



Sovereign Citizens

George Parker, M.D.

Professor of Clinical Psychiatry,
Indiana University School of Medicine

&

Adjunct Professor of Law,
IU McKinney School of Law


Sovereign Citizens



Sovereign Citizens?

Example 1:

Affidavit of Fact - Statement of Bill Protest on Utility Bill

 [REDACTED] a man
hereinafter claimant, for:
[REDACTED]
hereinafter Alleged Debtor,

Claim: claimant's offer to perform (pay using Federal Reserve Notes) upon **CONDITIONAL ACCEPTANCE**; Pursuant To The Uniform Commercial Code 3-603(b), tender refused is the amount on tender discharged; Pursuant To The Uniform Commercial Code; Claimant fully understands that a matter must be expressed to be resolved; Claimant is expressing his/her matter to have this account zeroed out; Pursuant to the 10 Maxims of Law: (1) Truth is expressed in the form of an affidavit; (2) An un rebutted affidavit stands as truth in commerce; (3) An un rebutted affidavit stands as judgement in commerce; (4) A matter must be expressed to be resolved; (5) A claim can be satisfied only through (a) a rebuttal by counter affidavit point by point; (b) resolution by a jury; or (c) payment (payment means the amount on the tender that was sent to your company); Failure to accept my payment as such is both an illegal and unlawful act by your corporation and is a lienable offense in the amount of \$6,000 in with the U.S. Treasury will be contracted with me to collect on my behalf;

NOTICE: THE GOVERNING LAW OF THIS BINDING NON-NEGOTIABLE CLAIM IS PRIVATE INTERNATIONAL LAW AND IS FOR THE PURPOSES OF ESTABLISHING LAWFUL STATUS & REMEDY, AND IS NOT INTENDED TO THREATEN, HARASS, HINDER OR OBSTRUCT ANY LAWFUL OPERATIONS;

Silence is Acquiescence, Agreement, and Dishonor; Estoppel conditions apply upon default;

*Notice to Respondeat Inferior is Notice to Respondeat Superior
Notice to Respondeat Superior is Notice to Respondeat Inferior*

From: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Date: March 13, 2023

Without Prejudice U.C.C. 1-308.4/Without Recourse U.C.C.1-103.6

Who are Sovereign Citizens?

- To understand sovereign citizens, one must go back in history...
 - Christian identity movement
 - Tax protest movement
 - Posse comitatus movement

Christian Identity Movement

- Has roots in the 19th century but has been significant in the US since the 1960s
 - Key beliefs:
 - Early European tribes were the 10 lost tribes of Israel
 - Adam and Eve gave birth to white people only and were preceded by lesser peoples
 - Old earth creationists
 - Strongly racist beliefs about Jews and non-white races

Tax Protest Movement

- Opposed to the federal income tax
- Began in the 1940s and spread in the 1970s
 - Key beliefs:
 - The 13th Amendment invalidated the tax because it prohibited involuntary servitude
 - Filed blank tax forms citing 5th Amendment right to protection from self-incrimination
 - Taxes could not be paid because paper money was not legitimate currency

Posse Comitatus Movement

- Formed in 1969 by a group of Christian identity believers and income tax protestors
 - Posse Comitatus Law of 1878
 - Prohibited the use of federal troops to enforce state laws unless Congress or the Constitution authorized such use

Posse Comitatus Movement

- Primarily anti-government
 - The original, pure 'common law', or *de jure*, government had been displaced by an illegitimate, or *de facto*, government
 - Americans had been tricked into believing the *de facto* government was legitimate
 - Rejected payment of income taxes
 - Rejected the authority of those who sought to enforce laws they opposed, especially tax laws, zoning laws and building regulations

Posse Comitatus Tactics

- Placed bogus liens on the property of tax officials, local officials, and police
- Physical intimidation
 - Occasional violence
 - Gordon Kahl killed two US Marshals in North Dakota and a sheriff in Arkansas before he was killed
- Movement then declined, as leaders died or were imprisoned

Sovereign Citizen Movement

- Grew from the remnants of the posse comitatus movement in the 1990's
 - Tax protestors, common law advocates, and white supremacists
 - Adherents increased in response to:
 - Waco (1993)
 - Great Recession (2008)
 - QAnon (2017)
 - Covid-19 pandemic (2020)

Sovereign Citizen Movement

- Essentially an anti-government philosophy drawn from the core beliefs of the posse comitatus, but more fully developed
 - Many disparate threads
 - Spread of the beliefs was greatly facilitated by the Internet

Sovereign Citizen Core Beliefs

- Common law
- 14th Amendment
- Office of the person
- Accepted for value
- Treasury direct account (redemptor)
- Admiralty court

- Suspend your disbelief...

