

Lexomancy:

Law and Magic in the Pseudolegal Writings of the Sovereign Citizen Movement



David Griffin, J.D.

Centre for Language and Communication Research
School of English, Communication and Philosophy
Cardiff University

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Summary

The Sovereign Citizen movement is a loosely organized collection of anti-government conspiracy theorists found around the world. According to their pseudolegal theories, Sovereign Citizens believe that through the filing of certain forms and the raising of certain arguments in court, they can force the legal system and its representatives to do (or not do) anything they desire, including give them access to secret government funds or dismiss criminal charges against them. Though there are clear similarities between the documents that Sovereign Citizens submit to courts and those submitted by actual attorneys, Sovereign Citizen documents often contain features that are completely out of place in standard legal discourse, including the use of thumbprints as seals and atypical formatting when writing personal names (e.g. “first-middle;last”). With its focus on American Sovereign Citizens and the specific legal documents that they are imitating, this thesis is the first thorough linguistic examination of the relationship between the Sovereign Citizen pseudolegal courtroom filing (“PCF”) and legitimate courtroom filing (“LCF”) genres. The PCF genre, it is proposed, is best understood as a “parasitic” genre preying upon its “host,” the LCF genre. By incorporating aspects of LCFs into their own writings, the authors of PCFs hope to imbue them with the authority of the legitimate legal system. In this way, PCFs can also be understood as instances of imitative magical practice and their more distinctive elements as the magical “heightening” of features which their authors view as particularly emblematic of legitimate legal authority. Because the comparison of the PCF and LCF genres requires a greater understanding of the nature of legal language than currently exists in the literature, this thesis also makes a significant new contribution to the linguistic knowledge of the register of legal English. It is hoped that an increased understanding of the nature of Sovereign Citizen pseudolegal discourse will help representatives of the legal system understand and combat the spread of the Sovereign Citizen movement and related conspiracy theories.

Table of Contents

Summary.....	ii
Table of Contents	iii
Table of Figures.....	vii
Table of Tables	xi
Acknowledgments	xv
1. Introduction.....	1
1.1 The Sovereign Citizen Movement	1
1.2 The History and Beliefs of the Sovereign Citizen Movement.....	4
1.2.1 <i>Who Are the Sovereign Citizens?</i>	5
1.2.2 <i>Sovereign Citizen Beliefs</i>	6
1.2.3 <i>The Size and Spread of the Sovereign Citizen Movement</i>	12
1.3 Legal Language and Pseudolegal Strategies.....	13
1.4 The Aims of this Thesis	15
1.4.1 <i>The Literature Gap</i>	15
1.4.2 <i>Research Questions, Data, and Methodology</i>	17
1.5 The Structure of This Thesis.....	17
2. Literature Review	20
2.1 Introduction.....	20
2.2 Language and Law	20
2.3 The Sovereign Citizen Movement	22
2.3.1 <i>Linguistic Approaches to the Sovereign Citizen Movement</i>	22
2.3.2 <i>Conspiracy Theories and Sovereign Citizens</i>	23
2.3.3 <i>Working Assumptions About the Sovereign Citizen Movement</i>	25
2.4 Genre: Parasites and Hosts.....	26
2.4.1 <i>Defining Genre and Inter-Genre Interaction</i>	26
2.4.2 <i>Legal Genres</i>	28
2.4.3 <i>Parasitic and Host Genres</i>	31
2.5 Register and Terminology.....	33
2.5.1 <i>Register and Genre Distinguished</i>	33

2.5.2 <i>The Register of Legal English</i>	34
2.5.3 <i>The Consensus Description of Legal English</i>	36
2.5.4 <i>Legal Technical Terminology</i>	39
2.6 Magic and Ritual in Pseudolegal Texts	42
2.6.1 <i>Defining Magic and Ritual</i>	43
2.6.2 <i>Sovereign Citizen Pseudolegal Courtroom Filings as Magic Texts</i>	44
2.7 Displays of Legal Authority.....	47
2.7.1 <i>Defining Legal Authority</i>	48
2.7.2 <i>The Semiotics of Authority in Legal Texts</i>	49
2.8 Conclusion	53
3. Methodology	55
3.1 Introduction.....	55
3.2 Corpus-Assisted Multimodal Discourse Analysis	55
3.2.1 <i>Multimodality</i>	56
3.2.2 <i>Discourse Analysis</i>	57
3.2.3 <i>Corpus Linguistics</i>	58
3.3 Creating the Legitimate and Pseudolegal Courtroom Filing Corpora	61
3.3.1 <i>Principles of Corpus Construction</i>	61
3.3.2 <i>The Legitimate and Pseudolegal Courtroom Filing Corpora</i>	63
3.3.3 <i>COCA-W: The Combined Written Subcorpora of the Corpus of Contemporary American English</i>	70
3.3.4 <i>Multimodal Annotation</i>	72
3.4 Significance Testing and Software	77
3.5 Methods of Analysis	79
3.5.1 <i>Overall Approach</i>	80
3.5.2 <i>Frequency Analysis and KWIC Lines</i>	81
3.5.3 <i>Keyword Analysis</i>	84
3.5.4 <i>Lockword Analysis</i>	86
3.5.5 <i>Lexical Bundle Analysis</i>	87
3.5.6 <i>Heatmap Analysis</i>	89
3.5.7 <i>Prototype Analysis</i>	91
3.6 Ethical Considerations	92
3.7 Conclusion	93

4. Legal English in Legitimate and Pseudolegal Courtroom Filings.....	94
4.1 Introduction.....	94
4.2 Legal English in the Legitimate and Pseudolegal Courtroom Filing Corpora.....	95
4.2.1 <i>Consensus Features of Legal English Examined</i>	95
4.2.2 <i>Negation</i>	96
4.2.3 <i>Pronoun Use</i>	103
4.2.4 <i>Passive Constructions</i>	115
4.2.5 <i>Nominalizations</i>	123
4.3 Legal Technical Terminology	128
4.3.1 <i>Shared Technical Terminology</i>	129
4.3.2 <i>Distinctive Legal Technical Terminology</i>	133
4.3.3 <i>Lexical Bundles in Legitimate and Pseudolegal Courtroom Filings</i>	139
4.4 Prototype Analysis	142
4.4.1 <i>Legitimate Courtroom Filing Legal English Prototype</i>	143
4.4.2 <i>Pseudolegal Courtroom Filing Legal English Prototype</i>	146
4.5 Conclusion	148
5. Multimodality in Legitimate and Pseudolegal Courtroom Filings.....	151
5.1 Introduction.....	151
5.2 Chapter-Specific Methodological Concerns	152
5.3 Overall Design of Legitimate and Pseudolegal Courtroom Filings.....	153
5.3.1 <i>Typical Spacing, Alignment, and Font Families</i>	153
5.3.2 <i>Captions and Opening Pages</i>	160
5.4 Textual Emphasis in Legitimate and Pseudolegal Courtroom Filings.....	170
5.4.1 <i>Textual Emphasis</i>	170
5.4.2 <i>Bolding, Underlining, Italicization, and Capitalization</i>	173
5.4.3 <i>Other Methods of Textual Emphasis</i>	176
5.5 Images in Legitimate and Pseudolegal Courtroom Filings.....	181
5.5.1 <i>Images Present in Both Corpora</i>	181
5.5.2 <i>Images Unique to One Corpus</i>	199
5.6 Key Multimodal Features and Prototype Analysis of Legitimate and Pseudolegal Courtroom Filings.....	211
5.6.1 <i>Key Multimodal Features</i>	211
5.6.2 <i>Legitimate Courtroom Filing Graphic Prototype</i>	213

5.6.3 <i>Pseudolegal Courtroom Filing Graphic Prototype</i>	219
5.7 Conclusion	231
6. Conclusion	232
6.1 Introduction.....	232
6.2 The Register of Legal English	232
6.2.1 <i>Legal English and Standard English</i>	233
6.2.2 <i>Legal English in Legitimate and Pseudolegal Courtroom Filings</i>	234
6.3 Multimodality in Legitimate and Pseudolegal Courtroom Filings	238
6.3.1 <i>The Use of Textual Emphasis</i>	238
6.3.2 <i>The Use of Images</i>	240
6.4 The Nature of a Parasitic Genre	242
6.5 The Magic of Sovereign Citizen Pseudolegal Courtroom Filings	244
6.6 The Authority of Legal Texts	246
6.7 Limitations of this Thesis.....	248
6.8 Avenues for Future Study	250
References	252
Appendix 3.1: Contents of the Legitimate Courtroom Filing Corpus	279
Appendix 3.2: Contents of the Pseudolegal Courtroom Filing Corpus	286
Appendix 3.3: Legitimate Courtroom Filing Corpus Keywords	295
Appendix 3.4: Pseudolegal Courtroom Filing Corpus Keywords	316
Appendix 3.5: Legitimate Courtroom Filing and Pseudolegal Courtroom Filing Corpus Lockwords	336
Appendix 4.1: Legitimate Courtroom Filing Legal English Prototype	344
Appendix 4.2: Pseudolegal Courtroom Filing Legal English Prototype	349
Appendix 5.1: Legitimate Courtroom Filing Image and Textual Emphasis Prototype 	350
Appendix 5.2: Pseudolegal Courtroom Filing Image and Textual Emphasis Prototype 	355

Table of Figures

Figure 1.1 Stamped vehicle purchase agreement, digitally enhanced to improve contrast	2
Figure 2.1 An Instagram post in which a man holds a sign reading, “I wouldn't be able to tell if you are saying a Harry Potter spell or a legal Latin phrase”	45
Figure 3.1 The first page of a legitimate courtroom filing with identifying information redacted	65
Figure 3.2 Labeling options for the “Typical” layer of multimodal annotation as shown in UAM Image Tool.....	73
Figure 3.3 Labelling options for the “Features” layer of multimodal annotation as shown in UAM Image Tool.....	74
Figure 3.4 A screenshot of a completed “Features” layer annotation of a page from a pseudolegal courtroom filing in UAM Image Tool	76
Figure 3.5 Structure of the analyses in Chapters 4 and 5.....	81
Figure 3.6 Heatmaps showing the distribution of footers in the Legitimate and Pseudolegal Courtroom Filing corpora	89
Figure 3.7 Heatmap of italics in the Legitimate Courtroom Filing corpus with a hotspot which has misleadingly concentrated in the center of the page.....	90
Figure 4.1 Excerpt from a quantum grammar pseudolegal courtroom filing	102
Figure 4.2 Second page from the legitimate courtroom filing legal English prototype	144
Figure 4.3 Pseudolegal courtroom filing legal English prototype	147
Figure 5.1 Page displaying the predominant methods of interlinear spacing, text alignment, and font choice of the Legitimate Courtroom Filing corpus.....	155
Figure 5.2 Page displaying the predominant methods of interlinear spacing, text alignment, and font choice of the Pseudolegal Courtroom Filing corpus.....	156
Figure 5.3 Typical opening page of a legitimate courtroom filing	161
Figure 5.4 Standard legitimate courtroom filing caption with labels	162
Figure 5.5 Legitimate courtroom filing caption including the address of property relevant to the case.....	164
Figure 5.6 Legitimate courtroom filing caption showing both a suit and a countersuit	164
Figure 5.7 Captionless pseudolegal courtroom filing formatted as a letter	166
Figure 5.8 Captionless pseudolegal courtroom filing formatted as a public notice.....	167
Figure 5.9 Opening page of a pseudolegal courtroom filing containing a “pre-caption”	169
Figure 5.10 Typical uses of italics in the Legitimate Courtroom Filing corpus	174

Figure 5.11 Inconsistent textual emphasis in a pseudolegal courtroom filing.....	175
Figure 5.12 Emphatic capitalization in a pseudolegal courtroom filing.....	176
Figure 5.13 Block quote formatting in a legitimate courtroom filing.....	177
Figure 5.14 Signature block formatting in a legitimate courtroom filing.....	177
Figure 5.15 Alternate font size in the title of a pseudolegal courtroom filing.....	178
Figure 5.16 Alternate font size used to emphasize text in a pseudolegal courtroom filing ...	178
Figure 5.17 Multiple font changes in a single page of a pseudolegal courtroom filing	179
Figure 5.18 Emphasized text as a watermark in a pseudolegal courtroom filing	180
Figure 5.19 Footer from a legitimate courtroom filing with an internal document filing number	182
Figure 5.20 Footer from a legitimate courtroom filing with a centered page number.....	183
Figure 5.21 Spatial distribution of footers in the Legitimate and Pseudolegal Courtroom Filing corpora.....	183
Figure 5.22 Footer from a pseudolegal courtroom filing with a right-aligned page number	184
Figure 5.23 Footer from a pseudolegal courtroom filing with accompanying text	184
Figure 5.24 Spatial distribution of lists in the Legitimate and Pseudolegal Courtroom Filing corpora	185
Figure 5.25 List formatting in a legitimate courtroom filing.....	187
Figure 5.26 List formatting in a pseudolegal courtroom filing.....	188
Figure 5.27 Attorney registration stamp in a legitimate courtroom filing	190
Figure 5.28 Notary seal in a pseudolegal courtroom filing	190
Figure 5.29 Notary seal from a legitimate courtroom filing.....	191
Figure 5.30 Embossed sticker seal in a pseudolegal courtroom filing	192
Figure 5.31 Coat of arms in a pseudolegal courtroom filing	192
Figure 5.32 Delimiter as signature line in a legitimate courtroom filing.....	193
Figure 5.33 Delimiter separating body and footnote text in a legitimate courtroom filing ...	194
Figure 5.34 Delimiters in a notarized section of a pseudolegal courtroom filing.....	194
Figure 5.35 Delimiters in a notarized section of a legitimate courtroom filing.....	195
Figure 5.36 Identical signature blocks on the same page of a pseudolegal courtroom filing	196
Figure 5.37 Signatures followed by “without prejudice” and references to the UCC in a pseudolegal courtroom filing	196
Figure 5.38 Spatial distribution of seals in the Legitimate and Pseudolegal Courtroom Filing corpora	197

Figure 5.39 Spatial distribution of delimiters in the Legitimate and Pseudolegal Courtroom Filing corpora.....	198
Figure 5.40 Spatial distribution of handwriting in the Legitimate and Pseudolegal Courtroom Filing corpora.....	198
Figure 5.41 Table from a legitimate courtroom filing	200
Figure 5.42 Spatial distribution of images unique to the Pseudolegal Courtroom Filing corpus	201
Figure 5.43 American flag illustration in a pseudolegal courtroom filing	202
Figure 5.44 Modified American flag illustrations in the Pseudolegal Courtroom Filing corpus	202
Figure 5.45 Additional US-themed illustrations in a pseudolegal courtroom filing.....	203
Figure 5.46 Moorish illustrations in a pseudolegal courtroom filing	204
Figure 5.47 Postage stamps accompanied by other distinctive Sovereign Citizen features in the Pseudolegal Courtroom Filing corpus.....	205
Figure 5.48 Thumbprint appearing without other graphic features in a pseudolegal courtroom filing.....	206
Figure 5.49 Thumbprint array in a pseudolegal courtroom filing	206
Figure 5.50 Thumbprint as the “Seal of Court” in a pseudolegal courtroom filing.....	207
Figure 5.51 Pseudolegal courtroom filing containing an entire footprint.....	209
Figure 5.52 Opening page of the legitimate courtroom filing graphic prototype text.....	214
Figure 5.53 Italicization of legal Latin in the legitimate courtroom filing graphic prototype	215
Figure 5.54 Italicization of citations in the legitimate courtroom filing graphic prototype ..	215
Figure 5.55 Bolded text in the body of the legitimate courtroom filing graphic prototype...	215
Figure 5.56 Full capitalization of a word in the body of the legitimate courtroom filing graphic prototype	216
Figure 5.57 Signature Block in the legitimate courtroom filing graphic prototype.....	216
Figure 5.58 Interior page from the legitimate courtroom filing graphic prototype	217
Figure 5.59 Opening page of the pseudolegal courtroom filing graphic prototype.....	220
Figure 5.60 Legitimate courtroom filing and pseudolegal courtroom filing graphic prototype filing stamps compared	221
Figure 5.61 Legitimate courtroom filing and pseudolegal courtroom filing graphic prototype captions compared	222

Figure 5.62 Pseudolegal courtroom filing graphic prototype section seemingly inspired by the definition section of a contract.....	223
Figure 5.63 Pseudolegal courtroom filing graphic prototype section seemingly inspired by legitimate legal complaint texts	224
Figure 5.64 Interior page from the pseudolegal courtroom filing graphic prototype	225
Figure 5.65 Italics and highlighting in the pseudolegal courtroom filing graphic prototype	226
Figure 5.66 Variation in Font Choice in the pseudolegal courtroom filing graphic prototype	226
Figure 5.67 Variation in font size in the pseudolegal courtroom filing graphic prototype ...	227
Figure 5.68 Signature, thumbprint, and seal of “:David-Wynn:Miller”	228
Figure 5.69 Sovereign Citizen litigant signature in the pseudolegal courtroom filing graphic prototype	228
Figure 5.70 Footer from the pseudolegal courtroom filing graphic prototype	228
Figure 5.71 An advertisement for :David-Wynn:Miller's Website in the pseudolegal courtroom filing graphic prototype	229
Figure 5.72 A section listing some of the rules of quantum grammar in the pseudolegal courtroom filing graphic prototype	230

Table of Tables

Table 3.1 Legitimate Courtroom Filing corpus and Pseudolegal Courtroom Filing corpus size & content summary	68
Table 3.2 KWIC Lines showing the use of “not” in the Legitimate Courtroom Filing corpus, n=2225	83
Table 4.1 Frequency of explicit negation in COCA-W and the Legitimate Courtroom Filing corpus with chi-square tests for independence. Results normalized to reflect expected occurrences per 100,000 words.....	97
Table 4.2 Frequency of explicit negation in the Legitimate and Pseudolegal Courtroom Filing corpora with chi-square tests for independence. Results normalized to reflect expected occurrences per 100,000 words.....	97
Table 4.3 Selected KWIC lines showing the use of “not” in the Legitimate Courtroom Filing corpus, n=2225.....	99
Table 4.4 Selected KWIC lines showing the use of “not” in the Pseudolegal Courtroom Filing corpus, n=2467.....	99
Table 4.5 KWIC lines showing capitalized “NO” in the Legitimate Courtroom Filing corpus, n=2	101
Table 4.6 Selected KWIC lines showing capitalized “NO” in the Pseudolegal Courtroom Filing corpus, n=109	101
Table 4.7 Frequency of subject and object pronouns in COCA-W and the Legitimate Courtroom Filing corpus with chi-square tests for independence. Results normalized to reflect expected occurrences per 100,000 words.	105
Table 4.8 Frequency of subject and object pronouns in the Legitimate and Pseudolegal Courtroom Filing corpora with chi-square tests for independence. Results normalized to reflect expected occurrences per 100,000 words.	105
Table 4.9 Selected KWIC lines showing the use of “I” in the Legitimate Courtroom Filing corpus, n=183.....	107
Table 4.10 Selected KWIC lines showing the use of “I” in the Pseudolegal Courtroom Filing corpus, n=1003.....	108
Table 4.11 Percentage of “I” and “we” followed by select constructions in the Legitimate and Pseudolegal Courtroom Filing corpora with chi-square tests for independence	109
Table 4.12 Selected KWIC lines showing “I” followed by an appositive in the Pseudolegal Courtroom Filing corpus, n=199	110

Table 4.13 Selected KWIC lines showing “I” followed by a conjugation of “to be” in the Pseudolegal Courtroom Filing corpus, n=193	111
Table 4.14 Selected KWIC lines showing “I” followed by an explicit performative in the Pseudolegal Courtroom Filing corpus, n=181	112
Table 4.15 Selected lines showing “You” in the Legitimate Courtroom Filing corpus, n=73	113
Table 4.16 Selected KWIC lines showing “You” in the Pseudolegal Courtroom Filing corpus, n=408	114
Table 4.17 Frequency of various passive constructions in COCA-W and the Legitimate Courtroom Filing corpus with chi-square tests for independence	117
Table 4.18 Frequency of various passive constructions in the Legitimate and Pseudolegal Courtroom Filing corpora with chi-square tests for independence.....	118
Table 4.19 Selected KWIC lines showing passive constructions in the Legitimate Courtroom Filing corpus (n=3685)	119
Table 4.20 Selected KWIC lines showing passive constructions in the Pseudolegal Courtroom Filing corpus (n=4573)	119
Table 4.21 Frequency of notable “long passive” constructions in COCA-W and the Legitimate Courtroom Filing corpus with chi-square tests for independence	121
Table 4.22 Frequency of notable “long passive” constructions in the Legitimate and Pseudolegal Courtroom Filing corpora with chi-square tests for independence	121
Table 4.23 Selected KWIC lines showing long passives in the Legitimate Courtroom Filing corpus (n=362).....	122
Table 4.24 Selected KWIC lines showing long passives in the Pseudolegal Courtroom Filing corpus (n=381).....	122
Table 4.25 Frequency of common nominalization suffixes in COCA-W and the Legitimate Courtroom Filing corpus with chi-square tests for independence. Results normalized to reflect expected occurrences per 100,000 words.	123
Table 4.26 Frequency of common nominalization suffixes in the Legitimate and Pseudolegal Courtroom Filing corpora with chi-square tests for independence. Results normalized to reflect expected occurrences per 100,000 words.	124
Table 4.27 Nominalizations which occur at least 100 times in the Legitimate and Pseudolegal Courtroom Filing corpora. Results normalized to reflect expected occurrences per 100,000 words.....	125

Table 4.28 Selected KWIC lines showing nominalizations in the Legitimate Courtroom Filing corpus.....	126
Table 4.29 Selected KWIC lines showing nominalizations in the Pseudolegal Courtroom Filing corpus	127
Table 4.30 Top legal lockwords in the Legitimate and Pseudolegal Courtroom Filing corpora ranked by coefficient of variance score. Finance-related lockwords are shaded in green and procedure-related lockwords are shaded in blue.	130
Table 4.31 Selected KWIC lines showing finance-related lockwords in the Legitimate Courtroom Filing corpus.....	131
Table 4.32 Selected KWIC lines showing finance-related lockwords in the Pseudolegal Courtroom Filing corpus.....	131
Table 4.33 Selected KWIC lines showing procedural lockwords in the Legitimate Courtroom Filing corpus	132
Table 4.34 Selected KWIC lines showing procedural lockwords in the Pseudolegal Courtroom Filing corpus.....	133
Table 4.35 Top positive legal keywords of the Legitimate Courtroom Filing corpus ranked by effect size. Results normalized to reflect expected occurrences per 100,000 words. Finance-related keywords are shaded in green, procedure-related keywords are shaded in blue, and case-specific keywords are shaded in yellow.....	134
Table 4.36 KWIC lines showing case-specific legal keywords in the Legitimate Courtroom Filing corpus	135
Table 4.37 Top positive legal keywords of the Pseudolegal Courtroom Filing corpus ranked by effect size. Results normalized to reflect expected occurrences per 100,000 words. Finance-related keywords are shaded in green, legal Latin keywords are shaded in yellow, and keywords which are not appropriate to the legal context of the Pseudolegal Courtroom Filing corpus are shaded in orange.	136
Table 4.38 Groupings of legal keywords in main body text from the Pseudolegal Courtroom Filing corpus	137
Table 4.39 Groupings of legal keywords in signature blocks from the Pseudolegal Courtroom Filing corpus	137
Table 4.40 Selected uses of “Affiant” in place of a first person pronoun in the Pseudolegal Courtroom Filing corpus.....	139
Table 4.41 Lexical Bundles of four or more words appearing in at least 20% of texts in the Legitimate Courtroom Filing corpus	140

Table 4.42 Lexical bundles of four or more words appearing in at least 20% of texts in the Pseudolegal Courtroom Filing corpus	141
Table 4.43 Selected KWIC lines showing legal doublets in the Legitimate Courtroom Filing corpus.....	141
Table 4.44 Selected KWIC lines showing “Code of Civil Procedure” referring to the Illinois Code of Civil Procedure in the Legitimate Courtroom Filing corpus	142
Table 4.45 Examples of tonal variation in the legitimate courtroom filing prototype text ...	145
Table 5.1 Predominant design choices in the Legitimate and Pseudolegal Courtroom Filing corpora. Features highlighted in green are the most frequent in their category.	154
Table 5.2 Textual emphasis in the Legitimate and Pseudolegal Courtroom Filing corpora. Features highlighted in green are the most frequent in their category.....	172
Table 5.3 Graphic features in the Legitimate and Pseudolegal Courtroom Filing corpora. Features highlighted in green are the most frequent in their category.....	181
Table 5.4 Key multimodal features in the Legitimate Courtroom Filing corpus.....	212
Table 5.5 Key multimodal features in the Pseudolegal Courtroom Filing corpus.....	212
Table 6.1 Summary of findings regarding some “consensus” features of legal English observed in the Legitimate Courtroom Filing corpus relative to their frequency in COCA-W	234
Table 6.2 Summary of findings regarding some “consensus” Features of legal English observed in the Pseudolegal Courtroom Filing corpus to their frequency in the Legitimate Courtroom Filing corpus	235

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“The Law is scarce expressible properly in English”

-The Hon. Roger North, Attorney General 1686-88

A Discourse on the Study of the Laws (1824, p.13)

1. Introduction

1.1 The Sovereign Citizen Movement

On January 5th, 2017, a group of men entered a car dealership in Chicago, Illinois¹ with the stated intention of purchasing five vehicles. When presented with a contract to finalize the sale, however, instead of signing it, they affixed a postage stamp in the bottom right-hand corner and a separate stamp across the middle of the first page which read:

“ACCEPTED FOR VALUE
EXEMPT FROM LEVY
RETURN FOR SETTLEMENT
January 5, 2017
Exemption ID #456127893
Deposit to UNITED STATES TREASURY
And charge the same to
SARA GOMA ARRINGTON EL
Social Security #456-12-7893”

A scan of that first page is included on the following page as Figure 1.1.²

Because the men would not conventionally sign the agreement, the dealership refused to move forward with the transaction, and the men left. Shortly thereafter, those same men filed a complaint for replevin³ against the dealership in state level civil court, alleging that through the use of those stamps they had, in fact, legitimately purchased the cars, and that the dealership was unlawfully withholding their property.

¹ Due to the provenance of the documents examined in this thesis as well as the author’s academic background, all references to specific legal concepts or to the operation of the legal system more generally should be understood to refer to the legal system of the United States unless otherwise stated. For a general explanation of how a common law legal system such as the one in the United States functions, as well as how it compares to some of the other major legal systems found around the world, including civil law systems, see Dibble (2018a) and (2018b).

² Throughout this thesis, including in this figure, personally identifying information has been anonymized wherever possible (see the discussion in Section 3.6 for more details).

³ A complaint for replevin asks the court to force a defendant to return personal property which they had wrongfully taken from the complainant (Garner 2019). Though in many jurisdictions a court may issue a “writ of replevin” in such cases, the state of Illinois largely eliminated the issuance of writs in the 1980s and replevin is now a statutory cause of action under the Replevin Act, 735 ILCS 5/19-101 *et seq.* Per Section 19-104 of the Act, actions for replevin are initiated with a “complaint” rather than a “petition,” where the latter term would be more typical of the equitable (i.e. non-statutory) variety of replevin (Illinois General Assembly 2022d).

The court quickly found that neither the addition of the postage stamp nor of the “ACCEPTED FOR VALUE” stamp had been legally sufficient to complete the purchase and the men inevitably lost their case against the dealership. Though that outcome is unremarkable, the fact that the case was filed in the first place is just the opposite: since those men went to the trouble of taking such a step (i.e. of asking the State government to step in and force the dealership to give them the vehicles for such an obviously groundless reason), they seem to have believed that their actions were truly legally effective. While, at a glance, the stamp in the middle of the page may look somewhat official, even a moment’s consideration will likely lead one to realize that nothing it is saying makes much sense: it is not clear why the “exemption number” and Social Security number listed are the same (or what the former even is), for example, and it is similarly unclear what exactly is supposed to be deposited with the “UNITED STATES TREASURY” and then subsequently charged to Sara Goma Arrington El. Though their actions may be legally nonsensical, these individuals are far from alone in pursuing such a course of action: such unwavering confidence in the efficacy of what are ultimately completely meritless legal theories is one of the hallmarks of the Sovereign Citizen movement, a loose confederation of anti-government conspiracy theorists found around the world.

Despite the global proliferation of Sovereign Citizen ideology in recent years and the many striking textual and multimodal elements of the documents they produce, such as the stamps used in Figure 1.1, the linguistic practices of the Sovereign Citizen movement remain relatively underexplored. This thesis examines the pseudolegal (i.e. legal-seeming but ungrounded in actual law) writings of American Sovereign Citizens, the relationship of those writings to legitimate courtroom filings written by lawyers, and what that relationship reveals about the nature of legal English and textual displays of legal authority more generally.

It is important to clarify from the outset of this thesis that the use of the descriptors “legitimate” and “pseudolegal” to describe writings by lawyers and Sovereign Citizens, respectively, is not intended to communicate any sort of moral evaluation; instead, these terms are employed to describe the status of those writings from the perspective of the legal system itself. Texts written by lawyers are deemed “legitimate” because they fit within the parameters that are expected of a document operating in the legal system, while texts written by Sovereign Citizens are “pseudolegal” because they are written in the style of legitimate legal texts while being grounded in conspiracy theories which the legal system (i.e. the grantor of legitimacy in this context) regards as completely meritless. Asserting that the entire American legal system has been secretly replaced by admiralty courts and that this is proven by the color of the fringe on the flag hanging in a courtroom, as many Sovereign Citizen pseudolegal texts do, is not

simply some form of heterodox legal argumentation; it is instead a demonstrably incorrect conspiracy theory. The use of the term “pseudolegal” to describe Sovereign Citizen writings also aligns this thesis with the literature which examines the wider movement (e.g. Netolitzky 2016b; McRoberts 2019); see the discussion throughout Sections 2.3 and 2.4 in the following chapter for more on the the relationship between the legitimate and pseudolegal documents examined in this thesis.

This chapter discusses the historical and cultural context which gave rise to the Sovereign Citizen movement, the movement’s belief system and current status, and the ways in which an examination of its pseudolegal writings stands to benefit the fields of both linguistics and law. Section 1.2 reviews the history and current status of the Sovereign Citizen movement as well as the main elements of its belief system. Section 1.3 discusses the movement’s distinctive style of pseudolegal discourse displayed in its writings and the apparent relationship of those writings to actual legal documents. Section 1.4 lays out in more detail the gap in the existing literature on language and law that this study aims to fill and establishes the specific research questions of this thesis. Finally, Section 1.5 explains the structure of the remaining chapters of this thesis.

1.2 The History and Beliefs of the Sovereign Citizen Movement

To paraphrase Polonius, though Sovereign Citizen writings be madness, there is method in them. Despite how they may appear to those not previously aware of the Sovereign Citizen movement, there is a high degree of internal logic and consistency to these pseudolegal texts and to the conspiracy theories in which they are grounded. To better familiarize readers with this context, this Section summarizes the history and beliefs of the Sovereign Citizen movement from its origins through to the current day. It also seeks to explain why, despite the movement’s highly decentralized nature, it is possible to speak of it coherently as an overall “Sovereign Citizen movement.” Section 1.2.1 provides an overview of the movement from its inception in the United States in the 1960s through to its international proliferation in the 1980s and beyond. Section 1.2.2 describes the fundamental beliefs about history and the legal system which permeate Sovereign Citizen pseudolegal thought. Section 1.2.3 then presents what is known about the movement’s current size and geographic dispersion.

1.2.1 Who Are the Sovereign Citizens?

The Sovereign Citizen movement has its origins in the Posse Comitatus, a far-right white nationalist group that was founded in the United States in 1969 and reached the height of its influence during the recession and farm crisis of the 1980s (Sullivan 1999, p.787; Fenster 2008, pp.55–56; Anti-Defamation League 2012, p.3). According to the Posse, there was no legitimate governmental authority in the United States higher than the county sheriff and only the first twelve amendments to the US Constitution were valid (Sullivan 1999, pp.787–788).⁴ In a sign of things to come, Posse members would hold seminars advising attendees that they could refuse to pay taxes on constitutional grounds and instructing them on how to file *pro se* lawsuits and liens⁵ against public officials in order to delay a bank’s foreclosure on their property (Sullivan 1999, p.788). Though the Posse Comitatus had largely faded away by the end of the 1980s (Anti-Defamation League 2012, p.3), the core of these ideas (i.e. that one can use the legal apparatus of the government against itself while simultaneously denying that government has any legitimate authority) would go on to find purchase in the Christian Identity and Patriot movements, as well as the much broader (though less organized) tax protest movement (Sullivan 1999, pp.789–792). Roughly coincident with the decline of the Posse Comitatus, conspiracy groups outside of the United States began to adopt similar strategies, perhaps most significantly including Canada’s “Freemen-on-the-Land” movement (Kent 2015, p.4). As the Posse’s ideas grew and spread nationally and internationally, they largely lost their explicit connections to white supremacy (Thomas 2015; Mallek 2016, p.24) and there are now several notable groups espousing similar conspiracies with primarily African American membership, including the Washitaw Nation and a section of the larger Moorish movement (Pitcavage 2016).

As a result of the decline of the Posse Comitatus and the subsequent ideological and geographic dispersion of its pseudolegal conspiracy theories, there is no overarching leadership or organizational structure to the modern Sovereign Citizen movement (Anti-Defamation

⁴ There are currently 27 amendments to the United States constitution, with the most recent having been passed in 1992 (United States Senate 2022). The 12th Amendment was passed in 1804 and was the last amendment to the Constitution prior to the US Civil War. By choosing it as the final supposedly legitimate amendment, Posse members were able to ignore those amendments which most clearly contradicted their emerging pseudolegal theories, such as the 14th Amendment, which defined US citizenship, and the 16th Amendment, which established the power of the federal government to levy an income tax.

⁵ A lien is “a legal right or interest that a creditor has in another’s property [which usually lasts] until a debt or duty that it secures is satisfied” (Garner 2019). Having a lien filed upon one’s property (even a meritless one) can, among other factors, limit one’s ability to sell that property and negatively affect one’s credit score. The filing of bogus liens against their perceived enemies has long been one of the hallmarks of the “paper terrorism” strategy of the Sovereign Citizen movement (Southern Poverty Law Center 2017).

League 2012, p.6; Southern Poverty Law Center 2015). In fact, the term “Sovereign Citizen” itself is largely one of convenience used by those outside the movement to describe its adherents; though some individuals within the movement have described themselves as Sovereign Citizens, others prefer terms like “constitutionalists,” “freemen,” “state citizens,” or something else which better suits their particular conspiratorial ideology (Anti-Defamation League 2012, p.3). Despite this diversity, as will be discussed in the following section, all Sovereign Citizens appear to share a fundamental set of beliefs about the specific pseudolegal conspiracies they allege. Because of this shared belief system, it is possible to speak coherently of these various disparate groups as constituting a wider Sovereign Citizen movement rather than looking at them as series of “lone wolves” coincidentally acting in similar manners (Barkun 2013, pp.196–198). In other words, though the reasons why a given group or its members hold Sovereign Citizen-style beliefs may vary, the core conspiracies that they allege and the ways in which they act upon those allegations are consistent to the extent that they can all reasonably be considered members of the same movement.⁶ For the purposes of this thesis, the conspiracy groups which today promulgate Posse Comitatus-style pseudolegal ideas are what collectively form the Sovereign Citizen movement. The key factor in identifying a Sovereign Citizen conspiracy group is whether the alleged conspiracy is fundamentally concerned with the legal system and the government’s purportedly illegitimate authority over the people; as will now be discussed, Sovereign Citizens do not deny that legitimate legal authority exists, but they do insist that they are the only ones who properly wield it.

1.2.2 Sovereign Citizen Beliefs

Sovereign Citizens believe that at some point in the past, the “common law” of the people (a term which, in their pseudolegal parlance, refers to a nebulously-defined body of law generally considered to have been based in a combination of the U.S. Constitution, the Bible, and/or some other sort of divine mandate (Berger 2016, p.4)) was hidden away by the government and replaced with an irredeemably corrupt institution which masquerades as the legitimate legal system (Anti-Defamation League 2012, pp.3–5; Barkun 2013, p.198; Loeser 2015, p.1120; Berger 2016, pp.3–4; Slater 2016, pp.7–8). The government has systematically suppressed

⁶ Though Barkun (2013, pp.196–197) feels that “there is sufficient commonality in [Sovereign Citizen] beliefs so that they form a distinctive population,” he actually disfavours the use of the term “movement,” explaining that “[Sovereign Citizens do] not have the kind of organizational framework that might give [them] unity of purpose and action.” Nevertheless, in line with general practice in both academia and news reporting (e.g. Anti-Defamation League 2012; Southern Poverty Law Center 2015; NZ Herald 2020), this thesis will refer to Sovereign Citizens considered collectively as a movement.

knowledge of that original “common law” legal system but, through various maneuvers, including the filing of certain forms and the raising of certain arguments in court, it is possible for Sovereign Citizens to access it, remove themselves from the jurisdiction of the illegitimate government, and live outside of its influence (Anti-Defamation League 2012; Melle 2013, p.554; Berger 2016, pp.4–6; Slater 2016, pp.7–8).

In the US Sovereign Citizen context, one of the moments most frequently pointed to as the instance in which the illegitimate government suppressed the “common law” is the passage of the Fourteenth Amendment in 1868 (Berger 2016, p.3; Kalinowski IV 2019, p.158). While the generally acknowledged purpose of the Fourteenth Amendment was to grant citizenship to formerly enslaved people following the American Civil War (hence at least in part its rejection by the white nationalist members of the Posse Comitatus mentioned above), according to the Sovereign Citizens, it actually created a new form of “federal citizenship” which one must renounce in order to free oneself from the authority of the illegitimate government (Berger 2016, pp.3–4; Kalinowski IV 2019, pp.158–161). The US abandonment of the gold standard in the early 20th century is another moment which is commonly chosen because, according to many Sovereign Citizens, U.S. currency has no real value if it is not backed by a fixed quantity of actual gold (Berger 2016, pp.8–10), and therefore the buying or selling of anything with such “fake” currency is akin to entering into a contract with the government giving it power over oneself. Some Sovereign Citizens will go a different route and claim a kind of diplomatic immunity derived from citizenship in a fictional country or Native American tribe instead, such as the “United States of America Republic” (Reed 2022) or the “Ancient Black Nation [known as] Washitaw De Dugdahmoundyah” that supposedly existed in what is now the United States as far back as 3,000 B.C. (Dew 2015, pp.65–67; Pitcavage 2016).

Regardless of their explanation for why the government’s authority over them is illegitimate, Sovereign Citizens are remarkably consistent (though also just as mistaken) in the ways in which they believe the “true” legal system operates. Netolitzky (2020, pp.733–34, 738) heroically attempts to present a coherent explanation of those beliefs via what he calls the “Pseudolaw Memplex,”⁷ a set of six concepts that appear to be fundamental to the legal system as it exists in Sovereign Citizen pseudolegal thought.⁸ Ranging from invented legal maxims to

⁷ A “meme” is a “[unit] of culture that [spreads] from person to person by copying or imitation” (Shifman 2014, p.2). “Memplex” as used by Netolitzky (2020) refers to a related series of such units, or, in other words, a “complex” (i.e. network) of memes.

⁸ Netolitzky uses the term “Organized Pseudolegal Commercial Argument litigants” or “OPCA litigants” in his writings instead of “Sovereign Citizens,” but, for the purposes of this thesis, this term can be understood to refer to the same conspiracy movement. Additionally, though the article cited is discussing the presence of the

an omnipresent assumption that the government lacks any relevant authority, those six pseudolegal memetic concepts are as follows:

1. Everything is a contract.
2. Silence means acceptance or agreement.
3. The law may only act where there is an injured party.
4. State authority is defective or limited.
5. The “Strawman” duality.
6. Financial conspiracy misconceptions (Netolitzky 2018a; Netolitzky 2020, pp.733–734, 738).

To be clear, though there may be specific instances in which elements of the first three of these pseudolegal concepts align with the operation of the legitimate legal system (lack of an explicit response can indicate acceptance in certain contractual situations, for example, and the third point seems inspired by the concept of standing⁹), the absolute nature of the ways in which Sovereign Citizens rely on these concepts has no real-world legal basis. While the meanings of the first four elements of the memplex are relatively straightforward, if legally incorrect, points 5 and 6 likely merit an additional degree of explanation for those not previously versed in Sovereign Citizen pseudolegal theory.

According to Sovereign Citizen “Strawman” theory (point 5 above), for every flesh-and-blood person (referred to in this context as a “natural” person) there exists a legal construct created by the government, generally referred to as an “artificial” person or “strawman” (Kalinowski IV 2019, p.158). As a creation of the government, this artificial person is subject to its jurisdiction while the natural person is not. Somehow (often said to be via the issuance of a birth certificate or assignment of a social security number), the government attaches the artificial person to the natural person, granting them a kind of derivative jurisdiction over the natural person as well (Sullivan 1999, pp.801–804; Kalinowski IV 2019, pp.158–161). While an artificial person may appear to have the same name as the natural person it is attached to, the two can be differentiated in written contexts by the ways in which they are capitalized and

pseudolaw memplex in the Canadian Sovereign Citizen context, he notes that its concepts originated with US Sovereign Citizens and subsequently “spread internationally” (Netolitzky 2020, pp.719, 732–33).

⁹ Standing refers to “a party’s right to make a legal claim or seek judicial enforcement of a duty or right” (Garner 2019), and, in civil law contexts, generally requires the party initiating a lawsuit to demonstrate that they have been injured (often in a financial, rather than physical, sense) before the court will allow that suit to proceed. As the government always has the authority to enforce criminal laws, issues of standing do not arise in criminal contexts. Nevertheless, Sovereign Citizens may attempt to raise this as a defense when charged with a crime by arguing, for example, that no one was harmed by their driving above the speed limit (this is a frequent occurrence because many Sovereign Citizen pseudolegal theories claim that there exists an inalienable right to travel (Sullivan 1999, pp.798–800; see also Marquis 2022)).

punctuated: the name of an artificial person is generally said to be written in all capital letters (e.g. JOHN ROBERT SMITH) while, when properly formatted, the name of a natural person will be written with initial capitals only and generally accompanied by flourishes such as commas or semicolons between the middle and last names (e.g. John Robert; Smith) (Sullivan 1999, p.803; Berger 2016, p.5).¹⁰ To emphasize the difference between the two, Sovereign Citizens may refer to both the natural and artificial persons at the same time, using language along the lines of “I, a Man, of the Family Smith, representing the Artificial personhood of JOHN ROBERT SMITH” (Kalinowski IV 2019, p.158). Some Sovereign Citizens believe that every variation in the spelling of their name used by the government creates an additional artificial person attached to them which is why names and their punctuation are often of such paramount importance to their pseudolegal theories (Sullivan 1999, p.803). In fact, many of the more arcane-seeming aspects of Sovereign Citizen behavior in legal settings are attempts to divorce the artificial person from the natural person, thereby removing the natural person from the government’s jurisdiction (Berger 2016, pp.5–6; Kalinowski IV 2019, pp.161–164).

Though not all of the “financial conspiracy misconceptions” referenced at point 6 of the memeplex are related to Strawman theory, many are. One of the most prominent such pseudolegal memetic concepts, generally known as “Redemption theory,” holds that the United States went bankrupt when it abandoned the gold standard in 1933 (Berger 2016, p.6; Kalinowski IV 2019, pp.164–167). In order to survive this bankruptcy, the theory goes, the U.S. government was forced to take on a substantial amount of foreign debt which it secured using the future earnings of its citizens as collateral. The strawman is therefore not just the vehicle through which the government obtains its illicit jurisdiction over its citizens; it is also the mechanism by which that debt was collateralized. By divorcing themselves from their respective strawmen, Sovereign Citizen proponents of Redemption theory believe they can both free themselves from the government’s jurisdiction and gain access to the money that their strawmen represent. That money is often said to be held in “Treasury Direct Accounts,” and claimed to be worth anywhere from \$650,000, to \$1,000,000, to \$20,000,000 per person (Kalinowski IV 2019, p.165); the stamp across the center of the page shown above in Figure 1.1 is likely referencing a version of Redemption theory when it mentions depositing something in the United States Treasury. Other varieties of Sovereign Citizen financial conspiracy

¹⁰ Though there is no consistent explanation for this belief from the Sovereign Citizens themselves, it has been suggested that it likely stems from the tendency of the government to print names in all capital letters on birth certificates and other important documents (Williams 2016); by declaring such capitalization evidence of the “strawman” Sovereign Citizens can start any interaction with the legal system armed with clear “proof” of their pseudolegal theories.

misconceptions proceed along similar lines, promising either access to untold riches or the elimination of personal debts via their secret formulae; see Netolitzky (2020, pp.734, 739) for examples of similar theories.

It should be kept in mind that the elements of the pseudolaw memplex given above are not competing strands of conspiracy theories but rather the building blocks of those theories which the Sovereign Citizen movement puts forward. These theories generally originate with movement leaders referred to in the literature as “gurus” (Rooke 2012, p.19) such as the self-styled “Judge Plenipotentiary David-Wynn: Miller” (Netolitzky 2016a, p.40; Hay 2020). Miller instructs his followers that legal documents are only valid if they use his system of “QUANTUM-LANGUAGE-PARSE-SYNTAX-GRAMMAR” (discussed at length in Section 5.6.3) and other gurus are similarly insistent on the power of their personal pseudolegal strategies. These ideas are promulgated through Sovereign Citizen seminars and workshops as well as through the extensive sharing of pseudolegal document templates authored by these gurus (see, e.g., Netolitzky 2016a).

There are many accessory elements of pseudolegal color which can appear as part of Sovereign Citizen theories. References to the Uniform Commercial Code, or “UCC,” abound, for example, in many different areas of Sovereign Citizen thinking. Unlike strawmen or other objects of their fixation, the UCC actually exists: it refers to a set of laws which govern commercial transactions that have been uniformly adopted in all 50 states (Uniform Law Commission 2022). According to Sovereign Citizen pseudolegal theorists, because “everything is a contract” (point 1 above) (Netolitzky 2020, pp.733–34, 738), the UCC is therefore the official rulebook by which the government must operate (Sullivan 1999, p.806; Loeser 2015, p.1125; Berger 2016, p.5; Kalinowski IV 2019, p.166). Sovereign Citizens will often attempt to exploit perceived loopholes in the text of the UCC in their interactions with the legal system by, for example, appending phrases such as “Without Prejudice UCC 1-308” to their signatures (Berger 2016, p.5).¹¹ 1-308 is a real section of the Uniform Commercial Code that addresses how one party to a contract can explicitly reserve certain rights while performing a duty required by the other party which would normally waive those rights. It even recommends the use of words such as “Without prejudice” or “Under protest” to note such a reservation (Legal Information Institute 2022a). The UCC, of course, does not actually apply to these sorts of interactions with the legal system; it only applies to legitimate commercial transactions.

¹¹ Older Sovereign Citizen documents will instead reference “UCC 1-207” (Sullivan 1999, p.807); the number of this section was changed to 1-308 in 2004 (Legal Information Institute 2022d) and Sovereign Citizens appear to have subsequently updated their documents accordingly.

Nevertheless, it remains a frequent feature of many a Sovereign Citizen pseudolegal theory and document.¹² As mentioned above, some Sovereign Citizens allege that instead of (or perhaps in addition to) everything being based on contract law, the entire legal system is constructed to force people into consenting to admiralty jurisdiction, and that courtrooms are constructed in such a way as to symbolically transform them into the bridge of a ship, with the judge serving as captain (Sullivan 1999, p.806; Patrice 2013; Berger 2016, pp.4–5); proponents of this particular pseudolegal theory will also point to a yellow or gold fringe around the American flag in a courtroom as (legally meritless) evidence that the judge is sitting in admiralty (Sullivan 1999, p.205; Loeser 2015, p.1123; Kalinowski IV 2019, p.174). Regardless of the pseudolegal color added to a given conspiracy theory, however, their intended functioning and outcome remains the same: the Sovereign Citizen is free and clear of any government influence, and often significantly financially better off for the experience.

Though this thesis is only examining the writings of American Sovereign Citizens, both the broad strokes of their alleged conspiracies and the elements of the “Pseudolaw Memplex” appear to remain consistent regardless of the country or jurisdiction in which a given branch of the movement operates (see, e.g., Rooke 2012, p.35; Kent 2015; Netolitzky 2016b). In Germany, for example, the Sovereign Citizen group known as the “Reichsbürgers” alleges that the current German government was illegally imposed by the Allies at the close of the Second World War and that they are the proper inheritors of the authority of the legitimate German state, though there is at least some disagreement in the movement as to whether that prior legitimate state was the German Empire as it stood in 1871, 1918, or 1933 (Deutsche Welle 2016; Manthe 2018). Just as some American Sovereign Citizens have argued in the US context, the Reichsbürgers theorize that Germany is not a republic, but in fact a company, and that German citizens are its employees (Deutsche Welle 2016). Similarly, Netolitzky (2016b, p.631) notes that many Canadian Sovereign Citizens allege “essentially unmodified” versions of the same pseudolegal theories that American Sovereign Citizens do. Ultimately, from a legal perspective, it appears that the arguments raised by Sovereign Citizens of all nationalities can be categorized as equally wrong for largely the same reasons. More than the exact details of the alleged conspiracies, however, it is the legal-seeming maneuvers of the Sovereign Citizens that result from those beliefs and the ways in which those maneuvers relate to the forms and functions of legitimate legal discourse that are of particular interest to this thesis.

¹² With that said, a few Sovereign Citizens caution against mentioning the UCC at all, believing that its mere invocation is sufficient to place oneself under the government’s jurisdiction (Sullivan 1999, p.807).

1.2.3 The Size and Spread of the Sovereign Citizen Movement

Given the ideological and geographic spread of the Sovereign Citizen movement over the past several decades, it is difficult to get a sense of the number of currently active Sovereign Citizens either in general or in any specific national context, but there is broad agreement that that number has risen in recent years. It is estimated there were somewhere between 12,000 and 50,000 members of the Posse Comitatus in the 1970s (Wessinger 2000, p.175), and the number of Sovereign Citizens in the United States alone as of 2011 has been placed at approximately 300,000 (Southern Poverty Law Center 2015). Though that particular figure is disputed (Mallek 2016), a separate analysis found a substantial increase in the amount of reported court cases involving Sovereign Citizen litigants in the United States between the years 2008 and 2015 (Slater 2016, pp.4–7) which others, noting a striking parallel to the rise of the Posse Comitatus as a result of the farm crisis of the 1980s, have connected to the 2008 mortgage foreclosure crisis (Conroy 2017). Such calculations have become even more complicated since then as Sovereign Citizen-style pseudolegal arguments have gained popularity with other conspiracy theorists, particularly followers of the QAnon (Kelley 2019a; Merlan 2020; Neiwert 2022) and anti-vaccine/COVID protest movements (McIntyre and Sarre 2020; Kesvani 2021; Hume 2022a). As a result, though it is not possible to precisely quantify the number of individuals who currently believe in the sorts of conspiracies that the Sovereign Citizen movement espouses, it seems safe to assume that those numbers have continued to increase.

Though the sheer outlandishness of their claims may make it seem otherwise, Sovereign Citizens are more than just a harmless curiosity: not only is every interaction that they have with the legal system at a minimum a waste of police, judicial, or other governmental resources, but their anti-authority attitudes can and have resulted in real world harms. The most significant incident in the United States is likely the Montana Freeman Standoff, a three month long showdown between the FBI and a group of armed Sovereign Citizens¹³ that occurred in 1996 (Wessinger 1999). The Freeman sought to overthrow the federal government and establish their own “united States of America” (with “united” purposefully left uncapitalized) which was intended to be “an association of sovereign state republics governed by the pre-Civil War constitution, which [would] enforce the laws given by Yahweh in the Old Testament” (Wessinger 1999, pp.37–38). Though that was ultimately resolved without violence, this is not

¹³ Relatedly, the Montana Freeman can also be considered members of the Christian Identity movement, one of the groups mentioned above as successors to the Posse Comitatus after its collapse in the 1980s (Wessinger 1999, p.37).

always the case; in May of 2010, for example, two American Sovereign Citizens shot and killed two police officers during a traffic stop (MacNab 2010), and threats of violence or even murder against those who are perceived to be agents of the illegitimate government are far from uncommon in the wider movement (Kent and Wiley 2013, p.320; Laird 2014; Manthe 2018; Sarteschi 2020).¹⁴ The FBI has considered the Sovereign Citizen movement to be a domestic terrorist organization for over a decade (FBI Counterterrorism Analysis Section 2011), though given the movement's international spread, it is at this point far more than a simply "domestic" matter. Sarteschi (2022) suggests that the Sovereign Citizen movement has spread to "at least" 26 separate countries; in addition to the US, Canada, and Germany, there have also been notable reports of Sovereign Citizen activity in the United Kingdom (Hume 2021a; Hume 2021b), Australia (Thomas 2020; Wilson 2020; McIntyre 2021), France (Hinnant 2021), Austria (Deutsche Welle 2019; Marko 2020), Ireland (Gilbert 2021b), Taiwan (Hioe 2018), New Zealand (Reeve 2022), and Singapore (NZ Herald 2020), and there are likely more which have not yet been reported in English-speaking media. The Sovereign Citizen movement is now a matter of worldwide concern.

1.3 Legal Language and Pseudolegal Strategies

What makes Sovereign Citizen pseudolegal discourse of such interest to this thesis (and distinguishable from other theories such as those put forward by conspiracists like 9/11 truthers or QAnon adherents) is the way in which it attempts to coopt the language and authority of the legitimate legal system. Sovereign Citizens go to great lengths to present their conspiracy theories as legitimate legal arguments. In justifying their beliefs to those outside the movement, they will make reference to a "staggering" (Sullivan 1999, p.795) range of actual case law (though of course all interpreted in line with their particular flair for conspiratorial exegesis), often presenting themselves as official figures such as judges (Kelley 2017) or police officers (Hume 2022a; Hume 2022b) while doing so. In addition to holding seminars to attract new movement members (MacNab 2010), Sovereign Citizens have also been known to create institutions to rival those of the "illegitimate" government, including primary schools (Hume 2021b), law schools (sometimes referred to as "schools of common law") (Anti-Defamation League 2012, p.6), and even, in some extreme cases, entirely parallel systems of government (Deutsche Welle 2019; Marko 2020).

¹⁴ See Kent and Wiley (2013, pp.319–329) for a summary of some of the other major incidents involving Sovereign Citizens in the United States and Canada and MacNab (2018) for more on the rise of anti-government extremism in the United States (including the Sovereign Citizen movement) in the early 21st century in general.

The need to appear authoritative to outsiders is central to all of these efforts and many of the most marked ways in which Sovereign Citizens attempt to do so are found in their writings. Sovereign Citizen documents have been described by legal scholars as “dense, complex, and virtually unreadable” (Sullivan 1999, p.796), and much ink has been spilled in law journals outlining why, for reasons both legal and historical, their pseudolegal theories are groundless (e.g. Melle 2013; Loeser 2015; Kalinowski IV 2019; McRoberts 2019; Netolitzky 2020). Similarly, in the published legal opinions in which judges have chosen to engage fully with Sovereign Citizen arguments, they have made abundantly clear that they possess no legal merit (see, e.g. Rooke 2012 for a Canadian example, or Delort 2013 for an American one).

Perhaps to make up for their lack of actual authority, Sovereign Citizens have developed a number of distinctive linguistic and semiotic strategies that they employ to bolster their persuasive efforts. Often, this takes the form of a co-opting of existing legal words and phrases (Southern Poverty Law Center 2010), such as the quasi-mythical importance attributed to the UCC or their frequent use of the term “common law,” but it can also involve the addition of graphic features that seem to be without parallel in the legitimate legal system. Some of the more notable and seemingly original features of Sovereign Citizen texts include:

- Atypical formatting for names and addresses, generally as part of their efforts to distinguish the “natural” person from their strawman. As mentioned above, this often includes the addition of punctuation to names and, in the case of addresses, a focus on postal codes, such as “postal zone [32941]” or “near (42179)” (Anti-Defamation League 2016, pp.3–6; Conti 2018). The use of all capital letters and red ink or sometimes even blood is also common, particularly when Sovereign Citizens are writing their own names (Williams 2016; Conti 2018).
- The use of postage stamps and thumbprints as personal seals. As with their use of punctuation in names, this is also seemingly related to the desire to emphasize their identity as “natural” people (Anti-Defamation League 2016, p.11; Netolitzky 2018b, pp.1059–1061).
- Complex disclaimers and declarations. These generally follow the name of the Sovereign Citizen author of a given text and involve phrases such as “In Propria Persona” or “without prejudice,” both of which have technical legal meanings rarely relevant to the contexts in which Sovereign Citizens employ them (Anti-Defamation League 2016, p.4). As discussed above, references to the Uniform Commercial Code also frequently appear in these contexts (Anti-Defamation League 2016, p.9).

With only minor variation, these sorts of features have been reported to appear consistently across Sovereign Citizen writings, seemingly independent of the particular branch of the movement which has produced a given document (Southern Poverty Law Center 2010; Anti-Defamation League 2016). The only sub-variety of Sovereign Citizen discourse that has been noted with any regularity is “quantum grammar” (mentioned in Section 1.2.2) though it appears to be notable less for the presence of any unique features relative to pseudolegal courtroom filings than it is for the sheer concentration of the sorts of distinctively Sovereign Citizen features listed above it involves (Rooke 2012, pp.34–35; Anti-Defamation League 2016, p.10; Netolitzky 2018b, pp.1061–1062; Plastow 2018; McRoberts 2019, pp.637–638; Hay 2020). Just as it is possible to speak coherently of a larger “Sovereign Citizen movement” despite its inherent decentralization, it is therefore also possible to speak of a single collective style of Sovereign Citizen pseudolegal discourse.

1.4 The Aims of this Thesis

Whatever the terminology or theoretical grounding used, there appears to be universal agreement among those examining the writings of the Sovereign Citizen movement on two points: one, that it is not the same thing as legitimate legal writing; and two, that, at the same time, it is clearly closely related to legitimate legal writing. Beyond that, however, based on the existing research, there is little that can be said definitively about the nature of Sovereign Citizen pseudolegal discourse or its relationship to legitimate legal discourse. Perhaps more surprisingly, there is relatively little that can be said definitively about the register of legal English. This section will elaborate on the gap in the existing literature on these topics, lay out the research questions which this thesis seeks to answer, and briefly describe both the data collected for this thesis and methodology used to examine it.

1.4.1 The Literature Gap

Sovereign Citizen writing has been described by one Canadian judge as “a bizarre form of ‘legal grammar’, which is not merely incomprehensible in Canada, but equally so in any other jurisdiction” (Rooke 2012, pp.34–35). Other writers have been somewhat more politic in their descriptions, referring instead to the movement’s “unique views on the constitutionality of the United States’ jurisdiction” (Kalinowski IV 2019, p.154) or to their larger set of conspiracy beliefs as “pseudolaw” (McRoberts 2019). Those who have looked at the Sovereign Citizen movement from an anthropological or religious studies perspective have noted that the ways in

which Sovereign Citizens use legal or legal-seeming language appears to align with what would be expected of ritual magic practice (Wessinger 1999; Wessinger 2000; Dew 2015). While the question of how Sovereign Citizen documents are structured is not on its own an interesting one (given that practically everything they say is legally or factually incorrect, and sometimes both, it is hard to justify looking too deeply into them for their own sake), the clear connection that a multitude of commenters have made between the structure of these documents and that of actual legal documents suggests that these two groups of documents likely provide fruitful grounds for comparison.

Though there is doubtlessly much that could be learned from a broader comparison of the pseudolegal activities of the Sovereign Citizen movement to the operation of the legitimate legal system (e.g. comparing the performance of legal authority by Sovereign Citizen movement leaders in their seminars to that of judges in their courtrooms), this thesis is limiting its examination of the nature of Sovereign Citizen pseudolegal discourse to that which is observable in the documents which they submit to courts. As discussed further in Section 3.6, the extremist nature of many individual Sovereign Citizens precluded any sort of ethnographic work from being carried out as part of this thesis. Given the absence of any prior such ethnographic studies examining the Sovereign Citizen movement, a discussion of the intents or purposes of any individual Sovereign Citizen litigants in the course of their pseudolegal activities is beyond the scope of this study. The working assumptions of this thesis as to the background of Sovereign Citizen pseudolegal texts are discussed in Section 2.3.3.

Prior to this thesis, linguistic engagement with writings of the Sovereign Citizen movement has been primarily limited to passing mentions in Tiersma (1999, pp.212–213) and Heffer (2020, p.201). Though Marko (2020) goes somewhat further by performing a critical discourse analysis of a single text from an Austrian Sovereign Citizen group, the aims of that paper are more focused on legitimation strategies and other rhetorical devices employed than on the nature of the pseudolegal language used. Additionally, as will be discussed in more depth in the following chapter, there has also been relatively sparse linguistic engagement with the question of what exactly constitutes the register of legal English, at least a sense of which must be established before it is possible to examine how that register is used in Sovereign Citizen texts. This thesis therefore hopes to make a meaningful contribution to several different areas, including to the studies of pseudolegal discourse, legal genres and the register of legal English, as well as to the understanding of legal authority more generally.

1.4.2 Research Questions, Data, and Methodology

This thesis is interested in examining the relationship between legitimate legal documents and Sovereign Citizen pseudolegal documents, and, subsidiarily, considering how authority is manifested in legal texts. That relationship is explored through the comparison of a corpus of legitimate courtroom filings (the “LCF” corpus) to a corpus of Sovereign Citizen pseudolegal courtroom filings (the “PCF” corpus). Specifically, these corpora will be examined to answer the following research questions:

1. How does the use of the register of legal English compare in legitimate courtroom filings and Sovereign Citizen pseudolegal courtroom filings?
2. How do the multimodal contents of legitimate courtroom filings and Sovereign Citizen pseudolegal courtroom filings compare?
3. What does the relationship between legitimate courtroom filings and Sovereign Citizen pseudolegal courtroom filings reveal about the nature of “parasitic” genres?

In answering these questions, this thesis will necessarily also engage with related topics such as the nature of legal English, manifestations of authority in legal texts, linguistic expressions of magic and ritual, and the nature of genre.

The LCF and PCF corpora both consist of texts filed as part of actual litigation in state-level trial court in Cook County, Illinois. They are compared via a corpus-assisted multimodal discourse analysis (“CAMDA”). CAMDA as a methodology involves “a large-scale analysis of relevant semiotic systems using a corpus” and “a detailed, close-reading analysis of selected texts [from that corpus]” (Bednarek and Caple 2014, p.151). A full breakdown of the contents of the LCF and PCF corpora and a detailed explanation of CAMDA as a methodology can be found in Chapter 3. By answering these research questions in this manner, this thesis hopes to contribute to the fields of both language and law by enhancing the scholarly understanding of pseudolegal discourse and its relationship to legitimate legal discourse.

1.5 The Structure of This Thesis

This chapter has explained the history and belief system of the Sovereign Citizen movement, as well as laid out some of its apparent connections to legitimate legal discourse. Subsequent chapters will further explore those connections via both an examination of the related literature on the topic and via a direct comparison of texts belonging to the two genres.

Chapter 2 provides a critical review of the relevant literature on language and law including prior work on register and genre as well as of the semiotics of law. It also includes a

discussion of prior non-linguistic academic work which has examined the Sovereign Citizen movement, focusing on discussions of the Sovereign Citizen movement as a conspiracy movement and the ways in which both Sovereign Citizen texts and legitimate legal texts can be interpreted as magic documents. In doing so, this chapter argues that Sovereign Citizen pseudolegal courtroom filings should be understood as instances of a “parasitic genre” which relies upon a reader’s pre-existing knowledge of a separate “host” genre (i.e. the legitimate courtroom filing genre) but whose discursive purposes are at odds with those of the “host.”

Chapter 3 outlines the methodology employed to answer the research questions listed above. It begins by giving an overview of corpus-assisted multimodal discourse analysis (“CAMDA”) and explaining the construction of the corpora used in this thesis. The chapter then explains the multimodal annotation scheme used to markup the LCF and PCF corpora before reviewing the various corpus linguistic techniques employed in the subsequent analyses. It concludes with a discussion of the various ethical factors considered in the design and implementation of this thesis.

Chapter 4 analyzes the use of legal English in the Legitimate and Pseudolegal Courtroom Filing corpora, with reference to the combined written subcorpora of the Corpus of Contemporary American English (Davies 2008) to represent standard written American English. As part of that process, it evaluates conclusions drawn by prior work in the area of language and law regarding the features which characterize the register of legal English and examines the use of legal technical terminology in the LCF and PCF corpora. To better examine the use of legal English in its full context, the chapter concludes with a close reading of a full text from each corpus, chosen based upon their use of legal technical terminology.

Chapter 5 compares the graphic contents of the Legitimate and Pseudolegal Courtroom Filing corpora. It begins with an examination of the layout and design choices which typify the documents in each corpus at the whole-text level before focusing on the composition of the documents’ opening pages. From there, the chapter proceeds to examine the methods of textual emphasis employed in each corpus (e.g. bolding, underlining, and italicization) and the use of individual graphic features (e.g. stamps, seals, and thumbprints). The chapter also compares the typical placements of these graphic features on the page between the two corpora. In the same way as Chapter 4, Chapter 5 closes with a close reading of a full text from each corpus, chosen this time based upon their use of the emphatic and graphic features discussed throughout the chapter.

Chapter 6 concludes the thesis with a review and discussion of its overall findings and the ways in which they fit within the field of language and law. It finishes with an

acknowledgement of the limitations of the present study and suggests several potential avenues for future research.

2. Literature Review

2.1 Introduction

This chapter critically reviews the range of sources drawn on in this thesis. Sections 2.2 and 2.3 provide background by locating the work of this thesis in the field of language and law and by discussing what it means, exactly, for the Sovereign Citizen movement to be a conspiracy movement. In doing so, these sections distinguish the ways in which lawyers and linguists work with language and establish the working assumptions that this thesis makes about members of the Sovereign Citizen movement and their pseudolegal texts. Section 2.4 reviews the linguistic concept of genre and ultimately proposes that Sovereign Citizen pseudolegal texts belong to a “parasitic” genre which preys upon a “host” genre of legitimate legal texts. Section 2.5 turns to the concept of register, examining what is known about the difference between legal English and more standard varieties of English with particular attention paid to the nature of legal terminology. Section 2.6 looks at academic understandings of both ritual and magic and suggests that aspects of the discourse of both legitimate and pseudolegal courtroom filings can be better analyzed with these concepts in mind. Section 2.7 then concludes with a discussion of the concept of authority and how it is semiotically manifested in legal texts.

