

When Deputy Josh Petker arrived at the residence he met Richard Finegold, Debra Long, Ruth Brooks, George Abrantes and Michael St. Pierre. Even though Finegold had been professionally deceived by Debra Long (concerning her attempts to gain control of St. Pierre and Finegold properties), he had one goal in mind and that was to use the police to start a contrived and malicious attack on James Faire and Angela Nobilis. Finegold played the soft spoken, helpless, paranoid role, but he factually knew at the time he was making a false report to law enforcement; and we have the proof listed below.

According to the police report, the group went to the extreme of advising the deputy “that Richard had Aspergers Symtom [sic], which made it difficult to explain things.” The report continued, “Richard's friends assisted in explaining things when Richard had a hard time finding the right words.” Any ethical, decent person would have found it difficult to attack James and Angela after the two had spent countless hours shopping for and preparing his food, “cleaning up his filth,” and providing maintenance on his property.

However, after thoroughly reading the police report it is clear that Richard Finegold set his conscience aside and had no problem whatsoever. Faire and Nobilis had also provided care, food and general assistance for Finegold’s girlfriend, Michele St. Pierre, who had died several days earlier, just as they did for numerous other individuals who stayed at St. Pierre’s Stanwood residence (Note: Richard Finegold and Michele St. Pierre were a couple and they shared three separate properties, one of which was 36 E. Sourdough, where the incident took place and another was the Stanwood house).

Finegold did quite well, given his fairytale handicap, at explaining to Deputy Petker how Faire and Nobilis set up a GoFundMe account to “help with Michele’s medical bills and living expenses.” And then how he, his friends and his family became suspicious as, “they had only received three thousand dollars from the account” when the web site claimed there had been over nine thousand dollars in donations.

Poor Richard didn't mention to the deputy that Faire and Nobilis worked seven straight weeks for them. He didn't mention anything about all the groceries they purchased with the funds that Faire and Nobilis had raised. He didn’t say a word about all the gas and time that was consumed by James and Angela making numerous trips from Stanwood, WA to Tonasket, WA (Sourdough Property) for Richard and Michele. He also leaves out the facts about all the household and cleaning items that Faire and Nobilis purchased with the funds and according to witnesses, “Finegold grossly understated the amount of cash he received directly from Nobilis.”

In an interview with Angela Nobilis she stated, “I gave Richard close to six thousand



Ruth Brooks



George Abrantes



Michael St. Pierre

dollars and the rest was used to purchase food, gas and many other items.” She continued, “It took a lot of money just to buy the food for all the people living at St. Pierre’s house in Stanwood.” And according to our sources, Michele refused any food that was not organic, grass-fed, and “pure.”

All in all, the “GoFundMe” account did not belong to Richard or his family. It was set up by Angela Nobilis and was in her name for the purpose of helping her friend, which it did. In short, it was her absolute right to distribute it as needed for Michele St. Pierre.

Any prudent person knows that it costs money to administrate anything, especially the care for a person dying of cancer (Michele St. Pierre). Only worthless human beings would damn James Faire and Angela Nobilis for their exemplary actions and only a corrupt, conscienceless Okanogan County Prosecutor named Karl Sloan would charge them with crimes for their unbelievably heartfelt and valiant efforts to assist their friends, Richard and Michele. **Bottom line – Prosecutor Sloan’s charge of theft against James and Angela is simply an extension of his “god syndrome” - without one fact - not one single shred of evidence.**

Finegold told another blatant lie that night when he told the officer, “he really doesn’t know that much about James and Angela.” He knew good and well that he sat on his worthless butt for many weeks while they took care of him and fed him and everyone else in the household. The fact is, Richard knew them very well.

PROOF OF THE FALSITY OF FINEGOLD’S COMPLAINTS TO DEPUTY PETKER

First, Finegold’s assertion that Faire and Nobilis stole from Nobilis’ own GoFundMe account has been exposed above as nothing more or less than a “professional, self-proclaimed victim’s” (Richard Finegold) effort to gain sympathy and assistance from a police officer by deceitful means. This Theft issue was used by Debra Long to enable her to gain control of Richard, George and the other conspirators, to enhance her “plans to steal Michele and Richard’s properties.”

The following emails between James (Strat), Angela, Michele and Richard show that Finegold knew Faire and Nobilis were at his property and that they had complete permission to be there as far back as 2012. The following emails also prove that Richard Finegold committed a crime when he gave the false information about “not knowing James and Angela very well” to officer Petker. **These**



Richard Finegold

emails completely refute Prosecutor Sloan’s false criminal charges of “Trespass” and “Theft” against James Faire and Angela Nobilis.

Email from Michele St. Pierre to James Faire and Angela Nobilis – 11-15-14:

*Hi there,
Thanks so much for going up [36 Sourdough] and checking. It really means a lot to our peace of mind.
I would not be adverse at all if you wanted to clean up the place. I was really in a lot of pain before we left so could not handle much. We are toying with the idea of coming over and staying for a while, but I am still pretty weak, although improving slightly each day.*

Clearview went on the market!! Yeah! I could pay you \$15.00/hour for any work, my problem being we don't have much money until the listing sells. If you don't mind waiting to get paid, we are good. Just let me know what you want to do.

I know you don't have an oven, so if you want to stage Thanksgiving at our place, that would be fine. I don't know if we'll make it over there, but we might! Especially if you are cooking...;-)

Glad that you got some taters... We've been eating what Richard got for a while now. Plus, if you think you can sell the Lister Generator, please do and keep the money. I know that you could really use it now.

If you need to stage any stuff at our property [Sourdough], prior to your move, feel free.
*Loves and hugs,
Michele*

An email from Michele to Angela and Strat (James) in September of 2014 states, “Dear Angel and Strat – **Thanks so much for watching out for our property (36 E. Sourdough)...**Love you so much and miss you terribly and home as well.” Michele then

refers to a trip Richard plans on making to Sourdough – **“Don’t know if you can hook up but I know Richard would love to see you.”**

Pictures have been deleted from the following text exchanges due to space:

2/12, 3:22pm: Richard Finegold (to Angela Nobilis) -
I have a list: Water ozonater (small box, about 1/4 the size of a shoe box, with a tube/ball sticking out, left of the stove in lower cupboard); large pie plates (6-8 of them); medium/large drinking glasses (about 5" high, cylindrical with one step); large/soup spoons; bamboo serving tray (might be above fridge or above cupboards, might still be in plastic wrap); bamboo cooking utensils; Gibson guitar (hard case) Ovation Preacher guitar USB device in office by router; include power and anything plugged into it); canned pet food; pajama bottoms; soft



James Faire

pants/leggings (not jeans, no rear pockets);

2/12, 3:22pm: Richard Finegold -
underwear; flannel shirts; plain t-shirts

2/12, 3:31pm: Richard Finegold -
the USB thing pictured is on the left side of the room, on the desk, toward the window; I think it has a USB flash drive plugged in; bring it with its network cable.

2/13, 3:44pm: Angela Nobilis-Faire -
Richard, should we bring amplifiers for the guitar? Also, are we bringing over clothes for both of you? We will be headed over tmrw, so if you think of more stuff, let us know. We have most things packed, except for clothes...

2/13, 3:56pm: Angela Nobilis-Faire -
This is what we found with respect to the usb thing. Is it what you are expecting? Is there a device that sits on it that we should find?



Angela Nobilis

2/13, 7:02pm: Richard Finegold -
that's exactly it (usb)! Nothing plugged into the top at this time.

2/13, 7:03pm: Angela Nobilis-Faire -
Excellent! Do you need clothes? I know about Michele's, got those packed. Also, amplifier for guitar, is that a yes or no?

2/13, 7:04pm: Richard Finegold -
Amps are ok but not Crate or Taxi (batteries dead)

2/13, 7:05pm: Angela Nobilis-Faire -
Strat says there is a peavy and a bigger one...

2/13, 7:05pm: Richard Finegold -
For me, just jeans and underwear and socks; I have shirts and shoes. Bring Peavy and bigger one.

2/13, 7:06pm: Angela Nobilis-Faire -
Ok on amps. And your clothes. Someone named Bruce Morton would like to come visit on Sunday. Are you two up for that? If so, what time?

2/13, 7:07pm: Richard Finegold -
That'd be okay, in the afternoon.

2/13, 7:08pm: Angela Nobilis-Faire -
Ok, I will let him know

2/13, 7:08pm: Richard Finegold -
Have him contact Michele in the morning before coming over (in case she's having a bad day). But okay otherwise

2/13, 7:09pm: Angela Nobilis-Faire -
Will do...

2/13, 7:09pm: Richard Finegold -
Thank you so much!

Continued on page 10

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How to Prosecute Abusive Prosecutors

By Brandon Buskey

(NY Times) - When it comes to poor people arrested for felonies in Scott County, Miss., Judge Marcus D. Gordon doesn’t bother with the Constitution. He refuses to appoint counsel until arrestees have been formally charged by an indictment, which means they must languish in jail without legal representation for as long as a year.

Judge Gordon has robbed countless individuals of their freedom, locking them away from their loved ones and livelihoods for months on end. (I am the lead lawyer in a class-action suit filed by the American Civil Liberties Union against Scott County and Judge Gordon.) In a recent interview, the judge, who sits on the Mississippi State Circuit Court, was unapologetic about his regime of indefinite detention: “The criminal system is a system of criminals. Sure, their rights are violated.” But, he added, “That’s the hardship of the criminal system.”

There are many words to describe the judge’s blunt disregard of the Sixth Amendment right to counsel. Callous. Appalling. Cruel. Here’s another possibility: criminal — liable to prosecution and, if found guilty, prison time.

If this notion seems radical, it shouldn’t. Federal law already provides a mechanism to prosecute judges and district attorneys as criminals when they willfully deprive people of their civil rights: Title 18, Section 242, of the federal code.

This isn’t some dusty, rarely used legal tool. The Department of Justice typically wields Section 242 against police and correctional officers accused of physical or sexual violence. But Section 242 applies with equal force to those who prosecute and sentence, the state officials whose deliberate skirting of civil rights can be most devastating.

At least, that’s how it is on paper. The federal government has not in recent memory pursued a judge under Section 242, and it has only rarely enforced this law against prosecutors.

It is absolutely essential to bring rogue law enforcement officers to justice, particularly in a post-Ferguson world in which violations of constitutional rights have come under intense scrutiny. However, the government’s focus on abuses by law enforcement officials leaves the burden of curbing abuse by judges and prosecutors to private individuals.

This is a responsibility few lawyers are willing to accept, in large part because the United States Supreme Court has made pursuing a civil case against a prosecutor or judge practically impossible.

Consider the case of John Thompson, who spent 14 years on death row for a murder he didn’t commit because the New Orleans Parish district attorney’s office intentionally concealed forensic evidence establishing his innocence. After his exoneration, Mr. Thompson sued the office under Section 1983 of the Civil Rights Act of 1871, landmark legislation intended to provide a federal forum to those deprived of their civil rights by state officials.

Though Mr. Thompson won a \$14 million jury award, the Supreme Court set aside the verdict on appeal. Notwithstanding the fact that the New Orleans prosecutors had similarly withheld evidence in at least four other cases, or the fact that several prosecutors suppressed the evidence in Mr. Thompson’s own case, the court said that Mr. Thompson had failed to demonstrate a pattern of wrongdoing by the district attorney’s office, which it held was required by Section 1983. The court’s decision illustrates just one of a host of protections it has given to prosecutors and judges to shield them from liability.

Civil cases like Mr. Thompson’s reveal a frightening reality. In privileging the discretion of prosecutors and judges to enforce the law, we have come perilously close to placing these officials above the law. We do not know the extent to which judges and prosecutors cross the line into criminality. After all, cellphones rarely capture the moment when a judge or prosecutor illegally locks someone away.

Nonetheless, advocates across the country continue to expose judges who unlawfully deprive defendants of lawyers or throw people in jail simply because they are too poor to pay small amounts of money. We are constantly confronted with wrongful convictions rooted in a prosecutor’s belief that winning a case is more important than seeking justice. These experiences compel us to recognize that sometimes the criminals our justice system most needs to confront are actually running it.

There is a solution: federal criminal prosecutions of state judges and prosecutors who flout the law. The nearly insurmountable barriers to justice in civil court don’t apply in criminal prosecutions. Indeed, the Supreme Court has invoked the availability of Section 242 prosecutions to justify its sealing of federal courthouse doors against people seeking to vindicate their civil rights.

Judges and prosecutors violate civil rights every day, in plain sight, and with seeming impunity. To make them answer for these crimes, the federal government must continue to extend its reach beyond the streets and into the courtroom. ★★★

Executive Gun Disorder



By Ron Lee

(US~Observer) And then a tear fell... Obama, preaching his “sensibilities” as if the American people are ignorant, laid out

his plan to curb “gun violence” through the use of executive orders. But what, really, is his goal here?

The President has to know that gun violence as a whole and murder by firearm rates are falling, not increasing; that while the amount of legal guns in the United States are at historically high levels, the acts of violence have declined.

In fact, according to FBI statistics, in 2014 (the most recent year of complete statistics) there were 11,961 total murders in the United States. Out of that number, 8,124 people were killed by a firearm of some kind. The US population in 2014 was around 318.9 million. In 2014, that gave you a 1 in 39,254.06 chance of being murdered by a gun in that year. Not too comforting if you were that person, I know. But, considering those rates were much higher just ten years earlier when the population was 292.8 million with 14,121 murdered, of which 9,326 were murdered by people using guns, giving you a 1 in 31,396.1 chance of being killed by a gun, it shows how far we've come - even with more guns in America.

Some of the biggest factors attributed to gun murders are socioeconomic in nature, and are typically related to inner cities, as most of the victims of murder are young city dwelling men. However, the President didn't address these issues.

The largest numbers of gun related deaths come from suicide. Unlike homicide, which has fallen over the years, there has been a steady increase in suicides per year, pretty much ever

since the millennium. Approximately half of all suicides in a given year are with a firearm. An often cited Johns Hopkins study suggested that gun control measures affected suicide rates. They were correct that it has an impact on gun suicides, however, the overall suicide rate remains the same as suicide by something other than a gun increases.

One thing is sure, the perception of gun violence increases with each new event, each loss of a life cut short. With round-the-clock coverage of the latest horrific occurrence, shooters get what they crave, national attention. It ultimately fuels the next inevitable mass murder, and amplifies the cry to rid our society of guns.

And here we are, with a teary-eyed President who thinks he can sell disingenuous information all to accomplish what he has always done, skirt the law to accomplish his goal, which is to make the citizens second to the government. I firmly feel he believes that government should dictate to the individual, not the other way around.

Like the war on drugs that is an absolute failure with more than 10,500 deaths per year from heroin overdoses (more than firearm related murder) alone, the President's war on guns will result in an explosion in black market weapons. It also goes to further alienate the many law abiding citizens that will be affected – criminals will continue to get their weapons.

It comes down to this, the President has no Constitutional authority to infringe upon any amendment through executive action, and it has been opined that the measures Obama has taken will be quickly repealed once a new president takes office.

However, the real problem with the executive orders is the precedent it sets and potential overreach by anti-gun bureaucrats who seek to further strip the right to keep and bear arms.

★★★

Continued from page 1 • Do Children Have Rights? ...

interrogations and submitted those transcripts to Deputy District Attorney George Eder who relied on Detective Fairall's altered statements as fact. The suit also claims that when Fairall learned the results of a polygraph Dain had taken, he no longer had reason to believe Dain was guilty. When the test “came through clean,” it showed that Sansome was truthful and had no sexual intent, yet Fairall continued to pursue charges, despite previously implying clean test results would lead to the case being dropped.

Dain Sansome stated, “*There was never any abuse. There was no crime. There was no evidence of a crime. DHS and the detectives’ one-day investigation was incomplete and inadequate; Cori Pace Smith, who called authorities, was never checked out, and interrogations were intended to extract confessions instead of truthful information.*”

“*The false allegations and two year separation from my family nearly ruined me – a near-death experience. My three girls, then one, three, and six, were abused by the system. They were deeply harmed by the interrogations, exams, and separation. They still suffer. My wife, Suyu, was forced to single-parent and live alone. Business suffered. Legal expenses to defend myself were huge. We are still recovering.*”

“*There is something seriously wrong with the criminal justice system, which relies on excessive charges and bullying to get a plea bargain agreement, a system where the police, district attorneys, and judges have little to no accountability. I hope my experience never happens to anyone else.*”

ANALYZING THE SUIT

Do children who are Citizens of the U.S. have rights? Dain and his daughters' due process was violated when Detective Glenn Fairall altered official documents from the Sansome family interviews. Violation of due process continued as the altered facts in Fairall’s report were not shared with the Judge who oversaw the case, nor was the truth shared with Deputy District Attorney George Eder, who relied on the false and altered reports, and continued to deprive Dain and his daughters of their rights, thus violating the U.S. Constitution, amendments 4, 5, and 14.

“No person shall be deprived of life, liberty or property without due process of law,” 5th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution. Fairall’s tactics violated the Sansomes' liberty and life. Fairall admitted during trial that he had knowledge of the incorrect reports. The

following is an excerpt between Dain's trial attorney and Detective Glenn Fairall:

Fairall: I believe I found a mistake in this uh probable cause affidavit yesterday when I was reviewing it, ah, regarding this session (interview) here.

Sherlag: You found it yesterday? This was relied on by a judge two years ago, right?

Fairall: That is correct.

Sherlag: Does it help to correct errors in it today? Does it help Mr. Sansome?

Fairall: I can only tell you that when I...

Sherlag: It's a yes or no question; does it help Mr. Sansome?

Fairall: I guess not.

Sherlag: Does it help the judge(s) make a decision as to whether or not Mr. Sansome is going to be arrested, that a fair and full understanding of the facts are corrected today, two years later? Yes or no?

Fairall: No

Sherlag: You're supposed to make those corrections before you sign those things under oath, aren't ya? Yes or no?

Fairall: When I signed...

Sherlag: Yes or no?

Fairall: Yes, Yes.

Sherlag: Thank you. No further questions.

Due to the fact that Detective Fairall altered his reports, it is reasonable to agree that Fairall’s actions attributed to Dain and his daughters’ forced separation. The State continued to deny Dain due process for over 2 years, until he was acquitted of sexually abusing his own daughters. Furthermore, Dain and Suyu were ordered NOT to talk with their daughters about WHY they were separated from their father, further damaging Dain and Suyu’s ability to parent their children as they saw fit.

Upon looking further into the Sansome case, I believe that Dain and his daughters also had their 14th Amendment, Section 1 violated.

Sansome's Attorney, James Leuenberger stated, “*Maybe this case will set a precedent, because the Sansome children have obviously*

been greatly damaged. This lawsuit, in part, is a Children's Rights lawsuit which has never been addressed properly in a courtroom to my knowledge.”

