS

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The common law of the united States of America is the highest form of law in the land. The Article Three Court is a superior court referred to as "Our One Supreme Court", and is based on Common Law. The Article Three Court, referred to in Article 3, section 1 of the Constitution of the united States of America, is a common law court. The Constitution and it's Amendments are still governed by common law. The separate constitutions of the several states are also governed by common law as are present day city and municipal charters. Common Law has never been abolished and is in effect today.

According to the UNIFORM ENFORCEMENT of FOREIGN JUDGEMENTS ACT, all foreign judgments, including common law liens (which are perfected in a foreign jurisdiction, not the corporate government of the United States of America), are backed by the FULL FAITH AND CREDIT guaranteed by the constitution of the united States of America (Article 4, section 1). The UNITED STATES TREASURY is responsible for honoring these foreign judgments.

The first national bank for the united States was and still is the Post Office. The General Accounting Office of the Post Office, managed by the Postmaster General, a.k.a. Comptroller Of The Currency, is responsible for honoring FULL FAITH AND CREDIT obligations and sight drafts. (The UCC-3 partial assignment is a sight draft, payable on sight and insured by the United States Postal Service.) This information can be verified under the United States Code (U.S.C.) Title 28-1743 DEMAND ON POSTMASTER. Title 28-2710 of the U.S.C. reveal the instructions necessary to shut down all commerce of the United States Postal Service when not in compliance with FULL FAITH AND CREDIT obligations.

Sample page from "How to Establish a Common Law Court"  
distributed by Justus Township.



## III. National

Arkansas, California, Colorado, Florida, Iowa,  
Kansas, Louisiana, Michigan, Missouri, Nebraska,  
North Carolina, Ohio, Oklahoma, Tennessee, Texas,  
Wisconsin and Wyoming

**T**he following section is a survey of common law court activity in states outside the Northwest with a particular focus on states where reported activity has been extensive and/or had a regional or national significance.

### **Arkansas**

Former Posse Comitatus leader Leonard Ginter reportedly leads a common law "Supreme Court" in Smithville, Arkansas. Ginter, who served a five year sentence for harboring Posse leader Gordon Kahl in 1983, claims to be one of twenty-three justices on a national "Supreme Court." He has told reporters that if you "go back to the time when somebody committed treason years ago, most of them were put on a scaffold to swing. That's what we need to do. If we do about ten of them, the rest will straighten out. It wouldn't necessarily have to be a judge or a governor. If one governor got it, we wouldn't have any trouble with the rest" (*USA Today*, August 28, 1995).

Ginter has made it clear that the militia and other paramilitary formations will be the vehicle for enforcing the edicts of the common law courts. In a January 1995 letter to Lawrence County Sheriff Hutton, Ginter described that a national supreme court has been set up by "we the sover-

eign citizens" and "the sovereigns now have constable, militia, guards and military ready to enforce" the orders of the local common law courts. Gintz also announced that the courts would soon be issuing subpoenas, conducting investigations and issuing indictments (*Commercial Appeal*, May 7, 1995).

### **California**

Common law court activity is underway in Sonoma and Butte Counties and, as elsewhere, court activists have been linked to threats against public officials. Sonoma County common law courts formed following a three day training held June 30 - July 2, 1995, in Santa Rosa, organized by John Patrick McGuire. Approximately fifty people participated in a training seminar run by United Sovereigns of America leader David Schechter. Scattered throughout the audience were several men dressed in camouflage and a dozen people wearing the windbreakers of Frank Pepper's California Civil Rights Task Force. Attendees at the event heard thirty-four different "cases," ranging from traffic violations and property-related disputes to an assault case involving McGuire and a police officer. According to the *Sonoma County Independent*, during the session a man suggested it would be a lovely idea to put a

rope around the neck of a highway patrol man who had issued him a speeding ticket (July 5, 1995).

The Sonoma court's potential for violence has been seen in the actions of John McGuire. McGuire was arrested in Wyoming on December 18, 1995 after a Cheyenne, Wyoming bank turned him in for trying to open a fraudulent bank account. It was subsequently discovered that he was wanted in California on charges of threatening public officials (*Caper Star-Tribune*, January 9, 1996). McGuire had been charged with five felonies by the Sonoma County Assistant District Attorney in connection to thinly veiled death threats made to California Judges and citizens. These alleged threats included the following:

- On August 13, 1995, McGuire notified attorney Douglas Thiele's office that Thiele was in violation of a common law court and was liable for \$100 million. McGuire added that people who didn't take him seriously would end up dead or in car accidents.

- On August 14, 1995, the office of Municipal Court Judge Passalcqua was similarly informed that a \$450 million judgment had been filed against him for violating the order of the common law court. Passalcqua's secretary was told that people who ignore the common law court have been known to have unexplained illnesses.

- Also on August 14th, a voice-message was left for Superior Court Judge Giordano that he had violated orders of the common law court and was subject to a \$100 million monetary sanction. The message reminded the judge that people in similar positions have been known to have heart attacks or automobile accidents.

A second group working to form common law courts in the state is the Chico-based California Jural Society (CJS), headed by Randy Lee and Joe Allen. The group maintains a world wide web site and publishes technical materials used for common law court trainings in other states. Most notably, CJS has been linked to Susan Mokdad's Florida common law court and its literature has been used in trainings conducted by the Idaho Sovereignty Association.

According to CJS literature a jural society is a synonym for "nation," "state" and "county" and is "the ultimate civil authority of the county, wielding the same power as the county board of supervisors, and much more."

Like other organizations aligned with the Christian Patriot movement, the California Jural Society locates the source of America's ills in the outcome of the Civil War. According to CJS, when the southern states walked out of Congress, the "American Union" was irrevocably dissolved; thus the "war of northern aggression" and victory resulted in the creation of a de facto government operating "by way of military procedure at the direction of the commander-in-chief" (CJS Web Page).

The Jural Society also promotes a central role for militias in the administration and enforcement of the common law: "The Jural Society extends the civil protection to the Militias and the Militia extends physical protection to the Jural Society. For the time being, the Militia can and will be utilized for the process of the Grand Jury and the Assise Court" (CJS Web Page).

### Colorado

Colorado's first common law courts emerged from an August 19-20, 1995 meeting held in Canyon City, Colorado under the auspices of the Fremont County "Our One Supreme Court." This "Common Law Assembly," attended by more than 150 participants, adopted the "findings" of the June 3-4, 1995 Wichita, Kansas grand jury which declared the "authority and basis" of the court to be "the organic Constitution and the Bill of Rights." The court's founding documents also stated:

The Colorado Common Law Jury hereby gives 'Judicial Notice' of their absolute and inherent authority, and basis for making a Finding of Facts in Conclusion of Law.

The intent of the Colorado Common Law Jury is to: re-establish Colorado as a Sovereign, de jure State of Freely Associated Compact States for the United States of America (entering the Union on the same footing as the original 13)" (Our One Supreme Court in Fremont County, Colorado Republic, Petition de Droit and Command to Show Cause, August 19, 1995, pp. 3-4).

United Sovereigns of America leaders played a prominent role in the formation of this Colorado court. Testimony was given by Colorado far right figure Eugene Schroder and material on the War and Emergency Powers Act, Schroder's specialty, was entered as "evidence" in court documents. At the meeting, Schroder stated, "As history has shown us time and time again, when the will of the people is ignored, they revolt" (*Colorado States-*



man, Aug. 25, 1995). In addition, signing the document as "officials" were "privately bonded National officer" Dennis Smith and "notary" David Schechter, both of United Sovereigns.

Another signatory to the founding document was "special appointed clerk" Alfred Jenkins, an American Agricultural Movement leader and attendee at bomb making sessions taught by Gene Schroder in 1982 (see section on Eugene Schroder). Howard Fields, a long-time state chair and National Executive Committee member of the Populist Party, signed as a juror.

Two notable figures in Colorado politics gave testimony before the Canyon City Common Law Assembly. These were State Senator (and now U.S. Senatorial candidate) Charles Duke and Kevin Tebedo, then-executive director of the anti-gay group Colorado for Family Values (CFV). Both testified against federal and state emergency powers, illustrating the impact of Schroder's conspiratorial banter on the meeting.

The anti-gay sentiments of Colorado for Family Values are often shared by those involved in forming common law courts. For instance, Dan Meador of the United Sovereigns of America writes in the booklet *Source & Force of Common Law*,

In other words, the common law is an outgrowth of moral and natural law, acknowledging God as sovereign over and creator of all. Within the system, governed by the Bible as its chief authority, homosexuality is a sin referred to as an abomination. Homosexual partnerships not only wouldn't be acknowledged, but would be condemned by the common law" (pp. 8-9).

One result of Tebedo's involvement in common law courts and related activity points to the fact that such courts originate outside of Christian Right leadership and organizations. Tebedo's move into the realm of Christian Patriot organization led in November to his resignation from CFV. At a press conference in November, Tebedo stated, "The impetus for my resignation is a shared belief on the part of CFV's executive board, of which I am a member, that my personal desires and motivations have expanded beyond the scope of CFV's mission." In closing, he vowed to "stay dedicated to my sovereign state of Colorado and her citizens" (*Colorado Statesman*, November 11, 1995). Linda Tebedo, Kevin's sister, served as the common law court clerk at the Canyon City meeting.

A second common law court in Colorado

formed August 28, 1995 in Weld County. Like other courts created in the United Sovereigns mold, the Weld County court declares its basis as "Holy Scriptures, Magna Charta, our organic law, and the Common Law" and describes its right to appoint "constables" and "reserve(s) our contempt power against any de facto court Justice or Judge who fails to obey said common law venue Supreme Court, no exceptions" (Our One Supreme Court, In and For Weld County, Colorado State, Original Judicial Notice, August 28, 1995).

### Florida

Common law court activists in Florida have been involved in a number of illegal and threatening acts. In August 1994 the Tampa-based Constitutional Court of the People, headed by the father-daughter team of far-right activist Emilio Ippolito and Susan Mokdad, Florida coordinator for the Fully Informed Jury Association (FIJA), issued "arrest warrants" for Hillsborough Chief Judge Dennis Alvarez and other judges. The "warrants" warned: "In order to avoid physical arrest at your home or workplace by the Militia which could result in a dangerous confrontation it would be advisable for the above named Public Servants and others named to schedule an appointment with John J. Gentz," the Court's "Fugitive Warrants Unit" director. Speaking of the Constitutional Court of the People's capacity to enforce its writs, Ippolito told the *St. Petersburg Times*, "There is an organized group, but don't ask for numbers. We do have a militia capable of enforcing things" (August 10, 1994). Ippolito and Mokdad had previously been cited for criminal contempt of court after refusing to obey a July 1994 court order barring them from practicing law without a license (*St. Petersburg Times*, July 23, 1994).

In October 1994, under the auspices of the Common Law Constitutional Militia, Mokdad, Ippolito and Gentz sent a letter through a court clerk to the jury hearing the case of Phillip Marsh, head of the Pilot Connection, a Christian Patriot outfit specializing in "sovereignty" and "untaxing" schemes. The letters threatened the jurors with arrest and contempt under the "constitutional common law." Another letter, sent by Ippolito claiming the presumed authority of a common law court "judge," charged U.S. District Judge Vaughn Walker with contempt for presiding over the Pilot

Connection case (*The Recorder*, [American Lawyer Media, L.P.], October 18, 1994).

A second Florida common law court group known as the Christian Jural Society of Florida, is based in Orlando. Laurent (Larry) Moore, reportedly an associate of the group, was convicted January 6, 1995, on 21 counts of conspiracy, mail fraud and obstruction of justice along with Jack Wade Warren and Jack Franz, leaders of the Kissimmee-based American National Freemen (*Orlando Sentinel Tribune*, October 18, 1995). The charges came when the far-right leaders threatened lawyers, a condominium association, Orange County officials and the state of Florida following a mortgage foreclosure on Warren's condominium. Initially, with leadership from Laurent, the men filed a \$22.8 million lien against the state of Florida and others involved in the foreclosure.

The three formed the Constitutional Common Law Court from which they issued indictments of public officials and a federal grand jury and authorized the arrest of a number of court officers. Court testimony by IRS inspector Tim Camus described that the men demanded money from Orange County government accounts at Sun Bank and threatened to seize sheriff's patrol cars and school buses to pay for the "debt." According to Camus, the three threatened to use a militia to enforce their "court orders" and advocated hanging or executing public officials charged with treason. The three face sentences ranging from eight to 12 years in prison and are scheduled to be sentenced April 19, 1996 (*Orlando Sentinel Tribune*, October 14, 1995; January 5, 1996; January 6, 1996; January 7, 1996).