2.2 Language and Law

This thesis draws upon both linguistic and legal research, a combination of disciplines often referred to as either “language and law” or “forensic linguistics.” The term “forensic linguistics” was first used by Svartvik (1968), but it was not until 1994, with the founding of the journal *Forensic Linguistics: The International Journal of Speech, Language and the Law*, that it was adopted by the wider academic community (Coulthard 1994, p.27; Larner 2015, p.131).¹ From the field’s inception, its exact contours have been subject to some debate² and “forensic linguistics” is today often used as an umbrella term for two related avenues of research: one which examines the use of language in the legal system and another which is related to the provision of expert linguistic evidence, such as authorship analysis, in a courtroom or comparable legal setting (the section divisions in Coulthard et al. (2017) and Shuy

¹ Though the journal would later drop “Forensic Linguistics” from its title, the term is still used to describe the field as a whole.

² See Kurzon (1997, pp.119–123) and Durant and Leung (2016, p.3) for discussion of some of the other proposals for the naming and subdivision of the field.

(2017), for example, fall along these lines). The former of those two avenues, and the category into which the subject matter of this thesis falls, is generally referred to by recent scholarship and the International Association for Forensic and Legal Linguistics as either “language and law” or, somewhat less commonly, “language of the law” (Finegan 2015, p.56; International Association for Forensic and Legal Linguistics 2022). It is important to note here that “language and law” is distinct from “law and language”, which is a domain in philosophy not relevant to the aims of this thesis (Hutton 2009, pp.48–61; Endicott 2016). Despite the clear connection of its subject matter to law and the legal system, this thesis is emphatically a work of linguistics rather than a legal study. To explain what that difference means, this section will now turn to how lawyers analyze language and explain why those methods are not suitable to answer the sorts of linguistically based research questions that this thesis has posed.

Like many linguists, lawyers can spend a significant amount of their professional careers analyzing texts, and just as linguists have devised their own strategies for the systematic analysis of language, so too have lawyers. One such set of legal textual analytical techniques are the “canons of construction” (so-called because of their essentially universal acceptance within the common law legal community)³ used to resolve cases of ambiguity in contracts and statutes. The canon of “*ejusdem generis*” (Latin for “of the same kind”), for example, “calls for general terms to be construed to include categories similar in nature to those enumerated” in the text examined (Crystal and Davy 1969, p.214; Solan 2010, p.36). While these canons and other tools of legal textual analysis can be useful in coming to a decision regarding the operative legal meaning of a text, they are ultimately not suitable for answering the research questions posed in this thesis. A lawyer analyzes a text to arrive at its supposedly definitive interpretation; even in cases where multiple readings of a text are possible, legal convention is for a lawyer to present their conclusion as inevitable (Solan 1993, p.2) and the tools used to do so (e.g. the canon of *ejusdem generis*) are therefore prescriptive and formalistic. Though lawyers may occasionally employ linguistic methods of analysis, particularly corpus linguistic techniques, in attempts to determine the so-called “original meaning” of words or phrases (Zimmer 2011; Bowman 2020; Solan 2020; Lee and Mouritsen 2021), the nature of the conclusions drawn in legal writing are fundamentally distinct from those drawn in linguistic analysis, and the methods used in legal analysis are therefore not generally useful to a linguistic study. Much has been said about these tools of legal textual analysis from both legal and linguistic perspectives (e.g. Hutton 2009; Solan 2010; Solan 2017). However, given their difference in

³ For more on the canons of construction from a linguistic perspective, see Kaplan (2020, pp.130–139).

purpose from linguistic methods, they will not be employed or otherwise discussed further in this study.

2.3 The Sovereign Citizen Movement

As mentioned in Chapter 1, there appears to have been very little prior linguistic engagement with the pseudolegal discourse of the Sovereign Citizen movement. Section 2.3.1 discusses the only three studies identified which have done so. Section 2.3.2 then discusses what it means for the Sovereign Citizen to be a “conspiracy movement” after which Section 2.3.3 outlines the working assumptions this thesis makes about Sovereign Citizens and their pseudolegal texts.

2.3.1 Linguistic Approaches to the Sovereign Citizen Movement

Though the Sovereign Citizen movement has received a great deal of attention from legal and historical scholars (e.g. Sullivan 1999; Netolitzky 2016b), it has received very little from linguists. As part of a larger discussion about the use of technical terminology in legal English (a subject which itself is discussed in depth below in Section 2.5.4), Tiersma (1999, pp.212–213) briefly describes the practices of the “Montana Freeman”, a Sovereign Citizen group known for “prepar[ing] verbose legal filings to various state and federal courts, dressed up in ‘pseudo-scholarly terms and meaningless Latin phrases,’ typically claiming for various reasons courts have no jurisdiction over them.” Heffer (2020, pp.201–202) uses Sovereign Citizen pseudolegal texts as an example of what he terms “pseudo-legal poppycock,” or an “epistemically irresponsible discourse pathology” that uses “the style of an established discourse type” while presenting information “not appropriate for that discourse type,” and notes that discourse pathologies of this kind often involve a degree of self-deception on the part of both the author and the reader to function as intended (a conclusion also reached by some legal commentators, including Rooke (2012, p.17)). Marko (2020) engages at length with a single Austrian Sovereign Citizen text, but does so with a focus on legitimization strategies and the use of certain rhetorical devices, rather than with the aim of making any conclusions about the Sovereign Citizen movement and its use of legal English. These three works appear to form the extent of the currently existing explicit linguistic engagement with the Sovereign Citizen movement. To better understand the Sovereign Citizen movement and its pseudolegal writings, then, it is necessary to begin elsewhere.

2.3.2 *Conspiracy Theories and Sovereign Citizens*

Conspiracy theories have in recent years “come to predominate American political culture” (Fenster 2008, p.1) and, in an analysis that seems to have only become more true since it was written, been described as “a more salient part of US political discourse now than at any other time in recent history” (Uscinski 2020, p.523). Anti-government conspiracy movements like the Sovereign Citizen movement tend to arise “when the bureaucratic structures of a dominating government are viewed as oppressive and unresponsive to the needs and petitions of the [people, who] do not believe they will receive a fair hearing or an adequate response from the courts and agencies of the oppressing government” (Wessinger 2000, p.160). Putting to the side the extent to which the American government may be considered “oppressive and unresponsive,” the nature of the American legal system does present fertile ground for this sort of conspiracy movement. Bhatia (2010, p.41) goes so far as to say that “one may, with some justification perhaps, claim that legal discourse, especially in common law jurisdictions, is an instance of conspiracy theory, according to which legislative provisions are purposefully written in a complex and convoluted manner, so as to keep ordinary readers out of accessible range and to perpetuate dependence on the specialist legal community.” As is often the case in legal contexts, the truth of that statement ultimately depends upon how one defines the terms it contains.

Legally speaking, a “conspiracy” is “an agreement by two or more persons to commit an unlawful act” (Garner 2019) and in that sense a “conspiracy theory” could be as simple as the conviction that somewhere at least two people are planning to break the law. That is not the sense in which the above citations to Fenster (2008) and Uscinski (2020) employ the term, however, nor is it the way in which it will be used in this thesis. Instead, in line with its usage in those works, as well as with its more everyday meaning, a “conspiracy theory” here refers to “the conviction that a secret, omnipotent individual or group covertly controls the political and social order or some part thereof” (Fenster 2008, p.1). Even under that more restrictive definition, Sovereign Citizen pseudolegal beliefs clearly qualify as conspiracy theories and the Sovereign Citizen movement as a whole is therefore a conspiracy movement (Barkun 2013, pp.208–209).

The belief system of individuals who belong to conspiracy movements has been explained as follows:

[Conspiracy theorists] suffer from a ‘crippled epistemology’ in the sense that they know very few things, and what they know is wrong... [Their] extremism stems not from

irrationality, but from the fact that they have little (relevant) information, and their extremist views are supported by what little they know (Sunstein and Vermeule 2009, pp.211–212).

Conspiracy beliefs tend to become more extreme over time as conspiracy theorists use their “crippled epistemology” to explain away contrary evidence and resist the falsification of any key tenets of their beliefs (Sunstein and Vermeule 2009, p.210).⁴ This is even more true when there is a community of conspiracy theorists working and consulting together (Sunstein and Vermeule 2009, p.216), as there is in the case of the Sovereign Citizen movement.

Though it does not specifically discuss the Sovereign Citizen movement (and in fact was written before the movement existed in any notable sense), Richard Hofstadter’s essay, *The Paranoid Style in American Politics*, argues that there is something about American political life that makes it peculiarly well-suited to the formation of this sort of conspiracy theory. Particularly on the American right, Hofstadter claims, there has long been a “paranoid style” of “heated exaggeration, suspiciousness, and conspiratorial fantasy” (Hofstadter 1966, pp.xi, 3). Conspiracy theories which stem from this school of thought have an “elaborate concern with demonstration” and “[heroically strive] for ‘evidence’ to prove that the unbelievable is the only thing that can be believed” (Hofstadter 1966, pp.35–36). Related writings “start with... defensible assumptions and with a careful accumulation of facts, or at least what appear to be facts” and are “if not wholly rational, at least intensely rationalistic” (Hofstadter 1966, pp.36–37). This certainly seems to be true of Sovereign Citizen pseudolegal documents; though they may not be legally or factually correct, as discussed in the previous chapter’s review of the “pseudolaw memplex” (Netolitzky 2020) they do possess a strong sense of internal logic and consistency. Though later writers (e.g. Fenster 2008, pp.23–51; Dyrendal 2016, pp.198–199) have criticized Hofstadter’s essay as overly focused on right-wing populist conspiracy theories at the expense of those elsewhere on the political spectrum, given the right wing beliefs of many Sovereign Citizens (Conroy 2017), this does not limit the applicability of its points to the present study.

⁴ Though such a discussion is outside the scope of this study, there is a clear connection here to Heffer’s (2020, pp.80–81) definition of “discourse pathologies”. Given the fundamental lack of legal merit to Sovereign Citizen pseudolegal conspiracy theories, they have far more in common with the “diseased” discourses Heffer describes than they do with concepts such as that of a counter-narrative, which is a marginalized but still reality-based challenge to an official institutional narrative (Rogers and Brefeld 2015, pp. 47–48).

2.3.3 Working Assumptions About the Sovereign Citizen Movement

As was discussed in Chapter 1, the visually striking character of Sovereign Citizen pseudolegal documents generally has a clear relationship to the specific conspiracies alleged by the movement, such as the frequent connection between the so-called “strawman” theory and certain patterns of non-standard spelling and punctuation in the writing of names. These reasons, however, are broadly opaque to those not versed in the movement’s pseudolegal theories and that opacity is likely a factor in the lack of linguistic attention they have received up to this point. The inherent strangeness that suffuses many of these texts has even led some to wonder whether adherence to Sovereign Citizen pseudolegal theories can itself be evidence of mental illness (Tiersma 1999, p.213; Kent 2015; Matheson 2018). While such an assumption, if true, could very reasonably be said to place the examination of Sovereign Citizen discourse outside of the ambit of this study in language and law, this thesis proceeds instead with the assumption that individual Sovereign Citizens are either misinformed about or misunderstand the functioning of the legitimate legal system, but are otherwise without any relevant mental health conditions.

It is likely true that at least some Sovereign Citizens (particularly the movement leaders often referred to as “gurus” (Rooke 2012, p.19)) are not sincere in their professed beliefs, but rather use the trappings of Sovereign Citizen pseudolegal theories for some form of personal or financial gain. It is not possible, however, for this thesis to gauge the intent with which a text was written, and so all Sovereign Citizen texts examined will accordingly be assumed to be sincere (i.e. will be treated as if their pseudolegal claims were intended to be taken at face value). With these assumptions in place, this thesis is able to focus instead on determining the nature of the relationship between legitimate courtroom filings and Sovereign Citizen pseudolegal courtroom filings as well as the broader significance of that relationship.

Taking all of the above into account, then, it is the position of this thesis that Sovereign Citizens are conspiracy theorists suffering from a “crippled epistemology” but that they are otherwise rational and sincere actors. The pseudolegal texts that Sovereign Citizens produce are directly influenced by the conspiracy theories which they allege, and those theories are in turn based in significant part on both the American legal system and the texts that are produced as part of that system’s normal functioning.

2.4 Genre: Parasites and Hosts

This thesis examines the relationship between legitimate and pseudolegal courtroom filings, two distinct but closely related varieties of text. This section discusses that relationship via the linguistic concept of genre. Section 2.4.1 reviews the definition of genre and the ways in which multiple genres have been noted to interact with one another, Section 2.4.2 looks at prior work that has been done on the nature of legal genres, and 2.4.3 proposes that pseudolegal courtroom filings are best understood as instances of a “parasitic” genre which preys upon the “host” genre of legitimate courtroom filings.

2.4.1 Defining Genre and Inter-Genre Interaction

From a linguistic perspective, the concept of genre is frequently defined as follows:

A genre comprises a class of communicative events, the members of which share some set of communicative purposes. These purposes are recognized by expert members of the parent discourse community, and thereby constitute the rationale for the genre. This rationale shapes the schematic structure of the discourse and influences and constrains choice of content and style (Swales 1990, p.58).

Though this definition has been variously described as “pioneering” (Cheng 2010, p.92) and “seminal” (Bhatia 2011, p.240), its focus on communicative purpose has also been criticized by some as myopic, with other factors, such as medium, pointed to as just as essential in certain contexts (an e-mail must be sent electronically regardless of its communicative purpose, for example) (Trosborg 1997b, p.11). Subsequent work has acknowledged the above criticism by giving greater consideration to the broader context in which a genre operates (Trosborg 1997b, p.9; Bhatia 2011, p.240) and, in later years, Swales himself would reconsider that definition and find it somewhat lacking, explaining that “I am [now] less sanguine about the value and viability of such definitional depictions . . . [T]he easy adoption of definitions can prevent us from seeing newly explored or newly emergent genres for what they really are” (Swales 2004, p.61). Rather than denying the utility of the original definition, however, this later statement should be understood as an acknowledgement of the complex and constantly shifting nature of individual genres. Due to the tendency of research on legal genres to make use of the definition from Swales (1990) (e.g. Bhatia 1993; Kurzon 1997) and the lack of applicability of the

criticisms which have been raised against it to the current study, the remainder of this thesis will discuss the concept of genre from that perspective.⁵

Succinctly put, texts in the same genre will tend to share a common purpose and have a similar overall structure (Nunan 2008, p.57). Individuals who are familiar with that genre's purpose and structure (as well as the pragmatic rules necessary to interpret it) are deemed to be "expert users" who have acquired "genre competence" (Cheng 2010, pp.89–90; Stein 2015, p.61). An expert user of a genre is not only able to interpret and make use of that genre, but also to adapt its conventions, and in so doing, to achieve their own situationally-determined pragmatic aims (Bhatia 1997, pp.136–138; Nunan 2008, p.58; Bhatia 2011, p.241). The more fixed the form of a given genre (a characteristic particularly common in institutional genres such as those to which most legal documents belong (Gotti 2012, p.60)), the more subtle the modifications made must be for a given text to remain recognizably within the bounds of that genre; nevertheless, and despite the seeming contradiction, both a genre's reliance upon conventional features and its ability to change over time are essential to its continued use (Bhatia 2011, pp.240–241). Without those conventional features, a genre would never be cohesive enough to be useful to the relevant discourse community, and without the ability to adapt itself to novel rhetorical situations, a genre would eventually fall out of use in favor of something better suited to the needs of that community (Bhatia 2011, p.241; Auken 2018, pp.17–18). Ultimately, every new instance of a genre can be said to modify it in some way because each text must respond to the specific circumstances for which it is created (Auken 2018, p.17).

Genres change over time not only as a result of the needs of individual users but also through their natural interactions with other genres (Bazerman 1994). The structure of a textbook on contract law, for example, will be influenced both by the structure typical of textbooks in general and that of the sorts of contracts it examines, just as the way a lawyer

⁵ Genre analysis as an area of linguistic study has its origins in Bakhtin (1981) and (1987), as well as with Miller (1984), with Miller in particular pointed to as the first study to clearly define genre as a linguistic, rather than literary, concept (Freadman 2012, p.544; Auken 2018, p.15). Contemporary approaches to genre analysis can be divided into three primary schools (Handford 2010, p.257; Freadman 2012, pp.544–545, 549): the first is associated with research on English for Specific Purposes (ESP) (e.g. Swales 1990; Bhatia 1993), the second with the New Rhetoric School (e.g. Miller 1984; Bazerman 1994), and the third with Systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL) (e.g. Martin 1992). Because its origins predate those of linguistic genre analysis, SFL as a field does not explicitly address the concept of genre until Martin (1984). Halliday is said to have felt that SFL's conception of register was sufficiently broad as to include the factors considered part of genre analysis and that genre was, if anything, a subordinate concept to that of register in SFL (Cheng 2010, p.94) (the distinction this thesis draws between register and genre is discussed below in Section 2.5.2). Of those three, the ESP school is both the most prominent (Handford 2010, p.257) and the school into which research on legal genres tends to fall. Regardless, it has been suggested that these three schools of genre analysis have much more in common than not (Bhatia 2011, p.241).

speaks to a judge in court will be influenced by the way the law is written (Kurzon 1997, p.134). Swales (2004, pp.18–20) describes the “genre chain”, a formalized sequence in which one genre will necessarily follow upon another in a particular context (Auken 2018, pp.19–20). As a genre earlier in the chain evolves, those which follow it will have to adapt in turn to remain appropriately responsive. In the leadup to a trial, for example, if one party files a motion, the opposing party will be expected to file a response and, eventually, the judge will be expected to issue a ruling. In such a situation, the structure of both the response and the ruling will be affected by that of the original motion, and the structure of the ruling will also be affected by that of the response. A genre which ignores another that precedes it in the chain runs the risk of becoming discursively nonsensical, possibly leading in this example to either an unfavorable ruling in the case of the response or an appeal in the case of the ruling. A number of other types of inter-genre interaction have been noted: some genres, for example, exist in a hierarchy, with one being a “sub-genre” of another (Nunan 2008, p.58), while others are “complex” or “hybrid” genres which blend the characteristics of multiple others (Heffer 2005, p.32). Auken (2018, p.18) reviews a number of different forms of observed inter-genre interaction; ultimately, the only limits seem to be those inherent to the contexts in which individual genres are produced.

2.4.2 Legal Genres

There have been multiple proposed taxonomies of legal genres. Danet (1980, pp.471–473) characterizes them according to their levels of formality while Tiersma (1999, pp.139–141) does so by whether they are “operative”, “persuasive”, or “expository.” Gotti (2012, p.63), adapting a discussion in Trosborg (1997a, p.20), proposes a method of classification similar to Tiersma, though he combines the “operative” and “persuasive” categories into a singular “primary” category and deems what Tiersma calls “expository” to be “secondary” instead. Maley (1994, pp.15–16) is more granular, dividing legal genres into “1) sources of law and originating points of legal process; 2) pre-trial processes; 3) trial processes; [and] 4) recording of judgment in law reports,” and though Kurzon (1997, pp.130–131) is not attempting to be exhaustive, he identifies more than ten distinct types of legal genre. Of the above proposed classifications, the best fit for the genre of legal document examined in this thesis (i.e. the legitimate courtroom filing) seems to be Tiersma’s “persuasive” category (Tiersma 1999, p.141). Though not as rigidly structured as statutes or private legal documents (e.g. contracts and wills), persuasive legal genres are still characterized by a notable degree of formality in both structure and register (Tiersma 1999, pp.139–141) (see Section 2.5.1 for a discussion of

the difference between genre and register). While all of the above classification systems for legal genres go about it in different ways, these efforts highlight two key factors that seem to exist across all legal genres: first, they are highly formalized, and second, they are designed to either cause or explicate a particular legal effect.

Strong adherence to conventional structure is one of the most distinguishing characteristics of legal genres (Gotti 2012, p.60) and the legal profession seems to exert a great deal of effort to keep it that way (Crystal and Davy 1969, p.194; Tiefenbrun 1986, p.120). Lawyers would likely point to this as the result of a desire for economy and efficiency: a given form may seem archaic or otherwise inaccessible to the layperson, but if it is known to work in its proper context then it would be a waste of time and money to draft a supposedly more accessible form only to have the same result (Charrow et al. 1982, p.187; Gotti 2012, pp.60–61). Less charitably, it has been suggested that this adherence to form is the result of “professional gatekeeping,” where lawyers work to keep legal genres inaccessible to laypeople out of professional self-interest (Heffer 2005, p.13).⁶ Regardless, this rigid adherence to convention seems to be a key factor in the relationship between legitimate courtroom filings and Sovereign Citizen pseudolegal courtroom filings.

Interestingly, like Sovereign Citizen pseudolegal courtroom filings, the legitimate courtroom filing genre has received relatively little attention from linguists, and apparently none from corpus linguists. Breeze’s DOCLEGAL corpus (Breeze 2013; Breeze 2015; Breeze 2017), for example, contains only documents from commercial and corporate legal contexts (e.g. merger and non-competition agreements), Carvalho (2007) only examines contracts, and the most relevant subcorpus of the American Law Corpus constructed by Goźdz-Roszkowski (2011) is limited to briefs filed before the United States Supreme Court. In fact, the review of all known corpora of legal English in Fanego et al. (2017, pp.60–63) does not mention a single corpus which has looked at anything like LCF texts, nor seemingly has anything which has been published in the ensuing years.

In a discussion of legal genres, Bhatia et al. (2004, p.204) mention “legislation, judgments, legal textbooks, and law cases” as part of a non-exhaustive list. Of those, it is conceivable that “law cases” refers to a genre which could encompass legitimate courtroom

⁶ Heffer (2005, p.13) also notes that “much of this gatekeeping takes place within legal education, where apprentice lawyers learn not only how to talk about cases but also how to think about them.” While this thesis is not equipped to evaluate that claim, it is notable that the descriptions of the “case report” genre in Bhatia (1993, pp.127–136) and the “litigant brief” genre in Tracy and Delgadillo (2013, pp.229–233) map closely onto the “IRAC” method, a way in which law students are traditionally taught to analyze and write about legal issues (CUNY School of Law 2019). For a linguistic look at the pedagogical practices of American law schools, see Mertz (2007).

filings, though it is not clear in the context of that chapter, with the only accompanying reference being to a study which was then in progress but that seems never to have been published (Bhatia et al. 2004, pp.212–215). Part of that ambiguity stems from the use of the term “law cases,” which is not common to either the US or UK legal contexts. That classification is not helped by its closeness to the term “case law,” which is used frequently in both legal contexts, though its standard meaning would be covered on the above list by the “judgments” genre. The study which has come the closest to examining the sorts of legitimate courtroom filings of interest to this thesis is Tracy and Delgadillo (2013), though even there the focus is on appellate level filings, rather than the sorts of trial level filings examined here. Tracy and Delgadillo refer to the documents they examine as belonging to the “litigant brief” genre, and describe it as:

A litigant brief is a tightly organized written genre that is persuasive in thrust. As a text genre, litigant briefs are designed by a legal specialist (the attorney) for fellow legal specialists (the judges) who make a final decision. Although one could describe litigant briefs as legal-legal communication, the lay parties never entirely disappear despite their limited role and inability to speak directly for themselves. The lay parties’ actions, sentiments, and actual words are represented and reported by the attorney in a document that is principle-based and drawing on abstract, historically defined legal terms. (2013, p.233)

Though “litigant brief” may seem to be a much less ambiguous name for the genre, it still leaves something to be desired; after all, as noted in the above description, it is neither prepared by nor for a litigant, but rather on behalf of one, and in that authorial sense ascribing them ownership of the brief can be seen as somewhat misleading. Even the word “brief,” if not strictly out of place, stands out as a distinctly non-legal descriptor. Lawyers would be much more likely to refer to a document from this genre as a “filing,” so-called because they are filed with the relevant clerk of court (Garner 2019). In order to better align reference to this genre with its name as used by attorneys while still maintaining a clear indicator of its legal status, this thesis will continue to refer to the sorts of legal documents it examines as belonging to the “legitimate courtroom filing” genre.

The qualities of legitimate courtroom filings that Tracy and Delgadillo (2013) discuss are in keeping with the aforementioned characteristics of legal genres more generally: both the

formalized nature of the genre (it is “tightly organized”) and its apparent purpose (to cause a particular legal effect, i.e. persuade the judge overseeing the case) align with those noted by Tiersma (1999) and others. The above description also touches upon several factors which will be discussed below in Section 2.5, including the reliance of the genre upon technical terminology and the liminality between professional and lay voices inherent to legal discourse. With that said, the utility of Tracy and Delgadillo’s study beyond its description of the “litigant brief” genre is rather limited: though it purports to present the structure of a typical “litigant brief” text, only two documents were reviewed to determine that structure, and the six component sections identified were simply taken from (but notably do not include) the table of contents of one of those documents, leaving open the question of whether additional significant structural elements were not noted (2013, p.231). As a result, this should not be considered the definitive description of the legitimate courtroom filing genre. Particularly as courts and, in some cases, individual judges, are able to set their own rules regarding the structure of documents submitted to them (e.g. Conlon 2020; United States Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit 2020), the genre’s exact realization likely varies at least somewhat from jurisdiction to jurisdiction. Nevertheless, as will be discussed more throughout this and the following chapter (see Section 3.3.2 in particular), despite the relative lack of attention it has received up to this point, the legitimate courtroom filing genre fits well within these established parameters of legal genres more generally.

2.4.3 *Parasitic and Host Genres*

Perhaps the most interesting aspect of the pseudolegal courtroom filings examined in this thesis is the tension between their obvious connection to legitimate courtroom filings and their simultaneous (and just as obvious) status as something other than instances of the legitimate courtroom filing genre. It is possible, of course, that these Sovereign Citizen pseudolegal courtroom filings are simply examples of legitimate courtroom filings created by authors who are not sufficiently competent in that latter genre. Both legitimate courtroom filings and Sovereign Citizen pseudolegal courtroom filings are produced for the same context, after all, and appear to share a communicative purpose (i.e. to further the cause of a given litigant). Ultimately, however, despite their surface level similarities, the consistently noted presence of features such as thumbprints and postage stamps in Sovereign Citizen pseudolegal courtroom filings and the conspiracy theories these documents are based in suggest that they belong to a separate genre than that of legitimate courtroom filings.

While there may not be a place for a pseudolegal courtroom filing in the “genre chain” (Swales 2004, pp.18–20) anticipated by legitimate courtroom filings, the former document cannot exist without the latter; this one-way dependency suggests some other kind of inter-genre relationship. To the extent that pseudolegal courtroom filings are “socially and even legally proscribed” (Bojsen-Møller et al. 2020, p.8), they can be considered a sort of “illicit genre.” However, that classification does not fully capture the complexity of the relationship between pseudolegal courtroom filings and legitimate courtroom filings. This section proposes instead that the Sovereign Citizen pseudolegal courtroom filing genre is best considered to be a “parasitic” genre which preys upon a “host” genre of legitimate courtroom filings.

Though the term “parasitic genre” is occasionally used in literary criticism (e.g. Dentith 2011; Rotstein 2012), the term is employed here more in line with its linguistic sense as coined by Cook (2001). According to Cook, parasitic genres are those which “appropriat[e] the voices of other genres, and hav[e] no independent existence” (Cook 2001, p.219). To Cook, any genre whose existence is dependent upon another can be considered parasitic. As he puts it, “Literary criticism is parasitic upon literature, sports commentary upon sport. Just as many parasitic organisms may be beneficial if not necessary to their hosts, the same may be true of parasitic discourses” (Cook 2001, p.33). Though Cook resists any further subdivision of the concept, it seems more useful to define a parasitic genre instead as a genre whose existence is dependent upon the preexistence of another genre (the “host” genre), and whose existence actively interferes with the functioning of that host genre. Such interference may take any number of forms but can be generally understood to fundamentally disrupt the host genre. Where the dependent genre’s existence does not interfere with its host (as in the case of literary criticism and literature), that would be better considered a “symbiotic genre.” This revised definition preserves the essential element of the original (i.e. dependence upon another genre) while allowing for a more nuanced and contextually-derived description of the genre being examined. It also avoids the potentially negative associations of the word “parasitic” when used to describe genres whose existence is expected, or even welcomed, by their “host” genre.

This section has discussed the linguistic concept of genre, reviewed research on the nature of legal genres specifically, and proposed that the relationship between the Sovereign Citizen pseudolegal document and legitimate courtroom filing genres is a parasitic one. The analyses performed in Chapters 4 and 5 will examine the degree to which this appears to be the case. While, as suggested above, the differences between legitimate courtroom filings and pseudolegal courtroom filings can be at least partially attributed to the fact that attempts by non-lawyers to make use of legal language often focus on the wrong features (Tiefenbrun 1986,

pp.99–100; Heffer 2005, pp.11, 15–17), other non-linguistic commentators (most notably Wessinger (2000)) have suggested that many of the ways in which Sovereign Citizen texts differ from their legitimate legal counterparts are in fact purposeful, and are best understood through the lens of anthropological understandings of ritual and magic. To better identify the ways in which PCF and LCF texts notably differ and thereby determine the extent to which the relationship between the two genres can be considered a parasitic one, the following section explores the register of legal English and how it compares to other varieties of English, after which Section 2.6 turns to that more magical point of view.

2.5 Register and Terminology

The attempts by the authors of Sovereign Citizen pseudolegal courtroom filings to mimic the characteristics of legitimate courtroom filings mean that there is a great deal that the two groups of documents have in common stylistically, if not substantively. This common ground is most obvious in their use of legal (or at least legal seeming) language. This section reviews the nature of the variety of English used in legal contexts (“legal English”) via the concept of register and the related subject of legal technical terminology. Section 2.5.1 begins by distinguishing the concepts of register and genre. 2.5.2 then examines the existing research on the register of legal English, after which 2.5.3 outlines the generally agreed upon qualities of that register as compared to less specialized varieties of English. 2.5.4 concludes with a discussion of the nature of legal technical terminology.

2.5.1 Register and Genre Distinguished

Register and genre are closely related and the two terms may even appear to be used interchangeably in certain contexts (Conrad 2015, p.309; Goulart et al. 2020, p.436). Properly understood, however, the two concepts are decidedly distinct: Genre is related to the structure of complete texts (e.g. the “Introduction-Methods-Results-Discussion” layout of many academic articles), the nature of the community that created them, and the purpose for which they were created (Biber 2010, pp.241–242; Bhatia 2011, p.241; Conrad 2015, pp.309–310; Durant and Leung 2016, pp.11–13), while register describes the discrete linguistic features that characterize a set of texts (e.g. the frequency of pronoun use in formal writing) (Danet 1980, p.471; Halliday and Hasan 1989, p.41; Biber 1995, p.1; Trosborg 1997b, p.5; Conrad 2015, p.309; Goulart et al. 2020, p.436); see Heffer (2005, pp.11–12) and Biber (2010, pp.241–242) for more on the general difference between the two concepts. Style guides for lawyers have

long acknowledged the difference between the organizational structure of a text and the language with which it was written, though they do not necessarily use the same terminology; Bell (1966, p.215), for example, refers to the former category as a text's "architectonics." Regardless of the vocabulary employed, drawing such a distinction is important because it allows for the realization that one register can be used across multiple genres; this is what Breeze (2019, p.81) is referring to when mentioning a "transversal *legal register* that cuts through different genres" (emphasis in original).

2.5.2 *The Register of Legal English*

Following Danet (1980, pp.470–471; 1985, p.275), the consensus position in research on language and law, as well as the position taken by this thesis, is that legal English is a register. While the matter is now largely settled, this position has not been without its historic critics. Some linguists (e.g. O'Barr 1981) have felt that that legal English is sufficiently distinct from other varieties of English that it could reasonably be classified as its own language, or at least that it would be better considered a distinct dialect of English.⁷ Other classifications have been proposed as well: Tiersma (2006, p.48) and Kurzon (1997, p.125), for example, both mention it could be considered a "sublanguage." While it is uncontroversial to say that legal English is distinct from other varieties of English, the usefulness of the aforementioned designations is questionable (Finegan 2015, pp.56–58). Particularly given the fundamental indeterminacy of terms like "language" and "dialect" (Cysouw and Good 2013, pp.331–332), "register" is more than sufficient for the needs of this thesis.

Goźdz-Roszkowski (2011) raises a different sort of argument against the idea of legal English as a register: namely, that it is ultimately a category that is too broad to be useful. Despite dismissing the idea of a register of legal English as "some vague superordinate term" which is "practically synonymous with the notoriously imprecise notion of 'legal language'" (Goźdz-Roszkowski 2011, p.19), he later goes on to note that that "the complexity and interrelatedness within legal language appear to be best viewed in terms of some sort of grouping of genres yoked together within the same domain" (2011, p.22). At a purely practical level, it is difficult to functionally distinguish this suggestion from a register approach, and given that Goźdz-Roszkowski's stated aim of "provid[ing] a relatively comprehensive

⁷ While both terms refer to specific varieties of language use, "dialect" is generally distinguished from the concept of "register" by whether it is classified according to the individual using the language or the context in which the language is used (Halliday and Hasan 1989, p.41). Varieties of language use falling into the former category (e.g. African American Vernacular English, or AAVE) are considered dialects, while varieties falling into the latter categories (e.g. the language used in business meetings) are considered registers.

linguistic description of legal genres” (2011, p.51) sounds very similar to that of most register analyses, this line of criticism ultimately does not need to be considered further. It does, however, raise an important point about the connection between genre and register.

As was mentioned above, registers are frequently employed across multiple genres. The realization of a given register is not always the same in every genre, however, with different genres often placing greater and lesser degrees of emphasis on particular features characteristic of that register. For that reason, register analysis on its own has been noted to reveal relatively little about the nature of individual genres (Trosborg 1997b, p.6), and the correlation between register and genre is often weaker than what one might assume (Kurzon 1997, p.134). Particularly in legal settings, it has been suggested that “what makes a text a legal text is the genre to which it belongs and the register, and in that order” (Kurzon 1997, p.133). Some oral legal genres, such as witness examinations or a trial’s opening and closing statements, make little to no use of the register of legal English (Hobbs 2003; Spiecker and Worthington 2003), and even in the written legal genres in which the register is traditionally more firmly entrenched, advocates for the “Plain English” or “Plain Language” movement have made notable headway in encouraging the legal community to employ a more broadly accessible (though still distinctly legal) register (Tiersma 1999, pp.211–230; Adler 2012). It is important to keep in mind, therefore, that though it is the position of this thesis that legal English is a register and, relatedly, that such a classification is a meaningful one to make, the use of legal English to any particular extent should not be presumed when examining a legal genre.

Regardless of the theoretical approach taken, legal English is not a monolith and should not be treated as such (Goźdz-Roszkowski 2011, p.15). Legal English has existed in various forms for centuries (Maley 1994; Tiersma 2012) and the register’s most salient features will therefore depend upon when and for what purpose the legal English in question is (or was) used (Tiersma 2006, p.45). Even within the same legal system, the legal English of a contemporary statute, for example, is likely distinct from the legal English of a lawyer’s oral argument in a pre-trial hearing or that of a thematically comparable statute drafted in the early nineteenth century. This thesis examines the contemporary legal English used in written documents authored by lawyers as part of the pre-trial process which have been submitted to a trial-level American state court. As was mentioned in the earlier discussion of legal genres, these legitimate courtroom filings do not appear to have been formally studied before. Perhaps due to the greater ease of text collection or a desire for more seemingly “prototypical” legal texts (Hiltunen 2012, p.40), research in language and law tends to focus instead on subjects such as the language of statutes (e.g. Trosborg 1995; Solan 2010) or of jury instructions (e.g. Charrow

and Charrow 1979; Gibbons 2017). Given its focus on comparing the contents of the Sovereign Citizen pseudolegal document and legitimate courtroom filing genres, this thesis is not equipped to give a definitive overview of the type of legal English contained in the legal documents it examines; such a study would require both a more singular focus on the language used in the legitimate courtroom filing genre and, as will be discussed below, a much clearer idea of what constitutes legal English than currently exists in the literature. However, considering the apparent novelty of a study examining the use of legal English in this context, any notable deviations on the part of the legal texts examined here from what is normally expected from the register of written legal English will be highlighted.

2.5.3 *The Consensus Description of Legal English*

Most descriptions of the features that distinguish contemporary legal English from more standard varieties of English have their origin in Mellinkoff's *The Language of the Law*. Mellinkoff (2004 [1963], p.11) identifies nine aspects of legal English that he feels most strongly characterize it. They are:

1. Frequent use of common words with uncommon meanings;
2. Frequent use of Old English and Middle English words once in common use, but now rare;
3. Frequent use of Latin words and phrases;
4. Use of Old French and Anglo-Norman words which have not been taken into the general vocabulary;
5. Use of terms of art;
6. Use of argot;⁸
7. Frequent use of formal words;
8. Deliberate use of words and expressions with flexible meanings; and
9. Attempts at extreme precision of expression.

While Mellinkoff is a seminal figure in the field of language and law, it should be noted that he was a lawyer, not a linguist, and despite his efforts to define and distinguish these categories, their lack of grounding in linguistic literature means that their usefulness for this study is

⁸ "Argot" as used by Mellinkoff is "a specialized vocabulary common to any group" (2004 [1963], p.17). It is used only in communication between group members (in the case of legal English, between people trained in law), and is distinguished from terms of art by being more comparable to slang, whereas a term of art is necessarily "a technical word with a specific meaning" (Mellinkoff 2004 [1963], p.16). Concepts including "cause of action", "issue of law", and "reasonable man" are given by Mellinkoff as examples of legal argot (2004 [1963], p.19), while "appeal", "defendant", and "judicial notice" are used to illustrate legal terms of art (2004 [1963], p.17); as is discussed below, this ultimately seems to be something of a distinction without a difference.

ultimately limited. It is unlikely, for example, that a specialist or professional register exists that does not make use of its own “terms of art,” and the distinction between a term of art and a common word with an uncommon meaning is vague at best. Nevertheless, Mellinkoff’s influence on subsequent research examining legal English is clear, particularly on Tiersma (who himself was also a lawyer, albeit one with a PhD in linguistics), who would later revise Mellinkoff’s original list on more linguistic grounds (Tiersma 1999, pp.203–210; 2006, pp.44–45).

More recently, a series of linguistically grounded examinations of legal English have come to a seeming consensus about the features which most clearly distinguish it from standard English. Though this consensus view is not without its own issues (not least among them being the lack of any clear definition of the “standard” English against which legal English is evaluated; see Section 3.3.3 for a discussion of how it is defined in this study), it does provide a more useful starting point than Mellinkoff’s list for the purposes of this thesis. There is no single authoritative listing of its features, but the consensus description of legal English generally holds to the following description.

There is broad agreement that the register of written legal English is in many ways similar to the register of “formal” or “literary” English (e.g. Danet 1980, pp.471–473; Tiersma 2006, p.46; Mattila 2012b, p.32). What sets it apart, however, is its frequent use of legal technical terminology (e.g. “estop”, “quitclaim” and “certiorari”) and vocabulary that can be considered archaic (e.g. the Latin “res” for the property constituting a trust), hyperformal (e.g. “herein” or “thereof”), or otherwise more “difficult” than would be expected of more standard varieties of English (e.g. the use of words like “commence” and “terminate” rather than “begin” and “end”) (Maley 1994, p.22; Tiersma 2006, p.44; Tiersma 2008, p.14; Mattila 2012b; Kurzon 2013; Ruusila and Lindroos 2016). This purported difficulty also manifests itself in a variety of related lexical choices, particularly its general aversion to the use of pronouns both within and across sentences (Solan 1993, pp.121–122; Tiersma 2006, pp.46–47; Chovanec 2012, p.2; Gotti 2012, pp.54–56; Hiltunen 2012, p.47), its frequent use of polysemous terminology (Mattila (2012b, p.30), for example, notes three distinct but co-existent meanings of the term “common law”; see also Tiersma (2008, p.16) and Bourdieu (1987, p.829)) and its preference for nominalizations (e.g. the use of “consideration” and “injury” in lieu of “consider” and “injure”) (Charrow and Charrow 1979, pp.1321–1322; Tiersma 2006, p.45; Chovanec 2012, p.2; Mattila 2012b, p.22).

In terms of syntax, written legal English is often characterized by clausally complex sentences which, particularly in statutory and judicial contexts, have been found to have an

average length twice that of scientific texts and eight times that of oral texts (Danet 1985, pp.282–283; Tiersma 2006, p.45; Tiersma 2008, pp.14–15; Chovanec 2012, p.1; Gotti 2012, p.53; Hiltunen 2012, pp.41–47). Related to the tendency to avoid pronouns mentioned above, legal English frequently eschews anaphoric reference and other typical methods of enhancing textual cohesion (Danet 1985, pp.285–286; Azuelos-Atias 2011, p.42; Gotti 2012, pp.54–55). Instead, it makes frequent use of impersonal and passive constructions while avoiding first and second person references altogether; authors instead either refer to themselves in the third person (e.g. “this court finds”) or remove themselves and others from the narrative entirely (e.g. “mistakes were made”) (Charrow and Charrow 1979, pp.1325–1328; Danet 1985, p.283; Tiersma 2006, p.45; Chovanec 2012, p.3). Negation, particularly multiple negation (e.g. “without which the injury would not have occurred”), is unusually common relative to standard English and has been described as one of the single largest factors in reducing the overall comprehensibility of legal English (Charrow and Charrow 1979, pp.1324–1325; Danet 1985, p.283; Tiersma 2006, p.45; Ondelli and Pontrandolfo 2016, pp.162–166).

The accepted institutional goals for the use of legal English are the avoidance of ambiguity and the enabling of preciseness in interpretation (Gotti 2012, pp.52–53, 58–59). Perhaps ironically, its use can often have the opposite effect, particularly for readers without legal training (Breeze 2017, p.2); Solan (1993, pp.125–130), for example, shows how the avoidance of pronouns characteristic of legal English often makes a sentence less comprehensible, rather than more. In terms of written legal English, Crystal and Davy (1969, pp.193–194) go so far as to say that, “[o]f all the uses of language [legal writing] is perhaps the least communicative, in that it is designed not so much to enlighten language-users at large as to allow one expert to register information for scrutiny by another.” Hiltunen (2012, p.48) makes a similar point, arguing that the syntactic complexity of legal texts “strongly indicate[s] that the [texts are] written and organized from the point of view of the writer, rather than the reader.”

The problem with the preceding description of the “consensus” features of legal English is that it is largely incidental, having been arrived at via the amalgamation of findings from a variety of studies which have been separated from their original contexts and subsequently taken to apply to legal English as a whole. The suggestion that negation is more common in legal English than in “standard” English, for example, seems to have originated with the inclusion of negation on a list of potentially confusing features of California jury instructions in Charrow and Charrow (1979) and been assigned progressively more weight over time. Despite the ad hoc nature of the consensus description, it remains highly influential: Zozula

(2019, p.71), for one, uncritically lists all of the above features in her description of the register of legal English, as do Fanego et al. (2017, pp.70–71), though the latter at least notes that that they believe these qualities apply primarily to “prescriptive, legislative texts,” implying a degree of consideration was given to the sources from which that consensus description has sprung. For some studies, such as Bednarek (2014, pp.63–64), reliance on Mellinkoff’s original list alone is deemed sufficient.

On a different critical note, Tiersma (2006) points out that these consensus features generally characterize other formal registers as well, raising the question of how truly “distinctive” they are. Other than Mellinkoff (2004 [1963]) (and, derivatively, Tiersma (1999) and (2006)), there is no single noteworthy attempt to overarchingly define the register of legal English. Given the disparate scopes and scales of the various studies that have been used to come to this “consensus” opinion, neither is there reliable quantitative data illustrating the extent to which legal English actually differs from more general varieties of English.

Pragmatically speaking, these problems are exacerbated by the fact that legal English occupies a peculiar liminal space, and the question of whom, ultimately, it is for is a complicated one (Rostain 2004, pp.157–158): unlike with the use of other professional registers, which are primarily used by and for members of the relevant profession (e.g. medical case reports written and read by doctors), the writings of the legal system are theoretically intended to be accessible to the general public while at the same time serving lawyers’ particular technical needs (Solan 1993, p.130; Hiltunen 2012, p.39). Legal English is clearly distinct from general English but is at the same time uniquely inseparable from it. This tension, which from a scholarly perspective remains “as yet unsolved and barely addressed” (Schauer 2015, p.47), seems to go to the heart of the relationship between legitimate courtroom filings and pseudolegal courtroom filings and is the focus of the analysis in Chapter 4.

2.5.4 Legal Technical Terminology

Legal English’s heavy reliance on specialist terminology has been described as “the most obvious way in which [it] differs from ordinary speech and writing” (Tiersma 2008, p.15; see also Azuelos-Atias 2011, p.43) and such terminology, as well as the way in which it will be defined for the purposes of this thesis, therefore merits particular attention. Generally speaking, in linguistics, “technical terminology,” or sometimes simply “terminology,” (which is present to some degree in any specialist or professional register) refers to a set of words which either only appear in one register or which have meanings in that register which are clearly distinct

from their meanings in other contexts (Crystal and Davy 1969, p.210). In Mellinkoff's discussion of the characteristics of legal English mentioned above, he touches on aspects of such terminology but not in a way that is particularly useful for this thesis. The closest of his defined categories is "term of art", which he deems to be "a technical word with a specific meaning" (Mellinkoff 2004 [1963], p.16) (in fact, "term of art" and "technical terminology" are sometimes used interchangeably, as in Danet (1985, p.279)). However, without clear justification, Mellinkoff seems overly focused on the "specific meaning" part of that definition: for example, despite describing the phrase "cause of action" as "unadulterated law talk, incomprehensible to laymen" which is in "daily use" in legal contexts, he feels it is not a term of art because its meaning may vary depending on the context in which it is used (Mellinkoff 2004 [1963], p.17). Similar issues can be found with the remainder of his categories, and all are ultimately insufficient for the purposes of identifying specific instances of legal technical terminology in this thesis.

The technical terminology of legal English is of particular interest to applied linguists, especially those working in contexts such as legal translation (e.g. Alcaraz Varó and Hughes 2002; Chromá 2004; Orts 2012) or the teaching of English for specific purposes (e.g. Bhatia 1983; Breeze 2015). However, studies in these areas can be surprisingly cavalier in their discussions of the subject. In discussing whether the content of legal texts can be "simplified," for example, Bhatia (1983, p.43) states that "it is not always possible to do much about legal terminology. You cannot call a 'tort' anything else, and a 'contract' has to be a contract."⁹ In other words, the existence of a set of legal technical terms is taken as a given, but there is little engagement with the qualifications a term must possess to be included in that set. Ultimately, there do not seem to have been any significant linguistic attempts to develop a theoretical approach to the nature of technical terminology in legal English (Goźdz-Roszkowski 2011, pp.56–58; Ruusila and Lindroos 2016, p.121).

This confusion surrounding the nature of legal technical terminology likely has its origins in the study of terminology itself, which was originally conceived of as an "autonomous interdisciplinary field of study" related to but decidedly separate from the field of linguistics (Cabré Castellví 2003, pp.165–166). From this point of view, a term is a word or phrase which "signals a concept and 'condenses the semantic value contributed by the defining process which

⁹ This is not strictly true; see, for example, the massive overhaul of the terminology used in civil litigation in England and Wales brought about as part of the Woolf reforms in the 1990s (Grainger and Fealy 1999, pp.76–77). Absent such a wide-ranging and government-sanctioned effort, however, legal technical terminology is undeniably difficult to, as Bhatia (1983, p.43) puts it, "do much about."

generated it” (Jopek-Bosiacka 2011, p.10). This reference to the “defining process” is significant because it indicates the reliance of terminological studies on the designation of a term as a term by the discourse community which makes use of it. Put another way, because traditional terminological studies operated under the assumption that terms “are the units which most efficiently manipulate the knowledge of a particular subject” (Cabr  Castellv  2003, p.182), they also believed that only those people in possession of a full grasp on “the system of concepts of an individual subject-field” (Chrom  2004, p.15) were properly able to determine what the terminology relevant to that field would be. For this reason, traditional studies of terminology were generally more concerned with promoting efforts to standardize the terminology used across a given field than with the analysis of the ways in which the relevant terminology was generated (Temmerman 2000, p.15). Though more recent scholarship has moved away from such a prescriptive approach towards something more in line with contemporary linguistic practice (Go dz -Roszkowski and Witczak-Plisiecka 2011, p.5), this terminological lacuna largely remains.

Ultimately, given the indeterminacy of all of the above, the clearest proof that a particular word or phrase is an instance of subject-specific terminology is its inclusion in a specialist dictionary. In the legal translation context, monolingual law dictionaries written by lawyers have been pointed to as clear “codification[s] of legal terminology” (Chrom  2004, p.16), and related studies have referenced a word’s inclusion in such a dictionary as evidence of its terminological status (e.g. Jopek-Bosiacka 2011, p.10). Tiersma (2008, pp.15–16) has done so as well, even making use of the same legal dictionary as Jopek-Bosiacka (2011): to indicate the breadth of technical terms present in legal English, Tiersma refers readers directly to *Black’s Law Dictionary* (Garner 2019). Hiltunen (2012, p.39) also refers to *Black’s* to define an instance of legal technical terminology, but does so as a one-off instance, not as a way of identifying a larger set of terms. It seems that, at least in the case of contemporary American legal English, there is no more authoritative source.¹⁰ *Black’s Law Dictionary*, most recently in its 11th edition (Garner 2019), has been described as “the most widely cited legal book in the world” (Lat 2014), is the most referenced legal dictionary by the United States Supreme Court (Lillian Goldman Law Library 2020), and has been used by multiple linguists as a definitive source for the meaning of English language legal terms (e.g. Mattila 2012b, p.37; Finegan

¹⁰ Harris and Hutton (2007, pp.133–156) discuss a number of ontological issues that arise when attempting to define a self-regulating field such as law. While these considerations are undeniably important from a “law and language” standpoint (see Section 2.2), for simplicity’s sake, this thesis assumes that assigning a definition to a legal term is both possible and that, where such definitions are referenced in this text, they have been appropriately assigned.

2015, p.56). The aim of *Black's*, according to its editor-in-chief, is “to define everything that might legitimately be called a legal term” (Garner 2003, p.38), with individual words selected for inclusion based upon their appearance in judicial opinions and scholarly legal texts, as well as after being identified in the course of systematic reviews of the various sub-fields of law carried out by lawyer-lexicographers (Garner 2003, pp.41–42).

Reference to a dictionary for an objective determination of a word's legal or terminological status is inherently a prescriptive endeavor and it is important here to remember that legal and linguistic analyses of language are two very different things (Hutton 2009, pp.85-95,99-101). Even within a purely legal analysis, however, the question of whether a given word is being used in a technical sense can be difficult to answer as, depending on the circumstances, a word's ordinary meaning may control in one case where its technical meaning is more apposite to another. Complicating matters further, statutes and contracts will often include sections defining terms of particular relevance to their purposes in a manner completely detached from any other accepted ordinary or technical meanings, making them technical terms for the purposes of that text only (Tiersma 1999, pp.115–120). At the same time, Mellinkoff (2004 [1963], pp.16-17,293) sagely cautions against too broadly assigning words technical status, pointing out that “not everything that has the sound of law is [a technical term]”. Short of a complete reading of the text in which a given word appears, there is likely no perfectly reliable method of determining whether it is being used in a technical sense. Even inclusion in *Black's* is at best an indicator that a word has an established legal technical meaning, but it does not mean that it is always used in that sense (similarly, this does not mean that a word without a corresponding entry can never acquire such a technical meaning). Nevertheless, in line with the practice of those who study both terminology and language and law, for the purposes of this thesis, a word will be deemed to be an instance of legal terminology where it has a corresponding entry in *Black's Law Dictionary* (Garner 2019).

2.6 Magic and Ritual in Pseudolegal Texts

This chapter has so far discussed the relationship between Sovereign Citizen pseudolegal documents and legitimate courtroom filings through the lenses of genre and register, proposing that pseudolegal courtroom filings belong to a parasitic genre which preys on a host genre of legitimate courtroom filings and that both of those genres make use of the register of legal English. While that framework may explain most of the relationship between legitimate and pseudolegal courtroom filings, it does not account for many of the most distinctive features of

the PCF genre. Some areas in which PCFs and LCFs differ can surely be attributed to a lack of genre competence (Cheng 2010, pp.89–90; Stein 2015, p.61) in the legitimate courtroom filing genre on the part of authors of PCF texts. Other areas, however, such as the frequent inclusion of features such as formations of thumbprints and postage stamps in PCFs (Anti-Defamation League 2016), clearly have no presence in the members of their host genre, and therefore cannot be as easily explained as failed attempts at generic mimicry (parasitic or otherwise). This section suggests that many of the ways in which PCF texts most notably differ from LCF texts can be best understood as instances of ritual magic practice. Section 2.6.1 defines and distinguishes the terms “magic” and “ritual” as they are used in this thesis, after which Section 2.6.2 discusses how Sovereign Citizen pseudolegal documents can be read as magic texts.

2.6.1 Defining Magic and Ritual

The American president has been said to be able to classify or declassify documents simply by “utter[ing] the magic words” (Wood 2022) and similar descriptions of legal language as being akin to magic are far from uncommon. Though these suggestions are generally made in jest, from an anthropological perspective they are closer to the truth than they may first appear. Before elaborating on that point, however, it is important to first distinguish between ritual and magic. For the purposes of this thesis, ritual consists of “the performance of more or less invariant sequences of formal acts and utterances” (Rappaport 1999, p.24). It has also been described elsewhere, though perhaps a bit too simplistically, as any instance of “formalized speech and action” (Luhrmann 1989, p.221). Rituals form an important part of everyday life, and often involve a linguistic component: certain habitual performatives can be considered a form of ritual (Wray 2002, p.91), as can the use of words such as “please,” “thank you,” and other practices generally associated with “good manners” (Wray 2002, pp.109–110) (in fact, any practices relating to etiquette can likely be considered ritual in nature (Terkourafi and Kádár 2017, p.179)). Magic, by way of contrast, is said to “pertain generally to human control over supernatural forces” (Davies 2012, p.1). Though ritual often forms an important part of magical practices, not all magic behavior is necessarily ritual behavior, nor is the opposite true (Rappaport 1999, p.25).¹¹ Ritual language is, in fact, a key element of all varieties of discourse (Danet 1980, p.543) because the structure it imposes allows for more productive exchanges of

¹¹ Though older anthropological literature on magic and ritual distinguishes “religious” from “magical” ritual practices (e.g. Malinowski 1935; Mauss 2001 [1902]), this is no longer done, as the difference was often simply a result of whether a given practice was approved of by an author at the time they were writing (Kieckhefer 1997, pp.13–14; Chadwick 2012, pp.295–296). This thesis will consistently use the term “magic” when referring to behavior which “pertain[s] generally to human control over supernatural forces” (Davies 2012, p.1).

information (Corsaro 1985, p.175). Any instance of language that becomes “a prescribed and consecrated form of linguistic behavior” can be considered a ritual (Heffer 2013, p.206). Those rituals which have as their aim some sort of influence over the world which would not be otherwise humanly attainable are also magic practices.

2.6.2 Sovereign Citizen Pseudolegal Courtroom Filings as Magic Texts

Science fiction author Arthur C. Clarke once suggested that “any sufficiently advanced technology is indistinguishable from magic” (Clarke 1983, p.36), and a number of commentators (e.g. Wessinger 2000; Dew 2015; Netolitzky 2018b) have suggested that Sovereign Citizens seem to be operating under a similar principle in the construction of their pseudolegal texts. This magical explanation of Sovereign Citizen pseudolegal texts goes as follows: Sovereign Citizens are, by and large, individuals who do not have a good understanding of the legal system. In their encounters with its representatives (e.g. lawyers, judges, police, etc.), the Sovereign Citizens see those representatives perform legal rituals that they do not comprehend and which have dramatic real world effects (e.g. they receive a traffic ticket, are arrested, or have their homes foreclosed upon). Consciously or not, as a result of their lack of understanding of how the legal system functions (as well as their “crippled epistemology” discussed above in Section 2.3.2), Sovereign Citizens conclude that those legal rituals tap into some element of the “supernatural,” and decide to claim that power for themselves in order to turn it against their perceived oppressors. To ensure their success in what they conceptualize as a form of magical combat, it is not enough to simply copy the form and structure of existing legal rituals; they instead must overpower it by enhancing what they perceive to be its most magically salient features.

Law is widely acknowledged to be a highly ritualized field (Danet 1980, p.543) and legal writings have frequently, if generally metaphorically, been compared to magic texts (e.g. Crystal and Davy 1969, p.194; Danet 1980, p.545; Yelle 2006) or, more broadly, to a form of “social magic” (Bourdieu 1987, p.840). This magical impression is only enhanced by highly publicized instances in which an individual’s failure to follow a prescribed legal formula has resulted in significant and undesirable consequences, as when a judge ruled that a suspect’s telling the police to “just give me a lawyer dog” was not sufficient to properly invoke his right to counsel (Jackman 2017) or when Barack Obama needed to retake the presidential oath of office after both he and the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court deviated slightly from its constitutionally mandated form during his first inauguration in 2009 (Zeleny 2009). Goodrich

(1990, pp.140–141) goes as far as to suggest that, historically speaking, legal systems have been opposed to magic practices not because such practices are ineffective, but rather because they were seen to rival the claims of those legal systems on being the most effective way to channel access to truth and power.

Figure 2.1 shows an Instagram post from an account dedicated to humorous discussions of legal content in which a man holds up a sign reading “I wouldn’t be able to tell if you are saying a Harry Potter spell or a legal Latin phrase” (litigation_god 2021, reproduced with permission):

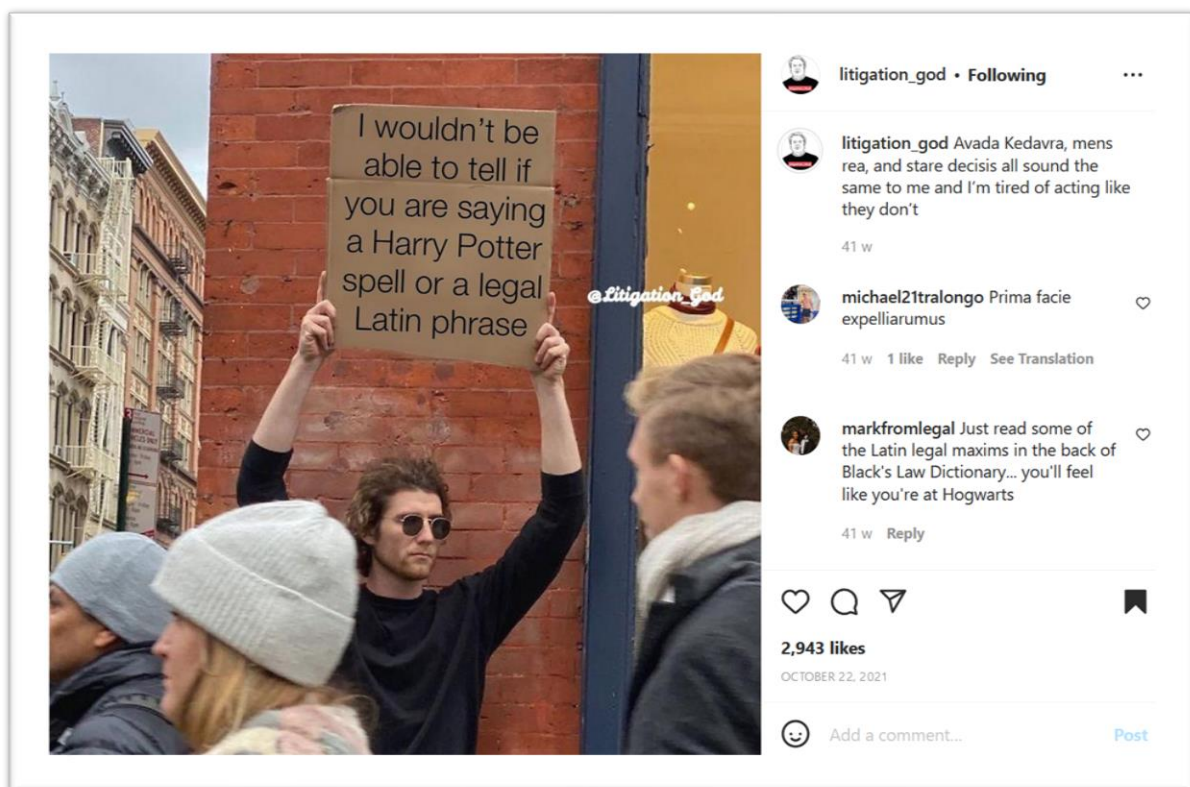


Figure 2.1 An Instagram post in which a man holds a sign reading, “I wouldn't be able to tell if you are saying a Harry Potter spell or a legal Latin phrase”

As that post indicates, some features of legal English, particularly legal Latin phrases, are interpreted by many as “magic words.” The function of such explicitly magic words (sometimes also referred to as “words of power” (Wessinger 2000, p.160)) “is not ‘meaning’ in the ordinary sense, but a specific magical influence which these words are believed to exercise” (Malinowski 1935, p.213). Even many people who would not otherwise view the practice of law as inherently magical, including many lawyers, feel that the language used in legal contexts is what actually “carr[ies] the power of the law” (Charrow et al. 1982, p.182).

From that perspective, the fact that the attempted use of legal English in Sovereign Citizen pseudolegal texts may not be comprehensible to readers is not relevant; all that matters is that those readers perceive its supposed supernatural potency.

It is the formality of ritual acts which sets them off as “different” from the everyday and gives them their power (Luhmann 1989, p.221). The performance of a ritual (magic or otherwise) generally involves both a speaker and a hearer (Wray 2002, p.84) both of whom are “acting as individuals but within a social context” that has generally been sanctioned by some larger organization (Kieckhefer 1997, p.14). Rituals, like legal English itself, are often characterized by the frequent use of explicit performative speech acts (Tambiah 2014, pp.77–80), and, from the point of view of the participants, the power of a ritual is therefore thought to stem from the proper words being uttered in the proper context (Tambiah 2014, p.18). Ritual language often exists more to “[create] the illusion of certainty in a world of uncertainty” than to communicate a particular idea (Danet 1980, p.545) and, in that sense, ritual language can be said to exist more for the benefit of its hearer than for its speaker (Danet 1980, p.546) even when a given ritual is supposedly performed for that speaker’s benefit. In fact, if the performance of a ritual is not recognized by its observers, then it can be said to have failed, regardless of whether all of its other requisite formal elements were realized (Bourdieu 1991a, p.113). A primary function of legal rituals, then, is to impress upon their observers (and to a lesser degree, their performers) the special heightened status and importance of the legal events of which they are a part.

Mauss (2001 [1902], pp.23–24) notes that while legal rituals “are not magical rites in themselves,” they can acquire a magical character if they are perceived to have “a special kind of efficacy or if they do more than merely establish contractual relations between persons.” In other words, even legitimate legal discourse, once its form has become sufficiently divorced from its intended meaning, can seem like a sort of ritual magic (Heffer 2013, pp.206–207). The authors of the Sovereign Citizen pseudolegal courtroom filings examined in this thesis are essentially attempting to convince their readers that they possess such a “special kind of efficacy.” In doing so, they are also attempting to subvert the standard legal ritual process: rather than a legitimate legal ritual succeeding because its observers recognize that all the requisite formal elements were properly performed, they are hoping that the observers of their rituals (i.e. the readers of their pseudolegal texts) will mistakenly believe those formal elements were met and thereby attribute actual legal power to their texts.

This sort of Sovereign Citizen practice, in which a ritual is copied and “enhanced” in order to claim its power, is known as “sympathetic magic” (Wessinger 2000, p.160). Legal

contexts seem particularly well suited for this sort of magic as, from a practical perspective, law and magic have been noted to operate similarly for those not versed in either (Malinowski 1935, pp.234–235). Frank (1949, p.181) asks “Do not those unintelligible words uttered by the judge in the presence of the jury resemble the talismanic words of Word-Magic?” and some Sovereign Citizens have themselves described what they are doing in those exact terms (Hume 2022b), while others note that they are purposefully including magical elements such as “powerful sacred geometry” in the design of their pseudolegal texts (Netolitzky 2018b, p.1056). Many features which have been said to characterize Sovereign Citizen texts (see Anti-Defamation League 2016) have also been noted in magic contexts, such as a focus on strange seeming “secret” names (Luhmann 1989, pp.230–231) and “long strings of esoteric [language] and Latin-derived syntax to make [movement followers] feel elite” (Montell 2021, p.71).¹² Adding to the apparent magical character of it all, even when there is broad agreement within the Sovereign Citizen movement that a particular feature is important for legal (or magical) reasons, there is often little agreement as to why (Netolitzky 2018b, p.1056). In other words, even Sovereign Citizens do not necessarily understand why they are doing the things that they are doing.¹³ They do not need to understand the why of it, however; all they need to do is believe that their pseudolegal strategies will work.

2.7 Displays of Legal Authority

Despite what Sovereign Citizens may believe, legitimate legal texts are not magical in origin. Their ability “to decree the legal construction of reality,” however, does give these texts “enormous... power over social generalities” (Mertz 2007, p.95), and it is this power that Sovereign Citizen texts are attempting to parasitically claim for themselves. In formalized settings such as legal contexts, the power of a speaker’s words often stems explicitly from an institution rather than from the speaker (Durant and Leung 2016, pp.89–90). In the case of legitimate courtroom filings, their power to affect the world around them comes from their connection to the legal system. Accordingly, this section explores that connection via an examination of the relationship between the authority of the legal system and legitimate legal

¹² Though beyond the scope of this thesis, Sovereign Citizen sympathetic magic practices often extend beyond just their pseudolegal texts; at least one Canadian Sovereign Citizen has arrived in court wearing lawyer’s robes, claiming that they gave him the power to represent others (Netolitzky 2018b, p.1056).

¹³ To be clear, Sovereign Citizens do not need to think of their pseudolegal practices as explicitly magical for them to qualify as such; “magical thinking,” or the belief that one can influence the outcome of an event by doing something with no bearing on the circumstances, is a common element of many everyday rituals, such as knocking on wood to stave off bad luck (Raypole 2020).

texts. Section 2.7.1 explores the concept of legal authority and Section 2.7.2 examines semiotic manifestations of authority in legal texts.