After Dain's acquittal, DHS employee Matthew Stark continued his attempt to control Dain and his family by coming to the Sansome's home shortly before Christmas, demanding that Dain let him inside to "finish the assessment of his children." Stark came with his supervisor Joanna Crawford who informed Dain that his trial Attorney, Steven Sherlag, had given them permission to enter the residence. Reminding DHS employees Stark and Crawford of his acquittal, Dain refused to let them into his home. Crawford then threatened, “*...we will be filing a petition with the court.*” Dain refused to budge and told them they were trespassing.

Upon Stark and Crawford's retreat from his property, Dain called Sherlag, and was informed "no one from DHS had called him." Stark and Crawford were lying. This continuing intimidation of the Sansome family was by an agency that is supposed to protect children, but often uses its power to punish

those who “do not comply.” In fact, after later receiving a letter written by Sherlag, demanding that DHS cease and desist contact with the Sansomes, DHS still pursued and harassed the Sansome family. It was not until then State Senator Betsy Close became involved, that DHS stopped their threats. These tragic events have left the whole Sansome family fearing that an acquittal means absolutely nothing to a government that simply doesn't care what a jury, with great consideration, has already decided - innocence.

Albany Police Department’s PR Officer, Captain Eric Carter stated, “*since the case is pending, we are unable to comment.*”

Editor’s Note: *If you have any information regarding anyone mentioned in this article, please email: editor@usobserver.com, or call: 541-474-7885. Also, please let us know your thoughts: Do children have Constitutional Rights, do they have Civil Rights?*

We will publish updates as this case proceeds through federal court, closely analyzing future rulings. ★★★



These People Were All

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In The News

WHAT THE?! SPOTLIGHTS

NYC Will Fine You \$250,000 For ‘Misgendering’ A Transsexual

By Allum Bokhari

(Breitbart) - Did you call a transsexual person “he” or “she” when they preferred to be called “zhe?” According to a newly updated anti-discrimination law in New York City, you could be fined an eye-watering \$250,000.

In the latest, astonishing act of draconian political correctness, the NYC Commission on Human Rights have updated a law on “Discrimination on the Basis of Gender Identity or Expression” to threaten staggering financial penalties against property owners who “misgender” employees or tenants.

Incidents that are deemed “wilful and malicious” will see property owners face up to \$250,000 in fines, while standard violations of the law will result in a \$125,000 fine. For small business owners, these sums are crippling.

It’s not as simple as referring to transmen “he” or transwomen as “she,” either. The legislation makes it clear that if an individual desires, property owners will have to make use of “zhe,” “hir” and any other preferred pronoun. From the updated legislation:

The NYCHRL requires employers and covered entities to use an individual’s preferred name, pronoun and title (e.g., Ms./Mrs.) regardless of the individual’s sex assigned at birth, anatomy, gender, medical history, appearance, or the sex indicated on the individual’s identification. Most individuals and many transgender people use female or male pronouns and titles. Some transgender and gender non-conforming people prefer to use pronouns other than he/him/his or she/her/hers, such as they/them/theirs or ze/hir



Other violations of the law include refusing to allow individuals to use single-sex facilities such as bathrooms that are “consistent with their gender identity,” failing to provide employee health benefits for “gender-affirming care” and “imposing different uniforms or grooming standards based on sex or gender.”

Examples of such illegal behaviour include: “requiring female bartenders to wear makeup,” “Permitting only individuals who identify as women to wear jewellery or requiring only individuals who identify as male to have short hair,” and “permitting female but not male residents at a drug treatment facility to wear wigs and high heels.”

In other words, if a bar owner prevents male bartenders from wearing lipstick and heels, they’ll be breaking the law. They’ve now got a choice between potentially scaring off customers, and paying hundreds of thousands of dollars in fines. Regardless of the establishment’s clientele or aesthetic, every property owner will be forced to conform to the same standard.

This is the latest in what Spiked Online editor-in-chief Brendan O’Neill calls “The Crisis of Character” in the west, in which identities become grounded in subjective interpretation rather than objective reality. The state is now forcing society to recognise the subjective identities of individuals, regardless of how absurd or surreal they may seem. In New York City, recognising someone’s identity is no longer a matter of case-by-case common sense and courtesy. It’s zir way or the highway.

★★★

Law enforcement took more stuff from people than burglars did in 2014

By Christopher Ingraham

(Washington Post) - Here's an interesting factoid about contemporary policing: In 2014, for the first time ever, law enforcement officers took more property from American citizens than burglars did. Martin Armstrong pointed this out at his blog, Armstrong Economics, last week.

Officers can take cash and property from people without convicting or even charging them with a crime — yes, really! — through the highly controversial practice known as civil asset forfeiture. Last year, according to the Institute for Justice, the Treasury and Justice departments deposited more than \$5 billion into their respective asset forfeiture funds. That same year, the FBI reports that burglary losses topped out at \$3.5 billion.

Armstrong claims that "the police are now taking more assets than the criminals," but this isn't exactly right: The FBI also tracks property losses from larceny and theft, in addition to plain ol' burglary. If you add up all the property stolen in 2014, from burglary, theft, motor vehicle theft and other means, you arrive at roughly \$12.3 billion, according to the FBI. That's more than double the federal asset forfeiture haul.

One other point: Those asset forfeiture deposit amounts are not necessarily the best indicator of a rise in the use of forfeiture. "In a given year, one or two high-dollar cases may produce unusually large amounts of money — with a portion going back to victims — thereby telling a noisy story of year-to-year activity levels," the Institute for Justice explains. A big chunk of that 2014 deposit, for instance, was the \$1.7 billion Bernie Madoff judgment, most of which flowed back to the victims.

For that reason, the net assets of the funds are usually seen as a more stable indicator — those numbers show how much money is left over in the funds each year



after the federal government takes care of various obligations, like payments to victims. Since this number can reflect monies taken over multiple calendar years, it's less comparable to the annual burglary statistics.

Still, even this more stable indicator hit \$4.5 billion in 2014, according to the Institute for Justice — higher again than the burglary losses that year.

One final caveat is that these are only the federal totals and don't reflect how much property is seized by state and local police each year. Reliable data for all 50 states is unavailable, but the Institute of Justice found that the total asset forfeiture haul for 14 states topped \$250 million in 2013. The grand 50-state total would probably be much higher.

Still, boil down all the numbers and caveats above and you arrive at a simple fact: In the United States, in 2014, more cash and property transferred hands via civil asset forfeiture than via burglary. The total value of asset forfeitures was more than one-third of the total value of property stolen by criminals in 2014. That represents something of a sea change in the way police do business — and it's prompting plenty of scrutiny of the practice.

★★★

Exoneree on mission to find the truth that will set others free

By Jennifer Emily

(Dallas News) - Christopher Scott figures he has 30 seconds to grab the attention of the person who comes to the door.

He opens with a sure winner. “My name is Christopher Scott. I was wrongly convicted of murder. The actual perpetrator came forward 12 years later and confessed to the crime. I’ve made it my mission to help others locked up for crimes they didn’t commit . . .”

At this point, the chain usually slides off and the door opens.

He’s hooked them. They often don’t need to hear the story of the man standing next to him, Johnnie Lindsey, another Dallas County exoneree with his own horror story of wrongful conviction.

Scott and Lindsey are invited in and, more often than not, served lemonade and cookies.

Together with another exoneree, Steven Phillips, they run House of Renewed Hope, an organization that does just what Scott tells people at their door.

But their investigations — DNA tests, polygraphs — cost money. They held a fundraiser recently at the Richardson Woman’s Club.

Scott, who founded the organization and is working on his private investigator license, called the annual fundraiser a joyful event and the contributions very appreciated.



Christopher Scott

FREED IN 2009

Scott was freed in 2009, along with another man, after serving 12 years in a Dallas County capital murder case. They were the first non-DNA exonerations in the county.

“It’s a miracle that I’m here today,” said Scott, sitting on a brown ottoman recently inside his Cedar Hill clothing store, Christopher’s Men’s Wear. “How many people would come back and confess to a capital murder case when there’s no statute of limitations on murder?”

“This is the time of the year when miracles happen.” It’s also the time of year when he struggled the most in prison. Memories of his mother loading him and his siblings into a station wagon to see Christmas lights both sustained him and made spending the holiday behind bars more difficult.

He and several other inmates who vigorously trumpeted their innocence vowed in prison that whoever got out first would help the others. Scott was the first one. Some of those other men have been exonerated. But others remain behind.

Scott, Lindsey and Phillips are currently working four cases, including one for a man on death row and another for a man who has served nearly 40 years for a robbery the three don’t believe he committed. They get a letter or call a day about other cases. But to make progress, they must limit the load.

Attorney Michelle Moore, who volunteers her time with the group and has helped free the wrongly convicted, said the men reach people who wouldn’t otherwise talk.

“They have street cred,” said Moore. “Witnesses actually talk to them.”

EVIDENCE NEEDED

Moore advises House of Renewed Hope on what they need legally when seeking to clear someone’s name. They need new evidence or their gut feelings of

innocence won’t go anywhere.

Their work is the subject of a documentary called True Conviction that has been submitted to film festivals and will air this year on PBS.

In addition to witnesses, they interview jurors, victims, police officers, attorneys and the person they believe could be the real perpetrator. They’ve had one man confess to them, but he refuses to come clean to authorities.

Sometimes they spend months tracking their subjects. Once, they drove around Austin for 2-1/2 days to find their man.

“We tracked him down like we were some bloodhounds,” said Scott, smiling at the memory.

Sometimes their efforts support guilt rather than innocence. One woman recanted her claims of sexual abuse after 18 years. A polygrapher — the same man who tested Scott before he was freed — told the men her recantation wasn’t truthful.

That cost \$2,500. But Scott said his mission was to find the truth, and that’s what he did.

But the amount of help Scott, Lindsey and Phillips can offer depends on how much people open up when the men knock on doors.

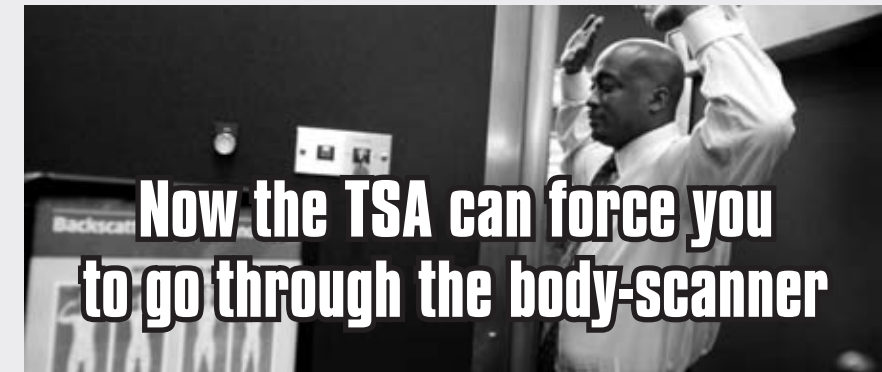
Scott said he is always mindful that he’s a black man often showing up in small towns where almost everyone is white. He always wears a suit, he said, so that’s the first thing people see when they peek through the blinds.

Getting that first invitation inside makes all the difference. When they leave, the person who helped them often calls ahead to the next house, as sort of a reference.

And often, lemonade and cookies will be waiting.

US~Observer Note: We are surprised that Scott relies so heavily on polygraph examinations when it has been proven to be flawed by the American Psychological Association and has contributed to the problem of wrongful convictions. However, his efforts are to be commended. One innocent behind bars is too many.

★★★



By Chris Davies

(Slash Gear) - Your next flight might include a mandatory trip through the body scanner, with the US government quietly changing the opt-out rules for searches. In a document published earlier this month, the Department of Homeland Security outlined an update to the Advanced Imagery Technology protocols used by the TSA at US airports, adding a clause which allows officers to insist travelers go through the controversial machines.

Previously, though the body scanners were present at many airports across the country, travelers were free to opt-out of the process. Billed as a privacy consideration, it meant a physical screening was mandatory, but alleviated concerns held by some that the technology could "see them naked" and store photographs of that.

Now, though, that option is being diluted, though not completely retired.

"TSA is updating the AIT PIA to reflect a change to the operating protocol regarding the ability of individuals to opt or opt-out of AIT screening in favor of physical screening," the DHS writes. "While

passengers may generally decline AIT screening in favor of physical screening, TSA may direct mandatory AIT screening for some passengers."

No more detailed explanation for the change is given. However, it seems likely that the scanners' ability to single out metallic objects hidden around the body - and that might have been missed by a physical search from a TSA agent - is seen as invaluable for whoever security services believe presents a greater-than-normal risk.

The document also points out that the scanners do not store or transmit any of the graphics captured while travelers are using them; instead, such images are only shown on the nearby display until TSA agents can physically check the specific area.

Meanwhile, unlike the earlier - now retired - scanners which did indeed show nudity, the newer system "replaces the individual's image with that of a generic figure" the DHS writes.

All the same, it's likely that the change in policy could cause a few headaches at airports should travelers want to opt-out but be informed that the only way they can get to their gate is to submit to body scanning.

★★★

Report: Feds Have Failed Every Goal Set in the War on Drugs

By Guy Bentley

(Daily Caller) - The government is failing to make any progress in the majority of its objectives to combat illegal drug use and drug related deaths, according to a new report from the Government Accountability Office (GAO).

In 2010, the Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONCDP), which is responsible for coordinating and implementing drug control policy across the federal government, established seven goals to slash drug use and its harmful consequences, to be met by 2015 as part of the National Drug Control Strategy.

Three years later, the GAO reported in March that ONDCP and other agencies had made almost no progress toward achieving the goals set out in 2010. In the subsequent two years, the situation in some cases has actually got worse.

In November 2015, ONDCP published its annual strategy and performance report. The report showed that despite tens of billions of dollars in funding and millions of man hours, the government had made progress in just one of the seven goals laid out in the 2010 strategy. No progress has been made for three of the goals, and there is a mixed picture for the remaining three.

“Overall, none of the goals in the Strategy have been fully achieved,” the GAO said on Wednesday. Reacting to the GAO’s findings the Deputy Director of Drug Policy Alliance Michael Collins told The Daily Caller News Foundation “the government continues to fail in its

drug policy goals because it still places too much emphasis on enforcement, rather than treating drug use as a public health issue.”

He added that “the Obama Administration has made progress in drug policy reform, and the fresh leadership at ONDCP is welcome. Nonetheless, the drug control

the lifetime prevalence of eighth graders who have used illicit drugs, with the percentage falling from 19.9 percent to 16.9 percent over the past five years.

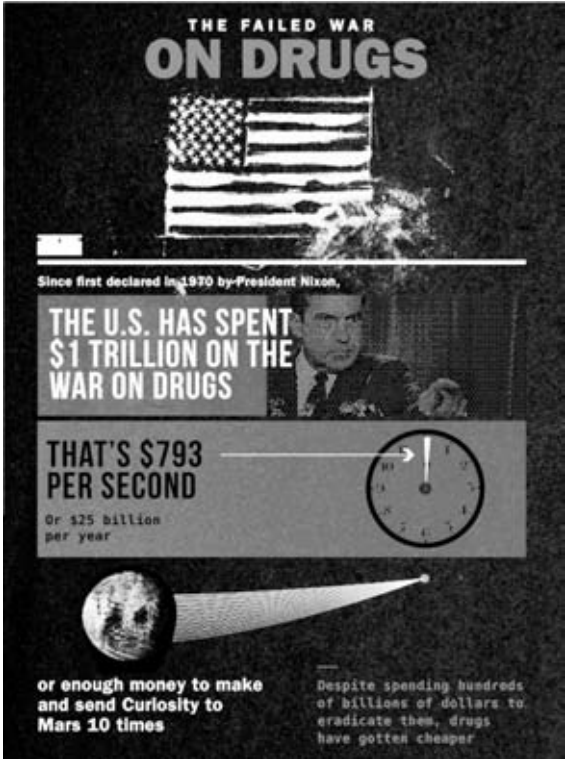
There was no statistically significant change in the percentage of the 30-day prevalence of drug use among young adults aged 18-25. Embarrassingly for the ONCDP, the number of drug induced deaths, emergency room visits thanks to drug use and HIV infections attributable to drug use have actually increased.

For the remaining goals of reducing the prevalence of drugged driving and the number of chronic drug user, there is no data available. Opponents of the war on drugs argued the GAO report highlighted the failure of drug prohibition.

Leaders in the marijuana industry agreed with Collins and lamented the failure of the government’s drug control strategy. “The GAO’s report drives home a point that essentially all participants in the cannabis industry agree that the war on drugs has been, is currently, and in all likelihood will continue to be a failure on the part of reducing drug trafficking, addiction and prevalence in our culture,” said Derek Peterson, CEO of cannabis-focused agriculture company Terra Tech.

“This report will hopefully result in greater and more targeted action on the part of legislators to handle drug addiction as a public health issue, as opposed to a criminal activity.”

★★★



budget still dedicates over \$2bn annually to the DEA – a failed and flawed agency – while harm reduction and treatment are woefully underfunded. Unless this changes, the government will continue to fall short in its aims.”

The ONCDP aimed to slash 30-day prevalence of drug use among 12 to 17-year-olds from 10.1 percent in 2015 to 8.8 percent in 2015 – so far, there has been no progress in achieving this goal.

There has been, however, a moderate improvement in cutting

Colorado About to Require All Police Officers to Undergo Psychological Evaluations

By Joy Levine

(Truth Voice) - Colorado ruled—recently—that police officers in the state be required to undergo full psychological evaluations. The checks would occur before an officer is hired, and every time an officer changes jobs or jurisdictions in the state thereafter, the Denver Post reported.

According to the Post, state law already requires psychological evaluations but such checks are rarely carried out in practice. The new rules were affirmed during a meeting of the Colorado Peace Officer Standards and Training Board.

The loose protocols have largely benefited problem officers who can shuffle between departments when they have committed violations. In many cases, they end up in more impoverished rural areas which typically have difficulty finding qualified candidates.

“What the public is concerned about is that police departments don’t pass off someone that is a problem in one department to another department,” Grand Junction, Colorado police chief and POST vice chairman, John S. Camper, told Mic. Camper disputed the Post’s claim that the primary screenings were not being enforced. “I haven’t heard of that,” he said. “I can tell you in the departments I’ve been in ... we do psych tests on everyone.”

The problem of under-qualified officers being given the power of deadly force has had consequences far beyond the state of Colorado. Earlier this year, Robert Bates, a septuagenarian and an Oklahoma



John S. Camper

Sheriff’s deputy, shot and killed a fleeing suspect. Bates, who was not a career officer, reportedly fired his weapon by mistake when he intended to reach for his Taser. It is unclear whether Bates submitted to a psychological exam before being given a weapon. The Oklahoma Sheriff’s deputy program,

however, came under considerable scrutiny for lax security protocols after the incident.

