



The Florida Conspiracy: Cars, Internet, Attorneys, Prison...

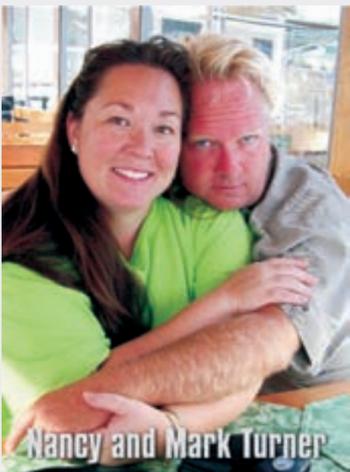
Pete Moore Automotive at heart of US-Observer investigation



By Edward Snook Investigative Journalist

So, how does one end up in the unfortunate situation of being "wrongfully imprisoned?" You trust your attorney to represent you to the fullest of their ability. Don't forget, you are paying plenty of money for that representation. But, when your court date nears you find that your attorney isn't prepared for trial, and hasn't even conducted an adequate investigation.

At this point, your attorney begins prompting you to accept a plea-bargain



offered by the prosecutor, for the crimes you didn't commit. Whether or not you take the "deal," you have lost. Mark Turner has been a native of the Pensacola, Florida area for fifty years. He has been highly successful in the

Continued on page 10

WE ARE AT WAR



We, the People, Demand Justice No One Should be Above the Law!

Citizens - US-Observer Fight Government Inequality By Challenging Prosecutorial Immunity

Read Page 16 for details on how you can be a part of this fight! The articles below outline the cases that give us standing to take this on.

"WE ARE AT WAR" CASES OF STANDING



Kevin Driscoll

Raped by Prosecutor

By Joseph Snook Investigative Journalist

Frightened and confused, Kevin Driscoll pulled his car over as the sirens blared behind him.

Struggling to understand what was going on, Kevin was informed that he was being taken to the police station for questioning. This ordinary Saturday, had come to a shocking halt.

Kevin was given two choices; cooperate and you won't be arrested, or don't and we will arrest you. Shocked and in disbelief, Kevin, who had no criminal record, didn't hesitate to cooperate fully, yet he was still arrested and locked-up.

Continued on page 13



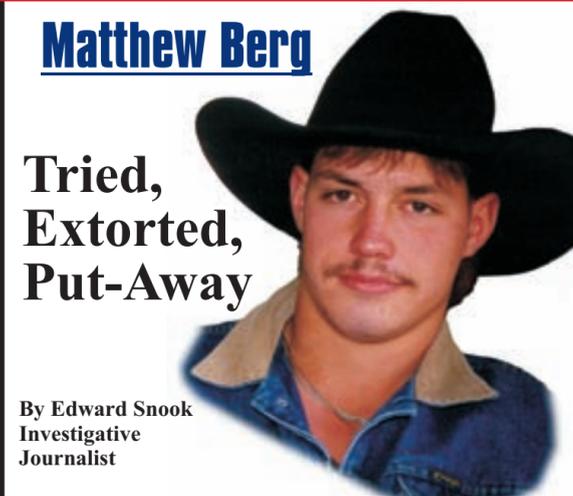
Robert Haro

Malicious Mistaken Identity

By Edward Snook Investigative Journalist

With the stroke of her pen, Deschutes County, Oregon Deputy District Attorney Sarah Foreman lied to the Court and signed a false affidavit under oath and penalty of perjury, swearing that she had "...read the police reports...and based thereon...[had] reason to believe that [Robert Haro had] committed the crime of...failure to register as a sex offender." Based upon Sarah Foreman's sworn affidavit, a judge signed the warrant submitted by the prosecutor, and an innocent **Robert Angel Haro** (pictured upper left) was arrested and handcuffed in front of his wife and child at his home in Bend, Oregon, for

Continued on page 10



Matthew Berg

Tried, Extorted, Put-Away

By Edward Snook Investigative Journalist

41-year-old Matthew Berg of Keno, Oregon was shocked when he was arrested in October of 2006. A troubled and jealous, soon-to-be ex-girlfriend Mandy Lehner of Klamath Falls had called the police, making false assault allegations against him just one day earlier. Lehner was outraged that Berg was with another woman and that he had stopped supporting her. Based on

Continued on page 11



Michael Minns

• "Good Time Charlie" Rangel Page ... 9



Devyv Kidd

• Forget Congress - Boot Dept. of Education Page ... 6



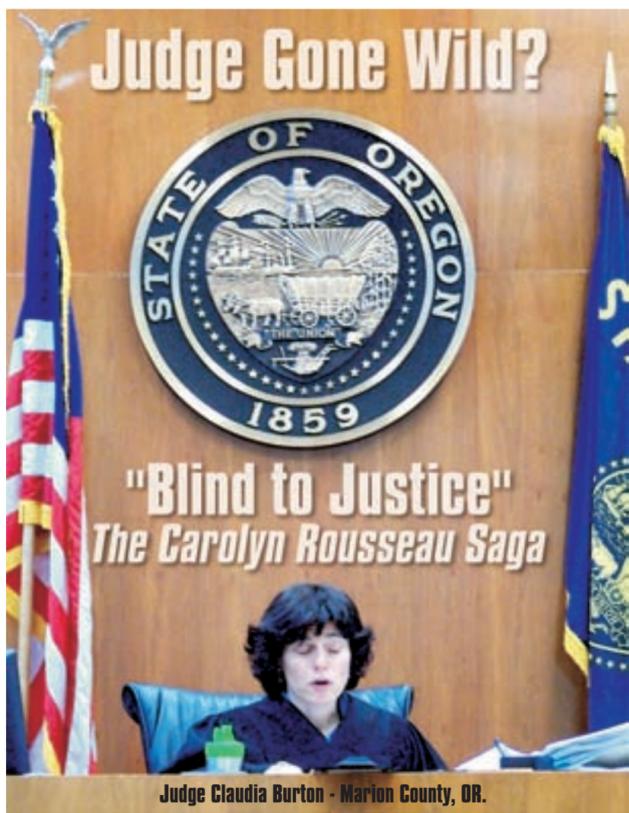
Lou Ann Anderson

• Randy Quaid "Crazy" Estate Claims Page ... 7



Curt Chancler

• BLM Abuse to Conviction Page ... 2



Judge Gone Wild?

"Blind to Justice" The Carolyn Rousseau Saga

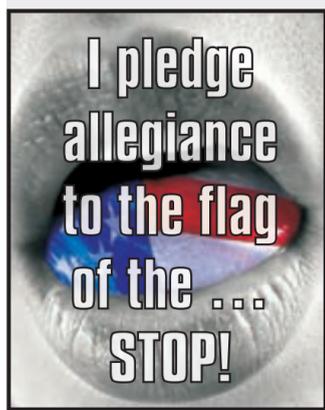
Judge Claudia Burton - Marion County, OR.

A Verbal Assassin Commentary By Ron Lee

Carolyn Rousseau has officially been stripped of everything; her friends; her family; her home. In a country whose Constitution mandates, in part, that the People be "... secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects ...", the pillaging of the helpless appears to be underway. You see, those who are deemed by a court of law to be incompetent aren't afforded rights, or at least that's how it appears in court-appointed guardian cases. [1] Such is the case with Carolyn Rousseau.

Featured in the last edition of the US-Observer under the title "Guardians Gone Wild?", Carolyn's story came to a head on December 20, 2010, when Marion County Circuit Judge Claudia Burton decided it was in Carolyn's best interest that her home be sold and the funds used to pay her court appointed guardian, Nancy Doty - all against Carolyn's well stated objections, and the support of

Continued on page 11



By Joseph Snook

Do you remember standing with your hand over your heart, saying the words that enacted so many emotions and brought back so many memories? Today, it's not the hand over your heart; it's a fight to keep the fundamentals of America alive. One student, Chandler Cort is taking his fight - PUBLIC.

Continued on page 2

READ ALL ABOUT



US-OBSERVER

Story on page 3

Inside this edition

- Are You a Victim? Page 3
- Health Section Page 5
- Commentary Section Page 8
- 2nd Amendment Issues Page 12
- What you can do to help Page 16

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Continued from page 1 • Pledge of Allegiance



The Pledge of Allegiance says, "liberty and justice for all"

Written in 1892 by Francis Bellamy, the Pledge of Allegiance has been used to promote many ideals. In its original form it was used to promote allegiance by citizens in any country. In the United States it has been used as an oath of loyalty to the United States of America's Flag, the Republic of the United States, celebrating Christopher Columbus's arrival in the Americas and the Youth's Companion Magazine.

The Pledge has been altered four times since introduced, and most recently, in 1954 when it was modified by Louis A. Bowman, to add the words "Under God," which came from President Lincoln's Gettysburg Address.

Despite many legal challenges to "do-away" with the Pledge, it is still versed by many to this day and as recently as November 12, 2010 a unanimous decision made by the United States Court of Appeals for the First Circuit in Boston affirmed a lower federal courts ruling which found that the word "God" doesn't violate students' rights.

The issue today is many schools don't recite the Pledge. Many students across America don't even know the Pledge and many believe the Pledge should be in our public schools. Schools today which do honor the pledge, are

required to give students the option to stand or sit while reciting the 31 words which mean so much to so many Americans. "It's not about forcing someone to do something they don't agree with, it's about giving the ones who do agree, the right to do so," one student stated, which has been backed up by the Supreme Court since 1943.

WE WANT THE PLEDGE

Chandler Cort, a sophomore at Rogue River High School in Southern Oregon is working hard to reinstate the Pledge of Allegiance at his school, which reportedly hasn't recited the pledge in over nine years. He has addressed this issue with not only his teachers and the principal - he has gone directly to the students. Chandler has acquired signatures from thirty percent of the students and counting at Rogue River High, who have signed his petition in favor of bringing back the Pledge of Allegiance.

While attending a "Wake Up America" meeting, held in Rogue River, Oregon, Chandler voiced his issue over the pledge to group members and before the meeting adjourned, there were over 100 United States Constitution booklets that were donated to the students of Rogue River High School by the members of Wake Up America to show their support for Chandler, his fellow students and the Pledge of Allegiance.

It was obvious to this writer, after talking with Chandler, that he is proud to be an American and is trying to bring back something that he believes should have never been taken away from our schools, the right to Pledge Allegiance to "OUR" Flag.

Let's hope School District 35 stays true to their vision - "Building Futures where Character Matters" as the students of Rogue River High School voice their character.

From BLM Abuse to Criminal Conviction

By Curt Chanler
Investigative Journalist

Jackson County, Oregon - It has long been said that Jackson County, Oregon's justice system could indict a ham sandwich. Recently, a six man jury comprised of four men and two women proved beyond any doubt that an inept, uninformed, jury will allow this corrupt justice system to convict that ham sandwich.

In all my years as a citizen activist for constitutional accountability and as a reporter having logged hundreds of hours in court rooms, I have learned to never be surprised by a jury's decision. That lack of surprise comes from the knowledge that corrupt judges controlling everything that a jury sees or hears from the admission of evidence and testimony to his instructions to the jury, makes the decision of the jury reasonably predictable.

When the accused is stuck with a court appointed attorney, their chances of receiving a fair trial through a zealous defense becomes almost nonexistent. Then add to the mix uninformed jurors that have little or no understanding of the defendant's constitutional rights or their constitutional rights and duties as jurors. Then sadly you have an incredible miscarriage of justice and that is exactly what happened in the resent trial of Dennis and Michelle Easley.

Even though the Easley's were not clients of the US-Observer, I spent three months investigating and reporting this story to you our readers, because of what I and others believed was the outrageous, unprofessional and criminal behavior of BLM Ranger William Finch and Jackson County Deputy Sheriff Jimmie Gyllenskog. This opinion was formed by the overwhelming testimony of five eyewitness to the actions of Finch and Gyllenskog against Dennis and Michelle Easley on 2-20-2010, plus the countless emails, letters and phone calls from people alleging that they have either endured some form of abuse of power at the hands of BLM Ranger William Finch or witnessed the alleged abuses on someone else. I have personally interviewed and taped the statements of eighteen citizens that have alleged they were victims of some form of abuse of power from BLM Rangers.

Dennis Easley's trial for Disorderly Conduct and his wife's trial for Disorderly Conduct, Interfering with a Peace Officer and Resisting Arrest were charges stemming from BLM Ranger William Finch and Jackson County Oregon, Deputy Sheriff Jimmie Gyllenskog coming into the Easley's camp site and asking to see their ten dollar off road OHV stickers (read entire story at www.usobserver.com). As we have reported in previous articles Dennis Easley felt that because Finch and Gyllenskog were riding red and white unmarked dirt bikes

and wearing nothing that looked like an official uniform to him, he refused to show them his ID until they showed him their official ID proving they were law enforcement officials.

It was at this point that BLM Ranger Finch and Deputy Gyllenskog allowed their training and professionalism to be over-taken by ego, temper, fear and bad judgment.

In my opinion Dennis and Michelle Easley were on trial and found guilty because they had the unmitigated gall to stand up to a known badge-heavy Bully "AKA BLM Ranger William Finch." I also believe the misplaced loyalties of his partner Jackson County Deputy Sheriff Jimmie Gyllenskog, coupled with law enforcement's unwritten code of cover your partner's ass at any cost, allowed this incredible fiasco and miscarriage of justice to happen.

Without any doubt whatsoever, this case has proven to me that if an innocent person is charged with a crime and they are unable to hire the US-Observer, they will be found guilty. ***



BLM Ranger, William Finch

National Grange Resolutions for a Stronger America

Oppose United States Senate Bill #S.3081 entitled "Enemy Belligerent Interrogation, Detention and Prosecution Act of 2010"

The National Grange is the nation's oldest national agricultural organization, with grassroots units established in 3,600 local communities in 37 states. Its 300,000 members provide service to agriculture and rural areas on a wide variety of issues, including economic development, education, family endeavors, and legislation designed to assure a strong and viable Rural America. It was formed in the years following the American Civil War to unite private citizens in improving the economic and social position of the nation's farm population. Over the past 137 years, it has evolved to include non-farm rural families and communities.

The 11-story landmark National Grange headquarters building in Washington, D.C. was dedicated by President Dwight D. Eisenhower on June 29, 1960, and is the only private edifice in a federal block across from the White House. It serves as a non-governmental headquarters for agricultural and rural families.

Each year, a listing of more than 1,400 issues of concern is published and distributed by the National Grange.

Each edition we feature another Grange resolution so you can see the issues that the Grange has taken up in order to defend America's liberties.

Resolution:

Whereas: S. 3081 sets out a comprehensive policy for detention and trial of "suspected enemy belligerents" who are believed to have engaged in hostilities against the United States, requiring these individuals to be held in Military custody, and they are not provided with an attorney.

Whereas: This Act does not distinguish between United States citizens and non-citizens. Many people in the news media and our federal government are convinced that Tea Party members, 9/11 truthers, Libertarians, Ron Paul supporters and anyone with a dissenting political opinion is probably a domestic terrorist. This act



National Grange

also states, "such other matters as the president considers appropriate."

Whereas: This Act violates our United States Constitution Bill of Rights 1-10, plus Article 1, Section 9-2, the Privilege of the Writ of Habeas Corpus shall not be suspended except when, in cases of rebellion or invasion, the public safety may require it.

Whereas: Under the 5th and 6th amendments, the right to a grand jury indictment and trial by jury cannot be denied an alien charged with a crime in the United States --Wong Wing vs. United States (Supreme Court year 1896).

Whereas: If this Act is passed by Congress, it will give the President of the United States of America dictatorial powers to have American citizens kidnapped, detained and interrogated on a personal whim. This Act is something you would see in Communist Doctrine.

Therefore be it resolved: That the Oregon State Grange opposes the passage of United States Senate Bill #S.3081 for its violation of the United States Constitution, Article 1, Section 9-1, the Writ of Habeas Corpus, and Bill of Rights 1-10.

This resolution was adopted by the Deer Creek Grange #371, Josephine County, at its regular meeting held on May 10, 2010.

William D. Waggoner

William D. Waggoner, Master
1920 Thompson Creek Rd.
Selma, OR 97538

Delaine Sherman

Delaine Sherman, Secretary
P.O. Box 871
Selma, OR 97538

This resolution was adopted by the Oregon State Grange at its 137th Annual Session held at Roseburg, Oregon, week of June 20-25, 2010.

nationalgrange.org

The Grange provides opportunities for individuals and families to develop to their highest potential in order to build stronger communities and states, as well as a stronger nation.



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ALL ABOUT US~OBSERVER

By Ron Lee
Editor/Writer

It seems there are individuals who are confused about, or just don't know, what the US~Observer is; why it is; how it operates; and what its ultimate goal is. Speculation by some in the mainstream media, numerous government agencies, and on not-so-well-read blogs, show the US~Observer to be a hired gun, publishing any story for a price. This is simply un-truth, spread by people without any investigative fortitude. Bottom line, the US~Observer prides itself on standing on the side of truth. It has nothing to hide. As such, the following seeks to inform, disclose, and otherwise dispel any rumor or misinformation brought out by those who choose to speculate rather than report.

What is the US~Observer?

US~Observer is a privately owned investigative reports and commentary publication - newspaper - which currently has subscribers in all 50 states and 19 foreign countries. The US~Observer has been in publication, under various names, since 1992 and has successfully championed the causes of more than 3,700 individuals who have been wronged by the "justice system" or another party.

Why the different names?

Over the years different publication names were used and were directly reflective of the "reach" the US~Observer had attained. For instance, the first incarnation of the US~Observer was Oregon Observer. Obviously, the majority of reporting was localized to Oregon. As the paper's reach grew and more reporting and subscriptions became multi-state, the name US~Oregon Observer was adopted. Shortly thereafter the paper's popularity exploded and we even began receiving subscriptions from other countries. The next obvious step, seeing that many of our stories came from across the country,

was to become the US~Observer. Unless we start traveling the world, spreading the truth to every corner of the globe, we are remaining the US~Observer for the foreseeable future.

What does the US~Observer do?

People who are wrongly charged with crimes can hire the US~Observer to investigate their case. This does not mean the US~Observer will support a client that is shown to be guilty through a thorough investigation - in such an event; the client will be dropped immediately. Should it be determined that the client is, in fact innocent, our evidence is first given to the authorities (in a majority of cases), typically the district attorney of the case who is pursuing charges against our client. Should that DA ignore the evidence and continue pursuing the prosecution, our first step is to typically inform the public through the publication of an article that injustice is going on in their area. It is through the continued publication of articles that will lead to your vindication.

The only thing that the enemies of justice hate is exposure! Like-wise, the only thing that corrupt individuals within government fear is that their family, friends, neighbors, colleagues and constituents will learn of their wrongdoing. In short, we use our newspaper and its supporting internet as a club against corrupt people and the evil they take part in.

Is your paper biased?

Yes. The US~Observer is biased to the reporting of the truth. If we are wrong about something, you can bet we will let you know! Our commentary primarily focuses on constitutional issues and policies that violate the rights of the people.

