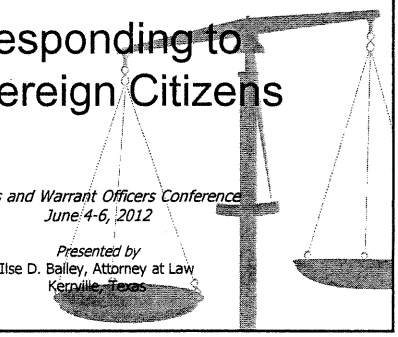
Responding to Sovereign Citizens

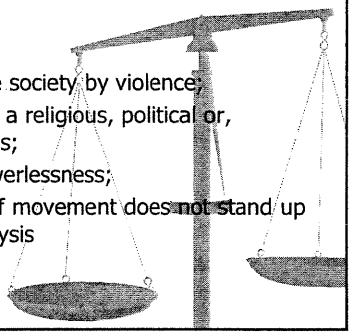


Bailiffs and Warrant Officers Conference
June 4-6, 2012

Presented by
Ilse D. Bailey, Attorney at Law
Kerrville, Texas

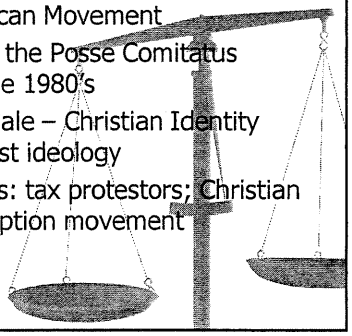
Domestic v. Foreign Terrorism

- Commonalities:
  - True believers;
  - want to change society by violence;
  - perpetrated for a religious, political or, ideological goals;
  - Feelings of powerlessness;
  - Internal logic of movement does not stand up to rational analysis



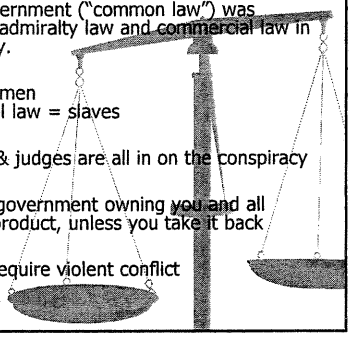
Who are "Sovereign Citizens"?

- Primarily American Movement
- Originated with the Posse Comitatus Movement in the 1980's
- Willam Potter Gale – Christian Identity Movement, racist ideology
- Various versions: tax protestors; Christian Patriots; redemption movement



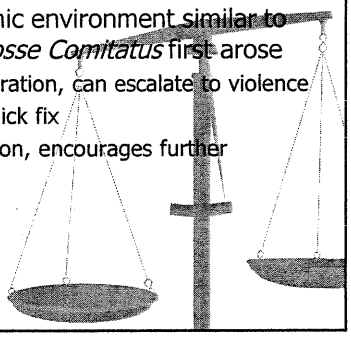
Core Beliefs

- "True" American government ("common law") was secretly replaced by admiralty law and commercial law in the early 20th century.
- Common law = free men
  admiralty/commercial law = slaves
- Legislators, lawyers & judges are all in on the conspiracy
- Conspiracy involves government owning you and all rights to your work product, unless you take it back
- Taking it back may require violent conflict



What Motivates New Converts

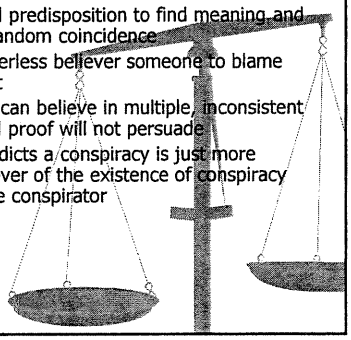
- Current economic environment similar to 1980's when *Posse Comitatus* first arose
  - Financial desperation, can escalate to violence
  - Easy money/quick fix
  - Internet, isolation, encourages further involvement



Conspiracy Theories

(Don't try to Reason With a Sovereign)

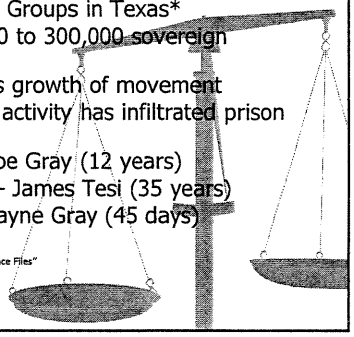
- Human psychological predisposition to find meaning and intention, to reject random coincidence
- Conspiracy give powerless believer someone to blame for their predicament
- Conspiracy theorists can believe in multiple, inconsistent conspiracies, rational proof will not persuade
- Evidence that contradicts a conspiracy is just more evidence to the believer of the existence of conspiracy and cleverness of the conspirator



Where Sovereign Citizens Are:

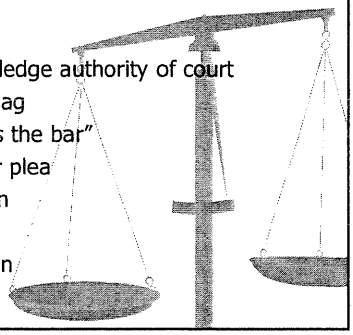
- 45 identified Hate Groups in Texas*
- Estimated 100,000 to 300,000 sovereign citizens*
- Internet facilitates growth of movement
- Sovereign Citizen activity has infiltrated prison systems
- Trinidad – John Joe Gray (12 years)
- Dallas/Ft. Worth – James Tesi (35 years)
- Austin – Justin Wayne Gray (45 days)

- *Southern Poverty Law Center "Intelligence Files"



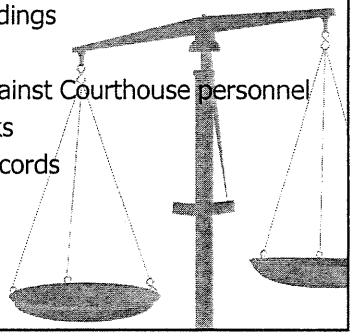
IN THE COURTROOM
(Bailiffs & Courtroom personnel)

- Disruptive
  - Refuse acknowledge authority of court
  - Fringe on the flag
  - Refuse to "pass the bar"
  - Refuse to enter plea
  - Jury nullification
  - Jury tampering
  - Jury intimidation



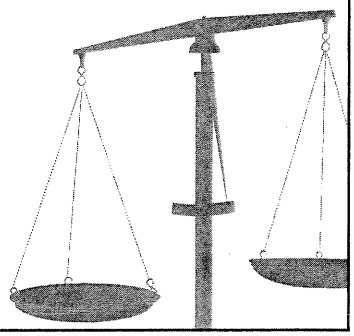
IN THE COURTHOUSE
(Bailiffs & Courtroom personnel)

- File bogus pleadings
- Paper terrorism
- File lawsuits against Courthouse personnel
- Intimidate clerks
- Tamper with records



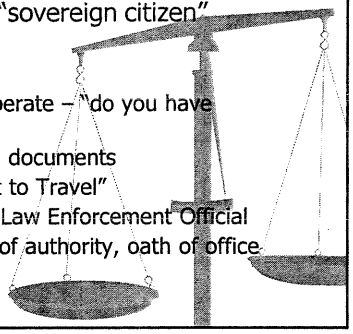
Government Code Provisions
(Fraudulent Filings)

- See Handout



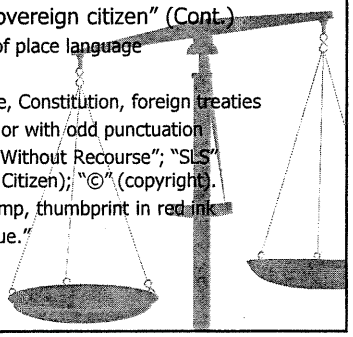
ON THE STREET
(Warrant & Patrol Officers)

- Indicators of a "sovereign citizen"
  - Bogus plates
  - Bogus license
  - Refusal to cooperate – "do you have warrant?"
  - Ask you to sign documents
  - Claiming "Right to Travel"
  - Impersonating Law Enforcement Official
  - Demand proof of authority, oath of office



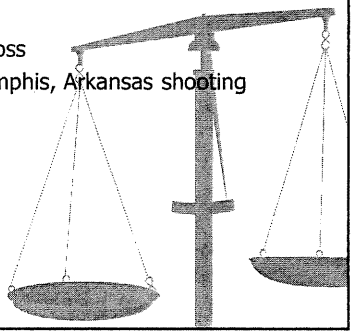
ON THE STREET
(Warrant & Patrol Officers)

- Indicators of a "sovereign citizen" (Cont.)
  - Peculiar and out of place language
  - Red Crayon
  - References – Bible, Constitution, foreign treaties
  - Name in all CAPS or with odd punctuation
  - "Under Duress"; "Without Recourse"; "SLS" (Sovereign Living Citizen); "©" (copyright).
  - Personal seal, stamp, thumbprint in red ink
  - "Accepted for Value."



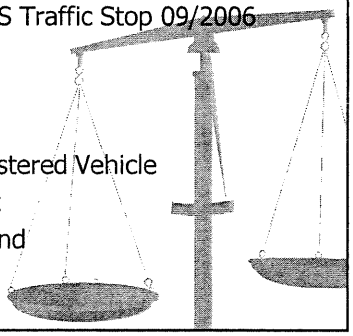
ON THE STREET
(Warrant & Patrol Officers)

- Examples:
  - Vincent Dale Ross
  - 2010 West Memphis, Arkansas shooting



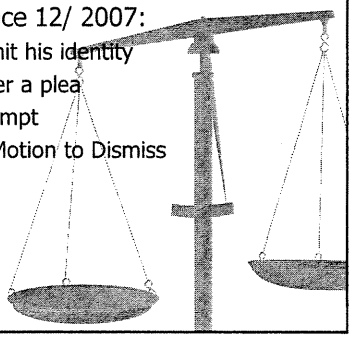
Vincent Dale Ross

- Kerr County DPS Traffic Stop 09/2006
- DWLS
- Expired License
- No Seatbelt
- Operate Unregistered Vehicle
- Resisting Arrest
- Released on bond