The call for stricter mental health inspection comes as instances of police brutality have been documented with increasing regularity across the country. Videos like those of the shooting of Chicago teenager Laquan McDonald and the 50-year-old Walter Scott in South Carolina show officers gunning down suspects as they moved away from them.

While the new Colorado regulation won’t be codified in state law, failure to adhere to the tightened policy could come with severe consequences. Said Camper, “If a person doesn’t comply with this, then they’ve got the potential to not be allowed to be certified as a police officer.”

★★★

Prosecutor says man’s jury pamphlets could create ‘lawless nation’

By Dana Chickles

(FOX) Big Rapids, MI – The Mecosta County District courtroom was packed early in the morning with supporters of Keith Wood at the preliminary hearing for the former pastor, now small business owner, who faces a five-year felony for passing out fliers on juror rights on a sidewalk in front of the courthouse.

After Judge Kimberly Booher adjourned the preliminary exam, both parties argued who should be called as witnesses in the case. Mecosta County Prosecutor Brian Thiede told Judge Booher he’s not a necessary witness, and if he is called as one he plans to tell the jury the pamphlets Wood passed out could create a “lawless nation.”

“This (Fully Informed Jury Association pamphlet) just says ignore the law, ignore the facts, do what your conscience wants,” said Thiede after he tossed the pamphlet on the table, "and I’m thinking, Oh my goodness, well, we could have the jury who thinks that jihad is righteous, and if the San Bernadino shooters had not been killed, they’ll say, Let’s acquit."

This statement was greeted by booing from the courtroom gallery, and Judge Booher asked people to not comment as Thiede then said, “We would have a lawless nation if people were to vote their conscience.”

Defense attorney Dave Kallman said he understood the concerns of Judge Jaklevic and Thiede with jury nullification.

“I understand what (Thiede is) saying: we don’t want anarchy and that sort of thing," said Kallman. "But I think he’s conflating what was going on here with what the actual rights of jurors are. Jurors have the power to rule according to their conscience.”

People in the courtroom applauded Kallman when he quoted from the Michigan Criminal Jury Instructions: “Quote, ‘In the end, your vote must be your own, and you must vote honestly

and in good conscience.’ It’s in the jury instruction for goodness sake, that’s given every single time in every single criminal case in this state."

The key argument during the hearing focused on the defense subpoenas of Judge Peter Jaklevic, who is accused of directly ordering Wood’s arrest, Magistrate Thomas Lyons, Prosecutor Brian Thiede, and Assistant Prosecutor Nathan Hull.

Kallman said the prosecution must be called as witnesses because the police reports show Thiede directed court employees to speak with Wood outside the courthouse as he handed out fliers Nov. 24. “These are all points that make it clear that they are necessary witnesses, but Mr. Thiede directly questioned our client in the hallway. When he is brought in, he’s not Mirandized. I don’t know what he asked him. I’m not entitled to call him as a witness, while this is all going on before the judge orders him (Wood) to be arrested?”

Theide argued Wood only passed out fliers because he knew of another case taking place that day. Court records for November 24 show Andy Yoder, an Amish man, pleaded guilty to three misdemeanors regarding Department of Environmental Quality permits to create and refill inland lakes.

“The defendant here had a specific interest in this case,” said Thiede. "We show that by he’s there at the pre-trial for this case when only this case was up for pre-trial. Then we see him at the courthouse again for this case that is talking about the Yoder case.”

But Kallman said Wood was not targeting jurors when passing out pamphlets that have general legal information. He said these charges violate free speech.

“Our defense is a First Amendment defense: our client had the right of free speech to hand out this pamphlet with legal



Keith Wood

information,” said Kallman. “There’s nothing in this juror pamphlet that says anything about any case going on before the court. It’s general information put out by an organization that it was not even put out by my client.”

As Wood told FOX 17 before, he said he was not targeting jurors and wants his charges dropped.

Judge Booher plans to issue her written opinion on each person subpoenaed, though the defense and prosecution did not object to Judge Jaklevic and Magistrate Lyons testifying in this case.

Kallman told FOX 17 he planned to file another motion by Dec. 21 asking for Wood’s felony charge to be dismissed on grounds that it is a general charge that does not apply after already being charged with a specific crime noted in the misdemeanor for jury tampering. The prosecution had until Jan. 8 to respond.

★★★



US~OBSERVER NOTE ON FALSE CHARGES:

False prosecutions are getting some well needed main-stream attention these days. Over the past 25 years, the US~Observer has been the lone voice exposing this rampant issue. Our cases, over 4,000 of them, have led to vindication through the use of our services - an achievement no other group, lawyer or agency can claim.

In many cases, our clients haven't needed the use of expensive attorneys, as our investigations and publication are used to expose the truth to the world. It is this exposure that this otherwise beyond reproach system fears, and it works well.

We hope that every innocent victim of a false prosecution finds justice, and if you are facing false charges, please contact us.

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Don’t let them fool you: Wasteful military spending is alive and well

By Sam Rolley

(Personal Liberty Digest) - Defense hawks in Congress and those running for the GOP presidential nomination always tell Americans that the military needs more money to keep the country safe. In reality, the Pentagon needs a tough audit to see where billions of taxpayer dollars are disappearing.

If you’ve been keeping up with our latest coverage of military waste in the Middle East, we don’t have to remind you that the Pentagon is ripping off U.S. taxpayers with reckless abandon.

Last year, we noted that the war in Afghanistan, America’s longest-running military conflict, has cost U.S. taxpayers nearly \$1 trillion. And there’s no end in sight.

Out of that \$1 trillion, a significant portion of U.S. taxpayer money has been used to bolster separate judicial systems in Afghanistan: a formal and an informal system, both of which incorporate Sharia law.

When the U.S. government isn’t busy setting up archaic legal systems, it also works on improving infrastructure in Afghanistan and elsewhere in the Middle East.

An inspector general report last month revealed how the Pentagon managed to blow \$43 million on a natural gas station in Afghanistan. A similar facility in Pakistan was constructed for about \$300,000, according to Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction (SIGAR) John Sopko.

The government reportedly built the gas station in Sherberghan, Afghanistan, in a bid to show Afghan citizens that natural gas could serve as a viable energy alternative.

Also last month, news surfaced that the Defense Department’s Task Force for Stability and Business Operations (TFBSO) blew nearly \$800 million in Afghanistan without making a single improvement in the country’s stability.

But the problem of wasteful military spending is far worse than the headlines would lead you to believe.

Just ask William Hartung, director of the Arms and Security Project at the Center for International Policy, who says that the Pentagon’s most-publicized boondoggles only make up a small fraction of defense waste.

Here are some little-known examples of Pentagon waste Hartung has dug up for a blog post on The Hill:

- The Pentagon paid \$720 million in late fees on shipping containers that it leased to get material back and forth to Iraq and Afghanistan. This is in addition to the cost of the leases themselves.
- The Department of Defense’s Inspector General identified over \$1 million in personal expenditures on casinos and adult entertainment establishments that were charged to government-issued credit cards in an 11-month period during 2013 and 2014.
- A report by the Government Accountability Office found that the Pentagon had stockpiled \$9.2 billion in excess parts and supplies, with another half billion on order.
- According to the Pentagon’s Inspector General, the Air Force failed to justify the need

for an order of 401 MQ-9 aircraft, leading to the expenditure of \$8.8 billion on aircraft that it may not need.

• A GAO report released in July of this year found that since 2007, 200 parcels of military



aid to Yemen sat unused in a warehouse in Virginia. The Pentagon was unable to give an estimate for the cost of the items, but it included night vision goggles worth over \$600,000.

Because of the Pentagon’s unwillingness to seriously audit its spending and defense hawks’ sacred cow attitudes about the military budget, there are likely countless more examples of out of control military waste.

For example, Hartung notes that the Defense Department has no idea how many contractors it’s paying or what it’s paying them to get done.

He said: “The Pentagon employs at least 600,000 service contractors. But because it does such a poor job of tracking them, it can’t give an accurate figure of exactly how many of

these contractors it employs, how much they cost relative to their civilian counterparts or how much overlap there is in the tasks performed by contractors and civilian personnel. Better management of this work force could save untold billions that could be put to better use.”

Still, Congress is poised to increase next year’s defense budget without question. Why? Mostly because of the kind of doublethink Americans are subjected to by people like GOP hopeful Sen. Marco Rubio (R-Fla.).

“The sequester is not doing a thing about balancing our budget because defense spending is not the reason why we have a debt,”

Rubio recently said of modest cuts to military spending.

The U.S. is currently running a deficit of about \$438 billion. About 60 percent of the nation’s total spending does to defense, totaling around \$700 billion each year.

Think for a moment about how irritating it is to hear stories of wasteful spending for social welfare, technology and infrastructure.

All of those things, in addition to veteran services, healthcare, natural resources and all of the other domestic services that make America a comfortable place to live, account for less than half of total government spending.

All of those things are routinely audited. But the Pentagon is never held accountable.

Fear, it seems, is a powerful tool in the business of ripping taxpayers off. ★★★

Continued from page 1 • “Senior Judges Have Passion for Concealing Truth”

Vero live in fear of retaliation if they commit the local crime of telling the truth (whistleblowing) on any member of the judiciary, law enforcement, attorneys’ or politicians.”

It all began with a simple non-disclosure case against Norris & Co.’s realtor Ron Hughes and Strangs the sellers, for failing to disclose known water intrusions, flooding and termites. Negligence was not claimed so comparative fault would never be part of case. XL Insurance, through its attorney GERALYN PASSARO, allegedly acting in bad faith, set up a defense “falsely claiming Hughes did not know about water intrusion and comparative fault/negligence defenses.” According to Casares, “Passaro’s body language indicated she had Hughes commit perjury in deposition.” Several witnesses, including those hired by Norris testified that they had talked with Hughes about the water intrusion, hurricane damage and termites.

Casares was forced to maintain the home and became quite ill from toxic black mold (aspergillus/stachyabactus). Numerous doctors diagnosed Casares with sick building syndrome, CIRS, anxiety disorder, organic affective syndrome, myalgias and treated him with numerous medications including fungicides, steroids, anti-seizure medications, respiratory and pain meds. The illnesses and medications resulted in the doctors and experts testifying that Casares was not competent to contract or understand legal issues from 2009 to 2011.

In 2009, Casares had his then Attorney Harold Melville (purported friend of Judge

Kanarek) add a claim for personal injury, which was excluded from coverage in his XL insurance contract. Casares stated, “Melville, against my wishes, added negligence language to the claim, causing me harm, and through threats and harassment he demanded I drop his claim for personal injury. This was in agreement with my ex-spouse Stephanie Banack, who threatened divorce if I didn’t obey Melville.” Melville and Casares parted ways when Casares refused to accept a small settlement Melville arranged.

Casares’ second attorney Clifford Miller (purported friend of Judge Cox) filed a second amended complaint where he was instructed to restore the personal injury claim and not to include negligence. According to Casares, “Miller preyed on disability and added negligence language causing me harm. Norris had never filed an answer to our amended complaint and all Miller had to do to win was file a notice, dropping the notice to drop the personal injury claim that Melville had filed and a motion for default.”

Casares began representing himself and filed a motion that stated Hughes had committed perjury. Passaro’s filed a motion to strike the motion as scandalous. Casares filed a second document that outlined the perjury of Ron Hughes and the body language of Passaro that demonstrated “he was assisting in the perjury.” During the hearing on the Passaro motion to



Judge Cynthia Cox

strike, Judge Kanarek asked her: Did you read what Casares just filed? When Passaro answered yes, Kanarek stated motion denied! The truth was upheld!

Casares attempted to get sanctions against Norris for the “improper negligence defense and learned that Melville and Miller had aided and abetted the Norris, Passaro/XL insurance scheme, by adding the agreed to, never being part of case negligence, language to amended complaints.”

Casares filed motions to cure these deficiencies exposing the schemes. Though Casares seemed well enough, he still suffered disability, which required the following accommodations in Court: “the ability to be excused for emergency bathroom breaks, time to gather his thoughts, and the ability to speak for himself.”

When setting up for upcoming hearings in December, he casually mentioned in an email that he would of course still need accommodations as he was having digestion issues. Casares stated, “Cox took the email as an opportunity to alter my accommodations at the November 8, 2012 evidentiary hearing. He was taking advantage of my deficiencies that required accommodations concerning time for me to gather my thoughts and for me to speak.” At the beginning of the hearing, Casares stated he had forgotten to file for accommodations. Judge Cox reportedly stated, “I got the email,

take emergency bathroom breaks” and immediately changed the subject leaving off the most important accommodations. A study of the hearing shows she never gave Casares time to gather thoughts and speak for himself. A Writ of Prohibition to the 4th District Court of Appeals (DCA) resulted in Cox’s recusal and the resignation of her assistant Elizabeth Curra, “who received the email and attempted to cover up for it in subsequent emails.”

According to Casares, “Judge Kanarek was reassigned to the case and he did a complete 180 degree change from agreeing that Hughes had committed perjury to retaliating against Casares by never allowing Casares to correct the negligence language added by Miller and Melville, and never admit any admissible evidence.”

To make matters worse, with the help of alleged confidential informants Patricia Hunt, George Morales and Rev. Jerry Cassell, who became Casares’ new best friends, they convinced Casares to add biblical, Christian references and sovereign citizen arguments to his pleadings, which resulted in him being discredited in the 4th DCA.

Manny Casares has corrected his errors, and quite honestly, is attempting to correct the errors of those who represented him. What he needs now is to have a federal judge who is interested in justice, hear the facts in his case and rule accordingly...

Anyone with information about this case, the attorneys involved and Judges Cox and Kanarek are urged to contact Edward Snook at 541-474-7885 or by email to editor@usobserver.com. ★★★

The middle class is dead

Judge who jailed kids for not seeing their dad may be removed from bench

By Sam Rolley

(Personal Liberty Digest) - Middle-class Americans no longer make up a majority of the U.S. population.

That’s according to new research out from Pew, which found that after “more than four decades of serving as the nation’s economic majority, the American middle class is now matched in number by those in the economic tiers above and below it.”

Currently, about 120.8 million American adults belong to middle-income households, compared to 121.3 million in lower- and upper-income households combined.

Americans earning middle-class wages are also feeling more economic pressure these days.

Via Pew:

[M]iddle-income Americans have fallen further behind financially in the new century. In 2014, the median income of these households was 4% less than in 2000. Moreover, because of the housing market crisis and the Great Recession of 2007-09, their median wealth (assets minus debts) fell by 28% from 2001 to

2013. Meanwhile, the far edges of the income spectrum have shown the most growth. In 2015, 20% of American adults were in the lowest-income tier, up from 16% in 1971. On the opposite side, 9% are in the highest income tier, more than double the 4% share in 1971. At the same time, the shares of adults in the lower-middle or upper-middle income tiers were nearly unchanged.

The shrinking prevalence of middle class lifestyles as the wealthiest Americans get wealthier and the poorest become poorer is already affecting the morale of young American workers.

According to a nationwide study out from Harvard, nearly half of people age 18 to 29 believe that the American dream is dead.

Why is this happening?

It’s a movement, really. And it’s fueled by power-hungry politicians who want to turn Americans into a permanent, dependent class of workers who need their blessing to stay healthy, buy a car, save a bit for retirement and maybe pass something along to their children. ★★★

By Anna Merlan

(Jezebel.com) - The Michigan judge who held three children in civil contempt in July and sent them to a juvenile justice facility for refusing to see their father may be facing serious professional discipline. A complaint filed against Judge Lisa Gorcyca of Oakland County says that her demeanor on the bench was “improper” and that she made misrepresentations of the law during the case.

The July incident happened during a lengthy divorce and custody battle between Omer Tsimhoni and Maya Eibschitz-Tsimhoni, a case which has been going on for the last five years. Judge Gorcyca told the pair’s three children, then aged 15, 10, and 9, that they could all be held at a juvenile justice facility called Children’s Village for refusing to see their father.

The oldest child, a boy, told Gorcyca he didn’t wish to see his father because he’d witnessed him beating his mother. Gorcyca responded by telling the boy his father had never been charged with a crime, then strongly implied that his mother had brainwashed him:

“You need to do a research program on Charlie Manson and the cult that he has. Your behavior in the hall with me months ago, your behavior in this courtroom, your behavior back there is unlike any I’ve seen in 46,000 cases. You, young man, are the worst one.”

In August, Gorcyca sought to enter the children and their father into an intensive, controversial and rare “reunification” program designed to heal their relationship, although their mother retained physical

custody. The children began living with him that month, according to a report from the Detroit Free Press and based on court records.

By October, Maya Eibschitz-Tsimhoni was seeking to have Gorcyca removed from the case. (A report from the Free Press indicated that she was on her “15th and 16th” attorney by that time.) On Monday, a complaint was filed against Gorcyca by the Michigan Judicial Tenure Commission, with a representative of the JTC telling U.S. News and World Report, “This is a very serious matter. This case has moved very quickly.”

The complaint, which you can read in full online, accuses Gorcyca of failing to behave in a “patient, dignified and courteous manner,” says she displayed an “improper demeanor,” accuses her of using a “raised or angry voice,” and says she was sarcastic with the children and laughed at them. It also alleges that she made “significant misrepresentations of the law and fact,” by telling the trio that they’d be housed in jail cells at Children’s Village until they turned 18 and that they’d have to use the bathroom “in front of other people.”

The JTC also seems unamused that when Gorcyca referred to the Manson cult in reference to the children she made “circular motions at her right temple,” the common offensive gestural shorthand for “crazy.” In an October letter to the Commission, Gorcyca claimed that the circular motion she made “was referring to the forward movement he would make in therapy,” which the JTC decided was not true.

The complaint will be heard before the state Supreme Court. It could ultimately result in Gorcyca’s removal from office. ★★★

LIBERTARIAN • li-b?r- 'ter-ē-?n

1 : an advocate of the doctrine of free will

2 a : a person who upholds the principles of individual liberty especially of thought and action

~Merriam-Webster

Your Personal Liberty

Articles of Interest that first appeared on Personal Liberty Digest™ at Personalliberty.com

The fix is in and the banksters win again

By Bob Livingston

The Fed has flooded the world with credit; and we must be fully aware that there has never been a single credit-driven asset inflation that has not been followed by market collapse, followed by a financial crisis, which always erases most of the previous gains.

The public is smothered in propaganda-induced euphoria at this time, totally oblivious to the approaching storm. Tricks of banking and currency are what they were created to be, illusions of prosperity, which always leads to certain collapse and depression.

As the Fed raised interest rates for the first time since June 2006 recently and signaled that quarter point increases can be expected each quarter next year, it did so while painting illusions of recovery.



Janet Yellen, Fed Chief

“I feel confident about the fundamentals driving the U.S. economy, the health of U.S. households, and domestic spending,” Fed chief Janet Yellen said during a press conference. “There are pressures on some sectors of the economy, particularly manufacturing, and the energy sector ... but the underlying health of the U.S. economy I consider to be quite sound.”