Are you attorneys?

No, if we were attorneys, we wouldn't win our cases, and we would simply take your money and recommend you take a plea bargain, or compromise with abuse. The US~Observer has investigative reporters across the country who will take on a

case, dig, discover the truth and report on the case, should it warrant it. We typically find that attorneys are much more expensive than we are and ultimately don't help people who are wrongly charged with crimes.

Is the paper free?

We hand-out thousands of "free" papers every publication. This is done in the locations where we have cases, as the information is important for that public's consumption. We do offer a direct mail subscription to the paper for a fee.

What is the goal of the US~Observer?

The total vindication of our clients is our primary purpose. By doing so, the US~Observer seeks to be the people's paper. It strives to hold those accountable that seemingly operate to infringe on our rights and those of our clients. Ultimately, we would like to see US~Observer chapters in every state, and presently offer a joint venture program for interested parties. Currently, we are engaged in a legal battle challenging immunity for prosecutors. Should we be victorious it will, literally, save the Republic from being controlled by rampant corruption.

Our advertising is very clear - "do not contact us if you are in any way guilty" and "if there is conclusive evidence of your innocence, the US~Observer provides a 100% money back guarantee on criminal cases, should we fail to prove your innocence and achieve your total vindication."

How can I help?

Distribute the paper far and wide! Share our on-line articles with your family and friends. Buy a subscription. Advertise your business. Become a joint venture partner and help defend innocent victims of false prosecution. Be a part of a historic challenge to the immunity of prosecutors and donate to the cause! And, if you find yourself charged with crimes you did not commit, contact us immediately! ★★

ARE YOU A VICTIM OF FALSE PROSECUTION?

If you are, then you are aware of how the 'justice' industry in America can be a racket. You (**the innocent person**) are falsely charged with a crime. Most of the time you receive a myriad of stacked charges intended for the sole purpose of extracting a "plea bargain" from you.

You then rush to an attorney, pay him a retainer to cover the usual \$150.00 per hour (if not higher), which he/she charges, to supposedly defend your innocence. The attorney usually files some motions, writes some worthless letters and makes many unproductive (unless they pertain to you accepting a plea bargain) phone calls until you are broke. Generally you haven't even started your trial and 99% of the time the attorney hasn't completed any investigation.

All of a sudden your attorney is telling you that you can't win your case and you

should accept the benevolent plea bargain that the almighty district attorney has offered you. "Do you want to take the chance on spending 30-40 years in prison when you can plea bargain for 18 months," your attorney tells you. What happened to: "I think we can win this case, it's a good case." Remember? Isn't that pretty close to what your attorney told you as he/she was relieving you of your money?

You then accept a plea bargain and go to jail or you have a jury trial, and are found guilty. Because your attorney hasn't produced enough evidence - if any - and because the judge directs the jury to find you guilty, you go to jail. When you finally wake up you realize that on top of now being a criminal, you are flat broke and incarcerated. You find that the very person (your attorney) you frantically rushed to retain, became your worst enemy.

WELCOME TO THE LARGEST RACKET IN HISTORY, THE AMERICAN JUSTICE SYSTEM.

There is only one way to remedy a false prosecution: Investigate the accusers, the prosecutors, the detectives and then watch the judge very carefully. In other words, complete an in-depth investigation before you are prosecuted and then take the facts into the public arena.

The US~Observer newspaper will not waste your time or your money. This is not a game, it's your life and your freedom. We do not make deals. If you are innocent, then nobody has the right to steal what belongs to you, most of all, your liberty. Nobody! That includes your attorney—as well as your supposed public servants.

Why have a bad day when it's still possible to force justice...right down their

throats?

If you are innocent and there is conclusive evidence of your innocence, *the US~Observer* provides a 100% money-back guarantee on criminal cases should we fail to prove your innocence and achieve your total vindication. *The US~Observer* investigates cases for news and therefore we don't print that which can't be resolved. We want to win, just as you want to prove your innocence.

Do not contact us if you are in any way guilty and for justice sake, don't wait until they slam the door behind you before contacting us if you are innocent.

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In The Nation

It's Regulation, not Legislation Working Around the Will of the People

By Robert Allen Bonelli

Written into the Declaration of Independence is a simple imperative, "Governments are instituted among men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed." Our nation was built on this concept, but the Obama administration is using its power to write regulation to circumvent the will of the people and advance its own agenda.

Three recent examples of this over reach are shocking and all Americans should demand an end to the practice and a reversal of what has already been done. Citizens need to think, whether they agree with the reasons for the circumvention or not, about what is at stake. Using regulation to specifically subjugate the will of the people to the agenda of any president is nothing less than tyranny.

themselves. Regardless of the merits, this is not what the people want. If this seemingly harmless step is allowed to be taken, what else can be written into regulations that will further circumvent the will of the people?

Early this month, the Federal Communications Commission ("FCC") voted to regulate the Internet for the first time. This scheme, known as Net Neutrality that forbids Internet service providers from impeding access to legal web content, may seem minor but it raises larger free speech issues and the threat of more intrusive regulation. Even Congress has been

The Supreme Court made the ruling in April of 2007 in the case *The State of Massachusetts v. the Environmental Protection Agency* but little has been done since. However, with the support of the Obama administration, the EPA is now ready to regulate carbon dioxide.

The Clean Air Act, as it is now written, requires that any source that emits more than 250 tons of carbon dioxide per year be required to capture those emissions. That threshold is so low that not only would it impose higher costs on power plants and refineries, but also farms, rural schools and hospitals.

If the EPA is allowed to follow through on using the Clean Air Act to regulate carbon dioxide, Washington D.C. bureaucrats will have more control over the lives of citizens and their businesses than the citizens themselves.

These three examples clearly prove how the Obama administration is poised to use the regulation-writing process to advance its own agenda regardless of what the American people want. The administration is also

acting in open defiance to our form of representative government.

Regardless of where anyone stands on these three particular issues, it is the dictatorial action implied by this process that should be rejected. The 112th Congress can use its power to strike down this power grab.

The American people need to demand that this new Congress act swiftly to send the president notice that our liberty will not be taken from us by the stroke of a pen.

Robert Allen Bonelli is the author of "Liberty Rising," an accomplished business executive, public speaker and involved citizen. ★★★



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Edward Snook, owner and publisher of the US-Observer says that the only way to effect change at the grass-roots level is through exposure – **Start Your own US-Observer newspaper and be a part of real change.** Become part of taking the truth into America's homes - into their hands.

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The New York Times and Fox News, an unlikely combination, recently reported that the Obama Administration is taking advantage of a rule in the final version of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act of 2010 ("Obamacare") that authorizes Medicare coverage of yearly physical examinations. The new rule says Medicare will cover voluntary advance care planning to discuss end-of-life treatment as part of an annual visit. The mandate for end-of-life planning, commonly referred to as death panels, was specifically legislated out of Obamacare because of the uproar by the majority of Americans. Most recent polls show 60% or more of the electorate wants Obamacare repealed, but this particular mandate was rejected by the people before the law was passed.

Using this embedded rule, one of the hundreds of Obamacare surprises that will be revealed over time, the Obama administration is able to achieve its policy goal through the regulation-writing process. In this case, doctors will be encouraged to provide information on how to prepare an advance directive, stating how aggressively patients wish to be treated if they are so sick that they cannot make health care decisions for

sensitive to the First Amendment implications of any legislation regulating the Internet and has been careful in taking any action to date.

The people want debate by their elected representatives on this issue, not the imposition of new regulation at the whim of a president who believes he knows better than the citizenry. This move, along party lines by the appointed commissioners of the FCC and publically welcomed by Mr. Obama, is nothing more than a power grab in defiance of the will of the people.

Perhaps the most dangerous use of regulatory power hanging over the American people is the judicially extended powers of the Environmental Protection Agency ("EPA") to regulate specific greenhouse gases, including carbon dioxide, as pollutants under the forty year old Clean Air Act. The Clean Air Act was originally written to regulate air pollutants, not something that is ever present in the air – and certainly not something that is part of life itself!

"Government is instituted for the common good; for the protection, safety, prosperity, and happiness of the people; and not for profit, honor, or private interest of any one man, family, or class of men; therefore, the people alone have an incontestable, unalienable, and indefeasible right to institute government; and to reform, alter, or totally change the same, when their protection, safety, prosperity, and happiness require it."
--John Adams, 1776

Home foreclosures jump in 3rd quarter



By Dave Clarke

WASHINGTON (Reuters) - U.S. home foreclosures jumped in the third quarter and banks' efforts to keep borrowers in their homes dropped as the housing market continues to struggle, U.S. bank regulators said on Wednesday.

The regulators said one reason for the increase in foreclosures is that banks have "exhausted" options for keeping many delinquent borrowers in their homes through programs such as loan modifications.

Newly-initiated foreclosures increased to 382,000 in the third quarter, a 31.2 percent jump over the previous quarter and a 3.7 percent rise from the same quarter a year ago, the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency (OCC) and the Office of Thrift Supervision (OTS) said in a quarterly mortgage report.

The number of foreclosures in process increased to 1.2 million, a 4.5 percent increase from the second quarter and a 10.1 percent increase from a year ago, according to the regulators.

They said during a briefing that the numbers could send "mixed signals" about the health of the U.S. housing market.

Regulators also said a possible reason for the foreclosure uptick in the quarter was that a large pool of borrowers who were being considered for home retention programs but did not qualify moved through the system.

"I think you'll see more stabilization now," said Bruce Krueger, a mortgage official at the OCC.

Foreclosures have become a hot political topic and mortgage servicers have come under fire in recent months amid accusations they did not properly review documents before attempting to take borrowers' homes.

These concerns prompted the country's 50 state

attorneys general to coordinate an investigation of lenders such as Bank of America, JPMorgan Chase & Co and Ally Financial's GMAC unit.

Some banks, including BofA, temporarily suspended foreclosure proceedings late in the third quarter to review procedures.

Officials from the OCC and OTS declined to say what type of impact this might have on fourth-quarter foreclosure numbers.

BANKS LOOK OUTSIDE HAMP

State attorneys general and regulators have been pushing banks to perform more loan modifications and the report shows these efforts have had mixed results.

Overall home retention actions taken by banks dropped by 17 percent compared to the second quarter, but most of that was due to decreases in the Home Affordable Modification Program (HAMP), the Obama administration's leading foreclosure prevention effort.

In the third quarter, HAMP loan modifications slid by almost 46 percent, according to the report.

Regulators said the drop in HAMP modifications is likely due to a few factors, including that a large pool of borrowers who were being considered for the program turned out not to be eligible once their qualifications were fully reviewed.

Treasury launched HAMP to try to find a way to reduce mortgage payments for struggling homeowners who wanted to keep their homes but who were at imminent risk of foreclosure.

But it is widely regarded as a flawed program, and the incoming Republican chairman of the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee, Representative Darrell Issa, has called for it to be ended.

Regulators pointed out that mortgage servicers are pursuing more modifications outside of HAMP and such efforts increased by 10 percent in the third quarter.

The report, which covers 33 million loans serviced by national banks and federally regulated thrifts, shows that the amount of borrowers making their mortgage payments on time remains steady at 87.4 percent.

The amount of seriously delinquent loans, those 60 days or more past due, dropped 6.4 percent from the second quarter. The amount of loans that were 30 to 59 days past due, however, increased 4.3 percent.

★★★

World: China preparing for conflict 'in every direction'

By Peter Foster
Telegraph UK

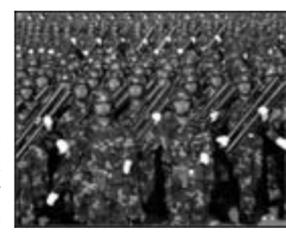
Beijing - "In the coming five years, our military will push forward preparations for military conflict in every strategic direction," said Liang Guanglie in an interview published by several state-backed newspapers in China. "We may be living in peaceful times, but we can never forget war, never send the horses south or put the bayonets and guns away," Mr Liang added.

China repeatedly says it is planning a "peaceful rise" but the recent pace and scale of its military modernization has alarmed many of its neighbors in the Asia-Pacific, including Japan which described China's military build-up as a "global concern" this month.

Mr Liang's remarks come at a time of increasingly difficult relations between the Chinese and US armed forces which a three-day visit by his counterpart Robert Gates is intended to address. A year ago China froze substantive military relations in protest at US arms sales to Taiwan and relations deteriorated further this summer when China objected to US plans to deploy one of its nuclear supercarriers, the USS George Washington, into the Yellow Sea off the Korean peninsula.

China also announced this month that it was preparing to launch its own aircraft carrier next year in a signal that China is determined to punch its weight as a rising superpower. The news came a year earlier than many US defense analysts had predicted.

China is also working on a "carrier-killing" ballistic missile that could sink US carriers from afar,



fundamentally reordering the balance of power in a region that has been dominated by the US since the end of the Second World War.

A US Navy commander, Admiral Robert Willard, told

Japan's Asahi Shimbun newspaper this week that he believes the Chinese anti-ship missile, the Dong Feng 21, has already achieved "initial operational capability", although it would require years of testing.

Analysts remain divided over whether China is initiating an Asian arms race. Even allowing for undeclared spending, China's annual defense budget is still less than one-sixth of America's \$663bn a year, or less than half the US figure when expressed as a percentage of GDP.

However in a speech earlier this year Mr Gates warned that China's new weapons, including its carrier-killing missile, "threaten America's primary way to project power and help allies in the Pacific", underscoring the difficulties that lie ahead as China and the US seek to contain growing strategic frictions.

As China modernizes, Mr Liang pledged that its armed forces would also increasingly use homegrown Chinese technology, which analysts say still lags behind Western technology even as China races to catch up.

"The modernization of the Chinese military cannot depend on others, and cannot be bought," Mr Liang added, "In the next five years, our economy and society will develop faster, boosting comprehensive national power. We will take the opportunity and speed up modernization of the military."★★★

HEALTH

HEALTHDAY HIGHLIGHTS



Rich People Less Able to Read Other's Feelings: Study

Rich people are less adept than poor people at reading other people's emotions and therefore less empathetic, according to a new study.

Researchers asked 300 rich and poor people to interpret the emotions of people in photos and of strangers during pretend job interviews. Overall, participants with more money, education and higher social status were less able to determine if a person was happy, anxious, angry or upset, msnbc.com reported.

This difference may be due to the fact that poorer people may have to rely on others for help, said study co-author Michael Kraus, a postdoctoral student in psychology at the University of California, San Francisco.

"You turn to people, it's an adaptive strategy," he said, msnbc.com reported.

Richer people often don't need to ask for help.

"One of the negative side effects of that is that they're less concerned and less perceptive of other people's needs and wishes. They show a deficit in empathic accuracy," Kraus said.

The study appears in the journal Psychological Sciences.★

Obama Signs Child Nutrition Bill

The White House campaign against childhood-obesity was given a boost Monday when President Barack Obama signed a \$4.5

billion child nutrition law that will provide school meals to thousands more needy children and make those meals more nutritious.

Before he signed the bill at an elementary school in the District of Columbia, Obama said: "At a very basic level, this act is about doing what's right for our children," the Associated Press reported.

Also on hand for the signing was Michele Obama, who this year launched a national campaign against childhood obesity.

"We can agree that in the wealthiest nation on earth all children should have the basic nutrition they need to learn and grow," Mrs. Obama said. "Nothing is more important than the health and well-being of our children."★

New Congress Expected to Tighten Abortion Restrictions

The appointment of a strong opponent of abortion rights to an influential House subcommittee could lead to stricter limits on the procedure, according to supporters and opponents of abortion rights.

Last week, Representative Joe Pitts, R-Penn., was selected as chairman of the Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Health. The committee has jurisdiction over the National Institutes of Health, the Food and Drug Administration, private health insurance, Medicaid and much of Medicare, The New York Times reported.

Pitts is "one of the most anti-choice members" of the House, said Representative Lois Capps, D-Calif., who predicted the new Congress would be "extremely hostile to a woman's right to choose."

The National Right to Life Committee urged Republicans to select Pitts as subcommittee chairman, saying he had "made the protection of the sanctity of innocent human life the cornerstone of his service in the House," The Times reported.★



WARNINGS!

FDA Warns of Salmonella-Linked Alfalfa Sprouts

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration on Monday advised consumers to avoid alfalfa sprouts and "Spicy Sprouts" (alfalfa sprouts plus radish/clover sprouts) distributed by Tiny Greens Organic Farms of Urbana, Ill., because of links to outbreaks of salmonella illness across the Midwest.

"The sprouts were distributed to Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Missouri and may also have been distributed to other Midwestern states," the FDA said in a statement. "Approximately half of the illnesses occurred in Illinois, where nearly all of the ill individuals ate sandwiches



containing sprouts at various Jimmy John's [restaurant] outlets."

The restaurant chain has ceased using sprouts on sandwiches served in its Illinois outlets, the agency added. The Tiny Greens sprouts come in 4- and 5-ounce packages and consumers are advised to "discard them in a sealed container so people and animals, including wild animals, cannot eat them."

Last weekend, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reported that 89 people in 15 states and the District of Columbia had fallen ill since Nov. 1 with salmonella linked to the tainted alfalfa sprouts. Most of the illnesses occurred in Illinois. There have been no fatalities. ★★★

Staph Food Poisoning Spurs Desserts Recall

Rolf's Patisserie, an Illinois-based gourmet bakery, is recalling all desserts made after Nov. 1 due to links to numerous outbreaks of Staphylococcus aureus food poisoning, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration announced Monday. The desserts include cakes, cobblers, decorated cookies, pastries, pies, tarts and tiramisu.

According to the agency, 100 cases of S. aureus illness have been reported after four separate events in November and December, including 70 illnesses linked to one event in Wisconsin. Thirty people also got sick after three events in Illinois, the FDA said.

Rolf's Patisserie desserts are available via the Internet and through retail and wholesale sales, but may not always be labeled as coming from the Lincolnwood, Ill.-based company. "Consumers should not eat the desserts," the FDA said in a statement. "Consumers and product sellers should dispose of them in a sealed container so that people and animals [including wild animals] cannot get access to and eat them."

According to the agency, S. aureus illness typically begins within six hours of eating tainted food, with symptoms typically including nausea, vomiting, stomach cramps and diarrhea. In more severe cases, headache, muscle cramps and swings in blood pressure and pulse rate can happen. In most cases, the illness passes within one to three days. ★★★

FDA Warning on Male Sexual Enhancement Pills

Men who use Man Up Now capsules should stop taking them immediately, says the U.S. Food and Drug Administration.

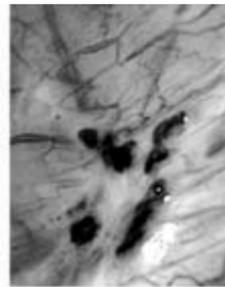
The capsules, sold as a dietary supplement for



improving sexual performance, contain sulfoildenafilafil, a chemical that's similar to sildenafilafil, the active ingredient in Viagra. Both chemicals can interact with prescription drugs such as nitrates, including nitroglycerin, and

cause dangerously low blood pressure, the agency said.

