



## **The Lawless Ones: The Resurgence of the Sovereign Citizen Movement LIST OF RECENT SOVEREIGN CITIZEN INCIDENTS, BY STATE**

[Arizona](#)  
[Arkansas](#)  
[California](#)  
[Connecticut](#)  
[Florida](#)  
[Georgia](#)  
[Hawaii](#)  
[Idaho](#)  
[Illinois](#)  
[Indiana](#)  
[Kansas](#)

[Louisiana](#)  
[Michigan](#)  
[Minnesota](#)  
[Missouri](#)  
[Montana](#)  
[Nebraska](#)  
[Nevada](#)  
[New Hampshire](#)  
[New York](#)  
[North Carolina](#)  
[North Dakota](#)

[Ohio](#)  
[Pennsylvania](#)  
[South Dakota](#)  
[Tennessee](#)  
[Texas](#)  
[Virginia](#)  
[Washington](#)  
[Wisconsin](#)  
[Wyoming](#)

### **Arizona**

- **Ash Fork, Arizona, 2010:** The so-called “Shadow Mountain Bank,” based in Ash Fork, created a Web site (as of summer 2010 the site is still in existence) to market “bond promissory notes,” noting scornfully that “the idiots out there would have you believe that a BPN is not a proper form of payment.” For merely \$2,500, the proprietors will also allegedly teach people how to “become [their] own banker.”

### **Arkansas**

- **West Memphis, Arkansas, May 2010:** Following a routine traffic stop along I-40, father and son sovereign citizen pair Jerry and Joseph Kane killed two West Memphis, Arkansas, police officers and wounded the sheriff and chief deputy of Crittenden County in two separate shootouts. The Kanes were killed by return fire in the second shootout. Jerry Kane was a sovereign citizen guru who traveled the country offering alleged solutions to mortgage and foreclosure problems.
- **Gassville, Arkansas, April 2009:** A Baxter County jury sentenced self-declared “Constitutionalist” Richard Bauer to four life sentences in prison after convicting him of aggravated robbery and four counts of kidnapping for a bank robbery in Gassville. Bauer,

representing himself, declared his crime justified because the IRS had stolen his money and he wanted it back.

## California

- **Las Vegas, Nevada, and Orange County, California, July 2010:** A federal grand jury in Las Vegas indicted Orange County resident Thanh Viet Jeremy Cao for filing false liens against federal employees and obstructing the administration of the internal revenue laws. Cao allegedly filed 22 bogus liens in Nevada against a variety of Securities and Exchange Commission employees, Justice Department officials, Secret Service and IRS agents, and four federal judges.
- **Chula Vista, California, 2008:** A Chula Vista woman bought a house, only to discover that two sovereign citizens, Maurice Simmons and Terry Lee Herron, had allegedly changed the locks, posted a “deed” in the window, and erected “no trespassing” and “Spiritual Sanctuary” signs. Simmons had hijacked six homes—five in Chula Vista and one in San Diego; he was convicted in August 2009 on 15 counts of filing and possessing false documents and forgery, and was sentenced to nearly three years in prison. Herron’s trial ended in a mistrial when the jury deadlocked and he will be retried.
- **Sacramento, California, June 2009:** A federal jury convicted long-time sovereign citizens James Kalfsbeek and Donna Jean Rowe of conspiracy, mail fraud, and money laundering related to a bogus insurance scheme. Kalfsbeek was the head of the Puget’s Sound Agricultural Society, Limited, which marketed (primarily to anti-government extremists) a quasi-insurance scheme for automobiles, taking in millions of dollars.
- **Sunland, California, October 2007:** Sovereign citizen and tax protester Barton Buhtz of Sunland was convicted in a federal trial of conspiracy and passing “bills of exchange” to the amount of \$3.8 million. He and others used the fake checks to pay local and federal taxes and to purchase vehicles, property, and other items.