The sycophantic Keynesian corporate media whores joined in, proclaiming:

But the economy is no longer in crisis. In fact it is a lot healthier — unemployment now is at 5%, half of the 10% rate it hit in 2009 during

the worst of the jobs crisis. Over 12 million jobs have been added since the recession ended. Wages — which have barely grown during the recovery — have also started to pickup recently.

And:

“The Fed’s decision today reflects our confidence in the U.S. economy, that we believe we’ve seen substantial improvements in labor market conditions,” Federal Reserve Chair Janet Yellen said in a news conference.

But not so fast. Signals indicate the U.S. is now in outright deflationary recession.

Commodities are down 70 percent — to levels not seen since 1999 — and are still falling, per the B l o o m b e r g C o m m o d i t y Index. Oil continues to fall to levels long unseen.

Industrial production is on pace to decline by 0.6 percent in the fourth quarter, which would make the third time in four 2015 quarters. Annual contractions of this sort are not seen outside formal recessions.

“The Fed’s own Industrial Production report showed monthly, quarterly and annual contractions in domestic production of a nature only seen in recessions,” writes John Williams of Shadowstats.com. “Beyond the deteriorating circumstances in the oil industry, the U.S. manufacturing sector never recovered from the collapse; it never has reclaimed its pre-recession or pre-collapse high.”

Real unemployment is north of 20 percent (when counting discouraged workers and the long-term unemployed), not the 5 percent

number touted by the government and talking heads in the media. What job growth there’s been has primarily been in the energy sector — which is now being hammered by low oil prices and Barack Obama’s policies to intentionally destroy the coal industry — and in part-time service-industry-sector jobs like bartenders, waiters and store clerks and at



temporary agencies. There are only about 70.5 million full-time jobs in manufacturing, energy and mining and white-collar jobs in information technology, business management, finance and real estate. That’s 3 percent fewer jobs in those sectors than when Bill Clinton was president. There are 102 million Americans out of work, and real median income is at 1989 levels, according to David Stockman.

The big banks are sitting on \$2.4 trillion in excess reserves held in the Fed, thanks to the massive money printing the Fed has engaged in since the Great Recession began. They aren’t lending the money; they’re making interest on the money. And now the Fed has raised the rate it will pay them. And they are earning interest — now, at higher rates — on what little money they’re lending to small banks that are “loaned out” from actually lending money to the people and small

businesses.

A rate hike is going to send up interest rates paid by the consumer and by small businesses on credit cards, home mortgages, home equity lines and commercial loans. But the banks will hold off raising the interest it pays on deposits, further squeezing the middle class. All this benefits the banksters and Wall Street because with deposits paying almost nothing, the people, looking for income growth, pile their money into stocks, which artificially inflates the stock market.

And with inflation in check, those (particularly seniors) on fixed incomes and living off savings will continue to be squeezed. And note there will be no cost-of-living adjustment on Social Security in 2016.

Although the consequences of a deflationary collapse are unimaginable, there is likely nothing to stop it now. I know the public mind and how slow the crowd is to wake up. I also know that the crowd trusts the Fed, the politicians and the media. I can tell you now most people are going to be shocked, but then it will be too late.

I am saying that the collapse will come sooner or later, so you should stay prepared for deflation with some survival cash. Of course, I’ve been warning you to keep most of your cash out of the banks for some time.

As the money supply contracts, cash could get scarce overnight. You don’t want to be like the people of Greece, standing in line for rationed cash at automatic tellers.

I urge you to consider now that the great illusion is passing and the only possible question left is: When will the collapse come? If you are in gold, silver (the metals and the stocks) and have cash on hand, it won’t matter when the big crisis arrives or in what form.

Gold and silver are still great bargains and strong buys and really are the only game in town, especially in the long run. ★★★

Why can’t government cut costs? It won’t take its own advice

By Sam Rolley

Federal watchdogs charged with ferreting out and eliminating government waste, fraud and outright stupidity say that the advice that results from their investigations is often disregarded without consequence by federal bureaucrats.

The government pays hundreds of watchdogs good money to make sure it is running properly and conducting business in the taxpayer interest. Day in and day out, those officials conduct investigations and analyze agency spending and compile reports for improvements.

Agency heads then take those reports and send them straight to file 13.

Gene Dodaro, the U.S. comptroller general and chief of the Government Accountability Office, recently told a Senate panel that about 80 percent of watchdog recommendations are implemented by the agencies that receive them.

That sounds pretty good— but there’s a catch.

“While much progress has been made on many of our recommendations, other critical recommendations to improve efficiency and effectiveness across the federal government remain unimplemented,” he said.

And when you’re talking about government money, those unimplemented suggestions amount to billions of wasted taxpayer dollars.

Sen. James Lankford (R-Okla.) and a handful of congressional budget hawks recently produced a list of 100 ridiculous ways the federal government is wasting your money right now.

The “Federal Fumbles” the lawmakers

uncovered included 100 examples of government waste spanning \$105 billion in spending and \$800 billion in regulatory burdens.

A huge portion of that waste stems directly from agency failures to heed watchdog advice.

As of last month, Dodaro reports that an incredible 4,800 suggestions from government watchdogs—many of them targeted at substantial waste—remain on the books with little hope of consideration by agency officials.

No one knows for sure how much taxpayers would save if government actually listened to the watchdogs it employs. There is, however, evidence that shows it would be a substantial amount.

Since 2003, recommendations from the Government Accountability Office that have received action (meaning the suggestions that lazy bureaucrats could most easily handle) have saved taxpayers a whopping \$74.7 billion.

And unlike government as a whole, the watchdogs are remarkably efficient in their work.

Justice Department watchdog Michael Horowitz, who also serves as chief of the Federal Council of Inspectors General, told lawmakers that IGs “recover substantial funds” through investigations. On average, for every dollar an inspector’s office spends, it recovers \$18 wasted by bureaucrats.

Sen. Heidi Heitkamp (D-N.D.) and other lawmakers who listened to the frustrated watchdogs during the recent Senate hearing have vowed to find ways to better help them do their jobs.

“We’re not here to place blame on any

particular entity. We’re here to stand with the GAO, offices of inspectors general and agencies as a partner in making the federal government more effective and efficient,” she said.

And that means there’s something you can do right now in an effort to curtail federal waste: Write, email and call the lawmakers who represent you. And tell your friends and family to do the same.

Badger them until you get a promise that they will help watchdogs get the cooperation they need from unelected bureaucrats.

Sure, you may think it’s a waste of time based on the form letters you’ve received from legislative offices in the past. But you have a great deal of leverage on this one.

Tell your elected representative that this is why you sent him/her to Washington: to make government work better.

Remind him/her that legislation to help federal watchdogs is totally uncontroversial to lawmakers and the people who elect them. The only possible rejections to such efforts are the unelected bureaucrats who are doing an unsatisfactory job or defrauding taxpayers.

And threaten their reelections: After all, if someone elected to Congress is too weak-willed, lazy, busy or disinterested to work with colleagues on either side of the aisle to simply help government watchdogs see the work they’ve already done carried out, they have no business in Washington.

If they don’t act, you can bet they have an interest in government’s continued failure to

operate efficiently.

A good way to tell if that’s true is if you’ve ever heard them utter the words “income inequality.”

In fact, if you have, there’s an outsized chance that your elected federal representative will be totally disinterested in plans that make the federal government work better.

Those types need government to need more of your money.

Why? So they can raise your taxes.

If the government takes painless steps to eliminate waste, there will be a lot more left over for helping the poorest Americans by better funding social welfare initiatives.

Gone would be the ability to make those Robin Hoodesque calls for making the rich pay their fair share to lift the poor out of poverty.

The scam would be exposed.

And it’s the perfect scam. The politician looks like a hero. Anyone who objects is instantly branded “greedy” and “insensitive.”

And best of all, they don’t have to solve the problem. Keeping the poor POOR... makes them dependent on the largesse of the politicians.

So ask your elected officials to do their jobs and help the government save money by empowering watchdogs. And if they don’t, explain to them that you know exactly what their inaction on such an easy legislative initiative means.

Information, as you know, is power. ★★★



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COMMENTARY

Your Right to Speak Out



By Ben Swann

REALITY CHECK

(Truth In Media) - In just two hours, and during the last GOP debate of the year, the candidates and their moderators said the name “ISIS” 112 times.

That’s nearly once per minute. And yet, it turns out, a lot of untrue statements were made about ISIS and Syria.

We’re giving those statements a reality check.

“Assad is one of the main reasons why ISIS even exists to begin with. Assad is a puppet of Iran. And he has been so brutal toward the Sunni within Syria that he created the space that led to the people of Syria themselves to stand up and try to overthrow him.”

That was Sen. Marco Rubio (R-Fla.) explaining why ISIS is in power in Syria in the first place. Rubio says it is the fault of Syrian President Bashar AlAssad.

Backing up this new and completely false narrative, New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie had this to say:

“And that’s the way ISIS has been created and formed here. ISIS is created and formed because of the abuse that Assad and his Iranian sponsors have rained down on the Sunnis in Syria.”

This is a brand new narrative being spewed and completely void of facts. The facts are these:

In 2011, the attempt to overthrow Bashar al-Assad by force began, and at that time ISIS didn’t even exist in Syria. ISIS didn’t begin to emerge until the United States, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Jordan and Israel began supplying



Sen. Marco Rubio

weapons to the so-called “moderate rebels”—also known as the Free Syrian Army— in an effort to overthrow Assad from power.

If you want to understand what really happened in Syria, you have to go back to 2009. In 2009, Syrian President Assad was offered a deal. The nation of Qatar wanted to run a pipeline from its oil fields, through Saudi Arabia, Jordan, Syria and on to Turkey, with a view to supply European markets.

The plan was public record, but Assad turned that deal down. Instead, in 2012, he publicly signed a deal with Iran for a pipeline that would run from Iran, through Iraq and ultimately through Syria. By making that deal with Iran, Assad sealed his fate. The Saudis and Qatar began funneling money to extremist groups in order to overthrow Assad’s regime.

It was over oil, not oppression of Sunnis. By 2013, those moderate rebels being trained by the U.S., Saudis and coalition forces began to defect and join al Qaeda in Syria. Those groups are known as al Nusra and a lesser-known group at the time called ISIS.

“I don’t want to be policeman of the world,” Gov. John Kasich of Ohio chimed in, “but we can’t back off of this. And let me tell you, at the end, the Saudis have agreed to put together a coalition inside of Syria to stabilize the country.”

The Saudis will stabilize Syria? They are the source of the biggest problem in the region. Reality check here—the Saudi Royal Family subscribe to Wahabbism. That is the same fundamentalist

Islamic belief system as ISIS. The Saudis have funded ISIS just as they funded Al Qaeda before them.

“I think that by arming the allies of ISIS, the Islamic rebels against Assad, that we created a safe space or made that space bigger for ISIS to grow. I think those who have wanted regime change have made a mistake,” correctly said Senator Rand Paul.

So what you need to know is that listening to most of these candidates incorrectly state where ISIS came from, and

what to do next, would ultimately be to repeat the exact same policies as President Obama, Hillary Clinton and George W. Bush.

Yes, it turns out these so called new ideas are the exact same ideas we have been hearing for the past 14 years; the same ideas that have led to utter chaos in the Middle East.

TED CRUZ SAYS MIDDLE EAST WAS BETTER OFF BEFORE WAR ON TERROR

“The Middle East was better off with Saddam Hussein and Muammar Gaddafi in power.”

Those words are from Republican presidential candidate and Texas Sen. Ted Cruz.

But is he right? What do the numbers show in the years since the Iraq war?

“We’ve seen a consistent mistake in foreign policy, we’ve seen Democrats and a lot of establishment Republicans in Washington get involved in toppling Middle Eastern governments, and it ends up benefiting the bad guys,” Cruz said on MSNBC’s Morning Joe. “It ends up handing them over to radical Islamic terrorists.”

In that statement, the senator explains how he believes American intervention since the start of the Iraq war has led from one disaster to another.

“Was the world in fact a better place the middle east a better place when Muammar Gaddafi and Saddam Hussein was in power and when Assad wasn’t fighting for his life in Syria?,” Cruz asked. “Of course it was. That isn’t even a close call.”

Well, without question the senator is correct.



Sen. Marco Rubio

The Middle East was without question a safer and more secure place under Gaddafi, Hussein and when Assad wasn’t fighting for his life. But to really get that point, here are some numbers to consider.

According to reports from our own U.S. government, reports of deaths from terrorism in the Middle East between 2002 and 2014 have increased 4,500 percent.

But lets go a little deeper. Take for instance just the country of Iraq. Before the 2003 U.S. invasion, do you know how many suicide attacks there were in Iraq? None. In the country’s history there had never been one. But since the 2003 invasion, there have been 1,892.

In Iraq, prior to the start of the Iraq war, there were reportedly just over 1.5 million Christians living in that country. And yet shortly after the war started, more than one million of them fled to Syria. That didn’t work out well. Today fewer than half a million Christians remain and yet are being exterminated by groups like ISIS.

And what about Afghanistan? Just last year alone, insurgents killed 2,643 civilians — the highest number since U.N. records began.

How about Pakistan? In the 14 years prior to 9/11 there was one suicide attack on Pakistani soil. In the 14 years since, there have been 486 suicide attacks.

The same is true in the past 14 years in Somalia (88), Yemen (85), Libya (29), Nigeria (91), and Syria (165).

So what you need to know is that 14 years after this so-called war on terror began, the United States is on track to have spent \$6 trillion on just the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

To put that into perspective, that means we have spent \$75,000 per American household—most of it borrowed money.

What’s more, nearly 7,000 U.S. military personal have died. Tens of thousands more are being lost, as every day 22 U.S. veterans commit suicide.

If we are to be honest, the only thing the war on terror seems to have brought us and the rest of the world, is more war and more terror.

That’s a Reality Check double dose.

★★★



By Bronnie Ware

For many years I worked in palliative care. My patients were those who had gone home to die. Some incredibly special times were shared. I was with them for the last three to twelve weeks of their lives.

People grow a lot when they are faced with their own mortality. I learnt never to underestimate someone’s capacity for growth. Some changes were phenomenal. Each experienced a variety of emotions, as expected, denial, fear, anger, remorse, more denial and eventually acceptance. Every single patient found their peace before they departed though, every one of them.

When questioned about any regrets they had or anything they would do differently, common themes surfaced again and again. Here are the most common five:

1. I wish I’d had the courage to live a life true to myself, not the life others expected of me.

This was the most common regret of all. When people realize that their life is almost over and look back clearly on it, it is easy to see how many dreams have gone unfulfilled. Most people had not honoured even a half of their dreams and had to die knowing that it was due to choices they had made, or not made.

Regrets of the Dying

It is very important to try and honour at least some of your dreams along the way. From the moment that you lose your health, it is too late. Health brings a freedom very few realise, until they no longer have it.

2. I wish I didn’t work so hard.

This came from every male patient that I nursed. They missed their children’s youth and their partner’s companionship. Women also spoke of this regret. But as most were from an older generation, many of the female patients had not been breadwinners. All of the men I nursed deeply regretted spending so much of their lives on the treadmill of a work existence.

By simplifying your lifestyle and making conscious choices along the way, it is possible to not need the income that you think you do. And by creating more space in your life, you become happier and more open to new opportunities, ones more suited to your new lifestyle.

3. I wish I’d had the courage to express my feelings.

Many people suppressed their feelings in order to keep peace with others. As a result, they settled for a mediocre existence and never became who they were truly capable of becoming. Many developed illnesses relating to the bitterness and resentment they carried as a result.

We cannot control the reactions of others. However, although people may initially react when you change the way you are by speaking honestly, in the end it raises the relationship to a whole new and healthier level. Either that or it releases the unhealthy relationship from your life. Either way, you win.

4. I wish I had stayed in touch with my friends.

Often they would not truly realise the full benefits of old friends until their dying weeks and it was not always possible to track them down. Many had become so caught up in their own lives that they had let golden friendships

slip by over the years. There were many deep regrets about not giving friendships the time and effort that they deserved. Everyone misses their friends when they are dying.

It is common for anyone in a busy lifestyle to let friendships slip. But when you are faced with your approaching death, the physical details of life fall away. People do want to get their financial affairs in order if possible. But it is not money or status that holds the true importance for them. They want to get things in order more for the benefit of those they love. Usually though, they are too ill and weary to ever manage this task. It all comes down to love and relationships in the end. That is all that remains in the final weeks, love and relationships.

5. I wish that I had let myself be happier.

This is a surprisingly common one. Many did not realise until the end that happiness is a choice. They had stayed stuck in old patterns and habits. The so-called ‘comfort’ of familiarity overflowed into their emotions, as well as their physical lives. Fear of change had



them pretending to others, and to their selves, that they were content. When deep within, they longed to laugh properly and have silliness in their life again.

When you are on your deathbed, what others think of you is a long way from your mind. How wonderful to be able to let go and smile again, long before you are dying.

Life is a choice. It is YOUR life. Choose consciously, choose wisely, choose honestly. Choose happiness.

Bronnie has released a full length book titled The Top Five Regrets of the Dying – A Life Transformed by the Dearly Departing. It is available internationally through Hay House.

★★★

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"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



By John W. Whitehead

“Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it.”
--George Santayana, *The Life of Reason*, Vol. 1

In Harold Ramis’ classic 1993 comedy Groundhog Day, TV weatherman Phil Connors (played by Bill Murray) is forced to live the same day over and over again until he not only gains some insight into his life but changes his priorities. Similarly, as I illustrate in my book Battlefield America: The War on the American People, we in the emerging American police state find ourselves reliving the same set of circumstances over and over again—egregious surveillance, strip searches, police shootings of unarmed citizens, government spying, the criminalization of lawful activities, warmongering, etc.—although with far fewer moments of comic hilarity.

What remains to be seen is whether 2016 will bring more of the same or whether “we the people” will wake up from our somnambulant states. Indeed, when it comes to civil liberties and freedom, 2015 was far from a banner year.

The following is just a sampling of what we can look forward to repeating if we don’t find some way to push back against the menace of an overreaching, aggressive, invasive, militarized surveillance state.

More surveillance. The surveillance state is alive and well and kicking privacy to shreds in America. Whether you’re walking through a store, driving your car, checking email, or talking to friends and family on the phone, you can be sure that some government agency, whether the NSA or some other entity, will still be listening in and tracking your behavior. This doesn’t even begin to touch on the corporate trackers that monitor your purchases, web browsing, Facebook posts and other activities taking place in the cyber sphere. We are now in a state of transition with the police state shifting into high-gear under the auspices of the surveillance state. In such an environment, we are all suspects to be spied on, searched, scanned, frisked, monitored, tracked and treated as if we’re potentially guilty of some wrongdoing or other. Even our homes provide little protection against government intrusions. Police agencies,

already empowered to crash through your door if they suspect you’re up to no good, now have radars that allow them to “see” through the walls of your home.