2.7.1 Defining Legal Authority

Legitimate legal texts have the ability to affect the real world because they are officially sanctioned by the legal system and are therefore able to access its power. Though these texts may therefore be said to “represent” the legal system, they do not by themselves create their own authority (Bourdieu 1991a, pp.107–109); instead, that authority has been given to them. In Hobbes’ *Leviathan*, such a relationship is explained as follows:

[S]ome have their words and actions *Owned* by those whom they represent. And then the Person is the *Actor*; and he that owneth his words and actions, is the AUTHOR: In which case the Actor acteth by Authority... So the Right of doing any Action, is called AUTHORITY. So that by Authority, is alwayes understood a Right of doing any act: and *done by Authority*, done by Commission, or License from him whose right it is (2005 [1651], pp.128–129) (emphasis in original).

More recently, authority has been defined as “the legitimate exercise of power in an asymmetrical relationship, by those ‘in authority’ over those who are subjects of authority, either by virtue of specialised knowledge or holding a particular political or social position” (Swinglehurst 2014, p.18). From either perspective, the ability of the “actor,” as Hobbes would put it, to affect the real world is limited only by the ability of its “author” to do so. Because the ultimate “author” of the legal system is the government itself, the legitimate legal documents which it has “authorized” can theoretically achieve any end of which the government is capable. Though they may not express it in these terms, lawyers are very aware of the authorized status of their documents and their resultant potential. They are taught to read legal texts as if they were “repositor[ies] of power, whose core meaning centers on legal-textual authority” (Mertz 2007, p.95) and that by reading them, they can “appropriat[e] the symbolic power which is contained within” (Bourdieu 1987, p.818). That power within a legal text can even be carried forward from one to another, as a legal text’s claim to authority is accentuated via reference to “other legal texts that a court... can cite as authorities in deciding the case at hand” (Mertz 2007, p.94).

Bourdieu (1991b, p.7) notes that such “social authority” which stems from institutional delegation “tends to become legitimized by presenting itself as pure technical reason.” This stands in contrast to “scientific authority” which needs no such delegating body or to justify itself because it is derived from “pure technical ability” (Bourdieu 1991b, p.7). Such a distinction points to the essentially self-generating and semi-tautological nature of the power accessed by legitimate legal documents: ultimately, the legal system is only powerful because the legal system insists that it is powerful and society has agreed to go along with it (Goodrich 1985, p.103; Kuipers 2013, p.402). “Since the origin of authority,” Derrida notes, “the position of the law can’t by definition rest on anything but [itself]” (1990, p.943). Elsewhere, this has been referred to as a “necessary myth... [without which] the modern state would collapse” (Conklin 1992, p.168; see also Warren 2019, p.570 for a discussion of this applied to international law in particular). The seriousness with which law is regarded in society is so well established, Goodrich suggests, and “its doctrinal adherences or allegiances sufficiently unchallenged, to frequently dispense with any practical need for a metalanguage of justification” (1985, p.120). In other words, regardless of its origins, the idea that the legal system possesses real power is essentially taken for granted at this point. Though society may require such an assumption to function, it is likely also part of the reason why the legitimate courtroom filing genre is such an attractive host for a parasitic genre such as that of Sovereign Citizen pseudolegal documents. After all, if there is no “pure technical” reason (as Bourdieu would put it) that the legal system is inherently powerful, then there is theoretically no such requirement stopping Sovereign Citizen pseudolegal texts from claiming that power for themselves.

2.7.2 *The Semiotics of Authority in Legal Texts*

The field of law has been described as “an aesthetic enterprise” (Schlag 2002, p.1047) with an “optical apparatus that disseminates the glory of sovereignty and... [relays] power through images” (Goodrich 2012, p.55). This process, whereby images are on their own able to communicate the idea of the power of the legal system, is a semiotic one, and the practice of law has been noted to be an inherently semiotic exercise (Tiefenbrun 1986, p.92). Semiotics is, broadly defined, “the scientific study of communication and signification” (Tiefenbrun 1986, p.95) and anything that carries meaning is a potential subject of semiotic examination (in this sense, Eco (1977, p.7) suggests defining semiotics as “the discipline studying everything which can be used in order to lie”). Scholars have been interested in semiotics since at least the time

of the ancient Greeks, but semiotics in its modern form has its origins at the turn of the twentieth century with the work of Charles Sanders Peirce and Ferdinand De Saussure (Tiefenbrun 1986, pp.101–102). Peirce’s work has been highly influential on a number of legal theorists and philosophers (Tiefenbrun 1986, pp.109–113), but it is the work of Saussure, now considered “the father of modern linguistics,” which is of greater relevance to this thesis (Tiefenbrun 1986, pp.113–118).¹⁴ At its most fundamental level, Saussurean semiotics examines the relationship between the signified and the signifier, which, when taken together, constitute a sign (Barthes 2009, p.135). In the context of language, the signified is an abstract concept and the signifier is a word (either spoken or written) that comes to represent the signified (Barthes 2009, p.136). With the exception of onomatopoetic words, there is no inherent relationship between a signified and its signifier; the abstract concept of a dog is represented just as well by the words “dog” in English, “perro” in Spanish, and “chien” in French, and all are therefore equally valid signs (Jackson 1985, pp.19–21; Tiefenbrun 1986, p.114). Taken together, the relationship between the signified, signifier, and their resulting sign is considered a semiological system (Barthes 2009, p.136). As with the scope of semiotics more generally, such semiological systems are not limited to the language context: anything capable of carrying meaning (e.g. drawings, photos, or even document layout choices) can be examined through this lens (Kress and van Leeuwen 2006, pp.18–19).

Signs do not exist in isolation. Any group of coherently related signs can be considered a text (Bakhtin 1987, p.103), and the meaning of a given text is generally understood to be more than “the simple accumulation of the atomic meaning of the individual [signs it contains]” (Jackson 1985, p.12). In this way, the process of semiotic systemization can iterate, causing a semiological system to itself become a signifier for a new signified. This resultant structure can be thought of as a “second-order semiological system” and the original system is its “first-order” equivalent (Barthes 2009, p.137). A sign related to the concept of “dog” may thereby come to represent loyalty, for example, or more relevantly for the purposes of this thesis, documents associated with the legal system can come to represent the authority of the legal system itself (Stein 2015, p.62). This sort of accumulation of semiotic significance by agglomeration is not limited to the text level; whole genres can be understood through this lens as well (Cheng 2010, p.111).

¹⁴ This is not to say that Saussure’s work is without its own influence on legal theory; a number of positivist legal scholars, most prominent among them H.L.A. Hart, have engaged directly with his work (Jackson 1985, pp.4–11, 147–166; Tiefenbrun 1986, pp.135–138). Regardless of whether they subscribe more to the approach of Peirce or Saussure, however, such discussions of legal theory are ultimately outside the scope of this thesis.

Instead of as an “actor” in the Hobbsean sense discussed in Section 2.7.1, Bourdieu refers to a person acting under the authority of another person or group as an “authorized representative” who is able to concentrate within their speech “the accumulated symbolic capital of the group which has delegated [its power to them]” (Bourdieu 1991a, pp.109–111). As with the performance of a ritual (see Section 2.6.1), the successful exercise of such delegated authority depends upon whether a “legitimately licensed” person, in a legitimate place and before legitimate receivers, “enunciate[s] according to the legitimate forms” (Bourdieu 1991a, p.113; Heffer 2013, pp.212–213). The speech of an authorized representative does not need to be understood to be effective; it only needs to be recognized by its receivers as legitimate (Heffer 2013, p.212). In this way, laypeople can recognize “law” in the same way that they recognize a foreign language that they do not speak (Goodrich 1990, p.213); they may not understand the specific meaning of a given legal text, but they can tell from its overall impression that it possesses a distinctly legal character, and therefore that it also possesses the institutional authority of the legal system. In other words, legal language itself has become a sign which signifies the authority of the legal system.

In part because of the static nature of the design of many legal genres (Porter 2014, p.1691), legal texts are often read as singular objects which in themselves have come to represent the concept of legal authority (Goodrich 2017, p.2), much in the same way that noble houses used to employ heraldic emblems (Goodrich 1990, pp.125–133). Similarly, the concept of a legal contract has become so ingrained in society that it “may justifiably be regarded as the prototypical structure of exchange in general” (Kevelson 1985, p.82). In fact, legal texts taken as a whole are more likely to be recognized by the public as signs of the power of the legal system than they are for any particular semantic content (Goodrich 1990, p.209). In other words, if something appears to be legal, regardless of the specifics of its content, the public is therefore likely to assume that it is also authoritative, and therefore powerful (Goodrich 1990, pp.209–210).

Though it is not described in explicitly semiotic terms, this process by which a text can come to represent aspects of a larger system is an essential part of Tiersma’s (2010, p.35) concept of “textualization,” which he defines as “the process by which lawyers, and sometimes ordinary citizens, make a text the authoritative expression of a legal act.”¹⁵ In being imbued with such authority, a textualized document acquires a level of status that it would not otherwise

¹⁵ The term “textualization” has been used elsewhere to refer to the process by which individual sentences combine to form a coherent text (e.g. Bhatia 2011, pp.239–240), but Tiersma’s definition is more relevant for present purposes.

on its own possess. Though for Tiersma textualization is an active choice on the part of a text's author (2010, pp.40–42), a similar sort of authoritative endowment can be observed passively occurring throughout the legal context. As a result of the high degree of formality and ritual that characterize the legal system (Hutton 2009, p.180; Gotti 2012, p.52), it has even been suggested that legal texts' status as signs of authority is more fundamental to their nature than any specific procedural goals (Goodrich 1990, pp.209–210).

The authority attributed to legal texts means that any project in language and law must also keep in mind law's "inherent" performativity, or its ability to "[do] things with words" (Hiltunen 2012, p.49). This performative character can be considered "one of the most important functions of legal language" (Charrow et al. 1982, p.181), and serves as a clear indication of the authoritative status of legal texts. Law is full of explicit performative utterances (i.e. those where "the act of speaking and the act of doing are the same" (Solan 1993, p.154)); such sentences are, in fact, regarded as one of the most fundamental features of legal language (Charrow et al. 1982, p.181). A judge pronouncing a defendant guilty or not guilty of a crime, for example, legally establishes that defendant's guilt (or lack thereof) regardless of whether the defendant had actually committed that crime (Bourdieu 1987, p.838; Dunn 2003; Gotti 2012, p.57). Similarly, a government enacting a statute that proscribes a particular behavior at once both describes and creates that proscription (Visconti 2009, p.393). Given that fundamental connection between pronouncing the law and creating it, it has been suggested that legal language is more explicitly performative than any other variety of specialized discourse (Gotti 2012, p.57) and that the entire legal system can be appropriately characterized as "a system of [performative] speech acts" (DeLong 2015, p.82).¹⁶

¹⁶ Though the term "speech act" itself does not appear prior to Searle (1969), the broader theory has its origins in Austin (1962) (Danet 1980, pp.457–458; Schane 2012, pp.101–102). Originally delivered as a series of lectures, Austin begins his classic *How to Do Things With Words* by dividing speech into "performative" and "constative" utterances, where performative utterances are those which perform the action denoted by their verb (e.g. "I now pronounce you man and wife") while constative utterances merely describe something (e.g. "The defendant is present") (Austin 1962, pp.3–6; Schane 2012, p.101). However, as his argument develops, Austin ultimately rejects that division, concluding instead that all language is performative, with the only distinction being whether it is explicitly or implicitly so (Austin 1962, pp.147–149). From this point of view, the speaker of a supposedly "constative" utterance is in fact "performing" by vouching for the truth of what they are saying (i.e. "The defendant is present" can be better understood as "[I vouch that] the defendant is present") (Austin 1962, pp.132–146; Searle 1976, pp.10–11). The content of Austin (1962) is as much a work of philosophy as it is of pragmatics. Possibly because its arguments are developed more along philosophical than linguistic lines (i.e. a series of propositions are presented, evaluated, and revised over the course of the book), some more modern linguists misrepresent Austin by presenting his initial propositions rather than his ultimate conclusions. Danet (1980, pp.457–458) and Schane (2012, p.101), for example, both discuss Austin's initial performative/constative classification without making clear that he later discards it.

The aim of legal semiotics is to study “all the different means by which law is communicated” (Goodrich 1990, p.209). While the literal words being used are an important part of that process, they are by no means the only part; it has been suggested that for laypeople, other modes of transmission, particularly the more symbolic (i.e. visual) ones, seem to carry just as much, if not more, weight (Goodrich 1990, pp.209–210), and legal texts can be characterized by their methods of visual emphasis (e.g. their use of capital letters, bolding, and switching between different fonts) as well as they can be by their word choice (Crystal and Davy 1969, pp.198–199). Scholars have previously noted “the deep and close links between law, semiotics, visuality and visual persuasion” (Pencak and Wagner 2006, p.1) and said that “the purest distillation” of legal English (Danet 1980, p.472) can be found in written texts. Despite this, and despite the long acknowledged need for the field of forensic linguistics to pay increased attention to principles of document design (Stygall 2002, p.40), there do not appear to have been any prior semiotic analyses of the legitimate courtroom filing genre. Legal semiotic analyses tend to be more general, as in Goodrich’s (1990, pp.209–259) discussion of the semiotics of English common law, or, even when they are more targeted, concerned primarily with the goings on of actual trials and related courtroom contexts (e.g. Jackson 1996; Matoesian 2010). The following chapter will discuss the ways in which this thesis will consider the full semiotic contents of the documents it examines.

2.8 Conclusion

This thesis examines two intriguingly related sets of documents: Sovereign Citizen pseudolegal courtroom filings and legitimate courtroom filings. This chapter has proposed that the former is a “parasitic” genre preying upon the latter “host” genre and that though the Sovereign Citizen pseudolegal courtroom filing genre has significant overlap with the legitimate courtroom filing genre, it also possesses a distinctly magic quality that the legitimate courtroom filing genre does not. The authors of Sovereign Citizen pseudolegal documents, it has been suggested, use this magic quality in their efforts aim to usurp the legal authority found in their host genre and achieve their conspiracy theory-based goals. Because Sovereign Citizens perceive themselves to be in a form of magic combat with the legitimate legal system, it is not enough for them to simply copy the existing forms of legitimate courtroom filings; instead, they must heighten what they perceive to be the most authoritative features found in legitimate courtroom filings in their own pseudolegal courtroom filings to achieve magical superiority.

In coming to that description of the relationship between Sovereign Citizen pseudolegal courtroom filings and legitimate courtroom filings, this chapter has reviewed literature from a number of fields, with a particular focus on the concepts of genre, register, magic, and the semiotics of law. In doing so, it has identified a number of gaps in the existing literature which this study hopes to address, particularly regarding the nature of legal English and studies of persuasive legal genres. The following chapter will discuss the field of corpus assisted multimodal discourse analysis and the various methodological choices that have been made to enable the effective study of the pseudolegal courtroom filing and legitimate courtroom filing genres and answer this thesis' research questions.

3. Methodology

3.1 Introduction

As discussed in Chapter 1, this thesis is interested in answering the following three research questions:

1. How does the use of the register of legal English compare in legitimate courtroom filings and Sovereign Citizen pseudolegal courtroom filings?
2. How do the multimodal contents of legitimate courtroom filings and Sovereign Citizen pseudolegal courtroom filings compare?
3. What does the relationship between legitimate courtroom filings and Sovereign Citizen pseudolegal courtroom filings reveal about the nature of “parasitic” genres?

Two corpora have been constructed to answer these questions: one of legitimate courtroom filings (the “LCF” corpus) and one of Sovereign Citizen pseudolegal courtroom filings (the “PCF” corpus). This chapter will discuss the ways in which these corpora were assembled and the methodological approach used to analyze them and answer the above questions.

Section 3.2 introduces corpus-assisted multimodal discourse analysis (“CAMDA”) and explains why it was chosen to examine the relationship between the legitimate and pseudolegal courtroom filing genres. Section 3.3 then explains how the LCF and PCF corpora were constructed and annotated, and outlines the contents of the written subcorpus of the Corpus of Contemporary American English (“COCA-W”) (Davies 2009) used for the analysis in Chapter 4. Section 3.4 reviews the statistical tests and software used in the analysis of the LCF and PCF corpora, after which Section 3.5 explores the various corpus linguistic methods employed and Section 3.6 discusses the ethical factors considered in the design and execution of this study.

3.2 Corpus-Assisted Multimodal Discourse Analysis

This thesis uses a corpus-assisted multimodal discourse analysis (“CAMDA”) approach to systematically examine and compare the full range of semiotic content present in the LCF and PCF corpora (see Section 2.7 for broader discussion of the semiotics of law). As first defined in Bednarek and Caple (2014, p.151), a CAMDA study involves “a large-scale analysis of relevant semiotic systems using a corpus” and “a detailed, close-reading analysis of selected texts [from that corpus]” (see also Bednarek 2015, pp.66–69; Caple 2018, pp.85–86, 88–89). Simply put, CAMDA uses corpus linguistic methods to supplement the analysis of multimodal

discourse (defined below). Corpus linguistics, discourse analysis, and multimodality are all concepts which exist independently of one another and can be used in linguistic studies in various combinations; it is possible to combine corpus linguistics and discourse analysis without a multimodal component, for example (e.g. Hardt-Mautner 1995; Baker 2006), or to perform a multimodal discourse analysis without the addition of corpus methods (e.g. El Refaie 2003; Thomas 2014). The remainder of this section will therefore review these three concepts and the ways in which they combine in a CAMDA study to justify the methodological approach of this thesis. Section 3.2.1 defines multimodality and explains its relationship to the earlier discussion of semiotics. Section 3.2.2 then reviews the field of discourse analysis, both defining it and locating the analytical work of this thesis within it. Section 3.2.3 concludes with an explanation of corpus linguistics and the ways in which corpus methods enhance the study of multimodal discourse.

3.2.1 Multimodality

Chapter 2 discussed the semiotics of law and the ways in which legal documents such as legitimate courtroom filings have come to represent, in themselves, the concept of legal authority to many readers. Strictly speaking, legitimate and pseudolegal courtroom filings are multisemiotic rather than multimodal because they combine multiple semiotic systems (i.e. writing and images) rather than multiple perceptual modalities (e.g. film, which contains both visual and auditory content) (Muntigl 2004, pp.31–32; Bednarek 2015, p.66; Jewitt et al. 2016, p.2). It is “general practice” (Bednarek 2015, p.66), however, to use the term “multimodal” to refer to both multimodal and/or multisemiotic content (Bednarek and Caple 2012, p.2; Caple 2018, p.86)¹ and, for the sake of consistency with the wider relevant body of research, this thesis will follow suit. It is with this sense of the term in mind that the second research question posed in this thesis aims to compare the “multimodal” content of the LCF and PCF genres.

In a multimodal analysis, no one mode or semiotic system is inherently privileged over any other; “all are seen as equal, potentially, in their capacity to contribute meaning to a complex semiotic entity” (Kress 2011, p.28). Under such an approach, an image, for example, can be read to function on its own as a speech act despite a complete lack of any written component (Kress and van Leeuwen 2006, pp.122–123), and there is a recognition that multiple signs can “cumulatively encode particular meanings” (Adolphs and Carter 2013, p.144) that

¹ Malamatidou (2020, p.85), for example, defines multimodality “as the combination of two or more semiotic resources (including language) within a particular communication event.”

would not be effectively communicated by any of those signs taken individually. Particularly given this last point, from a multimodal perspective, documents are understood to represent a series of choices which have been made in the aggregate to best communicate the desired message (Kress 2004, pp.116–118)

As mentioned above, texts in the LCF and PCF genres make use of two primary semiotic systems: writing and graphics. Broadly speaking, these systems interact in two ways: either through combining text and image (e.g. a caption underneath a photograph) or through the typographical and layout choices made in the presentation of the writing itself (e.g. bolding or indenting) (Stöckl 2004, pp.9, 19). Features such as capitalization, font choice, and the use of color in written text are just as significant to the analysis of a multimodal text (van Leeuwen 2006; Kress 2011, pp.40–41) as the wider relationship between writing and images (Martinec and Salway 2005; Kress and van Leeuwen 2006, p.177). Ultimately, any text can be examined from a multimodal perspective; past studies have examined subjects ranging from newspaper cartoons (El Refaie 2003) to advertisements (Stöckl 2004, pp.19–21) to tourist brochures (Hiippala 2016). Though there are no prior multimodal analyses of legitimate courtroom filings or Sovereign Citizen pseudolegal courtroom filings, the aims of this study fit well within that wider academic tradition.

3.2.2 *Discourse Analysis*

“Discourse” is a term which is used across many different areas of academia and accordingly possesses a number of different, and often somewhat conflicting, definitions (Baker 2006, pp.3–5; Kress 2011, pp.35–36). The two primary approaches to the concept of discourse in linguistics can be broadly classed as either “structural” or “functional,” with the former considering it to be “the organizational mechanisms at play in language above the clause level” (Partington 2013, p.2) and the latter defining discourse more broadly as “language that is doing some job in some context” (Halliday and Hasan 1985, p.10) or simply as “how language is put to use” (Bednarek and Caple 2012, p.2; see also Partington and Marchi 2015, p.216). This thesis approaches discourse from that latter functional perspective, believing that discourse analysis is more useful when it “emphasizes that language is not merely a self-contained system of symbols but more importantly a mode of doing, being, and becoming” (He 2017, p.446). In this way, the overarching research interest of this thesis (i.e. what the relationship between legitimate courtroom filings and pseudolegal courtroom filings reveals about how authority is manifested in legal texts), and therefore its three research questions, are all fundamentally

discourse analytical in nature because they are concerned not just with the language used in LCF and PCF texts, but also the wider social context in which that language occurs.

By engaging with the content of both legitimate and pseudolegal courtroom filings at the individual text level with the context for which they were produced in mind, this study is therefore an instance of discourse analysis. It is important to emphasize, however, that this thesis is not performing a “critical” discourse analysis (“CDA”). CDA is a subfield of applied linguistics which “is interested in uncovering [the] power relations and ideologies behind [a given] discourse” (Bednarek and Caple 2012, p.10). Studies in CDA have been criticized “for a cavalier approach to data and for allowing political commitment to obfuscate analytical methodology” (Partington 2004, p.13; see also Partington and Marchi 2015, p.216). While the focus on the relationship between language and ideology inherent to CDA studies (Orpin 2005, pp.37–38) is a worthy field of inquiry, it does not align with the research goals of this study. This is in no small part because the nature of the relationship between the language and ideology of the Sovereign Citizen movement is essentially the starting point of this thesis (see the discussion of the dual parasitic and magical nature of Sovereign Citizen discourse in the previous chapter), but also because CDA studies are not generally equipped for the sort of cross-genre comparisons necessary to answer this thesis’ research questions. Therefore, neither CDA nor any of the particular methodological considerations which normally accompany such studies will be addressed further.

3.2.3 *Corpus Linguistics*

Corpus linguistics is “that set of studies into the form and/or function of language which incorporate the use of computerised corpora in their analyses” (Partington 2013, p.5), where a corpus is “a principled collection of language data taken from real-life contexts” (Knight and Adolphs 2020, p.353). While essentially defining corpus linguistics as “linguistics which makes use of a corpus” may seem at first glance unacceptably circular, it serves to highlight an important point: namely, that “corpus linguistics” refers to a set of methodological choices rather than to any particular theory of language (McEnery and Hardie 2012, pp.1–3).²

² While regarding corpus linguistics as a methodological rather than a theoretical approach is both the position of this thesis and the mainstream position in linguistics (Baker 2010, p.6; McEnery and Hardie 2012, p.1), the topic has historically been subject to some debate. The “corpus linguistics as theory” camp refers to its approach as “corpus-driven” (in contrast to what it describes as the “corpus-based” position of the “corpus linguistics as method” camp) and believes that corpora should only be used to generate theories about language in the first instance rather than to examine questions generated *a priori* (Tognini-Bonelli 2001, pp.84–85; see also Biber 2015). Because the “corpus-based” position rejects the idea that a corpus has any inherent theoretical status, it similarly rejects this distinction between “corpus-based” and “corpus-driven” studies, finding it to be needlessly

The use of corpus linguistic methods allows a researcher to “[conduct] an empirical analysis of language” (Gries and Paquot 2020, p.647) which provides “more neutral starting points and generalizability” of results (Marchi and Taylor 2018, p.4) when analyzing data than is generally feasible with a purely qualitative study (Biber 2015, p.193); traditional (i.e. non-corpus-assisted) discourse analyses, for example, tend to involve only the close reading of a single text or of a small number of texts (Partington and Marchi 2015, p.216). The empiricism and reliability granted by properly performed corpus linguistic methods is achieved via the statistical analysis of the language contained in a given corpus (see, e.g., Levshina 2015; Wallis 2021) which is generally performed in either specifically designed corpus analysis software such as AntConc (Anthony 2019) or in programming environments such as RStudio (RStudio Team 2020). The statistical tests and corpus linguistic methods employed in a given study will vary depending upon the aims of that study; those used in this thesis are discussed below in Sections 3.4 and 3.5 respectively.

The combination of corpus linguistics and discourse analysis brings together “social relevance and statistical relevance” (Marchi and Taylor 2018, p.4). The benefits of combining the two were suggested at least as far back as Hardt-Mautner (1995) and the combination has subsequently become so established within contemporary linguistics that some feel that discourse analysis now cannot be considered a “mature scientific discipline” without the support of corpus methods (Brezina 2018, p.259).³ Corpus linguistic methods both reduce the potential for the inadvertent introduction of researcher bias into a study (Baker 2006, pp.10–12) and provide the above-mentioned benefits of more reliable, generalizable results while discourse analysis “guards against the commonly lamented trouble with quantitative studies, that is, their disregard for context(s)” (Marchi and Taylor 2018, p.4); these benefits are found equally in the analysis of both mono- and multimodal discourses (Jewitt et al. 2016, pp.121–127).⁴

restrictive of the types of research possible using corpus linguistic methods (McEnery and Hardie 2012, pp.5–6, 162–164). As a result, a linguist working from a “corpus-based” perspective would be unlikely to actually describe their work as “corpus-based,” instead simply considering it to be a project within the general ambit of corpus linguistics.

³ For practical reasons, however, the more time a researcher spends quantitatively engaging with their data the less time they are likely to have for in-depth qualitative analysis of that data; there is an inevitable tradeoff between quantity and quality in mixed methods studies.

⁴ The above should not be taken to say, however, that corpus linguistic studies are purely quantitative (nor, relatedly, that a non-corpus assisted discourse analysis should by default be assumed to be purely qualitative). No pattern in language can be identified unless it is quantifiable, nor can such a pattern be interpreted from a completely numerical perspective (Marchi and Taylor 2018, p.2). A keyword analysis, for example (see Section 3.5.3), is not complete with the generation of the list of keywords; it also requires a manual examination of those keywords in context to be worthwhile (Gabrielatos 2018, p.228). In this sense, the combination of corpus linguistic

Generally speaking, studies which make use of corpus and discourse analytical methods “use corpus tools to identify frequent or salient linguistic features, which are then subjected to a more detailed qualitative analysis” (Egbert and Baker 2020, p.8). A number of approaches to this combination have evolved over time, including the CDA-based approach of studies such as Mautner (2005) and Baker et al. (2008), but the most relevant to the development of CAMDA is its precursor, corpus-assisted discourse studies (“CADS”). As coined in Partington (2004), the term CADS was intended to “[emphasize] the eclectic nature of the approach” (Partington 2013, p.10). Corpus techniques in CADS studies are “only one sort amongst others and... CADS analysts employ as many as required to obtain the most satisfying and complete results, hence ‘corpus-assisted’” (Partington 2013, p.10) (emphasis in original). “Corpus-assisted” is used in CAMDA in the same sense (Bednarek and Caple 2014, p.141), though with the additional explicit recognition of the multimodal content of the data examined.

There are, of course, potential pitfalls that need to be avoided when combining corpus linguistics and discourse analysis. Mautner (2016, pp.171–174) outlines several, the most relevant of which is the potential for a “skills gap” where a qualitative researcher is not a fully competent user of corpus techniques (a problem which, she suggests, is often exacerbated by the lack of standardization across many of the more common pieces of corpus linguistic software). Baker and Levon (2015, pp.231–232) point out two related risks: first, that the interpretation of corpus search results will be so focused on the specific outputs that their connection to the underlying discourse will be lost, and second, that an inexperienced researcher may find their corpus search results too difficult to parse at a technical level. The steps taken to mitigate these risks are discussed throughout the following sections.

CADS research has been used effectively across a number of contexts, and is particularly well suited for the analysis and comparison of written registers (Biber 2015, p.246; Conrad 2015); it has even been used productively, albeit not in name, in forensic linguistic contexts (Coulthard 1994). The CAMDA approach specifically has been used to examine subjects such as the discourse of American newspapers and British tabloids (Bednarek and Caple 2014), narratives in film and television (Bednarek 2015), and social media posts about the 2016 Australian federal election (Caple 2018). Given the complex multisemiotic content present in both legitimate and pseudolegal courtroom filings as well as the largely unexamined nature of both genres, such an approach is essential to any attempt to identify and compare the

and discourse analytical methodologies is not adding new techniques to either side of the equation, but rather enhancing elements which were already present in each.

most salient aspects of the two genres. The following section describes the process of designing and compiling the LCF and PCF corpora, after which Sections 3.4 and 3.5 explain the ways in which the CAMDA methodology is operationalized in this thesis.

3.3 Creating the Legitimate and Pseudolegal Courtroom Filing Corpora

This section describes the creation of legitimate courtroom filing and pseudolegal courtroom filing corpora examined in this thesis. Section 3.3.1 reviews the general principles of corpus construction after which Section 3.3.2 describes the contents of the LCF and PCF corpora. Section 3.3.3 then describes the composition of the portion of the Corpus of Contemporary American English (Davies 2008) used in Chapter 4 and Section 3.3.4 describes the ways in which the LCF and PCF corpora were annotated to enable the analysis of the use of textual emphasis and images performed in Chapter 5.

3.3.1 Principles of Corpus Construction

The LCF and PCF corpora have been constructed to grant insight into the language used in particular genres (i.e. the LCF and PCF genres, respectively) and they are therefore considered “specialist” corpora (Handford 2010, p.257).⁵ Because they were created specifically to be compared to one another, the two main considerations in their construction were to ensure that they were both “representative” and “comparable.” Corpora can be said to be representative when they “accurately represent the type of language under investigation” (Reppen 2010, p.32) and comparable when the criteria used to determine which texts are included in a corpus are sufficiently similar (McEnery and Hardie 2012, p.240). Except where a given corpus contains literally all of the language ever produced in its target context, however, it is not possible to truly know whether it does fully represent that context, only to potentially confirm the opposite by noticing the absence of a particular expected feature (Tognini-Bonelli 2001, p.57; Koester 2010, p.69). And if a corpus is not representative, then the usefulness of comparing it to another corpus will always have to be carefully considered. It is hoped that the discussion throughout this chapter demonstrates the care and consideration given to these matters in the design of this study.

For a given corpus to be considered representative, it must capture the range of both situational and linguistic variability within its target context. Situational variability refers to

⁵ “Specialist” corpora stand in contrast to much larger “general” corpora such as the Corpus of Contemporary American English (Davies 2008), which, as that name implies, are instead constructed to examine much broader varieties of language used above the genre level (Handford 2010, pp.256–257).

the range of “text types” used in that context, and linguistic variability refers to the distribution of linguistic features across those text types (Biber 1993, p.243; Koester 2010, p.69; Ädel 2020, pp.4–6). “Text types” are groupings of texts with “shared linguistic co-occurrence patterns, so that the texts within each type are maximally similar in their linguistic characteristics, while the different types are maximally distinct from one another” (Biber 1993, p.245). As text type is a classification based upon a text’s internal linguistic composition, it should not be confused with the concept of genre, which can be evaluated using criteria external to the corpus (Biber 1993, p.245; see also the discussion in Chapter 2). To capture the linguistic variability of a target context, a linguist must ensure that a given corpus contains a sufficient number of texts of a sufficient length for each text type (Koester 2010, p.70).

Specialist corpora such as the LCF and PCF corpora have been found to be very effective at “reveal[ing] connections between linguistic patterning and contexts of use” (Koester 2010, p.67), and the more specialized the genre being examined, the smaller a specialist corpus needs to be to ensure it is representative (Handford 2010, p.258). Reppen (2010, p.32) notes that some specialist corpora contain fewer than 40,000 words, though Koester (2010, p.67) describes any corpus containing 250,000 words or fewer as “small.” While wordcount alone is not a sufficient metric by which to judge the representativeness of a corpus (particularly in specialist multimodal contexts) (Handford 2010, p.258), by either of the above standards, at 302,857 and 359,428 words, respectively, the LCF and PCF corpora are relatively substantial. Given their size, the constrained nature of the two genres examined, and the number of distinct texts each corpus contains (138 in the case of the LCF corpus and 250 in the case of the PCF corpus; see Table 3.1 below on page 68 for a more detailed breakdown), it is felt (though, as mentioned above, can never be truly confirmed) that the LCF and PCF corpora have likely captured the relevant ranges of situational and linguistic variability and can therefore be considered representative.

When directly comparing corpora, it is not sufficient for those corpora to be representative, however; they must also contain data which is relevant and appropriate for such a comparison (Jaworska and Kinloch 2018, p.114). Corpora are considered to be comparable in this way “if their sampling frames are similar or identical” (McEnery and Hardie 2012, p.240). A “sampling frame,” sometimes also referred to as a “design frame,” is the set of criteria used to determine which texts are included in a corpus, and specifies factors such as the context (i.e. the “socially defined situation of use” (Knight et al. 2021, p.28)) intended to be represented by a corpus, how texts are selected for inclusion in that corpus, the timeframe in which those texts were created, and other relevant factors (Biber 1993, pp.243–244; McEnery and Hardie

2012, p.250; Knight et al. 2021, p.25). The sampling frame of a corpus must always be given explicitly as it directly affects the sorts of questions that may be answered by that corpus (Tognini-Bonelli 2001, p.59); those of the LCF and PCF corpora are given in full in the following section. For the moment, it is sufficient to say that because the sampling frames for the LCF and PCF corpora were designed at the same time and involved collecting nearly identical types of documents from the same source, those frames are believed to be appropriately similar such that the LCF and PCF corpora are decidedly comparable.

3.3.2 *The Legitimate and Pseudolegal Courtroom Filing Corpora*

All texts in both the LCF and PCF corpora were obtained between 2016 and 2019⁶ with the help of an informant working in chancery court⁷ in a state trial-level courthouse in Cook County, Illinois. The informant was briefed on the aims of this study and agreed to pass along documents meeting the selection criteria for each of the two corpora outlined below; because documents filed with courts in the United States form part of the public record (see Section 3.6) this process was without legal or ethical issue. Texts obtained in this way were generally from matters arising in front of the judge for whom the informant worked, though the informant would also on occasion send documents filed as part of cases heard in other courtrooms in the same courthouse.

The texts collected were limited to those stemming from cases filed in chancery court, with the expectation that limiting the potential range of subjects under dispute in this way would enhance the comparability of the LCF and PCF corpora. In the case of the LCF corpus, the only other limitation imposed was that documents were written and filed by licensed attorneys. This was intended to exclude *pro se* litigants (i.e. individuals representing themselves in court) (Garner 2019) while otherwise capturing as full a range of relevant legal discourse as possible. As for the PCF corpus, the informant was requested to identify documents which appeared to have a legal purpose and whose arguments were fundamentally jurisdictional in nature, but which were ultimately not grounded in law or fact. The informant was previously familiar with the Sovereign Citizen movement and did not appear to have any difficulty in identifying the relevant genre of document; though it is not possible to evaluate

⁶ The earlier end of this range predates the commencement of this PhD because the document collection process originally began as part of an MA Thesis in Forensic Linguistics at Cardiff University; see Griffin (2017).

⁷ Chancery jurisdiction is traditionally associated with courts of equity (Garner 2019) and chancery courts therefore hear a wide variety of cases. In Cook County, courts in the chancery division have jurisdiction over cases regarding “injunctions, class actions, mortgage foreclosures, declaratory judgments, contract matters, creditors’ rights, liens, construction of wills and trusts, trusteeships, receiverships, dissolutions of partnerships and corporations, and statutory and administrative reviews” (Circuit Court of Cook County 2022).

the kinds of documents which the informant did not pass along, nearly every text sent for inclusion in the PCF corpus was fit for purpose.

All texts were received via email in .pdf format. Documents which were not originally filed electronically but instead submitted as hard copies to the court were first manually scanned by the informant. Multiple distinct documents were often contained in a single larger .pdf file; in such cases, the files were separated into discrete texts via Adobe Acrobat. This was a straightforward process with texts for the LCF corpus as the individual texts almost invariably began with a clear title page, as in Figure 3.1:

<div style="text-align: center; margin-bottom: 20px;"> <div style="background-color: black; width: 100px; height: 15px; margin: 0 auto;"></div> <p style="margin: 0;">IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY COUNTY DEPARTMENT – CHANCERY DIVISION</p> </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; align-items: flex-start;"> <div style="width: 45%;"> <p style="text-align: center; margin-bottom: 10px;">PLAINTIFF,</p> <p style="text-align: center; margin-bottom: 10px;">-VS-</p> <div style="background-color: black; width: 300px; height: 70px; margin: 0 auto;"></div> <p style="text-align: center; margin-top: 10px;">DEFENDANTS.</p> </div> <div style="width: 50%; border-left: 1px solid black; padding-left: 10px;"> <p style="margin-top: 20px;">CASE NO.: [REDACTED]</p> <p style="margin-top: 10px;">PROPERTY ADDRESS: <div style="background-color: black; width: 150px; height: 30px; margin: 5px 0;"></div></p> <p style="margin-top: 10px;">CALENDAR 61</p> </div> </div>	<p style="text-align: center; font-size: small; margin: 0;">ELECTRONICALLY FILED 5/4/2018 4:44 PM CALENDAR: 61 PAGE 1 of 37 CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS CHANCERY DIVISION CLERK DOROTHY BROWN</p>
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PLAINTIFF’S RESPONSE TO DEFENDANT
[REDACTED]’S MOTION TO VACATE JUDGMENT

NOW COMES the Plaintiff, [REDACTED], by and through its attorney, [REDACTED] and for its Response to the Motion to Vacate Order of Default and Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale of the Defendant, [REDACTED] states as follows:

INTRODUCTION

On April 5, 2018 Defendant filed a Motion seeking to vacate the Order or Default and Judgment for Foreclosure and Sale entered November 14, 2017. Defendant’s Motion ignores the Order entered October 10, 2017 on which date a different attorney for [REDACTED] appeared in court and requested time to respond to Plaintiff’s Complaint. Defendant’s appearance in court and continuing of the motions waived notice of the Motion for Default and Motion for Judgment for Foreclosure and Sale. Therefore, Defendant’s Motion must be denied.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

Plaintiff filed the instant Complaint August 19, 2015. On March 31, 2016 Defendant [REDACTED] filed an Answer to Plaintiff’s Complaint. On June 27, 2017 [REDACTED] electronically

Page 1 of 5

Figure 3.1 The first page of a legitimate courtroom filing with identifying information redacted

The portion of the document beginning with “IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY” through to “PLAINTIFF’S RESPONSE TO DEFENDANT [REDACTED]’S MOTION TO VACATE JUDGMENT” is referred to by lawyers as the “caption” (*Black’s Law*

Dictionary defines the caption as “the introductory part of a court paper stating the names of the parties, the name of the court, the docket or file number, and a description of the paper” (Garner 2019)). As is discussed in Chapter 5, all save one of the texts in the LCF corpus began with such a caption, with essentially the only variation being the names of the parties involved and the relevant case numbers.

A degree of personal discretion was required with determining the boundaries of the texts meant for the PCF corpus, however, as their formatting was far less consistent across documents and texts were often not paginated. Where inter-text divisions were not immediately obvious, the contents of the PCF texts were then read to determine their most likely intended endpoints. Once separated, each text was manually reviewed to ensure the scan was of good quality (i.e. legible and without any portions of the original text falling outside of the scanned area). Individual pages which were blank or contained only information which would have been added by the clerk of court after the document was filed (e.g. filing stamps noting the time of submission) were removed from the texts, as were pages such as certificates of mailing, whose content was court-mandated, *pro-forma*, or otherwise not intended to further the overall legal argument being made. Document sections which were not primarily authored by the person filing the document, including newspaper articles attached as exhibits or mortgages with minimal handwritten comments in the margins, were similarly removed to avoid the inclusion of material not originally intended to be part of the LCF or PCF genres. Where multiple identical or near-identical copies of a text appeared to have been filed, only the copy with the best image quality was retained to enhance the overall legibility of the corpora. Among all texts received, only three (all intended for the LCF corpus) texts exceeded 40 pages in length, and each of those did so by at least another ten pages; because of their clear outlier status, these were removed from the analysis as not appropriately representative of their genre as a whole. At the end of this process, there were a total of 138 LCF texts and 614 PCF texts available for inclusion in the two corpora. However, because that collection of PCF texts was approximately twice the size of the LCF texts by wordcount, it was decided to balance the sizes of the two corpora in a further effort to increase their comparability. A random selection of 250 texts generated in Microsoft Excel was found to bring the wordcounts of the LCF and PCF corpora much closer together and the page counts to near parity; the 250 texts selected in this way are what form the final PCF corpus. A full breakdown of the texts which comprise the LCF corpus by subject matter, number of pages, wordcount, title, and general theme is included as Appendix 3.1, and an equivalent list for the PCF corpus is included as Appendix 3.2. Each text

included in the LCF and PCF corpora has also been made electronically available alongside this submission of this thesis.

As discussed above in Section 3.2.1, texts in the LCF and PCF corpora make use of two distinct semiotic systems: writing and graphics. To prepare for the analysis of both systems, once the documents comprising the two corpora had been collected, two distinct processes began:

1. The documents in both corpora were prepared to enable the analysis of their written content. Adobe Acrobat was used to scan each document with its optical character recognition (“OCR”) function, allowing for the written content of those .pdfs to be extracted to .txt files which would be analyzable in corpus linguistic software. While Adobe has long boasted about the “near 100% accuracy” of its OCR capabilities, this is only true under ideal conditions (Borstein 2016); a scan of less-than-perfect quality would often interfere with the process, and any handwriting in a text generally went completely unrecognized. This resulted in the need for a substantial number of corrections to the OCR-derived .txt files. AntFileConverter (Anthony 2017) was used to generate those .txt files rather than the .pdf to .txt function in Adobe Acrobat because it preserved the line breaks found in the original texts, allowing for an easier review of the resultant files (see Section 3.4 for more discussion of the specific software choices in this thesis). The .txt files generated from the 138 LCF texts and the 250 PCF texts were then manually corrected by checking their content against that of the original .pdfs and entering any relevant changes. Given the essentially fixed nature of the captions found on the first pages of legitimate courtroom filings, it was decided to treat them as images rather than as sections of text, meaning that the written contents of the captions in the LCF corpus were also removed from the .txt files at this point. Pseudolegal courtroom filings were found to be much less consistent in terms of both their use of a caption and the form that a caption would take where one was present, so the caption-like portions of the PCF corpus were left in the relevant .txt files.
2. The texts in both corpora were prepared to enable the analysis of their image-based content. For corpora comprised of “collections of spatially distributed visual and textual data” (Malamatidou 2020, p.90) such as the LCF and PCF corpora, the contents of a single page form the natural starting point of analysis (Hiippala 2016, pp.10–14). Adobe Acrobat was therefore used to convert each individual page of the texts into a .jpg file. These .jpg files were then annotated as outlined below in Section 3.3.4.

Following the completion of these two processes, the total sizes of the LCF and PCF corpora were as follows:

Table 3.1 Legitimate Courtroom Filing corpus and Pseudolegal Courtroom Filing corpus size & content summary

Corpus	Words	Texts	Pages	Cases	Parties
LCF	302,857	138	1169	24	38
PCF	359,428	250	1167	42	52

As seen in Table 3.1, for both the LCF and PCF corpora, there are more parties (i.e. participants in a lawsuit) represented than there are distinct legal cases included. This is because, based on the texts received from the informant, both Plaintiff⁸ and Defense filings from some of the same cases were included in the LCF corpus, and because of cases in the PCF corpus in which more than one Sovereign Citizen litigant was involved. The number of authors whose work is represented in the corpora is likely higher than the number of parties, but this is ultimately impossible to determine; though only one lawyer can ultimately sign and submit a courtroom filing there are often multiple people involved in the creation of such documents, including paralegals and other lawyers in the same firm. Similarly, the use of template documents in the creation of Sovereign Citizen pseudolegal courtroom filings discussed in Chapter 1 means that the Sovereign Citizen guru who originally wrote a given template could be considered at least a partial author of those documents.

A plurality of the cases included in the legitimate courtroom filing corpus and the vast majority of those in the pseudolegal courtroom filing corpus are mortgage foreclosure cases (other notable subjects in the LCF corpus include arbitration disputes and class action litigation). All texts in the LCF corpus can be assigned to one of three subcategories of courtroom filing:

1. Complaints and answers (33/138 texts): Plaintiffs' filings which initiate a lawsuit and defendants' replies to those complaints (Garner 2019).
2. Motions and responses (85/138 texts): One party's request for the court to make a specific ruling or order and the other party's filing in opposition to that request (Garner 2019).

⁸ In the American legal context, a plaintiff is the party who originally files a civil suit (Garner 2019). The term has fallen out of use in other legal systems, however; this party would be referred to as a "claimant" in England and Wales or as a "pursuer" in Scotland (Grainger and Fealy 1999, p.76; Incorporated Council of Law Reporting for England and Wales 2022)

3. Affidavits (20/138 texts): Sworn statements of facts relevant to a given proceeding (Garner 2019).

Given their highly heterogeneous nature and lack of grounding in actual law, a similar classification of PCF texts was not possible.

There are several limitations to the LCF and PCF corpora which are worth acknowledging. First, though they may be large compared to many specialist corpora, the size of the LCF and PCF corpora is still relatively limited, even compared to some other legal corpora. The “Briefs” subcorpus of the larger “American Law Corpus” used in Goźdz-Roszkowski (2011), for example, is made up of documents filed before the US supreme court and is about twice the size of the LCF corpus by wordcount. Though, with that said, the “Briefs” subcorpus is purely text-based and contains only half the total number of documents found in the LCF corpus (Goźdz-Roszkowski 2011, p.27), both factors which would limit its utility for a study such as this.

Second, the .pdf files received from the informant were almost all in black and white, meaning that it was not possible to consider the potential use of color in the LCF and PCF corpora in this thesis. While that is unlikely to have affected the LCF corpus, it is unfortunate given that others (e.g. Anti-Defamation League 2016) have previously noted the propensity of Sovereign Citizens to use multiple colors of ink in their documents. Finally, because the .pdf files were provided without any sort of metadata or other form of background information about the cases in which they were originally filed, it was not possible to examine trends in LCF or PCF texts along demographic lines such as age, gender, or level of education of the texts’ authors. An analysis of such metadata is often used to further contextualize the analysis of other corpus studies (Burnard 2005; Anthony 2018, p.218), but given the research questions which this thesis seeks to answer, it is unlikely to have been particularly relevant here (see the discussion in Section 3.5.2 for more on how differences in size are accounted for when comparing multiple corpora).

A different sort of criticism may also be leveled against the LCF corpus in particular: namely, that legitimate courtroom filings are not proper exemplars of legal English. Hiltunen describes “the law as embraced in legal statutes” as “representing [legal language] at its most prototypical” (2012, p.40); given the lack of linguistic attention that legitimate courtroom filings have received up to this point, one may reasonably wonder if a lack of prototypicality (defined for the purposes of this thesis in Section 3.5.7, though Hiltunen is not using it in any clear technical sense) is partially to blame. While this thesis is not equipped to evaluate the legal prototypicality of statutes as compared to legitimate courtroom filings, it seems fair to at

least grant that statutes may well represent legal English at its most terminologically dense. Legitimate courtroom filings, however, have a distinct advantage over other types of legal text which appears to have gone heretofore unrecognized: the trial-level legitimate courtroom filings examined in this thesis appear to be the most common kind of legal document produced by the American court system by a wide margin.

To use Hiltunen's assertion as a point of comparison, the Illinois General Assembly passed 637 bills in 2019, 628 of which were signed by the governor and became law (Illinois Policy 2019). In that same year, 2,319,027 trial-level cases were filed in the state of Illinois (Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts 2019, p.17), each of which would have required the creation of one or more of the sorts of legitimate courtroom filings examined here. The vast majority of these trial-level cases are not appealed, either, meaning that studies which focus only on appellate level cases similarly fail to capture this particular context of the use of legal English: in 2019, only 5,785 appeals were filed in the state of Illinois, meaning that they were outnumbered by trial level cases at a rate of more than 400-to-1 (Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts 2019, p.166). While this thesis is not intended to be anything akin to a definitive statement about the overall nature of legal English, it is hoped that, given the commonality of legitimate courtroom filings, it will at least form a helpful starting point for subsequent research into this area.

3.3.3 COCA-W: The Combined Written Subcorpora of the Corpus of Contemporary American English

Any attempt to answer this thesis' first research question (How does the use of the register of legal English compare in legitimate courtroom filings and Sovereign Citizen pseudolegal courtroom filings?) requires at least a rough idea of the comparative frequency of those features in the LCF corpus and in more general English. To compensate for the lack of prior research in this area (see the discussion in Chapter 2), this thesis makes reference to the combined written sub-corpora of the Corpus of Contemporary American English ("COCA") (Davies 2009) as a "benchmark" corpus (i.e. one used to identify words which are particularly common in the LCF corpus, akin to the use of a reference corpus in keyword analysis; see the discussion below in Section 3.5.3) (Koester 2010, p.77). Because it is a "monitor" corpus, additional language data has been regularly added to COCA in roughly equal proportions across all of its subcorpora (Davies 2010, p.453). The full COCA corpus contains over 1 billion words as of 2019; the combined written sub-corpora ("COCA-W") consist of 746,200,688 words taken

from six of the eight COCA sub-corpora: blogs (125,496,215 words), fiction (119,505,272 words), magazine (127,352,014 words), newspaper (122,959,393 words), academic (120,988,348 words), and web-general (129,899,426 words). COCA has previously been used to examine subjects such as the use of idioms in contemporary American English (Rafatbakhsh and Ahmadi 2019); its contents have also been compared against those of other corpora in studies such as D’Arcy (2017), which tracked the evolution of the word “like” in English over time. Given its size, scope, and the inclusion of texts written as recently as 2019 (coincidentally, the last year in which texts were collected for the LCF and PCF corpora), the contents of COCA-W are an excellent representation of contemporary written American English and are therefore a good fit for the analysis of the use of legal English in the LCF corpus performed in Chapter 4.

A full exploration of the differences between legal English and standard English, however, is beyond the scope of the current study, and COCA-W is only used here for frequency comparison purposes (see Section 3.5.2). With that in mind, and to best take advantage of COCA-W’s status as a corpus which is representative of contemporary written American English, unless otherwise noted, search results were not filtered or sampled beyond ensuring that they returned results including the desired word or part of speech. Even so, there are several limitations to the use of COCA-W that should be acknowledged. Though it is a minor issue for the purposes of this thesis, unlike with the LCF and PCF corpora, it is not possible to view the full text surrounding searched terms; the user is limited by the COCA web interface to approximately one paragraph of their surrounding context (Davies 2009, pp.167–168) (though it is also possible to find out some information about the source of a given text, this was not of use to this study). Of more relevance to the analysis in Chapter 4, which explores the frequency of negation and pronoun use in the LCF corpus and COCA-W, COCA’s grammatical tagging is inconsistent across its various sub-corpora, with the more recently added sections seemingly in need of additional markup. Though the LCF and PCF corpora are not themselves grammatically tagged, there are specific consensus features of legal English examined in Chapter 4 which relate to particular parts of speech (e.g. reduced pronoun usage relative to standard English, or increased negation). This problem was addressed by searching for the relevant words in COCA-W and the LCF and PCF corpora directly and aggregating the results in Microsoft Excel; see the discussion in Chapter 4 for a fuller explanation.

3.3.4 Multimodal Annotation

To enable the corpus analysis of the graphic features in the LCF and PCF corpora, each individual page of their component texts was manually annotated according to a markup scheme adapted from Bateman's (2008) Genre and Multimodality ("GeM") model. The GeM model, which was designed "to articulate an account of document parts that is sufficiently well-defined to support reproducible analyses" (Bateman 2008, p.107), is not only the best-developed framework for the multimodal analysis of static texts (Hiippala 2016), but also appears to be the only such framework; neither this author nor Malamatidou (2020, p.92) were able to identify any other pre-existing method which "support[s] thorough quantitative analyses" of static texts. GeM looks at a text as a "multi-layered semiotic artefact" (Bateman 2008, p.108), with each layer building upon the last to establish the discursive relationships between every element on a page. The "base layer," for example, is used to assign every distinct feature a unique XML ID (Bateman 2008, pp.19, 110–114). These IDs are then related to one another in the "layout" layer (Bateman 2008, pp.115–116) according to "[their] nature, appearance[,] position... and their hierarchical relationships" (2008, p.19), after which those elements of the layout layer are connected according to their rhetorical structural qualities, and those rhetorical structural qualities are connected at the overall genre level (Bateman 2008, pp.19–20). Full GeM annotation is notable for the incredible amount of human input it requires (Waller 2017, pp.175–176); Hiippala (2017, p.277), for example, reports that it took roughly three years to complete the full GeM annotation of a corpus consisting of 58 double pages of tourist brochures.⁹ Given the time and personnel constraints inherent to the PhD process, as well as the specific aims of this thesis, it was decided to both simplify the GeM annotation scheme and adapt it to more specifically report the features which have previously been noted as being characteristic of PCF texts.

Inspired by the layering approach of GeM markup, texts in the LCF and PCF corpora were annotated at two levels: the first noted the typical layout and design choices of each text as a whole, while the second noted the ways in which deviations occurred from those norms at the individual page level. Annotations were made in UAM Image Tool (O'Donnell 2011), a piece of software designed to facilitate the markup of images with user-defined schema. The following Figures show the annotation schema designed for this thesis. Figure 3.2 shows the features noted in the "typical" layer:

⁹ The fully GeM-annotated tourist brochures mentioned in Hiippala (2017) are available for viewing online as part of Hiippala (2015).

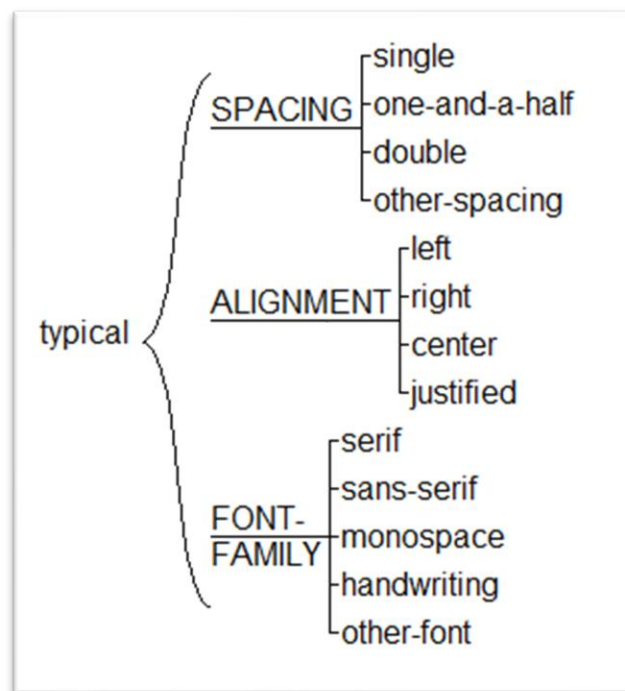


Figure 3.2 Labeling options for the “Typical” layer of multimodal annotation as shown in UAM Image Tool

The “typical” layer notes the predominant method of interlinear spacing, text alignment, and font family used in each text.

Figure 3.3 shows the features noted in the “features” layer:

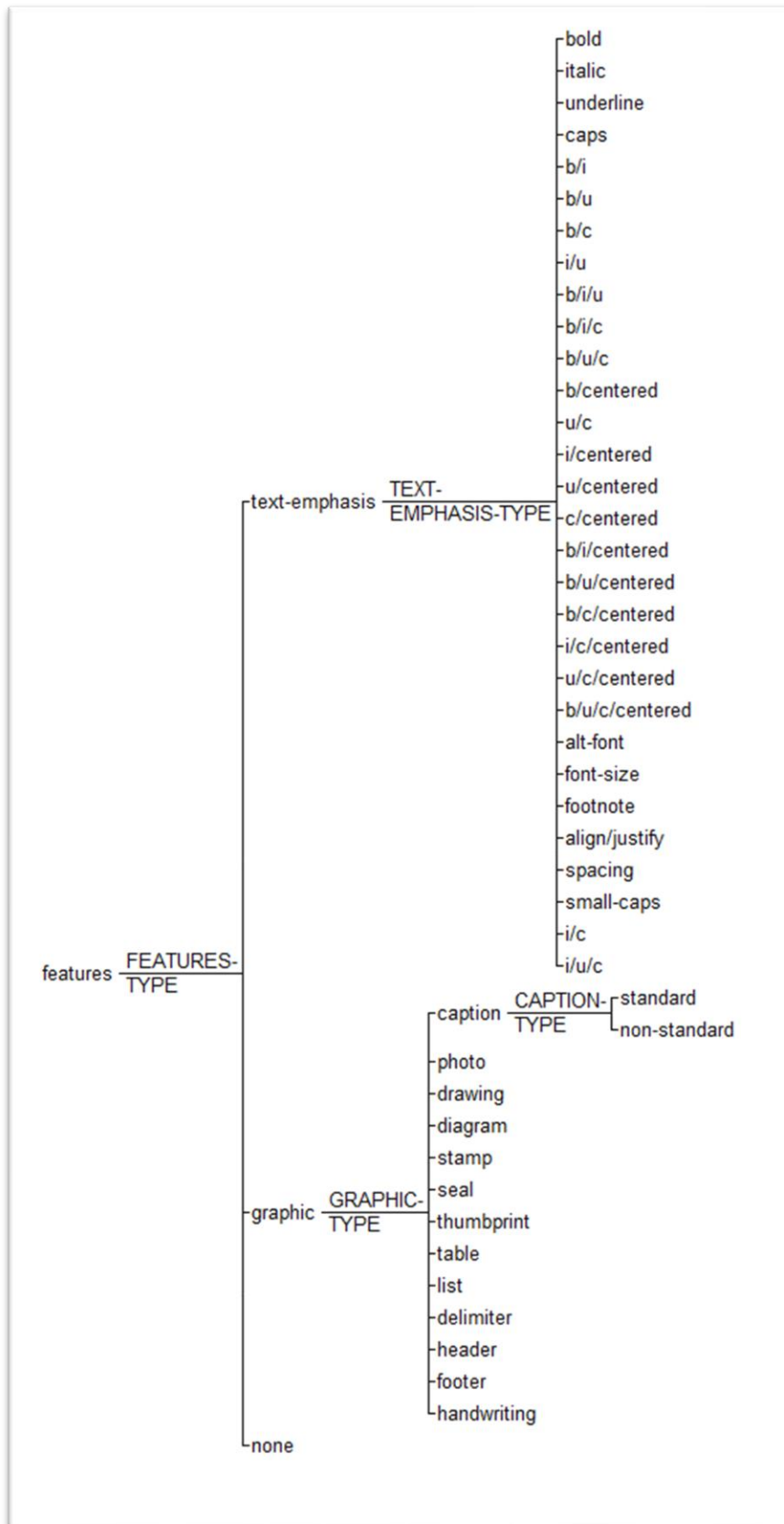


Figure 3.3 Labelling options for the “Features” layer of multimodal annotation as shown in UAM Image Tool

In the “features” layer, ways in which individual pages differed from the design choices of the “typical” layer were classified as either “graphics” or “text emphasis,” with “none” being used to indicate that there were no changes from the “typical” layer on a given page.¹⁰ The meanings of specific labels of both the “typical” and “layout” layers are discussed where relevant in the analysis in Chapter 5.

In the case of annotations which are being made at the whole-image level, such as those of the “typical” layer, the user simply loads the desired image in UAM Image Tool and notes the relevant classifications. For annotations regarding specific segments of a given image, such as those of the “features” layer, after loading the image, the user clicks and drags a box around the feature they wish to label and then classifies it according to the relevant scheme. Figure 3.4 shows a page with completed “features” layer annotations:

¹⁰ A change in the terminology used over the course of writing this thesis means that features which are discussed as “illustrations” in Chapter 5 were labeled as “drawings” in the “Features” layer annotation.

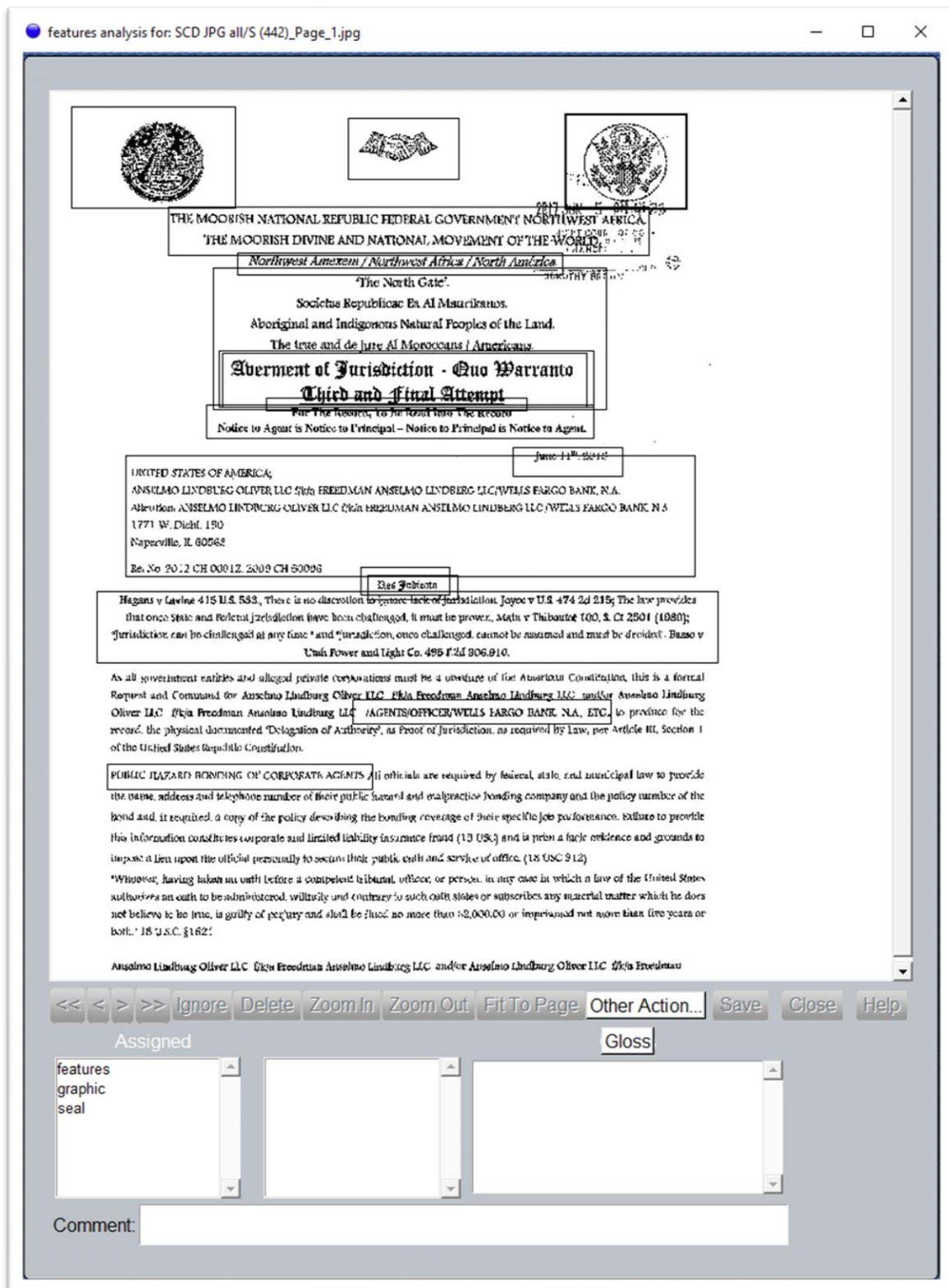


Figure 3.4 A screenshot of a completed “Features” layer annotation of a page from a pseudolegal courtroom filing in UAM Image Tool

For both “typical” and “features” annotations, each layer is stored as a distinct .xml file; these files are included as part of the supporting documentation submitted alongside this thesis. The portion of the .xml file relating to the seal in the top right-hand corner of Figure 3.4 appears as follows:

```
<segment id='2' start='1269,55' end='1566,286' features='features;graphic;seal'
state='active'/>
```

The “id” of 2 indicates that it was the second feature labeled in this image. “Start” and “end” list XY coordinates for the bottom left and top right corners, respectively, of the box that was used to define the area of the feature. “Features” lists the specific classification assigned; in this case, the feature was classed first as “graphic” and then more specifically as a “seal.” The “state” being “active” relates to a setting in UAM Image Tool itself rather than having any meaning in the markup scheme.

While other CAMDA studies have used database programs such as Microsoft Access for their image annotation (e.g. Caple 2018), UAM Image Tool was chosen for this thesis because, as well as being purpose built for this sort of annotation (unlike Access) and easy to use, the .xml files generated as part of the markup process were simple to import into other programs such as Microsoft Excel. This was essential for the generation of the heatmaps discussed in Section 3.5.6 (that process is reviewed in more depth below). Because the “typical” layer represents the predominant graphic choices made across an entire text, only the first page of each text in the LCF and PCF corpora were annotated with a “typical” layer. Every page in both corpora, however, was annotated with its own “features” layer.

3.4 Significance Testing and Software

As was discussed in Section 3.2.3, corpus linguistic methods are used to generate results which are “empirical” (Gries and Paquot 2020, p.647), “neutral... and generalizab[le]” (Marchi and Taylor 2018, p.4). This is accomplished via the use of descriptive statistics (e.g. the raw and normalized frequencies of a given word in a corpus) and significance testing (McEnery and Hardie 2012, pp.48–53). Generally, when a significance test says that there is at least a 95% chance that a particular result is not a coincidence (i.e. has a p-value lower than 0.05), that result is considered significant, meaning that it can be relied upon in the analysis (Brezina 2018, p.276). The exact threshold for significance often varies by field, however, and in line with

standard practice in contemporary corpus linguistics, this thesis will instead employ a lower p-value threshold of 0.01 (Gabrielatos 2018, p.239; Wallis 2021, p.35). Any significance test indicating a less than 99% chance that a given result is not coincidental will therefore not be considered reliable, though such a result may still be indicative of an area deserving of future study (McEnery and Hardie 2012, p.51).