Man Up Now is sold online and possibly in retail outlets in single, double and triple blister packs, and in 6-, 12-, and 30-count bottles. The product is distributed by Synergy Distribution LLC.★



Endometriosis

treatments.

The team compared the genomes of 5,500 women with the condition to those of 10,000 healthy women and concluded that chromosome 1 and chromosome 7 play a

major role in determining the risk of developing endometriosis, BBC News reported.

In women with endometriosis, tissue that acts like cells that line the uterus grow in other areas of the body. This results in pain, irregular bleeding and possible infertility.

"Our study is a breakthrough because it provides the first strong evidence that variations in DNA make some women more likely to develop endometriosis," said lead author Dr. Krina Zondervan, BBC News reported. "We now need to understand the effect of these variations on cells and molecules in the body."

The study appears in the journal Nature Genetics.★

Two Chromosomes Linked to Endometriosis Risk: Study

Scientists who identified two chromosomes associated with the risk of developing endometriosis say their finding could lead to improved diagnosis and



The American Dream



In 2011 The Baby Boomers Start To Turn 65: 16 Statistics About The Coming Retirement Crisis That Will Drop Your Jaw

American Dream - Do you hear that rumble in the distance? That is the Baby Boomers - they are getting ready to retire. On January 1st, 2011 the very first Baby Boomers turn 65. Millions upon millions of them are rushing towards retirement age and they have been promised that the rest of us are going to take care of them. Only there is a huge problem. We don't have the money. It simply isn't there. But the millions of Baby Boomers getting ready to retire are counting on that money to be there. This all comes at a really bad time for a federal government that is already flat broke and for a national economy that is already teetering on the brink of disaster.

So just who are the Baby Boomers? Well, they are the most

famous generation in American history. The U.S. Census Bureau defines the Baby Boomers as those born between January 1st, 1946 and December 31st, 1964. You see, after U.S. troops returned from World War II, they quickly settled down and everyone started having lots and lots of babies. This gigantic generations has transformed America as they have passed through every stage of life. Now they are getting ready to retire.

If you add 65 years to January 1st, 1946 you get January 1st, 2011.

The moment when the first Baby Boomers reach retirement age has arrived.

The day of reckoning that so many have talked about for so many years is here.

Today, America's elderly are living longer and the cost of health care is rising dramatically. Those two factors are going to make it incredibly expensive to take care of all of these retiring Baby Boomers.

Meanwhile, the sad truth is that the vast majority of Baby Boomers have not adequately saved for retirement. For many of them, their home equity was destroyed by the recent financial crisis. For others, their 401ks were devastated when the stock market tanked.

Meanwhile, company pension plans across America are woefully underfunded. Many state and local government pension programs are absolute disasters. The federal government has already begun to pay out more in Social Security benefits than they are taking in, and the years ahead look downright apocalyptic for the Social Security program.

If we are not careful all of these Baby Boomers are going to push us into national bankruptcy. We simply cannot afford all of the promises that we have made to them. The following are 16 statistics about the coming retirement crisis that will drop your jaw.....

#1 Beginning January 1st, 2011 every single day more than 10,000 Baby Boomers will reach the age of 65. That is going to keep happening every single day for the next 19 years.

#2 According to one recent survey, 36 percent of Americans say that they don't contribute anything at all to retirement savings.

#3 Most Baby Boomers do not have a traditional pension plan

Forget Congress States Must Boot Fed Dept of Ed

By Devvy Kidd

"I am convinced that the battle for humankind's future must be waged and won in the public classroom by teachers that correctly perceive their role as proselytizers of a new faith which will replace the rotting corpse of Christianity." - John J. Dunphy, Humanist Magazine, January-February 1983.

Do you wonder why so many public officials hate the Ten Commandments and want any reference to Christ eliminated from Christmas? I don't. They are the product of government brainwashing in public schools and further reinforcement of communitarianism in colleges and universities.

Back in 2004, I wrote a column, Department of Education must be abolished. [1] It was one of Ronnie Reagan's campaign promises; one of many he never kept. Tragically for America's children, that agenda driven operation still exists while Americans continue to shove massive amounts of money into a failed, unconstitutional government program.

Nowhere in Art. 1, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution does it give the Outlaw Congress the authority to take over education in this country. If the framers of the Constitution meant for the GENERAL government to legislate education, it would have been specifically enumerated in the clauses under Art. 1, Sec. 8. It is not because education is the domain of the states of the Union - an internal operation:

"Another not unimportant consideration is that the powers of the general government will be, and indeed must be, principally employed upon external objects, such as war, peace, negotiations with foreign powers and foreign commerce. In its internal operations it can touch but few objects, except to introduce regulations beneficial to the commerce, intercourse and other relations, between the states, and to lay taxes for the common good. The powers of the states, on the other hand, extend to all objects, which, in the ordinary course of affairs, concern the lives, and liberties, and property of the people, and the internal order, improvement and prosperity of the state." - Joseph Story, associate justice, U.S. Supreme Court, 1833.

It's also a massive hole in the universe the American people are fleeced to fund - including illegal grants and loans made by the Dept. of Education. None of it is constitutional. It's not my responsibility to pay for your child's college education any more than it's your responsibility to pay for your neighbor's child to attend college. No, it's not for the "collective good." If you want a 'higher' education, you pay for it, not your neighbor with a gun to his/her head. Collectivism is a poison consuming this republic.

The Federal Department of Education is a monstrous, corrupt entity sucking down more than \$66 BILLION BORROWED dollars just this past year alone. Students are coming out of college under-

educated and drowning in student loans. Doesn't anyone ever wonder why college tuition shot through the roof after that cabinet came into being? Why, it's simple: colleges and universities suddenly discovered they had YOUR blank checkbook at their disposal courtesy of the prostitutes in Congress. More money for education! Every child deserves a college education paid for by YOU!

If there were no longer all those loans, America's young folks would not graduate buried in so much debt. They would attend a college they could afford. All those graduates have to look forward to is despair, trying to pay off huge school loans while working at McDonald's. Make it go away. Without your checkbook, colleges and universities would have to compete in the market place to attract qualified students. Let the free market work and you will see a huge adjustment in tuition.

Parents across this country seem blind to the truth about who controls education in this country and the ultimate goal - creating the new Soviet man and global citizen:

"Teach those attitudes which will result ultimately in the creation of a world citizenship and world government. We can and should teach those skills and attitudes which will help to create a society in which world citizenship is possible." - William Carr, NEA (National Education Association) leader, and secretary of the Educational Policies Commission.



I've read a thousand columns on education. Dozens of books by excellent writers. But, hear me: No matter how many zillions of borrowed dollars are poured into the Federal Department of Education, it will not educate America's children. They will continue to be short changed because of massive corruption from the teacher's unions protecting bad, unqualified teachers and subjection to social and political indoctrination. Time has shown this to be true.

Speaking of money, here in Texas, we the taxpayers fund state education to the tune of \$47 BILLION dollars a year. Now, Americans pay state taxes to fund education in their state whether by a direct personal income tax or as here in Texas, through state sales taxes, gasoline taxes and local property taxes [as in most states]. On top of those taxes, we the people are then forced with a gun to our heads to pay twice for education: federal income taxes to fund the Federal Department of Education. Of course, we know not a penny in the

taxes extorted by the IRS funds a single penny of public education. [2]

The Outlaw Congress goes into its new session this month. While the House is now controlled by Republicans, it's also controlled by the "old guard" who had 14 years to get rid of unconstitutional cabinets and agencies. Fourteen years of a Republican controlled Congress and education only got worse. Eight of those years were under a Republican president, Bush, Jr. Nothing was done except more BS fed to we the people, while astronomical budgets (more money for education!!!) continued to be signed off by the controlling GOP. The senate is still controlled by progressive Democrats (socialists and communists) and RINOS who support federally run education.

Too many reelected incumbents are socialists and too many are Republicans who owe their financial backers, who have a vested interest in making sure that cabinet continues to exist. No, abolishing the Federal Department of Education will not come from Congress; it has to come from the states of the Union. Think not? Here in Texas, the seed has been planted:

Dunbar seeks to nullify federal education laws

By Kate Alexander
November 18, 2010

"Outgoing State Board of Education member Cynthia Dunbar offered a "parting gift" to her fellow board members in the form of a resolution declaring the U.S. Department of Education an unconstitutional bureaucracy with no authority to impose restrictions upon Texas or its school districts.

"No action was taken Thursday on Dunbar's resolution, which states that education policy is outside the purview of the federal government granted by the U.S. Constitution so federal legislation addressing education is for naught.

"Therefore, the Education Department 'shall be put on notice that any such unconstitutional directives given by it to the Texas State Board of Education will be met with the principle of nullification and the clear admonition of Don't Mess with Texas!'"

"Nullification is the legal theory that a state may deem invalid any federal law that the state finds unacceptable or unconstitutional. Most legal scholars maintain that nullification is unconstitutional.

"But Dunbar, who decided not to seek re-election to a second term, is an assistant professor of law at Liberty University School of Law and has more than once used her own knowledge of the U.S. Constitution to make a point through board policy.

"The resolution could be considered in January, when the 15-member board, including its five new members, next meets."

The problem - a big one - states reliance over the decades on federal money for education. But, wait - we

Devyv Kidd

"That liberty [is pure] which is to go to all, and not to the few or the rich alone."
- Thomas Jefferson



Investigative journalist Devvy Kidd is well known for her comprehensive columns on today's most pressing issues.

Devyv's Archives CD includes her best selling booklets *Why A Bankrupt America* (1,653,000 copies) and *Blind Loyalty* (700,00 copies on vote fraud).

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Knowledge is Power

already pay at the state level. Why should the fruits of your labor be stolen in Bison, Kansas, to pay for education in Louisville, Kentucky? You have no control over how those taxes are spent. Second, your state legislature makes the laws for public education overall which are adhered to and added on at the local level. There is no need for a federal cabinet except to advance the agenda of the global elite.

The question is this: Are you ready to restore state sovereignty?

"It is a question all those supporting states' rights initiatives need to ask themselves. Once answered affirmatively the struggle for educating others truly begins. It is easy to claim we support our sovereignty, to lend our voice to state resolutions, perhaps even support legislation with some teeth, yet how will we withstand the opponents who simply point to the dollars we are willingly cutting off?"

"Glen Warchol ran what is perhaps the shortest piece seen in the Salt Lake Tribune in recent history. In 10th Amendment cold turkey he quickly leaves us with the truth about what we are asking for and how we must accomplish it. He describes a very brief conversation between U.S. Rep. Jason Chaffetz (R-UT) and Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia. Rep. Chaffetz asked what it would take for the federal government to recognize the 10th Amendment rights of the states, a fair question asked to someone who could truly articulate the answer: 'Stop taking their money,' is the answer Warchol reports and it is an answer known to be the true, root challenge. We must stop taking the money and mimicking the income tax system as a start to reclaiming sovereignty." - Gary Wood, Tenth Amendment Center.

If the states withdraw their support for that rancid cabinet, it will be a fiscal challenge, but one that must be undertaken. Either the states reject federal money or they will become nothing more than occupied territories under regional, world government. America's children will continue to suffer while the corrupt teachers unions run rough shod over good, well meaning, qualified teachers kissed and blessed by buzzards in the state houses.

The states MUST do this no matter how painful because it is the right thing to do. Ask yourself some questions like: before the Federal Department of Education became a cabinet (1979), how come schools

around the country were able to turn out highly educated students on very few dollars? How did America become so finely educated prior to the Federal Department of Education, but has sadly and tragically turned out two generations of young Americans who are so under educated, they graduate high school at third or fourth grade reading levels?

Return education to the state and local levels. Stop the social indoctrination programs and nonsense like "safe pink rooms" for sexual deviants, brainwashed by activists passing themselves off as teachers. Get your groups and organizations together and hammer on your state legislature come January. I will be doing the same even though my daughter is long out of school and in fact is a teacher. I care about America's children and want to see them get educated, not deliberately dumbed down, their minds washed clean and then propagandized by environmental greenies and other special interests. I am also sick of being taxed to death at the federal level when I already pay a healthy amount here in my state for education.

The time is now for the state houses to either stand up or shut up. It's up to all of us to make it happen within our states and forget the political animals in the Outlaw Congress.

As always, writing for a newspaper is different than the Internet. To access the Footnotes below, use a search engine, type in the title and the page will appear.

Footnotes

- [1] Abolish Federal Department of Education
- [2] Why an income tax is not necessary to fund the federal government

Recommended reading:

- 1 - The Teacher's Union: How They Sabotage Educational Reform and Why, by Myron Lieberman
- 2 - Kill Your Teacher - Corruption & Racism in Los Angeles City Schools, by Rabbi Nachum Shifren

Devyv Kidd authored the booklets, Why A Bankrupt America and Blind Loyalty. Devvy appears on radio shows all over the country. She left the Republican Party in 1996 and has been an independent voter ever since. Devvy is a constitutionalist who believes in the supreme law of the land, not some political party. Her web site is www.devyv.com. Devvy's radio show broadcasts Mon-Friday; for details go to Devvy's site. ★★★

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Randy Quaid's 'crazy' estate theft claims parallel legal abuse, probate corruption seen nationwide



By Lou Ann Anderson

As Texas native and actor Randy Quaid along with wife Evi face legal issues both in a Santa Barbara Superior Court and a Canadian immigration court, the couple's "Hollywood star-whackers" claims continue to fuel questions of the couple being crazy, paranoid or on drugs. Answers remain unclear, but one thing is certain: the "crazy and outrageous" claims made by the Quaid's about their own estate theft and networks of organized professionals seeking to loot estate assets parallel probate corruption cases that quietly happen every day.

It's easy for the general public and legal industry insiders to summarily dismiss these claims as "they're nuts," "that can't happen" or "they must have asked for it." The reality, however, is that contrived scenarios enabling Involuntary Redistribution of Assets (IRA) actions – illicit confiscations or diversions of property via trusts, wills, guardianships/conservatorships or powers of attorney – are becoming more common and impacting a wide range of Americans.

An August 2010 Courthouse News article describes a lawsuit filed by Randy and Evi Quaid:

Actor Randy Quaid and his wife, Evi, claim their former lawyer and estate planner created a fake living trust in their name, stole their money and disqualified future lawyers from acting on their behalf.

The article further discusses a series of events alleging fraudulent access and use of escrow accounts, falsified probate files and fake trusts.

Despite the Quaid's seemingly erratic behavior, it is important to point out that unscrupulous individuals absolutely operate using today's legal and financial systems to loot assets exactly as described by the couple.

Creative people not surprisingly might add a dramatic spin to their presentation (or view) of facts. But theatrics aside, the story – even the targeting of folks in the entertainment industry – is not that crazy.

The legal industry comprises lawyers, judges and other court-associated personnel. Lucrative revenue streams are created when they work in concert with networks of financial professionals and social services workers to hijack the personal freedom and property of unsuspecting Americans. This abuse of probate venues and probate instruments (wills, trusts, guardianships/conservatorships and powers of attorney) may sound like a conspiracy theory, but it happens. Public-private partnerships (PPP) are a trendy model in public policy circles and this legal industry growth area has co-opted the model to mount a financial assault against Americans and their property rights.

Here in Texas, an October 2006 hearing before the Texas Senate Committee on Jurisprudence brought the following testimony:

"These people in these specialty courts, they truly have a probate business. They are running it for profit. And it profits their small group, their small circle... I learned that this circle of friends has a name in Harris County. It's called the 'Tomb Raiders Club' and they pride themselves on making a living out of this particular industry that they have created."

The court of Denton County Probate Judge Don Windle became similarly known and perhaps was impetus for his decision to not seek re-election. Activities surrounding Denton County's probate court received attention starting May 2005 when The Dallas Morning News published a story about a group of lawyers and other professionals viewed as significantly profiting off probate court appointments handed out by Judge Don Windle. Another article suggested the potential of Windle "playing favorites" with a special Denton County panel that oversees real estate price determinations for eminent domain cases.

And with that, here are other "outrageous" cases which some would say "can't happen," but did. They illustrate the danger probate actions can pose to an unsuspecting public – to folks in the entertainment industry and anywhere else.

Connecticut: Josephine Smoron, an elderly Connecticut woman, believed estate planning documents would ensure her longtime caretaker Sam Manzo's inheritance of Smoron's 80-acre farm and cows valued at more than \$1 million. Recognizing local interest in developing her property, Smoron was adamant that churches previously involved in a dispute over her brother's estate have no claim to her estate. As Smoron's health deteriorated, Manzo was replaced as her conservator by a court-appointed conservator under the orders of Southington Probate Judge Bryan F. Meccariello. Before her death, Meccariello approved a change in Smoron's will designating all property be given to three area Catholic churches. Manzo was disinherited and there appeared no evidence this change reflected Smoron's wishes. A purchase agreement with a local developer promptly surfaced and plans for Smoron's farm becoming home to an \$18 million indoor sports complex generating \$200,000 of new tax revenue were announced. Manzo filed a complaint with Connecticut's Council on Probate Judicial Conduct that resulted in Meccariello being "censured" for the second time in three years causing the judge to withdraw his bid for re-election. An attorney for the developer says the land sales contract is still valid while Sam Manzo, the rightful heir, is suing to overturn

Meccariello's disregard of Smoron's estate plan and diversion of her assets. Manzo may one day gain control of the property to which he is legitimately entitled, but this hijacking will cost him money and time that will never be recovered.

Tennessee: Raymond Simmons, a retired Nashville firefighter, also engaged in "proper estate planning" with a will designating the Tennessee Children's Home as sole beneficiary of his \$800,000 estate. Instead of distributing the assets as Simmons clearly directed, estate executor Daryl Bornstein wrote checks totaling \$100,000 to himself. In addition to losing estate funds investing in Iraqi currency, Bornstein lost \$340,000 with Hanover Corp., a now bankrupt capital investment group described as an \$18 million Ponzi scheme for which Bornstein is facing charges along with two top company officers who are under federal indictment. The estate was described as "almost a fully liquid estate," but now only about \$50,000 remains including a \$25,000 retainer returned from an unnamed attorney who previously represented Bornstein. Recovery of additional funds through the Hanover Corp. bankruptcy action is being investigated, but the estate has largely been squandered. And interestingly, this case would probably never have received attention had a reporter not been in the Nashville probate court one Friday back in August covering a hearing on the conservatorship of Nashville



Randy Quaid



Evi Quaid

singer/songwriter Danny Tate.

Texas: An elderly man married a woman 63 years his junior. Financial generosity from the relationship's early stages continued during the 14-month marriage with all involved aware that the woman was being provided for during the man's lifetime in lieu of being included in his extensively documented estate plan. Upon the man's 1995 death, the woman filed a lawsuit citing an unsubstantiated oral promise as grounds for receiving half her husband's estate. In anticipating bad news from a seven-month Houston jury trial that ultimately found the woman's claims meritless and incredible, the woman opened an additional litigation front with a California bankruptcy filing. This pursuit of assets from the estate of J. Howard Marshall II continues today. Neither the 2006 death of Marshall's son and legitimate heir, E. Pierce Marshall, nor the 2007 death of the litigation-initiator, Anna Nicole Smith, has hindered the proceedings. Smith's estate executor Howard K. Stern continues this legalized financial assault on J. Howard Marshall's estate plan while Marshall's family continues efforts to defend the man's final (and documented) wishes.