More militarized police. Americans will continue to be rendered powerless in the face of militarized police. In early America, government agents were not permitted to enter one’s home without permission or in a deceitful manner. And citizens could resist arrest when a police officer tried to restrain them without proper justification or a warrant. Daring to dispute a warrant with a police official today who is armed with high-tech military weapons would be nothing short of suicidal. Moreover, as police forces across the country continue to be transformed into extensions of the military, Americans are finding their once-peaceful communities transformed into military outposts, complete with tanks, weaponry, and other equipment designed for the battlefield. Having already transformed local police into extensions of the military, now the Department of Homeland Security, the Justice Department and the FBI are preparing to turn the nation’s police officers into techno-warriors, complete with iris scanners, body scanners, thermal imaging Doppler radar devices, facial recognition programs, license plate readers, cell phone Stingray devices and so much more.

More police shootings of unarmed citizens. Owing in large part to the militarization of local law enforcement agencies, not a week goes by without more reports of hair-raising incidents by police imbued with a take-no-prisoners attitude and a battlefield approach to the communities in which they serve.

More so-called “terrorist” attacks. Despite the government’s endless propaganda about the threat of terrorism and even in the wake of the shootings in San Bernardino and Paris, statistics show that you are 17,600 times more likely to die from heart disease than from a terrorist attack. You are 11,000 times more likely to die from an airplane accident than from a terrorist plot involving an airplane. You are 1,048 times more likely to die from a car accident than a terrorist attack. You are 404 times more likely to die in a fall than from a terrorist attack. And you are 8 times more likely to be killed by a police officer than by a terrorist.

More costly wars. The military industrial complex that has advocated that the U.S. remain at war, year after year, is the very entity that will continue to profit the most from America’s expanding military empire. The U.S. Department of Defense is the world’s largest employer, with more than 3.2 million employees. Thus far, the U.S. taxpayer has been made to shell out more than \$1.6 trillion to wage wars in Afghanistan and Iraq. When you add in our military efforts in Pakistan, as well as the lifetime price of health care for

disabled veterans and interest on the national debt, that cost rises to as high as \$6 trillion .

More attempts by the government to identify, target and punish so-called domestic “extremists.” In much the same way that the USA Patriot Act was used as a front to advance the surveillance state, the government’s anti-extremism program will, in many cases, be utilized to render otherwise lawful, nonviolent activities as potentially extremist. To this end, police will identify, monitor and deter individuals who exhibit, express or engage in anything that could be construed as extremist before they can become actual threats. This is pre-crime on an ideological scale and it’s been a long time coming. Moreover, under the guise of fighting violent extremism “in all of its forms and manifestations” in cities and communities across the world, the Obama administration has agreed to partner with the United Nations to take part in its Strong Cities Network program and hire a domestic extremism czar.

More SWAT team raids. More than 80% of American communities have their own SWAT teams, with more than 80,000 of these paramilitary raids are carried out every year. That translates to more than 200 SWAT team raids every day in which police crash through doors, damage private property, kill citizens, terrorize adults and children alike, kill family pets, assault or shoot anyone that is perceived as threatening—and all in the pursuit of someone merely suspected of a crime, usually some small amount of drugs.

More erosions of private property. Private property means little at a time when SWAT teams and other government agents can invade your home, break down your doors, kill your dog, wound or kill you, damage your furnishings and terrorize your family. Likewise, if government officials can fine and arrest you for growing vegetables in your front yard, praying with friends in your living room, installing solar panels on your roof, and raising chickens in your backyard, you’re no longer the owner of your property.

More debt. Currently, the national debt is somewhere in the vicinity of a whopping \$18.1 trillion and rising that our government owes to foreign countries, private corporations and its retirement programs. Not only is the U.S. the largest debtor nation in the world, but according to Forbes, “the amount of interest on the national debt is estimated to be accumulating at a rate of over one million dollars per minute.”

More government contractors. Despite all the talk about big and small government, what we have been saddled with is a government that is outsourcing much of its work to high-paid contractors at great expense to the taxpayer and with no competition, little transparency and dubious savings. According to the Washington Post, “By some estimates, there are twice as many people doing

government work under contract than there are government workers.” These open-ended contracts, worth hundreds of millions of dollars, “now account for anywhere between one quarter and one half of all federal service contracting.”

More overcriminalization. The government’s tendency towards militarization and overcriminalization, in which routine, everyday behaviors become targets of regulation and prohibition, have resulted in Americans getting arrested for making and selling unpasteurized goat cheese, cultivating certain types of orchids, feeding a whale, holding Bible studies in their homes, and picking their kids up from school.

More strip searches and the denigration of bodily integrity. The Fourth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution was intended to protect the citizenry from being subjected to “unreasonable searches and seizures” by government agents. While the literal purpose of the amendment is to protect our property and our bodies from unwarranted government intrusion, the moral intention behind it is to protect our human dignity. Unfortunately, court rulings undermining the Fourth Amendment and justifying invasive strip searches have left us powerless against police empowered to forcefully draw our blood, forcibly take our DNA, strip search us, and probe us intimately. Accounts are on the rise of individuals—men and women alike—being subjected to what is essentially government-sanctioned rape by police in the course of “routine” traffic stops.

More injustice. Americans can no longer rely on the courts to mete out justice. The courts were established to intervene and protect the people against the government and its agents when they overstep their bounds. Yet the courts increasingly march in lockstep with the police state, while concerned themselves primarily with advancing the government’s agenda, no matter how unjust or illegal. As a result, Americans have no protection against police abuse. It is no longer unusual to hear about incidents in which police shoot unarmed individuals first and ask questions later. What is increasingly common, however, is the news that the officers involved in these incidents get off with little more than a slap on the hands.

More political spectacles. Americans continue to naively buy into the idea that politics matter, as if there really were a difference between the Republicans and Democrats (there’s not). As if Barack Obama proved to be any different from George W. Bush (he has not). As if Hillary Clinton’s values are any different from Donald Trump’s (with both of them, money talks). As if when we elect a president, we’re getting someone who truly represents “we the people” rather than the corporate state (in fact, in the oligarchy that is the American police state, an elite group of wealthy donors is calling the

Continued on page 13



By Dr. Ron Paul

Judging by his recent prime-time speech, the final year of Barack Obama’s presidency will be marked by increased militarism abroad and authoritarianism at home. The centerpiece of the president’s speech was his demand for a new law forbidding anyone on the federal government’s terrorist watch list from purchasing a firearm. There has never been a mass shooter who was on the terrorist watch list, so this proposal will not increase security. However, it will decrease liberty.

Federal officials can have an American citizen placed on the terrorist watch list based solely on their suspicions that the individual might be involved in terrorist activity. Individuals placed on the list are not informed that they have been labeled as suspected terrorists, much less given an opportunity to challenge that designation, until a Transportation Security Administration agent stops them from boarding a plane.

Individuals can be placed on the list if their Facebook or Twitter posts seem “suspicious” to a federal agent. You can also be placed on the list if your behavior somehow suggests that

you are a “representative” of a terrorist group (even if you have no associations with any terrorist organizations). Individuals can even be put on the list because the FBI wants to interview them about friends or family members!

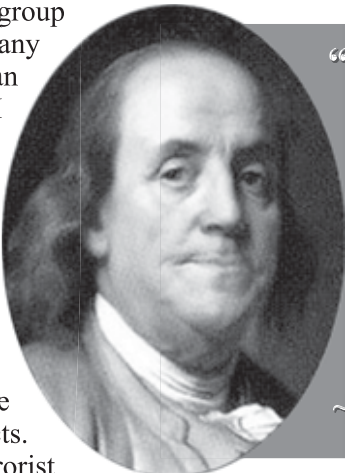
Thousands of Americans, including several members of Congress and many employees of the Department of Homeland Security, have been mistakenly placed on the terrorist watch list. Some Americans are placed on the list because they happen to have the same names as terrorist suspects. Those mistakenly placed on the terrorist watch list must go through a lengthy “redress” process to clear their names.

It is likely that some Americans are on the list solely because of their political views and activities. Anyone who doubts this should consider the long history of federal agencies, such as the IRS and the FBI, using their power to harass political movements that challenge the status quo. Are the American people really so desperate for the illusion of security that they will support a law that results in some Americans losing their 2nd Amendment rights because of a bureaucratic error or because of their political beliefs?

President Obama is also preparing an executive order expanding the federal background check system. Expanding background checks will not keep guns out of the hands of criminals or terrorists. However, it will make obtaining a firearm more difficult for those needing, for example, to defend themselves against abusive spouses.

Sadly, many who understand that new gun

“Any society that would give up a little liberty to gain a little security will deserve neither and lose both.”
~Benjamin Franklin



control laws will leave us less free and less safe support expanding the surveillance state. Like those promoting gun control, people calling for expanded surveillance do not let facts deter their efforts to take more of our liberties. There

is no evidence that mass surveillance has prevented even one terrorist attack.

France’s mass surveillance system is much more widespread and intrusive than ours. Yet it failed to prevent the recent attacks. France’s gun control laws, which are much more restrictive than ours, not only failed to keep guns out of the hands of their attackers, they left victims defenseless. It is thus amazing that many American politicians want to make us more like France by taking away our 2nd and 4th Amendment rights.

Expanding government power will not increase our safety; it will only diminish our freedom. Americans will have neither liberty nor security until they abandon the fantasy that the U.S. government can provide economic security, personal security and global security.
★★★

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2/13, 7:10pm: Angela Nobilis-Faire -
Ok, I will get some clothes out together for you and we will load the amps. Looking to leave in the AM. I have a hotspot, so comm's are available except thru the pass. I will msg you when we are enroute. Cannot wait to see you!

2/13, 7:10pm: Richard Finegold -
We want to see you two too!

2/13, 7:11pm: Angela Nobilis-Faire -
See you tomorrow! If you think of anything else you need in the next hour or so, let me know...

2/13, 7:14pm: Richard Finegold -
Will you be bringing more garlic (any left)?

2/13, 7:15pm: Angela Nobilis-Faire -
I will pick out the best ones. The bulbs are starting to dry out...

2/13, 7:15pm: Richard Finegold -
Yay!

2/13, 7:31pm: Richard Finegold -
Oh, one more thing: the cordless phones. One at kitchen bar, one at front hall by coat rack above or below table, one on each side of master bedroom's bed. One of the cradles is unoccupied (we grabbed one of the phones by mistake). They have an intercom system (base station is on "my" side of the bed) that we should be able to use.

2/14, 10:50am: Angela Nobilis-Faire -
We will be rolling in about 15 minutes. The rig is loaded and has a bearing/rear axle issue, so we will be taking it easy. Will check in through the trip

Without going into the complete conspiracy behind this false prosecution case, I'll move forward and factually expose Okanogan County Prosecutor Karl Sloan.

Officer Petker bought into Richard Finegold's false complaints on the evening of June 17, 2015, hook, line, and sinker.

The very next day James and Angela arrived at the Sourdough property to pick up their belongings and they were cornered and attacked by Debra Long and an out of control and "very dangerous 300-plus pound George Abrantes."

According to witnesses (even the state's), as soon as James and Angela exited their pickup, Abrantes went after them with a loggers chain as he and Long intentionally blocked the two in the driveway at 36 E. Sourdough. In James' effort to exit the driveway, Debra Long was pinned under the truck and Abrantes was struck as Faire was desperately attempting to get away from his violent assault. Long died and Abrantes was sent to the hospital. **This evidence proves Prosecutor Sloan factually knows that James Faire was attempting to avoid Abrantes' Assault, not commit Murder.**

James and Angela rushed to Tonasket, where

they could receive cell phone coverage and they called 911 to inform police of the incident. Finegold's false police report made the night before had already set the stage. The police arrived and immediately arrested James Faire and Angela Nobilis. Both were charged with Murder, Trespass and Theft. The Murder charge against Nobilis was later dropped, however James remains in jail to this day, facing 1st degree Murder.

OFFICIAL USES KREM 2 TO DECEIVE THE PUBLIC

Sheriff Frank Rogers went on the local news the evening of June 19, 2015, just one day after the incident and gave the public the sensational news of squatters and a murder. KREM 2 News published the headline, "Tonasket squatters fatally run over woman." KREM 2 reported on June 19, 2015: "County Sheriff's Office arrested two people Thursday after deputies said they ran over the friends of a homeowner's house they were squatting in near Tonasket."

"It's pretty rare, the hardest part for us to wrap our head around is, who in their mind goes and moves into somebody else's house?" said Sheriff Frank Rogers of Okanogan County.

It is alarming that an elected law enforcement officer can publicly lie about a case, having had less than 24 hours to investigate and also that the local news would rush to feed that lie to the public. It is amazing that the citizens of Okanogan County, WA blindly allow such outrageous deception to take place.

In hindsight, Sheriff Rogers and the partially false police reports produced in this case provide much of the motive for Prosecutor Sloan and his co-conspirators to continue their false prosecution of Faire and Nobilis. **Sloan and all Okanogan law enforcement involved in this manufactured case need to read the emails above and then they should all resign...period.**

US-OBSERVER ENTERS CASE

The US~Observer was contacted by a relative of James Faire shortly after the incident and we immediately began our investigation. Within days of the incident it was clear that this was a case of self-defense and before long we discovered the conspiracy that had been started by none other than the now deceased Debra Long. This was in late June of 2015.

By July 9, 2015 we had concluded that James Faire and Angela Nobilis were innocent of any wrongdoing whatsoever and I called Okanogan Sheriff Frank Rogers. He took my name and said that his chief deputy would call me back.

On July 15, 2015, I received a call from Chief Deputy Steve Brown who took my factual information and phone number. He assured me he would pass this information on to Detective Kreg Sloan (Prosecutor Karl

Sloan's brother) who was handling the case. I have never heard from Detective Sloan, and law enforcement from Okanogan County, WA has failed to question all but one of the witnesses I provided them.

On July 23, 2015, I wrote to Prosecutor Karl Sloan, telling him about the facts we had uncovered. To date, and after publishing most all of the pertinent facts in this case, I haven't heard one word from this spineless, elected official, who has proven to be nothing more than a dishonest and treacherous prosecutor.

THE ONLY UNBIASED EYE WITNESS

The witness I provided who police did interview is Boyd McPherson. McPherson was not associated with James and Angela in any way. Faire had simply hired him to help retrieve Faire's belongings from the Sourdough property.

McPherson clearly told the police how Abrantes violently attacked James and Angela. He stated, "*Jim parked in the front of the house and as soon as he got out the heavy set guy and the gal approached the driver's door. The guy started swinging his chain. Jim showed extreme discipline getting back into his truck. I saw the driver's side mirror shatter and the window flex as it was struck by the chain.*"

"The two then focused their attention on Angela who was sitting in the passenger seat, yelling and screaming obscenities at her. As they got to the front of the truck the gal in the orange shirt [Debra Long] was literally trying to tie herself to the front of Jim's truck to keep Jim from leaving."

Wow! And Okanogan County Prosecutor Karl Sloan wants the public to believe that James Faire Murdered Debra Long. I can only conclude that Sloan is beyond corrupt, he is dangerous to all and he is using his police power to factually torture two wonderful human beings.

McPherson's truthful and unbiased story just doesn't fit into the corrupt Okanogan County game plan. Had the detectives and prosecutor acted on his information they would have had to drop their false charges. They couldn't let this happen because it would have shown the citizens of Okanogan County that their Sheriff had lied to them on KREM 2 news. It would have shown the citizens that the detectives they employ concocted a false criminal case and it would show that their elected prosecutor had falsely charged two innocent people.

PROSECUTOR SLOAN AND OTHERS GUILTY OF FEDERAL CRIMES – TITLE 18 SECTION 242

James Faire, who has not had competent counsel since his arrest, remains lodged in the Okanogan County Jail and Angela Nobilis still faces her not only false but ridiculous criminal charges.

At the very least, Prosecutor Karl Sloan and his brother, Detective Kreg Sloan (main case investigator) have both violated Title 18 Section 242. After reading the facts of this

case, including the facts the police have produced, any prudent person will clearly see that the Sloan brothers have also violated Title 18 Section 241, in that they have had to conspire in this case.

Google and read the above laws, and you will see that the "shoe fits" the Sloan brothers perfectly.

Enough said.

Editor's Note: The US~Observer has been informed that Richard Finegold's father, Alvin Finegold of Bellevue WA and Michael Fritch of Loomis, CA have been communicating with Prosecutor Karl Sloan in attempts to promote the false charges against Faire and Nobilis. We are currently investigating both individuals and will soon report our findings to the public.

I wonder if Sloan's family is aware that he has an innocent man locked in a cell? Are his neighbors and associates aware? Do they know that Karl has ignored criminal acts and therefore protected people who have factually committed serious crimes – George Abrantes having committed attempted felony assault and Richard Finegold having committed the crime of filing a false police report. It has also been alleged that Finegold has committed theft of Faire and Nobilis' personal property.

I assure Karl Sloan that his visions of grandeur, of wanting to become a judge will soon be only visions - forever. I also assure this conscienceless human being that everyone will know exactly what he is doing and what he has bought into before I'm through with my exposure. In other words, everyone will know the real Karl Sloan...

If you are disgusted by the factual abuse being perpetrated against James Faire and Angela Nobilis, call Prosecutor Karl Sloan at 509-422-7280 and let him know.

Be responsible - Anyone with information on this case (especially the Sloan brothers and Richard and Alvin Finegold) is urged to contact Edward Snook at 541-474-7885 or by email at editor@usobserver.com.

This is a continuing investigation. Previous articles which can be read online at usobserver.com include:

"Escaped with Their Lives, Then Charged with Murder - The James Faire Story"; "The Conspiracy to Frame James Faire - The Power of 'Trust'"; "Turning a Blind Eye to Justice - Okanogan County Prosecutor Sloan's Mission to Convict At All Cost"; and "Facts Behind the Curtain - James Faire's False Prosecution".

More detailed information and ways to materially and otherwise support James Faire are at the following Faire Fight Foundation sites:

www.fairefight.com
Stand4JamesFaire on FaceBook

Contact the Faire Fight Foundation if you would like to book a live presentation of this dramatic, fascinating case.

★★★



RED'S CORNER

"Good Cops Do Exist"


Editor's Note: Red is one of the most ethical individuals to have ever worn a badge.



By Red Smith

I was working swing shift out of the Gold Hill Sub-Station in the fall when I was dispatched to a report of a Big Foot sighting. Upon arriving at the complainant's residence on Lampman Road and making contact with the parents of a male juvenile, I was told by the mother that her son had come home from school with a less than acceptable report card. She had verbally chastised him and told him, "you just wait until your father gets home." After hearing this, the boy grabbed his jacket, some magazines, sleeping bag, and his back pack, along with some cans of pork and beans and soft drinks as he departed their home. The boy eventually returned home, which led to his mother calling the Sheriff's office.