Recent activity of the Jural Association has focused on preparing to hold "a trial regarding alleged unlawful actions of a Federal Grand Jury foreman, members and other co-conspirators in the case of United States v. Jack Wade Warren, et. al." The Patriot activists—Warren, Franz and Moore—have "continually denied jurisdiction to the United States District Court and have granted jurisdiction for this case to the common law court." Jural Association organizing has been carried out in close concert with the Constitutional Court of We the People in and for the United States of America #4, a name similar to that used by Mokdad and Ippolito when the two were barred from practicing law without a license (Press Re-

lease, Christian Jural Society for Florida, December 11, 1995).

Both groups of court activists are apparently closely linked to militia organizing. A December 14, 1995 press release concerning a meeting of the Jural Society thanked "the local militia units who appeared to maintain the peace and safety of all participants." The Jural Society had requested "the presence of various militia groups" at the meeting. Mokdad and Ippolito have likewise boosted militias, encouraging supporters to make an "Oath of Allegiance" to the "Constitutional Common Law Militia" which declares, in part, that "I will Protect and Defend all Sovereign Americans of the united States of America against all enemies both foreign and domestic. I will secure the rights of all Litigants that come before the Court. I will serve the Court in the best interest of the People" (*The American's Bulletin*, December 1995, p.4).

The Tampa group's most ambitious effort is an ongoing attempt to unite common law courts around the country under their umbrella, a plan for which it is courting the United Sovereigns of America and Montana leaders. At least one organizing meeting has been held, attended by long-time far-right leader Gene Schroder, and Mokdad claims that five courts have joined with her. Mokdad has also contacted Ohio court leader Larry Russell. Plans put forward by Mokdad and Ippolito detail a hierarchical system consisting of a "Constitutional Supreme Court" of "eleven members... [that] ... will serve as the Appeal Court for all Constitutional Courts"; "Constitutional Courts" which "will serve Criminal and Civil cases" and a "Fully Informed Jury" of twelve people "who have been fully informed as to their duties and responsibilities to decide all matters of dispute before the Court" (*The American's Bulletin*, Dec. 1995, p.4).

### Iowa

In Iowa, common law courts led by David Haye have reportedly been held in the northeastern community of Decorah ("All Things Considered," NPR, January 12, 1996). In a "suit" against the IRS brought to the court by Milton Leonard of Delaware County "jurors" ordered that liens be placed against the IRS agents who had dealings with Leonard (*Omaha World Herald*, October 26, 1995). In an "All Things Considered" interview, David Haye stated, "What we're saying is they (the

IRS) don't have proper legal authority to do what they're doing... if it's based upon fraud..." (January 12, 1996).

David Haye and other common law court organizers have also laid plans to start a Common Law Court in southern Minnesota.

### **Kansas**

Common law courts have been held in Sedgewick, Jefferson, Dickinson and Great Bend Counties and a St. Marys-based group claims to have established eighteen courts around the state. Kansas was also the site of an important event in the development of courts around the country, a June 3-4, 1995, National Common Law Grand Jury held in Wichita under the auspices of the Sedgewick County Our One Supreme Court.

At the June event, more than 600 attendees heard from various far-right leaders including Gene Schroder, Christian Patriot figure Byron Dale, American Agriculture Movement activist Ed Petrowski and California State Senator Don Rogers. Drawing upon Schroder's "War and Emergency Powers" arguments, this event was a forum for proclaiming the grand jury's authority in Kansas and issuing a declaration that the federal government is an unconstitutional entity.

At least two people, Missouri based attorney Berry Laws and a Kansas Municipal Court judge, were summoned for the meeting. Notification of the court's judgments were addressed to President Clinton, Attorney-General Janet Reno, the U.S. Congress, Supreme Court justices, state governors, legislators and other public officials. United Sovereigns figures David Schechter and Wayne Gunwall were in attendance at the Wichita event, serving as the special "appointed clerk" and the "marshal," respectively.

In August 1995, Wichita District Attorney Nola Foulston was subpoenaed by a common law court through an announcement in a local trade journal. This announcement threatened arrest by a sheriff if she did not appear. The originator of the subpoena was a disgruntled Wichita man who initiated the case with a common law court after he had been charged with a misdemeanor for burning trash without a permit.

A group of present and former corrections officers based in St. Mary's is also involved in organizing common law courts. Leaders in the

group include Ronald Griesacker, Rockie Broaddus, Ernest Cartmill, Robert Riccomini and Julio Garcia. According to Griesacker, group leaders were trained by Montana court activists LeRoy Schweitzer, Dale Jacobi, Rodney Skurdal, Daniel Petersen and others of the infamous Montana seven. Their training included "biblical concepts that intermingled with our government." Griesacker wrote: "Let it not be said, our hour came and we allowed unjustifiably to fall those who seek to preserve the peace for our posterity while having the chance to be free from the bondage of the babylonian [sic] presumed 14th amendment statute" (*The American's Bulletin*, December 1995, p. 21 & 24).

### **Louisiana**

A common law court has formed in Lafayette, Louisiana. Documents filed by the court lists the names of Thomas W. Parker, Robert Kaltenbach and six other "members of the militia of the United States of America, Waco Command." Thomas W. Parker of Lafayette has filed liens against police officers, judges, minute clerks, and bailiffs, all concerning losses in traffic court. Parker has filed over \$30 million in liens. (*Baton Rouge Advocate*, June 18, 1995).

An article in the Baton Rouge Sunday Advocate described Kaltenbach, 62, as a "pioneer" of court activity, having previously founded a group called the Enlightened Patriots. He has since started the Church of Yahweh in Youngsville. Kaltenbach was released from prison in July 1993 after serving nine years for practicing law without a license and aiding another person to commit fraud in connection with issuing fraudulent money orders (*Baton Rouge Advocate*, June 18, 1995).

### **Michigan**

In a manner similar to common law courts, activists in the Michigan Militia are attempting to use legitimate township associations throughout the state to press their agenda. About ten township associations in Michigan have reported the appearance of militia members at recent meetings. Apparently based on Posse Comitatus-like notions that intermediate levels of government can overrule federal and state law, militia members argued that townships can pass any law they desire through a show of hands. According to

Michigan Militia leader William Ordiway Jr., a leader in this effort, established township associations have kept this power from people in an effort to advance global government.

Militia activists have recently focused their efforts on the Norman Township based in Wellston, Michigan. According to Michigan Township Association Executive Director Larry Merrill, "People who talk to militia members say Norman is their test case. It's where they intend to show they can take over a town" (*New York Times*, November 12, 1995).

### Missouri

In Missouri common law courts have been active in McDonald, Nodaway County, Andrew County and Clay Counties. The best known of the Missouri common law activists are Robert Joost and Ellis and Elizabeth Poole. One case involving Aprille Schellhammer and the Wichita National Common Law Jury straddled the Missouri-Kansas border.

In June 1994, Missouri state troopers arrested Robert N. Joost for attempting to serve a state trooper with a people's court order. Three months later, Cpl. Bobbie J. Harper, an arresting officer in Joost's case, was shot by a sniper while in the kitchen of his own home. Harper suffered near fatal injuries and was forced into retirement. Missouri police have linked his shooting to Timothy Coombs, a visitor on Joost's farm, and a warrant has been issued for Coombs' arrest. A list of names including Harper and other troopers, was also found on Joost's farm (*National Times*, January 1996).

The case of April Schellhammer illustrates the progression of Christian Patriots who have moved from individual acts of harassment to using common law courts. Schellhammer's use of pseudo-legal procedures can be traced to the early 1990s when she filed a \$35,000 lien against her own property to stop a foreclosure by Metmor Financial, the company holding the title. In late 1993, she filed a "Ninth Amendment Counter Claim at Law for Constructive Fraud" in the Platte County Circuit Court against Metmor Financial's attorney, Berry Laws. Next, Schellhammer attempted to remove all legal liens and transfer the deed of the property into her name by obtaining a "certified money order" from Wisconsin far-right

activist L. A. Pethiaha. In March 1994, she had submitted documents declaring herself a "free-born citizen of the sovereign de jure republic known as Missouri State." Finally, in May 1995, Schellhammer faxed Mr. Laws a summons to appear before the Wichita National Common Law Grand Jury.

Like common law court efforts in several other states, activity in Missouri has benefited from the support of the Oklahoma-based United Sovereigns of America. David Schechter of United Sovereigns of America, has served as a notary for the Clay County Common Law Court.

Missouri common law courts also have significant representation from the racist movement. Leonard Ginter, former leader of the Wisconsin Posse Comitatus sat on both the Nodaway and Andrew County Courts. Ginter's wife Norma also served on the Andrew County Court. Joining the Ginters are Ellis and Elizabeth Poole. Ellis Poole visited racist Richard Snell in prison before Snell was executed in April 1995 for murdering a black Missouri state trooper and a pawnbroker who he perceived to be Jewish.

### Nebraska

Gene Schroder and Dave Schechter, both linked to United Sovereigns of America, have been involved in common law courts in Nebraska. The two led a Citizens Grand Jury meeting November 4-5, 1995 on Grand Island. Schechter was quoted by the Omaha World Herald as saying, "We're sitting in exactly the same position our forefathers were in when they fought the Revolution." About 150 people were reported to have attended while a thirty-three member grand-jury, one member from each represented county, met to examine the claim that the current court system is fraudulent. Courts had reportedly been held in a motel in York, Nebraska for months prior to the November Grand Jury (*Omaha World Herald*, November 5, 1995).

When Donna Axmann of Ravenna was summoned for jury duty in Buffalo County, she refused and claimed that she was "working in the Common Law Court and I am not a citizen of the Corporate United States." Axmann also wrote that "Statute Courts," referring to the actual court system, are "the synagogue of Satan" (*Omaha World Herald*, October 26, 1995).

In response to Common Law Court activity Nebraska Secretary of State Scott Moore has warned county clerks to be on the look-out for the phony court documents (*Omaha World Herald*, January 6, 1996).

### North Carolina

Members of the Haywood County Militia, co-founded by 21 year old Exxon Convenience Store clerk Jeremy Davis, are reported to be working closely with common law courts in that county (*Greensboro News & Record*, June 25, 1995). The court was formed by William O'Brien, a 61-year-old retired paper-mill safety officer from Bogalusa, La., who acts as the "special marshal" of the Constitutional Common Law Court in Waynesville, North Carolina. O'Brien has been quoted as saying that his group "educates members of the Haywood County Militia" (*Durham Herald-Sun*, April 30, 1995). He also said, "for violent offenders, the jury will tell the constable to find a tall tree and a short rope. It worked before and it will work in any age" (*Greensboro News & Record*, June 25, 1995).

In March, a common law court organizing meeting was attended by about one hundred people. After that meeting, held at the County Courthouse, deputies informed Haywood County Manager Jack Horton that some of the militia members in attendance at the common law court meeting were armed. Horton has since barred them from using the facility (*Greensboro News & Record*, June 25, 1995).

### Ohio

Ohio has seen a significant amount of common law court activity. A series of newspaper articles and recent television coverage has made Ohio's courts some of the most visible in the country. As elsewhere, common law court activists and supporters have been linked to numerous threats against public officials. Three judges have reported being "indicted" by the Columbus-based common law court which meets weekly in an East Side bingo hall, while nine other judges around the state have reported similar kinds of threats (*Columbus Dispatch*, December 17, 1995). Common law courts filed a \$100 million lien against a Zanesville Judge (*Dayton Daily News*, December 5, 1995), while a Delaware County Common Pleas

judge received a letter from a defendant in a civil suit which read in part,

Because I bear you no malice and believe it is my Christian duty to warn you, take careful consideration of the path you take. I think you may want to heed the mandate of the One Common Law Supreme Court and not continue in a case that has considerable risk of financial liability (*Columbus Dispatch*, September 24, 1995).

Ohio common law activity prompted a December 8, 1995 meeting between Ohio Supreme Court Chief Justice Thomas J. Moyer, law enforcement officials and 20 common pleas judges from around the state. Police have reported common law court and related activity in 60 of Ohio's 88 counties while judges in 37 counties have reported incidents with "Our One Supreme Court" and related groups (*Plain Dealer*, December 11, 1995). Chief Justice Moyer, who has been outspoken about court activity, told the *Cleveland Plain Dealer* :

I'm much more concerned about this movement than I was before this meeting.... It's a somewhat sophisticated and organized scheme to keep chipping away at authority. What concerns me is the volume is being turned up and the activity is becoming more intense (December 11, 1995).