## Connecticut

- **Sumpter County, Florida, and Winsted, Connecticut, March-April 2010:** In April 2010, sovereign citizen Brody James Whitaker was arrested in Winsted, Connecticut, after an extensive search. Authorities had tracked him to Connecticut following a March 25 incident in Sumpter County, Florida, in which Whitaker allegedly shot five times at a Florida state trooper while fleeing from a traffic stop. At his first court appearance after his capture, Whitaker challenged the court’s jurisdiction over him, explaining that he was a “sovereign,” not an “American citizen.”

## Florida

- **Charlotte County, Florida, June 2010:** A motorcycle-riding sovereign citizen, John McComb, was pulled over by a Charlotte County sheriff's deputy. Instead of his license and registration, he allegedly gave the deputy a letter of Diplomatic Immunity and a bogus "registration" document from the fictitious sovereign citizen Indian tribe dubbed the Little Shell Band of North America (see below).
- **Brooksville, Florida, May 2010:** A Hernando County judge enjoined a Brooksville sovereign citizen, Edgard Negron, from filing bogus liens. Negron had allegedly filed \$322 billion worth of bogus liens against various officials.
- **Sumpter County, Florida, and Winsted, Connecticut, March-April 2010:** In April 2010, sovereign citizen Brody James Whitaker was arrested in Winsted, Connecticut, after an extensive search. Authorities had tracked him to Connecticut following a March 25 incident in Sumpter County, Florida, in which Whitaker allegedly shot five times at a Florida state trooper while fleeing from a traffic stop. At his first court appearance after his capture, Whitaker challenged the court's jurisdiction over him, explaining that he was a "sovereign," not an "American citizen."
- **Tamarac, Florida, December 2009:** Sovereign citizen Audie Watson received a 168-month federal sentence for running an immigration fraud ring. Watson sold membership documents for a fictitious Native American tribe, the Little Shell Pembina Band of North America, to hopeful undocumented immigrants for up to \$2000 apiece, promising them that it would guarantee them legal status.
- **Miami, Florida, May 2009:** Miami resident Marlon T. Moore was arrested for filing tax forms that claimed a total return of \$14 trillion. Moore had recently been released from federal prison after serving a six-year sentence on money laundering charges. According to a former fellow prisoner, Moore and another inmate, Willie Cameron, had become sovereign citizens while in a federal prison near Orlando. Cameron also allegedly filed a fraudulent return, but only for \$53,000 or so; he was also arrested.
- **Port St. Lucie, Florida, December 2008:** During a traffic stop for a bogus license plate, sovereign citizen Steven Morrow allegedly claimed to be a diplomat, displayed a badge of some sort, and claimed the officer had no jurisdiction over him. Searching his car, police found a variety of license plates and identification cards.
- **Miami, Florida, July 2008:** A sovereign citizen group known as The United Cities Group (TUCG), with many African-American and Hispanic associates, attempted to take over a Miami branch of the Bank of America after it refused to honor \$15 billion worth of bogus

checks issued by TUCG. Although some of the members were allegedly armed, police were aware in advance that the attempt would be made, and it failed, with two members arrested on trespass charges.

- **Orlando, Florida, June 2008:** A federal air marshal, Marcus Rogozinski, was convicted in Orlando for trying to defraud a branch of Bank of America with a bogus \$10.9 million fictitious financial instrument that claimed the payee was the “Treasury/UCC Contract Trust.”
- **Sanford, Florida, 2008:** Sovereign citizens Joel and Donna Brinkle allegedly filed liens on the property of four local officials, in addition to previous liens filed against people ranging from a tow truck company to former president Bill Clinton.

## Georgia

- **DeKalb County, Georgia, July 2010:** Following an investigation by DeKalb police and the FBI, eight people were indicted for allegedly engaging in a sovereign citizen squatting ring taking empty homes across North Georgia. The suspects allegedly would file fraudulent paperwork on homes in foreclosure to claim ownership, then would post bogus deeds in the windows of the homes. In one instance, a \$13 million shopping center in the Buckhead section of Atlanta was even claimed in this fashion.
- **Darien, Georgia, March 2010:** A south Georgia man, Michael David Palmer, after being arrested for robbing a bank in Darien, filed documents declaring himself a “living soul of peace...as a non-Fourteenth Amendment citizen” and a “sovereign Black-a-moor.”

