



**PRACTICAL APPLICATIONS FOR THE
AMERICAN TERRORISM STUDY COURT
RECORD REPOSITORY**

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ABOUT THE PROJECT

The American Terrorism Study Court Record Repository (ATSCoRR) is an online platform that provides access to data and documents stored in the American Terrorism Study database. It was built in collaboration between the Terrorism Research Center (TRC) and Center for Advanced Spatial Technologies (CAST) at the University of Arkansas. This document outlines several examples of cases in which ATSCoRR has been used by practitioners and researchers.

For more information about the TRC and its research, or to request access to the ATSCoRR, please visit terrorismresearch.uark.edu or contact us at trc@uark.edu directly.



Development of ATSCoRR was funded by the National Institute of Justice (Award Number 2018-ZA-CX-0003). Learn more about the award and NIJ's Research and Evaluation on Prevention and Mitigation of Domestic Pathways to Terrorism research portfolio [here](#).



TIMELINE OF SEDITIOUS CONSPIRACY CASES

- **1980s**
Fuerzas Armadas Liberación Nacional, United Freedom Front, Fort Smith Sedition Trial
- **1990s**
New York City Landmark plots
- **2000s**
Portland Seven, Virginia Jihad Network, Jam'iyat Ul-Islam Is-Saheeh, Liberty City Seven
- **2010s**
Hutaree Militia Members
- **2020s**
Oath Keepers & Proud Boys
January 6th Capitol Siege Cases

Pictured: Oath Keepers leader Stewart Rhodes who was indicted on Seditious Conspiracy charges in 2022; Photo: Getty Images

EXAMPLE 1: PROSECUTORIAL STRATEGY

Success in criminal cases from a prosecutorial standpoint is most easily measured in conviction rates. Terrorism cases are often extremely complex and pose several challenges to securing convictions. For example, when charging individuals who are not connected to a foreign-based ideology or group, prosecutors must still rely on conventional criminal statutes to try unconventional cases and defendants. ATSCoRR provides examples of navigating such applications in a format that allows prosecutors to evaluate the strategies and charges that have “worked” in the past and those that have not, resulting in dismissals or acquittals.

In 2022, following the January 6, 2021 siege on the U.S. Capitol Building, members of the Oath Keepers (an anti-government extremist militia group) and the Proud Boys (self-described “Western Chauvinists”) were charged with Seditious Conspiracy. When compared with other charges in the ATS database, sedition charges are extremely rare and make up only a small proportion of criminal counts. ATSCoRR includes data on seditious conspiracy charges and provides a unique window into the challenges of trying cases based on the statute. Further analysis of these cases based on ATSCoRR data and associated documents is available in a research brief [here](#) or by visiting the TRC website.



EXAMPLE 2: DEFENDANT BEHAVIOR

Previous ATS research has shown that federal terrorism defendants behave differently from their conventional criminal counterparts. There is perhaps no group that better exemplifies such differences than defendants who identify as Sovereign Citizens, an ideological movement whose adherents engage in what the Federal Bureau of Investigation has labeled “paper terrorism.”

In federal court, paper terrorism often consists of filing false liens, mounting defenses referencing antiquated legal codes that suggest U.S. courts lack jurisdiction, or filing lengthy bogus motions that can be challenging for prosecutors and other court personnel to respond to appropriately and expeditiously. An example of such documentation can be found on the next page.

Additionally, Sovereign Citizens often see trials and court proceedings as an opportunity to “face the enemy,” and espouse their anti-government ideologies.

For prosecutors and judges who are facing Sovereign Citizen defendants for the first time, having exemplars for how the justice system has responded in previous cases could be useful. ATSCoRR contains hundreds of pages of Sovereign Citizen cases, including some that predate that Sovereign Citizen label, such as the indictment of members of the Sheriff’s Posse Comitatus and the Montana Freeman. With these resources, prosecutors can better prepare themselves for responding to and mitigating the impact of such unconventional strategies.