To date the Columbus-based "Our One Supreme Court" has apparently been the state's most active court. According to the *Los Angeles Times*, since the opening of "Our One Supreme Court" in Columbus in March 1995, approximately one thousand people have appeared to file "quiet title" or sovereignty documents. (January 1996). Columbus court leader Bill Ellwood claims that weekly sessions in the Columbus Court have attracted one hundred to two hundred people from Ohio, Indiana, Kentucky, West Virginia and Michigan (*Columbus Dispatch*, September 10, 1995). Branches of the One Supreme Court have reportedly been formed in Cuyahoga, Stark and Hamilton counties as well (*Plain Dealer*, December 11, 1995).

Ohio's common law courts have been influenced by both United Sovereigns of America and leaders in the Garfield County, Montana court. The Columbus court apparently began with the aid of United Sovereigns leader David Schechter. Court activists have drawn on the writings of Colorado United Sovereigns figure Gene Schroder and have adopted the United Sovereigns court

model. An article in the *Los Angeles Times* also reports that the founders of the Columbus Court traveled to Montana, paying a \$2,400 "donation" for a four day meeting with LeRoy Schweitzer (January 1996).

According to Schweitzer both Bill Elwood and Michael Hill attended a seminar at Justus Township. Columbus court leader Bill Ellwood confirmed this to the *Columbus Dispatch* and said he considers Schweitzer "probably the most knowledgeable fellow in the country on the common law." Columbus common law court "clerk" Larry Russell presented a \$1 million bank check from the Northwest Bank Anaconda-Butte N.A. to the Fairfield County Treasurer's office as a bond to back up his self-appointment as a notary public (*Columbus Dispatch*, December 17, 1995). The Anaconda-Butte bank is the name placed on a number of such "checks" signed by LeRoy Schweitzer.

From their inception, Ohio common law courts have been linked to militia activity. Michael Hill, a former Canton police officer and Ohio militia "chaplain" was an early "chief justice" in the Columbus common law court. In June 1995 Hill was killed in a confrontation with Frazeyburg Police Sgt. Matt May and quickly became a martyr for militia activists. Despite the efforts of court activists and groups like the Militia of Montana to cast Hill as an innocent victim, a legitimate Muskingum County grand jury determined otherwise. Prior to the shooting May had stopped Hill's car because it had a bogus license plate which read "Militia Chaplain." After being stopped, Hill drove off; May pursued and again stopped Hill east of Frazeyburg. Testimony given by May and a Frazeyburg fire fighter riding in the police car with May described that Hill then got out of his car holding a gun and that May had acted in self-defense (*Columbus Dispatch*, September 28, 1995).

Following the shooting the National Confederation of Citizens Militias announced that Officer May had been "indicted" by a common law court (*Columbus Dispatch*, September 28, 1995). Appearing on ABC's 20/20 news magazine program, police Lt. Larry Simms, who investigated shooting, stated: "They've actually said that Matt May would be killed. They've already indicted Matt May in this common law court system and said they were going to pronounce sentence on Matt May"

(January 5, 1995).

Bill Ellwood, the "chief justice" who led the Columbus common law court has said, "Absolutely, we will attempt to follow through [on court rulings]. We haven't yet because we haven't indicted anybody, but that doesn't mean we aren't hearing cases." He indicated that if the sheriff does not respond to indictments, the U.S. Marshall Service would be asked to enforce it. If no response is achieved, the National Guard will be approached, and "If the National Guard fails, then the people have no place to go but to the constitutional militia... Yes, the militia are involved. They are the last resort of enforcement for the common law courts" (*Oregonian*, December 24, 1995).

The Ohio courts' roots in far right conspiracy theories and anti-Semitism has also been on display. According to the *Columbus Dispatch*, literature distributed at court meetings has included a book which "claims that Jews were not the primary victims in Nazi death camps" and "another [that] purports to detail a secret 19th century plot by the 'Elders of Zion' to take over the world" (December 17, 1995).

Common law court "clerk" Larry Russell told a 20/20 television crew that he hasn't filed tax returns "for a long time" and proudly displayed his Embassy of Heaven driver's license. The Embassy of Heaven, a Stayton, Oregon-based organization has been a staple on the landscape of far right political activity in the Northwest. The group's leader, who has renamed himself Paul Revere, has declared his followers exempt from having to obtain drivers' or vehicle licenses; the group's solution has been to issue their own. Embassy of Heaven members in Washington were active in the 1992 presidential campaign of Populist Party candidate James "Bo" Gritz.

Patrick Rudd of Warwick, an activist in the Columbus, Ohio, common law court, has been charged with mail and bank fraud in connection with a scheme which offered to pay off the mortgages and debts of central Ohioans with bogus money orders, and also described himself as a "freeman sovereign... ambassador of the Embassy of Heaven" and not a citizen of the United States (*Columbus Dispatch*, December 17, 1995).

### Oklahoma

Common law court activity has been stron-

gest in the Northwestern part of the state, where courts are established in Alfalfa, Major and Woodward counties. Garfield County is likewise home to its own court, and a statewide common law court has been established in Kingfisher county. Though most court activity has centered around so-called "quiet title," or sovereignty, filings, in June 1995 Garfield County-based District Attorney Cathy Stocker was served a "summons" by the One Supreme Court at Shaffenberg Farms in Kingfisher County (*Enid News & Eagle*, July 2, 1995).

One such subpoena from the Kingfisher court told the recipient to "appear before Our Justices on June 25, 1995 at 2:45 p.m. at Shaffenburg Farms, Kingfisher, Oklahoma... for questioning and to give testimony pertaining to alleged Criminal and Civil Cause of Actions." It warned, "Fail not under the penalties of the Law, or in the alternative show lawful cause" ("Our One Supreme Court, In Law Grand Jury Investigation," June 20, 1995).

Northwest Oklahoma common law court activity led District Attorney Ray Don Jackson to assign a special prosecutor to examine court activity in Alfalfa, Major, Dewey, Woods and Woodward counties. Assistant District Attorney Bouse also issued an opinion to county clerks discouraging them from filing documents "from a court without competent jurisdiction" (*Enid News & Eagle*, July 2, 1995). In one case, Gideon Cowan, a Northwest Oklahoma activist, was charged with two counts of offering forged or false instruments for record (*Enid News & Eagle*, July 2, 1995).

Oklahoma's first common law court of recent origin and one of the first in the country, was established in December 1993 in Garfield County. The Court grew out of the legal problems of Warren Ensminger, a man who had filed a "sovereignty" declaration in Garfield County based on his being a "white Male born in the City of Enid" and not "a Federal Citizen of the 'United States' under the so-called 14th Amendment." His legal problems began in 1993 when the Federal Land Bank foreclosed on his deceased mother's cattle ranch. Ensminger attempted to pay an outstanding \$401,809 debt with a bogus "certified money order" and later published a default judgment alleging that an Okeene bank owed him \$56

million (*Enid News & Eagle*, July 2, 1995). Ensminger, the first justice of "Our One Supreme Court in and for Garfield County," was joined in the court by jurors Melvin Griffith and now United Sovereigns of America leader Gerald (Jerry) J. Henson.

An early common law court document declared the district court presiding over the Ensminger foreclosure to have "limited jurisdiction, unable to make a final Judgment," and issued a "Caveat/Constructive/ Notice" warning that "whosoever, shall trespass upon the Case, or property or rights of Warren E. Ensminger... shall be liable for their Action, and subject to Citizen's Common Law Court(s), Citizens Grand Jury, findings." The common law court "granted" the presiding District Court judge "leave of court" so that "he or she will not heretofore [sic] further willingly and voluntarily, commit perjury, nor subornation of perjury" ("People in Oklahoma ex rel: Our One Supreme Court in and for Garfield County Justice's Joinder of Property," December 29, 1993).

Although the 10th Circuit District Court in Oklahoma stated that "We have absolutely not recognized any common law court in any respect" (*Casper Star-Tribune*, December 17, 1995), for court activists this and subsequent documents filed by common law courts "proved" that the actual court system "does not have direct jurisdiction within the state republic concerning the people and property within the territorial state" ("The Oklahoma Writ," February 2, 1995, p.33).

Oklahoma courts have been influenced by Montana leaders (see above) and dominated by leaders associated with the group United Sovereigns of America. "Justices" at a January 1995 Alfalfa County Common Law Court included United Sovereigns leaders Dennis Smith and Darrel Frech of Jet (*Enid News & Eagle*, July 2, 1995). Among other notable actions, Frech is reported in an August 28, 1995 *USA Today* article to have begun a description of the court by reading from the anti-Semitic *Protocols of the Elders of Zion*. Frech has been active with the We the People organization led by convicted felon Barry Schwasenger.

Another member of the Alfalfa court is Mooreland-based activist Melvin Griffith who has circulated Rodney Skurdal's *Free(man) Newsletter* which declares interracial marriages against God's Law and that "the Fourteenth Amendment

created a second class of citizen, Blacks and Aliens" (*Enid News & Eagle*, July 2, 1995; *Free(man) Newsletter*, June 1995).

Dan Meador, a contributing editor to *United Sovereigns' 50 States Constitutionalist Newspaper* and a leader of the Kay County Patriots, has also been active in Oklahoma Courts. Meador wrote the February 2, 1995 "Oklahoma Writ" in which far-right activists demanded that the legislature establish rules for working with Common Law Courts. The Oklahoma Writ declared that the "fourteenth amendment United States citizen did not have inherent rights of Preamble sovereign people rhetorically referenced as United States citizens..." ("The Oklahoma Writ," February 2, 1995, Dan & Gail Meador, p.14).

Accompanied by United Sovereigns leader Jerry Henson, Meador delivered a copy of the writ to "one of the (state) legislators who is pushing to restore constitutional government and who is a good friend of Jerry [Henson]" (letter included in mailing by Kay County Patriots titled "Subject: Writ of Mandamus; Ex Rel; Citizens of Oklahoma," February 2, 1995, Dan & Gail Meador, p.1). Meador and Kay County Patriots activist Ron Buck have been involved in a five-person steering committee instructing people in how to form courts (Kay County Patriots mailing). Meador has also been involved in court activity in Ponca City and other United Sovereign leaders active in courts include Wayne R. Gunwall who served as a "foreman" of the Ponca City Grand Jury and as a marshal at the June 3-4, 1995 Wichita, Kansas, National Grand Jury ("Preliminary Findings of Grand Jury," convened in state venue, Ponca City, Oklahoma, July 22 & 23, 1995).

United Sovereigns publisher and *50 States Constitutionalist* editor Jerry Henson has been active with the Kay County Patriots and served as a foreman at a Kingfisher County court proceeding (*Enid News & Eagle*, July 30, 1995). (See United Sovereigns section)

The United Sovereigns leaders active in Oklahoma have been influenced by a number of national leaders in the Christian Patriot movement. In his "Oklahoma Writ," Dan Meador thanked a number of movement leaders for contributing "major research" including Bill Benson, Christian Patriot banking theorist and Byron Dale (see Dale, Byron, *Bashed by the Bankers*, 1988, Pro-Ameri-

can Educational Foundation), recently deceased Christian Patriot leader Howard Freeman and Montana leader Martin J. "Red" Beckman ("The Oklahoma Writ," February 2, 1995).

### Tennessee

Montana court leader LeRoy Schweitzer has been linked to common law court activity in Chester County, about one mile east of Memphis. Everett Stout, listed as the notary public of the court, was arrested on November 13, 1995 after mailing a "certified bankers check" to the Chester County Clerk's Office for \$1 million to serve as his "special bond" as notary. The check was made payable on site by the "Treasurer of the united States of America." The remitter and "guarantor" of the check was LeRoy Schweitzer. Stout was arrested on a felony charge of criminal simulation (*The Commercial Appeal*, November 26, 1995).

### Texas

Common law courts have been established in Ellis, Dallas, Tarrant, Kerr and Jeff Davis counties. Most of the cases appearing before the Dallas County court as of late 1995 were "quiet title," or sovereignty declarations by individuals concerning their property. Sovereignty filings have declared that individuals are "Freemen," not obliged to pay income taxes, carry a driver's license or submit to the authority of official courts. In the property declarations, attendees announce that anyone with a legal issue pertaining to their land must come before the common law court (*Christian Science Monitor*, October 31, 1995). Many Texas courts have been influenced by the United Sovereigns of America, adopting the "Our One Supreme Court" model.

Activists affiliated with a Common Law Court in Kerr County had a brief success in May 1994 when Kerr County Judge William Stacy signed court orders recognizing their "sovereignty" and exempting them from state and federal laws. The common law court advocates had challenged charges, including speeding and drunk driving, on the grounds that as declared sovereigns they were not subject to such charges. Stacy said, "I work for the people and have the people's interest at heart. I tried to help these people who feel their constitutional rights are being violated—as do I" (*Arizona Republic*, September 25, 1994). Casey



was forced to void the orders after being reprimanded by the Texas State Commission on Judicial Conduct. The reprimand resulted when Assistant County Attorney Ilse Bailey reported Stacey to the Commission.