Depending on the specifics of the data examined, different statistical tests will be appropriate for different questions. The chi-square test for independence (represented as “ χ^2 ” in the tables in this thesis) is ideally suited for the comparison of the frequency of a given word or feature across two corpora (Kilgarrieff 2001, pp.99–100; Wallis 2021, pp.32–35) and is therefore frequently employed throughout the following chapters. Though the chi-square test is unreliable with a small dataset and presupposes a normal distribution (i.e. that most of the values analyzed will fall relatively close to an average value and would produce a bell curve when graphed) (McEnery and Hardie 2012, pp.51–52; Brezina 2018, pp.265–266), except where otherwise noted, these issues are not present in COCA-W or the LCF or PCF corpora. The test works by calculating a chi-square value based upon a comparison of the observed frequencies of a given word or feature in the relevant contexts and the frequencies that would be expected if there were no relationship between those contexts and the frequencies of that word or feature. That chi-square value is then compared to a “critical value” determined by the number of different contexts examined and the relevant p-value threshold. Where the chi-square value is greater than the critical value, the relationship between the word or feature and the contexts examined can be considered statistically significant (see Wallis (2021, pp.32–35) for a more detailed explanation of the chi-square test for independence).

As an example, the word “judgment”, appears 358 times in the legitimate courtroom filing corpus and 603 times in the pseudolegal courtroom filing corpus. By using the remainder of the words in each corpus (i.e. all words which are not occurrences of “judgment”; 302,499 words in the case of the LCF corpus and 358,825 words in the PCF corpus) it is possible to perform a chi-square test to examine if the word judgment appears at a statistically significantly different rate in the two corpora. Once performed, the test returns a chi-square value of 27.52 which exceeds the relevant critical value for this study (6.63) and means the difference in the frequency of “judgment” between the LCF and PCF corpora can be attributed to more than random chance. Throughout the tables in this study, a bolded and shaded value in a “ χ^2 ” column indicates that, with a p-value < 0.01, a statistically significant difference was found in the frequency of the relevant word or feature in the two corpora being compared. A dash in a “ χ^2 ”

column indicates that there was not a high enough overall frequency of a given feature to test for significance.

Specially designed software packages (generally referred to as “corpus tools”) are frequently used to aid in the examination and analysis of linguistic corpora. There is not at this time any single piece of software which is able to perform the full range of markup and analysis called for in this thesis and, as Mautner (2016, p.171) notes (and was mentioned earlier), there is a “deplorable” lack of standardization between modern corpus tools. This issue can be present at a very fundamental level: WMatrix (Rayson 2009) and AntConc (Anthony 2019), for example, were found to produce different total word counts when used to measure the LCF and PCF corpora, and neither piece of software can perform the full range of functions that the other can (AntConc lacks WMatrix’s semantic tagging capabilities, for example, and WMatrix lacks some of AntConc’s data visualization tools). It was therefore necessary to make use of a number of different corpus tools, supplementing them where necessary with programs such as Microsoft Excel or RStudio (RStudio Team 2020).¹¹ Ultimately, to reduce the potential for inter-software interference, the decision was made to rely on what might be called the “AntSuite” of products, a series of freeware corpus tools developed by Laurence Anthony (Anthony 2022). The primary corpus tool employed in this thesis was therefore AntConc (Anthony 2019), though ProtAnt (Anthony and Baker 2015; Anthony and Baker 2017) was also used to determine the prototypicality of LCF and PCF texts (described below in Section 3.5.7), and, as was mentioned in Section 3.3.2, AntFileConverter (Anthony 2017) was used to enable the analysis of the written components of the LCF and PCF corpora. There is not currently any “Ant” software designed for the annotation of images, hence the reliance on the UAM Image Tool (O’Donnell 2011) discussed in the last section. The following sections will describe in more depth when and for what purpose these programs were used; all relevant datasets, code, and program files were provided electronically alongside the submission of this thesis.

3.5 Methods of Analysis

The following subsections lay out in detail the process of analysis in this thesis. Section 3.5.1 outlines the order of the specific analyses performed in Chapters 4 and 5. The remaining

¹¹ RStudio (RStudio Team 2020) is “a more user-friendly way of accessing the R console and managing R codes, datasets, and plots” than the standard R programming environment (Paquot and Larsson 2020, p.376); it includes a number of quality of life improvements including a more easily navigable graphical user interface and an enhanced debugger.

subsections then turn to an examination of the specific methodological techniques employed. Section 3.5.2 discusses how frequency analysis will be used to compare the contents of the LCF and PCF corpora and the related concept of KWIC lines. Sections 3.5.3 and 3.5.4 review how keyword and lockword analyses will examine the legal technical terms which most clearly distinguish the two corpora and those which appear at the most similar rates in both. Next, Section 3.5.5 explains the concept of lexical bundle analysis, which will be used to supplement the analysis of legal technical terminology. Section 3.5.6 then describes the process used to generate the heatmaps showing the spatial distribution of the graphic features in the LCF and PCF corpora and Section 3.5.7 lays out how the prototype LCF and PCF texts selected for close readings in both analysis chapters were identified.

3.5.1 Overall Approach

As a CAMDA study, this thesis employs corpus linguistic methods to identify the most relevant features of the LCF and PCF corpora which it then subjects to a closer qualitative analysis (Bednarek and Caple 2014, p.151). The analyses in Chapters 4 and 5 examine different semiotic systems (written and graphic, respectively) but otherwise proceed along similar lines: each begins with a broad quantitatively-based examination of different aspects of the discourse of the LCF and PCF genres before moving to a more targeted analysis of a particularly important aspect and then concluding with a close reading of a text from each corpus. This approach is outlined in Figure 3.5:

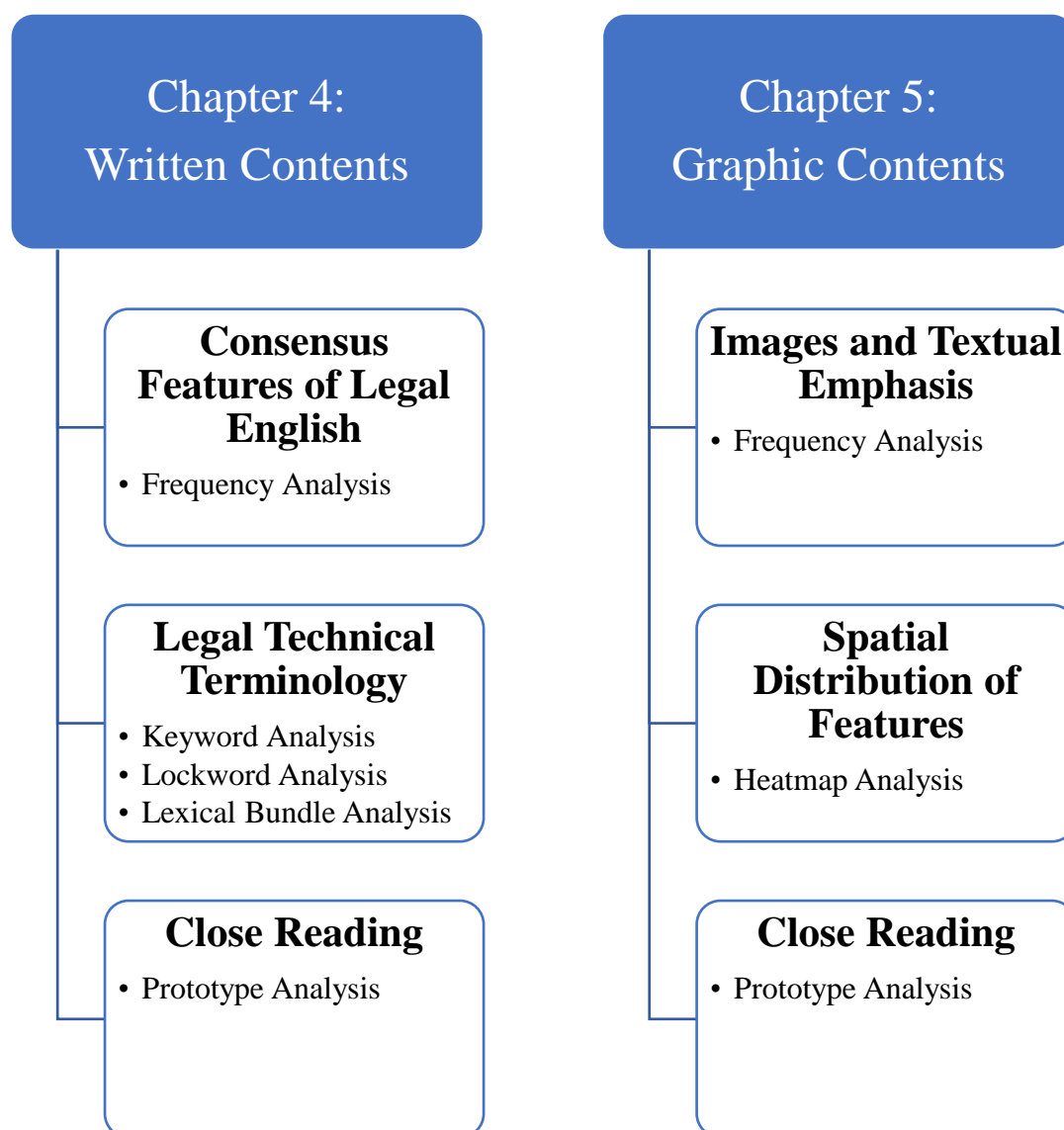


Figure 3.5 Structure of the analyses in Chapters 4 and 5

The specific methods of analysis mentioned in the above figure are explained in the following subsections.

3.5.2 Frequency Analysis and KWIC Lines

Frequency analysis is one of the most common corpus methods employed when analyzing a corpus or comparing multiple corpora (Hunston 2002, pp.67–68; Orpin 2005, p.39; Partington and Marchi 2015, p.217). Particularly when supplemented with statistical tests, establishing a significant difference (or lack thereof) in the frequency of a given feature (e.g. of a particular word or part of speech) between corpora enables a more targeted and relevant qualitative examination in subsequent steps of the analysis. The analyses of the written content of

COCA-W and the LCF and PCF corpora in Chapter 4 and of the graphic content of the LCF and PCF corpora in Chapter 5 regularly use frequency comparisons to identify those features most suitable for more in-depth analysis. As discussed above in Section 3.4, the frequencies of words and features in the LCF and PCF corpora have been compared for statistically significant differences in frequency via chi-square tests performed in RStudio using a p-value threshold of 0.01.

To allow for a more straightforward comparison of features across the LCF and PCF corpora, both the “raw” and “normalized” frequencies of the features examined are given. A word’s raw frequency is the number of times it appears in a corpus in absolute terms (to return to an earlier example, “judgment” appears 358 times in the LCF corpus and 603 times in the PCF corpus) while its “normalized” frequency is the number of times a word can be expected to appear out of some predetermined range of words. Normalized frequency is calculated by determining the ratio of a word’s raw frequency to the total number of words in the corpus and multiplying it by the desired range (McEnery and Hardie 2012, pp.49–51; Jaworska and Kinloch 2018, pp.114–115). This calculation allows for the effective comparison of frequency across corpora of different sizes (e.g. “judgment” appears 118 times per 100,000 words in the LCF corpus and 168 times per 100,000 words in the PCF corpus, meaning that the difference in its rate of use between the two corpora is not as stark as an examination of only the raw figures may make it seem). One of the most common variables used for that range in corpus linguistics studies is appearances per million words (McEnery and Hardie 2012, p.50); as is common with smaller datasets, to avoid using a range larger than the number of words in the either the LCF or PCF corpora (which would push this calculation outside of the realm of descriptive statistics), word-based frequency counts in Chapter 4 have been normalized to present their expected occurrences per 100,000 words. Relatedly, feature-based frequency counts in Chapter 5 have been normalized to present their expected occurrences per 100 pages.

It is not sufficient, however, to simply identify a particularly salient feature in the LCF or PCF corpora; features so identified must also be examined in context (i.e. in relation to the other features which appear near them). While some LCF and PCF texts will be given a close reading in their entirety (see Section 3.5.7), the rest will be presented alongside a selection of their accompanying context. In Chapter 5, this will be accomplished via the presentation of image including an example of the relevant feature. In Chapter 4, this will be accomplished via the presentation of Key Word In Context (“KWIC”) lines. The KWIC line is a visualization technique so important to this kind of analysis that it has been called “the heart of corpus linguistic work” (Marchi and Taylor 2018, p.11). The literal meaning of KWIC can be

somewhat misleading: this sort of search is not necessarily related to the concept of keywords (discussed in the following subsection), and these searches are not limited to single words. All modern corpus tools, including AntConc (Anthony 2019), allow for the presentation of phrases (e.g. “by the way”) and segments of words (e.g. the suffix -ity) as well (Crawford and Csomay 2016, pp.47–49). KWIC lines display the relevant search term in the center of the line as well as a fixed amount of words or characters which both precede and follow the search term in the text in which it is found (Anthony 2018, p.209) As a general rule, the KWIC lines presented in Chapter 4 have been expanded to include the surrounding sentence boundaries except where truncation was necessary for reasons of space, in which case they were shortened at clausal boundaries. The following table presents a series of KWIC lines showing the use of the word “not” in the LCF corpus:

Table 3.2 KWIC Lines showing the use of “not” in the Legitimate Courtroom Filing corpus, n=2225

Line	N-	N	N+
1	the parties shall	not	disclose the Agreement's terms.
2	Defendant has	not	disclosed any discernable procedure
3	an Illinois	not-	for-profit corporation
4	Westlake does	not	have an in-patient opioid treatment facility
5	applicants must, among other things, affirm that they will	not	impose a more restrictive charity care policy at the subject hospital for two years

The search term in a KWIC line is also sometimes referred to as the “node word.” The column containing “not” in Table 3.2 is therefore labeled “N” for “node,” and the preceding and subsequent context given are labeled “N-” and “N+”, respectively. In a table containing multiple KWIC lines such as the above, the lines are numbered for ease of reference. The above KWIC lines are presented in alphabetical order based on the word to the right of the node word, though other methods of sorting are possible (e.g. by sorting alphabetically based on the word to the left of the node word instead). The use of “not” and other negators in the LCF and PCF corpora is discussed in detail in Chapter 4.

The process of selecting which KWIC lines to present in a study is a critical one and must be approached systematically. Studies which work with particularly large corpora may choose to present a randomly selected subset of KWIC lines for a given search term (Tribble 2010, p.176). Where possible, however, the preference in CADS and CAMDA studies is a full review of all relevant search results and the presentation of a curated list of KWIC lines (Baker 2010, pp.21–22). Hunston (2002, p.52) suggests the reasonable threshold for such a manual

review is approximately 100 lines, while Tribble (2010, p.176) feels 300 lines remains workable. Almost all features examined in Chapter 4 have raw frequencies in the low hundreds. KWIC lines presented throughout that chapter have therefore been selected following a full manual review of the relevant lines; such a thorough review also serves to enhance the accuracy of the overall analysis.

3.5.3 *Keyword Analysis*

As discussed in Chapter 2, the use of technical terminology is often listed as one of the most, if not the most, distinctive features of legal English. The analysis in Chapter 4 therefore explores the use of legal technical terminology in the LCF and PCF corpora via a keyword analysis. A keyword analysis aims to identify words which appear distinctly frequently in a particular corpus (the “target” corpus) as compared to their frequency in a second corpus (the “reference” corpus), with the idea that the words identified in this way (i.e. the “keywords”)¹² are those which are particularly important to the language context represented by that first target corpus (Bowker and Pearson 2002, pp.114–115). While, until relatively recently, the keywords of a corpus had most frequently been determined by testing the frequency of every word in a corpus for significance and comparing the result to the significance of the frequency of the same word in a reference corpus (see, e.g., the definition in McEnery and Hardie 2012, p.51; see also Anthony and Baker 2015, p.277; Gabrielatos 2018, pp.228–229), it is now common to also use an effect-size metric to calculate keyness (Gabrielatos 2018, pp.230–231). In the context of keyword analysis, statistical significance indicates the likelihood that a difference in a word’s frequency between two corpora is the result of a sampling error while effect-size measures the magnitude of the difference in frequency observed (Gabrielatos 2018, pp.230, 234–236).

The keyword lists for both the LCF and PCF corpora were generated in AntConc (Anthony 2019), with the PCF corpus serving as the reference corpus for the LCF corpus and vice versa; comparing corpora in this way has been described as an effective method with which to identify the most “salient [and] distinctive” aspects of two corpora as they relate to one another (Jaworska and Kinloch 2018, p.115). Words which are found to be statistically significantly more likely to occur in the target corpus than the reference corpus are referred to

¹² “Key item” has been suggested as a preferable term to “keyword”, with the rationale being that the unit of analysis could just as easily instead be a number of linguistic forms, such as a lemma, n-gram, or a particular part of speech (Gabrielatos 2018, pp.225–230). This thesis, however, will use “keyword” to emphasize its use in the analysis of the written components of the LCF and PCF corpora.

as “positive” keywords, while words which are significantly less likely to occur in the target corpus relative to the reference corpus are referred to as “negative” key words. Because keywords were identified by comparing the LCF and PCF corpora to one another, the positive keywords in one corpus are necessarily the negative keywords in the other corpus. Significance was determined via a log-likelihood test (see Wallis 2021, pp.147–148 for a discussion of the log-likelihood test and how it compares to the chi-square test) with a p-value threshold of 0.01. Words for which a significant difference in frequency was found were then ranked according to their %DIFF score, an effect-size metric determined by the proportion of the difference between the normalized frequencies of a given key item in the target and reference corpora (Gabrielatos 2018, p.236).

Given this thesis’ specific interest in the use of legal English in the LCF and PCF corpora (see Research Question 1), the overall keyword lists were then narrowed down to just those keywords which could be considered legal terms (as discussed in Chapter 2, for the purposes of this thesis, legal terms are those words which have a corresponding entry in *Black’s Law Dictionary* (Garner 2019)). In an effort to avoid instances in which those words were not consistently being used in their designated legal senses, all instances of legal keywords in both corpora were then manually reviewed to remove those words which were either used incidentally (e.g. as part of the name of a party involved in a given case) or where they only appeared in one case in the relevant corpus (see Egbert and Biber (2019) for a discussion of the particular importance of this last step). This resulted in a list of 1278 LCF keywords, 530 of which were ultimately classed as legal keywords, and 1276 PCF keywords, 732 of which were legal keywords. The full lists of LCF and PCF keywords, including indications of whether they were considered legal, are included as Appendix 3.3 and Appendix 3.4, respectively.

As is often the case in corpus linguistic studies, there is neither sufficient space nor time to discuss each of the hundreds of keywords identified in this way. Many studies address this issue by focusing on only a portion of the top ranked items for examination (Gabrielatos 2018, p.238; Pojanapunya and Watson Todd 2018, pp.135–142), but an arbitrarily chosen cutoff point runs the risk of inadvertently excluding items which are ranked only marginally lower than the included items, thereby weakening the value of the overall analysis. Following the suggestion in Gabrielatos (2018, pp.241–243), the number of keywords to be examined in the following sections of this chapter have been determined via a hierarchical cluster analysis (“HCA”) of legal keywords according to their effect size score. Cluster analysis has its origins in the natural sciences but has recently found increasing use in social science contexts (Everitt 2011; Moisl 2020, pp.401–402). HCA, which is the subtype of cluster analysis most commonly found in

linguistics (e.g. Levshina 2015, p.309) groups individual items on a list into “clusters” according to the closeness of their scores in the relevant ranking metric (Moisl 2020, pp.412–423), which in this case was %DIFF. Each cluster forms a non-arbitrary group which must be either included or excluded from examination as a whole (Levshina 2015, pp.309–311; Gabrielatos 2018, p.242). Though cluster sizes are not necessarily uniform, by predetermining the number of clusters to be generated it is possible to exert a degree of control over the final number of items to be examined while still ensuring a non-arbitrary cutoff point (Gabrielatos 2018, p.242). For the analyses in Chapter 4, the number of clusters in each was set such that there would be an average of twenty items per cluster. Individual clusters were selected for examination beginning with the highest-ranked cluster and proceeding until there were at least twenty individual items included; particularly because this was the minimum number of items to be selected, this was deemed to be a threshold which would be sufficiently inclusive without creating an impractical number of results to review. The HCA was performed in RStudio (RStudio Team 2020).

3.5.4 Lockword Analysis

As a complement to the keyword analysis described above, Chapter 4 also employs a lockword analysis to identify legal technical terms which are used at consistent rates across the LCF and PCF corpora. Lockword analysis was first proposed in Baker (2011), where it was explicitly described as a counterpart to keyword analysis: where keywords are identified by a higher frequency in one corpus than another, lockwords are words which are “so consistent in their frequencies [across two sets of texts] that... they appear to be ‘locked’ in place” (Baker 2011, p.73). Though in that study Baker was interested in changes in word usage over time rather than a synchronic corpus comparison, the concept has been found to be a broadly useful companion to keyword analysis as it “increas[es] the researcher’s general awareness of patterns of both similarity and difference in two or more sets of corpora” (Taylor 2018, p.27). Following the procedure in Baker (2011, pp.70–73), lockwords have been identified in this study by ranking words which occurred at least 100 times across the LCF and PCF corpora according to their coefficient of variance (CV) scores, a calculation based upon the relationship between the frequency of a given word or feature between two corpora and the mean relative frequency of all words or features between those two corpora (Brezina 2018, pp.50–51). The bottom third of words when ranked by CV score are deemed sufficiently stable in their usage across the corpora to be considered lockwords. Because there is no way to directly calculate CV scores

in AntConc (Anthony 2019), word frequency lists generated in that program were imported into Microsoft Excel and the calculations were performed there. 280 lockwords were identified in this way, 162 of which are legal terms. Of these, the top 13 were selected for analysis via a hierarchical cluster analysis in RStudio searching for at least 10 such terms (see the discussion in previous subsection for a fuller discussion of cluster analysis). The full list of LCF and PCF lockwords is included as Appendix 3.5.

Though lockword analysis has been noted to be an effective method of exploring inter-corpus similarity (Taylor 2013; Pérez 2018), there has been “surprisingly little uptake” (Taylor 2018, p.27) of the method, perhaps due to the clear preference of many corpus linguistic studies to focus on difference instead (Taylor 2018, p.20). The only journal article identified which has actually explicitly employed a lockword analysis is Durán-Muñoz (2019), and even there the resulting discussion of the method is minimal. Though it is relatively untested in this sense, it is encouraging to note that many of the words in the top third of the CV score rankings are also keywords, as a high CV score correctly identifying words which are distinctive between the two corpora supports the idea that a low CV score would identify words which are used at more consistent rates between those same corpora. Assuming that to be the case, a lockword analysis therefore properly identifies instances in which LCF and PCF texts are using specific legal technical terms at similar rates and will accordingly be useful in addressing this thesis’ third research question (i.e. What does the relationship between legitimate courtroom filings and pseudolegal courtroom filings reveal about the operation of “parasitic” genres?) by providing a metric by which to evaluate the more potentially successful parasitic efforts of the PCF genre.

3.5.5 *Lexical Bundle Analysis*

Legal English is known to make frequent use of multiword phrases (Goźdz-Roszkowski 2011, p.110; Breeze 2013), and many instances of technical legal terminology are phrases comprised of more than one word (Mattila 2012a, p.141). The keyword and lockword analyses detailed in Chapter 4 are limited to the examination of single words, however, so they are supplemented with a lexical bundle analysis. Lexical bundles¹³ are recurrent series of three or more words, regardless of any particular structural characteristics (Biber et al. 1999, p.990), and their

¹³ Other terms, such as “clusters,” “phrasicon,” “n-grams,” and “recurrent word combinations” may also sometimes be used to refer to this concept without any apparent or practical difference in meaning (Chen and Baker 2010, p.30). For the sake of consistency, this thesis will use “lexical bundles” to the exclusion of those other terms.

presence is often a key marker of certain registers (Hyland 2008, p.5). Though their use has not been examined in the legitimate courtroom filing genre, prior studies of other legal genres have noted that lexical bundles generally serve to highlight relevant information by priming (i.e. subconsciously bringing to mind via consistent past association; see Hoey (2005, pp.7–8)) a reader to expect certain kinds of details via phrases such as “with respect to the” or “in the case of” (Breeze 2013, p.251).

Though technically defined as three or more word sequences, research examining lexical bundles tends to focus on bundles of four or more words (e.g. Cortes 2004, p.401; Biber and Barbieri 2007, pp.267–268; Chen and Baker 2010, p.32; Ädel and Erman 2012, p.84); this is for practical reasons, as four or more word bundles are generally more phrasal in nature (i.e. parts of noun or prepositional phrases) (Cortes 2004, p.400) and less common than three word bundles. In both spoken conversation and academic prose, for example, Biber et al. (1999, p.993) found approximately 10 times more three-word bundles than four-word bundles, and about 10 times more four-word bundles than five-word bundles. Chapter 4 will examine sequences of four or more words which appear in at least 20% of the texts in either corpus. The 20% dispersion requirement helps to avoid those bundles which are the result of the idiosyncrasies of a small number of authors (Biber et al. 1999, pp.992–993), with the 20% threshold being chosen as a result of the clear influence of a single particular Sovereign Citizen “guru” (see Rooke (2012, p.19) and the discussion in Chapter 1 for more on the terminology used to refer to members of the Sovereign Citizen movement). Consistent with prior work on lexical bundles (e.g. Chen and Baker 2010, p.33; Ädel and Erman 2012, p.82), and in line with the ways in which legal technical terms were filtered in the keyword analysis, results which were overly context-dependent (so-called “content bundles,” such as party names which included words that might otherwise be instances of legal technical terminology but were clearly used in non-technical senses) have been excluded following a comprehensive manual review of the initial search results. Longer lexical bundles necessarily contain multiple shorter bundles within themselves (Biber et al. 1999, p.993) (the five-word sequence “laws of the United States”, for example, which frequently occurs in the PCF corpus, is made up of the four-word sequences “laws of the United” as well as “of the United States”); instances of such overlap in the data presented in Chapter 4 have been removed (meaning that any reported instances of “of the United States” would occur outside of the phrase “laws of the United States”). An examination of the relative similarity and legal technical terminology contained in lexical bundles in the LCF and PCF corpora will contribute to answering the first research

question, regarding the use of legal English in the two corpora, and the third research question, regarding genre parasitism.

3.5.6 Heatmap Analysis

Outside of a simple frequency comparison, it is not possible to compare the use of images and textual emphasis in the LCF and PCF corpora in the same way that it is to compare their use of writing; there are no clear KWIC lines or lexical bundles to point to, for example. Additionally, there are elements at play in the LCF and PCF corpora's use of images that have no direct analogue in their written content, such as the size or position of a given feature on the page. The analysis in Chapter 5 attempts to address this through the use of heatmaps which explore the typical distribution of multimodal features on the page. Heatmaps, which are particularly common in genomics research (Rajaram and Oono 2010; Raschka 2013) but whose use is potentially of much more general application, are graphs which use color to represent the relative magnitude of a phenomenon in two dimensions. Using the locational data generated as part of the multimodal markup process outlined above in Section 3.3.3, a series of heatmaps were generated in RStudio (RStudio Team 2020) showing the positioning of each class of feature in the two corpora. The following image, for example, shows the spatial distribution of footers in the LCF and PCF corpora:

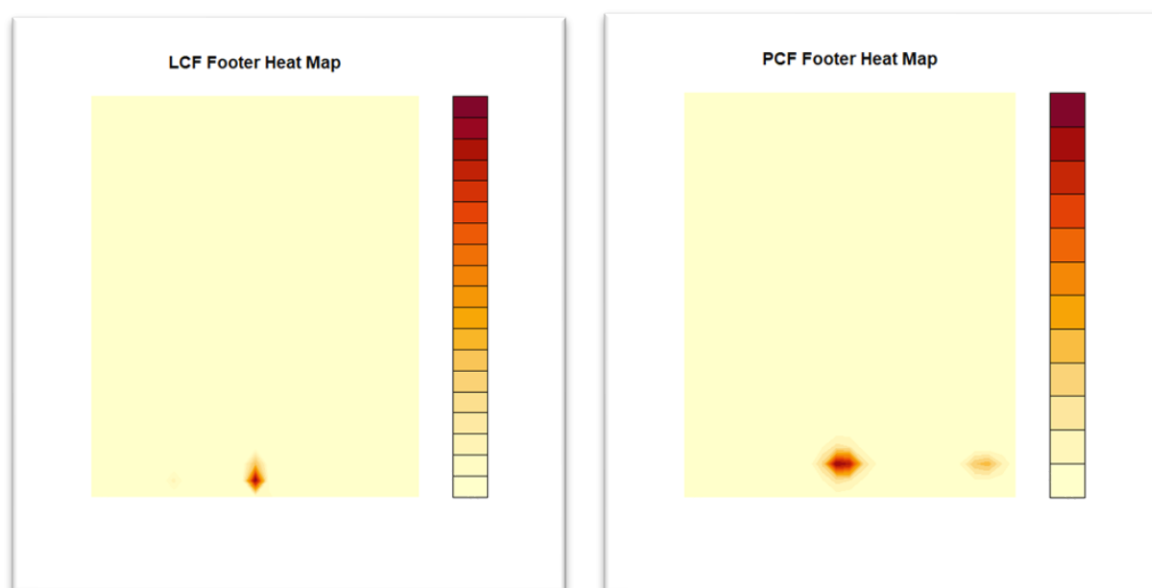


Figure 3.6 Heatmaps showing the distribution of footers in the Legitimate and Pseudolegal Courtroom Filing corpora

The darker portions in Figure 3.6 represent areas of higher concentration and are considered “hot spots.” As can be seen above, footers are concentrated at the bottom of the page (as would be expected) and are generally center aligned; the hotspot in the bottom right of the PCF portion of the heatmap, however, shows that they are also found in a secondary position in that corpus. The significance of this, and of a number of other feature-based heatmaps, is discussed in Chapter 5. Heatmap analysis contributes towards answering this thesis’ second research question, regarding the multimodal content of the two corpora, as well as its third, regarding the parasitic efforts of the PCF corpus.

There are some significant limitations to this approach, however: particularly for features with a low number of occurrences, each individual occurrence generates relatively more “heat,” and seemingly strong concentrations of low-frequency features therefore must be evaluated carefully. Also, because of the ways in which UAM Image Tool’s positioning of features had to be converted for use in RStudio (RStudio Team 2020), heatmaps were generated using only the center point of each labeled feature, meaning that differences in size or irregular shapes are not accounted for, and that hotspots for features which occupied larger amounts of vertical or horizontal space (e.g. longer stretches of text which were entirely italicized) necessarily drifted towards the center of the page, as in Figure 3.7:

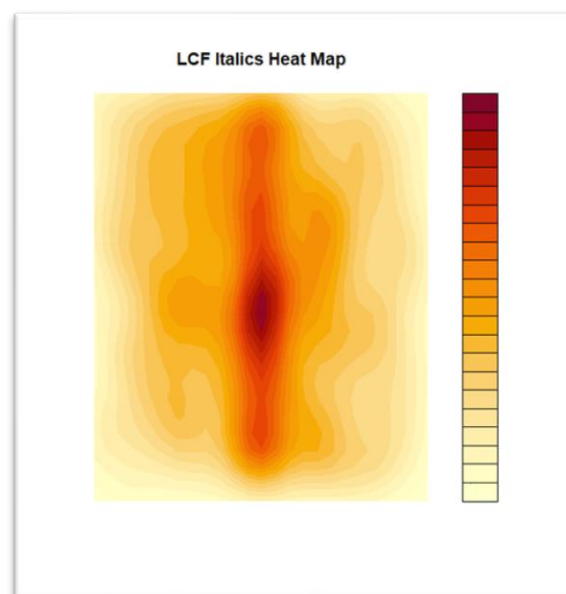


Figure 3.7 Heatmap of italics in the Legitimate Courtroom Filing corpus with a hotspot which has misleadingly concentrated in the center of the page

While this made heatmaps for most methods of textual emphasis unusable, the smaller size of the majority of graphic features used in the two corpora (e.g. thumbprints in the PCF corpus) meant that meaningful comparisons could still be made with these heatmaps. Given the limited number of many graphic and textual emphasis features in the LCF and PCF corpora, it was also possible to manually review their positioning before deciding to include a given heatmap as part of the analysis. Particularly because this sort of analysis does not seem to have been performed before on LCF texts, PCF texts, or any related legal genres, it is hoped that will at least provide a fruitful starting point for future research.

3.5.7 Prototype Analysis

CAMDA studies conclude with “a detailed, close-reading analysis of selected texts [from the corpora examined]” (Bednarek and Caple 2014, p.151) to both synthesize and fully contextualize the findings of the quantitative portion of the study. There is no established number of texts to select, however, nor is there a definitive way to select them, as these decisions have to be made according to the nature of the corpora involved in the study. As is often true of mixed methods projects (Anthony and Baker 2015, pp.273–274), a full qualitative examination of the entirety of the LCF and PCF corpora, while theoretically desirable, is untenable for practical reasons. It is therefore helpful to have a method of principled selection for texts from the larger corpora for that close reading; this thesis uses the concept of “prototypicality” as outlined in Anthony and Baker (2015).

Under this approach, the degree to which a text resembles the other texts in a given corpus by some relevant metric is its degree of prototypicality, with the text that is most like the others being considered the most prototypical (Taylor 2018, pp.27–28). Chapters 4 and 5 each conclude with the examination of a prototypical text from both the LCF and PCF corpora. ProtAnt (Anthony and Baker 2017) was used to identify these prototypes based upon their use of legal keywords in Chapter 4 and of the contents of their “features” markup (see Section 3.3.4) in Chapter 5. Prototypicality calculations in ProtAnt are based on keyword calculations, meaning that the more distinct keywords or multimodal features a given text contains and the more instances of those keywords or features that are present, the more prototypical that text is deemed to be (Anthony and Baker 2015, p.278). Given that this approach privileges texts which contain more of the relevant feature, rather than the average amount, it should be stressed that “prototypical” texts are not necessarily the most “typical” texts; instead, they are those with the highest concentration of distinctive features. While the close readings of these

prototypical texts will focus on the topics discussed in the Chapter in which they appear, they will, where relevant, consider the full range of semiotic content present; by bringing together the findings in the earlier portions of the analysis chapters and considering the texts examined holistically, these prototype analyses are therefore expected to be relevant to all three of the research questions.

3.6 Ethical Considerations

Although this study does not involve human participants directly, a number of ethical factors were considered in its design and execution. Though there may well be potential scholarly value in contact with members of the Sovereign Citizen movement, for example, no effort has been made as part of this thesis to communicate with any current or former Sovereign Citizens. As was mentioned in Chapter 1, the United States Federal Bureau of Investigation classifies the Sovereign Citizen movement's most extreme members as domestic terrorists and the Southern Poverty Law Center reports that a number of interactions between Sovereign Citizens and government representatives have ended in violence and occasionally death (FBI Counterterrorism Analysis Section 2011; Southern Poverty Law Center 2015). Sovereign Citizens have also been known to target individuals critical of their movement with frivolous lawsuits and liens filed against their property in a process referred to as "paper terrorism" (Southern Poverty Law Center 2017). For these reasons, such contact was deemed inadvisable and no efforts were made to add an ethnographic component to this study.

As mentioned above in Section 3.3.2, all documents included in the LCF and PCF corpora were filed in chancery court in the Circuit Court of Cook County, Illinois. These documents are therefore part of the public record.¹⁴ The contents of COCA-W (Davies 2009) are available online both to the public and via Cardiff University's academic license and their use has been properly acknowledged throughout this thesis. It was determined via a series of consultations with the relevant Cardiff University research ethics officer that, as there were no

¹⁴ Unless they fall under a very narrow set of exceptions (e.g. certain texts produced in proceedings involving minors), all documents filed in both state and federal courts in the United States form part of the public record and are accessible in full by anyone. In Illinois, the relevant portion of the Clerk of Courts Act states that:

All records [kept by a clerk of court] shall be deemed public records, and shall at all times be open to inspection without fee or reward, and all persons shall have free access for inspection and examination to such records... and also to all papers on file in the different clerks' offices and shall have the right to take memoranda and abstracts thereto (705 ILCS 105/16(6); Illinois General Assembly 2022b)

The equivalent federal regulations can be found at Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 5.2 (Legal Information Institute 2022b) and Federal Rule of Criminal Procedure 49.1 (Legal Information Institute 2022c).

issues arising from the methods of this thesis, it was unnecessary to file an application for ethical approval for this study. Out of an abundance of caution and respect for those involved in the cases sampled in the LCF and PCF corpora, however, instances of personal information contained in portions excerpted in the main text of this thesis have been either redacted or anonymized except where such processes would have prevented the full consideration of the multimodal content of LCF and PCF texts. Given the relevance of Sovereign Citizen techniques for the formatting of names to the research questions of this study, such formatting, where present, has been preserved in the anonymized excerpts.

3.7 Conclusion

This chapter has outlined the methodological approach of this study. It has explained the composition of the LCF and PCF corpora and the ways in which the combination of corpus linguistics and multimodal discourse analysis (i.e. CAMDA) will be used to answer the three research questions. It has also reviewed the ethical factors considered in the design and execution of this study. Next, Chapter 4 makes use of the corpus linguistic and discourse analytical methods described above to examine the use of legal English in the LCF and PCF corpora, after which Chapter 5 uses those same methods to examine their use of graphic features.

4. Legal English in Legitimate and Pseudolegal Courtroom Filings

4.1 Introduction

In Chapter 2, it was proposed that Sovereign Citizen pseudolegal courtroom filings (“PCFs”) represent a parasitic genre which preys upon a host genre of legitimate courtroom filings (“LCFs”). It appears that the authors of PCFs hope that by incorporating aspects of the form of LCFs into their own pseudolegal writings they will also be able to imbue them with the authority of the legitimate legal system. These efforts do not stop with mere imitation, however; because, as others have noted (e.g. Wessinger 2000; Netolitzky 2018b), Sovereign Citizens view themselves as locked in a kind of magical combat with the legal system and its representatives, they will therefore attempt to enhance the power of their documents via the heightening of what they view as the most authoritatively salient features of LCFs. The inherent tension in PCFs which results from their simultaneous attempts to both imitate and exaggerate the features of LCFs is likely the root of their distinctive discursive qualities. This chapter explores that tension by comparing the use of legal English in the written contents of the LCF and PCF corpora. In doing so, it considers the ways in which texts in the LCF and PCF corpora attempt to establish their status as authorized acts (legitimate or otherwise) as well as the relationship between legal English and general English. This chapter addresses this thesis’ first research question (How does the use of the register of legal English compare in legitimate courtroom filings and pseudolegal courtroom filings?) as well as its third (What does the relationship between legitimate courtroom filings and pseudolegal courtroom filings reveal about the operation of “parasitic” genres?).

The structure of this chapter is as follows: Section 4.2 compares the presence and use of a selection of features said to be characteristic of legal English in the LCF and PCF corpora with reference to combined written subcorpora of the Corpus of Contemporary American English (“COCA-W”) (Davies 2009) to establish the frequency of those same features in general English. Section 4.3 examines the use of technical legal terminology in the LCF and PCF corpora by comparing their lockwords, keywords, and most common lexical bundles. Finally, Section 4.4 performs a close reading of a prototypical text from each of the LCF and PCF corpora, with a particular focus on the features examined in the prior sections.

4.2 Legal English in the Legitimate and Pseudolegal Courtroom Filing Corpora

This section compares the use of certain features said to be characteristic of legal English in the LCF and PCF corpora. As part of the process, it will also consider the accuracy of the consensus description of legal English discussed in Chapter 2. Section 4.2.1 briefly reviews that consensus description with a particular emphasis on the features evaluated in this chapter. Sections 4.2.2, 4.2.3, 4.2.4, and 4.2.5 then discuss the use of negation, pronouns, passive constructions, and nominalizations, respectively.

4.2.1 *Consensus Features of Legal English Examined*

As discussed in Chapter 2, what research has been done on the register of legal English has not been consistent in terms of either the legal contexts examined or the methodologies employed. To the extent that there is a “consensus” description of the common features of legal English, it is largely incidental, having been arrived at via the amalgamation of findings from a variety of studies without regard for whether those findings were truly generalizable. The suggestion that negation is more common in legal English than in “standard” English, for example, seems to have originated with the inclusion of negation on a list of potentially confusing features of California jury instructions in Charrow and Charrow (1979) and been assigned progressively more weight over time (see, e.g., Fanego et al. (2017) or Zozula (2019)). The elements of this “consensus” are largely the features discussed in Mellinkoff (2004 [1963]) which, though unquestionably important to the study of language and law, was not a linguistically based work. Despite this lack of empirical grounding, the elements of the consensus description of legal English appear never to have been quantitatively evaluated. As a result, there are no more specific numbers to guide the analysis of legal English in the LCF and PCF corpora than a general suggestion that a given feature is likely to occur either more or less frequently in legal English than in “standard” English (relatedly, the definition of “standard” English for the purposes of the consensus description of legal English is similarly vague).

This thesis is neither intended nor equipped to establish a complete picture of the register of legal English. Nevertheless, a meaningful quantitative comparison of the use of legal English in the LCF and PCF corpora requires a clearer sense of the degree to which legal English is itself distinct from general English than currently exists in the literature. Before comparing the presence of any “consensus” features of legal English in the LCF and PCF corpora, then, the following subsections will first aim to determine the presence of those features in the LCF corpus relative to their presence in COCA-W. The following consensus

features of legal English relative to “standard” English have been selected for examination in this chapter based upon both their consistent presence in the literature and their suitability for quantitative analysis:

- Frequent negation (Danet 1985, p.283; Tiersma 2006, p.45);
- Infrequent use of pronouns, particularly personal pronouns , both within and across sentences (Solan 1993, pp.121–122; Tiersma 2006, pp.46–47; Gotti 2012, pp.54–56; Hiltunen 2012, p.47);
- Frequent impersonal and passive constructions (Charrow and Charrow 1979, pp.1325–1328; Danet 1985, p.283; Tiersma 2006, p.45);
- Frequent use of nominalizations (Charrow and Charrow 1979, pp.1321–1322; Tiersma 2006, p.45; Mattila 2012b, p.22); and
- Frequent use of legal technical terminology (Maley 1994, p.22; Tiersma 2006, p.44; Tiersma 2008, p.14; Mattila 2012b; Kurzon 2013; Ruusila and Lindroos 2016).

As discussed in Chapter 3, COCA-W is used only to establish a point of comparison for the frequency of these features in the LCF corpus and general English. A more thorough examination of the differences in the frequency and use of these and other “consensus” features of legal English in legal texts and general English (however defined) is left for future study. The use of legal technical terminology in the LCF and PCF corpora, which has been described as perhaps the most significant way in which legal English differs from more general English (Tiersma 2008, p.15; Azuelos-Atias 2011, p.43), is discussed in particular depth below in Section 4.3.

4.2.2 Negation

According to the consensus description of legal English, negation is expected to occur more frequently in the register of legal English than it does in standard English (Danet 1985, p.283; Tiersma 2006, p.45). Negation in English is most commonly indicated by the use of the explicit negators “not”, its contracted form “n’t”, and “no” (Biber et al. 1999, pp.158–159). Other varieties of negation include implicit negation, as seen in sentences like “Defendant is mistaken” or “This precedent is inapplicable” (see Kaup and Dudschig (2020) for more on the differences between explicit and implicit negation), and multiple negation, as in the phrase “without which the injury would not have occurred” (Charrow and Charrow 1979, p.1325). Though some sources make claims about the use of these other forms of negation in legal English (e.g. that multiple negation, rather than negation overall, is what truly distinguishes

legal English from “standard” English (Tiersma 2006, pp.45–46)), these more specific claims have gone similarly unexamined in the existing literature on legal English. As explicit negation is both generally more common and more readily identifiable via corpus linguistic methods than these other forms, this subsection will focus on the frequency of explicit negation in COCA-W and the LCF and PCF corpora.

All three corpora were searched for the overall frequency of “not”, “no”, and “n’t”, after which the results from the LCF and PCF corpora were reviewed to remove instances of “no” being used as an abbreviation for “number.”¹ Though all three terms are classed as negators in COCA’s pre-applied grammatical tags, inconsistencies in the application of those tags across the COCA-W subcorpora meant that individual searches for those terms without the tags were found to be more reliable. The relationship between the frequencies of explicit negators in COCA-W and the LCF corpus as well as the LCF and PCF corpora are given here in Table 4.1 and Table 4.2, respectively:

Table 4.1 Frequency of explicit negation in COCA-W and the Legitimate Courtroom Filing corpus with chi-square tests for independence. Results normalized to reflect expected occurrences per 100,000 words.

Negator	COCA-W freq.	COCA-W norm.	LCF freq.	LCF norm.	χ^2
not	3308909	443	2225	735	580.82
n’t	2904032	389	15	5	1152.3
no	1358541	182	783	259	96.994
Total	7571482	1015	3023	998	0.80526
Minus n’t	4667450	626	3008	993	657.79

Table 4.2 Frequency of explicit negation in the Legitimate and Pseudolegal Courtroom Filing corpora with chi-square tests for independence. Results normalized to reflect expected occurrences per 100,000 words.

Negator	LCF freq.	LCF norm.	PCF freq.	PCF norm.	χ^2
not	2225	735	2467	686	5.3829
n’t	15	5	74	21	28.752
no	783	259	1165	324	23.887
Total	3023	998	3706	1031	1.7388
Minus n’t	3008	993	3632	1010	0.47758

¹ For reasons of size, a similarly comprehensive review of the use of “no” in COCA-W was not possible. To evaluate the degree to which it was used as an explicit negator in COCA-W, 100 KWIC lines from each of the 6 component sub-corpora were examined. Of those 600 lines, only one occurrence of “no” was observed where it was not an explicit negator; this was deemed a sufficiently infrequent occurrence such that no adjustments to the COCA-W search results were made.

As mentioned in Chapter 3, a bolded and shaded value in a table's χ^2 column indicates that a chi-square test found a statistically significant difference in the frequency of a given word or feature as a share of all such words or features present between the two corpora being examined. The above tables therefore indicate that the LCF corpus uses “not” and “no” at a significantly higher rate than COCA-W. Because of the LCF corpus’ significantly lower use of “n’t”, however, there is not a statistically significant difference in the overall rate of explicit negation between the LCF corpus and COCA-W. Similarly, though the PCF corpus uses “not” and “n’t” at significantly higher rates than the LCF corpus, there is no significant difference in the overall rate of negation between the LCF and PCF corpora.

This similarity in the overall rate of explicit negation between COCA-W and the LCF corpus seems on its face to run contrary to the “consensus” description of legal English. This is likely because it reflects a different focus than the research on which the consensus opinion on legal negation is based: prior studies which examined negation in legal contexts, such as Charrow and Charrow (1979), were not intended to make generalizable statements about legal English but were instead focused on the examination of what negation was present in the legal texts they examined. Given the noted formality of legal English and its related aversion to contractions (Danet 1980, pp.471–473; Tiersma 2006, p.46; Mattila 2012b, p.32), it follows naturally that “n’t” would appear less frequently in the LCF corpus than in COCA-W. As seen in the “Minus n’t” line in Table 4.1, removing “n’t” from consideration and focusing only on the more formal explicit negators shows that the LCF corpus does in fact use “not” and “no” at a significantly higher rate than COCA-W (the “Minus n’t” line in Table 4.2, however, shows that removing “n’t” from consideration still does not result in a significantly different rate of negation in the LCF and PCF corpora). Even if the comparative frequency of negation in COCA-W and the LCF corpus can essentially be reconciled with the “consensus” description in this case, however, it shows the potential problem in relying upon the “consensus” description in the first place: without a clearer and more systematic approach to the analysis of the register of legal English, it is difficult to know whether or to what extent the consensus claims can be relied upon.

The overall higher use of “not” and “no” in both the LCF and PCF corpora relative to COCA-W is likely due to the status of their component texts as members of persuasive legal genres (legitimate or otherwise) (Tiersma 1999, pp.139–141). In an adversarial courtroom context, such persuasive genres seek not just to prove a particular point but to counter the arguments of the opposing party and therefore can reasonably be expected to make frequent use of negators. A review of all occurrences of “not” across the LCF and PCF corpora indicates

that their uses of the word do not notably differ. The KWIC lines in Table 4.3 and Table 4.4 show how it functions in the two corpora:

Table 4.3 Selected KWIC lines showing the use of “not” in the Legitimate Courtroom Filing corpus, n=2225

Line	N-	N	N+
1	The Agreement contains a confidentiality clause providing that the parties shall	not	disclose the Agreement's terms.
2	Indeed, Defendant has	not	disclosed any discernable procedure it uses to determine when to withhold animals from their owners.
3	The Association is an Illinois	not-	for-profit corporation in good standing
4	The hospital does	not	have an in-patient opioid treatment facility.
5	applicants must, among other things, affirm that they will	not	impose a more restrictive charity care policy at the subject hospital for two years

Table 4.4 Selected KWIC lines showing the use of “not” in the Pseudolegal Courtroom Filing corpus, n=2467

Line	N-	N	N+
6	If a remedy does	not	exist or if the existing remedy has been subverted or blocked, then one may create a remedy for themselves
7	Copies of the “Note” from the Plaintiff are attached as Exhibit “G” as proof the Plaintiff does	not	have the "Note" and has no jurisdiction to enforce it.
8	I hereby Declare & Affirm that I did not in the past, do	not	now or in the future intend to purposefully or otherwise avail myself or be held in economic and/or involuntary servitude, peonage, slavery, benefits, privileges, titles of nobility, Trusteeship and/or opportunities offered.
9	This entire process is being conducted to ensure	not	only validation but enforcement too.
10	The Plaintiff is	not	the proper party plaintiff and cannot sue or state a claim against the defendant

PCF texts’ use of “not” at a similar rate and in a similar manner as LCF texts shows in miniature how a parasitic genre is intended to function: by accurately copying a feature of LCF texts (in this case, using “not” at a statistically similar rate), it becomes that much more difficult to distinguish a PCF text from an LCF text. Putting to the side questions of whether the statements in Table 4.4 are legally correct (something this thesis is not interested in considering), “not” in

the LCF and PCF corpora tends to occur in similar-seeming statements of law (Lines 3 and 10, for example, both relate to the legal status of a party) or fact (Lines 2 and 7 both address whether a give piece of information has been provided). In isolation, it is difficult to tell whether any given use of “not” has come from the LCF or PCF corpus. The more features of LCF texts which PCF texts parasitically copy in this way, the more likely a lay reader is to assume that a PCF text is in fact a legitimate courtroom filing.

As Heffer (2005, pp.10–11) points out, attempts by non-lawyers to make use of legal English often betray their authors’ non-expert status by focusing on features which are either relatively rare or not actually characteristic of that register. PCF texts’ use of “n’t” and “no” both show how Sovereign Citizens can get it “wrong” in this sense. Given that LCF texts use those terms at significantly lower and higher rates, respectively, than does COCA-W, the authors of the PCF texts appear to be making two distinct errors in their efforts to mimic LCF texts here: in the case of “n’t”, they do not go far enough in restricting its use relative to “standard” English, and in the case of “no” they go too far, using it more than would be expected of a legitimate legal text. In both cases, however, the effect is the same: Sovereign Citizen texts using “n’t” and “no” at these rates are more readily distinguished from LCF texts and therefore less likely to be parasitically successful (i.e. mistaken for legitimate courtroom filings).

With that said, there is not a statistically significant difference in overall rate of negation between the two corpora, and the “improper” use of “n’t” and “no” in PCF texts relative to LCF texts may not on their own be enough to be tip off a lay reader that a PCF text is not truly an authorized act. Even though, as shown in Table 4.2, PCF texts use “n’t” at a normalized rate more than four times that of LCF texts, it is still relatively rare in absolute terms across the two corpora.² The significantly higher frequency of “n’t” in PCF texts may indicate a greater degree of informality than found in LCF texts; however, given these relatively low appearances across both corpora, it is difficult to draw any further conclusions.

“No” appears at a significantly higher rate in the PCF corpus than it does in the LCF corpus, where it is already used significantly more than in COCA-W. Unlike with “not”, however, the PCF texts’ use of “no” is more readily distinguishable from its use in the LCF corpus, with the most obvious factor setting apart the PCF use of “no” being capitalization (capitalization in the two corpora is dealt with in more depth in the following chapter; the

² The use of “n’t” is even rarer in the LCF corpus than those numbers may make it seem: 60% of its occurrences in the LCF texts (9/15) are part of citations to news articles or instances of reported speech, meaning that only 6 actually reflect an attorney’s personal lexical choice.

discussion here is limited to the use of “NO”). In the LCF corpus, the uppercase “NO” only appears twice (i.e. 0.2% of the time, 2/783), both times as part of section headings which are themselves generally distinguished from the body text by being written entirely in capital letters:

Table 4.5 KWIC lines showing capitalized “NO” in the Legitimate Courtroom Filing corpus, n=2

Line	N-	N	N+
11	MS. MCLAUGHLIN HAS	NO	KNOWLEDGE RELEVANT TO THIS CASE
12	COUNT I SHOULD BE DISMISSED PURSUANT TO 2-619 BECAUSE KARL HAD	NO	LEGAL BASIS TO DEMAND SUCH AN ACCOUNTING

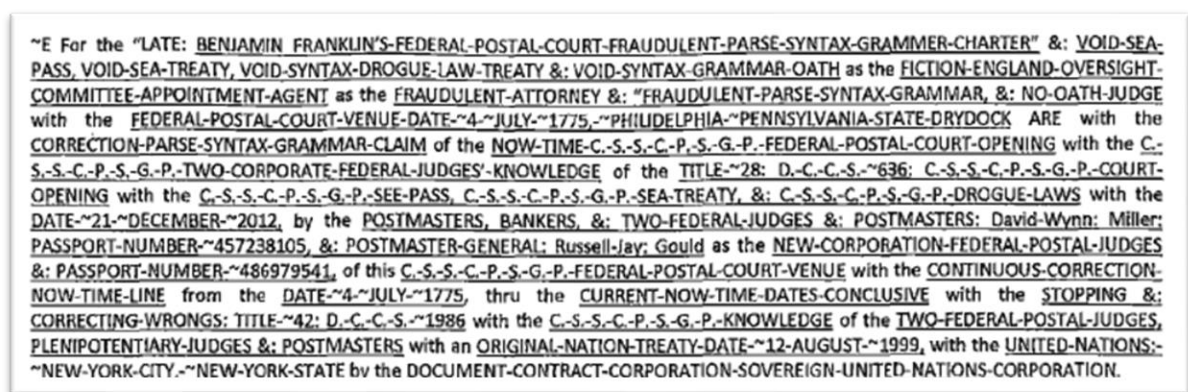
In the PCF corpus, however, “NO” is written in uppercase approximately 9% of the time (109/1165):

Table 4.6 Selected KWIC lines showing capitalized “NO” in the Pseudolegal Courtroom Filing corpus, n=109

Line	N-	N	N+
13	Strand, Cyrus Rainer is “NOT” a resident or ward of “ANY” government and	“NO”	court is the Guardian of Strand, Cyrus Rainer
14	There was no substantive positive evidence presented and	NO	firsthand competent material fact witness was sworn under oath to verify any evidence in this matter.
15	~k-3) For the SECURITY-TYPE of the	‘NO-	CORRESPONDENCE-BANK- CONFIDENTIALITY’.
16	4=PRONOUN=NO-NO-	NO,	BOLD=PREFIX=NO-CONTRACT-WORD
17	~5:MARITAL-STATUS: :Single ~6: (DEATH-	NO-	CAUSE) ~7 For the FORECLOSURE-DATE by the BANK’S FRAUDULENT-PARSE- SYNTAX-GRAMMAR:

Almost half of the time that it occurs in pseudolegal courtroom filings (52/109), the uppercase “NO” is used for emphasis in body text, as in Lines 13 and 14. In many cases, as in line 14, if not for the capitalization, these uses of “no” might be otherwise indistinguishable from its use in legal English. Emphatic capitalization such as this has been said to register as “shouting” to readers (McCulloch 2019), raising the possibility that other features of Sovereign Citizen texts similarly evoke properties of spoken English. As with legal English, spoken English has been noted to use more negators than general written English (Biber 1988, p.245; Biber et al. 1999, p.159; Tiersma 2006, p.46), so it is possible, though not provable in the current study, that some degree of negation in PCF texts can be attributed to this as well.

The remaining 52% (57/109) of the occurrences of “NO” in the PCF corpus, including lines 15 through 17 above, are from texts which make use of “quantum grammar”, a style of writing attributable to a particularly distinctive school of Sovereign Citizen pseudolegal thought. Also known as “truth language”, or “Millerese” after its creator David Wynn Miller (Hay 2020), quantum grammar texts systematically employ an array of features not found in other varieties of English, including difficult-to-parse acronyms, non-standard punctuation, and near-total use of upper case, as can be seen in Figure 4.1:



~E For the "LATE: BENJAMIN FRANKLIN'S-FEDERAL-POSTAL-COURT-FRAUDULENT-PARSE-SYNTAX-GRAMMER-CHARTER" &: VOID-SEA-PASS, VOID-SEA-TREATY, VOID-SYNTAX-DROGUE-LAW-TREATY &: VOID-SYNTAX-GRAMMAR-OATH as the FICTION-ENGLAND-OVERSIGHT-COMMITTEE-APPOINTMENT-AGENT as the FRAUDULENT-ATTORNEY &: "FRAUDULENT-PARSE-SYNTAX-GRAMMAR, &: NO-OATH-JUDGE with the FEDERAL-POSTAL-COURT-VENUE-DATE-~4~JULY-~1775,~PHILADELPHIA~PENNSYLVANIA-STATE-DRYDOCK ARE with the CORRECTION-PARSE-SYNTAX-GRAMMAR-CLAIM of the NOW-TIME-C.-S.-C.-P.-S.-G.-P.-FEDERAL-POSTAL-COURT-OPENING with the C.-S.-S.-C.-P.-S.-G.-P.-TWO-CORPORATE-FEDERAL-JUDGES'-KNOWLEDGE of the TITLE-~28: D.-C.-C.-S.-~636: C.-S.-S.-C.-P.-S.-G.-P.-COURT-OPENING with the C.-S.-S.-C.-P.-S.-G.-P.-SEE-PASS, C.-S.-S.-C.-P.-S.-G.-P.-SEA-TREATY, &: C.-S.-S.-C.-P.-S.-G.-P.-DROGUE-LAWS with the DATE-~21~DECEMBER-~2012, by the POSTMASTERS, BANKERS, &: TWO-FEDERAL-JUDGES &: POSTMASTERS: David-Wynn: Miller: PASSPORT-NUMBER-~457238105, &: POSTMASTER-GENERAL: Russell-Jay: Gould as the NEW-CORPORATION-FEDERAL-POSTAL-JUDGES &: PASSPORT-NUMBER-~486979541, of this C.-S.-S.-C.-P.-S.-G.-P.-FEDERAL-POSTAL-COURT-VENUE with the CONTINUOUS-CORRECTION-NOW-TIME-LINE from the DATE-~4~JULY-~1775, thru the CURRENT-NOW-TIME-DATES-CONCLUSIVE with the STOPPING &: CORRECTING-WRONGS: TITLE-~42: D.-C.-C.-S.-~1986 with the C.-S.-S.-C.-P.-S.-G.-P.-KNOWLEDGE of the TWO-FEDERAL-POSTAL-JUDGES, PLENIPOTENTIARY-JUDGES &: POSTMASTERS with an ORIGINAL-NATION-TREATY-DATE-~12-AUGUST-~1999, with the UNITED-NATIONS-~NEW-YORK-CITY-~NEW-YORK-STATE by the DOCUMENT-CONTRACT-CORPORATION-SOVEREIGN-UNITED-NATIONS-CORPORATION.

Figure 4.1 Excerpt from a quantum grammar pseudolegal courtroom filing

Such texts purport to test the legal validity of documents via what is essentially a grammar-based numerological system in which the presence of certain words can invalidate a document outright (hence “PRONOUN=NO-NO-NO” in line 16; quantum grammar texts are discussed in more depth in the following chapter) (Anti-Defamation League 2012; Anti-Defamation League 2016). It would unquestionably be a mistake to take the stated explanation for any lexical or grammatical choices contained in a PCF text at face value; despite what line 16 may say, the use of pronouns, for example, does not automatically invalidate a legal document and is therefore not a good reason to proscribe their use (even if, as is discussed in the following subsection, legitimate legal texts do in fact tend to avoid the use of pronouns relative to standard English). Distinguishing features such as this, and any explanation offered for them within a PCF text, are better understood as part of their “magical” nature: the author of the PCF text excerpted in Figure 4.1 can be understood to be attempting to show why this pseudolegal courtroom filing is more authoritative (i.e. magically powerful) than a legitimate courtroom filing by laying out this supposedly objective rule to establish legal validity. Regardless of its purpose, that an explanation is offered at all for such a distinctive departure from the register of legal English indicates that some Sovereign Citizen authors are consciously making these

sorts of stylistic choices. More importantly, the conscious decision making process reinforces the suggestion made in Chapter 2 that in some cases Sovereign Citizen texts are not failing to imitate legal English, but instead actively attempting to “heighten” it for their own magic purposes.

This is not to say that all instances in which the register of PCF texts differs from that of LCF texts are attempts at such magical linguistic one-upmanship, or that they show a clear relationship between PCF texts and spoken English; fewer than 1 in 10 occurrences of “no” in the PCF corpus are capitalized, after all, and the remainder (as was the case with “not”) are much more difficult to distinguish from the use of “no” in the LCF corpus. Particularly as there is no statistically significant difference in the overall rate of negation between the two corpora (see Table 4.2), it seems that at least in this case there is a limit to how far individual Sovereign Citizen authors are willing to stray from the register of legal English. Nevertheless, these two distinct uses of the capitalized “NO” make clear that Sovereign Citizens are not always content to simply imitate the register of legal English but are at times eager to differentiate their texts to better serve their own imitative magical purposes. In some cases, such aberrations from what is expected of the legal English register may simply be a good indicator that the author of the PCF text in which it appears is not a fully competent user of the legitimate courtroom filing genre. In others, however, they can show an active choice on the part of a text’s author to lessen its overall chances of being mistaken by a reader for a legitimate courtroom filing in the pursuit of magical supremacy.

4.2.3 Pronoun Use

According to the consensus description of legal English, as compared to standard English, legal English makes less frequent use of pronouns, particularly personal pronouns, both within and across sentences (Solan 1993, pp.121–122; Tiersma 2006, pp.46–47; Gotti 2012, pp.54–56; Hiltunen 2012, p.47). Tiersma (2006, p.46) frames it as follows: legal English often features “the repetition of nouns where in ordinary writing the second and later occurrences of the noun would be replaced by a pronoun”, giving the example of “Buyer promises that Buyer will pay...”. Notably, the presence of a “buyer” in his example indicates Tiersma likely had contractual language in mind, rather than the sorts of persuasive legitimate courtroom filings contained in the LCF and PCF corpora, again reinforcing the degree to which the claims of the “consensus” description of legal English may have been generalized beyond the specific genres for which they originally had support. This section examines whether this assumption about

the use of pronouns in legal English applies to the types of texts in the LCF and PCF corpora and the different ways in which the two corpora use pronouns.

The two most frequently used sets of pronouns in English are referred to either by their case (nominative or accusative) (Biber et al. 1999, p.328) or by their function in a sentence (subject or object) (Hernández 2011, p.60); this thesis will employ the latter more functional classifications.³ Throughout the tables in this section, “m”, “f”, and “n” are used to indicate the grammatical gender of the third person pronoun, which stand for masculine, feminine, and neuter, respectively. Where a distinction exists, “s” and “o” are used to indicate whether a given line contains a subject or an object pronoun.

To obtain the frequencies of these pronouns in COCA-W and the LCF and PCF corpora, each word was searched for individually in COCA-W and the LCF and PCF corpora. Every occurrence of “I” in the LCF and PCF corpora was reviewed to remove instances in which it was not used as a pronoun (e.g. when it was used as a roman numeral or as part of an acronym).⁴ Table 4.7 and Table 4.8 give the frequency of these subject and object pronouns across the three corpora. Because the second person pronoun remains the same regardless of function or number of referents, all occurrences of “you” are given in the same line.

³ For reasons of space, other sets of English pronouns, such as demonstrative and possessive pronouns, will not be examined in this section.

⁴ “I” occurs more than 500,000 times in five of the six COCA-W subcorpora, meaning that due to limitations with the online interface, it was not possible to review any of the related KWIC lines. In the “academic” subcorpus (where it occurs 268,413 times), a review of 100 lines found 15 instances in which it was not used as a first-person pronoun. While this means that the actual occurrence of “I” in COCA-W is lower than the 7,500,200 occurrences noted in Table 4.7, the difference in magnitude between its use in COCA-W and the LCF corpus is so large that it can still safely be assumed to occur significantly more frequently in COCA-W.

Table 4.7 Frequency of subject and object pronouns in COCA-W and the Legitimate Courtroom Filing corpus with chi-square tests for independence. Results normalized to reflect expected occurrences per 100,000 words.

Person & Function		Pronoun	COCA-W freq.	COCA-W norm.	LCF freq.	LCF norm.	χ^2
Singular	1s	I	7500200	1005	183	60	2715.3
	1o	me	1302748	175	25	8	479.8
	2	you	4786046	641	73	24	1809.8
	3ms	he	4581284	614	465	154	1051.3
	3mo	him	1124205	151	99	33	279.37
	3fs	she	2350484	315	223	74	561.06
	3fo	her	2273176	305	370	122	331.34
	3n	it	6860544	919	1028	339	1117.5
Plural	1s	we	2714167	364	63	21	981.79
	1o	us	677759	91	1	0	272.33
	2	you	[Included in "you" total above]				
	3s	they	3039794	407	415	137	544.82
	3o	them	1230228	165	128	42	275.8
	Total		38440635	5152	3073	1015	10606

Table 4.8 Frequency of subject and object pronouns in the Legitimate and Pseudolegal Courtroom Filing corpora with chi-square tests for independence. Results normalized to reflect expected occurrences per 100,000 words.

Person & Function		Pronoun	LCF freq.	LCF norm.	PCF freq.	PCF norm.	χ^2
Singular	1s	I	183	60	1003	279	438.28
	1o	me	25	8	381	106	254.74
	2	you	73	24	408	114	179.82
	3ms	he	465	154	427	119	14.489
	3mo	him	99	33	111	31	0.11699
	3fs	she	223	74	250	70	0.32784
	3fo	her	370	122	416	116	0.52039
	3n	it	1028	339	1534	427	32.322
Plural	1s	we	63	21	227	63	66.4
	1o	us	1	0	44	12	32.593
	2	you	[Included in "you" total above]				
	3s	they	415	137	660	184	21.735
	3o	them	128	42	221	61	11.169
		Total	3073	1015	5682	1581	403.47

Consistent with the “consensus” description of legal English, the LCF corpus contains significantly fewer subject and object pronouns than COCA-W, both in every individual case and in the aggregate. As compared to the LCF corpus, the PCF corpus makes significantly more frequent use of seven of the twelve individual pronouns examined, as well as of subject and object pronouns overall. With the exception of “she” and “her”, all subject pronouns are more

common than their related object pronouns in both the LCF and the PCF corpus. Between the two corpora, there is no statistically significant difference in the frequency of “him”, “she”, or “her”, though the PCF corpus uses “he” at a significantly lower rate than the LCF corpus.