## Hawaii

- **Maui, Hawaii, April 2010:** The FBI raided multiple homes, and seized vehicles, documents, and more than \$100,000 as part of an on-going investigation into a native Hawaiian sovereign citizen group that allegedly was selling fictitious treasury bonds and property titles to families facing foreclosure or other debt problems. Allegedly, members charged \$2,500 to \$10,000 for a bogus “Royal Hawaiian Treasury Bond” that they claimed would cover any outstanding debt.

## Idaho

- **Nampa, Idaho, February 2010:** Fred Covey was convicted for having filed bogus UCC liens against two IRS employees, claiming that they owed him more than \$166 million; he had also filed similar liens against the Secretary of the Treasury and against Idaho State Tax Commission employees. He also sent fictitious financial instruments to the IRS, demanding they be used to pay his federal tax debt and that his account be set to zero. For that, he was convicted of interfering with internal revenue laws.

## Illinois

- **Marion, Illinois, April 2010:** Daniel Petersen, one of the leaders of the Montana Freemen, who engaged in an 81-day standoff with the federal government in 1996, was sentenced to 7 ½ years in prison for filing bogus liens against three federal judges. Petersen was still in federal prison at the time he filed the liens, serving out the 15 year prison sentence handed to him by U.S. District Judge John Coughenour, one of the victims of Petersen’s liens. Petersen’s full scheme reveals the ingenuity and energy of sovereign citizens. He not only filed liens against the federal judges, but also issued bounties for their arrests. Then he created a phony company and recruited other inmates to invest in it, promising them large sums of money after he collected the money (\$100 trillion, plus interest, he told them) that the government allegedly owed him.

## Indiana

- **Delaware County, Indiana, March 2010:** Indiana sovereign citizen Brad Henry petitioned Delaware County officials to release him from annual property taxes because his house was an “embassy.” The county did not agree.
- **Terre Haute, Indiana, April 2008:** Russell Dean Landers, another imprisoned member of the Montana Freemen, was sentenced to an additional 15 years in prison; Landers was one of three federal inmates who had demanded millions of dollars from prison officials for using their “copyrighted” names without their permission. They were convicted of conspiracy and mailing threatening communications with the intent to extort.
- **Fort Wayne, Indiana, April 2008:** Sovereign citizen Jonathan Dille was arrested (and later convicted) for using fictitious “private bonds” and “promissory notes” to pay off nearly \$800,000 in debts. He received a four year sentence.

## Kansas

- **Wichita, Kansas, April 2010:** Anti-abortion extremist and sovereign citizen Scott Roeder was sentenced to life in prison without possibility of parole for 50 years for the May 2009 murder of a Wichita physician whose clinic provided late term abortions.
- **Lawrence, Kansas, June 2007:** Two Kansas sovereign citizens, Laura West and the so-called “J. M. Sovereign: Godsent,” were stopped by a Kansas Highway Patrol trooper near Lawrence. According to Godsent, they gave the trooper a card labeled “Sovereign Civilian Police Observation Task Force,” which said that by the trooper accepting the card, he was “accepting a contract” to pay a \$15,000 fee in gold each time he asked them a question. People associated with this “Task Force” have been involved in a number of traffic stops around the country, and, in one case in Missouri, even uploaded a video of a traffic stop, with captions, as a “self-defense” training video.

## Louisiana

- **New Orleans, Louisiana, May 2008:** Dentist Louis Genard received a 30-month jail sentence on tax-related charges. Among Genard’s strategies to avoid paying taxes was to declare himself an “Ambassador of Heaven” who had diplomatic immunity from the jurisdiction of the federal government.