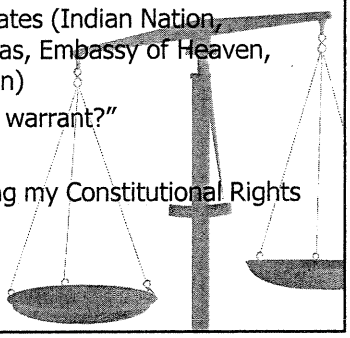
Vincent Dale Ross

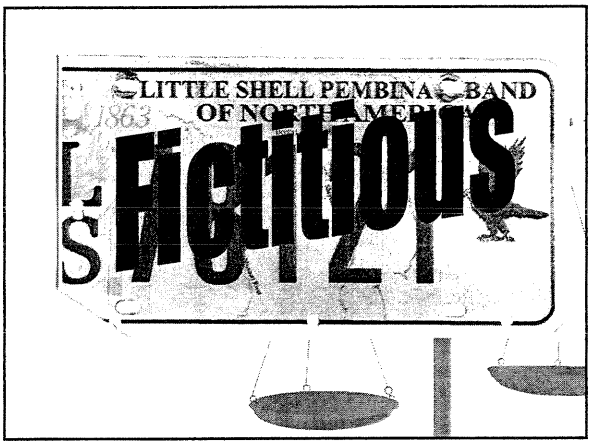
- Court Appearance 12/ 2007:
  - Refused to admit his identity
  - Refused to enter a plea
  - Jailed for contempt
  - Filed 41-page Motion to Dismiss

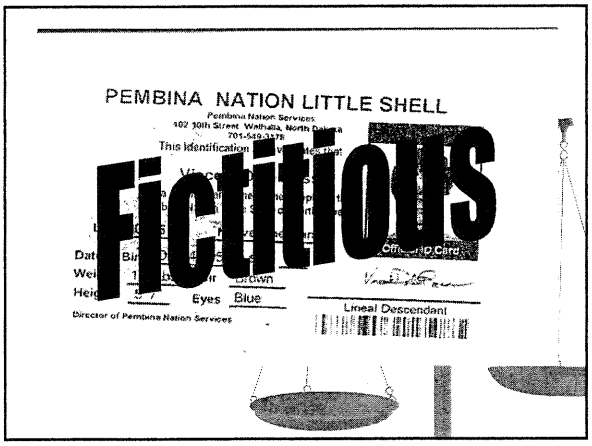


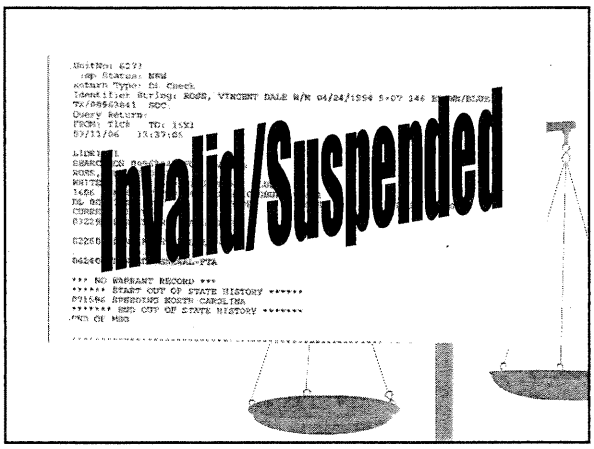
Warning Signs

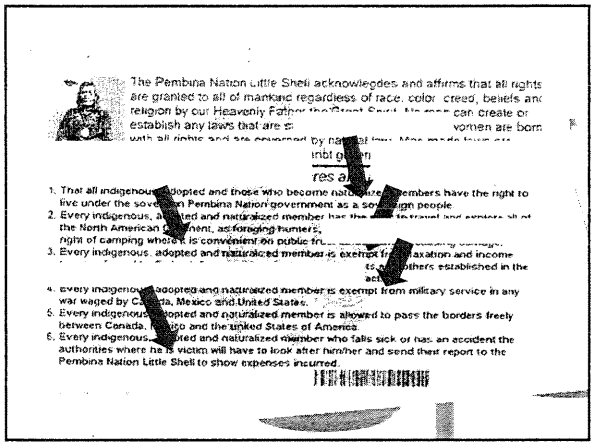
- Fake License Plates (Indian Nation, Republic of Texas, Embassy of Heaven, Washitaw Nation)
- "Do you have a warrant?"
- I wasn't driving
- You are Violating my Constitutional Rights











Dangerous Situations

- Traffic Stops
- Domestic Disturbances
- Evictions
- Serving Warrants