Oregon: Erna Boldt created an estate plan leaving half her assets to her only child Leroy Newton, a California investment banker, upon her death. Despite knowing the asset transfer was to occur upon his mother's death, Newton created and transferred all Boldt's assets into a trust that denied his mother access to her property. An appeals court ruled in Boldt's favor, but further legal gamesmanship by a lower court and seemingly punitive actions from higher courts have kept Boldt from regaining her lifelong accumulation of assets.

Texas/New Jersey/Florida: Lillian Glasser was a wealthy widow and lifelong resident of New Jersey. In February 2005, her daughter Suzanne Matthews, a Texas resident, visited her mother during a Florida vacation, fired a long-time caregiver and convinced her mother to come to Texas until a replacement was hired. In the years prior, Matthews is alleged to have not only began making a case for her mother's incapacitation, but she also appears to have worked in concert with a series of legal and financial professionals, including a cousin employed by Goldman Sachs and his associates, to incrementally take control of Glasser's estate. In what some viewed as venue shopping, the 2005 Texas relocation became the entry point of Suzanne Matthews filing for guardianship of her mother and gaining complete control of the estate. Mark Glasser, a Florida resident and Glasser's son, contested his sister as guardian. Rulings from various courts have been rendered in this case.

Suzanne Matthews no longer controls her mother's estate and a 2007 court order instructed her to repay roughly \$20 million to her mother. By 2007, legal fees primarily paid from Glasser's estate were said to have reached \$2 million. "It's a poster child for court appointees enriching themselves off the estate of someone who never wanted to subject themselves to that court," Russell Verney of Judicial Watch, a watchdog group at the time doing a study of the Texas probate courts, said. Glasser now resides in Florida.

Florida: Barbara Kasler, an elderly Fort Lauderdale widow with an estate once estimated at

\$5 million, is taking legal action against her neighbor former Broward County Judge Larry Seidlin, the now-retired judge who presided over the Anna Nicole Smith body disposition hearings. In her civil lawsuit, Kasler claims Seidlin "exploited her for personal gain, and that he, his wife and in-laws feigned friendship to steal her money and jewelry and change her will for their benefit." The lawsuit, filed in June 2009, names Seidlin, his wife Belinda and his in-laws, Barbara and Oren Ray, as defendants. A south Florida accountant along with three attorneys were later added. Per the Sun Sentinel, "The suit said the accountant and attorneys assisted Seidlin in his attempts to buy Kasler's property at a discount and change her will to benefit himself and his family." Dorothy Colletto, a former girlfriend Kasler's deceased son, was also later added. Seidlin may be controversial within his peer group, but three decades of being a judge appears to have its perks – especially when one is getting sued. Legal gamesmanship has been a component of this case and included an unexpected change of venue after the case was underway and two hostile attempts to have Kasler put under a guardianship. A guardian brought in to oversee Kasler's care would have great power – including the ability to control her multi-million dollar estate and the lawsuit against Seidlin. That Larry Seidlin and family ended up with significant Kasler assets is not in dispute. The dispute surrounds the circumstances in which the assets were relinquished. The Seidlin clan claims all was done voluntarily while the picture painted by the Kasler legal team depicts a questionable scenario complete with undue influence and manipulation. At times, Kasler has seemingly become a target for legal harassment upon daring to seek justice. After stalling and delays, case depositions, including that of Seidlin, started this past fall and are scheduled to continue in the new year.

Tennessee: Using an alleged extreme (and unsubstantiated) drug habit as a basis, an "emergency" ex parte hearing took place in Judge Randy Kennedy's Nashville probate court without notice to singer/songwriter Danny Tate resulting in his rights and property being stripped along with he and his property being put under control of his brother. For 32 months, Tate was kept under this "temporary" conservatorship and denied a hearing that would have allowed his "day in court" to fight the status. An extraordinary relief application filed with the Middle Tennessee Court of Appeals seeking to reverse a Kennedy ruling finally compelled a final conservatorship hearing. The court in fact reversed Judge Kennedy with the ruling described by Nashville Scene as "meaning the Probate Court had strayed so far from established legal procedure that an extraordinary judicial slap on the wrist was dealt to Kennedy. More remarkable still, Judge Frank Clement, the jurist who issued the Appeals Court decision, used to sit in Kennedy's seat in Probate Court." Danny Tate was released from the conservatorship on May 24, but an assault on his assets continues. Despite having regained his freedom and basic rights, three years later he is left with a once substantial estate now depleted and the prospect of bankruptcy looming.

These cases are examples of outrageous abuse being perpetrated on Americans of all persuasions and economic levels. In this light, the probate crimes espoused by Randy and Evi Quaid start sounding less far-fetched. The predators that perpetrate these acts are smart. They know how to pick their targets. That people in the entertainment industry with heightened egos, accepted eccentricities and vulnerabilities/insecurities galore could be rich (in many ways) targets makes perfect sense. A guy like Randy Quaid whose career has included playing a host of "whacked out" characters could be viewed a true prize in being easily discreditable as people are already comfortable viewing his persona – whether real or pretend – as somewhat unbalanced.

Think what you want about the Quaid's. But when it comes to their estate theft claims, think again. By design, these IRA actions happen quietly so that an unsuspecting public stays unaware of the growing threat to their property and personal freedom.

Beware – all you have could someday depend on it!

Lou Ann Anderson is an advocate working to create awareness regarding the Texas probate system and its surrounding culture. She is the Online Producer at www.EstateofDenial.com and a Policy Advisor with Americans for Prosperity – Texas Foundation. Lou Ann may be contacted at info@EstateofDenial.com. ★★

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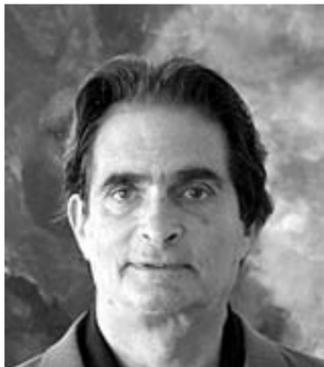
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COMMENTARY Your Right to Speak Out



By Jon Rappoport

First Principles are not popular. They require coherent thought. People would rather focus on an example, a case, a scandal, and wring the most sensational possible conclusions out of it—thereby removing its connection to any principle.

They would rather measure time by one piece of gossip after another.

The result of this mental deficit is a kind of permission to let the future leak in as it will, until it becomes a river that takes us wherever it leads.

But suppose we are able to marshal our resources and think about the basis of the Republic?

The rise of science has swept all before it. New inventions and technology have convinced the masses that science is synonymous with "workable," "necessary," and "governing."

Therefore, when a person makes a decision that is obviously and clearly unscientific, and therefore self-defeating, friends and family and co-workers and professionals urge him to reconsider and change direction.

This pressure can nearly have the effect of law, and, in fact, legislatures have passed laws that support science and forbid challenging it.

At this point, I could cite various examples of false and deceptive science—I have maintained an enterprise, over the last 30 years, in which I document such cases. So I would have no trouble illustrating where and how science has been dressed up to look real, when it is actually hoax and fraud.

But here I don't want to do that. I want to make a simpler point. It is framed by the question: how far does freedom extend?

Is it an act of freedom for a patient to deny a life-saving treatment widely accepted as such, and acclaimed as the only possible choice open to him in his circumstances?

Or is it an act of suicidal ignorance? And if it is the latter, how might that modify what freedom consists of?

Naked Freedom

Suppose, for instance, a doctor diagnoses this patient with cancer and tells him that his only chance for survival lies in accepting chemotherapy?

And suppose the patient refuses?

Put aside, for the moment, the matter of whether chemotherapy would be effective. Ignore what other therapy the patient might favor.

Consider this extreme situation solely in the light of whether the patient has the right and freedom to discard his doctor's sober advice.

This is precisely a test case, because widespread acceptance of what good science consists of is being challenged by a patient who has no medical background or expertise.

Actually, we don't know whether the patient is challenging the science; we only know that, from the point of view of experts, that is what his refusal amounts to.

The patient is simply saying no.

Does he have that right?

Does he have the guaranteed freedom to make his choice, even if that choice leads to his death?

Should society have a higher right to countermand his decision?

In the future, we will see more and more test cases, and the tendency will be to rule out the patient's liberty.

Therefore, we had better get it right now.

Freedom is freedom. If you limit it on the basis of science, or magic, or religion, and if you limit it for one person, you are setting a precedent that can limit it for others.

Try this example. I am standing on my own property. In my hands are blueprints I have made for my new house. I am already building it myself, alone. I am standing under the skeleton.

The city in which I live has a copy of the plans. Employees in the building department have determined, scientifically, that this structure will not stand. It will collapse.

My house will be erected in the center of an acre of land. If it falls, it will fall on me and no one else.

Sheriff's deputies are standing on the edge of my lawn with weapons. They are threatening to come in and arrest me, before I kill myself under the falling beams.

Do they have the right to stop me?

Do I have the freedom to build my house exactly as I have planned?

We live in an age of official and unofficial meddling. Everyone believes he has the right

to interfere in other people's business, "for their own good."

Such a belief has a twin - we must help everyone who needs it regardless of expense, regardless of where the money comes from, regardless of what the asserted need is.

Each belief reinforces the other.

This is the society we are turning into.

Conversely, if we allow the patient to refuse chemotherapy, if we permit the builder of the crooked house to put up that structure, and if we are publicly willing to say we understand the consequences may be dire—and still, we are willing to forego interference, we are tacitly admitting that we don't have to help everyone, everywhere, at any moment.

If we stand up and limit the amount of help we are willing to give "to everyone, everywhere, at every moment," if we are willing to assert that limit publicly and specifically, then we are closer to admitting that individuals have the right and freedom to risk injuring or even killing themselves.

This is a crossroad. Obviously, there is tremendous sentiment on the side of political correctness: we must interfere; we must intervene; we must save the misguided.

The same situation and issue is involved in the government's foreign policy decisions. Are we obligated to intervene in every foreign war or massacre?

Whether you view history and the future through the eyes of policy or conspiracy, the result falling out of the hopper is the same.

To the degree that we abandon first principles and the philosophy of freedom, and allow, instead, a case-by-case carving up of the tree of liberty, we will end up with a hollow root, and that which we once cherished will be gone, a faint remnant of a forgotten era.

Despite the sentiments of utopians and rainbow seekers and all-enveloping dogooders and apocalyptic enthusiasts, freedom always did have consequences. You can't be for freedom and also insist on eliminating risk. And in the test cases, where the popular belief is that an individual, following a horrific strategy, is going to cut his chances of survival, you have to stand back. You have to learn that intervention is not the final answer, except if we want a society in which protection ultimately emanates from law backed up by the barrel of a government gun.

There are, and will be, increasing numbers of

people who insist that protection must be the first principle of existence. They will dress it up, they will flood the decks with quasi-religious swill, they will carry out the mandate with a grave smile of purity, they will cite science, they will issue messianic commands, they will turn themselves inside out to protect Everything. Under the flag of a new dawn, they will insist.

Their lives are not their own. To imagine they are alive, they want yours.

Most readers will shrink away from my analysis. They would prefer not to consider these extreme test cases because, while the prospect of allowing someone the freedom to harm or even kill himself might be privately acceptable, to publicly state it is policy is going too far. Better to stay in the shadows.

However, consider this. If five years from now, the number of patients who can legally refuse chemotherapy is reduced, because new regulations have been put in place, then ten years from now, the number of patients who can, say, refuse vaccines might be reduced. And then, the number of patients who can refuse prescribed antidepressants might, in fifteen years, be reduced by similar regulations.

And then, on another front, the same basic concept that forbids a man from building a crooked house that might collapse on his own property is extended. He can't smoke in his house. He can't grow certain kinds of plants that might cause a random neighbor to suffer an allergic reaction. He can't raise his voice to his children. He can't own a bicycle unless he owns a helmet designed to government specifications.

And then, 30 years from now, every patient under the national healthcare plan must accept all drugs prescribed by a government doctor.

And no property owner can protest a microwave scan of his house that automatically records and collates unpaid tickets, private debts, owed taxes, and memberships in groups of any kind. He can't drive his car out of his garage unless he is taking, on schedule, every drug his doctor has prescribed him.

Well, it's good science. For the greatest good of the greatest number, it's all been figured out and expressed in regulations.

When people don't have the sufficient mental capacity to recognize or think cogently about First Principles, these are the consequences.

Jon is the author of LOGIC AND ANALYSIS, a course for home schools and adults. To inquire: gjrconsulting@gmail.com

★★★



Young people: free your mind or get ready to grab your ankles

By Simon Black
The Sovereign Man

Auckland, New Zealand (just like in the U.S.) - If you're reading this and under 30, let me be absolutely clear about one indubitable point: your government is going to sacrifice your future in order to pay for its own mistakes from the past.

To give you an example, students in London came out to the streets in droves last Friday to protest the British parliament's most recent austerity measures which tripled the cap on their university tuition to \$15,000.

Sure, Britain is imposing all sorts of austerity measures on its citizens... and while I won't get into a discussion about the absurdity of government controlled education, I will point out that students are having their benefits cut far more drastically than any other segment of the population.

Are pensioners seeing their costs triple? No. Are middle-aged workers seeing 50% tax hikes? No. Aside from the very small segment of high-income earners who will be forever robbed and pillaged of their wealth, the younger generation is next in line to receive the butt end of the crisis fallout.

Younger folks have comparatively lower incomes, benefits, job opportunities, and political clout than their seniors, yet they are increasingly expected to assume a disproportionately larger burden of the consequences of government folly.

It's the younger generation that is called on to go fight and die in pointless wars in faraway lands; it's the younger generation that is forced to assume the debts of their forefathers; and it's the younger generation that gets relegated to the back rows of the political amphitheater and dismissed by the establishment.

Meanwhile, retirees aren't seeing massive benefits cuts, and middle-aged wage earners income earners are being protected from above by politicians. In fact, let's take a minute and look at the looming fate of the average young person today:

1) Your government-run university tuition is going to go through the roof, saddling you with unfathomable debt before

you even enter the world as an adult;

2) Once you graduate, you'll be the last in the hiring queue;

3) If you do get hired, you'll be the lowest on the totem pole and the first to be let go when tough times befall your business;

4) Once the labor market eventually stabilizes, you'll enter your prime earning years with some of the highest tax rates ever seen as your government continues to cannibalize your generation to pay off its largess and indebted entitlement programs that benefited older generations;

death taxes.

If you're in the millennial Facebook generation, this is going to be the standard storyline of your peers. The system that's in place right now— the failed cycle of debt and consumption fed by continuous government intervention— has stuck you with the bill.

Fortunately, there's a silver lining (as always). Younger people are generally less anchored and more mobile than their elders, hence it's much easier to opt out of this perverse system.

If you're angry that your government is saddling you with the responsibility to pay off generations of bad decisions, then get out of dodge. Stop playing by the same rules of the game that used to work in the past— the old playbook of "go to school, get a good job, work your way up the ladder" simply doesn't apply anymore.

Don't stick around a society that has completely forsaken you and is waiting with knife and fork in hand to carve up your earnings once you finally enter the labor market... get out of dodge now, while it's easy to do and you have little to risk.

Go explore the world and get an education based on experience, not expensive academic theory. Seek opportunities in thriving, frontier markets overseas... places like Kurdistan, Mongolia, Botswana, Kazakhstan. Soak up the local intelligence and become the grease guy on the ground who can make things happen.

Find people whose lifestyles you want to emulate and make yourself indispensable to them as an apprentice... this will be the only time in your life that you can afford to work for nothing in exchange for a valuable, first-hand education.

Most of all, stop playing by everyone else's rules. Refuse to be enslaved by the idea that it's your civic and moral responsibility to pay off the debts of your government's failures. Cast off the yoke of their control... and summon the courage to live a life by your own design.

The path to prosperity in the Age of Turmoil depends on this ability to reject the old system, declare your economic independence, and carve your own path. ★★★



by =Maladikta

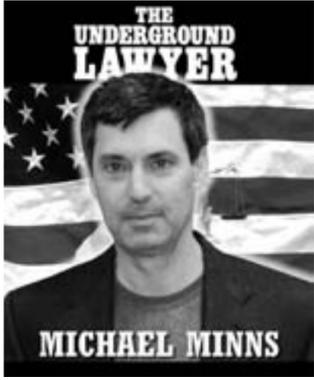
5) For your entire working life, you'll pay into a pension system that is going to be bankrupt by the time you're qualified to draw on it;

6) More than likely, you'll never achieve the standard of living that your parents achieved;

7) Whatever wealth your parents accumulated won't be left to you— the bulk of it will be confiscated by the state (unless your folks were smart enough to plant multiple flags) due to a host of

"Congress has not unlimited powers to provide for the general welfare but only those specifically enumerated. ... A wise and frugal government... shall not take from the mouth of labor the bread it has earned."
--Thomas Jefferson

COMMENTARY



**US-Observer
Exclusive**

**By Michael Minns
Lawyer**

The New Broadway play, "How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying," opens next year and our office will be there to see it. It's the singing story of a window washer who reads a book by the same title and goes from window washer to CEO during a two hour musical. One of my favorite numbers is when he sings to himself in a mirror "I believe in You," about how he is the only person he can trust. I saw this play in Houston with my Mom when I was about ten. It stuck with me. Fun tunes you sing back to yourself, and a fun story. A man with no education or talent becomes the head of a major corporation (sort of like Dick Cheney and Halliburton). It's really funny as a kid because you know it couldn't happen in real life. I missed it last time it came back. It is filled with what we call "irony"... the hero really isn't a hero, and he wins, in a world of trickery by pretending to have integrity when he really is just like all the rest... He wins through fake connections - pretending to be like the others - pretending to have their back grounds... and in the end, he sort of does.

But the new play I'd like to write, and direct and produce would be: "How to Succeed in Business by *Rangeling* your way out of taxes." Charlie Rangel sat on the most powerful committee in Congress, as its chairman, the most powerful seat on the committee - Ways and Means. Essentially it is the way to tax, and the means to take our money - the rules. If you are at the top of the rule writing and interpreting division of taxes in our government shouldn't you know the rules?

Well one of the many things Rangel is now being censored for is not paying taxes for as much as 17 years. And his reason - he is disorganized. A good guy - just disorganized. Whining on the Congressional stairs he asks for mercy because what he did was just what all the Congressmen do. He writes the rules of the game, and then he cheats, he passes go, stops on do not pass go,

"Good Time Charlie" Rangel It's Now Okay to Evade Taxes

go directly to jail, or "pay sale tax" or "pay income tax" on property you got with subsidies for the poor and rent you got on your off shore "luxury property" - but he says he didn't know the rules he wrote and can't pay. In a country which is now going after thousands of working Americans who put money off shore... how does ole Charlie get out of it when he has been caught red-handed and doesn't even offer a defense?