## Michigan

- **Grand Rapids, Michigan, July 2010:** A federal court sentenced long-time sovereign citizen Larry William Wilcox of Imlay City to 63 months in prison, and three years of supervised release, following convictions on mail fraud and false lien filing charges for having filed bogus UCC liens against almost 60 people, mostly government officials and law enforcement officers. He was also ordered to pay a \$25,000 fine. This was one of the first prosecutions of a recently passed federal law on bogus liens.
- **Detroit, Michigan, March 2010:** A Detroit resident, Andre Frank Hardy, led police on an extensive chase rather than pull over for a traffic stop for expired plates (Hardy also allegedly had six outstanding warrants and a suspended license). Taken into custody, Hardy told police that, as a member of the Moorish Nation, the U.S. government had no authority over him.

## Minnesota

- **Minneapolis, Minnesota, May 2010:** Former Minneapolis police officer Douglas Earl Leiter received a 10 year sentence for his role as the leader of a sovereign citizen/tax protest group called Common Law Venue, which taught people how to use bogus trusts to evade taxes.
- **Minneapolis, Minnesota, February 2009:** Millionaire and sovereign citizen Robert Beale received a 48-month federal prison sentence for conspiring to threaten and intimidate a federal judge with the intent of preventing her from discharging her official duties. Beale and three other sovereign citizens (members of his “common law court,” who received various lesser sentences) had plotted to show up at the court of a federal judge overseeing a tax evasion case against Beale, to arrest her if she did not dismiss the charges. “I want her to be intimidated,” Beale was recorded as saying in a telephone call. He also said that God “wants me to destroy the judge...He wants me to get rid of her.” Beale and his followers had also placed bogus liens and engaged in other forms of paper terrorism.

## Missouri

- **Kansas City, Missouri, February 2010:** Three sovereign citizens (David Robinson of Kansas, Daniel Denham of Missouri, and Larry Goodyke of Nevada) were sentenced to 5-6 years each in federal prison for participating in a conspiracy to use (as well as sell) fraudulent diplomatic credentials. A fourth defendant, Blake Bestol of Wyoming, pleaded guilty and received a sentence of probation. Goodyke also marketed similar license plates, complete with the seal of the Department of State. In September 2007, Robinson tried to use his diplomatic identification card during a traffic stop in Missouri.
- **St. Louis, Missouri, December 2009:** Authorities in the St. Louis, Missouri, area reported seeing a flurry of fictitious financial instruments, including “bond promissory notes” and “private offset bonds.” The bogus documents were used to pay car loans, mortgages, credit card companies and more. One sovereign citizen, Kennedy M. Russell of O’Fallon, Illinois, allegedly tried to file a bond promissory note to remove a federal tax lien on someone else, claiming that it should be presented to the Federal Reserve Bank for payment (he later pleaded guilty to a misdemeanor financial violation charge).
- **Kansas City, Missouri, October 2007:** Long-time Kansas City sovereign citizen Denny Hardin was convicted of simulating legal process for issuing an arrest warrant against an assistant Missouri attorney general. He was angry because she had earlier successfully made

a motion to dismiss a lawsuit he had filed earlier in the year to abolish the Missouri Bar Association.

## Montana

- **Eureka, Montana, June 2010:** U.S. customs officials in Montana ordered a Canadian sovereign citizen living in the United States to leave the country after he pleaded guilty to charges of domestic abuse. The man, Donald Roy Fehr, was also part of a sovereign citizen group that dubbed itself the “County Rangers,” and Fehr had allegedly made threatening telephone calls to a local justice of the peace and had begun to show up at local government meetings wearing a uniform sporting a badge, and carrying a pistol.
- **Missoula, Montana, 2009-2010:** An area realtor discovered that a foreclosed home he was trying to sell was occupied. The new occupant, a sovereign citizen named Brent Arthur Wilson, had allegedly filed documents with the county recorder claiming that God had transferred title of the property to Wilson. Wilson had apparently done the same to several other properties as well. Arrested in 2010 for felony theft and other charges, he mystified court personnel in pre-trial hearings in May 2010 by using a common sovereign citizen tactic: trying to distinguish between himself and an allegedly separate entity that can be recognized because the words “Brent Arthur Wilson” are spelled all in capital letters.
- **Lolo, Montana, April 2010:** A woman named Jackiya D. Ford was arrested on felony burglary charges for allegedly moving into an empty house, changing the locks, and filing sovereign citizen paperwork claiming ownership of the house (as well as all land in a 20-mile radius). At her arraignment, she refused to enter a plea because she did not recognize the state of Montana.
- **Whitefish, Montana, February 2009:** After being pulled over by police near Whitefish, sovereign citizen Robert Blair Young refused to provide a driver’s license but instead handed over a 25-page identification document. Later, Young demanded payment from the city because his name was copyrighted and the city had used it without permission; he also made a number of other demands, including a request for a W-9 form for the police chief (who had performed the stop). Some sovereign citizens use information on W-9 forms to file harassing documents with the IRS.