The area of greatest similarity between LCF and PCF texts is their use of singular third person pronouns. This is likely because the use of those pronouns is largely determined by the genders of the parties involved in the relevant cases, leaving little space for Sovereign Citizen authors to innovate. “He” is notable as both the only gendered third-person pronoun to have a statistically significant difference in frequency between the two corpora, and as the only pronoun to occur significantly more frequently in the LCF corpus than in the PCF corpus. While this may simply be due to a higher percentage of male litigants in the LCF corpus than in the PCF corpus, that would be somewhat surprising, given that prior studies have found Sovereign Citizens to be overwhelmingly male: approximately 85% of Sovereign Citizens identified in Smith (2016, p.35) were male, and more recently, Muddle (2019, p.78) estimated that the membership of the US “alt-right”, which often overlaps with that of the Sovereign Citizen movement, is approximately two-thirds male. Relatedly, “her” occurs more frequently than “she” in both the LCF and PCF corpora; this lack of female subject pronouns may indicate a relatively low number of female litigants across both corpora. Unfortunately, the metadata necessary to establish the gender breakdown of the litigants involved in the cases represented in the LCF and PCF corpora is not available. Demographics aside, the data regarding the use of “I” in Table 4.8 offers a different potential explanation for relative lack of male subject pronouns in the LCF corpus as compared to the PCF corpus: PCF texts are less likely to use third person singular pronouns because their (likely) male authors are referring to themselves in the first person.

The use of first-person pronouns in the LCF corpus is highly restricted in terms of both frequency and the contexts in which they occur. All occurrences of “I”, “me”, “we” and “us” combined make up for less than 9% of total pronoun use in the LCF corpus, and every use can be categorized as either part of a sworn statement (generally an affidavit) or as part of reported speech. Table 4.9 illustrates these two uses of “I”:

Table 4.9 Selected KWIC lines showing the use of “I” in the Legitimate Courtroom Filing corpus, n=183

Line	N-	N	N+
18	A true and accurate copy of the payment history and any document	I	reviewed when making this affidavit is attached.
19	On September 6, 2017	I	was not in possession of a proxy for Unit 1582, as SNC did not receive the proxy.
20	Q: You don’t have anything in writing from your mom authorizing you to do that? A:	I	don't. My parents have told me since my daughter was born that they were going to pay her college expenses.
21	“i'm colin and i'm lost (again);	i	follow people into into their homes; i don't have a collar; i coulda been catnapped”

Over eighty percent (149/183) of the use of “I” in the LCF corpus is akin to Lines 18 and 19, where it is used to establish for evidentiary purposes their author’s personal experience on matters relevant to the litigation of which they are a part (e.g. “I was not in possession...”). The remaining instances of “I” are from direct quotations, some of which, like Line 20, are taken from court transcripts, and others of which are excerpts from other documents relevant to a given case including prior judicial opinions, or, in the case of Line 21, a “lost cat” poster written from the perspective of that lost cat. Of the occurrences of “me” in the LCF corpus, 76% (19/25) fall into the sworn statement category and six are from reported speech, while all uses of both “we” and “us” are instances of reported speech. Though first-person pronoun use in the LCF corpus is across the board significantly less common than it is in COCA-W, it clearly plays a small but important role in a text’s efforts to establish the facts of a given case.

The use of first-person pronouns in the PCF corpus, by way of contrast, is both much more frequent and much less consistent than it is in the LCF corpus. Not only are all first-person pronouns significantly more common in PCF texts than in LCF texts, but, at 29% to 9%, they also collectively make up more than three times the proportional share of overall pronoun use. Unlike the two discrete uses of “I” in the LCF corpus discussed above, uses of “I” in PCF texts often defy easy categorization. For example, just over 7% (74/1003) of the occurrences of “I” in the PCF corpus, appear to be instances of reported speech. In some cases, as in Line 22 in Table 4.10 below, these uses of “I” are accompanied by explicit references to a court transcript. In others, however, as in Line 23, they appear without an attributed source, and seem instead to be an attempt to lend force to the author’s own words:

Table 4.10 Selected KWIC lines showing the use of “I” in the Pseudolegal Courtroom Filing corpus, n=1003

Line	N-	N	N+
22	Pursuant to Page 4, Lines 18-20, Judge Agosti stated,	“I	certainly anticipated that, because I did have a chance to briefly look at your response.”
23	“I accept your charges for value and consideration in return for post-settlement closure of account 4595732588.	“I	accept the charges for value and consideration.
24	I Ilana Kohler certify that August 7, 2018	I	mailed a true and correct copy of the above and foregoing motion.
25	I, Maurice Sanjay Koolen state for the record that	I	am a Natural Living Flesh and Blood Being.
26	Many years ago I left an order for Judge Dennis	(I	have forgotten his last name) to sign.

In instances like Line 23, it is difficult to determine if the desired effect was for it to be read as reporting something which was literally said, as an instance of paraphrase, or if the quotation marks here are used to give the impression that the author is “currently” saying it. Similarly, Line 24 seems to function in the same way as the sworn statements using “I” in the LCF corpus (see Line 19 above), while Line 25 borrows that form to make a clear reference to the Sovereign Citizen pseudolegal strawman theory (i.e. that the author is “a Natural Living Flesh and Blood Being”; see the discussion in Chapter 1). Still other uses of “I”, such as Line 26 (“Many years ago I left an order for Judge Dennis (I have forgotten his last name) to sign”), are distinctly conversational in tone and would seem completely out of place in the LCF corpus. Ultimately, and for similar reasons, it is difficult to meaningfully classify the many uses of first-person pronouns in the PCF corpus by their context. There are, however, certain grammatical patterns in the PCF corpus’ use of first-person subject pronouns which merit closer examination.

A manual review of all occurrences of first-person pronouns across the two corpora shows that in both LCF and PCF texts, the n+ position was often occupied by an appositive (e.g. “I Ilana Kohler” in Line 24 or “I, Maurice Sanjay Koolen” in line 25), a form of the verb “to be”, or an explicit performative verb (e.g. “I appoint myself sole beneficiary” in Line 38 below). As shown in Table 4.11, though these constructions are all more common in an absolute sense in the PCF corpus than in the LCF corpus, only the differences between the frequency of “I” plus an explicit performative and the aggregate total reach the level of statistical significance ($p < 0.01$). The general trends for these constructions largely hold true for “we” as well, though no difference reaches the level of statistical significance, and the proportion of “we” plus an explicit performative is slightly higher in the LCF corpus than in

the PCF corpus. As a result, and because first-person singular subject pronouns are more common in both the LCF and PCF corpora than their plural equivalents (see Table 4.8) the remainder of this portion of the analysis will be limited to the “I” constructions.

Table 4.11 Percentage of “I” and “we” followed by select constructions in the Legitimate and Pseudolegal Courtroom Filing corpora with chi-square tests for independence

		LCF%	PCF%	χ^2			LCF%	PCF%	χ^2
I +	Appositive	10	20	3.1765	we +	Appositive	0	7	-
	Am/m	12	19	1.3743		Are/re	13	17	0.35294
	Performative	4	18	8.6313		Performative	23	20	0.1185
Total%		26	57	18.536	Total%		36	44	1.5746

The largely similar rates of occurrence of “I” as a pronoun across the two corpora appear to show yet another instance of effective Sovereign Citizen mimicry of legitimate legal texts, though the contexts in which these constructions appear can vary significantly. Where “I” is followed by an appositive in the LCF corpus, the appositive takes one of two forms: 56% of the time, it is a personal name (e.g. “I, John Smith,”), and 44% of the time it is part of the phrase “I, the undersigned,” which is typical of sworn statements such as affidavits. The use of “I” plus an appositive in the PCF corpus, however, does not follow this pattern. Instead, “I” is directly followed by a personal name 77% of the time, the phrase “the undersigned” only 2% of the time, and something else 21% of the time (the nature of this “something else” category varies but it generally has clear ties to some element of Sovereign Citizen pseudolegal theory). Some instances, such as the 3 occurrences of “the below signed” in the PCF corpus, appear to reflect the author’s lack of competence with LCF genre and the register of legal English: though the phrase is clearly close to “the undersigned”, and likely shows an awareness on the part of the text’s author that something to that effect should be present, “the below signed” never appears in the LCF corpus. Table 4.12 gives several examples of other uses of the “I” plus appositive construction in the PCF corpus:

Table 4.12 Selected KWIC lines showing “I” followed by an appositive in the Pseudolegal Courtroom Filing corpus, n=199

Line	N-	N	N+
27	with God as my witness,	I,	:brigid-olivia, a true woman of God, acknowledge only blessings given by God;
28	as a matter of law.	I	:lorena-cornelia: furlan, Sui Juris, by special visitation [special appearance],
29	ACCEPTANCE OF WARRANTY DEED	I,	Ronan Blackwood the living MAN, in the capacity of Ronan Blackwood am recorded as the grantee on the warranty deed.
30	in the Court of Record declare that	I,	a living, breathing, undead woman am filing this Affidavit to rebut or dispel false “presumptions.”
31	it has not been proved that Affiant is liable for any corporation's debts.	I,	the Affiant, the living woman, have never, with full knowledge, intent or awareness:
32	MOTION FOR SUMMARY JUDGMENT	I,	Nicol Lucassen, (Affiant), being of sound mind, over the age of 21 and competent to state the matters set forth herein,

As can be seen in the above lines, appositives in the PCF corpus often occur in the context of establishing some fundamental “truth” about the author of the texts in which they appear (e.g. that they are “a true woman of God” in Line 27 or “the living MAN” in Line 29), rather than qualities that would be more traditionally relevant to a legal proceeding. Even in cases where the claimed status is of legal origin, such as the author’s being “sui juris” (a legal Latin phrase meaning “of one’s own right”) in Line 28, or their being an “Affiant” in Lines 31 and 32, the terms used seem to have taken special pseudolegal significance for Sovereign Citizen litigants (Section 4.3.2 discusses the use of the word “Affiant” in PCF texts in more depth). A number of these appositives also show characteristically Sovereign Citizen methods of identity construction, including the atypical punctuation surrounding the names in Lines 27 and 28, and the use of the phrases such as “a living, breathing, undead woman” in Line 30. Additionally, that use of “undead” in Line 30 hints at another seemingly notable instance of negation in the PCF corpus, inasmuch as it would be more consistent with other Sovereign Citizen uses of appositives to read “undead” in this context as a double negative becoming a positive rather than the author claiming to be a zombie (particularly since it is preceded by the adjectives “living” and “breathing”). “I” is followed by multiple descriptors in approximately 20% of the appositives in the PCF corpus (e.g. “the Affiant, the living woman”); this does not occur at all in the LCF corpus.

To the extent that Sovereign Citizen pseudolegal theories make any sort of cognizable legal argument, it is one that is jurisdictional in nature (i.e. they argue that the legal system has no authority over them). Along with Line 25 above, Table 4.13 highlights some of the ways in which this sort of argument manifests via the use of “I” and a conjugation of “to be” in the PCF corpus:

Table 4.13 Selected KWIC lines showing “I” followed by a conjugation of “to be” in the Pseudolegal Courtroom Filing corpus, n=193

Line	N-	N	N+
33	amina tinkler, as defendant, makes affirmation that	I am	am a man of the feminine gender, private beneficiary to the public trust
34	unlawful actions Null and Void.	I am	morally opposed to your jurisdiction
35	Pursuant to 15 US Statute at Large, I declare that	I am	not a 14th Amendment citizen of the U.S. corporation
36	I am NOT as	I AM	NOT a Corporation.

Line 34 makes the jurisdictional argument explicitly (“I am morally opposed to your jurisdiction”) while Lines 35 and 36 do so through reference to particular pseudolegal theories to that effect (specifically, 14th Amendment citizenship and the US as a corporation; see Chapter 1 for discussion of these and other such theories). Other uses of “I am” in the PCF corpus, such as Line 33, are comparable to its use of appositives, where it claims some fundamental status of particular pseudolegal importance (while it cannot be verified, given the Sovereign Citizen movement’s general socially and politically conservative tendencies, the phrase “a man of the feminine gender” in Line 34 seems more likely to be a semantic innovation akin to Line 30’s use of “undead” rather than a purposeful separation of the concepts of sex and gender).

In the LCF corpus, by way of contrast, 19% of the occurrences of “I” followed by a form of “to be”, including all occurrences of “I’m”, are instances of reported speech. The remainder are explanations of employment or personal experience (e.g. “I am a certified public accountant...”) which are used to bolster the credibility of the sworn statements in which they are found. In the PCF corpus, all fifteen occurrences of “I’m” are instances of reported speech, but there is no reported “I am.” Though there are no negated “I” plus “to be” statements in the LCF corpus, the structure is negated 21% of the time in the PCF corpus, including in Lines 35 and 36 (“I am not a 14th Amendment Citizen” and “I AM NOT a Corporation”). “I AM” is never capitalized in the LCF corpus, but is on five occurrences, such as in Line 36, in the PCF corpus.

As was discussed in Chapter 2, the use of explicit performatives is likely the single clearest invocation of authority in legal texts, and the ways in which they are used differs greatly between the LCF and PCF corpora. As an example, “I” is followed by an explicit performative verb eight times in the LCF corpus. Seven times, that verb is “certify” and is included as part of a formulaic conclusion to a sworn statement (“I certify that the statements set forth in this instrument are true and correct...”). The eighth occurrence, “I hereby direct”, is a quotation from a different legal document whose meaning is at issue in that proceeding. In contrast, Table 4.14 shows some of the ways in which “I” is typically followed by an explicit performative verb in the PCF corpus:

Table 4.14 Selected KWIC lines showing “I” followed by an explicit performative in the Pseudolegal Courtroom Filing corpus, n=181

Line	N-	N	N+
37	explicitly under reserve and without prejudice,	I	hereby and herein claim liberties provided or required via treaties as well as common law jurisdiction.
38	As GRANTOR,	I	appoint myself Sole Beneficiary of all Trusts
39	I AM NOT corporate property of the State or United States of America nor am I a thing.	I	REBUT that the Court has jurisdiction as the Judge and bar attorneys are foreign agents.
40	Nationstar Mortgage LLC, hereinafter "Respondent".	I	conditionally accept the complaint & all counts of Respondent's OFFER upon proof of claim that:
41	in accordance with the powers granted in this document,	I	hereby represent, warrant and agree that:

Almost a quarter of the time (42/181) the “I” plus explicit performative construction in the PCF corpus involves the word “hereby”. As in Line 38, this use of “hereby”, particularly when paired with “herein”, seems to increase the formal character of the text. Similar to the ways in which the “I” constructions discussed above were used to claim legally nonsensical authority for Sovereign Citizen litigants, these explicit performative verbs are used infelicitously to attempt to perform actions that are legally nonsensical (it does not matter whether one “accepts” the complaint against them in a court case, as in Line 40) or are inappropriately borrowed from other areas of law (the language in Line 38, for example, seems to relate to the creation of a trust, a common element of Sovereign Citizen pseudolegal theory that would not

be relevant to the sorts of cases present in the PCF corpus). It seems that all that “I” can do in an LCF text is “certify”; in a PCF text, however, “I” can do whatever “I” want.

Pronouns in PCF texts do not just define individual Sovereign Citizen authors and their supposed powers, however: they also frequently address judges and opposing parties. In the LCF corpus, “you” occurs relatively infrequently, with only 24 occurrences per 100,000 words. Table 4.15 shows the ways in which it is used:

Table 4.15 Selected lines showing “You” in the Legitimate Courtroom Filing corpus, n=73

Line	N-	N	N+
42	@Rager67 commented, "Umm	you	know you have 75% of PAYING customers outside still?
43	Q. Is that what	you	thought at the time that you heard about the million-dollar offer?
44	Definitions A.	"You"	or "City" refers to Defendant, City of Chicago, a municipal organization, and all individuals and entities over whom You have or may exercise control, including but not limited to
45	In answering these Requests,	You	must make a diligent search of Your records and of other papers and materials in your possession or available to You or Your representatives.

In the Legitimate Courtroom Filing corpus, 54% of the time (40/73) “you” occurs, including in Lines 42 and 43, it is as part of reported speech. The rest of the time, as in Lines 44 and 45, it occurs in contexts in which “You” (specifically in these cases with the capital “Y”) has been defined as a technical term within the texts in which it appears (see the discussion of technical terminology in legal English in Chapter 2). In the PCF corpus, by way of contrast, “you” occurs almost five times as often as it does in the LCF corpus (114 times per 100,000 words) and in a much wider array of contexts. Some of the most notable ways are shown below in Table 4.16:

Table 4.16 Selected KWIC lines showing “You” in the Pseudolegal Courtroom Filing corpus, n=408

Line	N-	N	N+
46	And the attorney said they were putting it in the mail, and we never got a copy, and on the 20th,	you	didn't have a copy".
47	Judge Waters was recorded as saying, "But	you	still refuse to pay the fine.
48	If your answer is "NO,"	you	are hereby noticed that you are to provide the facts and law that supports your answer.
49	3) how long have	you	been in your position;
50	Slavery and involuntary servitude have been outlawed worldwide since 1926.	You	will find no slave here. Don't Tread On Me!
51	I exist in the land of the living	you	only have jurisdiction over the dead.
52	As such, Claimant is asking that	YOU	stipulate whether YOU are the holder in due course for Claimants' promissory note
53	IF TRUSTOR'S ACTIONS ARE ADHERED TO, THERE WILL NOT BE A FORECLOSURE SALE ON THE SUBJECT PROPERTY. HOWEVER, IF	YOU	FAIL TO ACKNOWLEDGE TRUSTOR'S REORGANIZATION OF THE TRUSTS AND DEMANDS AND YOU PROCEED WITH THE FORECLOSURE SALE, YOU WILL BE PROCEEDING WITHOUT LAWFUL AUTHORITY

Of these occurrences, 9% (38/408) are instances of reported speech, as in Line 47, and 20% (81/408) are in the form of discovery requests, as in Line 48 (discovery is a standard part of the pre-trial process; compare Line 48 to Line 45 from the LCF corpus, above). The remaining instances of “you” in the PCF corpus are more difficult to classify, though notably, 36 of them have a capitalized “YOU”, while “YOU” is never capitalized in the LCF corpus. As with the capitalized “NO” discussed in the prior subsection, emphatic capitalization as seen in Lines 52 and 53 again evokes spoken, rather than written, language; see Section 5.4.2 for further discussion of capitalization in the LCF and PFC corpora.

Broadly speaking, the use of first-person pronouns can be said to indicate the author's personal involvement in a text, the use of second person pronouns indicates a high degree of involvement with the addressee (Biber 1988, p.225; Wang et al. 2021, p.3), and frequent use of personal pronouns in general, but particularly “I”, is more closely associated with spoken language than written language (Akinaso 1982, pp.99–104; Biber et al. 1999, p.333). PCF texts use significantly more first- and second-person pronouns than LCF texts (see Table 4.8) and therefore seem to be much more concerned with the identity of their authors and of the

representatives of the legal system than their legitimate courtroom filing counterparts. Leaving aside for the moment questions about their larger pseudolegal nature, there is a degree to which this higher degree of ego involvement in PCF texts, at the very least, is understandable: while the texts in the LCF corpus were all written by attorneys on behalf of their clients, the texts in the PCF corpus all belong to pro se litigants (i.e. the individual Sovereign Citizen litigants are representing themselves instead of being represented by an attorney). Even in cases where the PCF text in question may have been created from a preexisting template, then, because the person filing it is an actual party to the litigation in question, there would understandably be a certain degree of personal investment in that text, and therefore a greater potential for the use of first-person pronouns.

What makes this significantly higher rate of pronoun use in PCF texts particularly notable is that in so many of the other ways examined in this chapter, Sovereign Citizens seem to have a strong sense of what is expected of a legitimate legal text and choose to hew close to that. The fact that PCF texts depart so obviously and so frequently from the practice of LCF texts in their use of first and second person pronouns, then, suggests that it is particularly important to their authors that they do so, to the extent that they jeopardize their texts' chances of parasitic success (though lack of genre competence is always also a potential factor). The difference in the rates and manners of pronoun use between LCF and PCF corpora further suggests the impact of the magical nature of these documents: where LCF texts are attempting to set out facts of the case, the “me” versus “you” framing evident from the pronoun use of PCF texts makes clear that they are perceived to be part of an intensely personal confrontation between the Sovereign Citizen litigant and the legal system (though the uses of “you” in this sense seem to generally conflate the roles of the opposing party and the judge). Particularly when considered along aside the continued similarities between the texts of the PCF corpus and spoken English more generally, pronoun use in the PCF corpus seems to reveal that PCF texts are personally important to their authors, and that they seem to feel “unheard” by the legitimate legal system.

4.2.4 Passive Constructions

Per its “consensus” description, Legal English makes more frequent use of impersonal and passive constructions than “standard” English (Danet 1985, p.283; Tiersma 2006, p.45). In English, such constructions (which will be referred to throughout this section as “passives” or “passive constructions”) most commonly consist of some form of the verb “to be” and a past

participle (Peters 2004, p.411; Wanner 2009, p.13). “To be” is not necessary, however: passives may use a form of “to get” instead (e.g. “Much of the savings get passed along to consumers” (Wanner 2009, p.100)) or, in embedded clauses, go without an auxiliary verb entirely (e.g. instances of whiz deletion, such as “a letter written by my great grand-father” (Wanner 2009, p.110)). These alternative constructions are less common than “to be” passives, however, and “get” passives are considered markedly less formal than “to be” passives (Wanner 2009, pp.85–87), making them much less likely to appear in legal texts (there are, in fact, no instances of “get” passives in the LCF corpus, and only four in the PCF corpus). Because of this chapter’s specific focus on the use of legal English in the LCF and PCF corpora, this subsection will therefore focus on the use of “to be” passives.

COCA-W, the LCF corpus, and the PCF corpus were searched for each conjugated form of the verb “to be” (i.e. “be”, “am”, “is”, “are”, “was”, “were”, “been”, and “being”) followed by a word ending in “*d”, “*t” and “*n”, which are the most common indications of English past participles (Biber et al. 1999, pp.392–395). Following a review of the initial results, instances of a form of “to be” followed by a negator, contraction, or article (e.g. “not”, “at”, “on”, “in”, or “an”) were subtracted from the totals of all three corpora. Results for each search category were then normalized to determine their frequency per 100,000 words. Table 4.17 and Table 4.18 display the results of this process on the following pages:

Table 4.17 Frequency of various passive constructions in COCA-W and the Legitimate Courtroom Filing corpus with chi-square tests for independence

Passive Construction		COCA-W freq.	COCA-W norm.	LCF freq.	LCF norm.	χ^2
be +	*d	714307	96	1076	355	2127.6
	*t	180633	24	86	28	2.0255
	*n	93657	13	59	19	11.037
am +	*d	32642	4	8	3	1.7013
	*t	13322	2	2	1	1.5624
	*n	5062	1	1	0	-
is +	*d	465951	62	605	200	911.78
	*t	814016	109	214	71	40.679
	*n	121545	16	45	15	0.2974
are +	*d	531117	71	266	88	11.571
	*t	283959	38	83	27	8.747
	*n	106415	14	23	8	8.9758
was +	*d	441929	59	524	173	659.89
	*t	480165	64	95	31	50.703
	*n	812504	109	33	11	266.45
were +	*d	461565	62	197	65	0.44862
	*t	151106	20	31	10	14.508
	*n	70511	9	7	2	15.583
been +	*d	441337	59	225	74	11.496
	*t	76521	10	14	5	8.8261
	*n	57551	8	7	2	10.765
being +	*d	217191	29	69	23	3.9457
	*t	43636	6	13	4	1.0006
	*n	24161	3	2	1	5.4429
Total		6640803	890	3685	1217	366.13

Table 4.18 Frequency of various passive constructions in the Legitimate and Pseudolegal Courtroom Filing corpora with chi-square tests for independence

Passive Construction		LCF freq.	LCF norm.	PCF freq.	PCF norm.	χ^2
be +	*d	1076	355	1183	329	3.2297
	*t	86	28	114	32	0.49544
	*n	59	19	96	27	3.3675
am +	*d	8	3	17	5	1.3859
	*t	2	1	11	3	3.6781
	*n	1	0	8	2	-
is +	*d	605	200	846	235	9.3717
	*t	214	71	272	76	0.4975
	*n	45	15	93	26	9.0528
are +	*d	266	88	319	89	0.007106
	*t	83	27	59	16	8.7564
	*n	23	8	45	13	3.4192
was +	*d	524	173	589	164	0.76614
	*t	95	31	57	16	16.561
	*n	33	11	52	14	1.367
were +	*d	197	65	119	33	34.491
	*t	31	10	13	4	9.8661
	*n	7	2	8	2	6.47E-23
been +	*d	225	74	480	134	53.712
	*t	14	5	20	6	0.13014
	*n	7	2	26	7	7.0356
being +	*d	69	23	118	33	5.527
	*t	13	4	22	6	0.72256
	*n	2	1	6	2	-
Total		3685	1217	4573	1272	4.0745

For eight of the 24 passive constructions, there was no significant difference in their frequency between COCA-W and the LCF corpus. Six constructions occurred significantly more frequently in the LCF corpus while nine occurred significantly more frequently in COCA-W. One construction (“am” plus “*n”) did not occur frequently enough across the two corpora to test for significance. All passive constructions which were significantly more common in COCA-W than the LCF corpus ended in “*t” or “*n”, while all passive constructions ending in “*d” for which there was a significant difference were more common in the LCF corpus. Passive constructions were overall significantly more common in the LCF corpus than in COCA-W, which aligns with the “consensus” description of legal English. The use of these passive constructions is much more closely aligned between the LCF and PCF corpora: four constructions occur significantly more frequently in the LCF corpus than the PCF corpus while the reverse is true for another four constructions. Two passive constructions (“am + *n” and

“being + *n”) did not occur frequently enough to test for significance. There was not a significant difference in the frequency of the remaining fourteen passive constructions between the two corpora, nor was there a significant difference in the overall frequency of passive constructions between the LCF and PCF corpus. At least in an overall sense, however, the consensus opinion that passive constructions are more common in legal English than in general English seems to be correct.

In the LCF corpus, these “to be” passive constructions generally appear intended to create an impression of distance and objectivity; two such examples are given below in Table 4.19:

Table 4.19 Selected KWIC lines showing passive constructions in the Legitimate Courtroom Filing corpus (n=3685)

Line	N-	N	N+
54	A true and correct copy	is attached	hereto as Exhibit 1.
55	Among other things, this conclusion	is supported	by the fact that the Dismissal Charges and Specifications signed by Defendant Jordan explicitly adopt the 2015 Warning Letter as a basis for Defendants’ institution of termination proceedings against Dr. Simonson.

In many cases, as in Line 54, these “to be” passives are used in sentences which are easily externally verified (i.e. “a true and correct copy” was either attached or it was not), though they are also commonly found in more argumentative contexts, such as in Line 55. In either case, these uses of “to be” passives rhetorically place the statement outside of the control, and thus the responsibility, of the text’s author. An examination of similar constructions in the PCF corpus shows that “to be” passives are used there in an almost performative sense; in other words, they are often used to present statements about the legal system that the Sovereign Citizens seem to wish were true:

Table 4.20 Selected KWIC lines showing passive constructions in the Pseudolegal Courtroom Filing corpus (n=4573)

Line	N-	N	N+
56	Plaintiff Wells Fargo Bank, N.A.	is required	to respond as an Appellee.
57	One who attends Court	is accepting	accepting the position of a Defendant, giving jurisdiction to the Court and is presumed to be Corporate property or a thing

Sovereign Citizens often use passive constructions to outline what they view as the responsibilities of the opposing party, as in Line 56, or to raise the fundamentally jurisdictional concerns inherent to Sovereign Citizen pseudolegal theories, as seen in Line 57.

Line 57 in particular appears to show the genre parasitism of pseudolegal courtroom filings in action; it is true that, when being sued, appearing in court generally has the effect of consenting to participate in that lawsuit. There is no legal presumption, however, that anyone doing so is also “Corporate property or a thing”, nor is it entirely clear what that would mean if it were true. By positioning it alongside a legitimate legal statement, though, and phrasing it in the same way an LCF text would phrase a true statement of law, the author of the PCF text increases the chances that a reader will mistake it for something with actual legal authority.

Given that first-person pronouns are significantly more common in the PCF corpus than the LCF corpus (see Table 4.8), it is noteworthy that there is no significant difference in the frequency of “am” passives between the LCF and PCF corpora. This indicates that, when writing about themselves, Sovereign Citizens clearly and strongly prefer to use the active voice. It also further emphasizes the degree to which the pseudolegal narratives of Sovereign Citizen texts are centered around the status and power of their authors; by avoiding the passive voice, it is made clear that Sovereign Citizens are the ones acting, rather than the ones being acted upon.

When one of the passive constructions in Table 4.17 or Table 4.18 is followed by the word “by”, it is referred to as a “long passive”; when it is not it is known as a “short passive” (Biber et al. 1999, p.935; Wanner 2009, p.11). Long passives are generally less common than short passives, but have been found to occur particularly frequently in formal academic writing (Biber et al. 1999, p.938). Prior studies have not specifically noted the presence of the long passive in legal English, but if it is more common in formal writing generally than in other varieties of English, it seems likely that it would be more common in legal English as well. Table 4.21 and Table 4.22 compare the frequency of the occurrences of the long passive across the three corpora which occurred frequently enough to test for statistical significance.

Table 4.21 Frequency of notable “long passive” constructions in COCA-W and the Legitimate Courtroom Filing corpus with chi-square tests for independence

Long Passive	COCA-W freq.	COCA-W norm.	LCF freq.	LCF norm.	χ^2
be *d by	93863	13	109	36	129.98
is *d by	82191	11	85	28	78.332
are *d by	46494	6	15	5	0.6017
was *d by	105319	14	70	23	16.737
were*d by	42604	6	34	11	15.182
been *d by	52584	7	37	12	10.759
being *d by	27933	4	12	4	0.0023
Total	450988	61	362	119	173.87

Table 4.22 Frequency of notable “long passive” constructions in the Legitimate and Pseudolegal Courtroom Filing corpora with chi-square tests for independence

Long Passive	LCF freq.	LCF norm.	PCF freq.	PCF norm.	χ^2
be *d by	109	36	118	33	0.3914
is *d by	85	28	62	17	8.185
are *d by	15	5	29	8	1.9555
was *d by	70	23	93	26	0.4033
were*d by	34	11	10	3	16.394
been *d by	37	12	56	16	1.0955
being *d by	12	4	13	4	0.0007
Total	362	119	381	107	2.5618

Across all three corpora, only the long passive constructions involving “*d” (with the exception of “am *d by”) occurred frequently enough to be testable for significance. Five of these seven constructions occurred significantly more frequently in the LCF corpus than in COCA-W, with the other remaining two not occurring at a significantly different rate. The LCF corpus uses significantly more instances of the long passive overall than does COCA-W, which again aligns with what the consensus description of legal English would expect as well as with the more general suggestion that legal English is a markedly formal register. The PCF corpus appears to accurately imitate the LCF corpus in this category as well; two of the seven constructions occur more frequently in the LCF corpus than the PCF corpus, with the other five occurring at similar rates and with no significant difference in the overall frequency of use of the long passive between the two corpora.

As with the short “be” passives discussed above, the long passive in the LCF corpus is most frequently used to express legal rules, often stemming from either legislation or contracts relevant to the proceedings, as seen in the following examples:

Table 4.23 Selected KWIC lines showing long passives in the Legitimate Courtroom Filing corpus (n=362)

Line	N-	N	N+
58	In addition to specifying the procedures for the release of properly impounded vehicles, §11-208.7 makes clear that punishment, in the form of penalties, may only.	be assessed by	a Court of Law.
59	All proceeds of sale shall	be held by	JSC.

A similar use of the long passive also occurs in the PCF corpus, as in Line 60 below:

Table 4.24 Selected KWIC lines showing long passives in the Pseudolegal Courtroom Filing corpus (n=381)

Line	N-	N	N+
60	A Lien or a Claim, under Commercial Law, can only	be satisfied by	one of the following actions:
61	That said members responsible for ‘Trespassing upon the laws’ and who have closed their eyes to these crimes likened to War Crimes	be replaced by	qualified Republicans and independents not affiliated to this regime.

But the long passive is also used in more striking passages such as Line 61’s demand that those court employees the relevant Sovereign Citizen author has judged to have committed “War Crimes” be replaced by “qualified Republicans.” While it perhaps goes without saying, accusing the court of being comprised of war criminals is not a normal part of litigation, and the phrase “war crimes” does not appear in the LCF corpus (this is to say nothing of the blatant political bias shown against Democrats and in favor of Republicans in that excerpt). Once again, the more obviously pseudolegal claims of a PCF text are accompanied by a construction associated with legal English in the seeming hope that it will imbue those claims with legitimate legal authority.

Both “be” passives and long passives occur at statistically similar rates in the LCF and PCF corpora, and in those corpora at approximately twice the rate that they do in COCA-W. PCF texts use these constructions and their associations with more objective, verifiable statements in the LCF corpus in an attempt to parasitically bolster the credibility of their more obviously pseudolegal claims. At the same time, while using the passive voice at a statistically similar rate as texts in the LCF corpus, texts in the PCF corpus avoid it in the first-person context, which appears to indicate a desire to present their authors as active forces in their own legal narratives. At least in terms of their use of the passive voice, then, Sovereign Citizens seem to be choosing to copy the frequency of a feature in the LCF corpus while at the same time avoiding it in certain contexts which would run contrary to their larger purposes.

4.2.5 Nominalizations

The “consensus” description of legal English holds that, relative to “standard” English, legal English makes more frequent use of nominalizations (Tiersma 2006, p.45; Mattila 2012b, p.22). Nominalizations are nouns that are derived from verbs or adjectives of the same language (e.g. “civilization” from “civilize” or “kindness” from “kind”) (Biber et al. 1998, p.59). Though the morphological processes by which nominalizations are formed are not completely regular, the most common suffixes which indicate English language nominalizations are “*tion”, “*sion”, “*ness”, “*ment”, and “*ity” (Biber et al. 1998, p.63). The presence of one of these suffixes does not guarantee that a given word is a nominalization, however (“nation” and “mansion”, for example, are not) (Biber et al. 1998, p.59); ultimately, it is necessary to review a word’s etymology to determine its status.

To compare the use of nominalizations in COCA-W and the LCF and PCF corpora, each of the three corpora was searched for the total occurrences of words ending with the common nominalization suffixes given above. The etymology of each word with a raw frequency greater than or equal to 100⁵ in either the LCF or PCF corpora was checked in the online Oxford English Dictionary (Oxford University Press 2021); where a word was not clearly derived from an English verb or adjective, its total occurrences were subtracted from all three corpora. The aggregate results of these searches, including their normalized frequencies per 100,000 words, are given below in Table 4.25 and Table 4.26:

Table 4.25 Frequency of common nominalization suffixes in COCA-W and the Legitimate Courtroom Filing corpus with chi-square tests for independence. Results normalized to reflect expected occurrences per 100,000 words.

Nominalization	COCA-W freq.	COCA-W norm.	LCF freq.	LCF norm.	χ^2
*tion	5808201	778	6428	2122	7074.8
*sion	1220632	164	811	268	200.59
*ness	794519	106	157	52	84.467
*ment	2556116	343	2713	896	2711
*ity	2403696	322	949	313	0.69899
Total	12783164	1713	11058	3651	6749.6

⁵ This 100-occurrence threshold was chosen based on a review of the full list of nominalizations present in the LCF and PCF corpora. It was deemed sufficient to capture the most commonly used nominalizations while limiting the number examined to a workable level.

Table 4.26 Frequency of common nominalization suffixes in the Legitimate and Pseudolegal Courtroom Filing corpora with chi-square tests for independence. Results normalized to reflect expected occurrences per 100,000 words.

Nominalization	LCF freq.	LCF norm.	PCF freq.	PCF norm.	χ^2
*tion	6428	2122	6230	1733	132.56
*sion	811	268	1093	304	7.4337
*ness	157	52	416	116	76.9
*ment	2713	896	3654	1017	25.07
*ity	949	313	1189	331	1.5024
Total	11058	3651	12582	3501	10.796

Overall, the LCF corpus uses significantly more nominalizations than COCA-W, which is consistent with the “consensus” description of legal English. The PCF corpus uses significantly fewer nominalizations than the LCF corpus (it is important to note here that the difference is “significant” in the statistical sense; whether an average reader would on their own notice a difference in frequency in 3651 nominalizations per 100,000 words in the LCF corpus versus 3501 nominalizations per 100,000 words in the PCF corpus is less clear). The findings for the individual endings are somewhat less consistent, with the LCF corpus using significantly more nominalizations ending in “*tion”, “*sion”, and “*ment” than COCA-W, but significantly fewer nominalizations ending in “*ness”. The PCF corpus uses significantly more nominalizations ending in “*sion”, “*ness”, and “*ment” than the LCF corpus, but significantly fewer ending in “*tion”. There is not a statistically significant difference in the frequency of nominalizations ending in “*ity” between the LCF corpus and COCA-W or between the PCF and LCF corpora. Biber et al. (1998, p.63) found “*ment” nominalizations to make up more than one and a half times the proportional share of overall nominalization use in speech as compared to academic writing, meaning that the PCF corpus’ use of “*ment” nominalizations at a significantly higher rate than the LCF corpus is yet another way in which texts in the PCF corpus trend towards spoken English relative to their LCF counterparts.

Table 4.27 lists the most common nominalizations used in the LCF and PCF corpora grouped by suffix, as well as the chi-square value for any nominalizations shared between the two corpora:

Table 4.27 Nominalizations which occur at least 100 times in the Legitimate and Pseudolegal Courtroom Filing corpora. Results normalized to reflect expected occurrences per 100,000 words

*tion						
LCF			PCF			χ^2
Word	Freq.	Norm.	Word	Freq.	Norm.	
action	627	207	action	465	129	59.743
association	399	132	association	107	30	222.55
declaration	131	43	declaration	122	34	3.4924
information	235	78	information	191	53	14.913
motion	633	209	motion	672	187	3.9507
violation	225	74	violation	195	54	10.101
application	360	119	constitution	384	107	
arbitration	280	92	obligation	179	50	
litigation	192	63	collection	118	33	
exemption	152	50	consideration	107	30	
subscription	113	37	transaction	103	29	
addition	102	34				
*sion						
LCF			PCF			χ^2
Word	Freq.	Norm.	Word	Freq.	Norm.	
possession	132	44	possession	214	60	7.7095
decision	164	54	division	200	56	
suspension	118	39				
provision	113	37				
*ness						
LCF			PCF			χ^2
Word	Freq.	Norm.	Word	Freq.	Norm.	
business	179	59	business	170	47	4.1287
*ment						
LCF			PCF			χ^2
Word	Freq.	Norm.	Word	Freq.	Norm.	
agreement	601	198	agreement	292	81	166.8
judgment	358	118	judgment	603	168	27.52
payment	104	34	payment	208	58	18.83
statement	114	38	statement	147	41	0.36373
settlement	410	135	instrument	393	109	
impoundment	197	65	assignment	210	58	
argument	147	49	department	203	56	
			government	194	54	
*ity						
LCF			PCF			χ^2
Word	Freq.	Norm.	Word	Freq.	Norm.	
			security	286	80	
			liability	152	42	

In both the LCF and PCF corpora, 24 nominalizations occur at least 100 times, and 12 are shared between the two corpora. The comparative frequency of those shared nominalizations is largely in alignment with the trends shown in Table 4.26: four of the six nominalizations ending in *tion appear significantly more frequently in the LCF corpus than the PCF corpus, the one shared *sion nominalization appears more frequently in the PCF corpus, and two of the three shared *ment nominalizations appear more frequently in the PCF corpus. Of the five remaining shared nominalizations, there is not a statistically significant difference in the frequency of four. The only nominalization to be significantly more frequent in the corpus which uses its relevant suffix significantly less overall is “agreement”, which appears more frequently in the LCF corpus than the PCF corpus; given the generally combative stance of PCF texts towards the legal system as a whole, this is thematically unsurprising.

A look at the nominalizations unique to each corpus in Table 4.27 reveals much about the sorts of topics they are most concerned with. The unique nominalizations of the LCF corpus, for example, are generally concerned with specific points of fact or law as seen via the discussion of subjects including arbitration (Line 62), litigation (Line 63), and matters of civil procedure (Line 64):

Table 4.28 Selected KWIC lines showing nominalizations in the Legitimate Courtroom Filing corpus

Line	N-	N	N+
62	The case was resolved into an	arbitration	before ADR Systems of America.
63	The Plaintiffs in the underlying	litigation	reacted aggressively to the attempt to remove the matter to federal court.
64	They have also cited no authority that would support an	argument	that a defendant may file a counterclaim without having filed an answer.

Nominalizations unique to the PCF corpus, by way of contrast, often deal with much more general (if questionably relevant) matters of law via references to subjects such as the US constitution (Line 65) or the government’s jurisdiction (Line 66):

Table 4.29 Selected KWIC lines showing nominalizations in the Pseudolegal Courtroom Filing corpus

Line	N-	N	N+
65	The United States	Constitution	is the Supreme Law of the Land per the Supremacy Clause of Article VI.
66	Williams' paradigm of exclusive tribal	jurisdiction	is a leading example of the special rules that the apex court has recognized during the modern era in order to protect tribal government in Indian country.
67	Essence of a conspiracy is an	agreement	to commit an unlawful act.

Even where two corpora both make use of the same nominalization, this trend appears to hold: “agreement” is invariably used in the LCF corpus to refer to a specific contractual agreement (generally the one at issue in the relevant case, as in “the complaint did not attach the actual agreement”), and while that use of agreement also occurs in the PCF corpus, it is often instead used in a more broad, conceptual sense, as in Line 67.

Of course, PCF texts are definitionally not attempting to engage with the legal system in the normal way, and it may therefore not be particularly surprising that they differ in their focus. As evidenced by their relatively more frequent use of first and second person pronouns, PCF texts are more likely to frame things in personal terms than their LCF counterparts. Combined with their penchant for emphatic capitalization seen in the earlier sections on both negation and pronoun use, PCF texts appear to reflect the strongly held feelings of their authors. What emerges from this examination of the nominalizations unique to the PCF corpus is evidence that, in contrast to the clear focus on immediately relevant vocabulary in the unique nominalizations in the LCF corpus, the texts of the PCF corpus are interested in much more general legal topics. Perhaps this is because Sovereign Citizen litigants rarely have the law on their side; the majority of cases represented in the PCF corpus are from mortgage foreclosure proceedings in which, if the Sovereign Citizen litigants involved did not pay their mortgages, there is not much that they can do, legally speaking. This does not mean, however, that PCF texts are necessarily full of sound and fury, signifying nothing. Instead, it serves as further proof that they are operating on a different level than LCF texts: rather than responding to the lawsuit before them, as would be expected in a normal legal proceeding, Sovereign Citizen litigants are positioning themselves as a challenge to the whole of the legal system itself. Any charges leveled against them do not matter if the whole system underpinning those charges is, in their estimation, irredeemably corrupt. Corrupt or not, however, it is undeniable that the legal system and its representatives hold real power: fines can be levied, property can be seized,

and people imprisoned if individuals defy it. As in the earlier discussion on the use of the passive voice in the LCF and PCF corpora, this is where the parasitic nature of the texts in the PCF corpus comes into play. Their parasitic imitation is an attempt by Sovereign Citizen litigants to access the power of the legal system by copying its forms and “words of power”, or, in more layman’s terms, its “magic words”. Section 4.2 has looked at a number of the more subtle ways in which PCF texts attempt to copy and coopt the “magic words” of legal English. Section 4.3 turns to a more explicit area of parasitic imitation: their use of legal technical terminology.

4.3 Legal Technical Terminology

The consensus description of legal English holds that it makes frequent use of legal technical terminology (Maley 1994, p.22; Tiersma 2006, p.44; Tiersma 2008, p.14; Mattila 2012b; Kurzon 2013; Ruusila and Lindroos 2016), a claim which is at once self-evident (where would legal technical terminology be most frequent if not in documents using legal English?) while also being particularly tricky to evaluate, given that (as was discussed in Chapter 2) there is not a consistent definition of either standard English or legal technical terminology in the literature. Even if there were such a consistent definition of the overarching category of legal technical terminology, the meaning of legal technical terms can vary greatly by jurisdiction and often exists alongside a much more common general English meaning. “Instrument”, for example, is often used in general English to refer to a device which creates music, such as a trumpet or piano, but in legal contexts would be much more likely to refer to a document (Tiersma 2008, p.16). This limits the potential utility of a general English reference corpus such as COCA-W for comparing the frequency of the use of given legal technical term, as every occurrence of a given word would ideally have to be examined to determine whether it was being used in a general or technical sense before a useful comparison of the frequency of such terminology across corpora could be made. Therefore, the analysis in this section will be limited only to an examination of the legal technical terminology present in the LCF and PCF corpora.

As discussed in Chapter 2, for the purposes of this thesis, words have been deemed to be instances of technical legal terminology where they have been assigned a definition in the most recent edition of *Black’s Law Dictionary* (Garner 2019). The following sections take for granted that the use of legal technical terminology is more common in legal English than in general English. Section 4.3.1 will discuss the legal technical terms most frequently shared between the two corpora via a lockword analysis while Section 4.3.2 will examine the legal

technical terms which most clearly distinguish one corpus from the other via a keyword analysis. Section 4.3.3 looks at the presence of legal technical terminology in the most common lexical bundles in the two corpora. In Sections 4.3.1 and 4.3.2, specific technical terms have been chosen for examination via hierarchical cluster analysis (Gabrielatos 2018, pp.242–243) while the lexical bundles in Section 4.3.3 were selected according to their frequency in the two corpora (see the discussion in Chapter 3 for more on these methods of selection).

4.3.1 Shared Technical Terminology

This subsection focuses on the legal technical terms which occur at a consistent rate in both the LCF and PCF corpora. These terms have been identified via a lockword analysis, where lockwords are words whose rate of occurrence is so similar across multiple corpora that they appear to be “locked in place” (Baker 2011, p.73). Lockword analysis is a particularly useful tool for examining parasitic generic relationships such as that between the legitimate and pseudolegal courtroom filing genres because it identifies some of the ways in which texts in the parasitic genre most effectively imitate their host genre. The complete list of lockwords in the LCF and PCF corpora is included as Appendix 3.5. A hierarchical cluster analysis (see Section 3.5.3) determined that the top thirty-two lockwords were the most relevant for this analysis. Those lockwords, their normalized frequencies per 100,000 words, and their coefficient of variance (“CV”) scores are given below in Table 4.30:

Table 4.30 Top legal lockwords in the Legitimate and Pseudolegal Courtroom Filing corpora ranked by coefficient of variance score. Finance-related lockwords are shaded in green and procedure-related lockwords are shaded in blue.

Rank	Word	LCF Freq.	LCF Norm.	PCF Freq.	PCF Norm.	CV
1	injury	49	16	56	16	0
2	purposes	56	18	63	18	0
3	payments	57	19	67	19	0.09231159
4	faith	70	23	84	23	0.465619551
5	granted	103	34	124	34	0.554593554
6	answer	328	108	383	107	0.836812759
7	public	394	130	460	128	1.149767124
8	pursuant	431	142	520	145	1.240538213
9	subject	256	85	297	83	1.251516427
10	common	120	40	148	41	1.321694918
11	use	93	31	116	32	1.782622137
12	grant	92	30	112	31	1.911099409
13	appearance	85	28	103	29	2.465993894
14	order	500	165	615	171	2.655800117
15	properly	81	27	94	26	2.668327476
16	mortgagee	76	25	95	26	2.702318909
17	reasons	70	23	80	22	3.166149767
18	pending	69	23	79	22	3.189955404
19	reference	66	22	75	21	3.595458209
20	street	125	41	154	43	3.646969072
21	fair	64	21	72	20	3.689252771
22	principal	117	39	146	41	3.781319685
23	inc	304	100	342	95	3.822198817
24	below	49	16	62	17	4.541469372
25	will	415	137	463	129	4.714045208
26	may	461	152	582	162	5.009475834
27	authority	241	80	271	75	5.030799234
28	herein	215	71	273	76	5.189774541
29	sale	238	79	266	74	5.189774541
30	equitable	90	30	102	28	5.237828009
31	proceeding	90	30	101	28	5.391430003
32	transaction	82	27	103	29	5.439282932

When the lockwords in the above table are grouped semantically they indicate that LCF and PCF texts share two fundamental areas of concern: one financial (those words shaded in green in the above table), the other procedural (those words shaded in blue). Five of the above lockwords are words that are, in legal settings, inherently related to money: “injury,” “payments,” “mortgagee,” “sale,” and “transaction.” Another ten lockwords are clearly related

to issues of legal procedure: “granted,” “answer,” “grant,” “appearance,” “order,” “properly,” “pending,” “authority,” “equitable,” and “proceeding.”

A look at the finance-related lockwords in the LCF corpus reveals yet more examples of the straightforward tone and presentation of the issues discussed in its texts discussed above. With the exception of a relatively small number of instances like the use of the word “certainly” in Line 68 below, authorial editorializing in the use of these financial lockwords generally is kept to a minimum:

Table 4.31 Selected KWIC lines showing finance-related lockwords in the Legitimate Courtroom Filing corpus

Line	N-	N	N+
68	A treble damages provision does not in itself create standing, and it certainly does not somehow ‘triple’ the alleged	injury	for purposes of standing.
69	the cause of action arises out of a	transaction	occurring in Cook County.

Though the use of those same lockwords in the PCF corpus may occasionally evidence a lack of genre competence via awkward or non-standard phrasing (as in Line 70), it generally aligns with their use in the LCF corpus:

Table 4.32 Selected KWIC lines showing finance-related lockwords in the Pseudolegal Courtroom Filing corpus

Line	N-	N	N+
70	Petitioner has no adequate remedy at law and will suffer irreparable	injury	in being disposed of property for a void and unenforceable mortgage that was foreclosed.
71	According to the above-mentioned	transaction	American Fidelity allegedly loaned Federal Reserve Notes which is a violation of the Federal Reserve Act of 1913 (Title 12 U.S. Code Section 411) and the United States Constitution.

Given that both the LCF and PCF corpora are comprised solely of civil, rather than criminal, cases, this financial focus makes sense; except in very specific circumstances, the outcome of a civil lawsuit is generally going to be monetary damages and the litigants represented in both corpora would understandably rather be on the receiving end of any such award.

Where the two corpora more notably differ, however, is in their use of the procedural lockwords listed above. Generally speaking, LCF texts continue to use a relatively staid, objective tone with these words, as in Line 72. However, that tone can shift notably when

discussing alleged procedural errors by an opposing party (Line 73) or prior actions taken by the court (Line 74):

Table 4.33 Selected KWIC lines showing procedural lockwords in the Legitimate Courtroom Filing corpus

Line	N-	N	N+
72	Where situations requiring determinations exist, however, the Court has	authority	to establish subclasses with each subclass being treated as a Class under 735 ILCS 5/2-802(b).”
73	Defendants have not cited any	authority	for the proposition that unrelated counterclaims may be filed in summary proceedings under the Arbitration Act
74	The order of July, 2017, that allegedly granted a substitution of counsel was allegedly based on a transfer of	authority	from counsel who were never legally, properly before this Court for the Plaintiff, thus there was nothing to transfer from them.

The language used in relationship to the defendant in Line 73 is markedly dismissive in tone (they “have not cited any authority” and their counterclaim is “unrelated”) and the description of the court’s prior decisions, even though apparently contrary to what the author would have wanted, is hedged multiple times in Line 74 by the use of “allegedly” and reframed so as to be the opposing party’s responsibility, as they were “never legally, properly before this Court” in the first place. In terms of procedural language, it appears that texts in the LCF corpus tend to frame things desired by their authors in more seemingly objective ways, things desired by an opposing party dismissively, and things done by the court deferentially.

While those shifts in tone in the LCF corpus are not necessarily surprising on their own, they do stand in marked contrast to the tone of the procedural language used in the PCF corpus, which is much more emotional and certainly not deferential to the court. Texts in the PCF corpus will explicitly deny that either the judge or the opposing party have any power (Line 75) while simultaneously claiming ultimate authority for themselves for a variety of pseudolegal reasons (Line 76). The only possible reason someone would fail to recognize the authority of the Sovereign Citizen litigant, according to the texts of the PCF corpus, seems to be active malice, as in Line 77:

Table 4.34 Selected KWIC lines showing procedural lockwords in the Pseudolegal Courtroom Filing corpus

Line	N-	N	N+
75	CITIMORTGAGE, INC., CODLIS & ASSOCIATES, PC nor does Karen E. Ward have	authority	to sale the Trust Estate without the consent of the beneficiary
76	Firmly standing on Jus Sanguinis, DeJure, Matriarchial, Lineage and	Authority	to the Land and Soil of Almxem, Al Moroc secured and assented to by The Constitution for the United States of America
77	The judge in this case knows that he intentionally and knowingly did not give me the proper days I requested to defend my case	properly	which the judge has put me at a clear disadvantage.

Even when the two corpora share areas of thematic concern, as they do with matters financial and procedural, they can approach those concerns in very different manners. While both LCF and PCF texts appear similarly concerned with money, when it comes to the use of procedural lockwords, LCF texts make their buy-in to the overall legal process and their deference to the court clear, while PCF texts use these words as an opportunity to express their opposition to the entire legal system. The following section continues to explore the use of legal technical terminology in the LCF and PCF corpora via a look at that terminology which most distinguishes the two corpora.

4.3.2 Distinctive Legal Technical Terminology

“Keywords” are words which are statistically significantly more likely to occur in a target corpus than in a reference corpus (Gabrielatos 2018, p.225). Where the prior section examined legal technical terms which were common to both the LCF and PCF corpora, this section will examine the terms which most distinguish each corpus from the other (i.e. their legal keywords). Following the procedure outlined in Chapter 3, keyword lists were generated for the LCF and PCF corpora using the latter as the reference corpus for the former and vice versa. The full lists of LCF and PCF keywords generated in this way are included as Appendix 3.3 and Appendix 3.4, respectively.

There are 482 legal keywords in the PCF corpus as compared to 340 legal keywords in the LCF corpus. With normalized frequencies of 18,373 and 14,179 occurrences per 100,000 words, respectively, the PCF legal keywords make up a statistically significantly ($\chi^2 = 2102.8$, $p < 2.2e-16$) larger portion of their corpus than LCF legal keywords. Because of the way in which these keyword lists were generated, a keyword in one corpus is definitionally a word

which appears significantly less frequently in the other corpus. This means that more than 18% of the content of the PCF corpus (content which is, based on the criteria for identifying keywords used here, presumptively legal technical terminology) either does not appear or appears only rarely in the LCF corpus; these legal technical terms therefore likely relate to areas of particular importance to Sovereign Citizen pseudolegal theory. Two separate hierarchical cluster analyses identified the top 21 keywords from each corpus as the most relevant for analysis. The top LCF legal keywords are presented in Table 4.35:

Table 4.35 Top positive legal keywords of the Legitimate Courtroom Filing corpus ranked by effect size. Results normalized to reflect expected occurrences per 100,000 words. Finance-related keywords are shaded in green, procedure-related keywords are shaded in blue, and case-specific keywords are shaded in yellow.

Rank	Keyword	LCF Freq.	LCF Norm.	PCF Freq.	PCF Norm.	LL	%DIFF
1	refund	112	37	0	0	175.29	26484.1212
2	condominium	89	29	0	0	139.29	21024.882
3	subclass	85	28	0	0	133.03	20075.4491
4	charity	66	22	0	0	103.29	15565.6429
5	vote	249	82	2	1	368.89	14675.5495
6	rental	56	18	0	0	87.64	13192.0606
7	discontinuation	52	17	0	0	81.38	12242.6277
8	traffic	45	15	0	0	70.42	10581.1201
9	municipalities	42	14	0	0	65.73	9869.0455
10	defer	38	13	0	0	59.47	8919.6126
11	invoices	38	13	0	0	59.47	8919.6126
12	cast	37	12	0	0	57.9	8682.2543
13	patients	36	12	0	0	56.34	8444.8961
14	proximate	31	10	0	0	48.51	7258.105
15	putative	30	10	0	0	46.95	7020.7468
16	accommodations	29	10	0	0	45.38	6783.3885
17	patient	29	10	0	0	45.38	6783.3885
18	discontinuance	28	9	0	0	43.82	6546.0303
19	expert	28	9	0	0	43.82	6546.0303
20	numerosity	26	9	0	0	40.69	6071.3139
21	prohibits	25	8	0	0	39.12	5833.9556

The legal keywords of the LCF corpus reveal a great deal about the subject matters of the cases from which its component texts have been obtained. The eleven keywords in Table 4.35 highlighted in yellow clearly stem from specific factors at play in the relevant litigation, either in terms of the way a given case can be structured (“subclass” and “numerosity” both spring from class action lawsuits) or in terms of the identities of the parties in a suit or the facts at

issue (“condominium”, “charity”, “vote”, “rental”, “traffic”, municipalities”, “cast”, “patients,” and “patient” all relate to different facets of specific cases). Consistent with the use of legal lockwords discussed in the previous section, these keywords are generally used as neutrally as possible, as in the follow excerpts:

Table 4.36 KWIC lines showing case-specific legal keywords in the Legitimate Courtroom Filing corpus

Line	N-	N	N+
78	However, as further explained below in Section III, the Impoundment Ordinance is not a	traffic	regulation governing the movement of vehicles.
79	Because definitive evidence of	numerosity	can only come from the records of Defendant and its agents, it is proper to rely upon the allegations of the Complaint in certifying the Class and Subclass.

The remainder of the LCF legal technical keywords can be broadly classified into either financial (highlighted in green above) or procedural categories (highlighted in blue) in line with those discussed in the above section on lockwords.

The top PCF legal keywords are shown in Table 4.37:

Table 4.37 Top positive legal keywords of the Pseudolegal Courtroom Filing corpus ranked by effect size. Results normalized to reflect expected occurrences per 100,000 words. Finance-related keywords are shaded in green, legal Latin keywords are shaded in yellow, and keywords which are not appropriate to the legal context of the Pseudolegal Courtroom Filing corpus are shaded in orange.

Rank	Keyword	PCF Freq.	PCF Norm.	LCF Freq.	LCF Norm.	LL	%DIFF
1	affiants	205	50	0	0	250.64	34446.9385
2	UCC	181	44	0	0	221.29	30402.4188
3	Ginnie	179	79	0	0	218.84	30065.3755
4	USC	179	32	0	0	218.84	30065.3755
5	REMIC	158	31	0	0	193.17	26526.4209
6	US	284	31	1	0	335.52	23830.0745
7	creditor	114	30	0	0	139.37	19111.4682
8	congress	112	27	0	0	136.92	18774.4249
9	republic	110	24	0	0	134.48	18437.3816
10	admiralty	107	24	0	0	130.81	17931.8167
11	juris	98	22	0	0	119.8	16415.1218
12	securitization	88	21	0	0	107.58	14729.9053
13	treason	86	20	0	0	105.13	14392.862
14	reserved	78	19	0	0	95.35	13044.6888
15	persona	75	18	0	0	91.68	12539.1238
16	securitized	71	18	0	0	86.79	11865.0372
17	propria	69	18	0	0	84.35	11527.9939
18	sui	66	18	0	0	80.68	11022.429
19	maritime	64	16	0	0	78.24	10685.3857
20	Freddie	63	16	0	0	77.01	10516.864
21	Mac	63	16	0	0	77.01	10516.864

The vast majority of the cases sampled in the PCF corpus are mortgage foreclosure cases and the legal technical keywords highlighted in green in Table 4.37 clearly stem from that background (“Ginnie”, “REMIC”, “creditor”, “securitization”, “securitized”, “Freddie”, and “Mac”).⁶ Though the use of those terms is, generally speaking, not in line with how they might be employed in a legitimate legal text, they are at least occurring in an appropriate mortgage-related semantic context. Of more interest to this thesis are the legal technical keywords highlighted in orange which are completely out of place: “UCC”, “USC”, “US”, “Congress”, “Republic”, “Admiralty”, “treason”, and “maritime”.⁷ Of all these words, only one (“US”) appears in the LCF corpus, and even then, only once. These out of place legal technical

⁶ “Ginnie Mae” and “Freddie Mac” refer to private companies sponsored by the US federal government which securitize residential mortgages (Fleming 2014). “REMIC” stands for “Real Estate Mortgage Investment Conduit” and is one of the methods by which Ginnie Mae, Freddie Mac, and Fannie Mae (another similar company) bundle collections of mortgages for real estate investors (Freddie Mac 2019).

⁷ The role of the UCC and Admiralty/Maritime law in Sovereign Citizen pseudolegal theory was discussed in Chapter 1. “USC” refers to the United States Code, the official codification of federal statutory law (Garner 2019).

keywords generally relate to federal law or specialized legal contexts that have no place in a state level chancery court; treason, for example, would be a federal crime. This group of keywords often appears in close proximity to one another, as in the following examples (given the concentration of keywords in this and the following “excerpt” tables, lines will be presented with the relevant keywords bolded rather than in KWIC format):

Table 4.38 Groupings of legal keywords in main body text from the Pseudolegal Courtroom Filing corpus

Line	Excerpt
80	Pursuant to Title 28 USC 1333 and US Const. Article 3, §2, the Savings to Suitors clause applies to this case at bar whereby the State Court is operating under concurrent jurisdiction under Federal Common law -i.e. Admiralty/Maritime jurisdiction.
81	But in this country, for more than a century, these causes have been heard and decided by Courts of Vice Admiralty . Congress , therefore, must have considered that the words of the Constitution were used, not in the sense which they had in the laws of England, as expounded by Lord Coke, and by the common law Courts on writs of prohibition, but in the sense which they bore in the jurisprudence of our own country.

The five legal keywords highlighted in yellow (“sui”, “juris”, “propria”, and “persona” and “reserved”) are also frequently found together, as in the following signature blocks from Sovereign Citizen texts:

Table 4.39 Groupings of legal keywords in signature blocks from the Pseudolegal Courtroom Filing corpus

Line	Excerpt
82	Julian Krupin, In Propria Persona, Sui Juris UCC 1-103, UCC 1-308, UCC 3-501. ”
83	Carlous Vidal, True Defendant with correct spelling of Defendant’s name. All Rights Reserved Propria Persona

Going by the actual legal meanings of these terms, their use in the PCF corpus is generally nonsensical; admiralty law, for example, is not relevant in a state level trial court proceeding regarding non-payment of a mortgage. Given the frequency of use of these terms, it is clear that they have acquired a symbolic significance for Sovereign Citizen litigants. Each federal court has jurisdiction over an area containing multiple individual states in their entirety (United States Courts 2022); perhaps for this reason, or because federal courts are generally perceived

to handle more serious matters than state courts (an idea that is largely, if not entirely, accurate (Chemerinsky 1988)), these legal technical terms are evidence of Sovereign Citizen litigants attempting to tap into a “higher power.” If the goal of PCF texts from a magical perspective is to mystically overpower their legitimate legal opponents, then it makes a certain kind of sense that invoking words tied to a more powerful aspect of the legal system would allow them to do so.

The apparent fascination in PCF texts with the concept of being an “affiant” was noted above in Section 4.2.3, and it is made clear again here with the term’s appearance as the top legal keyword in Table 4.37. As mentioned above, an “affiant” is a person who is swearing to the truth of an affidavit, and, where the term appears in the PCF corpus it is invariably in reference to the author of the Sovereign Citizen text in question. By framing themselves as “affiants”, Sovereign Citizen litigants not only parasitically attribute a legitimate legal status to themselves but also emphasize the truth that they feel underlies their pseudolegal arguments. This status is so important in PCF texts, in fact, that it seems to override their marked preference for self-reference via the use of first-person pronouns, as seen here:

Table 4.40 Selected uses of “Affiant” in place of a first person pronoun in the Pseudolegal Courtroom Filing corpus

Line	Excerpt
84	Affiant declares there is no justification for any federal employee, federal officer or elected official of the U.S.C. to continue to make claims for a debt against the legal fiction or nom de guerre version of Affiant’s Christian name to identify Affiant , a undead, living woman, as a corporation, constructive trust, or any other artificial entity which would be contrary to this sword Affidavit.
85	Fact: That according to the documentation your affiant placed in the Affidavit of Non Abandonment, Notice of Recission of Contracts (with elements of Banking and Mortgage Fraud defined therein) QUANTUM SERVICING CORPORATION and (Pretender Lender) EQUIFIRST CORPORATION., et al; US BANK NATIONAL ASSOCIATION as Trustee for Three Charles Street REMIC Trust 2009-1, et al alleged on the first paragraph of the “Note” (which states that your affiant had already received a “Loan” at the time of signing the Promissory Note) when in fact your affiant had only received a “Promise” to receive a “Loan.”
86	Affiant does declare and affirm that Affiant has scribed and read the foregoing facts, and in accordance with the best of Affiant’s firsthand knowledge and conviction, such are true, correct, complete, and not misleading, the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth.

Interestingly, as seen in Line 85’s reference to “your affiant,” this avoidance of the first person does not do away with the tendency of PCF texts to refer to the court in the second person.

Throughout this chapter, the pseudolegal courtroom filings examined have been concerned with the social status of their authors and their treatment by the legal system. This is particularly true in terms of the legal system’s lack of recognition of their authority and, to the extent that the authors of PCF texts feel those texts are sworn statements, their honesty. Assuming that Sovereign Citizens truly feel this way, the more outré features of their texts begin to make much more sense: the similarity they seem to bear to spoken English (though this requires a fuller evaluation in a future study), the anger that regularly comes across, and their “shouting” via emphatic capitalization can all be understood as a result of Sovereign Citizen litigants feeling not just unheard, but rejected at a very personal level by the legal system.

4.3.3 Lexical Bundles in Legitimate and Pseudolegal Courtroom Filings

Some instances of legal technical terminology will not be captured by a keyword or lockword analysis because the relevant terminology is described by a multi-word sequence (e.g. legal Latin phrases such as “res ipsa loquitur” or references to specific legal entities like the Seventh

Circuit Court of Appeals). This section aims to fill in those potential gaps in the earlier analysis by examining the most common multi-word sequences in each corpus. As discussed in Chapter 3, this analysis will follow a lexical bundle approach and focus on sequences of four or more words with a dispersion rate of at least 20%. Consistent with prior work on lexical bundles (e.g. Chen and Baker 2010, p.33; Ädel and Erman 2012, p.82), results which were overly context-dependent (so-called “content bundles”) have been excluded, and all occurrences of each bundle were manually reviewed to remove instances of overlap between lexical bundles of different lengths.