There is hardly a tax case alive where I don't sympathize with the defendant - but if Rangel were indicted for breaking the laws he passed and makes us follow, I'd vote to convict him. The fact that the President was impeached for not telling the public, under oath he ran around on his wife, makes me wonder what sort of government does that to the President, but lets the head of the taxing committee not pay his taxes, and not go to jail, and not even get kicked out of Congress, after he has been found guilty - which happened only after he fled the trial wherein they found him guilty. He only returned after being found guilty to throw himself on the mercy of his Congressional Friends. And his friends, both Democrats and Republicans are sad for him. They praise his past service but they tell him out right - "Charlie we nailed you. Sorry. Now we are going to punish you." And, what is Charlie's unbearable punishment that brings tears and trembling to his voice? All of Congress will "censor" him. They will publically embarrass him. There are a lot of people who would gladly be publically embarrassed if they didn't have to pay taxes for 17 years - or if they couldn't be indicted.



Charlie - Why didn't you just do it legally like IBM did or the Tobacco Industry or the Hedge Fund dealers or the Billionaires who don't pay estate taxes this year? Why didn't you just pass a law making it legal for Congressmen not to pay any taxes at all?

In the musical Charlie would sing: "I believe in me..." and "I believe in you... paying taxes... but I don't believe in me paying taxes... because I really don't understand the laws I pass every year." Then he would do the two-step and dance into the next act. Curtain down... Applause, Laughter.

The next number could be one about lobbyists. "Oh why did I let IBM off the table, with all the loot and not pass a number for myself?" We'd call it "Lobbyists ever after..." I'll pass your



Charles Rangel

lobby bill; I'll cancel your tax, but be a good sport and cancel mine too. OK?

The musical could end happy ever after once the final act was over. The part where things look bleak and then the sun comes up and then we move to the happy ending.

The congressional ethics committee could say: "Charlie Rangel we find you to be unethical." Charlie and his family looked stunned and amazed. It's all a little sad for a moment. Then the artificial sunlight comes on, the stage brightens up, then the chairman smiles and says: "Charlie lighten up. It doesn't mean anything. You're still our buddy. We won't even make you pay the taxes unless you want to... and you can stay in Congress... you just can't write the rules anymore." Laughter. And Charlie dances off the stage singing... "I believe in me... I love this country... I just don't like paying taxes..." A dozen scantily clad young beauties would dance after him: "We love you Charlie... O yes we do... We love you Charlie and we'll be true- ooh. Cause you're a Congressman, and you are you... oh, Charlie we love you..."

Lights out. An usher will tax the audience as they leave - telling them that they have to pay Charlie's taxes. ★★★



**By Conn Carroll
The Foundry**

Hamtramck, Michigan, is running out of money. City Manager William Cooper tells The New York Times: "We can make it until March 1—maybe." And Hamtramck is not alone. According to the Times, 15 municipalities have pursued bankruptcy in the past two years. And if the economy does not improve revenues, many other local governments will be in the same boat.

Many of these cities, like Hamtramck, have already cut spending on parks, senior centers, and road maintenance. But there is one area they can't cut: salaries, benefits, and pensions of government workers. According to the Times, 60 percent of Hamtramck's general fund goes to paying 75 current police officers and firefighters and about 240 worker and spouse pensions. "They kind of have the Cadillac plan," Cooper tells the Times, "and we'd kind of like the Chevy."

Reforming how police and fire workers are paid is an uphill climb politically, but polling shows that once voters are educated, they are open to change. A recent poll by the Florida League of Cities on Police and Fire Benefits found that, initially, most respondents did believe police and fire benefits were "about right" or "too low." But when told that police officers and firefighters can retire after 20 years

of service and receive 80 percent of their salaries for the rest of their lives, 66 percent of respondents strongly opposed this policy. And when asked if they knew that the retirement pay for an average police officer was over \$70,000 per year, 71 percent said that was too high.

The cumulative result of these pensions and benefit promises is staggering. A recent study by Robert Novy-Marx of the University of Rochester and Joshua Rauh of Northwestern University found that major pension plans for city workers have a combined estimated underfunding of \$574 billion. Heritage Foundation scholar David John details: "For instance, Chicago has only about \$22 billion in pension assets to pay for \$66 billion in pension promises to its city workers, while New York City has \$93 billion available to pay \$215 billion in city pension promises, and Boston has only \$3.5 billion available to pay \$11 billion in promises. That means that every household in Chicago has a liability of about \$42,000 just to pay pensions to city workers, while each household in New York City owes \$39,000, and each in Boston owes about \$31,000."

The problem is even worse at the state level. An earlier Novy-Marx and Rauh study of the 116 major pension plans sponsored by the 50 states found these plans had assets of about \$1.8 trillion to pay pension promises of between \$3.6 trillion and \$5.2 trillion. This leaves a gap of between \$1.8 trillion and \$3.4 trillion. Unsustainable public employee compensation is a major reason why large states like California, Illinois, and New York are teetering on the brink of insolvency.

Cities like Hamtramck may eventually be able to escape their government union contracts through bankruptcy. But that road is very difficult. About half the states have laws that allow for municipal bankruptcy filings. But many set limits, including Michigan, which appears ready to force Hamtramck to borrow money from an emergency loan board before it can file for bankruptcy. But what happens when the states run out of money bailing out their local governments? States currently do not have the ability to file for bankruptcy. So what will they do?

California already came to Washington asking for an \$8 billion bailout last year. The spendthrift 111th Congress said no. At a bare minimum the 112th Congress should hold the line and refuse to bailout any state government. Instead, Congress should consider a way for states to file for bankruptcy or its fiscal equivalent. While such a law would raise some serious federalism issues, as long as states are allowed to enter into bankruptcy voluntary, it could be constitutionally acceptable. But David John warns:

"Such a process should not be part of a deal under which states can also receive a federal bailout. State and local governments made the mess of their finances, and they should have to clean them up. Congress should provide a mechanism to make the process more direct, giving the states the flexibility to address their fiscal problems consistent with federalism and the principles of limited constitutional government.".

★★★

AT A GLANCE

- According to CNN, six in 10 Americans oppose Obamacare's mandate that all individuals must buy government-approved health insurance.
- An early feature of Obamacare that allows people who are already sick to get insurance to cover their medical costs isn't attracting many customers.
- Ninety-eight American banks that received \$4.2 billion in TARP bailout money are teetering on the edge of collapse.
- The Obama Administration may replace the board of directors for nearly 20 TARP-bailed-out banks that have repeatedly failed to pay the required dividends.
- The former president of Shell Oil, John Hofmeister, says Americans could be paying \$5 for a gallon of gasoline by 2012.

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Continued from page 1 • The Florida Conspiracy ...

automotive industry for twenty-eight of those years. His company, Auto Gallery of Pensacola, Inc., led the used car sales market. In the late 90's, Mark Turner developed a program to market automobiles over the Internet and pioneered the industry before Google or EBay Motors existed. With the EBay platform, Mark reportedly sold more cars on the Internet in 2003 than anyone else in the world. He provided a service for local dealerships across the southeast and planned to expand globally.

One of his largest clients was Pete Moore Automotive in Pensacola, Florida, where he had successfully moved over-aged inventory for over twenty years. As a matter of fact, the Manager for Pete Moore Automotive, Rick Hamilton, was one of Mark's closest friends. Pete Moore Automotive alone reportedly paid Mark's company in excess of \$40,000 per month.

After 9-11, business took a nose dive due to a national fear of air travel. Mark was in the process of developing a new program he called \$1-A-Day which would provide any seller the platform for marketing their vehicle to the world. Pete Moore reportedly expressed interest in buying Mark's Internet business. According to Turner, a Business Proposal was written describing compensation for ownership. Mark moved his computers and personnel related to the Internet business to a location near Pete Moore Automotive, at their request.

A Troubled Family Affair

On December 7, 2003, Mark's brother David Turner, who had been "Director" of Mark's corporation, reportedly colluded with Anthony Ramsey – David Turner's son-in-law and manager of Auto Gallery - to commit a theft of over \$35,000 worth of the day's deposit, the Inventory and Titles and the checkbook. David Turner also attempted to empty the corporate bank account. The company's banker Annette Cruz contacted Mark to alert him and the funds were frozen.

Mark had a lifelong history of financially and emotionally supporting his older brother, despite his reported chronic, irrational behavior. Their relationship had come to a head when Mark refused to make another \$10,000 loan to David. Commenting on the alleged initial theft, Mark stated, "I never thought David would go so far as to steal from me."

Family Trouble Turns to Business Nightmare

According to Mark Turner, he immediately notified Rick Hamilton, who consulted with Pete Moore and the plan was to transition his main car operation to Pete's Chevrolet store (Mark had already moved his Internet Sales business to a location close to Pete Moore Automotive). Mark's computers, software, employees and equipment were relocated and according to Turner, Pete consummated the original Business Proposal by essentially assuming the payroll for Mark's employees, delivering the vehicles that were already sold and awaiting customer pickup, concluding the tag and title work, as well as using Pete Moore Automotive funds to pay Auto Gallery accounts payable. Mark continued, "Pete Moore followed through with his end of the Business Proposal, with one very important exclusion, he absorbed my business without paying for it, and then told me, 'I have no use for you.'" Turner attempted to approach Pete three times to resolve the dispute and each time, Pete's response was, "let the attorneys work it out."

Claiming he was cheated, Turner filed a thirty-six million dollar suit in civil court against Pete Moore. This case is still making its way through the courts, but what unwinds is the tale of how far Pete Moore would allegedly go to protect his multi-million dollar empire.

Here enters Russ Edgar, Special State Prosecutor of District 1, who claims he did not get involved until the case was handed to him in 2007, but later admitted in court that he "brought this case against Mark." According to Turner, "the State Attorney's 'manufactured' criminal case against me actually began in 2003." Turner continued, "I refused to heed the warnings that I would be criminally charged if I did not drop my civil suit filed against Pete Moore."

In September 2004, Hurricane Ivan hit the Gulf Coast and Mark lost his home. Rather than rebuild, Mark sold his home/lot and was attempting to settle his debt to Pete Moore Automotive for cars he had marketed for the company. Pete's attorney Mike Guttman reported the balance due as \$205,000. Mark knew this amount was sorely inflated, but paying off Pete Moore Automotive removed any encumbrance in the civil suit. The realtor was advised to cut the check for \$205,000 directly to Pete Moore, and the remainder of the selling price was paid to Mark and Nancy Turner.

In 2004, Escambia County Sheriff's investigator Charles Buzbee questioned Mark Turner with his attorney present. He admitted, "this sounds like a civil case, but the finger's pointed at you." Investigator Buzbee later

testified that prosecutor Edgar ordered the investigation of Mark. Evidence was released outside the chain of command to Pete Moore's legal team.

Pete Moore's civil attorney Kevin Hausfeld was reportedly directed by his superior Larry Matthews to "cut to the heart of the civil case" by making a deal with Escambia County Sheriff's department to sift through the documents gathered by the State Attorney's Office in exchange for an indexed summary of the evidence. Hausfeld wrote Investigator Buzbee, "Please contact me if you feel you need more information/evidence to prosecute Mark Turner for fraud, perjury, conspiracy, theft, embezzlement...etc."

Threats continued to build, but Mark refused to drop his civil suit against Pete Moore. In the meantime, Pete Moore Automotive Internet sales reportedly grew exponentially using Mark's program and web server. Then on July 6, 2006, Mark was arrested on felony charges without being mirandized, and his bond was set at \$15,000.

At this juncture we see that it has taken an amazing three years for the State Attorney's Office to find 'probable cause.' Mark Turner still refused to drop the civil charges against Pete Moore.

Mark informed the US-Observer he was then warned his wife would be arrested unless he dropped the civil case. He refused. Nancy Turner was then arrested without being mirandized, for theft of over \$100,000 and her bond was set at \$250,000. This was an obvious ploy to financially break the Turners after they had just lost their business as well as their home.

Nancy Turner had lived in the area for over thirty-five years, maintained a mental health private practice in two counties and had never been in trouble with the law. Prosecutor Russ Edgar informed Judge Jones that he did not plan on pursuing charges against her, but it cost her \$50,000 in bail to go home to her children.

To add insult to injury, the moment Nancy Turner's charges were dropped, she was handed a subpoena to testify against her husband as a State's witness. The Turners still refused to drop the civil suit and they were not interested in taking the many plea offers made by Prosecutor Russ Edgar, despite the threat of a 90-year sentence versus 11-months in jail.

The Charges

During Mark's criminal trial wherein he was convicted of racketeering, conducting unlawful financial activity and using proceeds from a pattern of racketeering activities, Pete Moore Automotive Comptroller Roxanne Sawyer testified that she knew nothing about



the check for \$205,000 - it was never on the company books. She reported that Mark's balance was \$106,000. We obtained a copy of the check and the deposit stamp on the back states, "FOR DEPOSIT ONLY WACHOVIA BANK, N.A. PETE MOORE CHEVROLET, INC" This is significant because the State's Forensic Accountant was provided an erroneous starting figure by Ms. Sawyer, because she apparently never credited Mark for the \$205,000. This clearly removes the theft charge. Pete's attorney Mike Guttman testified that he personally handed Pete Moore the check.

Had Hamilton been forth-coming about all the transactions between Pete Moore Automotive and his friend Mark Turner, we believe it could have ended the case, and Turner would be a free man today. Hamilton is now under the US-Observer microscope; more on him soon.

The \$205,000 check is also very important because in the post-trial Restitution Hearing, Judge Michael Jones acknowledges that Mark's charges only add up to \$83,000 and he deferred this major discrepancy to the Appeals Court. The Appeals Court never addressed this issue, because it was discovered after the trial. Mark's criminal attorney Barry Beroset did nothing about this major discrepancy that would have negated certain charges against Turner, as they were based on the amount of \$100,000.00. Judge Jones had to have known this when he made his ruling – so are we now to consider him part of this conspiracy or is it just commonplace in Pensacola, Florida for judges to sweep corruption under the rug?

An interesting note is that Pete Moore was not named as a victim until four years after the alleged theft. The charges against Mark were reportedly changed numerous times, and during the trial a number of the original victims' charges were dropped. Their convoluted plan was apparently to drum up a multitude of charges with a number of victims,

Continued from page 1 • Robert Haro

crimes which his father, **Roberto Haro**, had committed. Robert and other family members had already been shamed, traumatized, and victimized by his father's criminal misconduct and the prosecutor's blatant disregard of the facts lead to a new round of pain and suffering.

Robert Haro protested to the police that if only they would check the records they had available, it would be obvious a mistake was being made. This did not save him from being arrested and taken to jail, strip searched, finger-printed and booked for a crime he did not commit. Police explained they had to assume the warrant was valid - it had his name on it.

The false arrest set in motion a cascading sequence of events which resulted in Robert Haro being jailed, publically shamed, immediately fired from his job where he had just received a promotion, his name being listed in the newspaper as a sexual offender, and being denied housing for his family, because the prosecutor's false affidavit and criminal charges had created a false criminal record profile, labeling Robert as a registered sex offender.

After Robert Haro hired an attorney who immediately contacted the court and prosecutor and filed a motion to dismiss the false charges, the prosecutor took more than two weeks to dismiss the false charges, which required Robert to pay an attorney for two court appearances.

Prosecutors took no steps to remove the false criminal history which they created. Robert and his family were left destitute, unable to find employment for over a year. Each time Robert applied for a job, he was usually granted a subsequent interview, and an indication of intent to hire, only to be denied upon a record check, even though the record stated the charge was dismissed due to error. Record searches for prospective employers either did not find or comprehend the dismissal. His family struggled to survive, and were finally forced into bankruptcy. Robert was humiliated and devastated by the circumstances which made it impossible to take care of his family. By contrast, even after Robert found a pro-bono civil rights attorney and filed a civil rights law suit, the prosecutor was promoted, being hired by the Oregon Attorney General's Office (AG's), who also provided Foreman with an attorney at public expense.

Had the prosecutor cared about the impact on persons falsely accused of crimes or had she actually read the police report, she would have

seen that the officer stated in pertinent part: "I had been attempting to locate Roberto Haro for failing to register since December 2004...Robert Haro is the son of Roberto...I called Robert (he) told me in substance that Roberto is living in an RV on the beach in Ensenada, Mexico under the alias of Saldana...Roberto Haro has two outstanding warrants for his arrest...parole violation and sex abuse...This report is being forwarded to the Deschutes County District Attorney's office for consideration of charging Roberto Haro with the above listed failure to register charges." The only mention of the son Robert in the report was that Robert Angel Haro had assisted the detective with the Mexico address. The report included a photo of the offender with a birth date listed as 6/15/1949. Ironically, prosecutor Sarah Foreman had full information regarding Roberto Haro's convictions as they had all occurred in her office.

Just three months earlier Foreman had signed an almost identical affidavit attesting to the Circuit Court Judge that she had reviewed the same Gallino police report, "a copy of which I attached hereto and incorporate by reference herein...Based on the above, I have reason to believe, and do believe that defendant Roberto Haro, DOB 6/15/1949 has committed the crime of - FAILURE TO REGISTER AS A SEX OFFENDER."

Prosecutor Foreman not only failed to ever apologize to Robert Angel Haro for the false arrest and trauma caused by her false statements to the court, but would later, with the assistance of her free, tax payer funded attorney from the AG's office, compound the false statements to the Circuit Court and Oregon Court of Appeals with both attorneys falsely asserting by affidavit, as an excuse, that Roberto Haro had an alias of Robert Haro.

Foreman's defense attorney from the AG's office also falsely represented to the courts that Foreman had not been personally served and he misrepresented the Federal case law. These additional false statements to the Oregon courts, further demonstrates the willingness of government attorneys to disregard truth and argue whatever they hope will win.

Prosecutors in this case and in general are working hard to attempt to convince the courts that all prosecutorial misconduct, even if criminal, should continue to enjoy the protection of "absolute immunity."

Making a false representation to the courts on oath or affidavit is a crime. Ironically, a citizen or even a non-government attorney

Continued on page 13

while keeping Pete Moore's name out of the media. Another interesting note is that Pete Moore is reportedly a very heavy annual contributor to the local news media WEAR TV3 as well as the Pensacola News Journal. According to witnesses, this story has yet to be locally covered.

In December 2007, the home of Mark and Nancy Turner was broken into, and the assailant was chased out of the home. When Mark filed the police report he did not know the assailant, but when a face appeared on television in connection to the murders of local car dealers Bud and Melanie Billings, Mark recognized him immediately. The assailant was identified by Mark and Nancy as Leonard Patrick Gonzalez Jr.