## Nebraska

- **North Platte, Nebraska, September 2007:** Dentist and sovereign citizen Thomas Miller pleaded guilty in federal court to fraud and tax related charges related to a complicated investment scheme involving “certificates of deposit” that took in more than \$2.4 million. Ironically, Miller himself was being defrauded by other con artists at the same time. During subsequent legal proceedings, Miller claimed that he was not subject to federal law because he was a member of the Little Shell Pembina Band of North America (a fictitious tribe created by sovereign citizens) and threatened to convene a grand jury to indict treasonous court officials. A psychiatrist believed Miller’s sovereign citizen arguments were indicators of a “delusional disorder” and he was ruled incompetent and the charges against him were dismissed prior to sentencing.

## Nevada

- **Las Vegas, Nevada, and Orange County, California, July 2010:** A federal grand jury in Las Vegas indicted Orange County resident Thanh Viet Jeremy Cao for filing false liens against federal employees and obstructing the administration of the internal revenue laws. Cao allegedly filed 22 bogus liens in Nevada against a variety of Securities and Exchange Commission employees, Justice Department officials, Secret Service and IRS agents, and four federal judges.
- **Las Vegas, Nevada, March 2010:** Jan Lindsey, a retired FBI agent from Henderson, Nevada, pleaded guilty to a felony count of tax evasion for evading \$109,000 in personal income taxes. Lindsey was one of four sovereign citizens and tax protesters arrested by the FBI in May 2009 following a three-year investigation into money laundering, tax evasion, and illegal weapons.
- **Las Vegas, Nevada, March 2009:** The FBI arrested several prominent sovereign citizens in Las Vegas on a variety of charges. One of them, Harold Call, was charged with possession of an unregistered machine gun. According to prosecutors, Call had created an arms cache in a hidden crawl space, where he stored grenades, dozens of firearms, a gas mask, night vision goggles, and supplies. Two others, Sam Davis of Idaho and Shawn Talbott Rice of Arizona, prominent sovereign citizen gurus, were charged with money laundering.
- **Las Vegas, Nevada, May 2008:** The Securities and Exchange Commission shut down the Las Vegas-based Gold-Quest International, which it said had been operating a \$27 million pyramid investment scheme in the United States and Canada (Canadian officials also shut it down). Its owners, including “Lord” David Greene, claimed that because they were members of the Little Shell Pembina Band of North America, a fictitious sovereign citizen Native American tribe, the government had no jurisdiction over them.

## New Hampshire

- **Concord, New Hampshire, January 2010:** Sovereign citizen, militia activist, and tax protester Ed Brown was given a 37-year federal sentence for an arsenal of weapons and explosives in his house during a nine-month-long standoff with the federal government in 2007. His wife, Elaine Brown, was sentenced a few months earlier to 35 years in prison. The Browns and their supporters had improvised explosive devices, assault rifles, booby traps, and 60,000 rounds of ammunition, among other items.