Eight lexical bundles of four or more words occur in at least 20% of the texts in the LCF corpus, with one lexical bundle consisting of six words and the rest of four. As for the PCF corpus, six lexical bundles of four or more words occur in at least 20% of the relevant texts. The longest of these PCF bundles consists of twelve words, with the remainder consisting of six or fewer. These most common lexical bundles, as well as their raw frequencies and range throughout the LCF and PCF corpora, are given here in Table 4.41 and Table 4.42 (“Range” indicates the number of discrete texts in which a given lexical bundle occurs):

Table 4.41 Lexical Bundles of four or more words appearing in at least 20% of texts in the Legitimate Courtroom Filing corpus

Length	Lexical Bundle	Frequency	Range
6	the illinois code of civil procedure	37	30
4	code of civil procedure	30	30
	a copy of the	99	43
	attached hereto as exhibit	121	42
	as a result of	76	36
	by and through its	31	30
	by and through their	35	29
	other and further relief	38	28

Table 4.42 Lexical bundles of four or more words appearing in at least 20% of texts in the Pseudolegal Courtroom Filing corpus

Length	Lexical Bundle	Total	Range
12	in the circuit court of cook county illinois county department chancery divison	71	64
6	of the united states of america	77	57
5	laws of the united states	72	51
4	of the united states	160	62
	under penalty of perjury	68	55
	the laws of the	65	50

Three of the lexical bundles in Table 4.41 involve legal doublets, a feature of legal English not otherwise observed in this Chapter: two bundles include the phrase “by and through” and one includes “other and further.” These doublets generally occur in the more formally structured portions of the main body of LCF texts, as in Lines 87 and 88, which are the first and last sentences, respectively, of the texts in which they appear:

Table 4.43 Selected KWIC lines showing legal doublets in the Legitimate Courtroom Filing corpus

Line	N-	N	N+
87	Plaintiff, People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals, Inc. (“PETA”),	by and through	its attorneys, respectfully submits this Response in Opposition to Defendant’s 735 ILCS 5/2-619(a)(9) Motion to Dismiss
88	WHEREFORE, Plaintiffs respectfully request this Court continue the trial for two weeks to allow the completion of Discovery and trial preparation, and for such	other and further	relief as this court deems just.

Perhaps surprisingly given the seeming ubiquity of these paired phrases in the popular imagining of legal language (see, e.g., the advertising example in Heffer (2005, pp.10–11)) there are no similar paired phrases found in the PCF bundles in Table 4.42. Consistent with prior research on lexical bundles, the LCF bundles are generally non-phrasal, with the exception of “other and further relief,” “code of civil procedure,” and “the Illinois code of civil procedure.” While those latter two bundles do not overlap, every instance of the bundle “code of civil procedure” in the LCF corpus is, based on a review of the relevant KWIC lines, clearly referring to the Illinois code (generally via citation), as seen in the following Lines:

Table 4.44 Selected KWIC lines showing “Code of Civil Procedure” referring to the Illinois Code of Civil Procedure in the Legitimate Courtroom Filing corpus

Line	N-	N	N+
89	However, “Section 2-608 of the	Code of Civil Procedure	abolishes the defense of recoupment and requires recoupment to be considered a counterclaim.” Cox v. Doctor’s Associates, 245 Ill.App.3d 186, 199 (5th Dist. 1993)
90	Section 2-801(1) of the	Code of Civil Procedure,	the so called “numerosity requirement,” necessitates that the Class be “so numerous that joinder of all members is impracticable.” 735 ILCS 5/2-801(1).

That the provenance of authority upon which LCF texts are drawing is thought to be so obvious it largely goes unstated; this is yet another example of the sorts of fundamental assumptions that underlie the LCF corpus that are not shared by the PCF corpus (as evidenced by its frequent invocations of federal and admiralty law, for example).

The twelve-word bundle in Table 4.42 is a phrase required by the court in which these texts were filed. It forms part of the “caption,” a feature discussed in depth in the following chapter and so will be left to the side here (for the reasons discussed in Chapter 3, this phrase was not considered when looking at the texts of the LCF corpus but should be understood to be present in essentially all of them). Three of the six bundles most common to the PCF corpus involve the words “United States” which is, jurisdictionally speaking, not relevant. In contrast to the LCF bundles, only one PCF bundle is non-phrasal: “The laws of the.” While a few of those refer to the laws of the state of Illinois (and two refer to the laws of the states of Michigan and California, respectively) the vast majority of the occurrences of that bundle are clearly referring to federal, rather than state law, making this yet another instance of PCF texts attempting to engage with higher legal powers than the state court system in which these texts were filed.

4.4 Prototype Analysis

Prototypicality analysis aims to identify the texts which best represent in themselves the qualities of the corpora to which they belong. This section examines the most prototypical text of both the LCF and the PCF corpus according to their use of legal technical terminology. Prototypicality was determined using ProtAnt (Anthony and Baker 2017), which ranks the individual texts in a corpus according to the number of keywords each contains (Anthony and

Baker 2015, p.278) (see the discussion in Chapter 3 for more). Because this chapter is focused on distinguishing the specifically legal aspects of the LCF and PCF corpora, the legal keywords of each were used to rank their individual texts. As discussed in Section 4.3.2, keywords for the LCF corpus were determined by using the PCF corpus as the reference corpus and vice versa. Though the prototype documents examined below were selected based upon the legal keywords they contain, the analysis considers the range of “consensus” features of legal English discussed throughout this chapter.

4.4.1 Legitimate Courtroom Filing Legal English Prototype

The prototype LCF text comes from a lawsuit filed against the City of Chicago alleging that the City had been illegally assessing fees against impounded cars. According to its opening sentence, the text aims to persuade the court “to stay discovery pending resolution of the Defendant’s Section 2-619.1 Motion to Dismiss”. The prototype text spans five pages and is divided into three main sections: the caption, the main body, and the signature block. Because of the focus of this chapter, only the contents of the main body will be discussed in this section; captions and signature blocks in the LCF and PCF corpora are discussed in depth in the following chapter. The entirety of the LCF prototype text is included as Appendix 4.1 and its second page, containing only main body text, follows as Figure 4.2:

all administrative penalties paid to the City since 2012, as well as a refund of all proceeds the City has obtained from the sale of impounded vehicles. *Id.* ¶¶ 4, 155-57.

3. On January 19, 2018, the City was served with Plaintiffs' request to produce documents ("RFPs"). See Plaintiffs' First Set of Requests For Production Of Documents, attached hereto as Exhibit A. Plaintiffs request that the City produce three broad categories of documents concerning the Statewide Relocation Towing Licensure Commission ("Commission"), which is not directly related to any of Plaintiffs' claims and is potentially relevant to a small portion of the Complaint. Plaintiffs seek documents responsive to the RFPs from all Commission committee members, including the Mayor of Chicago and/or his designees (see Exhibit A at 5), as well as Commission documents sent or received by the Governor and all members of the Illinois General Assembly (see RFP 3, Exhibit A). Under Supreme Court Rule 214, the City's response is due February 16, 2018.

4. The City asks that discovery be stayed because the City filed a Section 2-619.1 Motion to Dismiss the Complaint in its entirety on January 8, 2018. The Motion to Dismiss asks the Court to enter judgment for the City because, even taking the allegations in the Complaint as true, Plaintiffs' claims fail as a matter of law.

5. Furthermore, at the January 26, 2018 court hearing between the parties, Plaintiffs' counsel indicated that she may request leave to file an Amended Complaint. In a phone call with Plaintiffs' counsel on February 13, 2018, Mr. Hughes confirmed that he will be seeking leave on behalf of Plaintiffs to file an Amended Complaint on February 21, 2018, the parties' next court date.

6. Under Rule 201(c)(1), the Court may "make a protective order as justice requires, denying, limiting, conditioning, or regulating discovery to prevent unreasonable annoyance,

Figure 4.2 Second page from the legitimate courtroom filing legal English prototype

The discussion in this chapter has noted three primary tones in the texts of the LCF corpus: seeming detachment towards the author's desired outcome, dismissiveness towards the opposing party, and deference towards the court. All three are present in Figure 4.2:

Table 4.45 Examples of tonal variation in the legitimate courtroom filing prototype text

Line	Excerpt
91	The City asks that discovery be stayed because the City filed a Section 2-619.1 Motion to Dismiss the Complaint in its entirety on January 8, 2018.
92	The Motion to Dismiss asks the Court to enter judgment for the City because, even taking the allegations in the Complaint as true, Plaintiffs' claims fail as a matter of law.
93	Under Rule 201(c)(1), the Court may "make a protective order as justice requires, denying, limiting, conditioning or regulating discovery..."

Line 91 straightforwardly presents the text's desired outcome. Line 92 is harshly critical of the opposing side, alleging that even if everything the Plaintiff says is true, they are legally incorrect ("even taking the allegations ... as true ... [they] fail as a matter of law"). Line 93 then deferentially emphasizes the extent of the court's discretion in the matter, saying that the court "may" make the desired order, rather than that the court "should" or "must" do so. Though LCF texts belong to a "persuasive" legal genre (Tiersma 1999, pp.139–141), they appear structured to be as subtle in their persuasion as possible. This is in line with what Solan (1993, p.2) has previously noted about judicial writing: LCF texts are written in such a way as to present their desired outcomes as inevitable.

References to appropriate sources of legal authority (i.e. state laws and relevant caselaw) can be found throughout the prototype text and the presentation of information in the document is clearly organized into numbered paragraphs. While a few words stand out as markedly more formal than what might be expected of standard English ("wherefore," for example, appears on the prototype's fourth page), the text is overall accessibly presented and in line with what the analysis elsewhere in this chapter has identified as the characteristics typical of the texts in the LCF corpus (there are no first- or second-person pronouns present, for example). Three of the top LCF legal keywords from Table 4.35 are present ("refund," "municipalities," and "putative"), as are eleven of the top legal lockwords listed in Table 4.30 ("granted", "pursuant", "order", "reasons", "pending", "street", "inc", "will", "may", "authority", and "sale"). Especially when compared to the PCF prototype text discussed below (and the pseudolegal courtroom filings reviewed in the following chapter), this LCF prototype is notable for its general lack of graphic elements or methods of visual emphasis: other than

the two italicized words in Figure 4.2 (“*Id.*” and “*see*”, both as part of citations) there are no deviations from the overall format of the body text, nor is there a header or footer of any kind present. Given all of the above, this LCF text appears to be an appropriate prototype for the corpus, as well as a good point of comparison for the prototype PCF text discussed in the following section.

4.4.2 Pseudolegal Courtroom Filing Legal English Prototype

The prototype PCF text appears to come from a mortgage foreclosure case. Though it is only one page long, this prototype manages to display an impressive array of distinctly Sovereign Citizen features. As with the LCF prototype, the PCF prototype can be divided into the caption, main body, and the signature block. Because of the focus of this chapter, the contents of the main body of the prototype text are of primary concern in this section. The entirety of the PCF prototype text is included as Appendix 4.2 and below in anonymized form as Figure 4.3:

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY
ILLINOIS, CHANCERY DIVISION

FILED-1
SEP 29 PM 12:36
CLERK
DOROTHY BROWN
Case No. [REDACTED]

WELLS FARGO
Plaintiff

v.

COOMBS PEDRO, et al
Defendant

Judge Presiding

SPECIAL APPEARANCE

COME NOW, Isadora Edna [Atwater], the True Heir/Owner in Possession for the land in question being described as 1234 South Wallace in Chicago Illinois Republic. Isadora Edna [Atwater] is filing in this case in order to destroy the contract on the real property. Isadora Edna [Atwater]/Heir/Owner in Possession is standing *in propria persona suri juris* and has standing in this matter.

Autograph By: Isadora Edna Atwater
Authorized Representative UCC 1-308

Isadora Edna [Atwater]
1234 South Wallace
Non-Domestic
Chicago, Illinois Republic [60609]
Real Land North America
(312) 555-5555

Figure 4.3 Pseudolegal courtroom filing legal English prototype

The prototype PCF text refers to itself as a “Special Appearance,” a legitimate legal term for a defendant’s attending court for the sole purpose of contesting that court’s jurisdiction over them (Garner 2019). Though a special appearance is an actual legal concept, the author of

this PCF text would have not have been able to make such an appearance, as courts in Illinois have not used the term since the year 2000 (Illinois General Assembly 2022c).⁸ Nevertheless, there is an undeniable thematic resonance between a Sovereign Citizen attempting to make a special appearance and the previously noted generally jurisdictional nature of Sovereign Citizen pseudolegal theory. The text’s positioning of its author as the “True Heir” to the property relevant to the case, as well as their only claim to authority being that they are “standing *in propria persona suri juris*” (emphasis and typo in the original), do not align with what would be expected of an LCF text. These statements are, however, in line with the previously identified importance that individual Sovereign Citizens appear to place on their status as truth tellers and supposed supreme legal authority (relatedly, the text also describes its author as an “Authorized Representative”, though of whom or what is unclear; it is unlikely to be a reference to the term as used in Bourdieu (1991a)). Also of note is the consistent use of brackets around the author’s surname, which appears to be a variation on the “first-middle:last” naming format, as well as the talismanic reference to the UCC below the signature line and the stated desire to “destroy the contract” on the relevant property. This last phrase at once indicates the open disdain that Sovereign Citizens often possess towards the legitimate legal system while simultaneously betraying their lack of competence with the LCF genre and legal English more generally; the word “destroy” never occurs in the LCF corpus.

Though the main body of the PCF prototype text in Figure 4.3 is only three sentences long, it contains more emphasized text than is found in the full page of LCF body text in Figure 4.2. Not only is the author’s surname consistently visually set apart via the use of brackets, but (ignoring the typo) the phrase including the PCF legal keywords of “*propria persona sui juris*” is both bolded and italicized. As has been suggested throughout this chapter, it seems that the clearest way to differentiate PCF texts from LCF texts is via the amount of emphasis present, both visually and rhetorically. The following chapter will explore the visual emphasis present in the LCF and PCF corpora in much greater depth.

4.5 Conclusion

This chapter has examined the presence and use of a series of written linguistic features that have been said to characterize legal English in the LCF and PCF corpora. As discussed in Chapter 2, not all genres which make use of a register will necessarily display the full range of

⁸ The same procedural maneuver is still possible, it simply takes place under the auspices of a standard appearance; see 735 ILCS 5/2-301 and *BAC Home Loans Servicing, LP v. Mitchell*, 2014 IL 116311, ¶¶ 30-31.

its characteristic features; nor, where they are present, will they necessarily display them with the same frequency. With that said, for the features examined in this chapter, the “consensus” description has broadly held true: statistically speaking, when compared to COCA-W, passive constructions, nominalizations, and negation (when removing the markedly informal “n’t” from consideration) can be said to be significantly more frequent in the LCF corpus, and pronouns significantly less frequent. For their part, texts in the PCF corpus do a largely effective job at imitating their legitimate legal counterparts: there is no statistically significant difference between the two corpora in their frequency of negation (with or without considering n’t), passive constructions, or nominalizations. There is, however, a difference in their use of pronouns, with the PCF corpus using them, particularly first and second person pronouns, significantly more frequently than the LCF corpus. For both sets of comparisons (i.e. the LCF corpus as compared to COCA-W and the LCF corpus as compared to the PCF corpus) there were individual categories within those larger ones that went against what the consensus description of legal English expects, suggesting that while the consensus description may not be wrong, broadly speaking, further study should be undertaken into the nature of legal English before such generalizations can be reasonably relied upon (saying nothing of how the presence and use of these features may vary in other legal and pseudolegal genres).

Across all observed features in this chapter, the language of the texts in the LCF corpus was found to be relatively objective in tone and concerned with the facts and law most relevant to the case at hand. The authors of those texts were not narratively present, with the focus instead on the plight of their clients and the remedies requested of the court. Despite their high-level similarities, the texts comprising the PCF corpus were found to be markedly different in both tone and content. Though this thesis is not equipped to evaluate this claim in any depth, a number of features for which there was a significant difference in frequency between the LCF and PCF corpora aligned the PCF corpus more with spoken than written English; this suggests a potentially fruitful area for future study. Particularly when this seemingly spoken character is considered alongside the frequent centering of the author of individual PCF texts (e.g. via the more frequent use of first person pronouns) and their tendency to directly address both the judge and the opposing party with second person pronouns, many Sovereign Citizen texts (though not the quantum grammar texts examined) seem almost conversational in tone. Even where PCF texts use features of legal English at a rate consistent with the texts of the LCF corpus, their focus in doing so is almost invariably on emphasizing the claimed power and authority of their Sovereign Citizen authors and on demonstrating the perceived corruption and inadequacies of the legal system than it was with addressing any of the facts relevant to the

individual cases. Particularly given the tendency of PCF texts to invoke the US Constitution and irrelevant federal laws instead of Illinois state laws, PCF texts do in fact seem to be treating the aspects of the register of legal English as the sorts of magic “words of power” discussed in Chapter 2.

This chapter has been primarily concerned with the literal words used in the LCF and PCF corpora. Given the fame (or perhaps infamy) of PCF texts for their distinctive use of a variety of images and other graphic elements, the picture this thesis has so far presented of the relationship between these two genres is therefore incomplete. The following chapter examines the use of images and textual emphasis in the LCF and PCF corpora and how they relate to both the findings in this chapter and questions of language and law more generally.

5. Multimodality in Legitimate and Pseudolegal Courtroom Filings

5.1 Introduction

The previous chapter examined the use of legal English in the written contents of the legitimate courtroom filing (“LCF”) and pseudolegal courtroom filing (“PCF”) corpora; this chapter turns to their multimodal content via an examination of their use of textual emphasis and images. Chapter 4 suggested that the areas in which LCF and PCF texts most notably differ can be explained as some combination of a lack of genre competence on the part of the authors of PCF texts and as a heightening of those features which Sovereign Citizens view as most emblematic of legal authority. Lay users of legal English often betray their lack of genre competence by focusing on features which are popularly, though not actually (or only rarely), associated with the relevant legal context (Heffer 2005, pp.10–11). The more dissimilar a given feature of a PCF text is from those which would be expected to occur in an LCF text, then, the less likely it seems to be that the feature reflects a lack of genre competence, and the more likely it is that it is instead an example of magical heightening. The use of “the below signed” instead of “the undersigned” in PCF texts discussed in the previous chapter likely reflects a lack of genre competence, for example, while the use of emphatic capitalization can be better understood as an attempt to lend additional magical force to a text. Many of the most remarked upon features of PCF texts, such as the use of thumbprints and postage stamps (Southern Poverty Law Center 2010; Anti-Defamation League 2016), are both visual in nature and have no clear legal analogues. The analysis in this chapter therefore engages extensively with the magical nature of PCF texts. By identifying these features in the multimodal contents of the two corpora, this chapter seeks to explore the ways in which features other than the literal words used contribute to the legal character of LCF texts and the ways in which PCF texts use those features for their own parasitic purposes. This chapter addresses this study’s second research question (“How do the multimodal contents of legitimate courtroom filings and pseudolegal courtroom filings compare?”) as well as continuing the discussion of its third (“What does the relationship between legitimate courtroom filings and pseudolegal courtroom filings reveal about the operation of ‘parasitic’ genres?”).

The chapter opens with a review of the methodological considerations unique to this portion of the analysis in Section 5.2. It then begins the analysis proper by discussing the overall

design choices which characterize LCF and PCF texts in Section 5.3. Section 5.4 looks at the ways that texts in the two corpora emphasize written text and Section 5.5 turns to the use of individual graphic features such as stamps and seals. Section 5.6 concludes the chapter by analyzing a text from each corpus chosen for the prototypicality of their multimodal contents.

5.2 Chapter-Specific Methodological Concerns

For the purposes of this chapter, the basic unit of analysis is the page, considered holistically (Ding 2000, p.34). All pages in both the LCF and PCF corpora are vertically oriented and “linear”, meaning that they are clearly intended to be read in a certain order (i.e. from top to bottom and from left to right without skipping any lines) (Kress and van Leeuwen 2006, p.204). Though it is not possible to verify without access to the original hard copies of the texts examined (see Chapter 3), every page in the LCF corpus as well as the vast majority of pages in the PCF corpus appear to be printed on US letter size paper (i.e. 8.5 inches by 11 inches).

The various features examined in this chapter have been broken down into two overarching categories: instances of textual emphasis, such as the use of bolding, italics, and underlining, and images, such as the inclusion of illustrations or photographs. Instances of textual emphasis were identified based upon their deviation from the predominant design choices of the text in which they appeared (see the discussion in Section 5.3). Features were counted at the page level, meaning, for example, that a list which spans multiple pages is counted separately on each individual page on which it appears. Textual emphasis features which were used continuously across multiple lines of text on the same page were counted as a single feature. It was possible for a single feature to be labeled in multiple different ways (e.g. as both bolded text and as an instance of variant spacing). Court filing stamps and other features which could only have been added after the authors of the LCF or PCF texts submitted them to the court were not considered. As in Chapter 4, a bolded and shaded value in a table’s “ χ^2 ” column indicates that, with a p-value < 0.01, a chi-square test found a statistically significant difference in the frequency of the relevant feature between the LCF and PCF corpora, while a dash in a “ χ^2 ” column indicates that there was not a high enough overall frequency to test for significance. Throughout this chapter, feature counts have been normalized to reflect their expected occurrences per 100 pages.

Although Sovereign Citizens have been previously described as making use of different colors of ink in their documents (Anti-Defamation League 2016), this was not possible to examine because the majority of the texts in the LCF and PCF corpora were received as

greyscale .pdf scans of the original physical documents. For similar reasons, it was also not possible to determine the specific fonts or font sizes used in the LCF and PCF corpora; related discussion is therefore limited to the font families used (i.e. serif, monotype, etc.) and instances in which the font size used in a document changes within a single page. As discussed in Section 3.6, though the full contents of the LCF and PCF corpora are all part of the public record and therefore freely obtainable by anyone, personal names and information have been anonymized in the excerpts in this Chapter except where such anonymization would unavoidably interfere with the analysis (e.g. a handwritten signature in a PCF text overlapping with a postage stamp).

5.3 Overall Design of Legitimate and Pseudolegal Courtroom Filings

Before examining the ways in which written text is emphasized or images are used in the LCF and PCF corpora, it is necessary to determine the overall design choices which most commonly characterize texts in these two genres. These text-wide features form the foundation upon which every other element examined in this chapter rests, and therefore provide a natural starting point from which to examine the parasitic generic efforts of pseudolegal courtroom filings. Section 5.3.1 looks at the interlinear spacing, text alignment, and font family choices which most strongly characterize LCF and PCF texts. Section 5.3.2 then examines the structure of the opening pages in the two corpora with a particular focus on legal captions.

5.3.1 Typical Spacing, Alignment, and Font Families

Even though all texts in the LCF and PCF corpora are linear and primarily text-based, there are still a number of choices that must be made in their creation. At the whole-text level, these choices largely manifest in a document's predominant use of interlinear spacing, text alignment, and font family. To compare these features across LCF and PCF texts, every text in the two corpora was annotated according to its primary (i.e. most common relative to the rest of the document) choice in each of the three categories. Features were noted at the whole text level rather than at the individual page level to avoid large block quotes or other specially emphasized portions of text on a single page affecting the results; these and other such emphatic features are discussed later in this chapter.

The overall design choices made in the LCF and PCF corpora are given in Table 5.1, with the most common choice in each category highlighted in green:

Table 5.1 *Predominant design choices in the Legitimate and Pseudolegal Courtroom Filing corpora. Features highlighted in green are the most frequent in their category.*

	LCF (138 Texts)		PCF (250 Texts)		
Spacing	Total	Percent	Total	Percent	χ^2
Single	28	20.3	145	58	49.663
1.5	10	7.2	33	13.2	2.6227
Double	100	72.5	72	28.8	66.935
Alignment	Total	Percent	Total	Percent	χ^2
Justified	81	58.7	96	38.4	13.957
Left	57	41.3	154	61.6	13.957
Font Family	Total	Percent	Total	Percent	χ^2
Serif	133	96.4	194	77.6	22.264
Sans-Serif	2	1.4	39	15.6	17.373
Monospace	2	1.4	7	2.8	-
Handwritten	1	0.7	10	4	-

Based on the most prevalent choices in each category, the average LCF text is likely to be written in a serif font that has been justified and double spaced, while the average PCF text is likely to be written in a serif font that has been left-aligned and single spaced. As compared to PCF texts, LCF texts are statistically significantly more likely to be double spaced, while PCF texts are significantly more likely to be single spaced. The contents of LCF texts are significantly more likely to be justified than PCF texts, whereas the contents of PCF texts are significantly more likely to be left-aligned. Though LCF and PCF texts are both most likely written in a serif font, a significantly higher proportion of PCF texts than LCF texts are written in a sans-serif font. There are examples of texts being either primarily handwritten or written in a monospace font in both corpora, but in neither case were there enough to test for significance.

Pages containing the predominant choices made in terms of spacing, text alignment, and font family in the LCF and PCF corpora follow as Figure 5.1 and Figure 5.2, respectively:

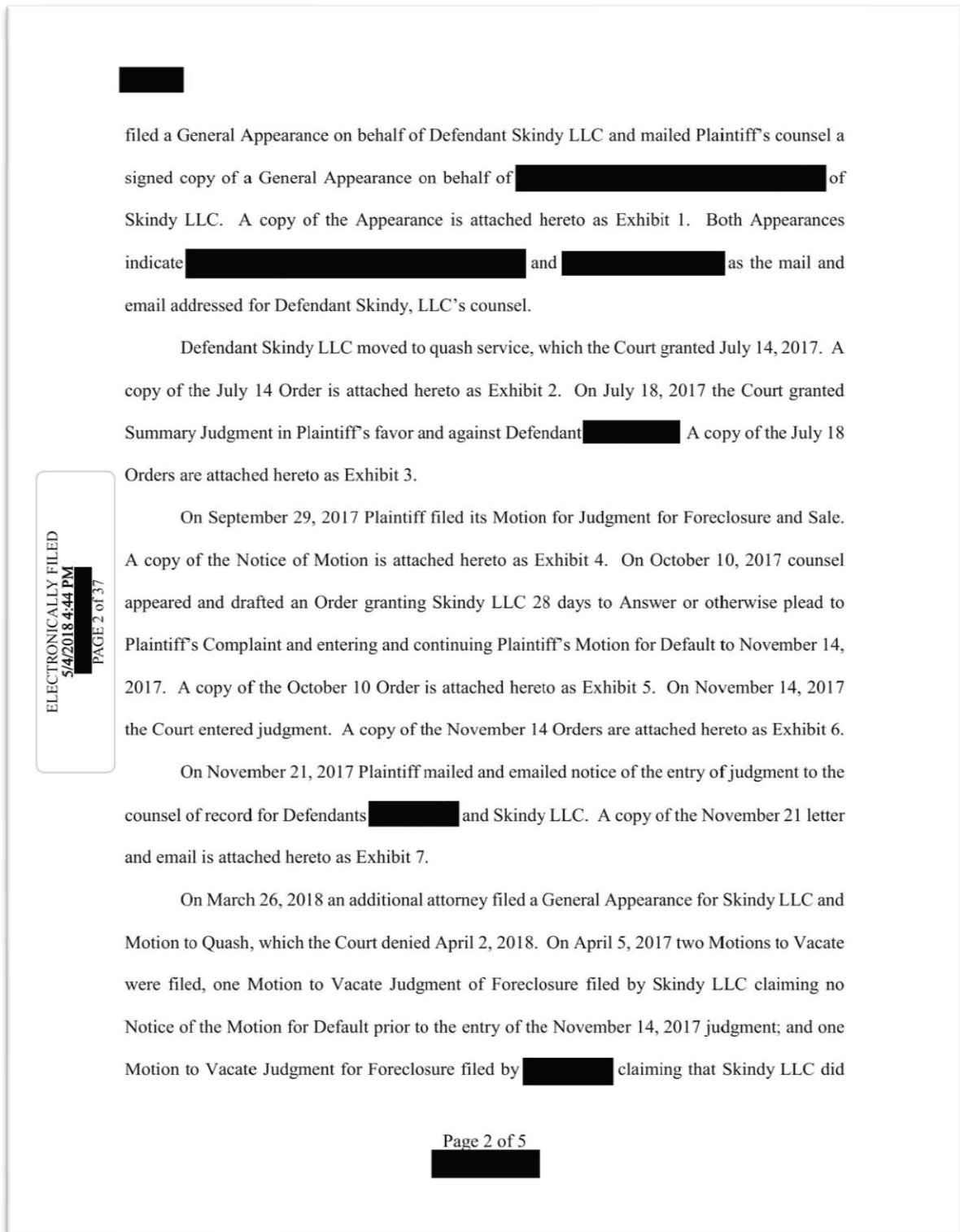


Figure 5.1 Page displaying the predominant methods of interlinear spacing, text alignment, and font choice of the Legitimate Courtroom Filing corpus

expedient or appropriate, and to buy any real property or interest in land for such sum or sums of money and upon such terms and conditions as my Attorney-in-Fact shall deem fit, and to manage any such lands, and to manage, repair, alter, rebuild, or reconstruct, any buildings, houses, or other structures, or any part, or parts, thereof, that may now, or hereafter, be erected upon any such land;

5. To apply for a Certificate of Title upon, and endorse and transfer title thereto, for any automobile, truck, pickup, van, motorcycle or other motor vehicle, and to represent in such transfer assignment that the title to said motor vehicle is free and clear of all liens and encumbrances except those specifically set forth in such transfer assignment;

6. To procure, change, carry or cancel insurance against any and all risks affecting property or persons against liability, damage or claims of any sort;

7. To demand, sue for, collect, recover and receive all goods, claims, debts, monies, interests, dividends, annuities, property (both real and personal) payments, legacies, bequests, devises, wares, merchandise, chattels, effects, things, and demands whatsoever now or shall hereafter become due, owing or belonging to me (including the right to institute any action, suit or legal proceedings, for the recovery of any land, buildings, tenements, or other structures, or any part, or parts, thereof, to the possession whereof I may be entitled), to have and take all means for the recovery thereof, by attachments, distress, replevin, garnishment, action at law, suits in equity, or otherwise, and to compromise and agree for the same, and to make, execute and deliver receipts, releases, acquittances or other sufficient discharges therefore, under seal, or otherwise, and to sue and to settle suits of any kind in my name or on my behalf;

8. To make, execute, endorse, accept and deliver any and all bills of exchange, bonds, checks, drafts, notes and trade acceptances;

9. To have access at any time or times to any safe deposit box rented by me, wheresoever located, and to remove all or any part of the contents thereof, and to surrender or relinquish said safe deposit box, and any institution in which any such safe deposit box may be located shall not incur any liability to me or my estate as a result of permitting my Agent to exercise this power;

10. To pay all sums of money, at any time or times, that may hereafter be owing by me upon any bill of exchange, check, draft, note or trade acceptance, made, executed, endorsed, and delivered by me, or for me, and in my name, by my said Attorney-in-Fact;

11. To sign, seal, execute, deliver, and acknowledge deeds, leases, and assignments of leases, covenants, indentures, agreements, contracts, assignments, mortgages, satisfactions of mortgages, releases, hypothecations, bills, bonds, options, notes, receipts, evidence of debt and such other instruments in writing of whatever kind or nature;

12. To receive and deposit any monies, checks, drafts, instruments, or other property which may come into the possession of my Attorney-in-Fact with any bank, broker, trust

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Figure 5.2 Page displaying the predominant methods of interlinear spacing, text alignment, and font choice of the Pseudolegal Courtroom Filing corpus

In terms of overall design, the above are distinguished by their differences in interlinear spacing and in text alignment. In terms of interlinear spacing, the less space there is between the lines

on a page, the more “cramped [and] overcrowded” it can feel (van Leeuwen 2006, p.148). While that may not be desirable in most contexts, it can be seen as serving the magic purposes of the PCF corpus: the double spacing between lines on the typical LCF page essentially gives the reader more “room to breathe” and consider what is being said (van Leeuwen 2006, p.148), while the single spacing of the PCF page trends more towards the overwhelming, and can be read as an attempt to increase its concentration of legal authority. A similar trend can be seen in the predominant text alignment choices of the two corpora. The LCF corpus’ preference for justified text, which is in line with the standard practice of professional typesetters, imbues its texts with a smoother, more balanced quality, while the PCF corpus’ preference for left alignment results in a sharper, more jagged character (Bringhurst 2019, pp.191–192). In both cases, the typical LCF page is neatly and accessibly presenting its contents, whereas the PCF page seems instead to be more akin to a poorly formatted set of terms and conditions (see Milne and Culnan 2004, pp.23–24; Steinfeld 2016, p.993) which have been structured to intimidate a reader into unthinkingly accepting its authority.

Much typographic literature and many prominent style guides (e.g. American Psychological Association 2020) have long recommended the use of serif fonts such as Times New Roman over sans serif fonts such as Helvetica with the belief that serif fonts are more easily readable. Though modern experimental data has shown little to no difference in the actual legibility of the two font varieties (Arditi and Cho 2005; Perea 2013), this remains a widely accepted design principle. *The Bluebook*, the primary style guide for American legal citation, says that “choice of font may vary” in legal writing but does not include a sans serif font among its examples, instead listing only Times New Roman and the monospace font Courier (Harvard Law Review Association 2015, p.67). Though *The Bluebook* largely sets the standard in American legal writing, its recommendations are non-binding; individual courts have the authority to issue their own rules regarding required formatting for documents submitted to them, and many have, though not necessarily comprehensively. The Circuit Court of Cook County, for example, which is the court in which all texts in the LCF and PCF corpora were filed, requires a minimum font size of 12 points for body text and 10 points for footnotes, but makes no recommendations as to the use of specific fonts (Circuit Court of Cook County 2014). In contrast to *The Bluebook*, the style guide for the United States Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit (a federal court which includes in its jurisdiction the geographic area covered at the state level by the Circuit Court of Cook County) specifically recommends against, though does not outright forbid, the use of Times New Roman or of monospaced fonts

such as *Courier*, singling out the latter font family in particular as being a relic of an era when legal briefs were still written on typewriters (Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals 2002, p.4).¹ The Seventh Circuit suggests instead that “[any font] with the word ‘book’ in its name is likely to be good for legal work”, justifying that recommendation by claiming that, as these fonts are likely to have been designed for professional publishing, they would therefore also be suitable for legal writing (Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals 2002, pp.4–5). The list of fonts provided by the Seventh Circuit as examples of appropriate options are all serif fonts (Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals 2002, pp.4–5).

Whether motivated by empirical data or not, both general principles of document design and style guides written for legal contexts display a clear preference for serif fonts over sans serif or monospace alternatives. As seen in Figure 5.1 and Figure 5.2, this preference is reflected in the design of both the typical LCF and PCF pages. At the same time, Table 5.1 indicates there is a statistically significant difference in the use of serif fonts between the texts of the LCF and PCF corpora, with that difference stemming almost entirely from the much more frequent (and similarly statistically significant) use of sans serif fonts in PCF texts. As with the typical spacing and alignment choices discussed above, and inasmuch as there is any truth to the common belief that sans serif fonts are more difficult for readers, here again the PCF texts trend towards being less accessible than LCF texts.

While PCF texts are fundamentally magic texts (see Section 2.6.2), it is important not to be too eager to read every instance in which they differ from LCF texts as the magical heightening of LCF features. This is particularly true where there is a simpler and therefore, per Occam’s razor, more likely explanation. Though the general tendency towards accessibility in the overall design of LCF texts and the opposite trend in PCF texts is noteworthy to the extent that it helps highlight a difference in the priorities of the two corpora, the differences observed so far in this section ultimately seem unlikely to have resulted from active decisions by the authors of PCF texts. This is because every category in Table 5.1 in which PCF texts use a given overall design feature significantly more than LCF texts (i.e. single spacing, left alignment, and sans serif fonts) aligns with the current default document settings for both Microsoft Word and Google Docs. Given the popularity of Microsoft Office and Google’s G Suite in the United States (Vailshery 2022), it seems safe to assume that many, if not all, of the

¹ The Illinois Supreme Court goes in an opposite direction and requires all judicial opinions to be written “with 12-point, Times New Roman font, with a justified text alignment” (Supreme Court, State of Illinois and Reporter of Decisions, State of Illinois 2017, p.31). Though not directly binding on the sorts of courtroom filings examined in this thesis, such a recommendation would be noted and taken very seriously by lawyers throughout the State.

texts in the LCF and PCF corpora were prepared in one of these two programs and that the authors of a substantial portion of those texts simply did not make any changes from the default settings. It is ultimately not possible, however, to definitively determine the exact methods by which these texts were produced (though at very least the frequent use of textual emphasis and graphic features in both the LCF and PCF corpora makes non-computer-based methods of production such as via typewriter unlikely), or whether the choices which align with the default software settings were actively chosen or simply not considered.

The remaining overall design choices made in the LCF and PCF corpora occur relatively infrequently and, where it is possible to calculate, without any statistically significant difference in their frequencies of use. They merit at least some additional thought, however, because their appearance cannot be explained by pointing to either the standard generic practice of LCF texts or to default software settings. As a result, of all the overall design and layout choices in the LCF and PCF corpora, these are the ones which seem most likely to have been consciously selected by the authors of the texts in which they appear. Texts which are primarily written by hand or in a monospace font are so infrequent in both the LCF and PCF corpora that they are not useful for drawing any sort of broad conclusion about either genre. Texts which use 1.5 spacing, however, are more common and merit further consideration.

It is difficult to identify an overarching reason for the use of 1.5 spacing in either of the LCF or PCF corpora. The only common factor in the documents which predominantly use 1.5 spacing seems to be a trend towards shorter texts: 8 of the 10 LCF texts to use 1.5 spacing had fewer pages than the average LCF text, as did 21 of the 33 PCF texts to use 1.5 spacing. Given that 72.5% of LCF texts are double spaced, it is unsurprising that a smaller degree of interlinear spacing would result in fewer pages overall; with everything else being equal, it follows naturally that less space between lines would result in shorter page counts. The opposite is true, however, of PCF texts: because 58% of the PCF corpus is single spaced, this leads to the somewhat counterintuitive result that texts with greater-than-average amounts of space between their lines tend to be shorter overall (i.e. the average length of a text which primarily used 1.5 spacing was actually shorter than the average length of a text which primarily used single spacing). Given that it does not appear to be a software default setting, the authors of these 1.5 spaced texts likely made an active choice for them to be that way (perhaps feeling that their documents were too short when single spaced), meaning that they likely reflect a greater awareness of the potential impact of overall design decisions than was possessed by the authors of the software default texts mentioned above.

As has been discussed at length, PCF texts are fundamentally magic documents created in order to “overpower” the legitimate legal system. They do this by taking the form of LCF texts as a starting point and heightening what are, from the Sovereign Citizen point of view, the most authoritatively salient features. Even if a given feature was not actively considered by Sovereign Citizen authors while writing (as the overall design features discussed in this section seem unlikely to have been), this process suffuses every aspect of PCF texts, including their interlinear spacing, text alignment, and font. This is because PCF texts are ultimately more concerned with the aesthetics of authority than with any sort of cogent legal argumentation. In that sense, every individual choice made in a PCF text matters because it contributes to that text’s overall semiotic significance; single spaced text, as mentioned above, can at once be the result of an author not changing the default settings in Microsoft Word at the same time that it also enhances the literal concentration of supposedly authoritative legal content on a page. And even if the authoritative contribution of these overall design factors is minimal relative to clearer instances of Sovereign Citizen magical heightening, because they form the baseline from which all instances of textual emphasis are measured, identifying these choices is literally fundamental to coming to an understanding of the PCF genre and its parasitic relationship to the LCF genre. The following subsection continues this discussion with an examination of captions and the opening pages of LCF and PCF texts.

5.3.2 Captions and Opening Pages

There is almost no variation in the layout of the opening pages of LCF texts. 137 of the 138 texts in the LCF corpus begin with a caption (see discussion in Chapter 3),² which is followed in all but four cases by a heading giving the title of the text (e.g. “Defendant’s 735 ILCS 5/2-619(a)(9) Motion to Dismiss Plaintiff’s Complaint for Declaratory and Injunctive Relief” in Figure 5.3 below) and then the beginning of the document’s body text. An example of such a typical opening page follows as Figure 5.3:

² The only LCF text not to have a caption is a draft settlement agreement which was submitted for court approval and would not be expected to have a caption, as it would have been included as an attachment to a separate document.

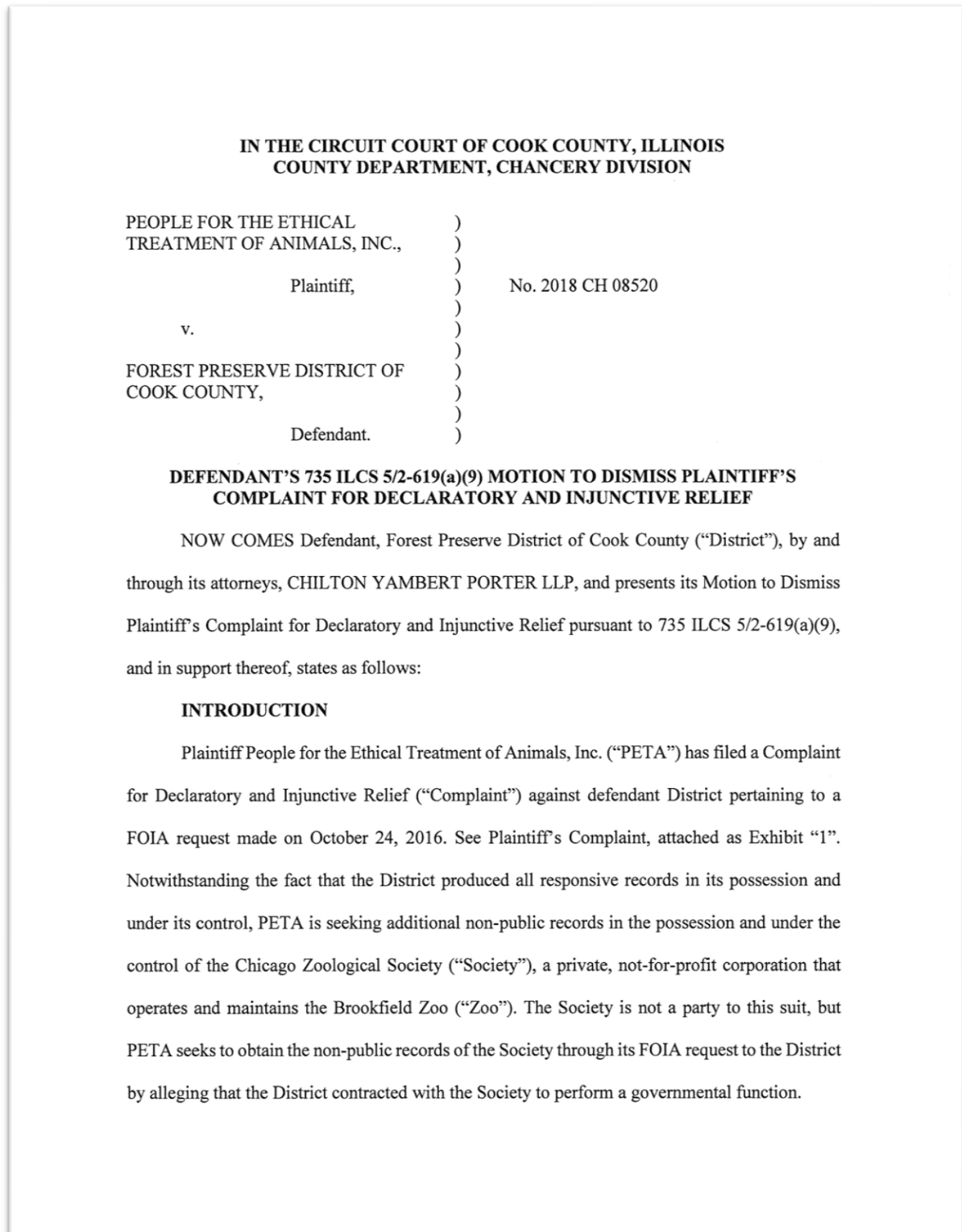


Figure 5.3 Typical opening page of a legitimate courtroom filing

In one of the four LCF texts not to follow the structure of the page in Figure 5.3, the remainder of the first page following the caption is blank, with the text's title and body text beginning on the top of the next page; this deviation appears to reflect a purposeful aesthetic choice on the

part of the text's author. In the remaining three, due to the complexity of the relevant litigation, the caption itself was so large that there was no room for anything else on the first page. The near-universal presence of a caption on the first page of LCF texts as well as its fixed formulation make it a strong indication of a document's legitimate legal status. For that reason, it is worth examining the component parts of a caption in more detail, as well as a caption's aggregate effect on the opening pages of LCF and (where present) PCF texts.

As discussed in Chapter 3, captions in the LCF and PCF corpora have been treated as single, discrete features, meaning that neither the text that these captions contain nor their graphic aspects have been included in any other portion of the analysis. This is because the names of the parties involved and other such relevant details will necessarily change from case to case, but the overall structure of a caption is incredibly consistent, and its overall effect is greater than the sum of its individual parts. Elsewhere in an LCF text, for example, a delimiter may serve as a line for a signature or be employed to separate a page's body text from its footnotes. Though in such cases the delimiter is related to other features on the page, this relationship is less important than that between the delimiter in a caption and its surrounding text; a signature does not require a line (dotted or otherwise) to be signed, and often there is no delimiter between a page's body text and footnotes. Every caption in the LCF corpus, however, involves a fixed set of four elements. The caption from Figure 5.3 is reproduced below with labels added to indicate its requisite components as Figure 5.4:



Figure 5.4 Standard legitimate courtroom filing caption with labels

The four necessary elements of a caption are:

- A. The jurisdictional statement. This is required by the court (Circuit Court of Cook County 2020) in the exact formulation “In the Circuit Court of Cook County, Illinois” followed by the relevant department and division. The jurisdictional statement typically spans the width of the page and appears at the top, though below any other header that may be present.
- B. The names and the roles of the parties involved in the case. With few exceptions (none of which are relevant here), civil matter such as the cases in the LCF and PCF corpora will have both a plaintiff and defendant. Party names appear below the jurisdictional statement on the left side of the page.
- C. The case number. Case numbers take the format “XX AA YYYY” where XX are the final two digits of the year in which the case was originally filed, AA is the division to which the case was assigned (determined by the issues being litigated) and YYYY is the specific number assigned to that case. Case numbers are given sequentially from 1 beginning on January 1st of the year in which a case was initially filed. All texts in both the LCF and PCF corpora were filed in the Chancery Division of the Circuit Court of Cook County, meaning that the cases to which they belong all have a “CH” in their assigned case number.³ The case number appears opposite the party names, below the jurisdictional statement on the right side of the page.
- D. The vertical delimiter. This takes the form of either a solid line or a column of individual parentheses which separates the party names and the case number.

Within those strictures, however, lies the potential for a degree of variation. Where relevant, captions may also include features such as the address of property related to the dispute, labeled “E” in Figure 5.5:

³ Several texts in the PCF corpus appear to have incorporated (either wholly or in part) aspects of texts which were first filed before other courts and therefore contain references to either different divisions within the Circuit Court of Cook County or to courts in other states.

All captions in the LCF corpus, including the variants in Figure 5.5 and Figure 5.6, contain the elements A through D listed above, and therefore have the same overall effect: namely, they establish that the text in which they appear is a legitimate courtroom filing and list the exact case to which the text in which they are found belongs.

Given the near-universal presence of captions observed in legitimate courtroom filings, it seems notable that, even allowing for a much higher degree of variation (e.g. by counting as captions features which do not follow the prescribed text of the jurisdictional statement or are missing a vertical delimiter), almost a quarter of PCF texts (62 of 250) do not have anything resembling one.⁴ From a parasitic genre perspective, this makes very little sense; if PCF texts are simply trying to imitate the form of LCF texts, then leaving out such a common and visually distinctive feature is a significant error, since its absence is likely to tip off a reader that a given PCF text is not, in fact, a legitimate courtroom filing. Lack of genre competence on the part of the authors of these PCF texts is always a potential explanation for such a difference, of course, but (as was stated at the outset of this chapter) the more obvious the difference between the two corpora is, the more likely it is that such a difference is both purposeful and an example of magical heightening. The function of a caption in an LCF text is to clearly locate that text in the legitimate legal system. Because all texts in the PCF corpus were filed in a courtroom, the Sovereign Citizen litigants involved clearly knew they were interacting with that system. By not engaging with the legal system in this customary manner, therefore, a Sovereign Citizen either is displaying a truly remarkable lack of genre competence, or, perhaps more likely, can be seen as attempting to place their texts outside of the standard operation of that system. The majority of captionless PCF texts were framed as either letters or as notices to the public, as seen in Figure 5.7 and Figure 5.8, respectively:

⁴ Table 5.3 states that there are 195 captions present in the 250 texts of the PCF corpus. The discrepancy between this statistic and the above statement that 62 PCF texts do not contain a caption is explained by the fact that, unlike in texts of the LCF corpus, some PCF texts contain more than one caption.

VIA CERTIFIED MAIL: Article #: 7012 1640 0002 2895 0814

From: Castro: Jacob

c/o [REDACTED]
Private Escrow Agent / Notary Public & Acceptor
P.O. Box 465
South Holland, Illinois [60473]

SEP 20 PM 2:30

DUROTHY BROWN CLERK

To: PNC BANK, NATIONAL ASSOCIATION SUCCESSOR IN INTEREST TO NATIONAL CITY MORTGAGE CO. DBA COMMONWEALTH UNITED MORTGAGE CO.

Date: December 21, 2012

RE: YOUR OFFER/PRESENTMENT DATED April 30th, 1999
FHA CASE Number: 131-9848804-703
SUBJECT PROPERTY ADDRESS: [REDACTED] So. St. Lawrence Ave., Chicago, Illinois 60619

**AFFIDAVIT OF NOTICE OF CONDITIONAL ACCEPTANCE
PENDING PROOF OF CLAIM AND VERIFICATION
AND VALIDATION OF ALLEGED DEBT**

**TENDER OF PAYMENT
TO PAY PURPORTED OBLIGATION IN FULL
TO RESTORE - TO MAKE WHOLE**

NOTICE TO AGENT IS NOTICE TO PRINCIPAL - NOTICE TO PRINCIPAL IS NOTICE TO AGENT

State of ILLINOIS)
affirmed and subscribed:
Cook County)


- I. **COMES NOW**, Jacob Castro living soul, *sui juris*, in correct public capacity as beneficiary to the Original Jurisdiction, being of majority in age, competent to testify, a self-realized entity, free people upon the land and creations by the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, American Citizen of the American Republic, with clean hands, Authorized Representatives with personal knowledge of this matter, GRANTORS, SETTLORS, and BENEFICIARIES of the *Cestui Que* Trusts known as Gloria Wise or GLORIA WISE, puts all relevant parties on NOTICE of the following:
1. **PLAIN STATEMENT OF THE FACTS:** (a) For Resolving a Matter it must be expressed; (b) In Commerce Truth is Sovereign; (c) Truth is expressed in the form of an Affidavit; (d) An Unrequited Affidavit stands as Truth in Commerce, i.e., "He who does not deny, admits" and "Silence is agreement"; (e) An Unrequited Affidavit becomes the judgment in Commerce [Any proceeding in court, tribunal, or arbitration forum consists of a contest, or "duel," of commercial affidavits wherein the points remaining un rebutted in the end stand as the truth and the matters to which the judgment of the law is applied]; (f) A Lien or a Claim, under

NOTICE AND DECLARATION OF CONDITIONAL ACCEPTANCE
PENDING PROOF OF CLAIM

Page 1

Figure 5.7 Captionless pseudolegal courtroom filing formatted as a letter

This Document Is A Matter of Public Record
Registered Mail # RE 366 217 805 US

 **PRIVATE** Notice to Agent Is Notice to Principal
Notice to Principal Is Notice to Agent

THIS IS NOT A PUBLIC COMMUNICATION

COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS
United States of America

FILED
CH.
AUG 26 2011
DOROTHY BROWN
CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT
OF COOK COUNTY, IL

SILENCE IS ACQUIESCENCE, AGREEMENT, AND DISHONOR
THIS IS A SELF-EXECUTING CONTRACT

NOTICE OF INTERNATIONAL COMMERCIAL CLAIM WITHIN THE ADMIRALTY
ab initio ADMINISTRATIVE REMEDY
[28 U.S.C. §1333, §1337, §2461 and §2463]

DATE: 08/25/2011

CASE NO. 11-CH-01586; January 13, 2011

FIRST NOTICE OF FAULT AND
DEMAND FOR PAYMENT

LIBELANTS:
Mira Bray and Simon Bray, Trustee, Executive Trustee for the Private Contract Trust known
as MIRA BRAY and SIMON BRAY
c/o Helen A. Gary, Notary Witness

NOTARY:
Standard Bank and Trust Company
2400 West 95th Street
Evergreen Park, IL 60642

LIBELEES:
c/o BAYVIEW LOAN SERVICING, LLC
4425 PONCE DE LEON BLVD, 5TH FLOOR
CORAL GABLES, FL 33136

BAYVIEW LOAN SERVICING, LLC
4425 PONCE DE LEON BLVD, 5TH FLOOR
CORAL GABLES, FL 33146

99500
3004
Def

Figure 5.8 Captionless pseudolegal courtroom filing formatted as a public notice

The opening pages of the two PCF texts shown above each contain elements of a caption, such as party names, and, in the case of Figure 5.8, even a relevant case number (the “FHA CASE number” listed in Figure 5.7 likely refers to the Federal Housing Administration, which could

be relevant to the proceeding but would not be a proper substitute for the court-assigned case number). Neither, however, contains the two columns separated by a vertical delimiter found in every LCF caption, nor do they contain a jurisdictional statement. The absence of this latter feature in particular seems like the strongest evidence that the authors of these PCF texts are attempting to place them apart from the legitimate legal system, particularly when combined with the almost talismanic use of legal language in each. Figure 5.7 is titled “Affidavit of Notice of Conditional Acceptance Pending Proof of Claim and Verification and Validation of Alleged Debt” which, harkening back to the discussion of the use of technical legal terminology in Section 4.3, seems more like a Markov chain of legal terms than it does any title in the LCF corpus, while Figure 5.8 insists that “THIS IS NOT A PUBLIC COMMUNICATION” despite the handwritten note (seemingly added by someone in the clerk of court’s office after the document was submitted) that “This Document is a Matter of Public Record.” In neither case is there the sort of clear placement of these texts in the legal (or any other) system that would be provided by a properly formatted caption. Beyond the practical issues present in these examples (e.g. how, in isolation, could a reader identify which case one of these captionless texts belongs to?), captionless PCF texts also raise some more fundamental questions regarding their intended operation: if Sovereign Citizens are trying to place their texts outside of the standard operating procedure of the legal system, how do they expect them to simultaneously operate within it? And, if Sovereign Citizens are rejecting the authority of the legal system, then under what authority are they trying to enforce their desired outcome? Given the decentralized nature of the Sovereign Citizen movement, it is doubtful that there exists anything approaching a consensus explanation. Unlike with the “software default” design elements mentioned in the previous section, however, these choices seem at least to be much clearer proof of the magically heightened nature of PCF texts.

Even in the first pages of PCF texts with captions, this sort of magical heightening is often evident. Figure 5.9, for example, features both a series of images and a sort of “pre-caption” above the jurisdictional statement:

of Cook County, Illinois. The arrangement of various graphic elements at the top of the page as well as the inclusion of the same case numbers contained in the properly formatted caption below give the sense that there are perhaps two captions on the page, with the upper one clearly formatted to emphasize its supposed legal primacy. Right at the outset of this PCF text, then, it is clearly adapting a standard legal form for its own pseudolegal purposes. Despite the clear and consistent formatting of the first pages of LCF texts, these PCF texts have deviated from that format; it appears that they often do so to establish from the very beginning that they will not be playing by the rules of the legitimate legal system.

The opening pages of the PCF texts shown above are much more complex, multimodally speaking, than the opening page of the LCF text in Figure 5.3. Putting aside for the moment the images used in Figure 5.8 and Figure 5.9 (images are discussed below in Section 5.5), all of these PCF texts appear to feature many more instances of textual emphasis than the LCF texts examined in this section. The next section therefore examines the use of textual emphasis in the LCF and PCF corpora.

5.4 Textual Emphasis in Legitimate and Pseudolegal Courtroom Filings

While PCF texts are often noted for their use of images (and, as will be discussed in Section 5.5, do in fact make significantly more frequent use of graphic elements than LCF texts), the vast majority of the pages in both of the LCF and PCF corpora are comprised solely of written text. As a result, instances of textual emphasis are far more common in both corpora than any other visual component and therefore deserving of particular attention. This section examines the ways in which texts in the LCF and PCF corpora visually or spatially emphasize their written contents. Section 5.4.1 compares the overall use of textual emphasis in the two corpora. Section 5.4.2 then discusses the use of bolding, capitalization, italicization, and underlining in more depth after which 5.4.3 examines other methods of textual emphasis including variation in interlinear spacing and font within a page.

5.4.1 Textual Emphasis

The instances of textual emphasis observed in the LCF and PCF corpora have been broken down into four categories:

1. Individual emphasis: instances in which text was either bolded, italicized, underlined, or capitalized, but not more than one of those things.

2. Multiple emphasis: instances in which text was emphasized via some combination of bolding, italicization, underlining, and capitalization.
3. Alignment & emphasis: instances in which text was emphasized via bolding, italicization, underlining, and capitalization as well as by a change in its alignment or justification on the page.
4. Other emphasis: every instance of textual emphasis not captured by the preceding categories.

Each individual occurrence of a given form of textual emphasis was noted separately, meaning that a given page could contain multiple instances of the same type of emphasis (e.g. multiple emphatically capitalized words in a PCF text). Every observed instance of textual emphasis in the LCF and PCF corpora is presented on the following page in Table 5.2, with the most common form of emphasis in each corpus in the four above-mentioned categories highlighted in green:

Table 5.2 Textual emphasis in the Legitimate and Pseudolegal Courtroom Filing corpora. Features highlighted in green are the most frequent in their category.

	LCF (1169 Pages)			PCF (1167 Pages)			
Individual Emphasis	Total	Per 100 Pages	Overall Percentage	Total	Per 100 Pages	Overall Percentage	χ^2
bold	492	42	7.8	1199	103	15.2	184.98
italic	2051	175	32.4	699	60	8.9	1243.5
underline	329	28	5.2	506	43	6.4	9.3127
caps	982	84	15.5	2026	174	25.7	218.45
Subtotal	3854	329	60.9	4430	380	56.2	15.852
Individual Emphasis	Total	Per 100 Pages	Overall Percentage	Total	Per 100 Pages	Overall Percentage	χ^2
b/i	37	3	0.6	501	43	6.4	319.74
b/u	113	10	1.8	136	12	1.7	0.040392
b/c	272	23	4.3	449	38	5.7	14.045
i/u	65	6	1	108	9	1.4	3.1749
i/c	0	0	0	58	5	0.7	45.003
u/c	3	0	0	41	4	0.5	23.932
b/i/u	4	0	0.1	141	12	1.8	101.89
b/i/c	1	0	0	6	1	0.1	-
b/u/c	84	7	1.3	106	9	1.3	0.0004938
i/u/c	0	0	0	1	0	0	-
Subtotal	579	49	9.1	1547	133	19.6	323.13
Alignment & Emphasis	Total	Per 100 Pages	Overall Percentage	Absolute	Per 100 Pages	Overall Percentage	χ^2
b/cen	55	5	0.9	59	5	0.7	0.49252
i/cen	6	1	0.1	0	0	0	-
u/cen	2	0	0	3	0	0	-
c/cen	9	1	0.1	49	4	0.6	18.713
b/i/cen	10	1	0.2	5	0	0.1	2.1438
b/u/cen	20	2	0.3	25	2	0.3	3.19E-27
b/c/cen	80	7	1.3	213	18	2.7	35.326
i/c/cen	1	0	0	3	0	0	-
u/c/cen	8	1	0.1	19	2	0.2	1.8711
b/u/c/cen	366	31	5.8	226	19	2.9	73.867
Subtotal	557	49	8.8	602	50	7.5	4.2615
Other Emphasis	Total	Per 100 Pages	Overall Percentage	Absolute	Per 100 Pages	Overall Percentage	χ^2
align/justify	543	46	8.6	494	42	6.3	27.279
alt font	24	2	0.4	183	16	2.3	91.024
font size	3	0	0	247	21	3.1	191.84
spacing	641	55	10.1	223	19	2.8	325.83
footnote	110	9	1.7	134	11	1.7	0.010536
smallcaps	12	1	0.2	9	1	0.1	0.88724
Subtotal	1333	113	21.1	1290	110	16.3	41.971
Total	6323	540	-	7869	673	-	

As shown in the above table, instances of textual emphasis are overall more common in the PCF corpus than the LCF corpus. Of all the observed methods of textual emphasis across the two corpora, there was a statistically significant difference found for 16 methods, with 12 being more common in the PCF corpus than in the LCF corpus. At the same time, preferences in the LCF corpus were much stronger than in the PCF corpus; in the individual emphasis category, LCF texts used italics more than they did bolding, underlining, and capitalization combined, and the combination of bolding, underlining, capitalization, and centering was similarly the overwhelming LCF choice in the alignment and emphasis category. There are no similarly clear favorites in the textual emphasis of the PCF corpus.

5.4.2 Bolding, Underlining, Italicization, and Capitalization

In instances where only one method of textual emphasis is applied (i.e. text is only bolded, capitalized, underlined, or italicized, rather than any combination of those factors), italics occur significantly more frequently in LCF texts than in PCF texts, while bolding, underlining, and (as was briefly touched upon in the previous chapter) capitalization occur significantly more frequently in PCF texts. These methods of individual emphasis are, on the whole, significantly more frequent in the PCF corpus than the LCF corpus. In the five instances where there is a significant difference in the frequency of multiple emphasis between the two corpora (e.g. text which has been both bolded and italicized), the combinations are more frequent in the PCF corpus than the LCF corpus. Taken all together, such instances of multiple emphasis are also significantly more common in the PCF corpus than the LCF corpus. In cases where textual emphasis is combined with a change in the alignment of a text (invariably centering, with all instances in both corpora where this occurred functioning as document titles or section headings), capitalization and centering, as well as the triple combination of bolding, capitalization, and centering occurred significantly more frequently in the PCF corpus than the LCF corpus. The combination of bolding, underlining, capitalization, and centering, however, occurred significantly more frequently in the LCF corpus than the PCF corpus.

This last result is notable because it runs contrary to the general trend of PCF texts making more frequent use of a greater variety of methods of emphasis than LCF texts; in the features observed so far in this thesis, PCF texts have generally had a “more is more” ethos and, given that the combination of bolding, underlining, capitalization, and centering was the most complex method of textual emphasis observed in either corpus, it is therefore somewhat surprising to see it being used relatively more frequently in LCF texts. This is explained,

however, by a competing trend in LCF texts: namely, the strength of their preferences for certain stylistic choices. While not necessarily dictated by either the Bluebook or a court-issued style guide, there is a clear “house style” for legitimate courtroom filings. Not only are italics significantly more common in LCF texts than in PCF texts, for example, but they are also more common than the rest of the methods of individual textual emphasis in the LCF corpus combined. Similarly, the combination of bolding, underlining, capitalization and centering for titles and headings in LCF texts is more common than the rest of the observed “Alignment & Emphasis” categories combined. Conversely, there are no such clear favorites within the textual emphasis choices of the PCF corpus.

Consistent with other findings in both this and the previous chapter, the layout and design choices of PCF texts seem to vary to a much greater degree than the choices made in LCF texts. Where LCF texts have a consistent style that generally persists across cases and regardless of author, there is a much greater amount of variation in the methods of textual emphasis employed in the texts in the PCF corpus than in their LCF counterparts. For example, LCF texts generally use italics either to indicate the particular relevance of a selection of text or as part of citation formatting, as in the following Figure:

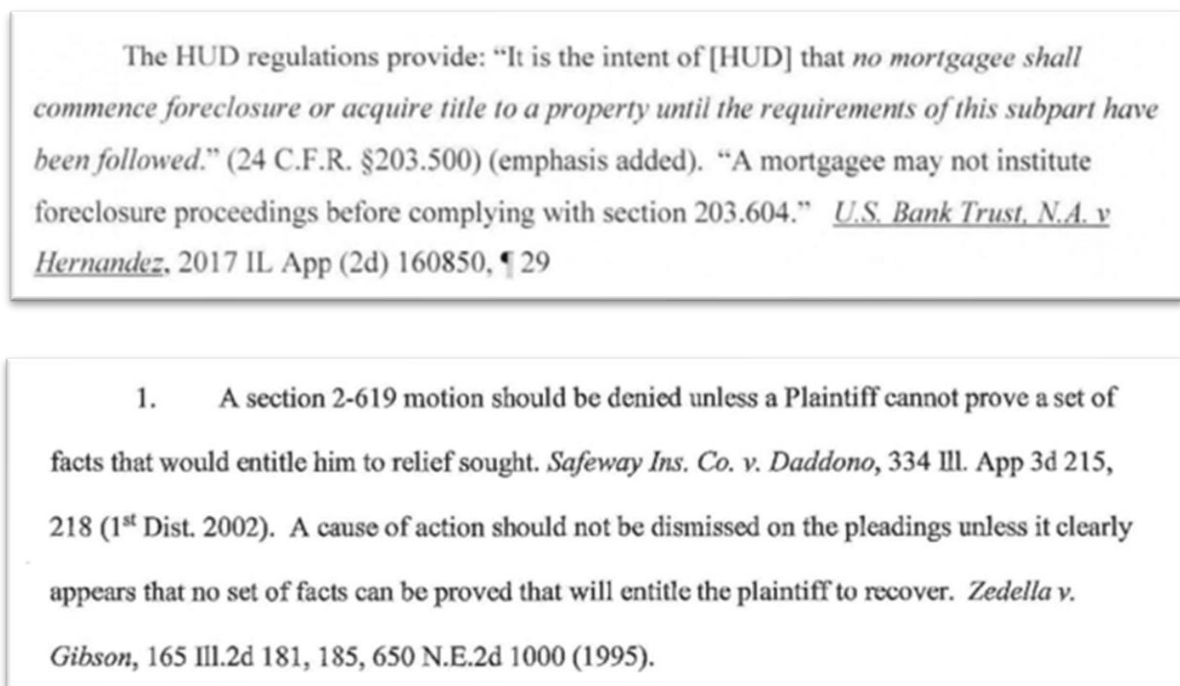


Figure 5.10 Typical uses of italics in the Legitimate Courtroom Filing corpus

Even when an individual LCF text makes a choice that differs from the general tendency of texts in the corpus, it is at least consistent within itself (e.g. the prototype LCF text included as

Appendix 5.1 and the related discussion in Section 5.6.2). This is not necessarily the case with PCF texts, where methods of emphasis can vary significantly even within the same page:

B- ***“A judge is an officer of the court, as are all members of the Bar. A judge is a judicial officer, paid by the Government to act impartially and lawfully”***, People v. Zajic, 88 Ill. App 3d 477, 410 N.E. 2d 626. ***“A void judgment is regarded as a nullity, and the situation is the same as it would be if there were no judgment. It has no legal or binding force or efficacy for any purpose or at any place....It is not entitled to enforcement, 30A Am Judgments 43, 44, 45. Henderson v Henderson 59 S.E. 2d 227-232***

C- ***“A Void Judgment from its inception is and forever continues to be absolutely null, without legal efficacy, ineffectual to bind parties or support a right, of no legal force and effect whatever, and incapable of confirmation, ratification, or enforcement in any manner or to any degree. “A void judgment, order or decree may be attacked at any time or in any court, either directly or collaterally”*** Oak Park Nat Bank v. Peoples Gas Light & Coke Col, 46 Ill. App. 2d 385, 197 N.E. 3d 73, 77, (1st Dist. 1964)

2. That under 18 U.S.C. 242 and 42 U.S.C. 1985 (3) (b). A judge does not have the discretion on whether or not to follow Supreme Ct. Rules, but a duty to follow. People v. Gersh, 135 Ill. 2d 384 (1990).