CASE EXAMPLE: 99-CR-117 (MT)

SOVEREIGN CITIZEN COURT FILING EXAMPLE

Rodney Owen., Rex/sui juri stage
 [c/o their U.S. 'satanic' Reg. (05183-046) per Rev.13:18]
 [of their god, 'Satan'; non-residential mail at] t.d.c.,
 [P.O.Box 68976; SeaTac, F.D.C., 4A-42]
 Seattle
 Washington state
 America Union 'Zip Code' exempt/non-negotiable
 'without the United States'

Docket per: File No. 777
 CL-0096-JF-07-13 et al.,
 Date: 20 May, A.D., 1999
 Time: 4:30 p.m.

Rodney Owen Seal:
 Rodney Owen., office of clerk and recorder
 in and for Justus township, Montana state

in and for Yellowstone county Court for "The United States of America", sitting with the power of a national Judicial circuit Court, Montana state, America Union, Claims Division, in re. MDL SC-CR-007-Montana

Montana People,
 Rodney Owen; LeRoy Michael;
 Daniel E. Petersen; et al.,
 Justices' and Creditors,

vs.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,
 a/w/a, United States, i.e.,
 a Federal corporation, per
 Title 28, U.S.C. §3002(15)(A);
 Sherry Scheel-Mattaucci;
 James E. Seykora; Richard W.
 Anderson; James M. Burns;
 John C. Coughenour; Jane and John
 Doe, one thru one thousand, i.e.,
 U.S. citizens,
 Defendants and Debtors.

) Judicial Docket No. CL-0096-JF-07-13 et al.,
 Common Law Venue, original exclusive jurisdiction
 General Appearance in our Commonwealth of Israel.
)
) Notice of Appeal in the Nature of Writ of
) Error Coram Nobis, In Law and fact, per Rules:
) Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure, Rule 32
) (a)(2)(c)(5); Federal Rules of Appellate Procedure
) Rule 3(b)(d), with Rules of Civil Procedure,
) Rule 60 (b); "without prejudice" 2nd Presentment
) JUDICIAL Notice of 'Facts' by Letter Rogatory,
) Eleventh Amendment a 'Bar' in relation to;
) CR-95-51-BLG-JDS; CR-95-117-BLG-JDS; CR-95-117-BLG-JMB et al.,
) of necessity, in Law.
)
) "non-negotiable", "without prejudice"

FILED

MAY 28 1999

By LOU ALEKSICH, JR., CLERK
 Deputy Clerk

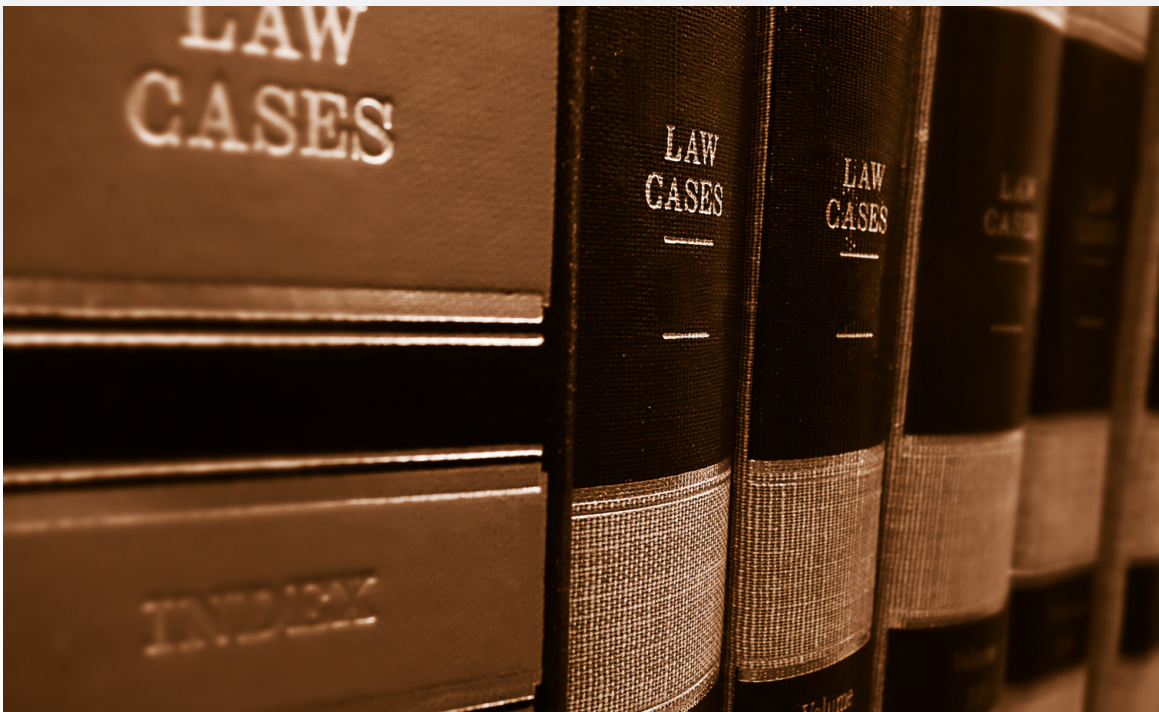
Montana state)
 Yellowstone county) ss. Common Law Affidavit by Rodney Owen.,
 of the following "Facts", to wit:

I, Rodney Owen, a private free white Man jus soli, under my only Living God, "Yahweh", duly expatriated in Revelation 18:4-6 from within the satanic 'United States' Eph. 6:12, Matt. 4:10, and its defacto territories and possessions with its Buck Act "State of . . ."; being a free sovereign Inhabitant People of the Posterity (Rev. 1:6) on the land called Montana republic state, in North America, having never willfully waived my Living God given absolute unalienable common law Rights, nor venue, nor jurisdiction; appearing under Metus, duress as a chained hostage specially due to unlawful seizure by non-registered foreign agents, never appearing voluntary nor generally before the defacto communistic forum of United States citizens public policy, (T.D.C.); common law presentment.

EXAMPLE 3: CASE LAW

In some instances, higher court rulings may present opportunities to appeal terrorism-related convictions adjudicated in lower courts, posing a risk that individuals convicted of terrorism-related activities could have their sentences reduced. For example, Supreme Court case rulings *Johnson v. U.S.* (2015) and *Sessions v. Dimaya* (2018) have maintained that some language of federal statutes [i.e., 18 U.S.C. §16(b)] is unconstitutionally vague, including for key concepts like risk and physical force of predicate crimes of violence, and when language is not necessarily based on specific case facts. While the *Dimaya* case involved immigration, the ramifications of redefining what constitutes a "crime of violence" reach beyond the Immigration and Nationality Act and the crime of burglary.

Such rulings have had direct impact on terrorism-related cases, as similar language has been used in federal statutes to mandate sentence enhancements for terrorists in possession of a firearm who did not commit acts of ideologically motivated violence. The informational materials included in the ATSCoRR can be valuable resources for stakeholders wishing to learn which terrorism-related cases may be affected by court cases like *Sessions v. Dimaya* (2018), and the nature of the motions filed referencing such precedents.



EXAMPLE 4: **ORIGINAL RESEARCH AND ANALYSIS**

NEED FOR RESOURCES

Over the last several decades, ATS personnel have collected and coded core variables from thousands of pages of federal court records. While the data are broad and have led to numerous funded projects and published reports, the information drawn from these federal court records and coded into the ATSCoRR is by no means exhaustive and there remains a wealth of information about radicalization, investigation, and prosecutorial strategies contained within the case documents.

ATSCoRR removes access barriers, such as navigating the PACER system and case identification, and centralizes these cases in one place. As such, ATSCoRR can be used by analysts to derive original research and analysis, as is often required by federal agencies for the development of internal intelligence products. Additionally, the site provides a window into ATS coding and collection schema, and can provide end-users a baseline from which they can request further data and documents.

EXAMPLES OF COMPLETED REQUESTS

- **Federal Judge:** Requested average sentence length for conviction on material support of terrorism.
- **FBI Special Agent:** How a specific statute had been applied to terrorism in the past, and in which cases.
- **DHS Intelligence Analyst:** Copies of documents containing target information from domestic terrorism cases in a specific state.
- **NIJ-funded Researcher:** List of cases and documents involving females federally indicted on terrorism-related charges since 1990.