Another group of common law court activists with origins in Jeff Davis County in Eastern Texas have formed the "Provisional Government of the Republic of Texas." The group extends the logic of the common law court model to an entire government, establishing a General Council consisting of a president, vice-president, chief ambassador and consul general and secretaries of defense, judicial affairs, commerce, agriculture and science and technologies, among other positions.

The founding "Plans and Powers of the Provisional Government of the Republic of Texas," states the function of the General Council "shall be to devise ways and means to assist the President in the discharge of his function" and "to help develop and implement a plan for the transition of existing de facto Government operating on the soil of Texas into one uniform body, the Republic of Texas; to provide for this plan to encompass privatization, decentralization, deregulation, and the elimination of all excess waste; and in the final steps to in-place a limited Government, in order to move to the highest point possible in self-government..." (p.3).

"Defense Secretary" Archie Lowe "will be responsible for the appointment of all County Sheriffs and Constables, under the direction of the Council" (p.5). "Provisional Judicial Affairs Secretary" Tim McMahan shall be charged with the powers of immediately implementing a Judicial Affairs Committee of Citizens and Legal Scholars in re-implementing the Courts of Common Law Venue in the Republic of Texas and will "be delegated the responsibilities of uniform organization of Townships and Land Commissions into Jural Societies for immediate relief of the Citizens and People of Texas" (p.5).

The Provisional government was apparently formed by the Concerned Property Owners Association in the course of a lawsuit against the Davis Mountains Property Owners Association. The suit revolved around the Concerned Property Owner's Association attempt to avoid the terms of a deed to the resort property it had purchased. The group formed the Davis Mountain Lands Commission as

a transitional organization and also cited the need to "protect them [assets] against encroachments by environmental groups or agencies of the state and federal governments" ("We the People of the Republic of Texas, LAWFUL VENUE, ORIGINAL AND EXCLUSIVE JURISDICTION: A Political Petition for the Reclamation of the Republic of Texas or in the Alternative Formation of the Republic of Jeff Davis and its Admission into the Union as the Fifty First State of the Union," p.2-3).

At the core of the group's declaration is the idea of "organic sovereignty," a central idea of racist Christian Patriotism. The Texas Patriots assert that their problems stem from the time when "the Confederate States of America surrendered and Texas... rejoined the Union." They argue that Texas' new Constitution led to "destroying the status of state citizenship under the previous Commonwealth" after which "the reversion of organic Sovereignty once again fell upon the people of the Republic of Texas."

In December 1995 the group finally declared that the "jurisdiction of any and all courts and administrative agencies operating under the united states of America, state of Texas... involving the rights, property, lands, and tenements held by Citizens of the Republic of Texas is now, by this filing, hereby abated by absolute jurisdictional defect involving the eminent domain right to the soil of Texas held superior by Republic of Texas ex rel the People of the Republic of Texas" ("Formal Legal Notice and Further Execution of International Abatement at Law, December 18, 1995, signed by Richard Lance McLaren, chief ambassador and consul general and Deborah Lagarde, clerk, The Davis Mountains Land Commission, filed in Jeff Davis County, Fort Davis, District Court, December 28, 1995).

### Wisconsin

A Common Law Supreme Court, backed by a citizens militia, has received support from activists in 10 west central Wisconsin counties, according to court organizers. They claim support in Columbia, Crawford, Juneau, LaCrosse, Manitowac, Portage, Shawano, Taylor, Trempealeau and Waupaca Counties (*Wisconsin State Journal*, July 1, 1995).

The first reported organizing effort in this new wave of posse-style court activity occurred on March 5, 1995, when 50 people gathered in a

meeting hall in Dickeyville to organize a common law court (*Wisconsin State Journal*, May 7, 1995).

The court flouts its militia ties. The public notice claims the citizens' court will be enforced by militia protections *vi et armis*, ("by force of arms"). Like other common law courts, the Wisconsin court will be ruled by male justices, with "no exceptions" according to its court rules (*Wisconsin State Journal*, July 1, 1995).

Wisconsin, the southwestern portion of the state in particular, has had a long history Christian Patriot judicial bodies. During the rise of the Posse Comitatus in the 1970s, the Christian Citizens Grand Jury was formed as a "Posse affiliate" under the direction of Leonard Ginter, who lived in Dickeyville at the time. In 1974 Ginter's jury issued "indictments" against 43 state and local officials including former governors Patrick Lucey and Warren Knowles (*Wisconsin State Journal*, May 7, 1995).

An organization bridging the gap between the old posse and today's common law courts is Family Farm Preservation which has been actively involved in court formation. Family Farm Preservation spokesman Jason Hall has taken steps to organize the court, including placing notices in the legal advertising section of the *Milwaukee Journal* in March 1995. Hall also listed himself as the notary on the legal advertisement published in the *Manawa Advocate* and is listed as the court clerk in Dickeyville (*Wisconsin State Journal*, July 1, 1995). One of the original posse founders in Wisconsin, Thomas Stockheimer, is involved in Family Farm Preservation. He and two other Fam-

ily Farm members, Leonard Peth and Mark VanDyke were arrested last spring for an alleged \$65 million phony money-order scheme but were released (*Wisconsin State Journal*, May 7, 1995).

Court members also appear to have ties to the Colorado group, We the People. We the People held meetings in Shawano, Grant and Rock Counties in the spring of 1995 and several of the common law court "Judges" paid \$300 and joined the phony lawsuit against the federal government (*Wisconsin State Journal*, May 7, 1995).

Wisconsin officials have responded to the growth of common law court activity. State Senator Joanne Huelsman (R-Waukesha) introduced a bill that would increase the penalty for those convicted of simulating a legal process, slandering title, or impersonating a public officer. The bill was recently signed into law.

### Wyoming

Using the "Our One Supreme Court" model far right activists in Wyoming formed common law courts following a December 1, 1995 meeting held in Casper. More than 75 individuals attended the event, which featured far-right leader Gene Schroder. The "One Supreme Court" was advertised in the *Star-Tribune* by Dave Dameron of Douglas, Wyoming. Harvey Annis, the sponsor of the Schroder meeting John Lee Cotton and two other self-proclaimed "free white Christian" men have filed their "quiet titles" with the "Our One Supreme Court" (*Casper Star-Tribune*, December 17, 1995).

**Musselshell county court**

country of Montana

Common Law venue - - supreme Court

sitting with the Powers of a district and circuit court in and for Musselshell county  
original and exclusive jurisdiction

united States of America )  
 Montana state { organic } ) ss. before our Justices' pro tempore  
 Musselshell county )  
 Garfield county )  
 Fergus county ) Docket No. CL-LMS-95-0010  
 Petroleum county )  
 Gallatin county )  
 Justus Township )

TO: office of supreme Court clerk, c/o office of supreme Court Justices'; and,

In re: "other jurisdiction"

**Defendants:** attorney general, county attorney(s), office of county sheriff, office of secretary of state, office of governor, office of county assessor; office of county auditor; office of county treasurer; office of United States attorney, office of United States attorney general, Joint Chiefs of Staff, National Guard, office of state auditor; State Bar Association; Commission on Practice; all Senators; all Representatives; Senate Judiciary Committee; office of President; office of Solicitor General; office of special Consular; all legislative created judicial district courts; all legislative created Justice of the peace courts; all municipal courts; all United States District Courts; all federal judges; all circuit court Justices'; all administrative agencies; all non-registered foreign agents; Secret Service; Central Intelligence Agency; Central Intelligence Division; Federal Bureau of Investigation; INTERPOL; Federal Reserve Banks; Federal Reserve System; Federal Reserve Corporation; United States Bureau of Internal Revenue; United States Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms; United States secretary of state; Army Reserve; United Nations, United States citizens.

## • Quiet Title by affidavit of

Dale M. Jacobi, LeRoy M. Schweitzer, Daniel E. Petersen, Rodney O. Skurdal, Richard E. Wilson,  
sui juris

Common Law venue, original and exclusive jurisdiction as provided under  
Article V, section 26 of our Constitution of Montana

We, the undersigned Dale M. Jacobi, LeRoy M. Schweitzer, Daniel E. Petersen, Rodney O. Skurdal, Richard E. Wilson, having just cause for Quiet Title cause of action in Common Law venue, original and exclusive jurisdiction hereby make this affidavit in special proceedings without recourse in our supreme Court against the named defendants above enumerated and described and any other private parties' who may have any lawful reasons for private ownership of private property rightfully owned by the State in fact, the undersigned in Musselshell county, Garfield county, Petroleum county, Fergus county, Gallatin county, country of Montana, in these several States of our Nation in America, said private property more fully described to wit:

All corporal hereditaments, all corporeal hereditaments, all hereditary succession, all private land, all private property, all personal judgments as published in local newspapers in our country of Montana, united States of America.

Sample "Quiet Title" filing.

Mississippi County Court

1892

James Lawrence, Plaintiff

vs

John W. Lawrence, Defendant

James Lawrence, Plaintiff

vs

John W. Lawrence, Defendant

James Lawrence, Plaintiff

vs

John W. Lawrence, Defendant

The State of Missouri, Plaintiff

vs

James Lawrence, Defendant

James Lawrence, Plaintiff

vs

John W. Lawrence, Defendant

James Lawrence, Plaintiff

vs

John W. Lawrence, Defendant

James Lawrence, Plaintiff

James Lawrence, Plaintiff

TO:

Now comes \_\_\_\_\_, COMPLAINANT, acting in the name of We the People and pursuant to the laws of the United States, makes known the following FELONY.

Felony defined: USC TITLE 18 Sec. 1. Any offense punishable by death or imprisonment for a term exceeding one year is a felony.

### CHARGES

#### COUNT I

\_\_\_\_\_ et al, having taken an oath to support and defend the United States Constitution, did willfully and knowingly violate said oath by:

USC TITLE 18 SEC. 1621. Whoever - (1) having taken an oath before a competent tribunal officer, or person, in any case in which a law of the United States authorizes an oath to be administered, that he will testify, declare, depose, or certify truly, or that any written testimony, declaration, deposition, or certificate by him subscribed, is true, willfully and contrary to such oath states or subscribes any material matter which he does not believe to be true; or (2) in any

declaration, certificate, verification, or statement under penalty of perjury as permitted under section 1746 of Title 28, United States Code, willfully subscribes as true any material matter which he does not believe to be true; is guilty of perjury and shall, except as otherwise expressly provided by law, be fined not more than \$2,000 or imprisoned not more than five years, or both.

#### COUNT II

\_\_\_\_\_ owing allegiance to the United States and the United States Constitution did willfully and knowingly give aid and comfort to those ET AL defendants whose acts are subversive to the United States and as such are destroying our children, our homes, our churches, our schools, our business, our contracts, our money system, and our government. Said acts defined in the United States Constitution Art. 3 Sec. 3, is punishable under USC TITLE 18 Sec. 3, 4, 2381, 2382, 2383, and 2384.

USC TITLE 18 Sec. 3. Whoever, knowing that an offense against the United States has been committed, receives, relieves, comforts or assists the offender in order to hinder or prevent his apprehension, trial or punishment is an accessory after the fact. Except as otherwise expressly provided by any Act of Congress, an accessory after the fact shall be imprisoned not more than one-half the maximum term of imprisonment or fined not more than one-half the maximum fine prescribed for the punishment of the principal, or both; or if the principal is punishable by life imprisonment or death, the accessory shall be imprisoned not more than 15 years.

USC TITLE 18 Sec. 2382. Whoever, owing allegiance to the United States and having knowledge of the commission of any treason against them, conceals and does not, as soon as may be, disclose and make known the same to the President or to some judge or justice of a particular State, is guilty of misprision of treason and shall be fined not more than \$1,000 or imprisoned not more than seven years, or both.

USC TITLE 18 Sec. 4. Whoever, having knowledge of the actual commission of a felony cognizable by a court of the United States, conceals and does not as soon as possible make known the same to some judge or other person in civil or military authority under the United States, shall be fined not more than \$500 or imprisoned not more than three years, or both.

USC TITLE 18 Sec. 2382. Whoever incites, sets on foot, assists, or engages in any rebellion or insurrection against the authority of the United States or the laws thereof, or gives aid or comfort thereto, shall be fined not more than \$10,000 or imprisoned not more than ten years, or both; and shall be incapable of holding any office under the United States.

USC TITLE 18 Sec. 2381. Whoever, owing allegiance to the United States, levies war against them or adheres to their enemies, giving them aid and comfort within the United States or elsewhere, is guilty of treason and shall suffer death, or shall be imprisoned not less than five years and fined not less than \$10,000, and shall be incapable of holding any office under the United States.