## New York

- **Ulster County, New York, April 2010:** Local officials in Ulster County and the towns of Lloyd, Rosendale, and Ulster filed a civil racketeering complaint in federal court against seven individuals for “harassing, defrauding and attempting to extort” government officials after the alleged ringleader of the group, Richard Enrique Ulloa, received tickets during a traffic stop in Rosendale. After this incident, Ulloa and his followers allegedly filed a series of maritime liens and UCC filings with amounts that totaled nearly \$3 billion. Ulloa was also allegedly angry at a foreclosure proceeding against his property. In June, federal agents arrested Ulloa and another man, Ed George Parenteau, charging them with mail fraud. A third man charged, Jeffrey Charles Burfeindt, was a fugitive.
- **Long Island, New York, July 2009:** A Long Island jury convicted sovereign citizen Paul Salamone on fraud, burglary and other charges for a scheme in which Salmone fixed up foreclosed upon homes and rented them out.
- **Queens, New York, March 2009:** A Queens County court declared “null and void” a series of bogus liens placed on Queens prosecutors who had been involved in the case of Ronald Thompson, a convicted murderer serving a 20 years to life sentence at Sing Sing. Declaring that the prosecutors had violated his “copyright” by using his name without his permission, he claimed they owed him more than \$1 million.

## North Carolina

- **Pasquotank, North Carolina, May 2009:** An inmate at the Pasquotank Correctional Institution, Damon Owens-Bey, filed a document declaring that authorities possessed no

jurisdiction over him to restrain or confine him as a “recognized Sovereign of Moorish descent.”

## North Dakota

- **Grand Forks, North Dakota, June 2010:** Sovereign citizens Michael Howard Reed and Gregory Allen Davis were charged with filing false liens against a federal judge and a federal prosecutor in North Dakota in 2009; Reed was also charged with two counts of trying to influence or obstruct justice. Reed and Davis were members of a sovereign citizen group that poses as a legitimate Native American tribe (see Little Shell Pembina band section). Reed had been convicted in January of being a fugitive in possession of a firearm and sentenced to 18 months in prison on that conviction.

## Ohio

- **Parma, Ohio, November 2008:** Sovereign citizen Jeanne Harrington was convicted of defrauding the IRS with \$10 million of bogus trust instruments. At the time, Harrington was already serving a prison sentence for having used fictitious financial instruments to purchase two trucks worth \$90,000. Her husband, Karl Herrington, had been sentenced to six months in jail in 2007 for filing a bogus IRS 1099 form to harass a local judge.

## Pennsylvania

- **Northampton County, Pennsylvania, February 2010:** A judge dismissed a lawsuit brought in 2008 by three Pennsylvania sovereign citizens, Victor Balleta, Michael Proetta, and Michael Reis, who attempted to purchase foreclosed property with gold and silver coins. When outbid, they challenged the bid, one of them claiming that the other bidders “made an unlawful money bid in credit in opposition to my lawful money bid. I was the only lawful bidder and therefore the only bidder.” They apparently sued in an attempt to hinder the bank’s ability to re-sell the properties by challenging their ownership.
- **Colebrookdale Township, Pennsylvania, July 2008:** The Pennsylvania Department of State ruled fraudulent a \$450 million lien placed by sovereign citizen Ira Huntington of Colebrookdale Township against a local official and her husband.

## South Dakota

- **Springfield, South Dakota, December 2009:** Ted Alvin Klautt, a former South Dakota state legislator who had been convicted in 2007 for rape (of his teenage daughters) and witness tampering, sent notices from state prison to a variety of news organizations, claiming that his name was copyrighted and anybody who used his name without his consent would be charged \$500,000. This is a common sovereign citizen claim that originated in the early 2000s.

## Tennessee

- **Monroe County, Tennessee, April 2010:** A retired naval officer, Walter Fitzpatrick, was arrested for trying to conduct a “citizens arrest” of a Monroe County grand jury foreman, reportedly because the foreman had refused to convene the grand jury to indict Barack Obama for treason. Following this arrest, another man, Carl Swennson of Georgia, called for volunteers to go to Monroe County, release Fitzpatrick from jail, and make various “citizens arrests.” On the appointed day, several of them showed up in Monroe County, but made no arrest attempts. However, one follower, Georgian Darren Huff, also a militia member and member of the extremist Oath Keepers group, was arrested and charged with intending to incite a riot, allegedly after he told police he had an AK-47 in his vehicle.
- **Memphis, Tennessee, March 2010:** Memphis police had to evict a sovereign squatter named Michael Cobbs, who had allegedly moved into an empty property, changed the locks, and posted deeds in the window. Cobbs explained that “man-made” laws don’t apply to him, because he is a sovereign and exempt from federal, state, and local laws. He also threatened to retake control of the property once the police left.