I then asked to speak with the youngster. I spoke to him in his room and questioned him at length about his alleged sighting. He appeared to be telling me the truth. He described the area in the pasture, about two miles from his home on the other side of the freeway. He had rolled out his sleeping bag under a tree, had his dinner of pork and beans and a soda pop. He read his magazines for awhile, rolled up in his sleeping bag and went to sleep. He awoke after dark and saw what he described as a large (7 to 8 foot tall) hairy all over creature coming down the side of the hill near the irrigation ditch close to his location. The creature stopped at the top of the irrigation ditch, bent at the waist, and drank. He must have startled it because it suddenly spun, running back up the hill. He was so frightened

Investigation: Big Foot





he got up and ran all the way home. I explained to him how this must be impossible. I continued by saying that tall of an animal would fall over if it tried that maneuver because the majority of its weight would be lower than its feet while trying to drink.

I asked him if he would be willing to accompany me to the area where he had seen Big Foot - his face got white, his eyes got very large and they teared up. It was quite obvious he was terrified. I explained he did not have to go with me. When I spoke to the parents again, the father volunteered to go with me to collect his sons belongings that were left behind.

We walked to the back of the pasture by the only tree in the flat area where the boy had put down his sleeping bag. The father wanted to immediately gather up his boys belongings. I asked him to wait where he was so I could investigate the area and check for foot impressions, shoe impressions, or any other evidence. He complied and watched me moving about. I found nothing of any consequence until I jumped the irrigation ditch on the high side and looked at the fresh deer tracks there. Part of the tracks displayed the sudden burst of energy as the animal spun and ran from the area up the hill. I explained to the father what I had seen and that I believed the boy had been reading his Big Foot, Moth Man, and Swamp Monster magazines before he went to sleep. When he woke and saw something in the twilight highlighted against the sky - the deer drinking with front feet down near the water

and hind quarters up at the top of the ditch in the bad light his imagination must have got the better of him. He got frightened and ran home.

I transported the father back home, explained to the boy what I believed he saw and suggested to both the boy and his parents he read fewer of these types of magazines before bedtime. Case cleared by report and a smile.

About Me: My name is William Holden Smith, but most people know me as "Red". I think communication is the most important tool any person can use, especially as a police officer. I'm retired from the Sheriff's Office after being a reserve for years, with twenty-eight years full-time. ★★★

When the Harmon/Hoilands (adjacent neighbors to the south in Section 25) began building a structure on property the Walkers knew was part of their Section 24 land, they hired an attorney out of Boise, Idaho named Dennis Charney and a surveyor out of Idaho County named Chad Erickson to protect their boundaries.

In 2009, Charney filed a lawsuit and Erickson began bilking the Walkers, out of what would eventually become \$37, 856.00, for his “bogus” surveying (even Erickson used the term “bogus” to describe his own monument). When the Walkers finally discovered that Erickson was coming up with “substantially incorrect surveys and reports”, they fired him and hired surveyor Steve Wellington out of Meridian, Idaho.

Surveyor Hunter Edwards was hired by the Harmon/Hoilands as an expert to render opinions on the south line of Section 24, not the NW corner. Yet, Hunter Edwards, in an attempt to allegedly expand the scope of surveys for his future, deliberately moved, or at least attempted to move the NW corner of Section 24 on February 7, 2014. It was Hunter Edward’s 2001 survey that the Harmon/Hoilands used against the Walkers to lay claim to the land in Section 24.

When Hunter Edwards attempted to go onto Walker property to re-set the NW corner (a job he was not hired to do nor was he permitted by law to do without the permission of the Walkers and their adjacent landowners) the Walkers refused to allow him access. Idaho has a “no-right-of-entry” law, which means Hunter Edwards was trespassing if he stepped onto Walker property without their permission.

ROAD TO EXPOSURE

Walkers, after discovering nearly a hundred years of incompetent, unethical surveying in Idaho County, Idaho, eventually found that they would have to expose the whole sequence of events, including the 1977 allegedly fraudulent survey by local surveyor Carl Edwards, where he re-located the SW and SE corners of Section 24, just outside of Grangeville. This was nine years after the Walkers purchase of their property, based on original corners, set permanently by government surveyors in the late 1800s under U.S. Homestead laws (by official Government Land Office (GLO) surveyors).

In 1977, the Walkers had no idea that Edwards had done this. It is important to note, Carl Edwards (father of Hunter Edwards - another allegedly fraudulent Idaho County surveyor) was required by law to officially record newly placed corners, even “fraudulent corners,” within 90 days in order to give members of the public, such as the Walkers, an opportunity to raise objections. Carl Edwards failed for 19 years to do this, choosing instead to wait until 1996 to record, and then he only recorded some of his 1977 corners – at this point, the reader must be wondering why. Well, according to one expert surveyor we spoke with, “Edward’s new SW corner was so far out of whack that it is just fraudulent;” and according to another expert, “failing to record made it virtually impossible to either identify or correct the fraud, giving it the false appearance of a condition of ‘repose,’ making it appear that the incorrect corners had been accepted by acquiescence.”

In 2013, Walkers’ attorney Charney filed a Motion seeking court approval of an arrangement that he had made, without authority. When the Walkers read the Motion, seeing the new property lines that Charney was asking the court to approve, they knew “he was giving away their land, in an attempt to settle the long standing case” against their interest. Unable to communicate with Charney who had conveniently made himself unavailable and realizing they were in jeopardy, the Walkers contacted the US~Observer to investigate and look into this devastating situation.

The US~Observer agreed to investigate the Walker case, Charney was fired and over the past two years we have conducted an in-depth investigation only to find that over 100 years of incompetent or dishonest surveying allowed adjacent landowners to falsely claim ownership of property from their neighbors.

It now appears that recent “mistakes” in surveying may have been driven by a desire to create more surveying business for Idaho County surveyors in the future and we will report on that in more depth in our next article; but the lesson here may be that because of the “ripple effect” more property may be stolen in Idaho County because of the “fraudulent” surveys near Grangeville by Carl and Hunter Edwards

The Walkers are working to contain the situation, keeping the problem local by trying to resolve it locally. But, when surveyors take “license” to move permanently established boundaries to suit the latest land-grab scheme, as opposed to sticking with survey monuments that were established by the original 1800’s GLO surveys, litigation is promoted, with neighbors being polarized. This is the genesis of the entire problem. If property lines in Sections 23, 24, 25 and 26 can be moved at the whim of a surveyor, where does it all end? Does the entire state need to be re-surveyed until we reach the initial point at the Boise Meridian? If this absurd approach is taken, then every landowning person in the state may need to be added to the Walker’s lawsuit..

Our surveying expert verified in short order that Charney’s Motion had stated completely wrong property descriptions and we were shocked to find that Charney had charged the Walkers an enormous amount of money for his so-called “legal work,” that was actually “aimed at throwing them under the bus.” We are currently attempting to obtain the exact amount Charney charged and will report on this soon.

Attorney Wesley W. Hoyt of Clearwater, Idaho was hired to help correct the mess that Charney and Erickson had created and he was able to retract the Motion that Charney had filed.

At this juncture, surveyor Pete Ketcham was hired by the Walkers to begin surveying the south line of section 24, because the Walkers knew the survey that Wellington had filed two years prior was incorrect. After much hard work, studying historical facts, Ketcham discovered the original, historic SW corner of section 24, which Wellington had overlooked. When found, Wellington recognized that the original stone found by Ketcham was indeed the actual GLO SW corner of Section 24 and he agreed to revise his survey recognizing this monument.

Hoyt subsequently appeared on Charney’s original lawsuit against the Grangeville Highway District and it was dismissed without prejudice because the suit did not name all adjoining landowners who would be affected by the Court’s ultimate boundary decision.

Surprisingly, surveyor Steve Wellington did a sudden “180” after having stated to the Walkers’ in the presence of third parties that he would place the southern boundary of the Walkers’ land at its original GLO location, which was much further south than Chad Erickson’s line (and south of Wellington’s previous line); then he changed his mind without informing his client. He had previously stated that he was accepting the original stone found by Pete Ketcham at the SW corner and the U.S. Government’s SE Angle Point, which was the basis for Ketcham’s south line. However, after he had allegedly conversed with Chad Erickson, he decided to use a line very close to Erickson’s line and recorded his Revised Record of Survey on October 15, 2015. This action really convoluted this case in that Erickson’s south line deprives the Walkers of over 35 acres of property that was originally part of Section 24, according to the expert surveyors we have spoken with. This is a “wealth transfer by



Steve Wellington



Hunter Edwards



Dorothy and the late Butch Walker

surveyor” which is not permitted by any law that we know of.

What Wellington did was charge the Walkers \$30,059.36 for his work, while agreeing that the south line should be placed well below the contrived and calculated positions postulated by Erickson and Carl Edwards, which placement would have set the south line in its original GLO position and helped resolve the matter. Then by waiting over two years, he charged up a big bill, then surreptitiously changed his survey that the Walkers were relying upon to prove their lawsuit. I don’t know what the Board of Surveyors call this, but at the very least it is blatantly unethical - it is what I call stealing!

At this juncture, and tired of being cheated over and over by “professionals”, the Walkers hired two additional surveyors, Jeffrey Lucas (nationally recognized as an expert’s-expert) out of Alabama and “federal surveyor” Matt Mayberry of Hayden, Idaho. Mayberry recently filed a Record of Survey on the west line of Walker’s section 24. Both of these expert surveyors agree that Pete Ketcham’s south line and SW corner reflect the original GLO locations. The Walkers needed additional surveyors to survey their west line and to validate that their south line was correct.

Hoyt filed an amended lawsuit on July 16, 2015, naming adjoining property owners and he also named surveyor Hunter Edwards as a defendant, claiming slander of title for attempting to move the NW corner of Sec. 24, which had been accepted by all surveyors since 1902 (even Hunter Edward’s father did not question the historically recognized 1902 location of the NW corner).

Judge John Stegner would not allow Hoyt’s suit for slander of title because it added Edwards who was not an adjoining landowner, so Hoyt is now in the process of refiling the property line suit and will be filing a separate lawsuit against Hunter Edwards.

The evidence is mounting that original GLO monuments and “fraudulent stones” have been placed in the field by both Hunter Edwards and his father, Carl Edwards over the years; making them the chief suspects in a case for property theft.

On December 14, 2015 Judge Stegner extended the time for Hoyt to file the amended complaint with permission until February 8, 2016, so that all the adjoiners could be named and any other property owners whose boundary would truly be affected by the lawsuit.

THE IDAHO BOARD

Due to complaints reportedly received by the Idaho Board of Licensure of Professional Engineers and Professional Land Surveyors (Board) against Hunter Edwards, Chad Erickson and others, combined with the length of time (five-plus years) this dispute has been going on, the Board decided to move ahead with their obligations under the law.

The Board filed charges against Chad Erickson of Idaho County on October 28, 2015. Allegations contained in the complaint against Erickson include “fraud, misconduct and negligence in his survey report”. He was also accused by a client of “criminal and fraudulent misconduct”.

The Complainant in the case against Respondent Chad Erickson is the Board’s Executive Director Keith Simila. Simila’s

“Prayer for Relief” states, “In the case of default only, Complainant recommends that the Board take the following specific disciplinary action regarding the license issued and held by Respondent: the assessment of a \$5,000.00 fine, and a 3-year suspension of Respondent’s license.”

Executive Director Simila and the Board should be commended for beginning to hold this out of control surveyor accountable.

Steve Wellington surely must have started getting heart burn the moment he heard of the charges, as he had “jumped into bed” with Erickson and filed his amended Record of Survey, virtually a mirror image of the incorrect Erickson survey, just about one week prior to Erickson being charged.

Carl Edwards has retired from the practice of surveying. As for the Board’s charges against Hunter Edwards, we haven’t obtained any documents yet. We will report more on this issue when we obtain the actual alleged charges.

None of these surveyors (Carl and Hunter Edwards, Chad Erickson and Steve Wellington) have respected the regular pattern of surveying achieved by the original GLO survey of the 1800s and it is obvious to this writer that the motivation was to give an unfair advantage to adjacent property owners who gained significant amounts of property from these surveyor’s calculated boundary lines, which do not respect the original monument positions established by the GLO.

It is very clear that the Board has their work cut out for them. They have a real “Mess” on their hands because incompetent and/or unethical surveyors created it for them.

As for the Walkers, in September, 2015 Sydney (Butch) Walker passed away and now it is up to Dorothy to handle this literal nightmare all by herself. According to one highly qualified witness, “What the false surveys have done is allow some property owners, with a desire to steal from their neighbor(s), the opportunity to claim that moving fences and property boundary markers onto Walker land is justified”. According to Attorney Hoyt, “Bad surveying is an open door to theft of property.”

Dorothy Walker told me during a recent conversation, “I have to finish this, I am not going to allow people to take our property and I will certainly not allow surveyors to take advantage of me. Butch would want me to hold these people accountable.”

Walker is currently seeking a civil attorney to file suit against Chad Erickson, his fellow surveyor Steve Wellington and others.

Rest assured, I have a very good idea who originally put Carl Edwards up to starting this whole mess back in the 1970’s and I will be exposing them in the near future. This family and their cohorts think they are untouchable; however, they will find out quite the opposite when they read the evidence I have been compiling over the past two years.

Editor’s Note: If you have information, of any nature, on those involved call 541-474-7885 or send an email to editor@usobserver.com. We are specifically seeking information on Grangeville surveyors Hunter Edwards, his father, Carl Edwards, Chad Erickson and Steve Wellington. Also, landowner Mike Frei and his brother Jerry who is a Commissioner for the Grangeville Highway District, which is involved in this case. Mike Frei’s property adjoins property owned by Dorothy Walker.

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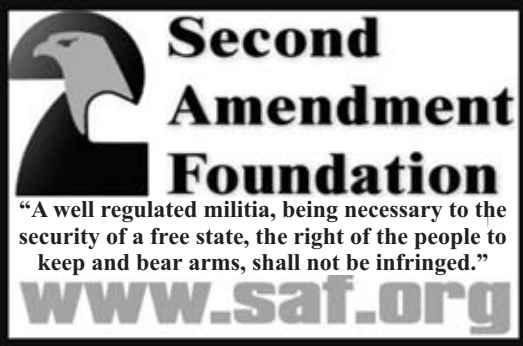
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By Edward Snook

(US~Observer) **The United States of America** – On May 25, 1787 our Founding Fathers were intently involved in great debate and decision making as they held their (our) Constitutional Convention at Philadelphia’s Pennsylvania State House. What form of government would the original 13 states adopt for what would eventually become “the greatest nation on the face of the earth”?

The Convention ended and 81 year-old Benjamin Franklin was asked and responded to the following question: “Well, Doctor, what have we got, a republic or a monarchy?” With no hesitation whatsoever, Franklin responded, “A republic, if you can keep it.” What a dynamic and perceptive warning – “if you can keep it”.

FROM 1787 TO THE PRESENT

Obviously, Franklin knew that it would likely be impossible for the American people to keep their newly created and one of a kind Republic. Year after year, decade by decade, destructive human nature (greed, apathy, thirst for control/power, etc.) crept into our Republic, slowly rotting it from within. Crafty lawyers spun their deceptive webs throughout each of the three separate branches of the Republic, actually morphing them into a form of government quite unlike any other. These lawyers and their cohorts, mainly

Republic, Democracy or Police State?

corrupt politicians and major financial brokers created case law, administrative government, excessive taxation, countless rules, laws, expensive procedures, etc., which have factually wiped out our Republic, our Constitution and the rights (protections) that the Constitution was intended to provide to each of us. In short, all of their self-centered, evil ambitions have succeeded and we find ourselves living in 2015 under a form of government that is nothing more or less than a somewhat benevolent Police State, which disguises itself under the name Democracy.

The Police State that now governs the United States of America is often cruel to those being governed. Many innocent people suffer false arrest and then rush to a criminal defense attorney only to find that the legal help they were promised before paying their retainer conveniently disappeared. They often find that the very defense lawyer they hired did nothing more than lead them into an outrageously expensive procedural nightmare, where much that transpires has absolutely nothing to do with right or wrong, guilt or innocence.

While the Police State does lock up dangerous criminals in order to protect us, far too many innocent people are locked behind bars in America. Victimless crimes and the subsequent punishment for those actual non-crimes are literally out of control and the cost for this is massive and undeniable.

Law Enforcement, one segment of our Police State, is so heavily armed and bloated beyond belief that it has actually become a huge contributor to the bankrupt condition of our nation. Even though our “Justice System” purports to lack funding in many areas, it is obvious that it just can’t ever get enough

money. The System is making every attempt to self-fund by escalating fines, civil forfeitures, issuing excessive fees and overstating crime statistics in ongoing attempts to get the public to accept increased taxation. Law Enforcement has actually become its own branch of government in many ways and its force is used continuously by all other branches.

Our original three separate branches of government have become so intertwined (and unaccountable) that we really can’t recognize any of them as they were intended to be. Our Judicial Branch legislates, our Legislative Branch adjudicates and our Executive Branch does both. While we still refer to these branches of government as they have always been referred to, most Americans are ignorant to the fact that America actually has fifth branch called Administrative - the fourth being law enforcement.

Administrative government is absolutely unconstitutional, yet it does exist and it controls much of our daily lives. This adds substantial proof to the fact that our Constitution, in practice, no longer exists.

The subject of our government, our “freedom” and the many other attached issues run so deep that I could write volumes and barely scratch the surface. So many others have studied and written about these issues that it is mind boggling, but I have never read or heard anyone really tear the lid off of this subject and appropriately name our current form of government. I have now done so in this article and hopefully this will prompt others to ask questions and start demanding honest answers. If not, we will all watch our Police State evolve into something that is devoid of any benevolence whatsoever. ★★★

The Truth About Lie Detectors (aka Polygraph Tests)

(American Psychological Association) - Lie detector tests have become a popular cultural icon — from crime dramas to comedies to advertisements — the picture of a polygraph pen wildly gyrating on a moving chart is readily recognized symbol. But, as psychologist Leonard Saxe, PhD, (1991) has argued, the idea that we can detect a person's veracity by monitoring psychophysiological changes is more myth than reality. Even the term "lie detector," used to refer to polygraph testing, is a misnomer. So-called "lie detection" involves inferring deception through analysis of physiological responses to a structured, but unstandardized, series of questions.

The instrument typically used to conduct polygraph tests consists of a physiological recorder that assesses three indicators of autonomic arousal: heart rate/blood pressure, respiration, and skin conductivity. Most examiners today use computerized recording systems. Rate and depth of respiration are measured by pneumographs wrapped around a subject's chest. Cardiovascular activity is assessed by a blood pressure cuff. Skin conductivity (called the galvanic skin or electrodermal response) is measured through electrodes attached to a subject's fingertips.