USC TITLE 18 Sec. 2384. If two or more persons in any State or Territory, or in any place subject to the jurisdiction of the United States, conspire to overthrow, put down, or to destroy by force the Government of the United States, or to levy war against them, or to oppose by force the authority thereof, or by force to prevent, hinder, or delay the execution of any law of the United States, or by force to seize, take, or possess any property of the United States contrary to the authority thereof, they shall each be fined not more than \$20,000 or imprisoned not more than twenty years, or both.

Bogus common law "Notice of Felony" of the type "served" to officials in  
Madison County, Idaho in late 1995.

**DEMAND FOR ARREST**

Pursuant to the laws of the United States, We the People DEMAND the arrest of the felon herein named.

Pursuant to the statutes herein in particular and all the laws of the United States in General, WE the PEOPLE DEMAND that you pursue and prosecute ALL ET AL offenders that have violated their Oath of Office and the Laws of the United States.

**DEMAND FOR SEIZURE OF EVIDENCE**

Pursuant to the Laws of the United States, WE the PEOPLE DEMAND the seizure and impoundment of ALL books and records of the account of County/Township as evidence of the foregoing felony.

**WARNING**

Should any person try to cover up the felony complained of herein, BE YOU HEREBY PUT ON NOTICE: You may be indicted under USC Title 18 Sec. 3, 4, 2381, 2382, 2383, and 2384.

Pursuant to the Law of POSSE COMITATUS, should you fail in the discharge of your sworn duty, WE the PEOPLE shall bring you to JUSTICE under Law of POSSE COMITATUS.

COMPLAINANT, being first truly sworn, states that he has knowledge of the felonies herein complained of that it is not submitted to be Vexatious, but to obtain imperative JUSTICE.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Complainant

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Witness

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Witness

Subscribed to and sworn to before me this day.  
Notary Public in County of \_\_\_\_\_, State of \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Notary Public

\_\_\_\_\_  
My Commission Expires

COURTS OF JUSTICE  
COMMON LAW VENUE  
SUPREME COURT

United States of America )  
Idaho state [organic] ) ss.  
Madison county )

before our Justice Emerson S. Mason  
Supreme Court Rules, original and exclusive jurisdiction  
Affidavit of Publication Notice

TO: office of Supreme Court clerk in Madison county; in care of  
office of Supreme Court Justices, and Local Paper, Standard-Journal,  
Boise, Idaho state, U.S. of A.

Greetings:

Know all de jure Citizens by these presents,

In the name and by the authority of our People in our country of Idaho, a union state of the United States of America, in and for Madison county, our Justices' hereby present for publication our special Rules of our Supreme Court in common law venue original and exclusive jurisdiction said Rules effective immediately upon public notice and knowledge.

Rule 1. Our Supreme Court in common law venue is original and exclusive jurisdictional on each and every county organized for judicial purposes which denies titles of nobility and corporations from entering into our Supreme Court without leave granted by our Court pursuant to our organic law under Magna Charta with emphasis on Chapter 24; quoted, "No sheriff, constable, coroner, or other of our bailiffs, shall hold pleas of the crown."

Rule 2. Our Supreme Court appoints of necessity a special Marshal, or any number Marshals who hold office at the pleasure of our appointing power and their costs are taxed against the losing party on the civil side of our Supreme Court, and as against our county on the public side of our Supreme Court.

Rule 3. Our Supreme Court is held anywhere in our township, precinct, county or country at the pleasure of our Justices', wherever our regal retinue follows.

Rule 4. Our Supreme Court clerk is the office of county court clerk and recorder, and of necessity by our prothonotary due to common ignorance caused by other jurisdictions statutory process and the controlled title of nobility State Bar of Idaho.

Rule 5. Our Supreme Court Justices' sitting en banc as King's Bench with twelve Justices' in purview of Chapter 45 of Magna Charta.

SUPREME COURT RULES - PAGE 1

Court rules for Madison County, Idaho Common Law Court.

Rule 6. Our Supreme Court rule of decision is supreme and in accordance with Magna Charta, our organic law and our original common law of England as it was known at the time of territory of Idaho became one of the several States of our Union in America.

Rule 7. Our Supreme Court is in fact the county exofficio justices' meetings, commonly known to the People, even though not well known the quorum of Justices' are the three county commissioners.

Rule 8. Our Supreme Court is a Court of Justice of first and last resort, hearing both matters in Law and matters of fact, civil and criminal jurisdiction in the same cause of action at the choice of the Justices'.

Rule 9. Our Supreme Court is a Court of Record via the office of county clerk and recorder.

Rule 10. Our Supreme Court will publish all process in the legal notices.

Rule 11. Our Supreme Court praecipe and procedendo are in Magna Charta chapter 34, the same as Chapter 24 in Coke on the Magna Charta.

Rule 12. Our Supreme Court approves of assistance of counsel by free choice of the parties'.

Rule 13. Our Supreme Court term time is from day to day depending upon the matters before our Court, seven days a week by reason our Courts of Justice are always open.

Rule 14. Our Supreme Court will not deny, nor sell justice to anyone of any character whatsoever.

Rule 15. Our Supreme court adopts the Hannack Statutes of 1864, A.D. for pleadings as format, with special exceptions as granted by our Justices' from time to time in purview of our Supreme Court Rule 1.

Rule 16. Our Supreme Court explicitly reserves our right to amend our Rules from time to time of necessity; and in relation to the character of the parties', especially in purview of second class citizens subject to the District of Columbia by acts or congress through contract and common usage.

Rule 17. Our Supreme Court explicitly reserves our Right to select and choose our Justices' from our venue, based upon their strict compliance with Chapter 45 of Magna Charta.

Rule 18. Our Supreme Court is a self-governing body of de jure Citizens well learned in law with general superintending control over all legislative created tribunals in our sole and exclusive right of self-governing as a free and sovereign people of Idaho, our organic State, as opposed to the compact party state of Idaho corporation under copyrighted statutes.

SUPREME COURT RULES - PAGE 2

Appendix B: Court Rules (2 of 3)



Rule 19. Our Supreme Court adopts these rules for the district courts in our counties organized for judicial purposes in relation to the character of the parties and reserves our contempt power against any district court Justice or judge who fails to obey said common Law venue Supreme Court Rules, no exceptions.

Rule 20. Our Supreme Court will amend from time to time, and in term time or vacation time these above Rules until our sole and power and authority as was proven by Court Records in earlier times under our territory of Idaho and the early part of this century. unrestrained by public policy will, and corporation courts created by the Legislative Assembly.

Rule 21. Our Supreme Court specially adopts the explicit and express words of Article III, section 19 of our Constitution of Idaho in the year of Eighteen Hundred Ninety, A.D., whereby we have judicial power and judicial authority to self-govern our one Supreme Court in each and every one of our forty-four counties in our country of Idaho, a foreign jurisdiction from the compact party state of Idaho and the District of Columbia, its territories, its subjects, its States and its treaties.

These Supreme Court Rules are true, correct and certain.

teste meipso this 9th day of November, in the year of our Lord, Nineteen Hundred Ninety Five, A.D.

per curiam/s/ Emerson J. Mason & *[Signature]*  
Justice in and for Madison county, country of Idaho, U.S. of A.  
c/o 7th Judicial District c/o 487 S. 5500 West Rexburg  
Idaho state, U.S. of A., non-domestic

cc: other interested Private parties'

Attest and acknowledged this 9th day of November, 1995, A.D. (not to be construed as entry into any foreign Jurisdiction)

Seal

*[Signature]*  
de jure Notary Public  
7-29-99

(Pub. 11-13, 1995,      wk.)

State of the Forum Common Law UCC/MCA 30-1-105 (N.I.L.)  
 U.C.C. - 4 Private Security Agreement non-negotiable "True Bill"  
 means bargain of the parties in fact  
 Craig v. Missouri 29 US (1V Pet.) 410, 433-36 (1830)

I, Lloyd Bentsen, individually, and as secretary of the Department of the Treasury "within" the United States, jointly and severally, attest to these facts in this non-negotiable "True Bill" P.S.-1 Private security agreement under the principle of ignorance of the law is no excuse, and therefore, by these due presentments for acceptance without dishonor under U.C.C./MCA 30-3-504 & 505, through principles of U.C.C./MCA 30-1-103 by undue influence: principal and agent, fraud, misrepresentation, coercion, mistake, duress, estoppel, law of contracts, bankruptcy and other validating or invalidating causes and in this state of the forum common law under U.C.C./MCA 30-1-105 (N.I.L.) (conflicts of law) herein contained agree with the sovereign LeRoy M. Schweitzer in his country of Montana as follows:

During the years while I, Lloyd Bentsen, have been in office as secretary of the Department of the Treasury within the United States, certain United States Bureau of Internal Revenue agents in the foreign country of Montana have attacked the sovereign LeRoy M. Schweitzer through the use of our feigned statutes, regulations and rules without any supporting documents which could prove our judicial power and authority to enforce said statutes, regulations, rules and public policy of our non-registered foreign agents in the country of Montana, one of the several States in the American Union.

I, Lloyd Bentsen, freely admit our I.R.S. statutes as contained within U.S.C. Title 26 must have supporting implementation to enforce the regulations in attempts to collect an assessment for a tax, or make a levy, or enter a lien into the foreign country of Montana as it relates to the sovereign LeRoy M. Schweitzer.

I, Lloyd Bentsen hereby admit our United States Bureau of Internal Revenue agents do not have any supporting implementation regulations which could enforce a collection process against LeRoy M. Schweitzer in his foreign country of Montana unless and until our United States could have proven said Sovereign had in fact engaged in business activities enforced by the United States Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms under contractual law of privilege.

I, Lloyd Bentsen, freely admit in this special private presentment the fact our agents acts of entering a "Notice of Lien" in the Gallatin county-court building in Bozeman, Montana state, as against the sovereign LeRoy M. Schweitzer was made under color of law and in violation of our own restrictive covenants by acts of congress which are limited to "within" the District of Columbia, its territories, its possessions, its subjects, its States, its states, and its treaties, thereby making our "Notice of Lien" an incomplete instrument as in U.C.C. § 3.115 which was induced upon the sovereign LeRoy M. Schweitzer through fraud as in U.C.C. § 3.305(2)(B) & (C).

I, Lloyd Bentsen, know and understand our United States Bureau of Internal Revenue agents must comply with certain mandates by acts of congress in relation to U.S.C. Title 27, Code of Federal Regulations such as the corresponding entries for U.S.C. Title 26 to make enforceable our section 7203 willful failure to file provisions, and of which we do not have any enforcement powers nor authority under U.S.C. Title 26 which is voluntary as contradistinguished from U.S.C. Title 27 under the United States Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms which clearly show the corresponding regulations as admitted by acts of congress.

I, Lloyd Bentsen, freely admit the sovereign LeRoy M. Schweitzer did make due presentment to our United States corporation via freedom of information act to which our agents did summarily deny said information and did state in their return letter it would be dangerous to the United States Bureau of Internal Revenue if said federal agency made an answer to the sovereign LeRoy M. Schweitzer in his country of Montana "other jurisdiction".

I, Lloyd Bentsen, know and understand our duties as provided by acts of congress to publish in the Federal Register our authority by statute, with the implementing regulations for enforcement of any attempt by the United States Bureau of Internal Revenue Service to collect an assessment upon the sovereign LeRoy M. Schweitzer in his

"True Bill"

"Private Security Agreement"

Page 1 of 4

Appendix C: True Bill filed by LeRoy Schweitzer against former  
 Secretary of the Treasury Lloyd Bentsen (1 of 4).

foreign country of Montana, and as of the time of this due private presentment, I, Lloyd Bentsen know of no such publication whatsoever.

I, Lloyd Bentsen, freely admit our section 6110 of our I.R.S. code makes it mandatory for us to reveal to the sovereign LeRoy M. Schweitzer his requests in relation to our application of U.S.C. Title 26 statutes upon said Sovereign, and of which we have failed to honor proven by our agent A. Chony Maxwell in Great Falls, Montana state, united States of America.

I, Lloyd Bentsen, either knew or should have known our United States Bureau of Internal Revenue is doing business under the federal common law which is in fact the Uniform Commercial Code which operates upon a presumption all the People are statutory defined "persons" either inhabiting within the United States or effectively connected with the conduct of a trade or business within the United States, and the sovereign LeRoy M. Schweitzer is not such a "person" by our prima facie records which prove said Sovereign has duly expatriated from "within" our admitted bankrupt United States and is freely inhabiting in his foreign country of Montana, his native birthright origin as an American national free inhabitant.