Common Law

- Americans gained 'common law' rights upon achieving independence from England and became sovereign over our property
- We later lost these rights due to federal legislation or legal developments

The 14th Amendment

- To sovereign citizens, the 14th Amendment fundamentally changed the nature of citizenship in the United States
 - Under the 'common law', Americans were citizens of the individual states
 - Under the 14th Amendment, Americans became citizens of the federal government
 - Which they believe is a corporation

Sovereign Citizen Response

- An American can only become a citizen of the federal government if the person voluntarily agrees to give up his/her common law rights by agreeing to the authority of the government
 - By seeking licenses or permits, paying taxes, or holding a Social Security number

Sovereign Citizen Response

- An individual can thus regain his common law citizenship by revoking all licenses and permits, Social Security number, etc.
 - By doing so, the individual is no longer subject to the judicial system, having returned to a common law state

The 14th Amendment

- White supremacist sovereign citizens may assert that African-Americans are not eligible to become sovereign citizens, as they were never common law citizens
 - ‘14th Amendment citizens’
- African-Americans may assert that they are Moorish-American or members of the Moorish Church, which gives them privileged status

The 'Office of the Person'

- Sovereign citizens assert that the statutory definition of 'person' does not include 'man' or 'woman'
- IC 16-18-2-274:
 - "Person" means, except as provided in subsections (b), (c), and (d), an individual, a firm, a partnership, an association, a fiduciary, an executor or administrator, a governmental entity, or a corporation

Office of the Person

- Criminal statutes apply only to persons who commit crimes against the state
- An offense against a human is a tort

Office of the Person

- People volunteer to be subject to state laws by stepping into the ‘office of the person’, by:
 - Receiving benefits from the state
 - Accepting licenses or permits from the state
 - Answering the questions of a state office holder
- Doing so places you under the regulation of the government

Accepted for Value

- Based on an unusual interpretation of House Joint Resolution 192 (1933), which took the U.S. off the gold standard

Accepted for Value

- To sovereign citizens, HJR 192 meant the government had collateralized their own citizens and their future earnings
 - By filing the birth certificates of all Americans as 'registered securities' with the Dept. of Commerce
 - The Dept. owns the original; all we have are copies
 - To pay for the debt created by the bankruptcy of the U.S. in the Great Depression

Accepted for Value

- Each security has significant value
 - \$630,000 to \$1,000,000
 - They have been circulated as collateral around the world
- Secret U.S. Treasury accounts connect the government to 'flesh and blood' citizens
 - Known as 'strawman' accounts

Strawman account

- Use of the strawman account turns every interaction with the government into a commercial transaction
- A citizen thus can escape the status of chattel and regain 'flesh and blood' status by filing a 'bill of exchange' with the US Treasury
 - With a copy of your birth certificate

Redemptor Movement

- A 'flesh and blood' person thus has access to his Treasury Direct Account (TDA)
 - The registered security
- And can then file 'sight drafts' on the US Treasury and redeem their debts
- Or can file a UCC-1 Financing Statement
 - Which allows the person to discharge debts by 'accepting it for value,' thus charging the debt against the TDA

Important Detail

- The names of 'flesh and blood' persons are always written first name first and are never written in all caps
- In contrast to:
 - Birth certificates
 - Court documents

Admiralty Courts

- U.S. common law was superseded by the 14th Amendment and/or House Joint Resolution 192
 - Which transformed all courts into military, or admiralty, courts
 - Violating the separation of powers clause
- To show this status, the U.S. flag in courtrooms carries a gold fringe

Admiralty Court

- The judge therefore has absolute authority, similar to a captain at sea, and Constitutional rights are irrelevant
- Authorities on flags are clear that the use of a fringe on a flag is ceremonial, is not proscribed by any statute or military code, and has no inherent symbolism

Sovereign Citizen Defendants

Sovereign Citizen Belief	Defendant
Uniform Commercial Code	2, 3, 5, 7
Admiralty court	4, 5, 7, 8
Immune due to status as corporation	1, 3, 5
Gold fringe on flag	4, 5, 7
Copyright on or value to name	2, 6
Use of capital letters in writing name	2, 5
Accepted for value	3, 6
Office of the person	4, 7
Secured party	7, 8
14 th Amendment	1
Redemption	2
Moorish-American	3
Gold standard and HR 192	8

Judicial Experience with Sovereign Citizens

- Indiana judges were surveyed in 2013 about how they dealt with sovereign citizens
- 35% response rate
- 91% of respondents had experience with sovereign citizens
 - Usually only a few per year

Judicial Experience with Sovereign Citizens

- Typical criminal cases:
 - Traffic offenses
 - Resisting law enforcement
 - Refusal to identify
- Typical civil cases:
 - Divorce and custody
 - Mortgage fraud
 - False liens
 - Code violations

Judicial Experience with Sovereign Citizens

- Typical courtroom behaviors:
 - Representing themselves
 - Filing multiple lengthy motions
 - Talking at length on sovereign citizen beliefs
 - Refusing to answer questions

Judicial Responses to Sovereign Citizens

- Judges found these strategies to be effective:
 - Reminding sovereign citizens of the authority of the court
 - Interrupting whenever a sovereign citizen started to talk about their beliefs
 - Threat of contempt of court
 - Limiting the number and length of court filings

Further reading

- Southern Poverty Law Center website
 - Extremist ideology files
- Anti-Defamation League website
 - Backgrounder report (December 2023)
- Sovereign Citizen Violent Extremism
 - FBI Domestic Terrorism Reference Guide (September 2023)