## Texas

- **Kerrville, Texas, May 2010:** Local prosecutors charged two sovereign citizens, father and son, for impersonating police officers. Both persons, Charles Tiller III and Charles Tiller IV, are members of the so-called Republic of Texas, a large sovereign citizen group based in that state. Charles Tiller III was charged with a felony count of impersonating a public servant after he had allegedly identified himself as a constable while trying to order a badge. His son, Charles Tiller IV, was charged with falsely identifying himself as a peace officer for allegedly putting a sign on his vehicle identifying it with a star and the phrase “Bexar County Sheriff’s Department.” Kerrville has historically been a hotspot in Texas for the sovereign citizen movement.
- **Westlake Hills, Texas, November 2009:** A former Travis County sheriff, Raymond Frank, was ordered by the FCC to stop running a pirate radio station from his home in Westlake Hills. Frank had claimed that, because he was a citizen of the “Republic of Texas,”

## Virginia

- **Newport News, Virginia, March 2010:** A Newport News, Virginia, sovereign, Amun Asaru Heh-El, was brought to court to face four counts of driving without a license. Heh-El allegedly told the judge that he was not under the authority of the United States, and subsequently left the courtroom during a recess before the trial began (coincidentally, that afternoon the judge had to deal with a white sovereign citizen couple over a different issue).

## Washington

- **Seattle, Washington, July 2010:** Sovereign citizen Andrew Steven Gray was sentenced to four years in federal prison after being arrested in Snohomish in May 2009 for unlawful machinegun and silencer possession, being a felon in possession of a firearm, and marijuana possession (with intent to distribute). The investigation into Gray had begun after the FBI learned Gray had been shooting at the so-called “Militia Training Center,” a Snohomish County firing range. Agents discovered a fully automatic M-16, 20 other firearms, 4 unregistered silencers, multiple sets of body armor, and nearly 10,000 rounds of ammunition.
- **Seattle, Washington, July 2009:** Sovereign citizen John Wayne Zidar was re-sentenced in a federal court in Seattle to 30 years in prison for a pyramid scheme he had operated that had taken in more than \$73 million from 3,500 people. Only around \$23 million was recovered by the government. His resentencing gave him the same sentence as was handed down at his original trial in 2003.
- **Spokane, Washington, March 2009:** Sovereign citizen Ronald Struve pleaded guilty to having an arsenal of illegal weapons and explosives, including dozens of machine guns, plastic explosives, two grenade launchers, dozens of grenades, and more.

## Wisconsin

- **Richland County, Wisconsin, April 2009:** Sovereign citizen Robert Bayliss received a 48-year prison sentence for a violent standoff and shootout at his home in Richland County in April 2008, during which he used guns and explosives against police trying to evict him.

- **Dane County, Wisconsin, February 2008:** Sovereign citizen Bryan D. Hoel was sentenced to a year in jail after being convicted for criminal slander. Hoel had filed a \$600,000 bogus lien against a state revenue department investigator who was investigating a state tax case against Hoel. Hoel claimed that his name was trademarked and that the investigator “violated” the trademark by using his name without his permission. Wisconsin has the oldest bogus lien law in the country, as public officials had been repeatedly victimized in the past by members of the Posse Comitatus.

## Wyoming

- **Cheyenne, Wyoming, May 2008:** Firearms dealer and sovereign citizen Michael John Smith received a 36-month federal sentence on tax and fraud charges. Smith used various fictitious financial instruments, including a “bill of exchange,” to attempt to pay tax liabilities he owed to the federal government and state of Wyoming. He also filed a variety of bogus liens and other harassing documents against government officials.