I, Lloyd Bentsen, know and understand our own U.C.C. recognizes the effect of foreign judgments as a set-off, and upon my willful failure to make timely answer within the courtesy presentment ten ( 10 ) days of receipt of this "True Bill", I, Lloyd Bentsen will become liable for the sum certain amount of One Hundred Million Dollars of Lawful Money of Account, gold minted Coin, or silver minted Coin from our Treasury of these United States of America under our national government in relation to the several States, the foreign country of Montana being one of these separate jurisdictions from our political will public policy admitted bankrupt corporation United States.

I, Lloyd Bentsen, freely admit our feigned enforcement powers "within" the United States in the past have been in direct violation of Article of amendment the Eleventh which prohibits our United States citizens from invoking the judicial power of the United States in any legislative created tribunal a/k/a United States District Court for the District of Montana unless and until the sovereign LeRoy M. Schweitzer would have willfully, knowingly, and voluntarily waived his Common Law venue in his foreign State, which has never happened by our own embarrassing prima facie real evidence, witnessed by our own traitor, none other than "Panama Paul" a/k/a Paul G. Hatfield, a purported federal judge in Great Falls, Montana state, united States of America, now standing in default to the sovereign LeRoy M. Schweitzer to the tune of Seventy Seven Million Dollars of Lawful Money of Account, silver and gold minted Coin in United States of America treasury origin, proven by special collections account number 8520799406, held in escrow by Norwest Bank Anaconda-Butte in Montana state, united States of America.

I, Lloyd Bentsen, admit of our constructive fraud in relation to our form 1040 which has no CMB number attached when in fact our form should have been 2555 in relation to the sovereign LeRoy M. Schweitzer in his foreign country of Montana expressly not "within" the United States.

I, Lloyd Bentsen, freely admit into this special private presentment "True Bill" the very fact our I.R.S. section 7602 proves our authority for summons is only upon the United States Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms and never did apply to the sovereign LeRoy M. Schweitzer in his native born Montana state, a foreign country in relation to our admitted bankrupt United States.

I, Lloyd Bentsen, especially knew and understood my authority to make an assessment upon the sovereign LeRoy M. Schweitzer in his foreign country of Montana was restricted by our own code section 6020 which has implementing regulations for U.S.C. Title 27 under Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms and no authority whatsoever under U.S.C. Title 26, under our purported, willful failure to file code section 7203.

I, Lloyd Bentsen, also admit our code section 6651 only applies to U.S.C. Title 27 in relation to Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms and never did have any relation to our illegal seizure of private property rightfully owned and possessed by the sovereign LeRoy M. Schweitzer in his foreign country of Montana causing our limited liability to

our admitted bankrupt United States corporation for our theft of private property which was never lawfully seized under our very own rules, regulations, statutes and public policy feigned insurance contributions.

I, **Lloyd Bentsen**, further confess we are not embarrassed to place our CFR numbers on our Customs Declaration forms, but have in fact deceived the majority of the People in the several States by our willful failure to place said numbers on our fraudulent 1040 forms which did trick the sovereign LeRoy M. Schweitzer in years past, starting in about 1956, causing much damage to the Sovereign, and his Posterity in their separate venue, a jurisdiction foreign to our United States.

I, **Lloyd Bentsen**, either knew or should have known my willful and knowing accomplices above named, would have to answer in one form or another for our willful and knowing participation in theft of Private property rightfully owned by the sovereign LeRoy M. Schweitzer, with or without resort to a tribunal, but nevertheless subject to our own devious rules a/k/a Uniform Commercial Code through our devisees shysters commonly known as the State Bar of Montana.

I, **Lloyd Bentsen**, know and understand the principal a man is worthy of his hire, and by the prima facie real evidence I, **Lloyd Bentsen**, being a foreign agent taking pay for presumed specific performance from the International Monetary Fund, must obey simple contract law, or become liable upon said contract. Even my attorney advisers knew and understood this elementary principal, but in our programmed mental condition, We, my co-conspirators and accomplices named in this Private security agreement and I, **Lloyd Bentsen**, did willfully and knowingly take the responsibility for our own actions or inactions, with appropriate punishments becoming evident from time to time as truth prevails in the foreign country of Montana.

I, **Lloyd Bentsen**, know and understand by the tenor of this bona fide presentment, a breach of contract subjects me, **Lloyd Bentsen**, to Private and public punishments while under specific performance of public oath of office through delegation of authority, whether or whether not I, **Lloyd Bentsen**, have been misguided, misinformed, maligned and misled by my willful and knowing criminal accomplices named herein.

I, **Lloyd Bentsen**, either knew or should have known Law and Truth prevail, and under our system, no matter how colorable, the Uniform Commercial Code was adequate to punish even the most mentally corrupt and deficient delinquents "within" our United States.

I, **Lloyd Bentsen**, individually, and as secretary of the Department of the Treasury "within" the United States, jointly and severally, know and understand the term constructive fraud with or without scienter, and the term conversion, and the term consideration, and the term obligation of contract, therefore, based upon this special, express, and explicit knowledge, I, **Lloyd Bentsen**, individually, and jointly and severally will become liable to the free inhabitant in his county of Montana on sight, on demand, should I, **Lloyd Bentsen**, fail to comprehend the magnitude of my omissions and commissions under simple contract Law, especially under the supremacy Common Law, a/k/a as our organic Law in harmony with Holy Scriptures, the foundation of our Law, and especially for reasons in contract Law I, **Lloyd Bentsen**, would fail to answer this due private presentment "True Bill" in any manner whatsoever by this tender offer for any consideration sufficient to support a simple contract especially under the provisions of U.C.C./MCA 30-1-103 which provide for bankruptcy and estoppel caused by fraud, coercion, undue influence, misrepresentation, through the Common Law under UCC 1-103.6 as in Anderson's on the UCC, and as explained more fully in the Bank Officer's Handbook of Commercial Banking Law, and in conjunction with the UCC at § 3-103(1) which I know and understand is quoted: "*This Article does not apply to money, documents of title,—*".

For my willful and knowing participation in this conversion of Private property concerning the sovereign LeRoy M. Schweitzer, I, **Lloyd Bentsen**, now know I must answer this courtesy presentment within ten (10) days of this service upon me, or through my continued ignorance in Law, coupled with the pressures of my willful and knowing accomplices, I, **Lloyd Bentsen**, will become liable for the sum certain amount of damages occurring to the sovereign LeRoy M. Schweitzer in this Private matter for One Hundred Million ( 100,000,000.00 ) Dollars of

Lawful Money of Account, especially under our own rules a/k/a Uniform Commercial Code, which was adopted by my adviser accomplices themselves, purportedly learned in law.

I, Lloyd Bentsen, admit in this Private security agreement "True Bill", the fact I do know and understand the term accommodation, and the term surety, and the term guarantor, and the term Maker, and the term Payee, and the term Drawer as could be duly presented in a special Private collections item, restricted endorsement Documentary Draft ( distress warrant) or Certified Bankers Check, drawn without recourse by the sovereign free inhabitant LeRoy M. Schweitzer in his country of Montana, without prejudice to the Sovereign in his Common Law venue state of the forum under the Uniform Enforcement of Foreign Judgments Act by and through a Privately bonded Notary Public under protest as in Rule 9(e), Rule of Evidence 44.1 (judicial notice of foreign law), Rule of Evidence 902(3)(A)(B) 8 & 9, enforceable under UCC 9-501 nihil dicit, when duly presented for audit at the office of the united States of America Postmaster in Brusett, Montana state through the full faith and credit clause of our national Constitution in America.

I, Lloyd Bentsen, admit conversion is criminal jurisdiction and enforceable through Common Law Affidavit in this Montana state in these several States in this Nation in North America.

Done and dated this \_\_\_\_\_ day of November, Nineteen Hundred Ninety Four, A.D..

Attestation: by Lloyd Bentsen, individually, and jointly and severally for the United States

PRIVATE SEAL: \_\_\_\_\_  
Lloyd Bentsen, bona fide, and subject nihil dicit

Acknowledgment: by the free inhabitant LeRoy M. Schweitzer in Law, in our country of Montana teste meipso this 1st day of November, in the year of our Mighty One, through our Redeemer Emmanuel, Nineteen Hundred Ninety Four, A.D..

PER CURIAM: LeRoy M. Schweitzer  
LeRoy M. Schweitzer, in personam, in re, in Justus Township, in Garfield county in our country of Montana, expressly not "within" the United States.

notary public Seal: \_\_\_\_\_  
Rodney O. Skudal, duly appointed, commissioned and privately bonded in our country of Montana.

I, \_\_\_\_\_, notary public in our foreign country of Montana in relation to the admitted bankrupt United States, hereby attest and acknowledge the Law and facts as duly presented bona fide before me and signed by the free inhabitant LeRoy M. Schweitzer in the county and State aforesaid, for due presentment upon public record in our supreme Court in and for Garfield county organized for judicial purposes under our Constitution of Montana in the year of Eighteen Hundred Eighty Nine, A.D..

- FEES: \_\_\_\_\_
- OATH: \_\_\_\_\_
- POSTAGE: \_\_\_\_\_
- MILEAGE: \_\_\_\_\_
- AFFIDAVIT: \_\_\_\_\_
- MISC: \_\_\_\_\_

STATE OF MONTANA  
UNIFORM COMMERCIAL CODE - FORM FS-3

Statements of Continuation, Assignment, Partial Assignment, Partial Release, Termination, Etc.

NON STANDARD NON NEGOTIABLE, non-federal form

This FINANCING STATEMENT is presented to a filing officer for filing pursuant to the Uniform Commercial Code.

Name and Address of Debtor	NAME AND ADDRESS OF SECURED PARTY	Montana Secretary of State filing officer country of Montana, Notary Public
Lloyd Bentsen and wife c/o office of sec. of state Washington, D.C. & office of Comptroller of the Currency	LeRoy M. Schweitzer c/o P.O. Box 16 Brusett, Montana state United States of America non-domestic mailing location	RECORDED This 1 day of <u>December</u> 1994 at 10:10 A.M. by <u>David Steward</u> FILE # <u>200</u> Ref # <u>160</u> ; Bill of Rights Enforc... Center, P.O. Box 646, Boonville, Indiana 47601, No. <u>120144-55</u> National Recording & Reporting Service.
Tax ID #		
County of Residence unknown	pre-paid Account # 8520799406	

This STATEMENT refers to Original Financing Statement File No. -0025

FULL ASSIGNMENT

PARTIAL ASSIGNMENT

The Secured Party states that the Secured Party has assigned to the Assignee whose name and address is shown below, all of the Secured Party's rights under the Financing Statement bearing the File No. and filed on the date shown above in the collateral listed below:

CHERDAN TRUST

co-trustee Daniel E. Petersen  
c/o P.O. Box 61  
Winnett, Montana state  
United States of America  
non-domestic mailing location

One Hundred Million Dollars and all collateral listed on U.C.C./FS-1 non-standard, non-negotiable form, bearing the above original file number duly notarized in our country of Montana, expressly not "within" the United States.

OTHER

Number of additional sheets presented

Lloyd Bentson and wife, co-debtor  
Comptroller of the Currency, Washington, D.C.  
set by accommodation U.C.C. 3-415  
- without recourse"

BY: LeRoy M. Schweitzer  
Signature(s) of Debtor(s)

SECRETARY OF STATE ALPHA

"without recourse" U.C.C. 1-103  
1-105  
1-207."

BY: LeRoy M. Schweitzer  
Signature(s) of Secured Party(ies)

teste meipso this 23rd day of November, 1994

Appendix D: Bogus common law lien filed by Schweitzer against  
Lloyd Bentsen (1 of 1)

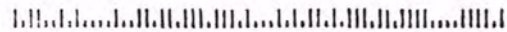
Gentlemen, enclosed find tender of  
 Please send refund for overpayment immediately  
 to Ronald D. Yancey  
 Non domestic mailing location  
 c/o 5116 N. Jupiter Rd.  
 Garland, Texas state

Abanda-Butte N.A. Certified Bankers Check  
 North Main Street  
 Abanda, Montana state, U.S. of A.  
 Federal Reserve District Court escrow  
 No. 0115  
 Date July 15<sup>th</sup> 1995  
 Remitter: LeRoy M. Schweitzer  
 Pay to: Ronald D. Yancey + I.R.S. \$57,073  
 Fifty seven thousand seven hundred and <sup>14</sup>/<sub>100</sub> Dollars  
 the United States of America  
 at office of Postmaster  
 "Bona Fide Tender"  
 Payable on sight  
 MICR: 8520799406 special private funds  
 authorized acceptance signature  
 LeRoy M. Schweitzer  
 without recourse U.C.C. § 3-415  
 accommodation/surety/guarantor  
 LeRoy M. Schweitzer drawer/maker

IF THIS PART TO US WITH YOUR CHECK OR INQUIRY  
 TELEPHONE NUMBER BEST TIME TO CALL

25,194	23,644	1,930	AMOUNT YOU OWE.....	\$4,223.82
			LESS PAYMENTS NOT INCLUDED. \$	
			PAY ADJUSTED AMOUNT.....	\$ <u>8447.64</u>

3080 501 00 YANC 30 0 9112 670 00000422382



INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE  
 MEMPHIS, TN 37501

RONALD D. YANCEY  
 5733 GREENTREE RD  
 MOBILE AL 36609-2507336

01 09 49247-545-00083-5

Appendix E: Bogus Certified Banker's Check, written by LeRoy Schweitzer, in July 1995 (1 of 1).