Mark believes Gonzales was hired to kill him in the midst of his refusal to accept the plea offers and drop his civil suit. Gonzales now stands convicted of first degree murder in the Billings case. To date, Gonzales admits he was "hired by car dealers to whack [other] car dealers" but he has yet to name who hired him.

Pete Moore, who became the main alleged victim in the criminal case, never filed a civil suit against Mark for a number of years, nor had he made any complaints of any theft to any agency. At the point it became apparent that Mark would never accept a plea offer, and the amended charges and victims would not hold up in court, prosecutor Russ Edgar then added Pete Moore as a victim of theft.

Mark Turner's Defense or Lack Thereof

Mark's criminal attorney Barry Beroset never counted on Mark refusing the plea offer. In this investigative journalist's well qualified opinion, he completely failed to prepare for trial. He failed to present the exculpatory evidence that proved Mark had paid Pete Moore for the cars the state alleged he stole. According to witnesses, Mark's sister-in-law who is also an attorney, attended the trial and was openly consulted by Beroset as to the contents of the evidence, because he apparently didn't know the contents himself. Thus, the trial was an apparent fiasco of prosecutorial misconduct and ineffective assistance of counsel.

Furthermore, Jim Chase, Mark's civil attorney who kept Mark's company's funds in his Trust Account, was reportedly threatened by prosecutor Russ Edgar with collusion



Mark Turner and Family

involving the Money Laundering charge, and Chase failed to present key evidence for Turner at trial. We call this Obstruction of Justice. Attorney Jim Chase failed to return our phone call on our recent trip to Pensacola. Much like his conduct at Turner's trial – he was AWOL...

Turner's criminal trial was predicted to take a minimum of a month, but ended in less than two weeks. Turner was found guilty and sentenced to three concurrent prison terms of 12.5 years, followed by 17.5 years of probation. Strangely, Judge Jones upheld a sentence that lawfully did not fit the crime. Mark learned that his Appeal was denied during the last week of August 2010 and he has since been transferred to Bay Correctional Facility in Panama City, Florida.

How can a person be convicted of Money Laundering his own money? How does one man, Special State Prosecutor Russ Edgar, have the authority to offer a sentence of less than a year, while threatening 90 years of incarceration if the plea is rejected? A great American journalist, H.L. Mencken wrote, "Any man who takes the liberty of another into his keeping is bound to become a tyrant, and any man who yields up his liberty, in however slight the measure, is bound to become a slave."

We have just got our feet wet concerning this investigation – with full intentions of getting to the bottom of this apparent travesty of justice. We have been warned to "watch our backs," that people involved in this case are fully capable of "getting rid of us." We have one response – we are coming...

Anyone with information on this case is urged to contact Edward Snook at 541-474-7885 – all sources will be held strictly confidential. ★★

Continued from page 1 • Judge Gone Wild?



Carolyn Rousseau

many friends who attempted to sway the court's opinion toward justice.

You see, Carolyn is a ward of the state - someone who the court feels needs to be taken care of. She resides in a foster home in the Portland area, away from her friends, family and prior home in Grants Pass. Carolyn had suffered a mental breakdown around the time her father passed away. She secluded herself from friends, who at that time didn't realize the extent of Carolyn's descent into illness, and her partner (common law husband) and caretaker was away for six weeks while Carolyn, in essence, starved herself. Upon his return, Carolyn's husband contacted her doctor and took her to the hospital. From that point forward Carolyn has been living in the mental health system and it wasn't long before she became subject to the authority of her guardian.

In my opinion, one of the most egregious misuses of judicial authority came early in the case when Judge Burton determined that Carolyn was competent enough to represent herself in court - against her guardian, who was armed with multiple attorneys! Here is a woman who is being held by the state as mentally ill, and therefore incompetent, and the judge determines she is competent enough to understand the workings of the court, but not competent enough to make her own health and financial choices! Perhaps, and I am

speculating here, the judge was banking on the fact that she wouldn't put up much of a fight, and Carolyn's friends would simply go away - wrong! The court stated reason Carolyn didn't have an attorney was that representation could simply not be found. I am under the impression it is in the power of the court to appoint representation! Perhaps the court just has the power to appoint those who would seek to profit and not do justice, nor seek the well-being of their client beyond them being in a controlled environment - like many court appointed guardians

do.

You see, as a bonafide guardian you get to have the court assign you a person, someone who is mentally or sometimes physically incompetent, and you take control of all aspects of their lives from behind your desk. Very rarely does a guardian actually have much to do with their client other than making sure their foster/health care contractors are doing their job. Oh, and I almost forgot, making sure the client's money, assets, and property are being utilized to their fullest, you know, to pay all the bills, including your own. Did I mention the court gets their share, too? Man, I want that job! You could have many multiple clients and all you really have to do is make sure the money keeps coming in! So, you sell everything your clients have worked their lives for, just so you can say you are doing something, pay some bills of theirs, pay yours, and when they run out of money dump them onto the state! Now, I am sure there are great guardians out there who truly care for their clients, but it is becoming apparent that this industry needs serious attention, and in my



Judge Burton

opinion, especially one guardian in particular, Nancy Doty, Carolyn's guardian.

I'm rambling, and I could go on and on about Nancy Doty, but the true point of this article is that there is one woman, Carolyn Rousseau, who is being held by the system against her will and Judge Burton is allowing it, even praising Doty for a fine job. The fine job is Carolyn's.

Judge Burton obviously thinks she knows what's best for people and feels Carolyn should stay in foster care under the "watchful" eye of Nancy Doty, who now has a whole lot more money (a reported sale price of around \$200k) to spend of Carolyn's thanks to her ruling! Perhaps, the judge could get her own Dr. Phil style show and deal with feelings all day long, because ruling on the letter of the law just doesn't seem to be her forte'.

As I see it, everything the judge has done goes against the basics of law. You don't render a judgement based on a feeling!

"... nor shall private property be taken for public use, without just compensation."

- Amendment 5 - U.S. Constitution

Hey, judge, I am sure Carolyn will thank you for the two-thousand dollars it was stated in court she will see from the sale of her home and property - which Carolyn had paid for in full through years of hard work.

I was so enraged at the show the court put on in Carolyn's hearing

that I walked out just before the ruling. I knew what it was going to be and it wasn't right. It wasn't just, and I really don't feel that it was even legal.

Carolyn still does not have legal

"I __ do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will support the Constitution of the United States, and the constitution of the State of Oregon, and that I will faithfully, and impartially discharge the duties... of a Judge"

- Oregon Judicial Oath

representation. Her friends are desperately trying to get guardianship away from Doty, to bring Carolyn home to a foster care facility in Grants Pass, and Judge Burton keeps pretending she is trying to be impartial. Until she upholds her oath to protect the Constitution, you can bet she will violate its mandates.

And, she had better believe, that I will be there to point it out!

[1] Excerpts from Arizona Republic and Houston Chronicle articles: HC: The U.S. General Accounting Office's (GAO) report on guardianships found guardians appointed and approved by courts in 20 cases stole \$5.4 million in assets from 158 incapacitated adults. AR: Also, the GAO report mirrors findings by The Arizona Republic, which reported that the Maricopa County Probate Court has allowed the assets of some vulnerable adults to be drained to pay fees for lawyers and private fiduciaries who serve as guardians.

Continued from page 1 • Matthew Berg

Lehner's false accusation, resulting from leading questions by Klamath County Deputy Jess Stennett, Berg was charged with multiple felonies and jailed. Read on - the rest of this tragedy is almost unbelievable.

Klamath County Deputy Sheriff Jess Stennett wrote in his Probable Cause Statement, "On Saturday 10-28-06 Matthew Berg hit the victim with a open fist approximately 10 times, hit the victim with a table leg, a belt, and a closed fist repeatedly through the night. He also strangled the victim with his hand by covering her mouth and nose and by restricting her airway by clamping his hands around the victim's neck. In addition, the victim attempted to escape but Berg captured her outside of the house and drug her back in."

Matthew Berg is a burly 200 lb. man and the alleged victim Mandy Lehner weighed approximately 110-115 lbs. back in 2006. If Berg would have done what Stennett claimed that he did, Lehner would have ended up in the intensive care unit at the local hospital. Just after the alleged incident, when Stennett questioned Lehner, she didn't have a mark on her. This writer has witnessed many police reports over the years that contained outright lies, but never any that compare to Stennett's. I wonder what excuse Stennett will offer down the road, when he has to explain his lies - when he explains how Berg assaulted Lehner with such brutality, leaving no marks and even more bizarre, how Berg did all this to Lehner when he wasn't even with her that night back in 2006?

Matthew Berg went to trial on July 18, 2007. Berg's trial had barely commenced when he was coerced, or more precisely, he was blackmailed into accepting a plea-bargain, requiring him to plead guilty to attempted murder, kidnaping in the first degree and assault in the second degree. Klamath County Assistant District Attorney (ADA) Sharon Forster told Berg and his attorney Donald Scales of Medford, Oregon that she was going to file charges against his mother, daughter and sister if he didn't plead. Matthew Berg accepted the plea-bargain... His attorney did nothing. Scales, in this writer's well qualified opinion, went beyond ineffective assistance of council - he assisted the corrupt prosecutor in sending an innocent to prison.

Berg was sentenced to 15 years in prison on July 19, 2007, by Judge Marci W. Adkisson - 180 months in a prison cell for crimes he did not commit. This corrupt judge clearly became part of the conspiracy against Berg the moment she sentenced him. Adkisson knew prior to accepting Berg's plea, that the alleged victim Mandy Lehner wanted to recant her lies and tell the truth.

The US-Observer accepted the Berg case after this innocent man was already in prison. After conducting an extensive investigation, it

became clear that the crimes Berg allegedly committed were not supported by the evidence and witnesses' statements. It was further evident that Berg had been "grossly overcharged" - a tactic prosecutors often unconstitutionally utilize to ensure a plea bargain - Berg went to trial facing 14 separate crimes. When Berg refused to accept their original "deals" of incarceration for 10 months, his prosecution was put in overdrive. Even when Mandy Lehner wanted to recant and tell the truth, this malicious wielding of injustice by the prosecutor continued, even escalated.

This Enraged the Prosecutor and She Resorted to Threatening the Alleged Victim

Forster used her position and authority to bully and intimidate potential defense witnesses with threats of prosecution for perjury, which resulted in their refusal to appear and testify in spite of the fact they had been subpoenaed by defense counsel. And just as condemning, the defense attorney did absolutely nothing to compel his subpoenaed witnesses presence in court in order to protect his clients 6th Amendment rights. This bullying extended to the alleged victim, who made it clear that she wanted to recant her story and tell the truth on the stand about what had actually not occurred between her and Berg. This enraged the prosecutor and she resorted to threatening the alleged victim with prosecution for perjury and filing a false police report if she changed her story. She threatened the alleged victim as she was attempting to testify on the witness stand with, "Remember the perjury, M___." Forster failed to reveal to the defense, the court and the jury that concessions regarding other charges had been granted to the alleged victim in exchange for her testimony against Berg.

"I'll Prosecute Your Mother, Sister and Daughter if You Don't Plead Guilty"

- Assistant DA Sharon Forster

The following facts are taken from depositions and the record prior to the Post Conviction Relief Hearing:

- Forster made the comment at one pre-trial hearing that she hoped everything the state brought out at trial would be prejudicial against the defendant (Berg).

- The prosecutor asserted she had 36 charges for witness tampering based upon jail telephone conversations between Berg and family members; and that she would file them

one at a time, each time Berg's attorney attempted to bail him out of jail - and that Berg would never get out. After listening to Matthew Berg's tape-recorded jail telephone conversations, it becomes clear they do not support the plethora of charges threatened by the Deputy D.A.

- The Klamath County District Attorney brought additional false charges against the defendant on July 16, 2007 (2 days before trial) in order to place Berg back in jail and Forster appeared at the jail to prevent Matthew Berg from exercising his right to bail out. Berg had been released on bail for approximately 2-3 weeks prior to the new false charges.

- On the morning of trial, the prosecutor amended the indictment alleging an unrelated bad-faith allegation of burglary and theft against Berg, when the evidence actually supported the conclusion that the purported victim had committed the acts, regarding the theft of her parents' property- coins, cash and blank checks.

- The prosecutor coerced Berg's involuntary plea through threats to bring criminal charges against his mother, his daughter, his sister, and the defense attorney and the defense investigator for witness tampering, when the evidence showed there was no basis for such charges.

- Forster admitted in her deposition that the morning of trial, she had threatened Berg's daughter with prosecution and to make her responsible for the full amount of \$150,000 bail and then asked the young mother if she wanted her baby to grow up without her.

- Forster interfered with defense witnesses, causing some of them to fail to show up for trial in defiance of their subpoenas. Forster admitted in her deposition that she had talked with a witness, in the presence of detectives and stated, "I may have told her she was lying, and here's why, here's what I've got that's going to - you're going to face the trial, and if you can stand up to these questions - I don't know. For some reason she decided not to testify, sir."

- As shown by both the prosecutor's own admissions at deposition and the court records, the alleged victim told a different version of the events that lead to Matthew Berg's arrest and incarceration, to practically everyone she spoke with. Neither the inconsistent statements of the alleged victim, the statements of witnesses, nor the physical evidence supported the charges of attempted murder, kidnaping, or assault 2.

- The alleged victim had approached the defense attorney and his investigator, begging them to protect her from the threats made by ADA Forster that she would be prosecuted if she recanted her previous story, even though her recantation more closely aligned with the evidence.

- Although the alleged victim stated

repeatedly that she wanted to recant her previous story at trial, the prosecutor asked the court for a "material witness hold on her," and wrongfully declared her a "hostile witness," so the witness was not allowed to leave the court house.

- The prosecutor verbally accused the defense attorney and his investigator of witness tampering, because they were exercising their right to question potential witnesses, including the alleged victim.

- Forster raised hearsay evidence, in violation of the evidence code, case law, and due process. The effect of which was to prejudice the jury with testimony not otherwise admissible (and was untrue), and to not only invite perjury from the witness (alleged victim), but force her into a position to reaffirm previously recanted statements.

- At trial, when the alleged victim tried to tell the jury why she had made false accusations against Matthew Berg, the prosecutor interrupted her and prompted, "Remember, the perjury" (referring to her prior out-of-court threats to prosecute for either perjury or for filing a false police report, if the alleged victim recanted her story). In spite of the prosecutor's threats, part of the alleged victim's testimony negated the basis for the criminal charges in the indictment.

- In her opening statement, the prosecutor, in bad faith, infers the swelling in the alleged victim's face was the result of a beating, when in fact, the prosecutor admitted to others that she knew the swelling was the result of an abscessed tooth. At deposition, when confronted with the lack of physical injury to support the charges, Forster's response was: "It doesn't require something you can see, sir."

- Part of the plea agreement was that the defendant would waive his right to appeal and would be sentenced immediately. Case law provides that it is misconduct for a prosecutor to require a person to waive their right to appeal. Also, federal court cases provide that a plea coerced under the threat of prosecuting friends or family, is not voluntarily entered.

- The record shows that Matthew Berg had previously refused plea offers of 10 months, but plead no contest, to a sentence of 15 years, stating to the court that he was pleading because the prosecutor had threatened to prosecute his mother, daughter and sister for crimes they did not commit. Case law notes that the voluntariness of a plea bargain requires special scrutiny when a defendant enters a plea to protect family members from prosecution. Judge Adkisson ignored this blatant corruption and Judge Bergman wrote, "Plea was knowing and voluntary, not coerced." By condoning such blatant corruption (coercion), both judges become just as guilty as Foreman.

Prosecutor Sharon Forster abused her

Continued on page 13

A well regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed.



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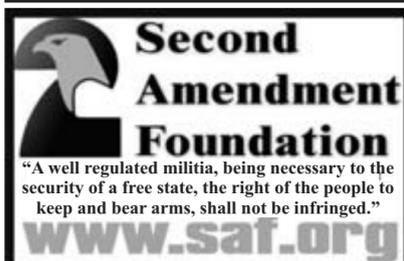
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Would-be robber picked the wrong guy

By **Sadie Gurman**
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

On the ground and dazed from the jolt of a stun gun, Bill Miller peered over his shoulder and saw his assailant slip out the door.

The man had just taken Mr. Miller's cash and his driver's license at gunpoint. He had a hunch the gunman would be back for more.

Mr. Miller scrambled to his feet and grabbed the pistol he keeps in a cabinet above his desk, tucked in the corner of his small auto shop in Dormont.

"I took a step and looked right at the door and all I saw was a chrome gun coming back in," Mr. Miller said. "When he came back, I knew it wasn't to say Merry Christmas."

Wordlessly, the man pointed his gun at Mr. Miller, the men separated by just a couple of feet. In an instant, his instincts took over.

"I shot him," he said. "I had no other choice."

The man, whom the medical examiner's office on Friday identified as Lonzy Westbrook, 39, of the North Side, fell to the ground, his body splayed just past the doors of Bill's Auto Service and into the snow-covered alley.

Mr. Miller, 63, of Bethel Park, and a man who moments earlier had delivered a shipment of auto parts called 911 and waited as scores of police flooded Limha Alley.

"I'd like to think that I saved my life and his," Mr. Miller said Friday, the day after the shooting at the business he has quietly operated for 30 years.

Mr. Miller works six days a week as a mechanic. He's also a Vietnam veteran and a licensed NRA firearms instructor who specializes in personal protection. He served with the Army's 1st Air Cavalry Division and holds a permit to carry a concealed weapon -- not the type of man an armed robber would want to come up against.

Nor is his garage the type of place one would expect an armed robber to strike. It's all but hidden on an alley behind more conceivable

targets -- a coin, store and a bank -- on West Liberty Avenue, and a peek inside doesn't immediately reveal much beyond a car hoist, a tool chest and some posters of motorcycles and muscle cars.

As Mr. Miller's attorney and friend John Thompson put it, "it's a humble place to rob."

Neither Mr. Miller nor Mr. Westbrook's sister could say what motivated him to rob the garage Thursday morning.

"It just doesn't sound like him," said Rhonda Cobb, who lives in California and was at an airport awaiting a flight to Pittsburgh Friday evening. "I'm wondering what happened."

County homicides detectives, who investigated the shooting, also were at a loss.

"We're not sure what brought him there," Lt. Andrew Schurman said. "I think he's the only one who could tell us that, unfortunately."

Mr. Miller said he was sitting at his desk, writing a check for the delivery driver about 11 a.m. when the door opened and an armed man entered.

"He pointed the gun at me and said, 'This is a robbery. Give me your wallets,'" Mr. Miller said. The delivery driver, a man in his 30s, relinquished his immediately, while Mr. Miller said he crept toward a tool case where he keeps his wallet and removed all the cash he had -- \$74.

"He said, 'I want your ID, I want to be able to come and get you,'" Mr. Miller said. "He yelled, 'Don't look at me,'" but Mr. Miller caught a glimpse of his face through his mask. He had freckles. They were familiar.

"I recognized him," he said. "I fixed his car about a year and a half ago."

The intruder's voice was steady as he issued threats.