The recording instrument and questioning techniques are only used during a part of the polygraph examination. A typical examination includes a pretest phase during which the technique is explained and each test question reviewed. The pretest interview is designed to ensure that subjects understand the questions and to induce a subject's concern about being deceptive. Polygraph examinations often include a procedure called a "stimulation test," which is a demonstration of the instrument's accuracy in detecting deception.

Several questioning techniques are commonly used in polygraph tests. The most widely used test format for subjects in criminal incident investigations is the Control Question Test (CQT). The CQT compares responses to "relevant" questions (e.g., "Did you shoot your wife?"), with those of "control" questions. The control questions are designed to control for the effect of the generally threatening nature of relevant questions. Control questions concern misdeeds that are similar to those being investigated, but refer to the subject's past and are usually broad in scope; for example, "Have you ever betrayed anyone who trusted you?"

A person who is telling the truth is assumed to fear control questions more than relevant questions. This is because control questions are designed to arouse a subject's concern about their past truthfulness, while relevant questions ask about a crime they know they did not commit. A pattern of greater physiological response to relevant questions than to control questions leads to a diagnosis of "deception." Greater response to control questions leads to a judgment of nondeception. If no difference is found between relevant and

control questions, the test result is considered "inconclusive."

An alternative polygraph procedure is called the Guilty Knowledge Test (GKT). A GKT involves developing a multiple-choice test with items concerning knowledge that only a guilty subject could have. A test of a theft suspect might, for example, involve questions such as "Was \$500, \$1,000, or \$5,000 stolen?" If only a guilty suspect knows the correct answer, a larger physiological reaction to a correct choice would indicate deception. With



a sufficient number of items, a psychometrically sound evaluation could be developed. GKTs are not widely employed, but there is great interest in doing so. One limitation of the GKT is that it can be used only when investigators have information that only a guilty subject would know. The interpretation of "no deception" is also a potential limitation, since it may indicate lack of knowledge rather than innocence.

The accuracy (i.e., validity) of polygraph testing has long been controversial. An underlying problem is theoretical: There is no evidence that any pattern of physiological reactions is unique to deception. An honest person may be nervous when answering truthfully and a dishonest person may be non-anxious. Also, there are few good studies that validate the ability of polygraph procedures to detect deception. As Dr. Saxe and Israeli psychologist Gershon Ben-Shahar (1999) note, "it may, in fact, be impossible to conduct a proper validity study." In real-world situations, it's very difficult to know what the truth is.

A particular problem is that polygraph research has not separated placebo-like effects (the subject's belief in the efficacy of the procedure) from the actual relationship between deception and their physiological responses. One reason that polygraph tests may appear to be accurate is that subjects who believe that the test works and that they can be detected may confess or will be very anxious when questioned. If this view is correct, the lie detector might be better called a fear detector.

Some confusion about polygraph test accuracy arises because they are used for different purposes, and for each context somewhat different theory and research is applicable. Thus, for example, virtually no research assesses the type of test and procedure used to screen individuals for jobs and security clearances. Most research has focused on specific incident testing. The cumulative research evidence suggests that CQTs detect deception better than chance, but with significant error rates, both of misclassifying

innocent subjects (false positives) and failing to detect guilty individuals (false negatives).

Research on the processes involved in CQT polygraph examinations suggests that several examiner, examinee, and situational factors influence test validity, as may the technique used to score polygraph charts. There is little research on the effects of subjects' differences in such factors as education, intelligence, or level of autonomic arousal.

Evidence indicates that strategies used to "beat" polygraph examinations, so-called countermeasures, may be effective. Countermeasures include simple physical movements, psychological interventions (e.g., manipulating subjects' beliefs about the test), and the use of pharmacological agents that alter arousal patterns.

Despite the lack of good research validating polygraph tests, efforts are on-going to develop and assess new approaches. Some work involves use of additional autonomic physiologic indicators, such as cardiac output and skin temperature. Such measures, however, are more specific to deception than polygraph tests. Other researchers, such as Frank Andrew Kozel, MD, have examined functional brain imaging as a measure of deception. Dr. Kozel's research team found that for lying, compared with telling the truth, there is more activation in five brain regions (Kozel et al., 2004). However, the results do not currently support the use of fMRI to detect deception in real world individual cases.

Polygraph testing has generated considerable scientific and public controversy. Most psychologists and other scientists agree that there is little basis for the validity of polygraph tests. Courts, including the United States Supreme Court (cf. U.S. v. Scheffer, 1998 in which Dr.'s Saxe's research on polygraph fallibility was cited), have repeatedly rejected the use of polygraph evidence because of its inherent unreliability. Nevertheless, polygraph testing continues to be used in non-judicial settings, often to screen personnel, but sometimes to try to assess the veracity of suspects and witnesses, and to monitor criminal offenders on probation. Polygraph tests are also sometimes used by individuals seeking to convince others of their innocence and, in a narrow range of circumstances, by private agencies and corporations.

The development of currently used "lie detection" technologies has been based on ideas about physiological functioning but has, for the most part, been independent of systematic psychological research. Early theorists believed that deception required effort and, thus, could be assessed by monitoring physiological changes. But such propositions have not been proven and basic research remains limited on the nature of deceptiveness. Efforts to develop actual tests have always outpaced theory-based basic research. Without a better theoretical understanding of the mechanisms by which deception functions, however, development of a lie detection technology seems highly problematic.

For now, although the idea of a lie detector may be comforting, the most practical advice is to remain skeptical about any conclusion wrung from a polygraph. ★★★

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By Joseph Snook

(US~Observer) - Have you ever been inside a courtroom? Strangely, I was on Facebook recently, reviewing posts, and a friend used the word "Crepuscular" to describe a photograph. It's a word that I did not know the meaning of; which is, lack of light. While pondering my thoughts, I couldn't help but see the commonality of this word in relation to the U.S. Criminal Justice System. You see, although there is light in a courtroom, it is almost always artificial light. Most courtrooms do not have natural light shining through windows. In eight years of attending hearings from coast-to-coast on behalf of the innocent, I have not seen one courtroom with windows. Maybe most courtrooms do not have windows for safety or privacy reasons? This relates to justice fittingly in that the perception of light (justice) is there, but in actuality, real light, or real justice is often absent, especially if you believe that one innocent being convicted, is one too many.

To elaborate, justice is supposed to be blind, yet many examples demonstrate the opposite. One example would consist of looking into criminal charges filed against police who allegedly abuse their authority, often resulting in the death or injury of U.S. Citizens. Far too often police seem to have a special shield barring them from criminal prosecution, which has contributed

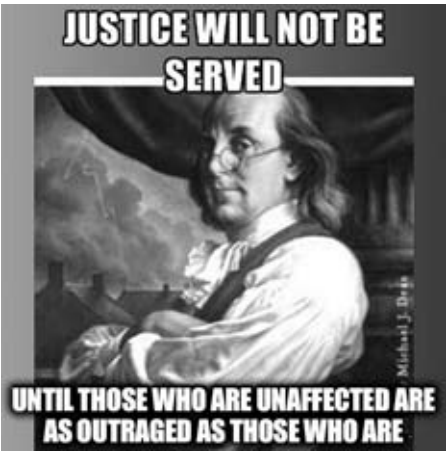
The U.S. Judicial System's Crepuscular Nature

toward lower public approval ratings. Although many shootings involving officers are justified, I've seen far too many that simply are not.

Another example would be plea bargains, also referred to as diversion. This entails someone charged with a crime, or several crimes, who is offered a plea deal which usually includes a lighter sentence offered in return for admitting some sort of guilt. Some Defense Attorney's like this option because plea bargaining can expedite their case load. Prosecutors like this tool because they would have you believe it saves money and lessens the court's burden. Is that necessarily true, or is that an artificial excuse to curtail real justice?

These are questions that would seem more appropriate for someone who is actually innocent, but still facing charges. Even though everyone is supposed to be presumed innocent until proven guilty, it would be absurd to believe this is actually how our courts work - and those who have been there can relate.

Plea bargains are common. In fact, statistics show that 90 - 97 percent of all criminal cases are resolved through the plea process. Let's say a prosecutor offers a deal to someone who is factually innocent that allows them to pay just \$225.00 with the stipulation they be a law



abiding citizen for 180 days, and all charges will be dismissed. They then threaten that same person (reiterate to them) that if they refuse the deal, they will be prosecuted to the maximum extent of the law; which in this case could be 10 years in prison, being a convicted felon, registering for life as a sex offender, the loss of voting power and gun rights, and much higher fines. Is that not crepuscular in nature – even abhorrent to the nature of justice? Who wouldn't take that deal? By most moral standards, the prosecutor has either committed a gross injustice against the alleged criminal (an innocent person), or, at the very least, a gross injustice against the alleged victim, if there was actually a crime committed.

These are just two examples of MANY.

I ask only one question; Is it worse to let one guilty person go free, or to convict an innocent? Assuming all can agree that there is no perfect system for justice, I believe we can equally agree that there is much work to be done for criminal justice reform. After all, WE - the land of the free, have the highest incarceration rate per capita in the world.

Do you have an example that shows how our judicial system lack's light?

★★★

Continued from page 1 • \$225.00 Buys Justice (Jessica Morton Story)

a long, costly war to convict her.

With trepidation Jessica reached out as her attorney handed her the written deal. Upon reading it, more than anything else, Jessica Morton felt angry and betrayed. She felt as if all of what she was made to endure was just trivialized by what literally amounted to a nothing Diversion deal; where 5 of the original 6 charges are summarily dropped if she pleads no contest to one charge that goes away after 180 days; and she pays \$225 in fees. The kicker is, in 1 year she can have her record expunged and it will be as if all of it never happened...

But it did happen, and no amount of “legal clerical cleaning” will erase the pain and financial loss she and her family have been put through.

“I burst into tears,” Jessica said of her reading the deal. “All of this time; me being stripped and photographed; the tens of thousands I have paid for my defense; and the tens of thousands of dollars spent of the taxpayer's money trying to imprison me for something I didn't do comes down to them fining me \$225? People pay speeding tickets that are more costly than that! Where is the justice?”

Where, indeed...

Had Jessica Morton been the sex-crazed counselor the District Attorney's office attempted to make her appear to be to the public, how would this deal bring any semblance of justice? Especially to the manufactured victim,

Tyler Watson? It wouldn't. And, if the obvious assumption that the DA just wanted to get rid of this case by offering a “nothing” deal, because his office couldn't prove her guilt, then why not just drop her charges? Simple. They aren't interested in actual justice, just the perception that they are. It is an unfortunate truth. Bottom line, this is just an extorted deal that attempts to keep a scared girl from pursuing legal civil action against a county who lets their district attorneys run rampant on victims of false allegations.

Luckily for Jessica Morton, she found a voice in the US~Observer. It was only through the US~Observer's tenacity and continued pressure that the DA finally bowed to the point that he all but admitted Jessica's innocence by offering this deal – a deal unlike anything before seen in the 25 years of publishing the US~Observer – a newspaper dedicated to vindicating the innocent.

It's a deal that quite frankly is too good to not take. It is a deal that completely vindicates Jessica Morton as there is NO ADMISSION OF GUILT required, something she would never be able to do if they asked it of her. She simply couldn't leave her fate up to a jury who might be



Jessica Morton and daughter

there to administer justice to whomever the prosecutor points out, even if that possibility were only a one percent chance. It's that simple.

On December 17, 2015 at 1 pm, Jessica Morton accepted the deal. She took it because to keep fighting, for something they have literally admitted (her innocence), will leave her family penniless and her life on hold – particularly her relationship with her young daughter. And she took it to show the world the type of extortion the Josephine County District Attorney's Office (any prosecutor's office) is capable of.

One thing is sure, even while this chapter comes to an end, the Jessica Morton story is far from over.

As for DA Ryan Mulkins and ADA Matt Corey, they have shown a great many people, who they purportedly serve, that justice just isn't their thing.

Edward Snook's Note: This case is also far from over for me. I attempted to show the prosecutors the evidence that proved Jessica's innocence, but Matthew Corey wouldn't listen. DA Ryan Mulkins covered to his assistant and they now have the US~Observer back in their lives, permanently...

★★★

Continued from page 9 • What's in Store for Our Freedoms This Year?

shots). Politics in America is a game, a joke, a hustle, a con, a distraction, a spectacle, a sport, and for many devout Americans, a religion. In other words, it's a sophisticated ruse aimed at keeping us divided and fighting over two parties whose priorities are exactly the same.

More drones. As corporations and government agencies alike prepare for their part in the coming drone invasion—it is expected that at least 30,000 drones will occupy U.S. airspace by 2020, ushering in a \$30 billion per year industry—it won't be long before American citizens who will be the target of these devices discover first-hand that drones—unmanned aerial vehicles—come in all shapes and sizes, from nano-sized drones as small as a grain of sand that can do everything from conducting surveillance to detonating explosive charges, to middle-sized copter drones that can deliver pizzas to massive “hunter/killer” Predator warships that unleash firepower from on high.

More dumbed down, locked down public schools. Our schools have become training grounds for compliant citizens. Despite the fact that we spend more than most of the world on education (\$115,000 per student), we rank 36th in the world when it comes to math, reading and science, far below most of our Asian counterparts. Even so, we continue to insist on standardized programs such as Common Core, which teach students to be test-takers rather than thinkers. Making matters worse is the heavy police presence in schools, which have become little more than quasi-prisons in which classrooms are locked down and kids as young as age 4 are being handcuffed for “acting up,” subjected to body searches, and suspended for childish behavior.

More ignorance about our rights. Americans know little to nothing about their rights or how the government is supposed to operate. This includes educators and politicians. For example, 27 percent of elected officials cannot name even one right or freedom guaranteed by the First Amendment, while 54 percent do not know the Constitution gives Congress the power to declare war.

More prisons. Our prisons, housing the largest

number of inmates in the world and still growing, have become money-making enterprises for private corporations that manage the prisons in exchange for the states agreeing to maintain a 90% occupancy rate for at least 20 years. And how do you keep the prisons full? By passing laws aimed at increasing the prison population, including the imposition of life sentences on people who commit minor or nonviolent crimes such as siphoning gasoline. Little surprise, then, that the United States has 5% of the world's population, but 25% of the world's prisoners.

More corruption. If there is any absolute maxim by which the federal government seems to operate, it is that the American taxpayer always gets ripped off. This is true, whether you're talking about taxpayers being forced to fund high-priced weaponry that will be used against us, endless wars that do little for our safety or our freedoms, or bloated government agencies such as the National Security Agency with its secret budgets, covert agendas and clandestine activities. Rubbing salt in the wound, even monetary awards in lawsuits against government officials who are found guilty of wrongdoing are paid by the taxpayer.

More censorship. First Amendment activities are being pummeled, punched, kicked, choked, chained and generally gagged all across the country. The reasons for such censorship vary widely from political correctness, safety concerns and bullying to national security and hate crimes but the end result remains the same: the complete eradication of what Benjamin Franklin referred to as the “principal pillar of a free government.” Free speech zones, bubble zones, trespass zones, anti-bullying legislation, zero tolerance policies, hate crime laws and a host of other legalistic maladies dreamed up by politicians and prosecutors have conspired to corrode our core freedoms. As a result, we are no longer a nation of constitutional purists for whom the Bill of Rights serves as the ultimate authority. We have litigated and legislated our way into a new governmental framework where the dictates of petty bureaucrats carry greater weight than the inalienable rights of the citizenry.

More fascism. As a Princeton University

survey indicates, our elected officials, especially those in the nation's capital, represent the interests of the rich and powerful rather than the average citizen. We are no longer a representative republic. With Big Business and Big Government having fused into a corporate state, the president and his state counterparts—the governors, have become little more than CEOs of the Corporate State, which day by day is assuming more government control over our lives. Never before have average Americans had so little say in the workings of their government and even less access to their so-called representatives.

More fear. We're being fed a constant diet of fear, which has resulted in Americans adopting an “us” against “them” mindset that keeps us divided into factions, unable to reach consensus about anything and too distracted to notice the police state closing in on us.

James Madison, the father of the Constitution, put it best: “Take alarm,” he warned, “at the first experiment with liberties.” Anyone with even a casual knowledge about current events knows that the first experiment on our freedoms happened long ago. Worse, we have not heeded the warnings of Madison and those like him who understood that if you give the government an inch, they will take a mile. Unfortunately, the government has not only taken a mile, they have taken mile after mile after mile after mile with seemingly no end in sight for their power grabs.

If you're in the business of making New Year's resolutions, why not resolve that 2016 will be the year we break the cycle of tyranny and get back on the road to freedom? No matter what the politicians say about the dire state of our nation, you can rest assured that none of the problems that continue to plague our lives and undermine our freedoms will be resolved by our so-called elected representatives in any credible, helpful way in the new year.

“We the people”—the citizenry, not the politicians—are the only ones who have ever been able to enact effective change, and there is a lot that needs to change.

All of the signs point to something nasty up ahead.

★★★

Passports Required for Domestic Travel This Year, But IRS Can Revoke Passports for Unpaid Taxes

By Robert W. Wood

(Forbes) - Think you only need a passport to board an international flight? In 2016, some fliers better have one to fly domestic, which means they had better be paying their taxes. It now looks as though your passport could be cancelled if you owe the IRS. The Real ID Act created a national standard for state-issued IDs. It hits air travel in 2016. Some states initially refused to comply, fearing that the feds would make a national database of citizens. Others cited high administrative costs and a 50% increase in fees for drivers. Most states are OK, but millions in Louisiana, Minnesota, New Hampshire and New York may have to start using a passport to fly domestically.

Those states skipped the stricter standards for state-issued IDs. As a result, the TSA could insist on passports rather than driver’s licenses to board flights. The TSA will accept \$55 passport cards and \$135 passport books as valid identification. But some advice says that people in Minnesota should get passports by January 2016 to fly domestically. New York has been granted a waiver, so any driver’s license should still work. Louisiana has a waiver until Oct. 10, 2016, meaning that existing driver’s licenses work there too. Ditto for New Hampshire which has a waiver until June 1, 2016.

The easy answer may be to dig out your passport to avoid any doubt. Yet the IRS may have something to say about whether your passport is any good. H.R.22 has passed both the House and the Senate. It is expected to pass and be signed into law, adding new section 7345 to the tax code. The title of the section is “Revocation or Denial of Passport in Case of Certain Tax Delinquencies.”

The idea goes back to 2012, when the Government Accountability Office reported on the potential for using the issuance of passports to collect taxes. Sen. Harry Reid (D-Nev.) got on board, and then Sen. Orrin Hatch wrote a Memo to Reporters and Editors. The idea has grown in popularity since then. The State Department could revoke, deny or limit passports for anyone the IRS certifies as having a seriously delinquent tax debt in an amount in excess of \$50,000.