Certified Money Order June 23 1995  
 Pay To: [REDACTED] \$ 500,000.00  
 Five hundred thousand dollars and no cents Dollars  
 On Demand, Money of Account of the United States, as required by law at Section 20 of the Coinage Act of 1792  
 from the time of official determination of the substance of said Money, Or, in U.C.C. § 1-201(24) Credit Money.

REDEEMABLE AT FULL FACE VALUE WHEN PRESENTED  
 NORWEST BANK ANACONDA-BUTTE  
 101 North Main Street  
 Butte, MT 59701  
 Account No. 8520799406

AUTHORIZED SIGNATURE *Daniel E. Petersen*  
 DANIEL E. PETERSEN Special appointed U.S. Magistrate  
 Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: % Box 61  
 Winneth, Montana state, U.S.O.A.  
 CITY, STATE, POSTAL ZONE NO. "without the United States"

bank order tender for Attorney Public (C.L.)  
 VOID IF NOT PRESENTED FOR PAYMENT WITHIN 180 DAYS  
 -092900024:

Notary Public for Montana state, U.S. of A. *Rodney O. Skurdal*  
 I, *Rodney O. Skurdal*, notary public in *Hesseltown* county, Montana state, United States of America, attest and acknowledge there are duly  
 recorded public documents of tender to Norwest Bank Anaconda-Butte, presented by the private clearing-house rules through Daniel E. Petersen and duly recorded  
 at the Clerk and Recorder, Petroleum county, verifying the certified deposit in amounts of Six Hundred Million Three Hundred Thousand Dollars of Money payable  
 over to *Account No. 8520799406* and by demand on sight of said Daniel E. Petersen who has duly signed and sealed this item before me on this *23* day of  
*June* in the year of our Mighty God, Nineteen Hundred Ninety *Five*, A.D., whereupon I have placed my hand and my seal on this instrument  
 as prima facie proof for the Comptroller of the Currency as accommodation surety under U.C.C. § 3-415, duly signed by the private clearing-house Daniel E.  
*Petersen*, in our county of *Montana* Territorial Seal in our geographical location *Montana state*, non-dominion to the United States and under the full faith  
 and credit of the United States.  
 Notary Public Seal: *Rodney O. Skurdal*  
 Rodney O. Skurdal, in personam, in our country of Montana, privately bonded and duly commissioned  
 commission expires: *Life* Fees: \_\_\_\_\_ Oath: *199*  
 Filed for public record in *N/A* Post Office, Montana state, United States of America

Appendix F: Bogus Certified Money Order, written by Dan Petersen and signed by Rodney Skurdal (1 of 1).



# Racist to the **R**oots

John Trochmann and the Militia of Montana

**A Special Report by  
the Coalition for Human Dignity and  
the Montana Human Rights Network**

**I**n the wake of the tragic and murderous bombing of the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, increased national attention has been focused on far right paramilitary organizations such as the Militia of Montana (MOM). Yet the formation of such "citizen militias" and closely associated "Patriot" or "Constitutionalist" groups is hardly news to anyone out West. In fact there has been an explosion of such groups ever since the stand-off and subsequent shoot-out between white supremacist Randy Weaver and federal law enforcement officers in August 1992.

The roots of the so-called militia movement, however, go back considerably further. The men and women who came to Ruby Ridge in Northern Idaho to support Weaver against the "Feds" came from virtually every faction of the American far right. Hard-core neo-Nazi skinheads made the trip from Portland to stand with their "racial brother." Adherents of the twisted and bigoted theology of "Christian" Identity came to support their fellow believer. And, perhaps most significantly, self-described "Patriots," such as James "Bo" Gritz, Jack McLamb and their followers and supporters came to take a stand against a tyrannical conspiracy for them represented by the U.S. government and its agents

and officers.

The Patriot (or "Christian" Patriot) movement, whose participants are sometimes called "Constitutionalists" or "Freemen," is a uniquely American phenomenon which has arisen in the last twenty-five years. Loosely knit, with no central leadership or dominant group, the Patriot movement has developed, incorporated and otherwise made its own ideas that include a selective kind of Constitutional fundamentalism (which ignores amendments and provisions the movement finds inconvenient), bigoted, pseudo-legal theories of racial citizenship, opposition to income tax, to federal authority of all kinds, and to international organizations such as the United Nations.

Perhaps the most widely-shared idea in the Patriot movement is that of an "international conspiracy" dedicated to establishing a "New World Order" and to enslaving white, Christian Americans. Although Patriots disagree with one another about exactly who is behind the conspiracy, almost every version includes anti-Semitic elements. Zionists, "international bankers," the state of Israel, masons, the Rothschild family, the "illuminati," the Tri-Lateral Commission, the Bilderburgers, and, of course, the United Nations are all accused of being part of the conspiracy.

The Coalition for  
Human Dignity  
can be reached at  
P.O. Box 40344,  
Portland, OR 97240,  
or by phone at  
(503) 281-5828 in  
Portland or in  
Seattle at  
(206) 233-9775.

The Montana Human  
Rights Network can  
be reached at P.O. Box  
1222, Helena Montana  
59624, or by phone at  
(406) 442-5506.

ties to the racist right are documented below in the section dealing directly with the Militia of Montana.

### **Chris Temple**

Kila, Montana Identity adherent Chris Temple acted as the co-chairman of United Citizens for Justice. Temple is a frequent contributor to the monthly newspaper the *Jubilee*, the flagship publication of the Christian Identity movement. Writing in the July/August 1991 issue of the *Jubilee* on the failed coup attempt that signaled the death of the old Soviet Union, Temple makes the following extraordinary statement:

If Boris Yeltsin stays true to his "roots" and is not bought off by the New World Order crowd, he will lead nationalist Russia to a cultural and economic revival as Adolf Hitler did in Germany in the 1930s. This is by no means assured; yet, the nationalist cat is now really out of the bag in Russia and the other republics. Jewish communism, which gained its first major foothold by overthrowing Old Russia, may realize its first major defeat there.

Temple continues to write for the *Jubilee*, which after the *Spotlight* is probably the most read publication in the militia movement and a strong and consistent promoter of militia activity in general and the Militia of Montana in particular.

Temple, an organizer for the racist Populist Party in New York State before moving to Montana, was also a key supporter of Patriot leader Bo Gritz's 1992 presidential campaign, organizing a speaking event for Gritz in Kalispell, Montana in April 1992.

In October 1992 Temple attended the so-called "Gathering of Christian Men" in Estes Park, Colorado organized by Identity Pastor Pete Peters to formulate a response to the Weaver siege. The meeting was attended by a virtual "who's who" list of contemporary American white supremacists including Aryan Nations leader Richard Butler, former Klan leader and paramilitary advocate Louis Beam, anti-Semitic income tax theorist Red Beckman, Klan/neo-Nazi attorney Kirk Lyons, and Identity leader and genocide advocate Charles Weisman, as well as far right figures Pastor Greg Dixon and Gun Owners of America head Larry Pratt. Although it would be an exaggeration to say that the militia movement was born at this meeting, it certainly received a strong boost from the various conference reports recommending the formation of such groups.

### **Randy Trochmann**

The nephew of John Trochmann and co-founder of the Militia of Montana, Randy Trochmann acted as the Public Relations Officer for United Citizens for Justice, handling the distribution of UCJ mail order materials and publications—a role he continues with MOM.

Like his uncle, Randy is an adherent of the racist and anti-Semitic theology known as Christian Identity. He is known to hold regular Identity services at his Noxon, Montana home which have been attended by Chris Temple.

### **Eva Vall Lamb**

Lamb, a Hayden Lake, Idaho resident, was a key UCJ member, present from beginning to end at the Weaver siege. Beginning as early as May 16, 1992, months before the final siege actually took place at the Weaver cabin, Lamb began organizing the "Idaho Organized Militia."

In an interview with the Bonner's Ferry *Herald*, Lamb stated,

In my opinion we could have another Randy Weaver incident just about any time and it would be nice to have a militia formed legally under the Idaho State Constitution so that they can show up whether or not they are used."

Lamb, a grandmotherly woman who hardly seems the type to form an armed organization, was also a key volunteer in northern Idaho for far right leader James "Bo" Gritz's 1992 presidential campaign. She is currently active with the Patriot outfit Concerned Citizens of Idaho and a strong supporter of the "Ultimatum Resolution," a Patriot scheme to abolish the United States government.

At the Seattle Preparedness Expo in September 1994, Lamb stated that Aryan Nations leader Richard Butler gets a bad rap in the media and with some Patriots, commenting that the one difference between Butler's beliefs and her own is that "he's anti-Semitic and I'm not."

### **Louis Beam**

Perhaps the most prominent promoter of paramilitary organizing by racists, Louis Beam had a strong indirect influence on UCJ. Beam spoke at the Spokane Preparedness Expo in September 1992, promoting an organization the goals of which were similar to those of UCJ, the "Citizens Committee for Justice," where he distributed home-made wanted

**Eva Vall Lamb**

**Origins of the Militia Movement**

**Gritz Presidential Campaign**

**Richard Butler**

**Louis Beam**

local community, Barley has insisted that his church is different from Richard Butler's Church of Jesus Christ Christian-Aryan Nations in Hayden Lake. But whatever theological differences there may be between these organizations, Barley's ideas are no less offensive and dangerous. He has showered praise on racist leaders who advocate racist, anti-Semitic and homophobic murder. Louis Beam and Richard Kelly Hoskins have been guest speakers at his annual conferences. Combined with his ongoing support of militia organizing it is hard to take Barley's protests of innocence seriously.

### **Cynthia Sams**

The wife of Washington Patriot Ben Sams, Cynthia Sams was another participant in UCJ's telephone conferences, reporting to the group on the state of the "Con Con" (a proposed Patriot Constitutional Convention). Like many other Patriot activists she has filed paperwork declaring her "sovereignty" or immunity from federal jurisdiction, on the grounds that she is a white state citizen not subject to federal laws and regulations (including especially payment of income tax).

### **Jack McLamb**

A chief lieutenant of Bo Gritz, McLamb was present with Gritz at the siege and played a role in helping to talk Weaver out of his cabin. He has since become a major figure in the Patriot movement, speaking regularly at Preparedness Expos and other Patriot venues. United Citizens for Justice distributed McLamb's publication *Operation Vampire Killer 2000*—a manual for recruiting police officers into the Patriot movement.

McLamb, a retired Phoenix, Arizona police officer who has bought land near Gritz's planned "Almost Heaven" Patriot stronghold in Idaho County, is the self-appointed ambassador from the Patriot movement to law enforcement. He seeks to convince police officers that they should stand with "Patriots" against the New World Order—that is, enforce the law selectively to benefit him and his political allies. At the September 1994 Seattle Preparedness Expo, McLamb publicly declared that interracial marriage is "against God's plan" and part of the "globalist" conspiracy to enslave Americans.

### **Robert Wangrud**

United Citizens for Justice promoted and sold *Martial Law Rule*, the self-published book of long-

time Christian Patriot activist Robert Wangrud. In this book Wangrud lays out rabidly racist arguments for racial citizenship in the United States. Like many other Patriots he argues that only whites can be true citizens and that such citizens are not legally subject to federal agencies such as the IRS.

## **The Militia of Montana is Born**

From its beginnings United Citizens for Justice had ambitious plans, setting out to form chapters in every county in every state plus establish state and national headquarters. Obviously UCJ never came close to achieving these goals, and with its close association with Randy Weaver the group was doomed to oblivion when Weaver and his cohort Kevin Harris were acquitted of most charges.

But UJC did not, in the end, vanish from this earth. Rather it mutated, in essence becoming the Militia of Montana (MOM). This may or may not have been a conscious decision on the part of MOM organizers, but what is obvious is that the goals, publications and individuals associated with UCJ became the starting point for the Militia of Montana. The network of associates built up during the months of UCJ activity stood the fledgling militia organization in good stead as it became one of the major distributors of militia propaganda across the country. In fact, even early issues MOM's newsletters and catalogues appear to be produced with the same desk-top publishing equipment used by UCJ. But what is most striking is the overlap of individuals leading or working closely with both organizations.