"He was calm and collected and sure of himself from the moment he entered," Mr. Miller said. He ordered the men to drop to their knees.

"I said, 'You don't have to shoot us,' and he said 'I'm not going to shoot you,' " before he shocked the pair instead with a stun gun. The

delivery man collapsed onto a small table. Mr. Miller, stunned in the back of the head, rolled on the ground. Drawing on combat experience and firearms training, he said, he never took his eyes off the gunman.

"When I saw him walk out the door, I was on a mission -- I'm not going to die," he said. Still dizzy, he got up, opened the cabinet and retrieved his gun, firing, he said, after Mr. Westbrook took aim at him.

Mr. Miller said he struck the man once; the medical examiner's office said he was shot in the head.

The district attorney's office has yet to determine whether Mr. Miller was justified in killing Mr. Westbrook, spokesman Mike Manko said on Friday.

Fighting tears, Mr. Miller said, "It's not an experience I'd wish on anyone."

Ms. Cobb, one of Mr. Westbrook's two sisters, said his family was tormented by questions about his death. He lived on the North Side and was married, she said, and had two daughters in elementary school and a third in high school. He grew up in New Jersey and later moved to Pittsburgh. He always told his sister he had a job, but she wasn't sure what it was most recently.

If he had fallen on hard times, he would have likely turned to family, Ms. Cobb said. The two had exchanged e-mails just days before about his upcoming visit with her in California. She said she never known him to take someone's belongings.

Allegheny County court records show Pittsburgh police obtained a warrant for Mr. Westbrook on simple assault charges in October. He was also charged with a string of recent traffic offenses.

Ms. Cobb said her brother at times ran with a bad crowd, but had recently told her, "that was the old me."

"Everyone just can't believe this," she said. "It's a huge loss for our family."

"ARE YOU A SPORTSMAN? DO YOU LIKE TO SHOOT PISTOLS AT TARGETS? WELL, GET ON THE SUBWAY AND GO TO MARYLAND."

- SUPERME COURT JUSTICE STEPHEN BREYER

Breyer Fires Warning Shot Across Second Amendment's Bow

(NRA)-Supreme Court Justice Stephen Breyer reminded Americans why it is important to vote for a president whose nominees to the court will likely be faithful to the Constitution, to vote for U.S. senators who will reject nominees who likely will not be faithful, and to vote for federal and state legislators who can check and balance justices like Stephen Breyer who don't believe the Second Amendment protects any meaningful right.

During an interview with Chris Wallace on "Fox News Sunday," Clinton nominee Breyer, who dissented from the Supreme Court's decisions in District of Columbia v. Heller (2008) and McDonald v. Chicago (2010), claimed that the role of the court is to interpret the Constitution flexibly, in light of ever-changing circumstances. Breyer argues that the court should give consideration not to the Constitution's "words," but to the "values" that

the Framers had in mind.

The Framers' "values," Breyer suggested, would allow a total ban on handguns in Washington, D.C. "It's not a matter of policy, it's a matter of what those Framers [of the Bill of Rights] intended," he said.

What Second Amendment author James Madison intended, Breyer said, was only to prevent Congress from nationalizing state militias. That, of course, is not what Breyer said in his dissent in the Heller case. Then, Breyer said that the amendment was intended to prohibit Congress from disarming state militias.

Regardless of what Breyer was trying to sell on Sunday, Wallace didn't seem to be buying it. Pointing out the plain language of the amendment's "keep and bear arms" clause, Wallace asked Breyer whether, in ignoring those words, he was assuming the role of politician or policy-maker, rather than that of a

judge.

Breyer grinned smugly, said "no," and sarcastically asked whether the amendment should be interpreted to allow the ownership of machine guns and torpedoes, as well as handguns. Wallace countered that at the very least, the amendment "certainly . . . didn't provide for a ban on all handguns, as we have here in Washington, D.C."

To that, Breyer, still grinning, asked Wallace, "Are you a sportsman? Do you like to shoot pistols at targets? Well, get on the subway and go to Maryland."

Realizing that Madison and the other Framers surely did not intend for the Second Amendment to mean one thing in Maryland and another in D.C., Wallace pointed out that allowing a ban on handguns in D.C. while not allowing it in Maryland would be "a policy issue, not a constitutional issue." Breyer changed the subject. ***

OPPOSE BATFE GUN REGULATION IN BORDER STATES

Articles and Opinions

To the Editor letters for publication are encouraged – they must be typed, a maximum of 1,000 words or less in length. Please submit photographs or artwork. Contact Editor for permission to submit in-depth articles up to 1,750 words, plus graphics. Opposition opinions are welcome.

Always provide a computer disk or E-mail address. Accepted CD, PC or Mac format. Please save all text files in *text only* format.

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The goal of *US-Observer* is to ensure “due process” and “equal protection under the law.”

Citizens who have founded and support it believe in the Bill of Rights and Article 1, Section 1, of the Oregon Constitution which states:

“We declare that all men, when they form a social compact are equal in right; that all power is inherent in the people, and all free governments are founded on their authority and instituted for their peace, safety, and happiness and they have at all times a right to alter, reform, or abolish the government in such a manner they think proper. This enumeration of rights and privileges shall not be construed to impair or deny others retained by the people.”

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Continued from page 1 • Kevin Driscoll

What followed is difficult to grasp, and hard to relate to, but is something everyone in America is susceptible to.

As his life flashed before his eyes, reality was far from sinking in. Kevin was jailed for serious felony crimes he did not commit. He spent two long weeks in jail and the next 10 months under house arrest.

Mainstream media reports based on no factual evidence whatsoever, provided by detectives and prosecutors, nearly cost Kevin his life. Like breaking your leg, no one knows the pain, until they experience it. Like losing a loved one, you can only relate once you have felt the pain.

Maliciously prosecuting Kevin, was a corrupt deputy district attorney who is currently immune from civil suit for the crimes she committed against him. Forced to acknowledge the facts and visual displeasure of the jury during trial, prosecutor Jody Vaughan attempted to



Jody Vaughan

blackmail Kevin. Faced with 300 months if convicted, Kevin was offered 6 months, if he would accept a plea-bargain for a crime he was innocent of. Confident in the facts that were exposed by the *US-Observer*, Kevin didn't take the deal and put the next 25 years of his life in the hands of the jurors.

One Newspaper, the *US-Observer*, found the truth and fought to prove his innocence and on October 6, 2010, Kevin was found not guilty of all charges. After rendering their verdict, the jurors hugged Kevin and then took him to lunch!

However his story is far from over. Kevin and his family have spent over \$100-thousand fighting this false prosecution. His home is in foreclosure, and he lost his high-



Kevin Driscoll and his Mother

paying job with the FAA. His name and reputation is publically ruined, and as of right now he has no remedy for this malicious attack against him because of immunity. It must be ended, for all our sakes!

Quite simply, we ask those of you who think this could never happen to you, to give it more thought. This is real, it happens to thousands of innocent people each and every year according to the American Bar Association.

Help the US-Observer fight this travesty. Help Kevin and the US-Observer's lawsuit against the unconstitutional case-law that places those who should represent us, above us – above the law. Give generously, because your contribution will make a difference in many, many lives - quite possibly your own or one of your loved ones.

See page 16 for contribution details. ★★★

Continued from page 1 • Robert Haro



The Haro Family

involved in false statements to the courts, tampering with evidence or witnesses is quickly charged with crimes to preserve the “authority,” “sanctity,” and “dignity” of the court and judicial process; while in stark contrast, the very prosecutors who swear an oath to protect the Constitution and the “sanctity” of the courts are granted immunity, and are not accountable for their crimes against citizens, the courts, and the Constitution.

Even prosecutors who commit crimes by intentionally withholding or creating false or perjured evidence are granted immunity for the very criminal conduct for which they have the exclusive power and duty to prosecute others. In fact prosecutors are granted the exclusive privilege of determining who will be charged with a crime. Frankly, not only is it difficult to conceive of a more illogical and hypocritical policy, but it is also impossible to conceive of a policy which would be more destructive to public confidence in the integrity of the judicial system, than that of placing those sworn to protect constitutional protections, above the law. Often the court rationalizes prosecutorial misconduct and avoids dealing with the problem of the judge who works with the prosecutors, confronting, supervising, or questioning the conduct of prosecutors.

The courts solution is to adopt a presumption that as “officers of the court” prosecutors either meant well, or that they inadvertently made a mistake while zealously pursuing the difficult duty of prosecuting crime – for this purpose the courts have protected prosecutors under the judicially created umbrella called “absolute prosecutorial immunity.” The rationale for granting prosecutors absolute immunity for their crimes is based upon the fiction that without absolute immunity prosecutors would be hampered in zealously prosecuting crime. To the contrary, history has shown that this policy has created a culture, exhibited in thousands of documented cases, where prosecutors are permitted to zealously obtain a conviction of even persons known to be innocent, by utilizing criminal conduct such as withholding evidence, creating false evidence, failing to disclose or test exculpatory evidence, and by intimidating

witnesses with threats of prosecution or promises of immunity.

Tolerating such misconduct undermines both the integrity of the judicial system and the very foundation of the principles of justice guaranteed by our Constitution. The courts continued condoning of prosecutorial misconduct through its grant of “absolute immunity,” and refusal to hold prosecutors accountable, gives the public a strong message that the courts are not interested in meeting their constitutional obligation to provide equal justice and to protect citizens from a now corrupt government, taken captive by the rich and privileged. By failing to hold corrupt government officials accountable for constitutional violations, courts are perceived by citizens as just a partner of an elitist, morally bankrupt and corrupt shell of our once constitutionally principled government. These perceptions of government are quickly becoming self-evident.

If the courts fail to act quickly, the public confidence in our government will soon be so eroded that our government will be in peril of collapse from within. Then the beautiful, universal principles of our Constitution, so brilliantly conceived and hard won by our founding fathers will hang in the balance as if by a thread, because few citizens have read the Constitution and fewer yet understand its principles. Then the Constitution will not be judged on its own merit, but rather perceived as an obsolete, outdated, and badly flawed document; an ill-conceived dream for freedom created by our founding fathers, which established the blue print which permitted the rich and privileged to capture the government, its institutions, and financial resources, and to enslave and condemn the general public to the eternal financial bondage of funding the rich and privileged's insatiable greed.

The purpose espoused by our founding fathers was to create a constitutional separation of power, of checks and balances, to empower the citizens to prevent kings, despots, and the rich, or privileged from taking control of government institutions and financial resources, under the false pretense of serving the general public interest. Unfortunately, the courts have exhibited

a history of tolerating prosecutorial misconduct, providing absolute immunity for even criminal conduct of prosecutors, that strikes at the very heart of the constitutional promise of due process and fundamental justice. Both the Oregon Constitution and the Fourteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution provide that all citizens shall enjoy equal treatment and immunities under the law.

In the Haro case The Oregon Court of Appeals recently affirmed without opinion that the prosecutor is entitled to “absolute immunity.” To reach that opinion, the Justices of The Oregon Court of Appeals apparently ignored the case precedent from the United State Supreme Court and 9th Circuit Court of Appeals which hold that a prosecutor in not entitled to absolute immunity, “for her act in giving sworn testimony as a witness,” which is not a prosecutorial function. *Milstein v. Cooley*, 257 F acting as a 3rd 1004 (9th Cir. 2001). Prosecutors are not entitled to absolute immunity when, “acting as a complaining witness in support of a warrant application.” *Al-Kidd v. Ashcroft*, 580 F3rd 949 (9th Cir 2009), citing *Kalina, v. Fletcher*, 522 US 118 (1997). In *Kalina* at 120-21 the United States Supreme Court specifically denied immunity to a prosecutor who filed the equivalent of an affidavit in support of a motion for an arrest warrant.

The *US-Observer* has taken on this case as part of our effort to hold the courts accountable. Presently a Petition For Review has been filed in the Oregon Supreme Court. The question is whether the Supreme Court of Oregon will also deny hearing the case or otherwise attempt to bury any case which asserts that the *US Constitution* does not permit prosecutorial misconduct to be accorded absolute immunity. The next step will be an appeal to the Federal 9th Circuit Court of Appeals. If the 9th Circuit refuses to serve justice, this case will go directly to the Supreme Court of the United States.

These cases are important in order to protect our individual liberties which can only be obtained if we as citizens join together to hold the courts and government accountable. We desperately need your support, help, and financial contributions in this effort.

We also have the Berg and Driscoll cases which will soon be filed in Federal Court. Be responsible and assist us, before you become a victim of our dangerous and totally out of control “justice system.”

Edward Snook's Note: I urge all who support justice, all who support the US-Observer's efforts to reign in corrupt prosecutors and stop abuse from the Judiciary to call Oregon's Attorney General John Kroger at 503-378-4400 – tell him that we don't want corrupt prosecutors like Sarah Foreman working for the State of Oregon – tell him that we don't appreciate having our hard-earned tax dollars given to crooks in the form of wages and perks...

To help, use the form on page 16! ★★★

Continued from page 11 • Matthew Berg

position and took full advantage of her unconstitutional, yet absolute immunity status as a prosecutor in this outrageous miscarriage of justice. Clearly her only goal was to obtain a conviction at the expense of her constitutional duty to seek justice.

Forster's actions throughout the case were such that, had they been perpetrated by an ordinary citizen, they would have constituted the felony crimes of witness tampering, blackmail, extortion and obstruction of justice. Ironically, Forster was guilty of the very conduct for which she threatened to prosecute Berg's family, and the defense attorney and his investigator, who were merely exercising their right to contact and question potential defense witnesses.

Judge Bergman who presided over the Post Conviction Relief case, heard the evidence listed in this article and yet she ruled against Berg. This judge does not possess a conscience or morals. She is factually corrupt and I have a good idea that someone of her ilk got to her before Berg's hearing. Judge Bergman and the other participants in Berg's false conviction will certainly burn in Hell for taking part in the literal



Matthew Berg

ruination of an innocent human being. Berg's attorney Foster Glass of Bend, Oregon stated in a recent phone interview, “I can't begin to understand how this judge overlooked the compelling mountain of evidence we presented to her... We are preparing to file an appeal.”

Matthew Berg, now 45 years old, has sat innocently in prison for the past four years. This is a direct result of evil people with power,

arresting, prosecuting and imprisoning him for crimes he did not commit – and they will now claim that they have IMMUNITY for their actions. You be the judge... Should we sit back and allow this to take place? Are you beginning to realize that there are two classes of citizens in America today?

There are people like you and I who work hard to provide for our families; we are subject to all laws, we pay outrageous taxes and we are told we are free.

On the other hand there are those who rule over us, who are above the law, who enjoy lavish wages, health care and retirements at our expense, when we can't afford the same for our own. On top of these absurdities, those who rule over us commit crimes against our fellow citizens and then claim they have immunity. The Judicial branch of “our” government then rubber-stamps the immunity, leaving us without the ability to petition our government for “redress of grievances.”

Many proclaim that these are our public servants – I say BS...

See page 16 for contribution details. ★★★



Bye Bye American Pie:

10 Reasons Why America's Economic Pie Is Rapidly Shrinking

American Dream - All over the mainstream media today, the wealthy are being pitted against the poor. Those advocating for the wealthy claim that if we could just cut the taxes for the rich and make things easier for them that they will create lots of jobs for the rest of us. Those advocating for the poor claim that the gap between the rich and the poor is now larger than ever and that if we could just get the workers to fight for their rights that we could get things back to how they used to be. It is a very interesting debate, but it totally ignores a reality that is even more important. America's economic pie is rapidly shrinking. As part of the new globalist economy, every single month massive amounts of U.S. wealth is being transferred out of the United States and into foreign hands in exchange for oil and cheap plastic trinkets. In addition, every single month our national government goes into more debt, our state governments go into more debt and our local governments go into more debt. The interest on all of this debt represents a tremendous transfer of wealth. What most Americans fail to grasp is that our collective wealth is getting smaller. There is now less of an "economic pie" for all of us to divide up.

When it comes to economics, most people have a presupposition that the United States will always be getting wealthier. But that is completely and totally wrong. The truth is that we have been steadily getting poorer over the last several decades, and now we are bleeding national wealth at such a pace that it is almost unimaginable.

All over the country tremendous economic pain is starting to set in, and tens of millions of people are getting very angry. Americans are lashing out at both political parties, at their employers and at each other, but the reality is that the vast majority of them simply do not understand why all of this is happening. They just want to be told that someone is working to "fix" the problem with the economy and that things will get back to "normal" soon.

But things are not going to be getting back to "normal". Please follow along as I explain many of the reasons why America's economic pie is rapidly shrinking....

#1 The Biggest Transfer Of Wealth In The History Of The World

Every single month tens of billions of dollars of our national wealth is transferred to the rest of the world. We buy far more from the rest of the globe than they buy from us, and this difference is called a trade deficit. Most Americans don't even think about the trade deficit, but the truth is that it represents a transfer of wealth that is almost unimaginable.

Every month when the oil-exporting nations of the Middle East send us oil, what do we send to them? Our dollars of course. So we burn up their oil in our vehicles and end up with nothing at the end of the month, and they end up with a big pile of our money. So what happens the next month? The exact same process repeats again.

But it is not just oil-exporting nations that we are transferring our national wealth to. Back in 1985, the U.S. trade deficit with China was 6 million dollars for the entire year. For this past August alone, the trade deficit with China was over 28 billion (that's billion with a "b") dollars.

In other words, the U.S. trade deficit with China in August was more than 4,600 times larger than the U.S. trade deficit with China was for the entire year of 1985.

That is why China has so much money to lend back to us - we have been transferring tens of billions of dollars of our national wealth to them month after month after month.

#2 That Great Sucking Sound You Hear Is Our Jobs Leaving The Country

The big global corporations that now dominate our economy have realized that they don't really need to hire "expensive" American workers after all. When all of these "free trade agreements" (which are neither "free" nor "fair") were being debated, the American people were not told that they were going to be merged into one huge global labor pool and that they would soon be directly competing for jobs with the cheapest workers in the world. Today there are hordes of laborers on the other side of the globe that will gladly work for less than 10 percent of what a typical blue collar American worker makes.

So can American workers compete with that? Well, just look at what is happening. The jobs are flying out of this country. In fact, the United States has lost a staggering 32 percent of its manufacturing jobs since the year 2000.

But it just isn't jobs at the low end of the scale that are being lost. Since the year 2000, we have lost 10% of our middle class jobs. In the year 2000 there were about 72 million middle class jobs in the United States but today there are only about 65 million middle class jobs.

The truth is that now there are not nearly enough jobs to go around. Just check out the average duration of unemployment in America - it is now way, way above historical norms....

#3 Unemployed Workers Do Not Create Wealth

When U.S. workers are forced to sit on the sidelines, they drain wealth instead of creating it. At a time when millions of American workers should be involved in creative economic activity, they are collecting food stamps and unemployment checks instead.

One out of every six Americans is now enrolled in a federal anti-poverty program. As 2007 began, 26 million Americans were on food stamps, but now 42 million Americans are on food stamps and that number keeps rising every single month.