In January of 2016, the State Department will start blocking Americans with ‘seriously delinquent’ tax debts. Administrative details about how all this will work are scant. But in all likelihood, it will mean no new passport and no renewal. It could even mean the State Department will rescind existing passports of people who fall into that category.

The list of affected taxpayers will be compiled by the IRS. The IRS will use a threshold of \$50,000 of unpaid federal taxes. But this \$50,000 figure includes penalties and interest. And as everyone knows, interest and penalties can add up fast. Notably, if you are contesting a proposed tax bill administratively with the IRS



or in court, that should not count. That is not yet a tax debt.

There is also an administrative exception, allowing the State Department to issue a passport in an emergency or for humanitarian reasons. But how that will work isn’t clear, nor is the amount of time it will take to get special dispensation. You would still be able to travel if your tax debt is being paid in a timely manner, as under a signed installment agreement.

Yet the dynamics are still significant and could drastically alter how people interact with the IRS. Moreover, these harsh rules are not limited to criminal tax cases. They aren’t even limited to situations where the government thinks that you are fleeing a tax debt. In fact, you could have your passport revoked merely because you owe more than \$50,000 and the IRS has filed a notice of lien.

A \$50,000 tax debt is easy to amass today, especially considering interest and penalties. Moreover, the IRS files tax liens routinely. It’s the IRS way of putting creditors on notice so the IRS eventually gets paid. In that sense, the you-can’t-travel idea seems extreme. IRS tax liens cover all your property, even acquired after the lien is filed. The courts use liens to establish priority in bankruptcy proceedings and real estate sales. The IRS can file a Notice of Federal Tax Lien after:

- IRS assesses the liability;
- IRS sends a Notice and Demand for Payment saying how much you owe; and
- You fail to fully pay within 10 days.

A tax lien can also be filed by mistake. In most cases, there’s no mistake and the IRS lien is valid. But occasionally, the person might not actually owe the taxes and may just need to straighten out a pile of paperwork. With all this in mind, if this becomes law, is it subject to challenge? Is it constitutional? The right to travel is established, both between states and internationally. And although some restrictions have been upheld, it is not clear that this measure would pass the constitutional test.

Consider especially the roughly eight million Americans living overseas, many of whom are already reeling from FATCA compliance problems. Moreover, although we think of passports as useful only when traveling internationally, even stateside flights may soon make passports even more fundamental.

★★★

Cop punished for exposing arrest quotas to get over \$155K

By Bruce Golding

(NY Post) - New York City will pay out more than \$285,000 and clear the record of a hero cop who was repeatedly punished by NYPD brass for exposing arrest quotas in a Bronx precinct, his lawyers announced today.

Craig Matthews — one of two cops who blew away a crazed gunman outside the Empire State Building in 2012 — will pocket \$125,000 in damages and more than \$30,000 in lost overtime in a deal to settle his federal civil rights suit.

The city will also toss a negative 2011 work evaluation and free Matthews from “command monitoring” of his job performance.

The New York Civil Liberties Union, which has represented Matthews since 2012, will collect \$130,000 under the agreement.

“This settlement completely vindicates Officer Matthews, who had the courage to speak out about illegal police quotas and suffered serious retaliation for having done so,” NYCLU Associate Legal Director Christopher Dunn said.

Matthews alleged that he got lousy assignments and reviews, was denied overtime and leave, and was separated from his longtime



Craig Matthews

partner for revealing a “highly developed quota system” at the 42nd Precinct. He claimed that supervisors used color-coded computer reports to track the number of arrests, summonses and stops made by each cop in the precinct.

A judge initially threw out Matthews’ case on grounds that he didn’t qualify for First Amendment protection because he raised his complaints as a public employee.

But the US Second Circuit Court of Appeals reversed that decision and revived the suit in February, ruling that “Matthews’ comments on precinct policy did not fall within his official duties” and that “he spoke as a citizen.”

A spokesman for the city Law Department said settling Matthews’ case “was in the city’s best interest.”

The NYPD, which denies the existence of arrest quotas, didn’t immediately return a request for comment.

★★★

9 Steps to Surviving a Live Shooter Situation



(The Libertarian Republic) - Recently, Washington, D.C. chief of police Cathy Lanier spoke on how people should react to active shooter situations. In what caused many to scoff, Lanier said that authorities are no longer teaching passivity in response to open threats. Such advice runs contrary to what police have recommended for decades when encountering a potentially violent threat.

“Your options are run, hide or fight,” Lanier said. “If you’re in a position to try and take the gunman down, to take the gunman out, it’s the best option for saving lives before police get there.”

Lanier’s advice echoes what experts in security and law enforcement are now saying: if you cannot flee or hide, you must be prepared to fight by any means necessary.

Here are some must-dos when it comes to preparing for and responding to a live shooter. It may be grim to consider, but these steps could save your or your loved ones’ lives. We’ve complied this information based in part off of the information put together by the Art of Manliness.

1. Maintain Situational Awareness

This a preparatory step that will increase your chances of survival in the event any dangerous situation arises. Situational awareness is about being in a relaxed but alert state—it means being perceptive of the people around you and the places you visit. What sights and sounds are normal for this environment? If you see or hear something (gun shots) out of place, you will already know you need to act. Where are the nearest exits? Knowing how to get out of any place as quickly as possible can be invaluable in a crisis where confusion causes mass panic.

It may surprise people but often when an emergency is transpiring many individuals do nothing. There minds cannot process the situation, they haven’t mentally prepared for what to do, and the desire for things to be normal and to be seen as non reactive can cause people to become inactive when seconds count. Make a conscious effort to be aware of your surrounding.

2. Mentally Prepare

The thoughts are grim and unpleasant, but if you want to survive a live shooting or terrorist attack, you have to consider what you would do in a given situation. This is the second part of being situationally aware. Now you know what sights and sounds to watch for and where your nearest exits are. When lives are on the line split seconds can make a huge difference.

Now you know what you’re looking for. What will you do if you hear shots? Which exit(s) will you run to in what events? Are there any hiding places nearby? How about objects that could be used as a weapon?

If something does happen and you have to react....

3. Run

Your first reaction if something is wrong should be to get you and whomever you are with out of danger. Find the nearest exit and go. Do not wait for others to react or to see what is wrong. If you see or hear something you know isn’t right your first instinct should be the flee. According to FBI, most active shootings are over in under 2 minutes. This means avoidance can be a huge life saver.

If you cannot run or exits aren’t available...



4. Hide

Again, most of the violence is going to be over in a typical situation in under two minutes. If you can’t get out find a good hiding spot, or any hiding spot at all in a pinch.

Depending on where your hiding spot is and how quiet you have to be, you may contact police at this time. Never assume someone already has.

If you cannot run or hide, you have one option left....

5. Fight

If you cannot get out and there is nowhere to hide you MUST be ready to fight by any means necessary. While armed civilians are ideal in the situation, chances are most people will not have a gun on them. In this case you must find a weapon— a blunt object, a chair, a fire extinguisher—anything that can be used to attack your assailant.

The thought of confronting an armed suspect is scary. But it is literally fight or die at this point. Another thing, it is important to keep in mind that most shooters do not expect active resistance. They pick soft targets so they do not need to worry about people fighting back. But as the three heroes on the Paris train proved, unarmed men can takedown and disarm individuals intent on doing harm. In fact, even an active and well armed shooter would have trouble defending themselves against a crowd wielding blunt objects.

As Chris Norman, the British man who helped disarm the would-be Paris train terrorist said, “My thought was, ‘OK, I’m probably going to die anyway, so let’s go.’ I’d rather die being active, trying to get him down, than simply sit in the corner and be shot. Either you sit down and you die or you get up and you die. It was really nothing more than that.”

6. Be Aggressive and Violent

Once you have decided to fight you MUST commit to be as aggressive and violent as you can. There is no time for half-hearted measures. If you must engage you must do so fiercely.

Understand most shooters do not expect confrontation. Charging at them violently or physically engaging them will not only be unexpected, which causes them to lose focus and control, but it could save many lives. Again, make use of improvised weapons. Many things around you could be used to bludgeon, stab, or otherwise wound an assailant.

7. Teamwork

Remember the people who overcame the terrorists on flight 93 on September 11, 2001, or the heroes of the Paris train attack. When a group of individuals work together to face down the threat you chances of success are much greater. Coordinate, encourage people to improvise weapons, and make a plan to confront the threat.

Might some of you get shot? Yes, but inaction will leave you all dead. Remember...



8. Control the Weapon, Control the Situation: Image provided by 3eselfdefense.com

You do not need to kill the threat, though if you can it is ideal. But the goal of you and your team when you prepare to face a threat should be to disarm the assailant. If you control the weapons you neutralize the threat. Even if you can’t get the weapon out of the shooter’s hands, grabbing it allows you to point it away from harm and the gunman is now locked in a physical struggle with you instead of shooting innocents.

If the gun is a semi-automatic pistol, you can grab the barrel. The chambered round may still go off, but holding the action will prevent another round from being chambered.

It’s important to know from the start...

9. Help is Not Going to Arrive in Time

Do not fool yourself into believing police will save you. In most mass shootings most of the killing has already occurred before authorities arrive on the scene. Police can only respond after the fact.

If you want to be safe it is up to you to be aware and have a plan of action ahead of time. It may seem grim, but it’s the way you should train yourself to think in this day and age.

★★★

Jury Says Innocent, Judge Says Guilty; Who Wins?

By Joseph Snook

(US~Observer) - In late 2015 John W. was tried before a jury for allegedly committing two crimes: Criminal threats (a serious violent felony in CA. - considered a strike), and brandishing a firearm. The result of his trial is something many in the United States may not know, but should - If you are found innocent by a jury, in some cases, a judge may still order you to be incarcerated.

John adamantly denied committing the alleged crimes. Believing in his innocence, John refused multiple plea deals he was offered, taking his chances in court. John was facing a "strike" crime in California that carried a 9 year maximum sentence in prison if convicted.

CASE BACKGROUND

John was at an auto service shop, after hours, attempting to work on his broken down vehicle that was stored at that location, where it had been purchased from, when the business owner's two sons arrived. Not knowing John, they told him to leave. Attempting to avoid conflict, John left, then returned later so that he could attempt to fix his vehicle. Shortly after returning, the two sons also returned. The brothers ensued in a verbal altercation with

John, allegedly threatening bodily harm. One of the brother's later admitted to being a trained "MMA Fighter."

John left the scene, but the account of how, was the crux of John's defense. First, John immediately attempted to leave the scene, which was not disputed. Second, the brother who was a trained MMA fighter followed John by, walking at a "brisk" pace in his direction. According to John, as the brother closed in on him, bodily threats were continuously made. In fear of his life, John pulled out a bb gun which stopped the brother in his tracks. As the brother backed away, John left the scene without physical conflict.

The police were called, resulting in John's arrest, and criminal charges being filed.

TRIAL

While preparing for trial, John's attorney discovered that the prosecutor had filed one of the charges incorrectly. According to California State law, a bb gun is not a firearm, it is an, "imitation firearm", which would

require a different charge in order to bear legal weight. John's attorney planned on asking the Judge to acquit John of this charge after the state finished putting on their case, since John did not commit the alleged crime he was charged with. Shockingly, just minutes before the state rested their case, the Judge instructed the prosecutor of what John's attorney had already known - a bb gun is not a firearm. In disbelief, John's attorney objected to the judge giving legal advice to the prosecution during trial.

Furthermore, John's attorney stated that a judge had never offered legal advice to him during a trial in the many years he had been practicing law.

The judge overruled the objection by John's attorney, and allowed the prosecution to amend John's charges to, "brandishing an imitation firearm." One brother testified that he had no knowledge the "gun" was a bb gun, yet during the call made to 911, he clearly told the dispatcher that John had threatened him with - you guessed it - a bb gun!

It didn't take long before the jury reached a not guilty verdict for both crimes.



NOT GUILTY, but that wasn't the end of John's case.

John was already on probation from a previous plea deal. The jury did not have knowledge of this since John never testified, which prevented the prosecutor from cross-examining John, questioning his character and informing the jury of his probation status.

In California, even though a person has a right to trial by jury for new charges, the judge decides the issue of whether the defendant violated probation. The standard of proof at a jury trial is beyond a reasonable doubt while the standard of proof at a probation violation hearing is a preponderance of the evidence.

So, the trial was had. The jury returned not guilty verdicts on both counts. After the jury left, the judge found that John had violated his probation based upon the same evidence the jury heard. The judge then sentenced John to the maximum that she could under the law, which was 180 days in jail.

John's case is a clear example of how one-sided the U.S. criminal justice system has become. John is now an added statistic that embodies the rarely talked about hypocrisy of the United States' claim to be the land of the free, yet we house what amounts to 25% of the world's prisoners while we only make up 5% of the world's population.

★★★

Entire Florida Police Dept Busted Laundered Tens of Millions for International Drug Cartels

By Justin Gardner

(Free Thought Project) - Bal Harbour, FL – The village of Bal Harbour, population 2,513, may have a tiny footprint on the northern tip of Miami Beach, but its police department had grand aspirations of going after international drug traffickers, and making a few million dollars while they were at it.

The Bal Harbour PD and the Glades County Sheriff's Office set up a giant money laundering scheme with the purported goal of busting drug cartels and stemming the surge of drug dealing going on in the area. But it all fell apart when federal investigators and the Miami-Herald found strange things going on.

The two-year operation, which took in more than \$55 million from criminal groups, resulted in zero arrests but netted \$2.4 million for the police posing as money launderers. Members of the 12-person task force traveled far and wide to carry out their deals, from Los Angeles to New York to Puerto Rico.

Along the way, the small-town cops got a taste of luxury as they used the money for first-class flights, luxury hotels, Mac computers and submachine guns. Meanwhile, the Bal Harbour PD and Glades County Sheriffs were

buying all sorts of fancy new equipment.

Besides these “official” uses of the money, confidential records obtained by the Miami-Herald show that officers withdrew hundreds of thousands of dollars with no record of where the money went.

“They were like bank robbers with badges,” said Dennis Fitzgerald, an attorney and former Drug Enforcement Administration agent who taught undercover tactics for the U.S. State Department. “It had no law enforcement objective. The objective was to make money.”

The operation, which was not fully reported to federal authorities, funneled millions of dollars to overseas criminals and interfered with investigations being carried out on known money launderers.

The latest revelations show that at least 20 people in Venezuela were sent drug money from the Florida cops, including William Amaro Sanchez, the foreign minister under Hugo Chavez and now special assistant to President Nicolas Maduro.

They wired a total of \$211,000 to Sanchez, even while the U.S. government was

investigating Venezuelan government leaders involved in the drug trade. Instead of reporting their knowledge of Sanchez to federal agencies, the cops went on laundering money, taking their cut, and all the while aiding Sanchez in his machinations, which likely included political corruption.

Four other Venezuelan criminals and smugglers were major recipients of the millions being wired from the Bal Harbour PD and Glades County Sheriff's Office, including a figure tied to one of the largest drug cartels in the hemisphere.

These actions violated strict federal bans on sending illegal money overseas, and the Florida cops never investigated the backgrounds of the people receiving their laundered drug money.

“I can't think of a more podunk town than Bal Harbour — not in a bad way. But in the sense that these cops would have otherwise been stopping traffic or shooting radar,” said Ruben Oliva, who has represented alleged narco-traffickers since the 1980s. “In reality they were being launderers. The minute they started doing busts, it would have been over. “This is like a movie. You’ve got these guys and they’re flying all over. They’re saying, ‘Hey, I’m in the big leagues.’ I’ve seen every kind of law enforcement money-laundering investigations. I’ve never seen anything like this. It’s really one for the ages.”

there are no records to show where the money was spent. “In all my years of law enforcement, I’ve never seen anything like it,” Chief Overton said.

• Bal Harbour officials say they cannot find receipts for hundreds of thousands in expenses, including five-star hotel bookings, dinners that ran up to \$1,000 and scores of purchases like laptops, iPads, electronic money counters, flower deliveries, and even iTunes downloads.

• While posing as launderers, police delivered nearly \$20 million to storefront businesses in Miami-Dade to launder the money for drug groups — gathering critical evidence against the business owners — yet took no action against them. Years later, the businesses are still open, some still suspected by federal agents of laundering for cartels.”

Cash deposits to SunTrust Bank totaling \$28 million do not appear anywhere in police records. It's no coincidence that the operation was launched “at a time law enforcement agencies across Florida were looking to boost their budgets during one of the state's toughest economic periods.”

“We had to find a revenue stream,” said Duane Pottorff, chief of law enforcement for Glades. “It allowed us to have resources we wouldn't normally have.”

Federal authorities and the Florida Department of Law Enforcement have launched probes into the Bal Harbour police, which will surely confirm the rampant abuses of power. However, the fact that these types of shady operations, carried out with the help of agencies such as Immigration and Customs Enforcement, can occur at all is even more troubling.

Government creates a black market of drugs and blood money through prohibition, then under the War on Drugs it grants itself the power to break the law and get involved in money laundering operations. While the professed goal is to “sting” the bad guys, government rakes in millions upon millions of dollars to further bolster its prohibition and war on drugs.

The War on Drugs is the real scheme that should be investigated.

★★★

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After the Department of Justice busted the Bal Harbour PD for misspending seized money to pay police salaries, the Miami-Herald began deeper investigations and found a much bigger pool of money that was never noticed by the feds. Soon after that, the ambitious sting operation—which was really a money-making scheme—began to fall apart.

“The Miami Herald gained unprecedented access to the confidential records of the undercover investigation, reviewing thousands of records including cash pickup reports, emails, DEA reports, bank statements and wire transfers for millions of dollars. The inquiry found:

- Police routinely withdrew cash — thousands at a time — totaling \$1.3 million from undercover bank accounts, but to this day*

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Are You Facing False Criminal Charges? Have You Been a Victim of False Prosecution?



Welcome to the largest racket in history: The American Justice System

If you are facing false charges and a prosecution then you are aware of how the 'justice' industry (racket) in America works. You (the innocent person) have been 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 huge retainer to cover the usual \$175.00 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, you're found guilty (because your attorney hasn't produced enough evidence-if any and because the judge directs the jury to find you guilty) and then 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.

There is only one way to remedy a false prosecution: Obtain conclusive evidence, 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?

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.

**"One false prosecution is one too many
and any act of immunity is simply a government
condoned crime." - Edward Snook, US~Observer**

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Reno Francis

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Status: Released



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my respect. Ed (investigative reporter)
has all of my respect. I love him very
much."

Sarah Walker

Victim: DHS Abuse

Status: Dismissed

"Thank you. Thank you so much.
We can finally move on with life."



Michael Young

Charges: Felony Sex Abuse

Status: Dismissed



"Without the US~Observer's help, the
outcome would not have been what it is
today. Jen and I are more appreciative
than you could imagine."

Armando Garcia

Charges: Felony Rape

Status: Acquitted

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side of someone who was being accused
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