### **John Trochmann**

At the heart of the Militia of Montana's persistent and extensive associations with organized white supremacists and anti-Semites is co-founder and spokesperson John Trochmann. Like many in the Patriot movement, Trochmann has declared himself to be a sovereign citizen. Documents filed with the Sanders County, Montana Courthouse reveal that he makes the spurious and bigoted distinction between the rights of white "state" citizens and people of color, or "14th Amendment" citizens. These documents declare Trochmann to be a "free white Christian man" and "not a federal citizen by virtue of the Fourteenth Amendment," and hence, in Christian Patriot thinking, exempt from most federal law and authority. Trochmann's declaration of sovereignty

Robert Wangrud  
and "State Citizenship"

Origins of the  
Militia of Montana

UJC & MOM

John Trochmann  
Patriarch of the  
Militia Movement

John Trochmann:  
A "White State Citizen"

was witnessed and signed by Militia of Montana leaders David and Randy Trochmann.

**Trochmann, Christian Identity & Aryan Nations**

**Red beckman**

**The Church Deceived**

**Fully Informed Jury (Do the words "No jury will ever convict a white man of..." ring any bells.)**

**Mark Reynolds Colville, Wahsington**

**Louis, Pete and Ted**

**Ben Sams**

**Roots of conspiracy theories**

Trochmann is also an adherent of the racist theology of Christian Identity who has on a number of occasions in the past even visited the Hayden Lake headquarters of Richard Butler's Aryan Nations. Trochmann has made numerous attempts to downplay this connection, insisting that he only spoke at Aryan Nations to critique them for their racism. Yet former Aryan Nations organizer turned anti-bigotry activist Floyd Cochran tells a different story. He remembers Trochmann's "lecture" to AN, and the substance of the talk was not that racism was wrong, but that Patriots needed to put away the swastika and the Klan robes in favor of the Constitution and Bible since the former had too many negatives associated with them.

In fact Aryan Nations itself has uncharacteristically issued a press release chiding Trochmann for lying about his deep connections to the organization, citing that he not only attended annual conferences but came to worship on a number of occasions and even helped to draft a code of conduct for the compound.

Thus Trochmann's attempts to disassociate himself from racist and bigoted ideas seem disingenuous. His Christian Identity beliefs, his racist ideas about citizenship and his connections with Aryan Nations—an organization at the extreme end of the racist right by anyone's standards—make his disclaimers ring hollow in the ears of anyone familiar with his past and with his beliefs.

But it is not only Trochmann who maintains ties with the racist right. When UCJ folded, the Militia of Montana utilized its base of contacts and supporters to build its organization. As Trochmann and his associates set about reinventing themselves as a militia group, they maintained their affinity for racist activism indicated above. Others who became associated in one way or another with MOM—most notably Bob Fletcher and Mark Koernke—promote ideas that are xenophobic and conspiratorial to the point of paranoia without seeming openly racist or anti-Semitic (although their ideas have roots in anti-Semitic conspiracy theories of the past).

Besides pushing and receiving support from Pall Hall and the *Jubilee*, distributing Jack McLamb's *Operation Vampire Slayer 2000* and Robert

Wangrud's book *Marital Law Rule*, MOM maintains relationships with the following hard-core Christian Patriot activists:

### **Martin J. "Red" Beckman**

Beckman is a Billings, Montana far right figure who has spoken at meetings sponsored by the Militia of Montana. He is a virulent anti-Semite who in his book *The Church Deceived* referred to the Holocaust as an act of God upon "the evil anti-Christ religion of those who had crucified the Christ."

Beckman is a promoter of the Fully Informed Jury scheme which encourages jurors to ignore instructions from the bench and decide each case based on their conscience—ignoring the law if they find it inconvenient. He is probably best known as a tax protester whose property was sold at auction and who was supported by a gathering of far right leaders including Bo Gritz and Pete Peters. MOM sells tapes of Beckman's confrontation with authorities and other materials produced by him.

### **Mark Reynolds**

Speaking in Colville, Washington in July 1994, Trochmann shared the stage with Mark Reynolds, a Christian Identity figure who has been active in a Stevens County, Washington militia. On his weekly radio show, Reynolds has praised the Militia of Montana, declared that people like Janet Reno will one day be "summarily executed" and stated that the Montana Attorney General may end up "possibly hanging from a telephone pole someplace" for his stance on the April 1995 arrest of John Trochmann.

Reynolds gave special thanks to "Louis, Pete and Ted" on the cover of a music tape produced by his Identity band Judah's Praise, that is, Louis Beam, Pete Peters and Identity leader Ted Wieland. He has also publicly supported the position that homosexuals should be put to death and has been ordered by a Stevens County court to cease harassment of a local human rights activist.

### **Ben Sams**

Sams, the husband of UCJ participant Cynthia Sams, was the contact person for an appearance in Snobomish, Washington of Militia of Montana leader Bob Fletcher. Sams, who has promoted the racist Patriot group Association de Libertas, has also declared his race-based sovereignty in documents filed in Snobomish County, Washington.

Louis Beam &  
Aryan Nations

Jubilee

Paul Hall & the Jubilee

Louis Beam and  
Leaderless Resistance

Christian Identity  
Pastor Dave Barley

posters naming an unspecified "U.S. Marshal, FBI or ATF Agent" for "The Murder of Vicki and Samuel Weaver."

A former Klan leader from Texas and Aryan Nations' "Ambassador at Large," Beam maintained close contact with UCJ co-chair Chris Temple and became a correspondent for the *Jubilee*, eventually covering the Waco tragedy for that newspaper.

A long-time figure in the paramilitary racist right, Beam was ordered by a Texas court in 1984 to stop harassing Vietnamese shrimpers. Law suits brought by the Southern Poverty Law Center used a Texas law against private armies to shut down paramilitary training camps Beam was running at the time. In 1987 Beam was indicted but later acquitted on seditious conspiracy charges for his alleged connection to the neo-Nazi terrorist group the Order. In the wake of his acquittal Beam led a group of militant young racist skinheads in an Aryan Nations rally held in October 1989 in Tennessee.

But perhaps Beam's most lasting impact on paramilitary racism comes from his strong advocacy of a tactic he calls "Leaderless Resistance." The fullest articulation of this tactic comes in his 1983 book *Essays of a Klansmen*, in which Beam argues that conventional organizations, structured like pyramids with designated leaders and approved chains of command were too easy for the federal government to penetrate and destroy. Instead he proposed the "Phantom Cell" mode of organization, whereby small groups act independently to thwart government tyranny. Beam writes:

Since the entire purpose of Leaderless Resistance is to defeat state tyranny (at least insofar as this essay is concerned), all members of phantom cells or individuals will tend to react to objective events in the same way through usual tactics of resistance. Organs of information distribution such as newspapers, leaflets, computers, etc., which are widely available to all, keep each person informed of events, allowing planned response that will take many variations. *No one need issue an order to anyone.* Those idealists truly committed to the cause of freedom will act when they feel the time is ripe, or will take their cue from others who precede them. While it is true that much could be said against this type of structure as a method of resistance, it must be kept in mind that Leaderless Resistance is a child of necessity. The alternatives to it have been shown to be unworkable or impractical. Leaderless Resistance has worked before in the American Revolution, and if the truly committed put it to use for themselves, it will work now (p.22).

Ominous words indeed in the wake of the Oklahoma City bombing.

In the same publication Beam also sets out the proper objective of political involvement for the racist right. "Political involvement" he writes,

either openly or sub rosa—is an excellent means for exposing our views to the public and recruitment of new members to our ranks. These activities should be viewed for what they are—an auxiliary to the Klan's primary objective which is to utterly destroy the enemies of our Racial Nation (p.3).

### Paul Hall and the Jubilee

Paul Hall, the managing editor of the *Jubilee*, recently purchased property near Sandpoint, Idaho along with Louis Beam. In late 1992 and 1993 he participated in twice-monthly telephone conferences sponsored by UCJ as a venue for coordinating the racist response to the Weaver incident. The *Jubilee* was vigorously promoted by United Citizens for Justice, and in fact the *Jubilee* special issue dealing with the Weaver siege was given away free to anyone who ordered other UCJ material.

In addition to publishing the opinions of well known racists and anti-Semites, some of them listed here, Paul Hall and the *Jubilee* also vigorously promote such books as Richard Kelly Hoskins' *Vigilantes of Christendom*, which lays the groundwork for the "Phineas Priesthood"—a murderous order that seeks to assassinate the "enemies of God" (e.g., Jews, people of color, interracial couples, gays and lesbians) and Pete Peter's notorious hate tract *The Death Penalty for Homosexuals*.

The *Jubilee* is a strong supporter of the militia movement and has now become one of the most widely read publications within the movement.

### Dave Barley

Identity Pastor Dave Barley of the Sandpoint, Idaho-based America's Promise Ministries gave the opening prayer at a January 1993 UCJ meeting. Although when Barley arrived in Sandpoint in mid-1991 he attempted to distance himself from the stance of his mentor Sheldon Emry who openly supported the paramilitary Christian Patriot Defense League, Barley became a sharp critic of government actions during the Weaver siege and afterwards supported UCJ and then the formation of armed militias.

In an attempt to disarm critics and reassure the

In the Patriot world-view, one result of the conspiracy was the farm crisis of the 1980s. At that time a Patriot organizing idea known as the "posse comitatus" began to achieve some popularity. Latin for "power of the county," posse comitatus was a paramilitary organizing scheme whereby the adult citizens of a county were supposedly empowered to "defend" the Constitution, as they interpreted it, with violent means if necessary. The posse organizations asserted that they were not subject to federal or state authority; that the county sheriff was the highest legitimate authority; and that they would prevent by force the seizure of property to pay "illegal" taxes or other kinds of federal intrusions.

Probably the most famous of the posse comitatus activists was vicious racist and anti-Semite Gordon Kahl, a North Dakota farmer who shot two United States Marshals and led federal authorities on a multi-state manhunt ending in a fatal shoot-out in Arkansas. Kahl remains a martyr to the Patriot movement and its militia offspring to this day.

### The Shadow of Ruby Ridge

Given the history of paramilitary organizing associated with the Patriot movement and the intense interest the Weaver siege held for movement adherents, it is hardly surprising that the aftermath produced several new organizations that helped to launch the militia movement. Eva Vail Lamb, a "Bo" Gritz for President organizer, announced the formation of an "Idaho Organized Militia," the stated purpose of which was to be ready to intervene in future Weaver-type situations. Gritz himself launched his paramilitary SPIKE training program, designed to make participants as ready as "Delta Force" for confrontations with the New World Order. And several actors in the Weaver drama, notably Noxon, Montana Patriot John Trochmann, came together to form a group called United Citizens for Justice (UCJ).

Because the Militia of Montana evolved more or less directly

from UCJ, sharing leadership, contacts and mission, it is worthwhile to take a closer look at this defunct organization to see just where MOM came from.

### United Citizens for Justice

According to its own official "History," United Citizens for Justice was formed "after the 'Siege' was over" when

a group of approximately 250 concerned citizen's [sic] joined together to discuss different ideas concerning how they could make sure something like that would never happen again and also to see if there was any way in which they could help Randy Weaver and Kevin Harris. The result of this meeting was the formation of U.C.J. (United Citizens for Justice flyer, undated [c. Jan. 1993]).

Though founded explicitly as a "Weaver support group," UCJ quickly expanded its mission to include goals that would later be pursued by the Militia of Montana. In particular the stated goals of UCJ were,

1. To return our government to a position of service to the people and defender of individual rights as our fore-fathers had intended.
2. To provide information, education and support to ensure that all citizens of this country will not have to live in fear of an over-zealous government (United Citizens for Justice flyer, undated [circa January 1993]).

Which goals, on the surface at least, seem like things that few could disagree with. And yet, it is worth asking just who was involved with UCJ and what kind of "rights" they intended to defend.

### A Closer Look at UCJ

United Citizens for Justice attempted to wear the mantle of a "human rights" organization, intent on defending people from government tyranny. But pretty words and opposition to a particular government do not make a human rights activist. In fact the leaders and chief supporters of UCJ were almost without exception individuals with deep roots in the white supremacist movement.

#### John Trochmann

Noxon, Montana Christian Identity believer John Trochmann was one of the UCJ's founders and eventually served as co-chair. His background and

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Published in association with the Montana Human Rights Network, P.O. Box 1222, Helena, Montana 59624

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