The rest of the American people are going to support all of these unemployed and underemployed workers somehow. Either we are going to provide them with good jobs, or we are going to have to pay for their food stamps and welfare checks.

#4 The National Economic Infrastructure Is Being Destroyed

Proponents of the emerging one world economy talk about how great it is to have so many really inexpensive products, but they don't realize what the hidden costs are. The truth is that the United States is rapidly becoming deindustrialized.

Since 2001, over 42,000 U.S. factories have closed down for good. Meanwhile, hordes of shiny new factories are going up in places like China and India.



Sacrificing our economic infrastructure for cheap foreign imports is kind of like tearing off pieces of your house just so you can keep the fire going. Eventually, you simply are not going to have much of a house left.

#5 The Government Is Absolutely Exploding In Size, And Government Workers Produce Relatively Little Wealth

It seems like the federal government keeps exploding in size no matter who we elect. George W. Bush was supposed to be a "conservative", but the truth is that the U.S. government grew in size more under him than during any other presidency.

But there is a big economic problem when it comes to big government. It costs a ton to run, but it produces relatively little of economic value.

Just how much is this big federal government costing us? Well, the total compensation that the U.S. government workforce is going to take in this year is approximately 447 billion dollars.

Not only that, but according to a recent study conducted by the Heritage Foundation, federal workers earn 30 to 40 percent more money on average than their counterparts in the private sector.

The U.S. economy would be much better off if the federal government was dramatically reduced in size and large numbers of government workers started doing something that actually created substantial economic value instead.

#6 Military Spending - Trying To Police The World Is Draining Us Dry

Many people claim that military spending is good for the economy because it provides lots of jobs. However, the truth is that when you examine what those jobs are actually producing, you quickly realize that they are not creating real wealth. Instead, they are just feeding a war machine that is designed to kill people and blow things up.

Now, the truth is that we will always need a powerful military and a strong national defense. But trying to police the world is absolutely draining our national resources.

At this point, it is estimated that the U.S. government has spent over 373 billion dollars on the war in Afghanistan, and over 745 billion

dollars on the war in Iraq. Not only that, today the U.S. military has over 700 bases (some say it is actually over 1000 bases) in 130 different countries around the globe. It is estimated that it costs about \$100 billion a year to maintain these bases.

All of this money may or may not be making us safer, but it is undeniable that it is not going to create wealth and economic activity here at home.

#7 America Is Getting Sicker And It Is Draining Our Wealth

The American people are not going to be creating wealth if they are constantly sick all the time. The truth is that the toxins in the food that we eat, in the stuff that we drink and in the air that we breathe are destroying our health.

According to one recent report, the United States has dropped to 49th place in the world in overall life expectancy. 49th place?

Diseases such as cancer, heart disease and diabetes are absolutely exploding. This may be good for the "medical industry", but how in the world are we supposed to work hard and create wealth if all of us are sick all the time?

#8 The U.S. National Debt Nightmare

Thirty years ago, the U.S. national debt was about 1 trillion dollars. Today, it is rapidly approaching 14 trillion dollars.

Every single year, hundreds of billions of dollars in interest on that debt gets transferred from U.S. taxpayers to the owners of that debt. We get absolutely nothing in return for these interest payments. They are a pure transfer of wealth.

Many of the owners of this debt are international bankers or foreign governments that never reinvest the dollars they are getting back into our system.

#9 The Municipal Debt Bubble

When you bring up the term "government debt", most Americans only think of the debt of the federal government. But the truth is that there are literally hundreds of state and local government debt impositions happening all across the United States.

As you read this, state and local government debt is now sitting at an all-time high of 22 percent of U.S. GDP. All of these state and local loans must be serviced, and the interest costs on them are substantial. Once again, all of these interest payments (mostly going to international bankers and foreign governments) represent pure transfers of wealth.

#10 America's Addiction To Debt

Debt is literally draining this country dry. Just as with federal debt and municipal debt, consumer debt is a tremendous drain on our wealth. For example, if you put a \$500 television on your credit card but then you eventually pay back \$2000 to the bank because of interest and fees, who is getting rich and who is being drained?

Posted below is a chart that shows the growth of total credit market debt over the last several decades. When you add up all forms of debt in the United States (government debt + business debt + consumer debt), it comes to over 50 trillion dollars. In fact, total credit market debt now sits at approximately 360 percent of GDP. It is the biggest debt bubble in the history of the world....

So who does all of this debt benefit? It benefits the international bankers and foreign governments that are becoming insanely wealthy from all of the interest that all of this debt is generating.

Could you imagine just getting a small slice of the interest that over 50 trillion dollars of debt is generating?

When you look at the chart above, it is easy to grasp why life has been so "good" over the last thirty years. We have been enjoying a debt-fueled binge of historic proportions and it has been a lot of fun.

But now a day of reckoning is at hand and our national wealth is being funneled out of our hands at a pace that is almost unimaginable.

When wealth gets transferred out of our hands, that means that the "economic pie" that we all get to divide up becomes smaller. As it continues to shrink, large numbers of Americans are going to become increasingly angry and increasingly desperate.

Unfortunately, the problems that we are facing took decades to develop and they simply cannot be turned around overnight. In fact, our problems continue to get even worse every single month.

It is time to wake up and realize that the "good times" are coming to an end. Please share this article with your family and friends. Most Americans have no idea that our nation is getting poorer and that our economy is literally falling apart.

When the system finally does collapse like a house of cards, the vast majority of Americans will never even see it coming. Very hard times are coming and now is the time to get prepared.

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Time for Christians to shred their Bibles



By Chuck Baldwin
NewsWithViews.com

Many of us grew up in Sunday School and church. We have heard the great Bible stories over and over. We heard about the story of how Moses' mother defied Pharaoh and hid her little baby boy in bulrushes. We heard the story of how Moses killed the Egyptian taskmaster defending a Hebrew slave and later became the great deliverer of God's people. We heard the story of young David going out alone against the Philistines' greatest warrior, Goliath. We heard the story of how Saul's servants refused to carry out the king's order to murder the priest Ahimelech. We know well the story of Daniel who defied his government's order to refrain from praying. The names Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego are very familiar to us. We heard our teachers and preachers extol their courage in defying the government's order to bow to the image of their emperor. We remember that John the Baptist went to prison (and was eventually beheaded), not for preaching the Gospel, but for criticizing the king for his immoral behavior. We certainly recall the story of Simon Peter who bluntly told his civil magistrates, "We ought to obey God rather than men." We know that the Apostle Paul wrote many of his epistles from inside government prisons. We certainly recall that before John penned the Revelation, he had been banished to an island-prison by his civil authorities.

I challenge Christians to objectively look at the great stories of Bible heroes (in both testaments) and observe how many times they are noted for either being martyred for defying a civil authority, or, perhaps, for being delivered from death for defying a civil authority. The stories of defiance to civil government (in one form or another) comprise a great percentage of all the stories contained in the Bible--perhaps even a majority of them.

So, how has it happened that a majority of today's Christians, it seems, have become such sheepish slaves of government? How has it happened that, for the most part, the concept of courage in the face of government oppression has been totally lost to the average Christian, pastor, and church? For all intents and purposes, it is time for many Christians to shred their Bibles, because the lessons and principles of God's Word have absolutely no influence over their attitudes and conduct.

For example, if the story of Peter in prison were being experienced today, instead of the church rallying behind their pastor and conducting an all-night prayer meeting for him, most church members would be excoriating him in the name of Romans chapter 13. Instead of Paul being let down the wall in a basket to escape the civil authorities trying to apprehend him, the average Christian today would be the first one to turn him over to the authorities.

In the mind of the average Christian, God is not God; government is God! For instance, when one well-known Christian attorney was recently confronted by the teaching of Scripture relative to the church's independence from government (meaning, no church should allow itself to be subject to the government's tyrannical 501(c)3 non-profit, tax-exempt status), he said, "That might be Biblically correct, but it is not legally correct." In other words, the "Christian" attorney would rather a church be legal than Biblical. And, unfortunately, that seems to be the attitude of the vast majority of professing Christians today. They would rather please the government than please God; they would rather obey the government than obey God; they would rather be at peace with the government than be at peace with God.

And when it comes to the courage of risking anything of value in order to do right, forget it!

Think of what Abram risked when he obeyed God and left his country and kin and struck out for a land that God had not even told him of. Think of what Moses risked when he killed that Egyptian; think of what Joshua and Caleb risked when they defied the entire nation that was following the evil counsel of the ten spies; think of what David risked when he faced the giant; think of what Elijah risked when

he confronted 850 false prophets all by himself; think of what the Old Testament prophets risked when they rebuked or challenged the kings of Israel and Judah; think of what the disciples risked when they "left all" and followed Jesus; think of what the early church risked when it embraced the Gospel and defied the wishes of Rome and Jewry (not to mention their own families and friends). But these stories are more like fairy tales to the average Christian today. They serve no practical benefit whatsoever!

Let a church deacon, trustee, or elder be told by some government-backed attorney that he is really a corporate officer, subject to the laws and punishments of IRS tax codes, and that church leader will say anything, sign anything, or do anything to save his own financial security. In order to not jeopardize his own standing with the IRS, that same church leader would turn his back on his best friend, or gladly join with the government in prosecuting a fellow believer.

I personally know of more than one case where professing Christians either lied against a beloved brother in order to protect themselves against threatened government (read: IRS) penalties, or actually testified for the prosecution (read: IRS) under oath in a court of law against a Christian brother. In each case, these "brothers" actually felt it was their "Christian duty" to betray their friends and brothers and help the government.

I am reminded of the verse where Jesus said, "Yea, the time cometh, that whosoever killeth you will think that he doeth God service." (John 16:2 KJV)

I am also reminded of the warning from the prophet Jeremiah when he cautioned, "Take ye heed every one of his neighbour, and trust ye not in any brother: for every brother will utterly supplant, and every neighbour will walk with slanders. And they will deceive every one his neighbour, and will not speak the truth: they have taught their tongue to speak lies, and weary themselves to commit iniquity." (Jeremiah 9:4,5 KJV)

Jeremiah's prophecy is spot-on! Christians today cannot be trusted to be faithful to the truth; they cannot be trusted to not betray and turn against their brethren; they cannot be trusted to not be party with slander and libel. If it means saving their own skin, or keeping their bread buttered, or staying in the good graces of the IRS, they would sell out their best friend--maybe even their own mother! And it is no coincidence that Jeremiah, himself, experienced firsthand that which he had spoken. It is no wonder he said, "Trust ye not any brother."

When will Christians get it through their heads (and in their hearts) that oftentimes government is the enemy of God? When will they understand that they have only one Sovereign: King Jesus? When will they come to comprehend that helping government perpetrate unjust action against fellow believers is a crime against Heaven? When will they stop talking about the Bible and actually start internalizing its teachings, examples, and principles?

It has gotten to the point today many unbelievers are far more trustworthy than today's Christians--especially when it comes to the subject of resisting unjust government. It grieves me to say that many "Christian" attorneys, politicians, pastors, and church leaders are merely shills and toadies for a government that has often become both oppressive and illegitimate!

May God help us! He will have to, because we won't get much help from the vast majority of today's professing Christians. That is for sure! ★★★

Continued from page 5 • In 2011 The Baby Boomers Start To Turn 65

because they have been going out of style over the past 30 years. Just consider the following quote from Time Magazine: The traditional pension plan is disappearing. In 1980, some 39 percent of private-sector workers had a pension that guaranteed a steady payout during retirement. Today that number stands closer to 15 percent, according to the Employee Benefit Research Institute in Washington, D.C.

#4 Over 30 percent of U.S. investors currently in their sixties have more than 80 percent of their 401k invested in equities. So what happens if the stock market crashes again?

#5 35% of Americans already over the age of 65 rely almost entirely on Social Security payments alone.

#6 According to another recent survey, 24% of U.S. workers admit that they have postponed their planned retirement age at least once during the past year.

#7 Approximately 3 out of 4 Americans start claiming Social Security benefits the moment they are eligible at age 62. Most are doing this out of necessity.

However, by claiming Social Security early they get locked in at a much lower amount than if they would have waited.

#8 Pension consultant Girard Miller recently told California's Little Hoover Commission that state and local government bodies in the state of California have \$325 billion in combined unfunded pension liabilities. When you break that down, it comes to \$22,000 for every single working adult in California.

#9 According to a recent report from Stanford University, California's three biggest pension funds are as much as \$500 billion short of meeting future retiree benefit obligations.

#10 It has been reported that the \$33.7 billion Illinois Teachers Retirement System is 61% underfunded and is on the verge of complete collapse.

#11 Robert Novy-Marx of the University of Chicago and Joshua D. Rauh of Northwestern's Kellogg School of Management recently calculated the combined pension liability for all 50 U.S. states. What they found was that the 50 states are collectively facing \$5.17 trillion in pension obligations, but they only have \$1.94 trillion set aside in state pension funds. That is a difference of 3.2 trillion dollars. So where in the world is all of that extra money going to come from? Most of the states are already completely broke and on the verge of bankruptcy.

#12 According to the Congressional Budget Office, the Social Security system will pay out more in benefits than it receives in payroll taxes in 2010. That was not supposed to happen until at least 2016. Sadly, in the years ahead these "Social Security deficits" are scheduled to become absolutely horrific as hordes of Baby Boomers start to retire.

#13 In 1950, each retiree's Social Security benefit was paid for by 16 U.S. workers. In 2010, each retiree's Social Security benefit is paid for by approximately 3.3 U.S. workers. By 2025, it is projected that there will be

approximately two U.S. workers for each retiree. How in the world can the system possibly continue to function properly with numbers like that?

#14 According to a recent U.S. government report, soaring interest costs on the U.S. national debt plus rapidly escalating spending on entitlement programs such as Social Security and Medicare will absorb approximately 92 cents of every single dollar of federal revenue by the year 2019. That is before a single dollar is spent on anything else.

#15 After analyzing Congressional Budget Office data, Boston University economics professor Laurence J. Kotlikoff concluded that the U.S. government is facing a "fiscal gap" of \$202 trillion dollars. A big chunk of that is made up of future obligations to Social Security and Medicare recipients.

#16 According to a recent AARP survey of Baby Boomers, 40 percent of them plan to work "until they drop".



Work Until You Drop: Door Greeter

Companies all over America have been dropping their pension plans in anticipation of the time when the Baby Boomers would retire. 401k programs were supposed to be part of the answer, but if the stock market crashes again, it is absolutely going to devastate the Baby Boomers.

State and local governments are scrambling to find ways to pay out all the benefits that they have been promising. Many state and local governments will be forced into some very hard choices by the hordes of Baby Boomers that will now be retiring.

Of course whenever a big financial crisis comes along these days everyone looks to the federal government to fix the problem. But the truth is that after fixing crisis after crisis the federal government is flat broke.

At our current pace, the Congressional Budget Office is projecting that U.S. government public debt will hit 716 percent of GDP by the year 2080.

But our politicians just keep spending money. In order to pay the Baby Boomers what they are owed the federal government may indeed go into even more debt and have the Federal Reserve print up a bunch more money.

So in the end, Baby Boomers may get most of what they are owed. Of course it may be with radically devalued dollars. Already we are watching those on fixed incomes being devastated by the rising cost of food, gas, heat and health care.

What is going to happen one day when prices have risen so much that the checks that our seniors are getting are not enough to heat their homes?

What are we going to do when those on fixed incomes are buying dog food because it is all that they can afford?

We are rapidly reaching a tipping point. As the first Baby Boomers retire the system is going to do okay. But as millions start pouring into the system it is going to start breaking down.

No, there is not much that we can do about it now. We should have been planning for all of this all along. Americans should have been saving for retirement and governments should have been setting money aside.

But it didn't happen.
Now we pay the price.

★★★

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Fight With Us

AMERICA;

Many U.S. citizens are afraid of the Judicial System, and rightfully so. We no longer enjoy "equal protection" under the law. Yet, hope is not lost. The US~Observer's plan to fight this inequality can and will win, with your help.

There is one phrase inscribed on the Supreme Court Building in Washington D.C., "Equal Justice Under Law." Unfortunately, the high court held in *Imbler v Pachtman* (1976) that prosecutors are immune to civil lawsuits, while they are performing their jobs, even if they commit illegal acts.

Prosecutors, agencies, etc., routinely file false charges against innocent individuals. In fact, in over 90% of criminal cases, prosecutors stack charges and then force plea-bargains, which is absolute extortion. Prosecutors needlessly harass innocent people, and use the mainstream media to enhance their cases, thereby tampering with the jury pool. They violate rights and break the law, and, thanks to the Supreme Court ruling, we have had no way to hold them legally accountable.

The logic behind the Supreme Court ruling was that it would keep Prosecutors from having to defend themselves against unwarranted and frivolous lawsuits - suits designed to muddy the system. But, what their ruling accomplished was to create a class of citizenry who is above the law and can act in any fashion without fear of reprisal or accountability - in essence they destroyed the one covenant that the founders held dear, and there is no longer equal justice under law in America.

As such, fear rises in us now when we are faced with going to court, hiring an attorney, dealing with the IRS, or unconstitutional agencies like the BLM, DEQ, IRS, etc. From simple traffic tickets, to land use violations, abusive taxation, to arbitrary fines and all too common false criminal charges, any prudent person can see that we are anything but "free." We are subject to their law, even the unjust ones; yet, they remain "Above the Law" - until now.

Currently, our judges legislate from the bench, unconstitutionally creating law; called case-law. As with all case-law, you are required to have "standing" to challenge that "law." The US~Observer currently has three separate cases

that will provide "standing," allowing lawsuits to be filed - of which one, Haro, is already filed! The lawsuits, coupled with a massive US~Observer driven public relations and education campaign will expose and destroy unconstitutional immunity once and for all!

With over 3,700 cases won in 20 years of publication, the US~Observer has the fortitude, knowledge and strength to take this challenge all the way to the Supreme Court (so they can right their own wrong), if necessary. Along the way, and with your help, we will spread this message across the nation. Americans in great numbers who are fed up with injustice will finally have a voice that will be heard and acted upon. Our "public officials" will once again be restored to the status of "public servants."

Today, you can help. Today, you can be a part of this first necessary step to reclaim America for the sake of all citizens and stop prosecutors from being above the law - Stop Immunity - Stop Injustice. Make a substantial contribution that will enable us to fully pursue our lawsuits against immunity and end the two-class system. Pass on our information. Circulate our stories. Together we will make a difference and the two classes will once again be equal, for ALL MEN (people) ARE CREATED EQUAL and the US~Observer, with your contribution, is the vehicle by which we can restore this principle.

Justice unequal stops today!

Ron Lee
Editor/Writer
US~Observer

P.S. Read the "Cases of Standing" published on the front page of this edition to learn about how prosecutors can destroy your life, and to find out why you should take part in this historic undertaking.

Let's correct this unjust system! Let's start with corrupt prosecutors and their immunity shield and keep going until the corruption is gone, and our system of justice is truly just.

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It's time to remind "them."**



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