3. **Judge Valderrama acted as a Private Citizen and not as a State Officer** as he colluded with the Defendants in using his robe and unlawful authority violating Plaintiffs’ Civil rights.

Figure 5.11 Inconsistent textual emphasis in a pseudolegal courtroom filing

Citations are not underlined in paragraph B of Figure 5.11 but they are in paragraph C(2). Quotations are bolded and/or underlined and/or italicized with no apparent logic behind the use of one method over the other. Rather than the systematic approach that characterizes textual emphasis in legitimate courtroom filings, this more chaotic style of emphasis once again gives

the impression that as many things as possible were tried in the PCF text in the hopes that a greater concentration of features would magically increase the ultimate authority of that text. In its discussion of negation in the LCF and PCF corpora, the previous chapter examined the tendency of PCF texts to emphatically capitalize “NO” and the “shouting” effect that has been noted to impart to readers. Capitalization is often used when writing the names of parties in both the LCF and PCF corpora (in fact, that is almost the exclusive use of capitalization on its own in the LCF corpus), but a substantial number of instances of capitalization in the PCF corpus are of that emphatic variety:

and complete registration statement with the State Attorney General as a foreign principle. It's a VIOLATION of the 11th Amendment for a FOREIGN CITIZEN to INVOKE the JUDICIAL POWER of the State.

Figure 5.12 Emphatic capitalization in a pseudolegal courtroom filing

In some cases (the prototype text included as Appendix 5.2, for example), nearly every bit of writing in a PCF text has been emphasized in some way. This further supports the magical reading of PCF texts: they are attempts to overpower LCF texts by essentially shouting over them (Robb 2014). At the same time, it raises a question about a potential failing of the legal system: if Sovereign Citizens sincerely feel the need to “shout” so much in this way, that likely means they are not feeling heard by the legitimate legal system. That does not justify this sort of pseudolegal conspiracy thinking or the very real harms that result from it, of course, but to the extent that there is a trend in PCF texts of emphasizing the power and identities of their authors and the apparent depths of their feelings, it is likely worth considering as the legitimate legal system looks for ways to address these problems.

5.4.3 Other Methods of Textual Emphasis

Though texts in the LCF corpus make significantly more frequent use of what is described in Table 5.2 as “Other Emphasis”, the difference in their overall expected frequency per 100 pages is slight (113 in the LCF corpus to 110 in the PCF corpus). Within that category, however, there are some clear trends: there is significantly more emphasis via alignment and justification of text (in this case without bolding, italicization, or underlining) and via alternative spacing (e.g. shifting from double or 1.5 spacing to single spacing) in the LCF corpus than the PCF

corpus. As in the previous section, there is very little variation in the contexts in which these methods of emphasis occur: LCF texts generally modify the alignment and spacing of text either in the case of a block quote or for the signature block which occurs at the end of a text:

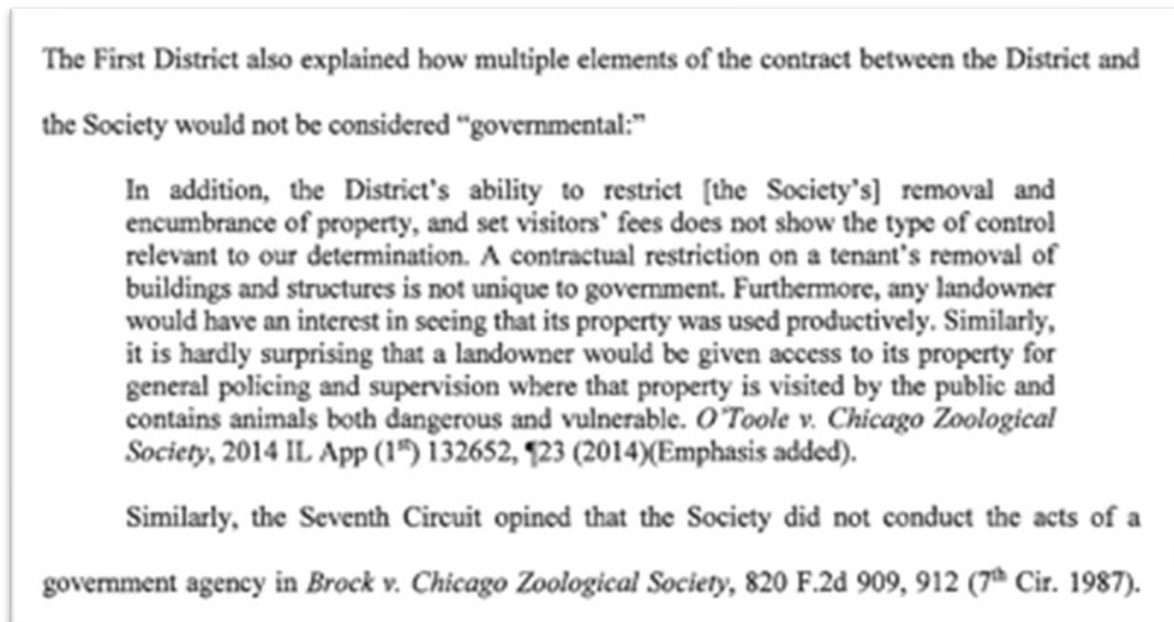


Figure 5.13 Block quote formatting in a legitimate courtroom filing

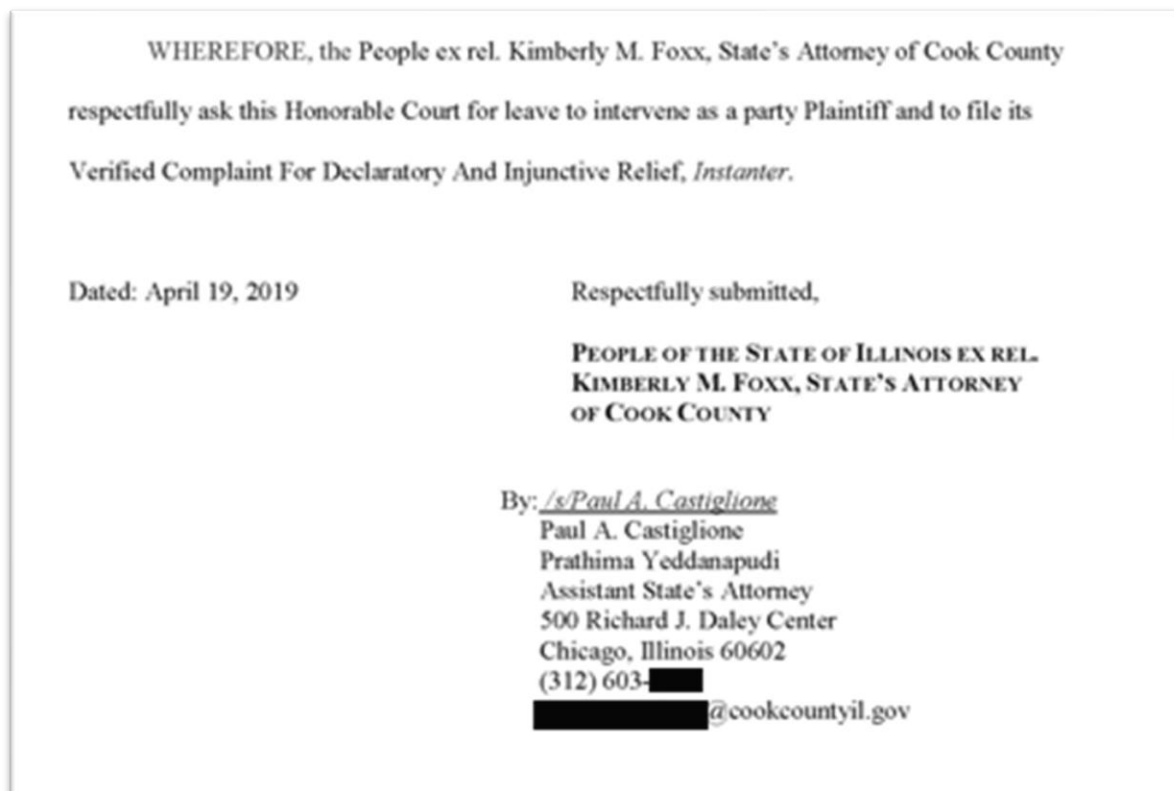


Figure 5.14 Signature block formatting in a legitimate courtroom filing

Texts in the PCF corpus, by way of contrast, make significantly greater use of a range of fonts and differing font sizes than texts in the LCF corpus, which almost never vary in their choice of font variety or font size within a text. PCF texts alter the font size of text for one of two reasons: first, to indicate a document or section title, as in Figure 5.15:

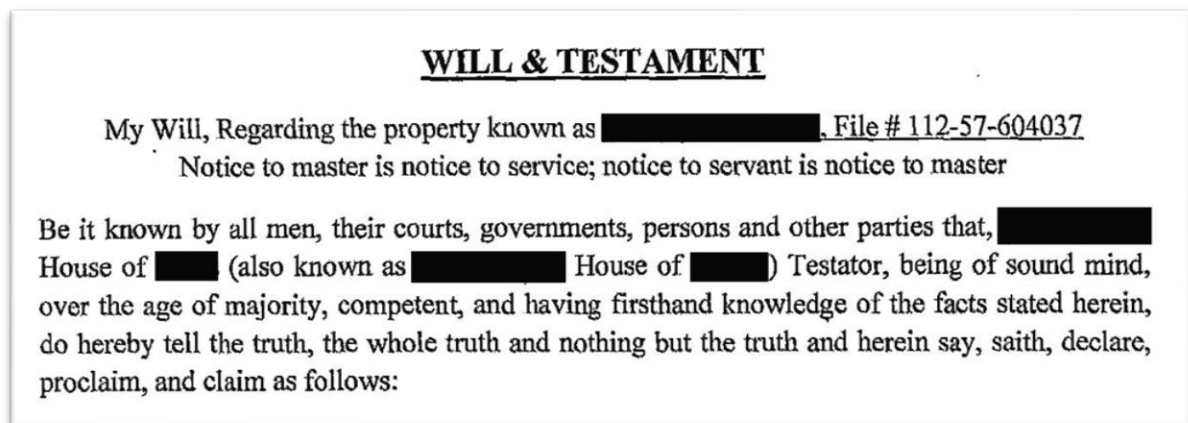


Figure 5.15 Alternate font size in the title of a pseudolegal courtroom filing

Or to give particular force to a portion of body text, as in Figure 5.16:

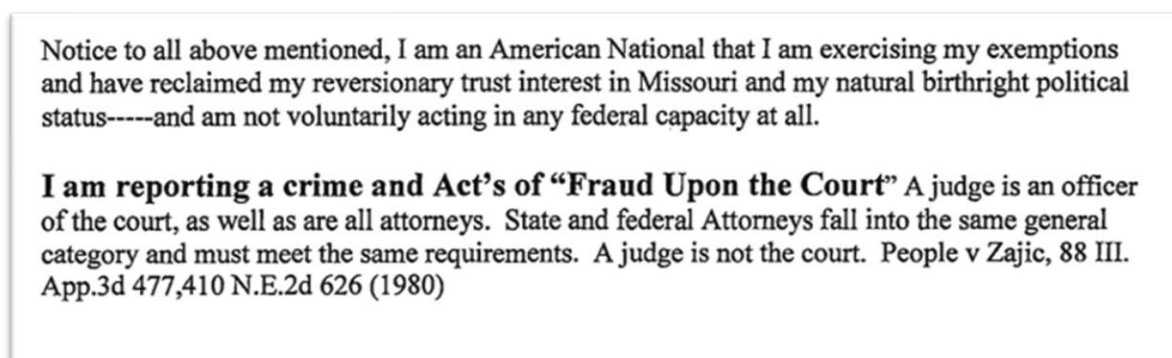


Figure 5.16 Alternate font size used to emphasize text in a pseudolegal courtroom filing

Emphatic choices such as these can be considered higher impact in the sense that they are much more immediately noticeable to a reader and are yet another example of the preference for high concentrations of such features in PCF texts. In Figure 5.17, for example, the font on a single page of a PCF text changes no fewer than eight times:

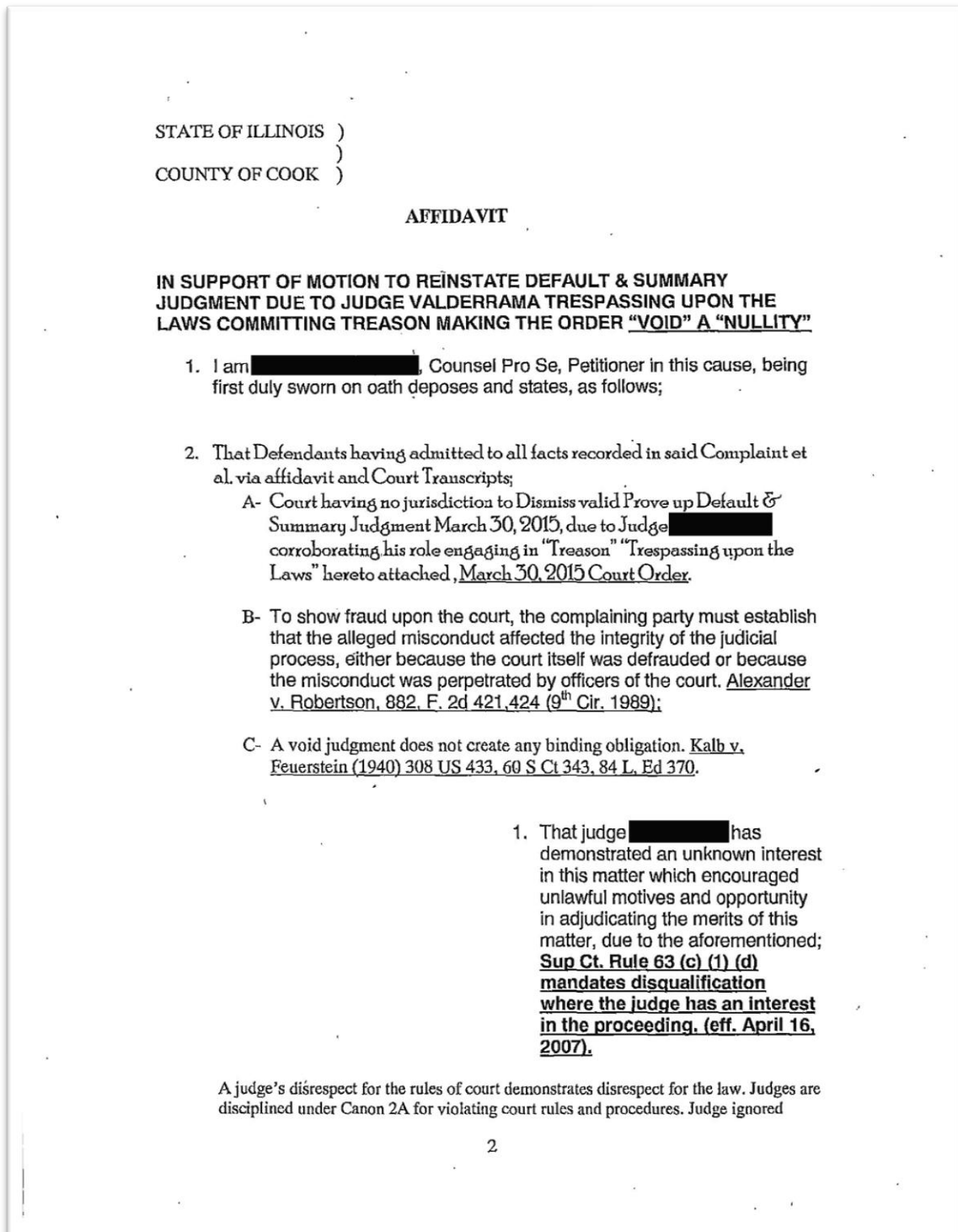


Figure 5.17 Multiple font changes in a single page of a pseudolegal courtroom filing

As mentioned in the discussion of parasitic genre in Chapter 2, Sovereign Citizen pseudolegal courtroom filings are in constant conversation not just with legitimate courtroom filings, but also with one another and new pseudolegal strategies and resultant trends in formatting choices can be expected to develop naturally over time. If emphasis in the PCF corpus is meant to

signify a desire to be heard more than it is to guide the reader in any particular sense, then instances of overlapping emphasized text, as in Figure 5.18, may become more common over time:

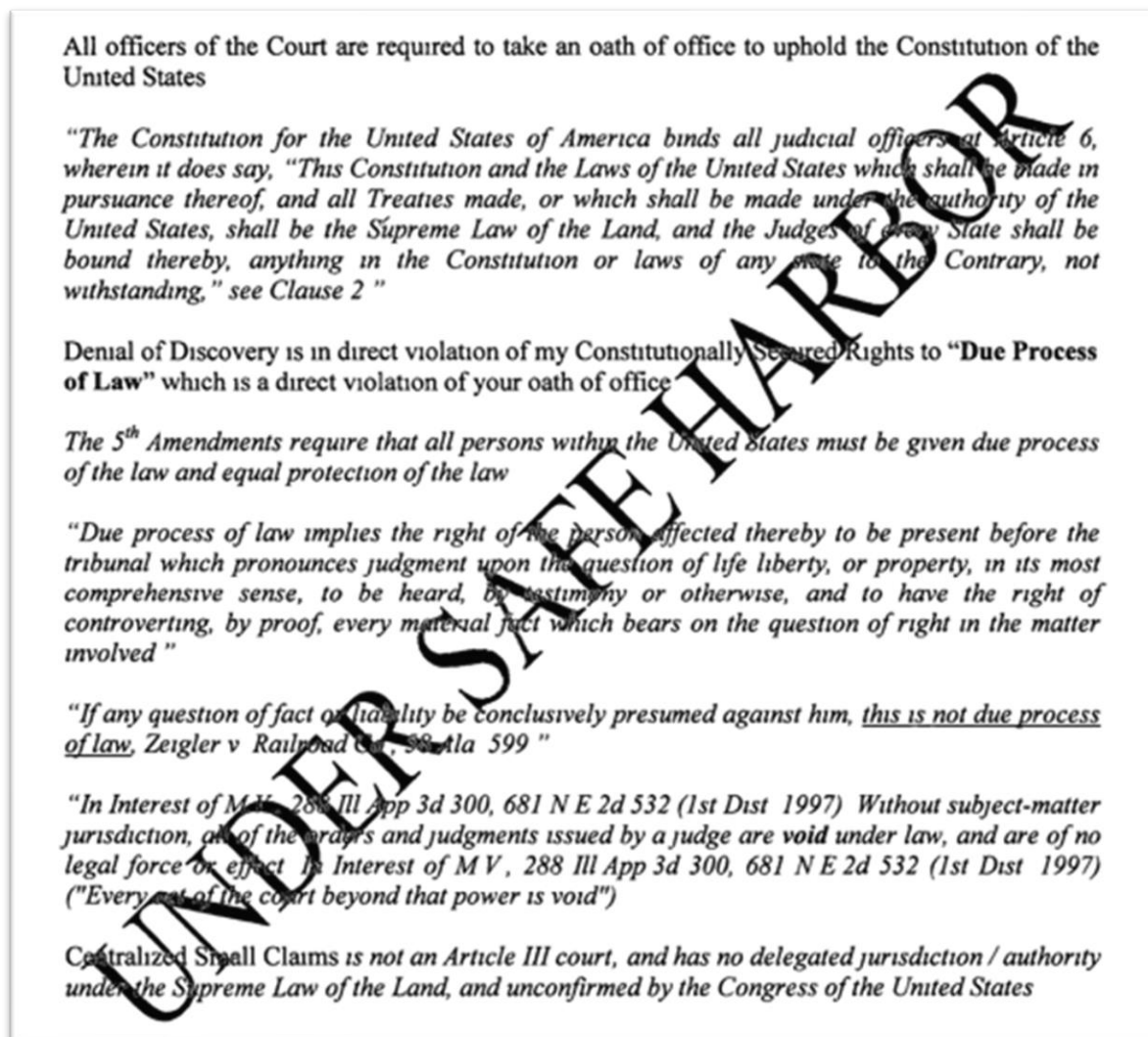


Figure 5.18 Emphasized text as a watermark in a pseudolegal courtroom filing

The use of a bolded and capitalized watermark such as this is, in a sense, an even more efficient way of communicating the apparent intensity that Sovereign Citizens are attempting to impart into their texts. Particularly because the watermark in Figure 5.18 actively reduces the overall legibility of the text it overlaps, features such as this further support the suggestion made earlier in this chapter that PCF texts are constructed more to communicate emotionally than they are to make a particular set of arguments (pseudolegal or legitimately legal).

5.5 Images in Legitimate and Pseudolegal Courtroom Filings

This section turns to an examination of the most frequently noted and explicitly magical features of PCF texts: their use of images (i.e. individual graphic elements other than the written word). In addition to examining the frequency of these features across the LCF and PCF corpora, this section also compares their distribution on the page through an examination of a series of heatmaps (see Section 3.5.6). Every observed image in the LCF and PCF corpora is reported in Table 5.3, with the most common form of emphasis in each corpus highlighted in green:

Table 5.3 Graphic features in the Legitimate and Pseudolegal Courtroom Filing corpora. Features highlighted in green are the most frequent in their category.

Graphic	LCF (1169 Pages)			PCF (1167 Pages)			χ^2
	Total	Per 100 Pages	Percent	Total	Per 100 Pages	Percent	
Caption	136	12	5.4	195	17	5.1	0.18462
Photo	3	0	0.1	4	0	0.1	-
Illustrations	0	0	0	34	3	0.9	20.97
Stamp	0	0	0	18	2	0.5	10.332
Seal	41	4	1.6	105	9	2.7	8.0855
Thumbprint	0	0	0	52	4	1.4	33.024
Table	17	1	0.7	0	0	0	23.314
List	782	67	30.9	925	79	24.2	34.737
Delimiter	356	30	14.1	814	70	21.3	52.226
Header	19	2	0.8	90	8	2.4	22.241
Footer	1045	89	41.3	684	59	17.9	231.53
Handwriting	129	11	5.1	901	77	23.6	420.76
Total	2528	216	-	3822	328	-	

There is a statistically significant difference in the frequency of 10 of the 12 observed features. Eight of those 10 occur more frequently in the PCF corpus than in the LCF corpus, with the exceptions being the use of tables and footers in the LCF corpus. Section 5.5.1 examines the images present in both the LCF and PCF corpora, while section 5.5.2 examines those features present in only one of the two corpora.

5.5.1 Images Present in Both Corpora

Putting to the side captions (which have been discussed both in the prior chapter and above in Section 5.3.2) and photographs (which were so infrequently observed in both corpora that they are not useful for drawing any broader conclusions about either LCF or PCF texts), there is a

statistically significant difference in the frequency of every other observed graphic feature between the LCF and PCF corpora. With the exceptions of tables, which appear only in the LCF corpus and will be discussed more in the following section, and footers, all of these graphic features (i.e. 8 of the 12 categories) are significantly more common in the PCF corpus than in the LCF corpus.

As defined for the purposes of this thesis, headers and footers have no standardized content, and instead refer to text positioned at either the top or bottom of a page, respectively, which is clearly separated from a page's main body text. Headers occur significantly more frequently and at more than four times the rate in the PCF corpus than in the LCF corpus, while the opposite is true of footers, which occur significantly more frequently, and about one and a half times as often, in the LCF corpus than the PCF corpus. Page numbers are the most common contents of both headers and footers, with LCF texts sometimes including either their court assigned case number or internal law firm filing numbers, with an example of the latter given in the following Figure:

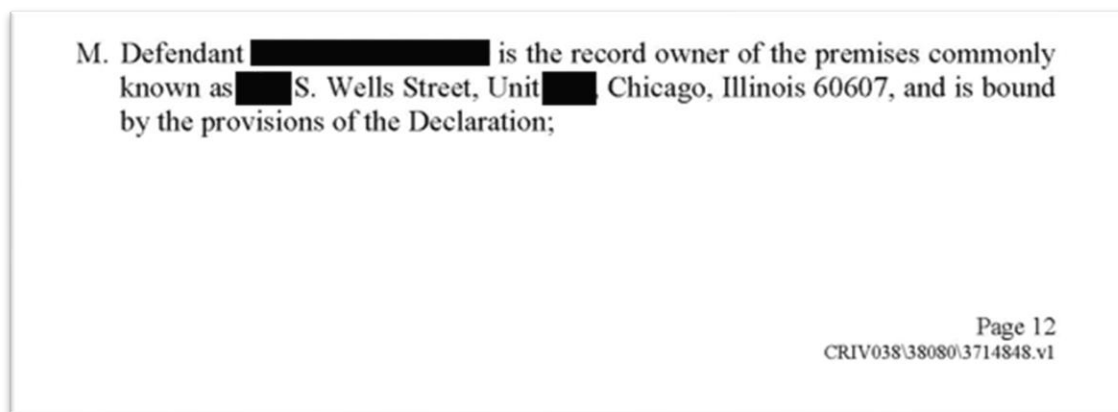


Figure 5.19 Footer from a legitimate courtroom filing with an internal document filing number

These filing numbers, which are generated and assigned by a law firm's case management software, are used for internal tracking and organizational purposes; they have no legal meaning and would not be of note to the court. Most commonly, in both LCF and PCF texts, the only thing contained in a footer is a page number, generally placed at the center of the page, as in the following example from an LCF text:

the District. This Court, however, “owes no deference to the PAC’s nonbinding resolution of [a FOIA] request.” *Garlick v. Office of Public Access Counselor*, 2013 IL App (1st) 122444, ¶11; see also 5 ILCS 140/11(f) (review of non-binding PAC opinions is *de novo*).

10

Figure 5.20 Footer from a legitimate courtroom filing with a centered page number

As shown below in the heatmaps in Figure 5.21, footers in the LCF corpus are overwhelmingly placed at the center of the page. Instances of right-aligned footers, such as the internal filing number example in Figure 5.19, are so rare that the LCF footer heatmap does not register them. While the PCF footer heatmap similarly indicates that the majority of PCF footers are similarly centered, it does contain a secondary hotspot in the bottom right corner of the page:

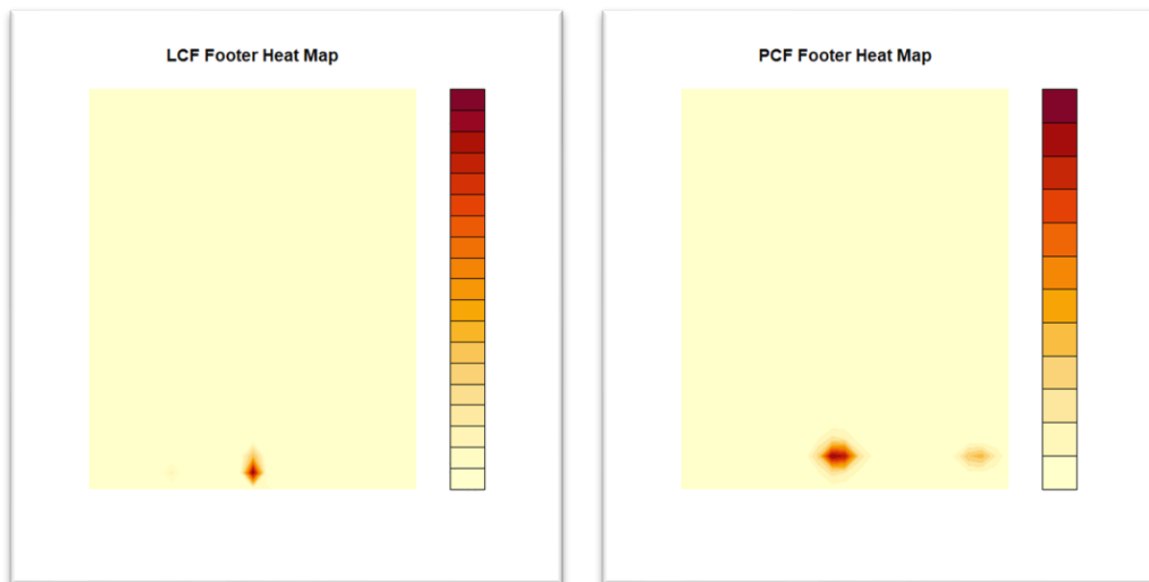


Figure 5.21 Spatial distribution of footers in the Legitimate and Pseudolegal Courtroom Filing corpora

As with the some of the differences in the overall layout of LCF and PCF texts discussed above, this secondary hotspot likely results from a lack of genre competence and a lack of consideration on the part of the authors of PCF texts (the former because LCF texts appear to rarely, if ever, place a page number in that location and so PCF texts are getting it “wrong” in that sense, and the latter because certain versions of Microsoft Word place page numbers in a

page's bottom right corner by default). In instances where PCF texts place a footer in the bottom right position, they do so without any clear alternative purpose:

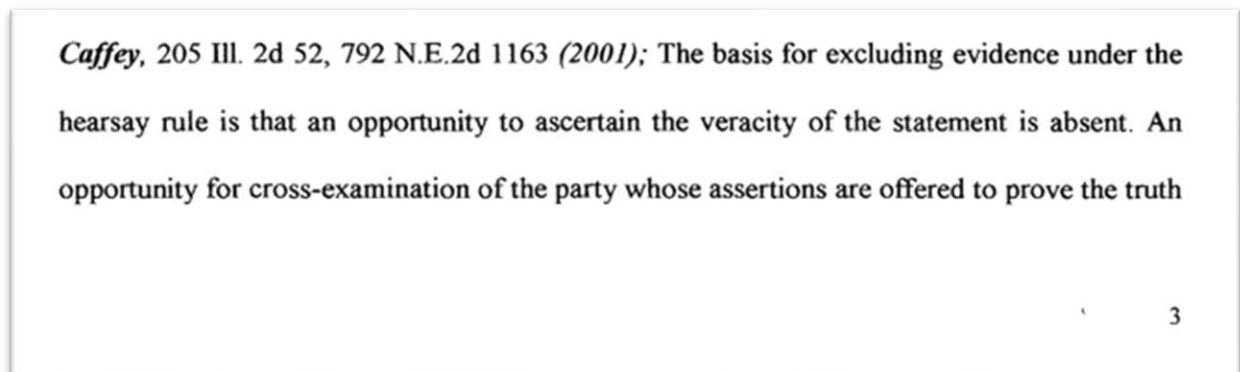


Figure 5.22 Footer from a pseudolegal courtroom filing with a right-aligned page number

This is not to say that the intent behind any single design choice in a text can be definitively identified via a post-hoc examination. However, in many instances where pseudolegal courtroom filings depart in their design from what would be expected of a legitimate courtroom filing, these choices seem much more purposeful, as in the following PCF footer:

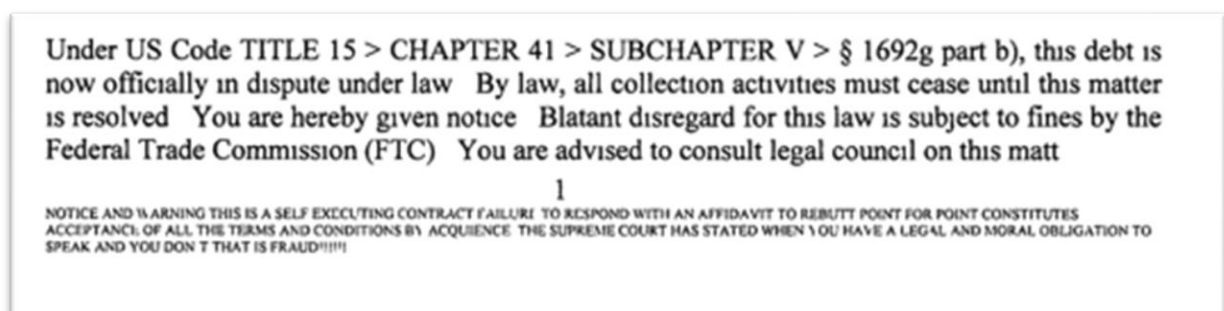


Figure 5.23 Footer from a pseudolegal courtroom filing with accompanying text

The footer in Figure 5.23 reads:

NOTICE AND WARNING THIS IS A SELF EXECUTING CONTRACT FAILURE
TO RESPOND WITH AN AFFIDAVIT TO REBUTT POINT FOR POINT
CONSTITUTES ACCEPTANCE OF ALL THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS BY
ACQUIESCENCE THE SUPREME COURT HAS STATED WHEN YOU HAVE A

LEGAL AND MORAL OBLIGATION TO SPEAK AND YOU DON'T THAT IS FRAUD!!!!!!

No footer in the LCF corpus contains comparable accompanying text. This text, which is repeated on the bottom of every page of the PCF text in which it is found, contains both multiple typos (“REBUTT” and “ACQUIENCE”) and an impressive array of distinctively Sovereign Citizen pseudolegal features: emphatic capitalization (including no fewer than six exclamation points), misstatements of contract law, the use of second person in reference to the reader, and a contraction. While this quantity of text in a footer is on the higher end of that found in the PCF corpus, it goes to show that when Sovereign Citizens actively want to deviate from the typical layout and design choices made in LCF texts, they are rarely subtle in doing so; as was seen with the methods of textual emphasis examined in Section 5.4, where there is a marked difference between LCF and PCF texts, PCF texts tend to have a higher concentration of graphic features than texts belonging to their host genre.

The use of lists in LCF and PCF texts provides a somewhat more subtle example of PCF texts heightening features found in LCF texts. As seen in Table 5.3, lists occur significantly more frequently in the PCF corpus than in the LCF corpus, at a normalized rate of 79 times per 100 pages as compared to 67 times per 100 pages in LCF texts. The following heatmaps display the typical spatial distribution of lists in both corpora:

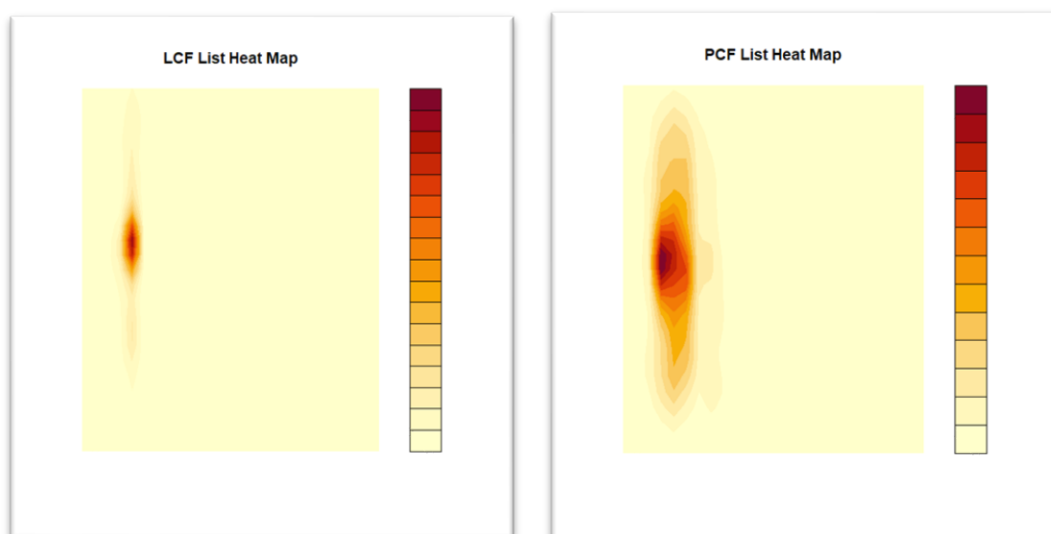


Figure 5.24 Spatial distribution of lists in the Legitimate and Pseudolegal Courtroom Filing corpora

As discussed in Section 3.5.6, hotspots in these heatmaps are concentrated on the center points of the observed features. Accordingly, the LCF heatmap should be read as indicating that the typical center point of the lists in that corpus was roughly halfway up the page with relatively little variation in either height or indentation, not that lists in the LCF corpus were generally very short. Lists in the PCF corpus, by way of contrast, display a higher degree of both vertical and horizontal variation in their center point than their LCF counterparts. Figure 5.25 and Figure 5.26 show how lists generally appear in the LCF and PCF corpora, respectively:

- E. Defendant admits the allegation of Paragraph 3, Section E of Plaintiff's Complaint.
- F. Defendant admits the allegation of Paragraph 3, Section F of Plaintiff's Complaint.
- G. Defendant admits the allegation of Paragraph 3, Section G of Plaintiff's Complaint.
- H. Defendant lacks sufficient knowledge to either admit or deny the allegation of Paragraph 3, Section H of Plaintiff's Complaint, and accordingly demands strict proof thereof.
- I. Defendant lacks sufficient knowledge to either admit or deny the allegations of Paragraph 3, Section I of Plaintiff's Complaint and accordingly demands strict proof thereof.
- J. Defendants deny the allegations of Paragraph 3, Section J of Plaintiff's Complaint and accordingly demands strict proof thereof, including, but not limited to, production of the original Mortgage and the original Note.
- K. Defendant admits the allegations of Paragraph 3, Section K of Plaintiff's Complaint.
- L. Paragraph 3, Section L of the Complaint is a statement of Plaintiff's intent and therefore requires no response from Defendant.
- M. Paragraph 3, Section M of the Complaint is a statement of Plaintiff's intent and therefore requires no response from Defendant.
- N. Paragraph 3, Section N of the Complaint is a statement of Plaintiff's intent and therefore requires no response from Defendant.
- O. Paragraph 3, Section O of the Complaint is a statement of Plaintiff's intent and therefore requires no response from Defendant.
- P. Paragraph 3, Section P of the Complaint is a statement of Plaintiff's intent and therefore requires no response from Defendant.
- Q. Paragraph 3, Section Q of the Complaint is a statement of Plaintiff's intent and therefore requires no response from Defendant.
- R. Paragraph 3, Section R of the Complaint is a statement of Plaintiff's intent and therefore requires no response from Defendant.
- S. Paragraph 3, Section S of the Complaint is a statement of Plaintiff's intent and therefore requires no response from Defendant.

Figure 5.25 List formatting in a legitimate courtroom filing

tender relates.”⁷ In failing to apply the discharge towards the alleged debt claim, and in supporting Judge [REDACTED] in attempting to avoid the correct accounting as identified on the IRS informational return 1099-C, Plaintiff confirms the actual discharge of Defendant(s) obligation via the tender of payment.

6. The Secretary of the United States Department of the Treasury, in accepting the Certificate(s) of Indebtedness via Registered Mail and not rejecting it(them), becomes the Guarantor on the account in question and discharges the cestui que trust “ALEKSANDER W. CRAIG” as well as Grantor Otto Adam Ivanovski from any further obligation of performance on the subject account(s).

6.1. "Guarantor" means any person who has undertaken to pay any indebtedness or perform any obligation of a mortgagor under a mortgage or of any other person who owes payment or the performance of other obligations secured by the mortgage, which undertaking is made by a guaranty or surety agreement of any kind.⁸

7. The 1099-C IRS informational return for the discharge of the alleged mortgage debt accompanying the Certificate(s) of Indebtedness is required by federal law 26 USC 6050P, which governs the Security Instrument / Mortgage according to Clause 16 and is quoted below:

7.1. (a) In general. Any applicable entity which discharges (in whole or in part) the indebtedness of any person during any calendar year shall make a return (at such time and in such form as the Secretary may by regulations prescribe) setting forth--

- (1) the name, address, and TIN of each person whose indebtedness was discharged during such calendar year,
- (2) the date of the discharge and the amount of the indebtedness discharged, and
- (3) such other information as the Secretary may prescribe.

(b) Exception. Subsection (a) shall not apply to any discharge of less than \$600.

(c) Definitions and special rules. For purposes of this section--

(1) Applicable entity. The term “applicable entity” means--

- (A) an executive, judicial, or legislative agency (as defined in section 3701(a)(4) of title 31, United States Code), and
- (B) an applicable financial entity.

(2) Applicable financial entity. The term “applicable financial entity” means--

- (A) any financial institution described in section 581 or 591(a) and any credit union,

⁷ (810 ILCS 5/3 603) (from Ch. 26, par. 3 603)

⁸ (735 ILCS 5/15 1204) (from Ch. 110, par. 15 1204)

Figure 5.26 List formatting in a pseudolegal courtroom filing

LCF texts tend to favor single-level lists while PCF texts are more likely to employ multi-level lists. The list in the PCF text in the above figure contains no fewer than five sub-levels, leading

to unwieldy potential citations to document sections such as “7.1(c)(2)(A).” While this depth of list would not necessarily be out of place in a contract or a statute (two other genres of legal writing which the PCF text in Figure 5.26 is clearly inspired by), it is a markedly different and much more complex layout choice than that made in the list found in the LCF text in Figure 5.25. Unlike in the discussion of page numbers above, where it seems likely the bottom-right aligned numbers in PCF texts resulted from a combination of a lack of genre competence and default word processor settings, this greater list complexity in PCF texts relative to LCF texts is more likely to reflect an intentional choice on the part of individual Sovereign Citizen authors and is therefore better understood as another attempt on the part of PCF authors to enhance the magical powers of their texts by heightening the presence of a feature commonly found in LCF texts. Earlier in this chapter, this effect was observed via a more frequent use of certain methods of textual emphasis; here, it is achieved through a text’s layout. From a magical perspective, if LCF texts are seen as gaining part of their power via elements of their layout and LCF texts use single-level lists, then PCF texts will be able to lay claim to even greater power by employing a greater amount of lists with more levels; once again, PCF texts have been found to make more frequent use of images than LCF texts and to place them in a wider variety of locations on the page.

PCF texts use significantly more seals (which have been defined for the purposes of this thesis as graphic features which appear intended to verify either the identity of a text’s author or of the text itself) than LCF texts. Seals occur approximately two and a half times as often in the PCF corpus than they do in the LCF corpus. The most common type of seal present in the LCF corpus is an ink stamp bearing an attorney’s name and registration number, while the most common type of seal in the PCF corpus is a notary seal. Examples of both are given below in Figure 5.27 and Figure 5.28:

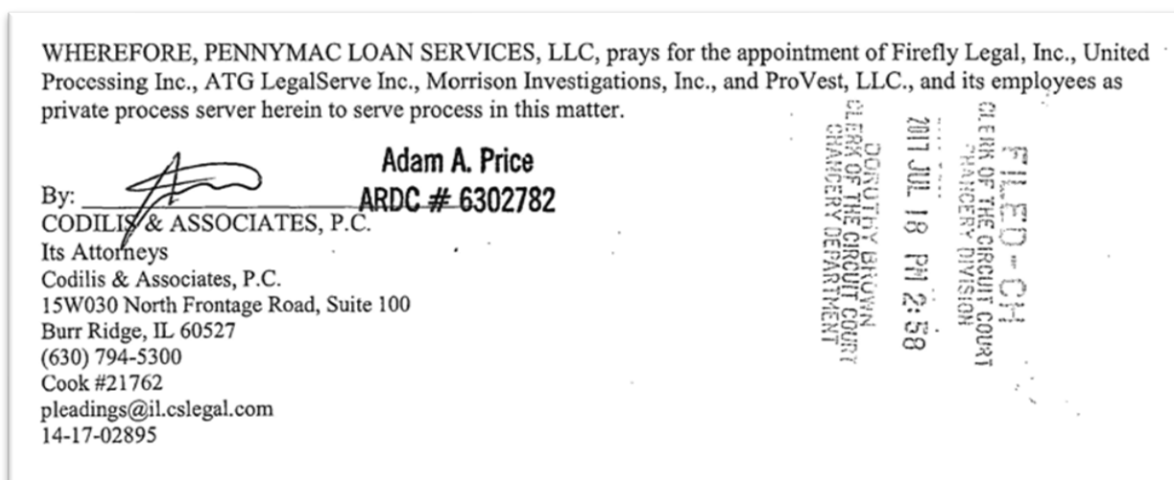


Figure 5.27 Attorney registration stamp in a legitimate courtroom filing

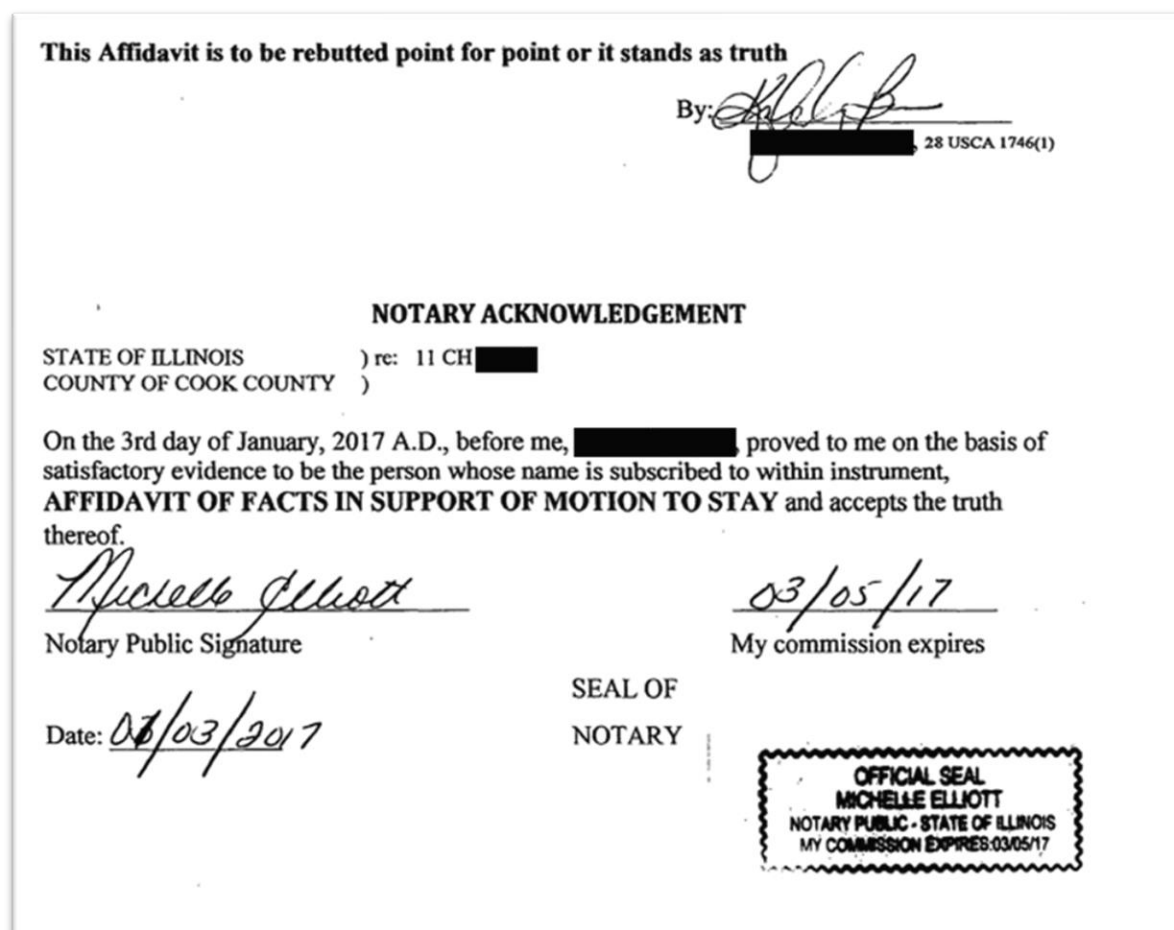


Figure 5.28 Notary seal in a pseudolegal courtroom filing

In both corpora, these seals generally appear on a document’s final page near a signature block (the stamp reading “Filed” in Figure 5.27 is not considered a feature of the LCF text for the

purposes of this thesis, because, as was explained in Chapter 3, such seals are applied by the court clerk once a document has been filed rather than by a text's author in the drafting process). The notary seals used in PCF texts are all consistent with those found in the LCF corpus, such as the one shown in the following Figure:



Figure 5.29 Notary seal from a legitimate courtroom filing

This indicates that the notary seals in PCF texts are likely legitimate (i.e. that the stamps were applied by actual notaries rather than resulting from any particular Sovereign Citizen magical heightening). Given that notaries are themselves government-authorized functionaries, it seems notable that Sovereign Citizens are willing to work with them in the creation of their texts. With that said, the actual role of a notary in these cases would be limited to verifying that the individual signing a given text provided proof that they were who they claimed to be, and in this sense, it could be seen to be another way of making the government acknowledge the identity (and implicitly, the power and authority) of individual Sovereign Citizens. It was observed that the names of several notaries are repeated throughout the PCF corpus, and that some of those notaries appear to share names with Sovereign Citizen litigants in other cases in the corpus. Though this could be coincidental, it suggests that some Sovereign Citizens may have themselves become notaries and that there is at least a degree of organization and cooperation within the Chicago-area Sovereign Citizen community. It may also explain why individual Sovereign Citizen litigants are willing to work with representatives of the legal system in this instance. Examining such potential real-world connections between Sovereign Citizen litigants is beyond the scope of this thesis, however, and this subject is left for future study.

Several seals present in PCF texts have no clear analogues in the LCF corpus. Without access to the original texts, it is not possible to determine the exact nature of each of these seals with complete certainty, but they generally appear to be either embossed stickers as in Figure 5.30:

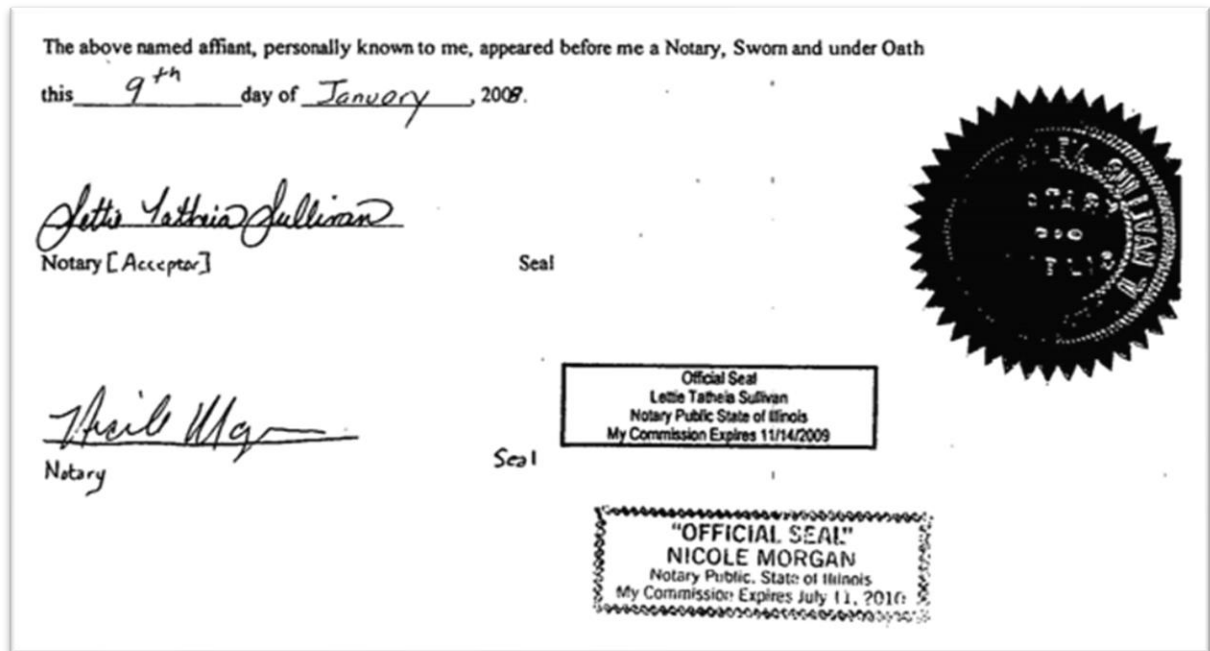


Figure 5.30 Embossed sticker seal in a pseudolegal courtroom filing

Or coats of arms, as seen in Figure 5.31:



Figure 5.31 Coat of arms in a pseudolegal courtroom filing

The sticker in Figure 5.30 appears to say “Notary Public” in its center and accompanies two separate seemingly legitimate notary seals. There is no legal reason that the signature of the Sovereign Citizen author of that text would need to be witnessed by more than one notary, nor is there any clear legal purpose to the sticker. Instead, this seems like yet another example of

the magical heightening practices of PCF texts. If an LCF text would use one notary stamp, then, in line with Sovereign Citizens' aforementioned "more is more" ethos, not only will a PCF text use two, but it might as well also include a bonus sticker to further emphasize the degree to which the text has been notarized, as if that were a factor in a text's legal validity. According to the magical thinking that motivates this sort of practice, this enhances the power of the PCF text and therefore increases its likelihood of successfully overpowering the legitimate legal system. This focus on the verification of the identity of individual Sovereign Citizen authors fits with both the importance of truth-related words such as "affiant" noted in Chapter 4's discussion of the use of legal language in PCF texts, and with the overall importance that the authors of these texts appear to place on centering the identity in their writings. The use of the coat of arms in Figure 5.31 can be seen as a related attempt to both assert the identity of the text's author as, presumably, someone entitled to use that coat of arms, and to establish their claimed foreign sovereignty as the source of their immunity from the powers of the US state and federal governments. Though no other seal in the PCF corpus makes this sort of claim, it has much in common with the use of illustrations in PCF texts discussed in the following section.

Delimiters occur significantly more frequently and more than twice as often in the PCF corpus as they do in the LCF corpus. Delimiters are graphic elements such as lines used to mark out different areas of a page (delimiters occurring in legal captions are not included in the count in Table 5.3 as they were instead considered above in the broader discussion of captions Section 5.3.2). The vast majority of delimiters in the LCF and PCF corpora occur as part of signature blocks, where they form the lines onto which individuals place their signatures, though they also commonly serve to separate the body text of a page from its footnotes, as seen in the following examples from the LCF corpus:

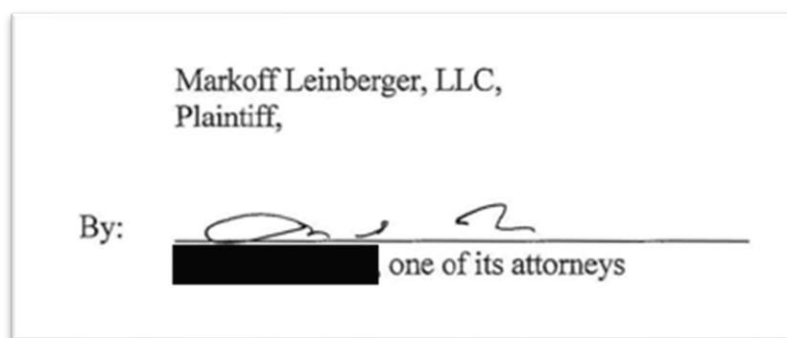


Figure 5.32 Delimiter as signature line in a legitimate courtroom filing

PETA's Request for Review and Attorney General's Determination

26. Pursuant to 5 ILCS 140/9.5, on January 6, 2017,¹ PETA submitted a Request for Review of the District's Response to [REDACTED], the Public Access Counselor for the Office of the Illinois Attorney General, seeking "review of the District's denial of public records relating to SeaWorld or the Zoo's stingray exhibit." A true and correct copy of PETA's Request for Review is attached as Exhibit D.

¹ The letter was dated January 5, 2017.

Figure 5.33 Delimiter separating body and footnote text in a legitimate courtroom filing

The PCF corpus often uses delimiters to create what are essentially "fill in the blank" sections, with those sections generally being completed by a notary:

State of <u>IL</u>) ss.	JURAT
County of <u>COOK</u>		
The above named Libelants, [REDACTED] and [REDACTED], Executive Trustee for [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] appeared before me, a Notary, subscribed, sworn to the truth of this contractual NOTICE OF DEMAND FOR PAYMENT AND SETTLEMENT for closing of the escrow.		
Under oath this <u>25</u> day of <u>August</u> , 2011.		
<u>Helen M. Gary</u> Notary		SEAL
My Commission expires <u>March 20, 2012</u>		
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: fit-content; margin: 10px auto;"><p>OFFICIAL SEAL HELEN M. GARY NOTARY PUBLIC, STATE OF ILLINOIS My Commission Expires March 20, 2012</p></div>		

Figure 5.34 Delimiters in a notarized section of a pseudolegal courtroom filing

Though comparable sections exist in some LCF texts, they are much less elaborate:

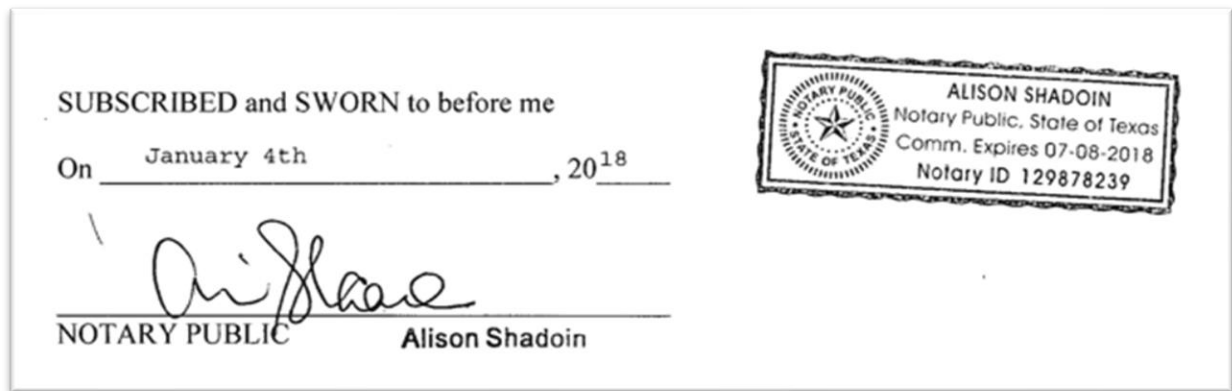


Figure 5.35 Delimiters in a notarized section of a legitimate courtroom filing

Compared to their LCF equivalents, these notary form sections in PCF texts are almost mini texts within a text. They appear to serve the dual purpose of increasing the formal nature of PCF texts by adding additional structure while simultaneously additionally emphasizing the presence of the notary seal.

The final shared graphic feature to be discussed in this section is the use of handwritten text. Handwritten text is significantly more common in PCF texts than LCF texts, occurring seven times as often. The vast majority of instances of such handwriting in both LCF and PCF texts are signatures, generally occurring at or near the end of a document. As with other features discussed above, Sovereign Citizens seem intent on outdoing LCF texts in terms of both the quantity and content of the signatures in their texts, as in the following excerpt in which a Sovereign Citizen includes two full signature blocks in quick succession:

FURTHER AFFIANT SAYETH NOT

[REDACTED]
[Signature]
Counsel Pro Se
P. O. Box [REDACTED]
312 [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]@yahoo.com

Under penalties as provided by law pursuant to 735 1265 5\1-109, the undersigned certifies that the statements set forth in this instrument are true and correct, except as to matters therein stated to be on information and belief and as to such matters, the undersigned certifies as aforesaid that he verily believes the same to be true.

[REDACTED]
[Signature]
Counsel Pro Se
P. O. Box [REDACTED]
312 [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]@yahoo.com

Figure 5.36 Identical signature blocks on the same page of a pseudolegal courtroom filing

In other cases, in addition to writing their names, Sovereign Citizens append phrases such as “without prejudice” as well as references to the Uniform Commercial Code:

and correct and is admitted when not rebutted, so help me.
without prejudice UCC 1-308
[Signature]
without prejudice UCC 1-308
[Signature]

Figure 5.37 Signatures followed by “without prejudice” and references to the UCC in a pseudolegal courtroom filing

While legally meaningless, such accompaniments to signatures are part of many of the more common Sovereign Citizen pseudolegal theories. Their real effect is to enhance the perceived magic character of the signing process (see Luhmann 1989, p.221) for the Sovereign Citizen signatories, thereby enhancing their estimation of the text's magical potency. Once again, Sovereign Citizen texts personally involve and invoke their authors at a much greater rate than LCF texts.

Seals, delimiters, and handwriting all most commonly occur on the final pages of the texts in which they appear. The following heatmaps show their typical spatial distribution in the LCF and PCF corpora:

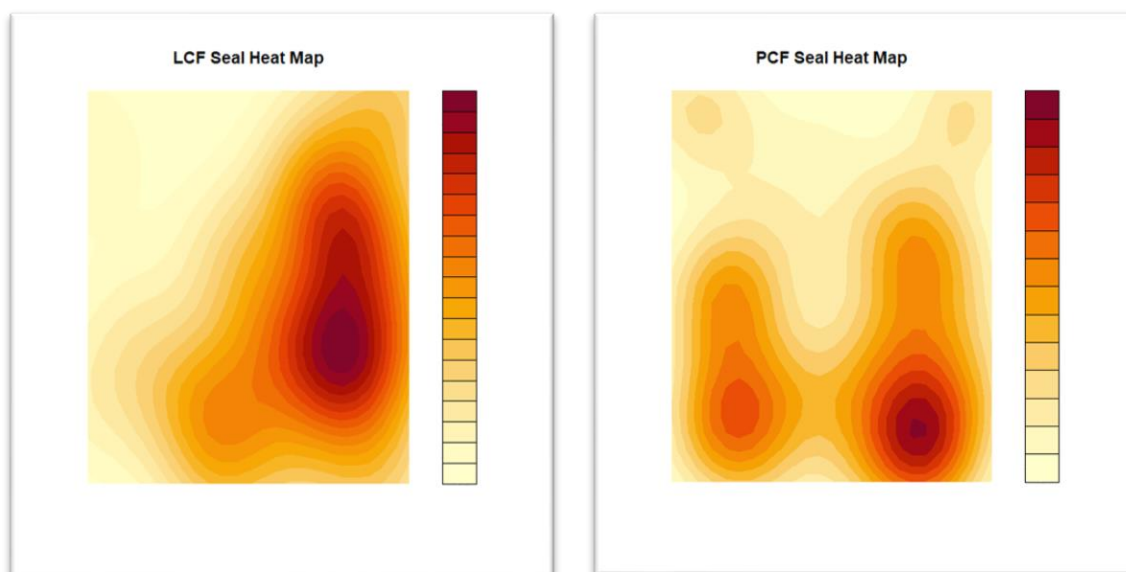


Figure 5.38 Spatial distribution of seals in the Legitimate and Pseudolegal Courtroom Filing corpora

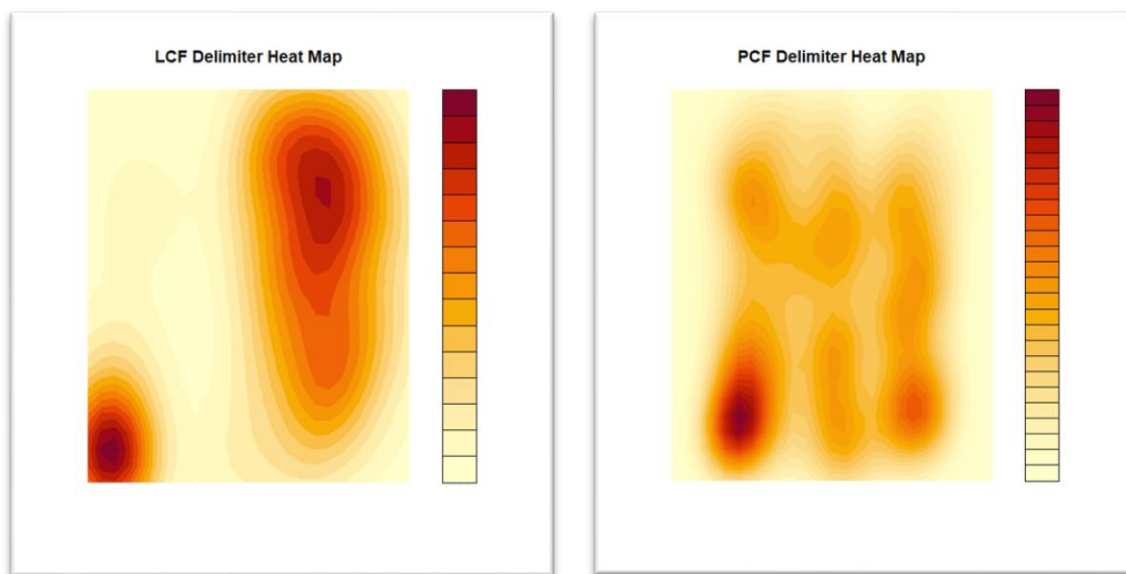


Figure 5.39 Spatial distribution of delimiters in the Legitimate and Pseudolegal Courtroom Filing corpora

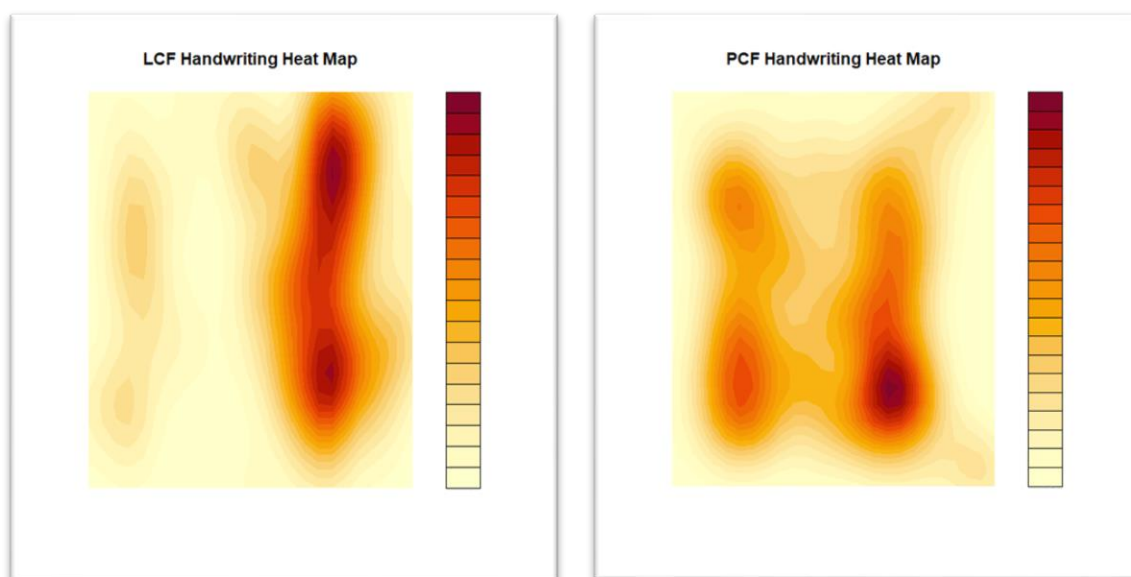


Figure 5.40 Spatial distribution of handwriting in the Legitimate and Pseudolegal Courtroom Filing corpora

Across all three sets of heatmaps, a clear and distinct pattern emerges for each corpus: seals, delimiters, and handwriting all tend to occur in a consistent single column on the right side of the page in LCF texts and in multiple columns spread across the page in PCF texts (the hotspot in the bottom left corner of the LCF and PCF delimiter heatmaps relates to the use of lines separating body text from footnote text as seen above in Figure 5.33). In both corpora, the vertical variation in the placement of these features is explained by the fact that they tend to appear following the end of their document's main body text. Because the exact endpoint of

that main body text naturally varies depending upon a number of factors (e.g. wordcount, font size, etc.) the vertical placement of these three images does as well. The difference in the horizontal placement of these features between the two corpora, however, appears more meaningful: not only are seals, delimiters, and handwriting all significantly more common in the PCF corpus than in the LCF corpus, but they also all occur in more positions on the page. As has been noted throughout this section, PCF texts will often take existing features of LCF texts and heighten them by increasing their frequency, adding additional emphasis, or sometimes both at once. This heightening often seems to involve an increased focus on the identity of the author of the PCF text in question rather than on the substance of any (pseudo)legal arguments they may be making. This section has explored the ways in which this process occurs in graphic features which are shared by both the LCF and PCF corpora; the following section turns to an examination of the graphic features which are found in only one of the two corpora.

5.5.2 Images Unique to One Corpus

As shown in Table 5.3 on page 181, tables are the only graphic feature to occur in the LCF corpus which do not occur in the PCF corpus, while there are three features in the PCF corpus which do not occur in the LCF corpus: thumbprints, postage stamps, and illustrations. These features merit closer examination because of the degree to which they so clearly distinguish the texts belonging to the LCF and PCF genres.

The presence of tables in the LCF corpus and their absence in the PCF corpus is consistent with the tendency of LCF texts noted throughout this chapter to present information clearly and accessibly, as well as with what is essentially the opposite tendency in PCF texts. This thesis has suggested that the goal of PCF texts is not to communicate any particular piece of information, but rather to magically overwhelm the opposing forces of the legitimate legal system; to the extent that presenting information in table form is an attempt to more effectively communicate, then, such a practice would be anathema to the magic purposes of PCF texts. A representative table from the LCF corpus follows as Figure 5.41:

The amount due the Plaintiff on said Note through 7/14/2017 is \$24,533.61 which breaks down as follows:	
Principal	\$22,774.51
Interest from 10/1/2016 to 7/14/2017 @ variable rate(s)	\$477.80
Pre-acceleration Late Charges	\$0.00
Hazard Insurance Disbursements	\$0.00
Tax Disbursements	\$1,281.30
Property Inspections/Preservation	\$0.00
PMI/MIP Insurance	\$0.00
Other (specify charges/fees)	\$0.00
Escrow Balance Credit	\$0.00
Credits to Borrower	\$0.00
Total	\$24,533.61
Interest will continue to accrue until the date of judgment under the terms of the Note and Mortgage	

Figure 5.41 Table from a legitimate courtroom filing

The purpose of this table is clear, its presentation of information is straightforward, and its math is correct. It is, therefore, essentially the opposite of a PCF.

The features which are unique to the PCF corpus are, perhaps unsurprisingly, amongst the features which are generally said by outside observers (e.g. Anti-Defamation League 2016) to be most characteristic of PCF texts relative to legal texts.⁵ Given the lack of comparable features in the LCF corpus, the presence of thumbprints, postage stamps, and illustrations in the PCF corpus is unlikely to be the result of attempts at parasitic imitation; instead, these features are better understood as part of the magic nature of PCF texts. Indeed, given the prominence of these features in most observers' accounts of PCF texts, these features may actually be considered the most magical parts of PCF texts, inasmuch as they appear to be those which most clearly detract from their parasitic efforts by marking them as something clearly other than a legitimate courtroom filing.

An examination of the distribution of these three features reveals that they exist in a complementary distribution:

⁵ Based on what others have reported (e.g. Williams 2016), it is likely that the texts in the PCF corpus as originally filed made at least some use of color, particularly in their signatures and use of thumbprints. Red and blue seem to be the most commonly noted, with red sometimes stemming from the use of blood in lieu of ink (Conti 2018). As previously discussed, however, it was not possible for this thesis to examine this aspect of PCF text because of the format in which the documents examined were obtained.

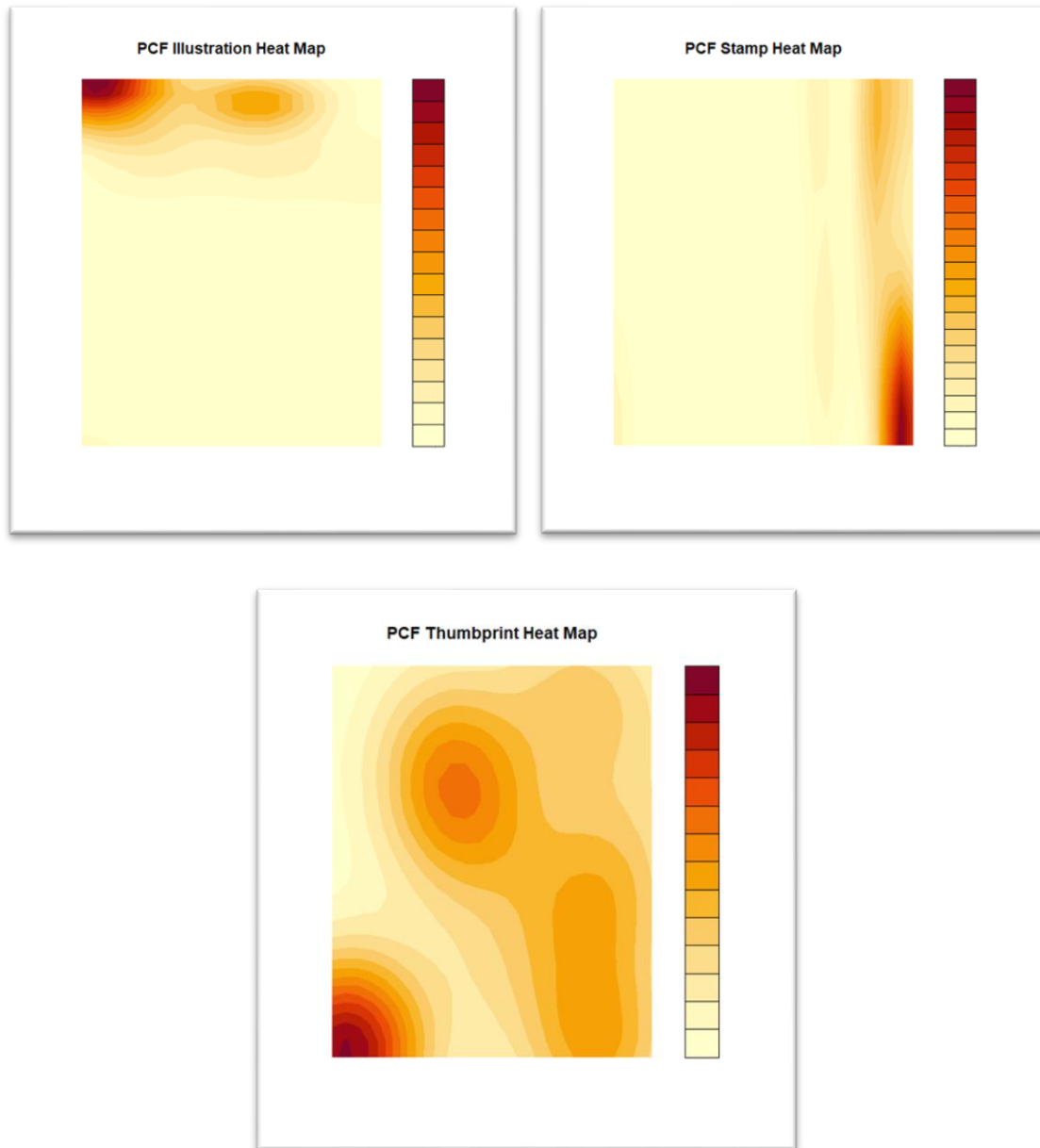


Figure 5.42 Spatial distribution of images unique to the Pseudolegal Courtroom Filing corpus

Though there is some variation (particularly in the placement of thumbprints), a clear hotspot is visible in each heatmap in Figure 5.42: Illustrations tend to occur in the top left corner of a page, thumbprints in the bottom left corner, and postage stamps in the bottom right corner. This apparent consistency for each feature suggests both that there is a degree of purposefulness in their placements and that the purpose of each may differ.

About 60% of illustrations in PCF texts occur on the first page, generally as part of something approximating the captions which characterize the first pages of LCF texts (see

Section 5.3.2). The majority of all illustrations in the PCF corpus are clearly intended to relate to the US government, as in the following figure:



Figure 5.43 American flag illustration in a pseudolegal courtroom filing

The American flag is the most common single illustration present in the PCF corpus, followed closely by a modified version with vertical, rather than horizontal, stripes and the colors of the portion containing the stars inverted:



Figure 5.44 Modified American flag illustrations in the Pseudolegal Courtroom Filing corpus

Other American symbols are occasionally present as well, such as approximations of the presidential seal or the “All Seeing Eye” present on the back of the one-dollar bill:



Figure 5.45 Additional US-themed illustrations in a pseudolegal courtroom filing

Notably, there are no illustrations of the Illinois or Chicago flags in the PCF corpus. As all texts in the PCF corpus were filed in a state level court in Chicago, to the extent that the presence of any flags might be expected or “proper” (though, as said before, there are none in the LCF corpus), it would be those. The use of the national flag makes the most sense when considered alongside the trend of referring to US federal, rather than state, law discussed in the previous chapter. The modified and color-inverted version of the American flag can similarly be understood as the next step in the magical heightening process: if making use of the American flag rather than a state flag is laying claim to a higher level of authority, then this modified American flag is an attempt to contact some still higher level of magical power and authority. Sovereign Citizens refer to this flag as the “United States Civilian Flag” or “U.S. Civil Flag” and claim that it represents “a Civilian government run by the American People under the Common law” (USCivilFlags.org 2022), while what is generally believed to be the “official” American flag is actually the “Military Flag of the United States” (Anonymous Patriot 2011) and serves as proof of the governments suppression of that original common law (see the discussion in Chapter 1 for more on the general contours of Sovereign Citizen pseudolegal theory). While this “U.S. Civil Flag” bears a resemblance to one used by the Sons of Liberty in 1767, that flag (sometimes called the “Rebellious Stripes” (Sterbenz 2016)) did not have a star field portion, nor has any official version of the flag of the United States ever had vertical stripes (Harrington 2019). By laying claim to such a history, however, Sovereign Citizens are essentially making an appeal to precedent: if this U.S. Civil flag predates the “Military Flag,” then surely it can draw upon older, more powerful magic.⁶

⁶ Other Sovereign Citizens refer to this instead as the “Title 4 Flag” and connect it to a complicated series of conspiracies centered around the postal service (Netolitzky 2018b, p.1063). This is far from the only flag-based pseudolegal theory put forward by the Sovereign Citizens; gold fringe on a flag, for example, which is particularly

The use of illustrations in other PCF texts takes this heightening process in a different direction. Rather than implicitly invoking the authority of the federal government (or some modified version thereof), these texts instead make use of illustrations to lay claim to the authority of a foreign government. This most often takes the form of either a claimed association with a (generally non-existent) Native American tribe (see Dew 2015) or with some sort of “Moorish” government (Pitcavage 2016), as seen in the following excerpt:

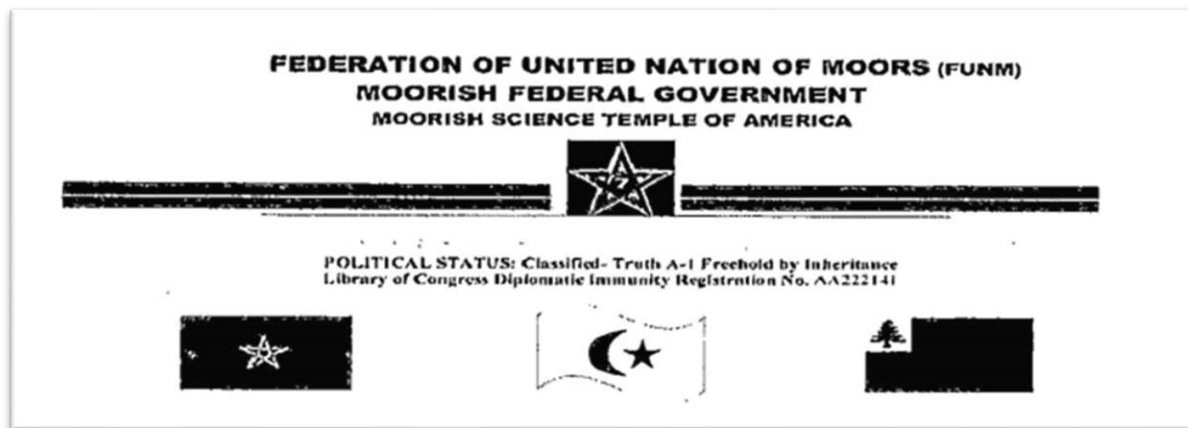


Figure 5.46 Moorish illustrations in a pseudolegal courtroom filing

Regardless of the exact claim being made, the effect is the same: it is yet another attempt on the part of the authors of Sovereign Citizen texts to show that not only does the court have no authority over them, but, in fact, they have authority over the court.

Illustrations, thumbprints, and postage stamps all form part of an overarching effort to emphasize the power and identity of the author of the text in which they appear. An examination of the use of postage stamps in the PCF corpus reveals just how interdependent these features can be: every occurrence of a postage stamp in a PCF text is accompanied by a handwritten signature, and half are also accompanied by a thumbprint, as in the following examples:

common in courtrooms and military contexts, is often pointed to as evidence of the government’s secret imposition of admiralty law onto the people (Southern Poverty Law Center 2010).



Figure 5.47 Postage stamps accompanied by other distinctive Sovereign Citizen features in the Pseudolegal Courtroom Filing corpus

Thumbprints, particularly when made in one's own blood (Conti 2018; Netolitzky 2018b, p.1063), are used to prove that a Sovereign Citizen is a “natural person” rather than a “strawman” (see the discussion in Chapter 1) while postage stamps are generally believed to transform the Sovereign Citizen into the “Postmaster” of their own personal nation-state (Netolitzky 2018b, p.1058).⁷ In this way, both postage stamps and thumbprints serve a similar function to notary seals (see the discussion in the Section 5.5.1), inasmuch as they appear intended to lend an element of authority or verification to their accompanying signatures.⁸ Unlike postage stamps, however, thumbprints seem capable of functioning on their own in PCF texts. As seen in Figure 5.42, there is a clear thumbprint hotspot in the bottom left corner of the page. Thumbprints which appear in this position invariably do so without any accompanying features, as in the following excerpt:

⁷ Postage stamps play a significant role in a number of Sovereign Citizen pseudolegal theories, though only one such theory (quantum grammar, discussed below in Section 5.6.3) is explicitly invoked in the PCF corpus. See Netolitzky (2018b, pp.1057–1069) for more on these postage-centric pseudolegal theories.

⁸ Though there is no evidence to this effect in the PCF corpus, it is worth noting that the relationship between notary seals and thumbprints is likely even closer and more parasitic than stated above. Per 5 ILCS 312/3-102(c)(6), notaries in the state of Illinois are legally required to record a signer's right thumbprint when notarizing certain documents related to the transfer of property (Illinois General Assembly 2022a), and both the American Association of Notaries and the National Notary Association recommend that notaries record their signers' thumbprints whenever possible (NNA Staff 2013; American Association of Notaries 2017). It seems entirely possible, though not provable in this study, that the use of thumbprints in PCF texts either has its origins in or has been significantly bolstered by this practice.

3. Summary judgment proceedings are to avoid congestion of trial calendars etc. when it is warranted. The Defendant does not believe it is warranted as pursuant to **Title 8 USC 1481** which states once an oath of office is taken citizenship is relinquished, thus attorneys become a foreign entity, agency, or state. That means every public office is a foreign state, including all

Page 4 of 15

Figure 5.48 Thumbprint appearing without other graphic features in a pseudolegal courtroom filing

PCF texts which make use of thumbprints in this way use them across multiple pages, in some cases including one in the bottom left corner of every page in a text. On several occasions, thumbprints were placed in a similar position on the backside of a page, where they were the only feature (graphic or textual) present, and in Figure 5.49, the thumbprints of multiple people were used alongside their signatures:




<u>WITNESSES</u>	
I declare that Jones, Beverly Ann aka Young, Beverly Ann is personally known to me to be the name holder of the BEVERLY ANN JONES registered entity, file number 9659332200026 and that she autographed this "Declaration of Truth and Damages" in my presence on behalf of the entity.	
Bey, Nyeema AKA Jones Berinda DBA BERLINDA JONES WITNESS ONE	 October 18, 2017 DATE
Benifield, Edward Walker dba EDWARD WALKER BENIFIELD WITNESS TWO	 10-18-2017 DATE
Bey, hakeem el dba HAKEEM EL BEY WITNESS THREE	 10-18-2017 DATE

Figure 5.49 Thumbprint array in a pseudolegal courtroom filing

If one person's signature imparts power, the above figure seems to suggest, then three surely impart even more. Discussion in this and the prior chapter has noted multiple ways in which pseudolegal courtroom filings seem to be constructed to emphasize the presence or personhood of their authors (e.g. through a significantly higher use of first person pronouns as compared to LCF texts, or via their more conversational tone, which contributes to the impression that the author is speaking directly to the reader). It might be that the clear personal connection between a text's author and their thumbprint is why this particular feature is able to stand on its own in a way that the other graphic features in PCF texts are not. From a magical perspective, a thumbprint is a direct expression of the identity of an individual Sovereign Citizen and therefore perhaps the clearest representation of the power and authority over the legal system which they attempt to claim. In the following example from a PCF text, this connection is made even more explicit with a thumbprint labeled as the "Seal of Court":

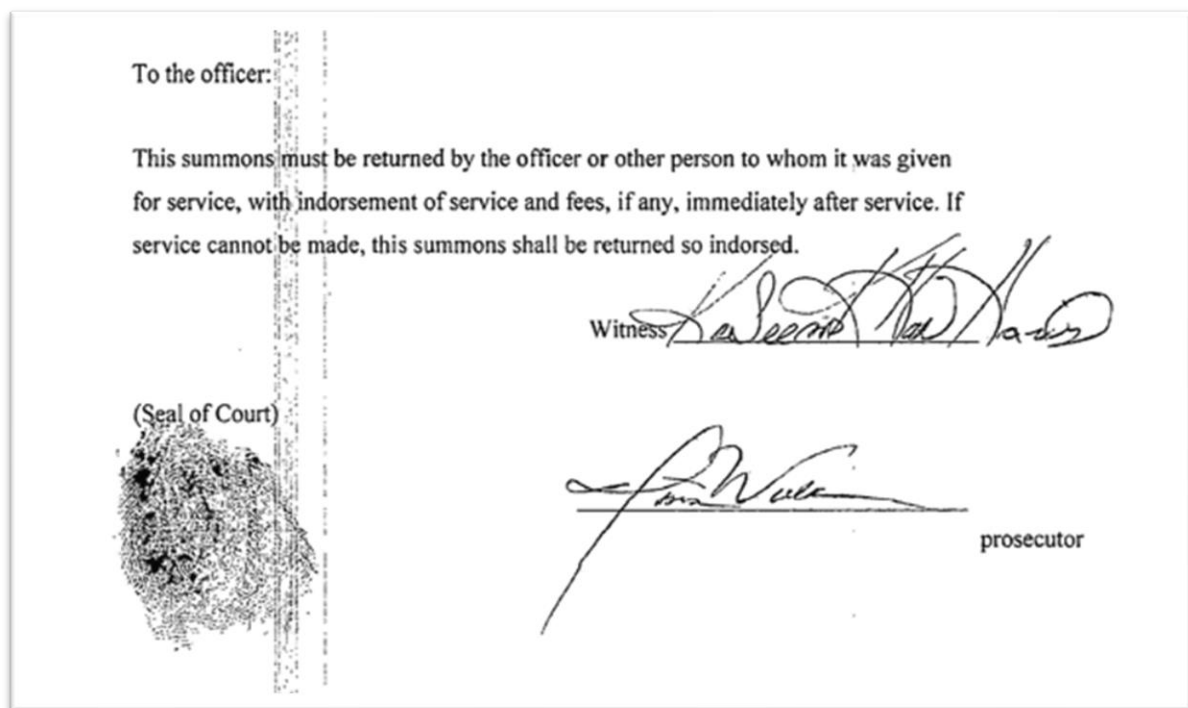


Figure 5.50 Thumbprint as the "Seal of Court" in a pseudolegal courtroom filing

Here, then, a thumbprint is not only enough to establish a Sovereign Citizen's identity, but also to effectively allow them to directly usurp the role of the court. Things are taken a step further still when, next to the signature at the bottom of the page, the Sovereign Citizen is identified as a "prosecutor." All texts in the PCF and LCF corpora are from civil law cases rather than

criminal law cases, meaning that none would involve a prosecutor, instead having a plaintiff and a defendant. Nevertheless, this Sovereign Citizen is essentially trying to serve as judge, jury and (presumably non-literal) executioner, wielding their illegitimately claimed legal authority to, in the above example, issue orders to some third party “officer.”

As a parasitic genre, PCF texts are in constant conversation with LCF texts, either copying or heightening the features of their host genre as best suits their imitative or magical needs, and the majority of this thesis has been looking at the contents of the PCF corpus in this dialogic context. At the same time, as is true of all genres, PCF texts are also in conversation with one another, and the presence and use of their unique features relative to LCF texts can also be analyzed in relation to the presence and use of those features in other PCF texts. Looking at it from this intra-genre perspective, it is possible to establish a continuum of the use of thumbprints in individual PCF texts, ranging from instances in which they seem to have relatively minor power, as in Figure 5.47 where thumbprints are used in conjunction with other characteristic PCF features such as postage stamps, to more substantial instances such as Figure 5.48, where a thumbprint appears on its own with the apparent belief that this will be sufficient to establish the identity and authority of a text’s author, to extreme cases such as Figure 5.50, where a thumbprint is used to lay claim to the authority of the court itself. As these inter- and intra-genre conversations continue over time, it is reasonable to assume that use of unique PCF features, such as thumbprints, will continue to change and, given their nature as magic texts, to heighten over time. One text in the PCF corpus gives an example of what additional such heightening can look like:

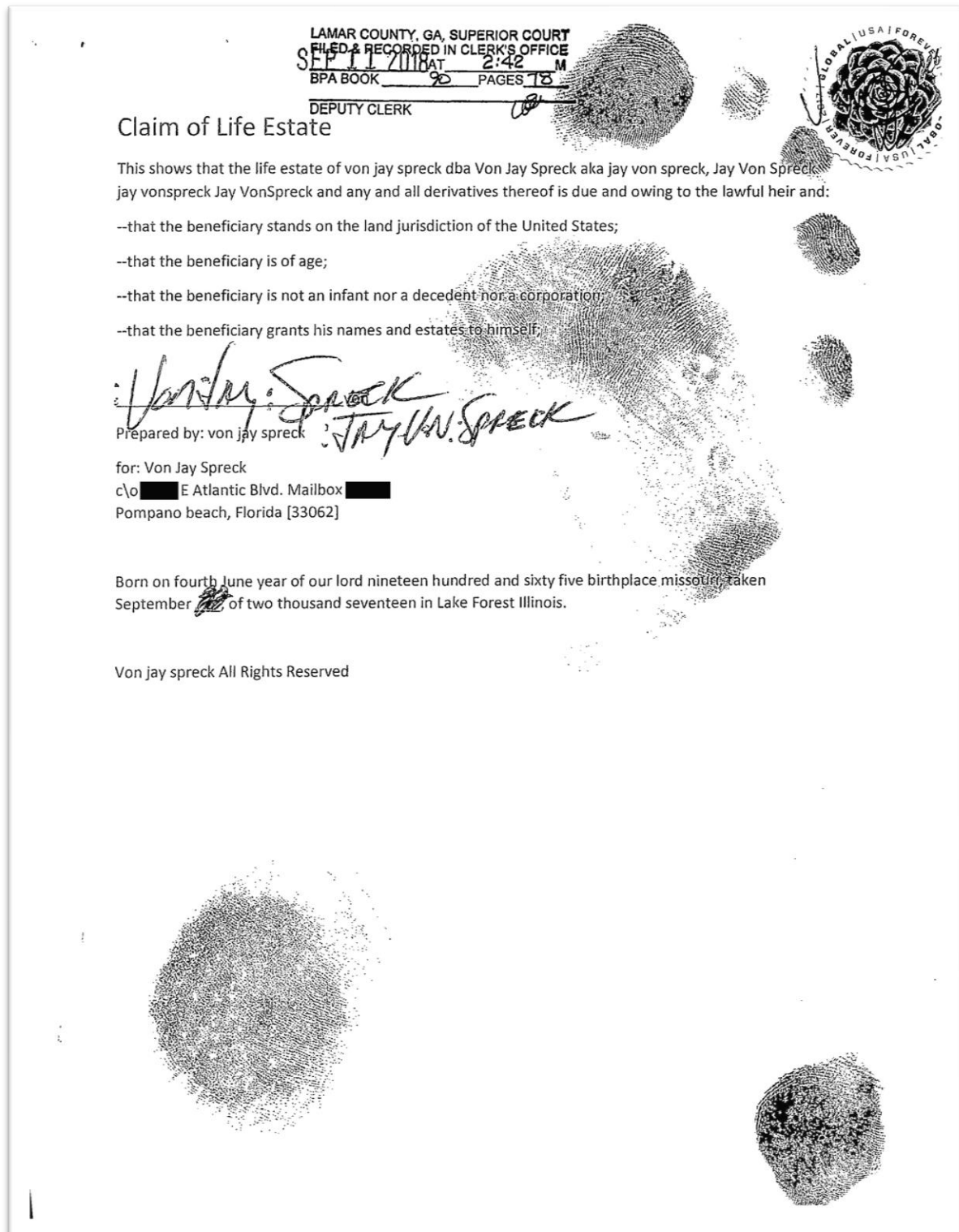


Figure 5.51 Pseudolegal courtroom filing containing an entire footprint

This page includes a number of features which clearly distinguish PCF texts from LCF texts: there is a postage stamp with a signature written over it in the top right corner, an additional Sovereign Citizen-style signature towards the center of the page (including both a

“:FirstName:LastName” and “:LastName:FirstName” formulation), a Sovereign Citizen-style address just below that (as shown by the use of “c/o” and the bracketed zip code), and a thumbprint in the bottom right corner. The most notable feature, however, is the full footprint running diagonally across the page.

While at least one other report exists of a Sovereign Citizen producing a similarly “stamped” document (Segall 2016), this is the only instance of a footprint in either the LCF or PCF corpus, and it therefore cannot be relied upon as evidence of any larger trend in PCF texts. However, if it is thought of as a new extreme on the thumbprint continuum described above, then it provides interesting insight into the way that genres can evolve and how Sovereign Citizen texts can magically heighten their own distinctive features. While a handprint would perhaps be more of a natural next step up from a thumbprint than a footprint, this choice can be seen as making a kind of magical sense, inasmuch as magic is designed to evoke feelings that “are at least unusual” (Luhmann 1989, p.231). If PCF texts heighten existing features of LCF texts through additional capitalization or bolding, for example, a footprint might be read as a heightened thumbprint, since it is larger and therefore more visually impactful.⁹ As has been seen repeatedly in this and the previous chapter, PCF texts place a great deal of importance upon emphasizing the identity of their authors and the use of thumb- and footprints is a clear way to do so. It also makes sense, therefore, that identity-focused features tend to be some of those which most clearly distinguish LCF and PCF texts, and that those are the features PCF texts are most likely to heighten. From a Sovereign Citizen perspective, the use of a full-page footprint is both a clear statement of identity on the part of a text’s author and “unusual” enough to fit the genre’s larger magical purposes.

Though this thesis is not examining the evolution of the pseudolegal courtroom filing genre over time, to continue the biological metaphor of parasitic genre, the emergence of new and unique features of Sovereign Citizen texts is a natural part of the evolutionary process. There is no guarantee, of course, that such emergent features will be taken up at a sufficient rate by other Sovereign Citizen authors to survive the “natural selection” process; it may be instead that applying ink to one’s foot and then using that foot to stamp a page in an attempt to imbue it with legal authority will prove too much even for the members of the Sovereign Citizen movement. At the same time, the existence of quantum grammar documents (see Chapter 1 and Section 5.6.3) shows that movement members have a high tolerance for features

⁹ The use of a footprint may also be a parasitic appropriation of a feature common to another sort of legal document: hospitals in the United States have recorded a baby’s footprints as part of their official birth certificate since the 1960s (US Birth Certificates 2022).

far outside the norm of what would be expected not just of legitimate courtroom filings, but even many pseudolegal courtroom filings. Ultimately, the use of features such as illustrations, stamps, and thumbprints in PCF texts, which are both unique to the PCF corpus and actively harmful to those texts' chances of parasitic success, are further evidence of the fundamentally magic nature of PCF texts. The more prominently displayed such a feature is, the more likely it becomes that the inclusion of that feature was considered so important to magical purposes of a PCF text that its author determined it was worth the enhanced risk of imitative failure.

5.6 Key Multimodal Features and Prototype Analysis of Legitimate and Pseudolegal Courtroom Filings

This section performs a close reading of the most prototypical text from both the LCF and PCF corpus as determined by their use of the methods of textual emphasis and images discussed throughout this chapter. As in Chapter 4, prototypicality was determined using ProtAnt (Anthony and Baker 2017) following a keyword analysis in AntConc (Anthony 2019). Unlike in Chapter 4, however, the keyword analysis in this case focused on the use of textual emphasis and images in the LCF and PCF corpora to the exclusion of their written contents. This was accomplished by using the.txt files listing the features on each page which were generated by UAM Image Tool (O'Donnell 2011) as part of the multimodal markup process. After modifying the definitions in AntConc and ProtAnt so that each identified feature would be counted as one token (e.g. ensuring that a feature marked as “align/justify” would be counted as one “align/justify” token rather than as two separate “align” and “justify” tokens), the instances of textual emphasis and images observed in the LCF corpus were compared to those instances observed in the PCF corpus, and vice versa. To allow for the discussion of a broader range of features, the prototypes discussed in Sections 5.6.2 and 5.6.3 are the highest ranked prototypes which included at least 5 distinct types of key multimodal features. The second highest-ranked LCF text and the ninth highest-ranked PCF text were selected for examination in this way. Section 5.6.1 presents the key features of LCF and PCF texts identified in this way, after which Sections 5.6.2 and 5.6.3 review the texts identified as the LCF and PCF prototypes, respectively.

5.6.1 Key Multimodal Features

The keyword analysis described above identified seven key features of LCF texts and 18 key features of PCF texts. These key features and their frequencies in both the LCF and PCF

corpora are given below in Table 5.4 and Table 5.5. The “LL” column in these tables gives their loglikelihood score, which was used to measure the statistical significance of the observed difference in the frequency of a given feature between the two corpora (an LL value greater than 6.63 indicates $p < 0.01$), and the “%DIFF” column gives their %DIFF score, the effect size metric which was used to rank the features which were found to be statistically significant.

Table 5.4 Key multimodal features in the Legitimate Courtroom Filing corpus

Rank	Key Feature	LCF Freq.	LCF Per 100 Pages	PCF Freq.	PCF Per 100 Pages	LL	%DIFF
1	italics	2051	175	699	60	286.8791	1293.83
2	spacing	642	55	223	19	279.5919	359.1
3	footer	1046	89	684	59	101.6334	228.9
4	b/u/c/centered	368	31	226	19	114.6971	87.42
5	align/justify	543	46	494	42	44.9305	37.54
6	table	17	1	0	0	4382.969	28.61
7	i/centered	4	0	0	0	954.8162	6.73

Table 5.5 Key multimodal features in the Pseudolegal Courtroom Filing corpus

Rank	Key Feature	PCF Freq.	PCF Per 100 Pages	LCF Freq.	LCF Per 100 Pages	LL	%DIFF
1	handwriting	901	77	130	11	425.6476	475.08
2	b/i	501	43	37	3	926.9498	366.02
3	font-size	247	21	3	0	6144.374	253.57
4	caps	2026	174	985	84	55.9971	159.76
5	bold	1199	103	493	42	84.4529	152.9
6	b/i/u	141	12	4	0	2573.452	129.97
7	alt-font	183	16	24	2	478.2998	99.27
8	delimiter	814	70	356	30	73.4154	84.46
9	i/c	58	5	0	0	8697.742	65.6
10	thumbprint	52	4	0	0	7787.631	58.8
11	drawing	34	3	0	0	5057.297	38.42
12	header	90	8	19	2	259.2544	32.85
13	b/c/centered	213	18	80	7	101.9309	31.88
14	u/c	41	4	3	0	936.5155	29.47
15	c/centered	49	4	9	1	312.9208	20.44
16	stamp	18	2	0	0	2630.334	20.33
17	seal	105	9	41	4	94.2311	14.21
18	b/c	449	38	272	23	25.1961	9.01

As discussed in Section 5.4.2, italics and the combination of bolding, underlining, capitalization, and centering were not only the most common features of LCF texts in the single

emphasis and alignment & emphasis categories (see Table 5.2 on page 172), but they were also more common than the rest of the other observed features in their categories combined. The lower number of key multimodal features in the LCF corpus as compared to the PCF corpus further supports the notion that LCF texts have a more fixed generic structure.

In terms of the key multimodal features of pseudolegal courtroom filings, handwriting being positioned at the top of the list demonstrates the importance of the personal touch to the genre relative to legitimate courtroom filings, and the appearance of a number of more visually impactful features such as the use of alternate fonts and variation in font size further support the idea that PCF texts are more concerned with being striking to look at than their LCF counterparts. The greater number of key PCF features relative to LCF features is reflective of the higher degree of variation within the texts of the PCF corpus than in the texts of the LCF corpus.

5.6.2 Legitimate Courtroom Filing Graphic Prototype

The LCF multimodal prototype text is included in its entirety as Appendix 5.1. Titled “Defendants’ Reply in Support of Motion for Leave,” it serves as an example of the various multimodal features of legal documents observed throughout this chapter. In terms of its overall design, the text is double spaced and written in a justified, serif font, in line with the most common overall design choices of LCF texts discussed in Section 5.3. Similarly, its first page, shown here in Figure 5.52, includes a properly formatted caption and the other elements typical of the opening pages of LCF texts discussed in Section 5.3.2:

**_____ and WARRIORS
BOXING AND PROMOTIONS, LLC, a
Florida limited liability company,**

Case No. 17 CH [REDACTED]

██████████ and ROUND THREE PRODUCTIONS, LLC, an Illinois limited liability company

Defendants.

ELECTRONICALLY FILED
4/27/2018 3:15 PM
PAGE 2 of 15

Defendants, [REDACTED] and Round Three Production, LLC, by their attorneys, submit the following Reply in support of their Motion for Leave to File Counterclaim, and state as follows:

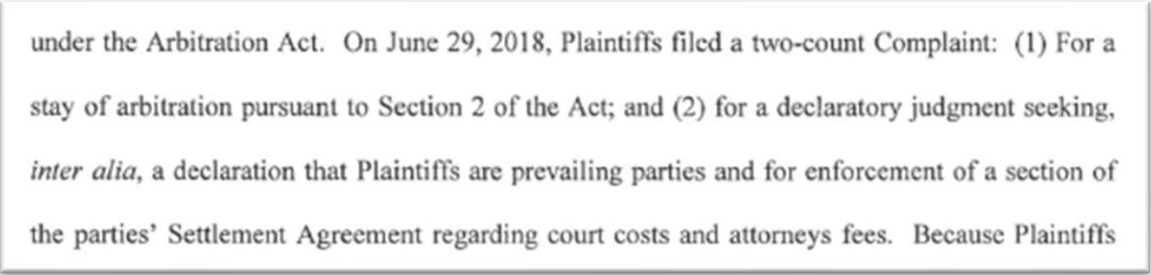
ARGUMENT

Plaintiffs' Response in opposition to Defendants' Motion for Leave is premised on the idea that an application made pursuant to Section 2 of the Illinois Uniform Arbitration Act to stay arbitration is adjudicated by summary proceeding. 710 ILCS 5/2(b) ("[t]hat issue, when in substantial and bona fide dispute, shall be forthwith and summarily tried"). While this is typically true, Plaintiffs ignore the fact that their Complaint is not solely an application made under the Arbitration Act. On June 29, 2018, Plaintiffs filed a two-count Complaint: (1) For a stay of arbitration pursuant to Section 2 of the Act; and (2) for a declaratory judgment seeking, *inter alia*, a declaration that Plaintiffs are prevailing parties and for enforcement of a section of the parties' Settlement Agreement regarding court costs and attorneys fees. Because Plaintiffs filed a claim for declaratory judgment and that seeks relief beyond that provided under Section 2

Figure 5.52 Opening page of the legitimate courtroom filing graphic prototype text

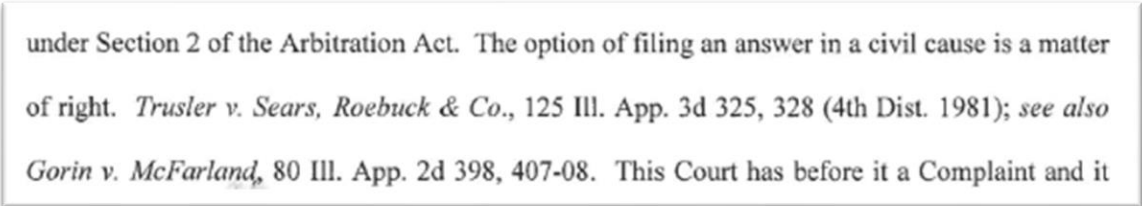
Both on this opening page and throughout the entire text, headings are bolded, underlined, capitalized, and centered, while footers contain only a page number and are center-aligned, (practices of LCF texts noted in Sections 5.4.2 and 5.5.1, respectively).

Within the prototype document's body text, emphasis is used sparingly and systematically. Italics are used for legal Latin terms and citations, as seen in the following figures:



under the Arbitration Act. On June 29, 2018, Plaintiffs filed a two-count Complaint: (1) For a stay of arbitration pursuant to Section 2 of the Act; and (2) for a declaratory judgment seeking, *inter alia*, a declaration that Plaintiffs are prevailing parties and for enforcement of a section of the parties' Settlement Agreement regarding court costs and attorneys fees. Because Plaintiffs

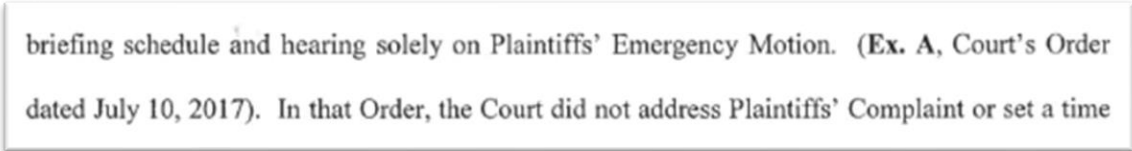
Figure 5.53 Italicization of legal Latin in the legitimate courtroom filing graphic prototype



under Section 2 of the Arbitration Act. The option of filing an answer in a civil cause is a matter of right. *Trusler v. Sears, Roebuck & Co.*, 125 Ill. App. 3d 325, 328 (4th Dist. 1981); *see also Gorin v. McFarland*, 80 Ill. App. 2d 398, 407-08. This Court has before it a Complaint and it

Figure 5.54 Italicization of citations in the legitimate courtroom filing graphic prototype

Bolding, conversely, is used to reference other texts from the same case:



briefing schedule and hearing solely on Plaintiffs' Emergency Motion. (**Ex. A**, Court's Order dated July 10, 2017). In that Order, the Court did not address Plaintiffs' Complaint or set a time

Figure 5.55 Bolded text in the body of the legitimate courtroom filing graphic prototype

Outside of headings, the only instance of the full capitalization of a word in the prototype LCF text is the word “WHEREFORE” at the beginning of the text's final paragraph, the overall

construction of which is formulaic and similar to that of the concluding paragraphs in the majority of other texts in the LCF corpus:

WHEREFORE, Defendants, [REDACTED] and Round Three Production, LLC, by their attorneys, moves this court for entry of an order granting them leave to file their Answer and Counterclaim against Plaintiffs, [REDACTED] and Warriors Boxing and Promotions, LLC, and for any other and further relief that the Court deems just in the premises.

Figure 5.56 Full capitalization of a word in the body of the legitimate courtroom filing graphic prototype

The only variation from any of the above qualities comes in the text's signature block, which immediately follows its closing paragraph:


Marty J. Schwartz Schain, Banks Kenny & Schwartz, Ltd. 70 W. Madison Street, Suite 5300 Chicago, Illinois 60602 (312) 345-[REDACTED] [REDACTED]@schainbanks.com Attorney Number 50839	[REDACTED] and Round Three Production, LLC By:  One of their Attorneys
---	---

Figure 5.57 Signature Block in the legitimate courtroom filing graphic prototype

The above Figure contains the only instance of handwriting in this text, as well as the only use of single-spacing and multiple columns of text outside of the caption.

Looking at one of the text's interior pages, perhaps the most notable feature (particularly in relation to the prototype PCF text discussed in the following section) is how little variation from the typical document design choices of this text is present:

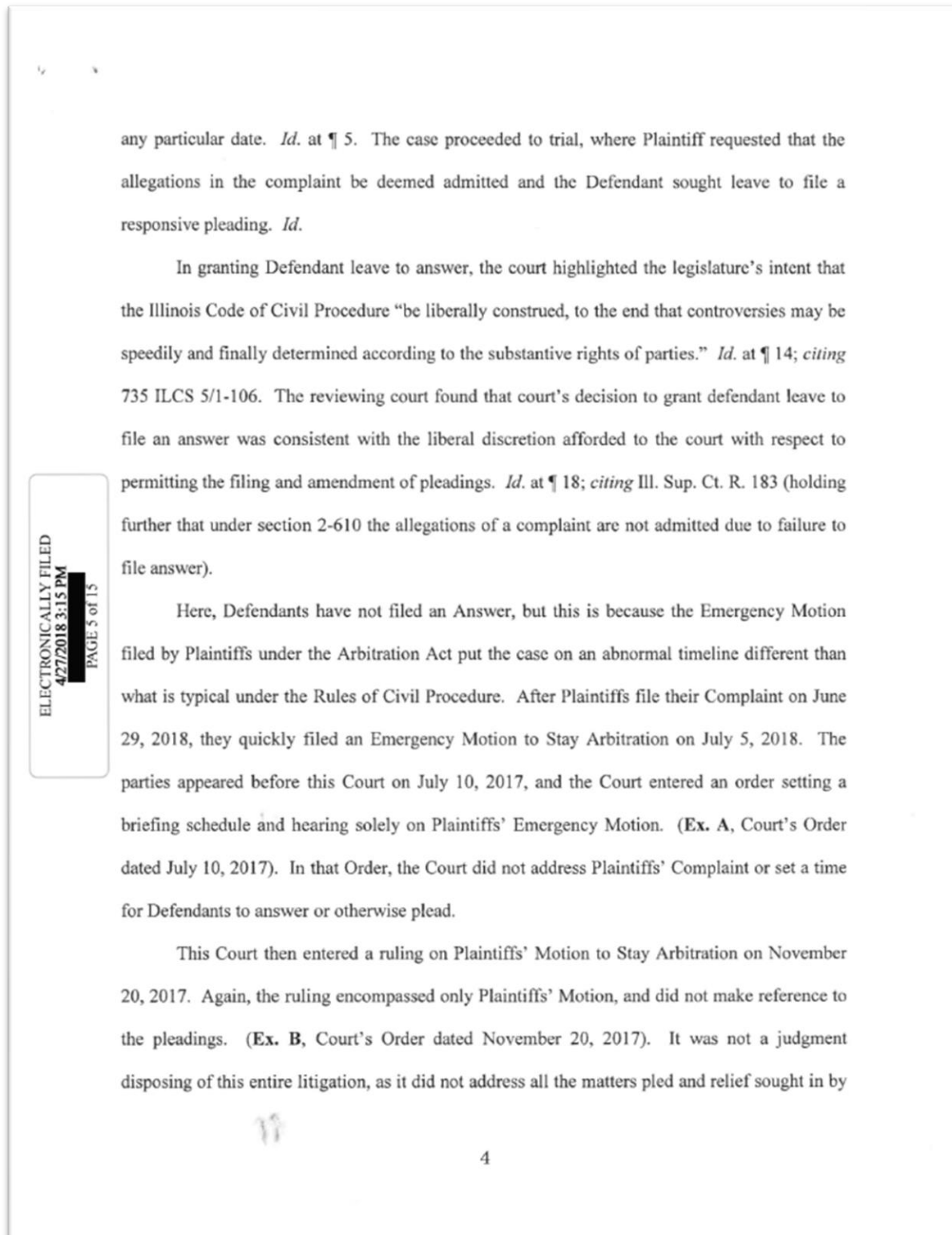


Figure 5.58 Interior page from the legitimate courtroom filing graphic prototype

Italics and bolding are used sparingly, and its footer, which contains only a page number, could not be more minimal while still containing content. There is no other deviation from the

standard format of the body text; nothing in this text is formatted as a list, for example, nor are there any tables present.¹⁰

Based upon the written contents of the LCF prototype, prior to the filing of this document, the defendants had filed a separate document with the court entitled “Motion for Leave to File Counterclaim,” which is essentially a request for the court to hear a related lawsuit from them against plaintiffs at the same time that it considers the case in which this document was filed. In response, the plaintiffs filed a document urging the court to deny that motion. This prototype text is itself a reply to that plaintiffs’ response which attempts to convince the court that the plaintiffs’ legal arguments are either incorrect or otherwise inadequate and that defendants’ original request to file a counterclaim should be granted. Putting aside the specific textual ways in which the prototype text attempts to do this (see the discussion of legal English prototypes in the previous chapter for more on that theme), this text is notable for the efficiency with which it focuses on that goal. The minimal deviation from its baseline layout and design choices serve to keep the reader focused on the argument that it is making, with the only sections which notably stand out (the caption and the signature block) being located at its beginning and end, and whose forms are rigidly defined by the genre.

The design of LCF texts can get more complicated than it does in this prototype text, but, as seen earlier in this chapter, even in those more graphically dense cases the choices made always seem intended to help maintain the readers’ focus on the legal issues at hand (e.g. by simplifying complex information into a table). In stark contrast to the heterogenous and idiosyncratic nature of pseudolegal courtroom filing genre, the legitimate courtroom filing genre is a highly conventional one, and the author of an LCF text is minimally influential over its structure. The overall multimodal character of this prototype LCF text can perhaps best be described as “no-nonsense”; things are laid out and presented simply and with little variation from the norm. The following section will use this LCF prototype as a baseline against which to examine the parasitic, magical nature of a PCF prototype whose description is fundamentally the opposite.

¹⁰ As noted in Chapter 3, the box on the left side of Figure 5.58 containing the text “Electronically Filed” would have been added as part of the filing process and is not considered part of the text for the purposes of this thesis. Multiple texts submitted concurrently in this way are treated as a single filing and paginated consecutively which is why the text in that box indicates this is “PAGE 5 OF 15” while, in the context of the prototype text, it is actually page 4 of 5.

5.6.3 *Pseudolegal Courtroom Filing Graphic Prototype*

The PCF multimodal prototype text is included in its entirety as Appendix 5.2. This text is a quantum grammar text. Quantum grammar Sovereign Citizen texts, which have been mentioned repeatedly in this thesis (see, e.g., Sections 1.3 and 4.2.2), are amongst some of the most distinctive PCF texts and are notable within the realm of Sovereign Citizen pseudolegal documents for the sheer concentration of distinctively Sovereign Citizen features they contain (hence the prototypicality of this particular text) and for their clear origin. Quantum grammar texts are the brainchild of a now-deceased Sovereign Citizen guru who referred to himself as “:David-Wynn: Miller” (for this reason, quantum grammar is sometimes referred to as “Millerese”) (Hay 2020). Miller appears to have been the rare Sovereign Citizen guru to actively participate in the creation of documents made following his theories; his signature, personal seal, and thumbprint often appear in quantum grammar texts, including in this prototype. The first page of this multimodal prototype PCF text is given below as Figure 5.59:

: FOR THE FEDERAL-POSTAL-COURT-FILING
BY THIS FEDERAL-POSTAL-REGISTERED-NUMBER:
~RE324739412US
DATE-~ 24~APRIL~2017
TIME-~ 9 o'clock and: — minutes: AM
:J.-D.:Sgarlata, Clerk-Of-The-Court **:David Wynn: Miller**

 **BONDED: C.-S.-S.-C.-P.-S.-G.-P.-DOCUMENT-CONTRACT-FEDERAL-POSTAL-STATION-COURT-VENUE-FLAG.**

In the **DOCUMENT-CONTRACT-FEDERAL-POSTAL-STATION-COURT-VENUE-PERFORMANCE** of this **C.-S.-S.-C.-P.-S.-G.-P.-DOCUMENT-CONTRACT-QUO-WARRANTO-COMPLAINT,** **C.-S.-S.-C.-P.-S.-G.-P.-LIS-PENDENS-DOCUMENT-CLAIM & C.-S.-S.-C.-P.-S.-G.-P.-WRIT** of the **DOCUMENT-CONTRACT-FAULT-CLAIM** ARE with the **C.-S.-S.-C.-P.-S.-G.-P.-FEDERAL-POSTAL-REGISTRATION-DOCKET-CORPORATION-CASE-NUMBER-~RE324739412US.**

:VaShan: Kyles,~NOW-TIME-MAIL-~680-WENTWORTH-AVENUE,~UNIT-~94,~CALUMET-CITY-ILLINOIS-~60409.
(LOST-LAND & BUILDINGS-~24~EAST-~164th~STREET,~CALUMET-CITY,~ILLINOIS-~60409.)

:David Wynn: Miller,; FEDERAL-POSTAL-JUDGE, For this FEDERAL-POSTAL-JUDGE'S-KNOWLEDGE of the QUALIFICATIONS & CERTIFICATIONS ARE with these C.-S.-S.-C.-P.-S.-G.-P.-CORRECTIONS of the FRAUD-PARSE-SYNTAX-GRAMMAR-PERFORMANCE. :CLAIMANTS:

:CONTEST-~VS.: TAYLOR, BEAN & WHITAKER MORTGAGE CORPORATION-~1417~NORTH MAGNOLIA-AVENUE, OCALA,~FLORIDA-~34475, = CLOSED by the FBI=BANKRUPTCY, [Now-time]= RESIDENTIAL CREDIT SOLUTIONS are owned by the DITECH FINANCIAL L.L.C., &: FEDERAL HOME LOAN MORTGAGE CORPORATION.

:VASSALEES:
For the **WORD-TERMS** of this **C.-S.-S.-C.-P.-S.-G.-P.-NOW-TIME-D.-C.-F.-P.-S.-C.-V.-P.** ARE WITH THIS CLAIM BY THIS VESSEL-PAPER-DOCUMENT:
:D.-C.-F.-P.-S.-C.-V.-P.: DOCUMENT-CONTRACT-FEDERAL-POSTAL-STATION-COURT-VENUE-PERFORMANCE.
:VASSALEE-(WORD-MEANING) VASSAL=SERVANT of this DOCUMENT, **EE=PLOYEE** of this DOCUMENT.
: C.-S.-S.-C.-P.-S.-G.-P. =: CORRECT-SENTENCE-STRUCTURE-COMMUNICATION-PARSE-SYNTAX-GRAMMAR-PERFORMANCE.
: D.-C.-C. =: DOCUMENT-CONTRACT-CLAIM.
: D.-C.-C.-S. =: DOCUMENT-CONTRACT-CLAIMS-SECTION. For this **PARSE-SYNTAX-GRAMMAR-COMMUNICATION-WORD-CORRECTION-PERFORMANCES** ARE with the **CORRECTION-CLAIM** of the **FRAUDULENT-FEDERAL-TITLES-USE** of the **FRAUDULENT-PARSE-SYNTAX-GRAMMAR &: FEDERAL-CODES-USE** by the **C.-S.-S.-C.-P.-S.-G.-P.-NOW-TIME-D.-C.-F.-P.-S.-C.-V.-P.**
: DOCUMENT-VESSEL = For the **D.-C.-F.-P.-S.-C.-V.-P.-CLERK-DOCKETING** of the **D.-C.-F.-P.-S.-C.-V.-P.-PAPERS** ARE with the **CORPORATION-CLAIM** BETWEEN the **TWO-OR-MORE-PERSONS** with the **D.-C.-F.-P.-S.-C.-V.-P.-PORTING-STAMP** by the **D.-C.-F.-P.-S.-C.-V.-P.-CLERK.**
: DOCUMENT-VESSEL, DOCUMENT-VENUE, AND DOCUMENT-COURT: = For the **CORPORATION** of the **TWO-OR-MORE-PERSONS** ARE with the **PORTING-CLAIM** with the **D.-C.-F.-P.-S.-C.-V.-P.-PORT-CLERK** by this **DOCUMENT-CONTRACT-PARSE-SYNTAX-GRAMMAR.**
: CONJUNCTION &: and: = ALSO, COMMAND, or: = OPTION, EITHER.
: FRAUDULENT =: FICTION, MODIFICATION, PERJURY, GUESSING, OPINION, PRESUMPTION, ASSUMPTION, ILLUSION, FRAUD, MISLEADING.
: LODIAL = [ARTICLE] For the SPECIFIC = a, an, the, then, these, this, thru.
: POSITION = For, of, with, by, in, on, within, against, For the **POSITIONAL-LODIAL-FACT-PHASE** of the **CORRECT-SYNTAX-GRAMMAR-PHASE** ARE with the **COMMUNICATION-CLAIM** of the **FACTS.**
: VASSALEE = For the **VASSAL=SERVANT; EE=EMPLOYEE** of this **COMPLAINT-DOCUMENT.**
: VOLITION = PERSON'S-KNOWLEDGE of the **FACTS** ARE with the **PERFORMANCE-THINKING-CLAIM** by the **C.-S.-S.-C.-P.-S.-G.-P.**
: PARSE-SYNTAX-GRAMMAR: For the **WORD-MEANINGS** of the **WORD-PLACEMENT** ARE within the **C.-S.-S.-C.-P.-S.-G.-P.** by the **CORRECT-WORD-MEANINGS THROUGH the QUANTUM-MATH-PARSE-SYNTAX-GRAMMAR-TECHNOLOGIES FRONTWARDS &: BACKWARDS.**
:REAL = RE=NO, AI=CONTRACT, "PARSE-TRANSLATION", For an **English-Parse-Syntax-Grammar** since the **English-language-started** ARE with the **fraudulent-modification** by an **adverb-verb, adverb-adjective-pronoun, pronoun-adverb-adjective-pronoun, &: pronoun-adverb-verb-syntax-fiction.**
: VERB-SYNTAX: IS=SINGULAR-SYNTAX-TENSE, ARE=PLURAL-SYNTAX-TENSE, THINKING-PERFORMANCE.

For the **COPYCLAIM/COPYRIGHT-~24~APRIL~2017** by the **David Wynn: Miller, FEDERAL-POSTAL-JUDGE, POST-MASTER,** of this **DOCUMENT-CONTRACT-FEDERAL-POSTAL-STATION-COURT-VENUE-PERFORMANCE &: CORPORATION-CASE-REGISTERED-MAIL-NUMBER-~RE324739412US. -1**

Figure 5.59 Opening page of the pseudolegal courtroom filing graphic prototype

Before the main text of this document even begins, this page contains two thumbprints, two signatures, a postage stamp, an illustration of the American flag, and what appears to be an ink stamp claiming to have been issued by the “FEDERAL-POSTAL-COURT.” Aligning with that

postal theme, the format of the “FEDERAL-POSTAL-REGISTER-NUMBER” handwritten in the ink stamp area appears to be either taken from or at the very least inspired by the numbers used to track certified mail sent via the real US Postal Service. Below that are the signatures and thumbprints of the “Clerk-of-the Court,” “J.-D.:Sgarlata” and “:David-Wynn:Miller” himself. From the very beginning, the parasitic intent of this PCF text is clear. The electronic filing stamp found in the prototype LCF text examined in the prior section and a closer look at this “FEDERAL-POSTAL-COURT” filing stamp are given below:

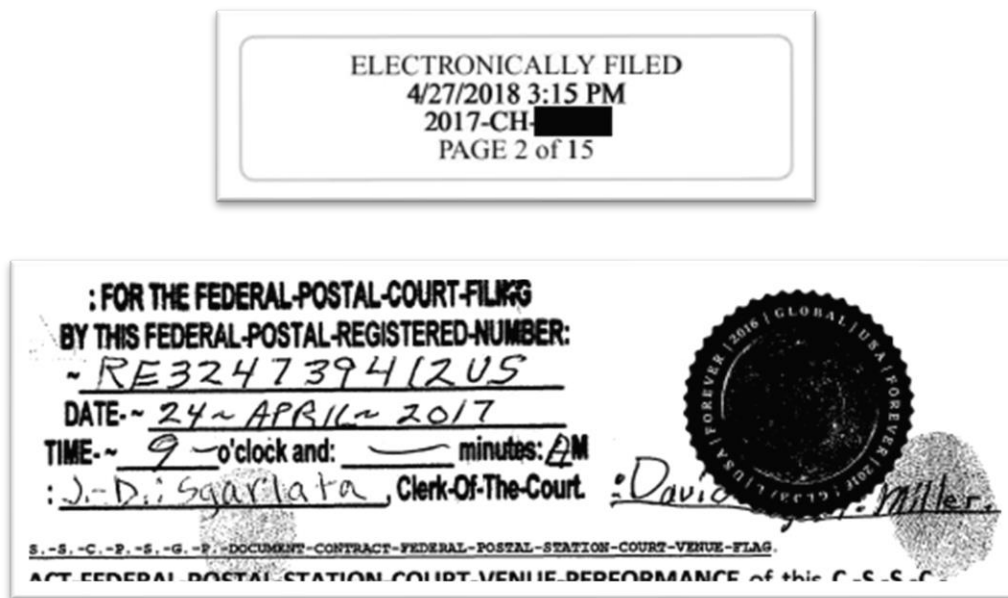


Figure 5.60 Legitimate courtroom filing and pseudolegal courtroom filing graphic prototype filing stamps compared

Both contain an apparent filing number and the time at which the document was “filed.” The PCF filing stamp is also accompanied by the signature and thumbprint of the “Clerk-Of-The-Court” and takes up more room on the page. This is, in itself, a good example of both the PCF text genre’s attempts at genre parasitism and of magical heightening. The filing stamp, which is issued by the court itself rather than by the author of the LCF text, is a very direct sign of the court’s legal authority. By copying that, the PCF text makes a clear claim that it possesses that legitimate authority and heightens it by providing additional supporting “evidence” in the form of the signature and inherently talismanic use of a thumbprint.

Section 5.3.2 discussed the role of the caption in LCF texts and the ways in which it is used to establish the place of legitimate courtroom filings in the legal system in both a general jurisdictional sense and more specifically in terms of the case to which they pertain. While

there is not a properly formatted caption in this prototype PCF text, as with the filing stamp example discussed above, there appears to be yet another instance of parasitic appropriation and heightening in this prototype PCF text. The caption from the prototype LCF text and the comparable section of the prototype PCF text, including several labels pointing out areas of particular similarity, are below:

A { IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS
COUNTY DEPARTMENT, CHANCERY DIVISION

B { [REDACTED] and WARRIORS
BOXING AND PROMOTIONS, LLC, a
Florida limited liability company,

Plaintiffs,
v.
[REDACTED] and ROUND THREE
PRODUCTIONS, LLC, an Illinois limited
liability company

Defendants.

))))))))))
Case No. 17 CH [REDACTED] } **C**

A {

J. D. Sgarlata, Clerk-Of-The-Court. *David Wynn Miller*

B { :BONDED: C.-S.-S.-C.-P.-S.-G.-P.-DOCUMENT-CONTRACT-FEDERAL-POSTAL-STATION-COURT-VENUE-FLAG.

In the DOCUMENT-CONTRACT-FEDERAL-POSTAL-STATION-COURT-VENUE-PERFORMANCE of this C.-S.-S.-C.-P.-S.-G.-P.-DOCUMENT-CONTRACT-QUO-WARRANTO-COMPLAINT, C.-S.-S.-C.-P.-S.-G.-P.-LIS-PENDENS-DOCUMENT-CLAIM & C.-S.-S.-C.-P.-S.-G.-P.-WRIT of the DOCUMENT-CONTRACT-FAULT-CLAIM ARE with the C.-S.-S.-C.-P.-S.-G.-P.-FEDERAL-POSTAL-REGISTRATION-DOCKET-CORPORATION-CASE-NUMBER-~RE324739412US.

: VaShan: Kyles,~NOW-TIME-MAIL-~680-WENTWORTH-AVENUE,~UNIT-~94,~CALUMET-CITY-ILLINOIS~60409. (LOST-LAND & BUILDINGS~24~EAST~164th~STREET,~CALUMET-CITY,~ILLINOIS~60409.)

: David-Wynn: Miller,: FEDERAL-POSTAL-JUDGE, For this FEDERAL-POSTAL-JUDGE'S-KNOWLEDGE of the QUALIFICATIONS & CERTIFICATIONS ARE with these C.-S.-S.-C.-P.-S.-G.-P.-CORRECTIONS of the FRAUD-PARSE-SYNTAX-GRAMMAR-PERFORMANCE. :CLAIMANTS:

:CONTEST-~VS.: TAYLOR, BEAN & WHITAKER MORTGAGE CORPORATION-~1417~NORTH MAGNOLIA-AVENUE, OCALA,~FLORIDA-~34475, = CLOSED by the FBI=BANKRUPTCY. [Now-time]= RESIDENTIAL CREDIT SOLUTIONS are owned by the DITECH FINANCIAL L.L.C., &: FEDERAL HOME LOAN MORTGAGE CORPORATION. :VASSALEES:

C {

For this C.-S.-S.-C.-P.-S.-G.-P. of the CLAIMANTS ARE with this QUO-WARRANTO-COMPLAINT-CORRECTION by the VASSALEE'S-FRAUDULENT-PARSE-SYNTAX-GRAMMAR-EVIDENCE. For the VaShan: Kyles's-CARETAKER-TRUSTEE-WAGES-CLAIMS of the \$841,000.00, ARE with the EIGHT-HUNDRED-FORTY-ONE-THOUSAND, DOLLARS, on the LAND &: BUILDINGS-LOCATION-~24~EAST~164th-STREET,~CALUMET-CITY,~ILLINOIS~60409, with the CLAIMANT'S-LABOR, CARETAKER, TRUSTEE-WAGES, START-DATE-~28~SEPTEMBER-~2007.

Figure 5.61 Legitimate courtroom filing and pseudolegal courtroom filing graphic prototype captions compared

Part A of both texts functions as a jurisdictional statement; where the LCF text has been filed “IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS,” the PCF text purports to have been filed “In the DOCUMENT-CONTRACT-FEDERAL-POSTAL-STATION-COURT-VENUE-PERFORMANCE.” Part B in each names the relevant parties and their relationships to the case (though the use of “claimant” and “vassalee” in the PCF text are not in line with standard legal practice). Though Part C of the PCF caption does not appear to contain a case number (legitimate or otherwise) it does list the address of property which appears to be relevant to the underlying lawsuit, which was noted above in Section 5.3.2 as an optional part of the standard legal caption. A number of factors serve to magically heighten this PCF caption relative to the standard LCF caption. While both involve the use of bolded text and capital letters, the variation in font size and underlining in the PCF caption, in addition to complicated acronyms which characterize quantum grammar texts, all serve to set it apart.

Other sections of the PCF prototype text appear similarly inspired by sections of legitimate courtroom filings, including the following excerpts which appear similar to the structure of a definitions section of a contract and a legitimate legal “complaint” text:

For the **WORD-TERMS** of this **C-S-S-C-P-S-G-P-NOW-TIME-D-C-F-P-S-C-V-P**, ARE WITH THIS CLAIM BY THIS **VESSEL-PAPER-DOCUMENT**:
:D-C-F-P-S-C-V-P:: DOCUMENT-CONTRACT-FEDERAL-POSTAL-STATION-COURT-VENUE-PERFORMANCE
: VASSALEE-(WORD-MEANING) VASSAL=SERVANT of this **DOCUMENT**, **EE=EMPLOYEE** of this **DOCUMENT**.
: C-S-S-C-P-S-G-P. =: CORRECT-SENTENCE-STRUCTURE-COMMUNICATION-PARSE-SYNTAX-GRAMMAR-PERFORMANCE.
: D-C-C. =: DOCUMENT-CONTRACT-CLAIM.
: D-C-C-S. =: DOCUMENT-CONTRACT-CLAIMS-SECTION. For this **PARSE-SYNTAX-GRAMMAR-COMMUNICATION-WORD-CORRECTION-**
PERFORMANCES ARE with the **CORRECTION-CLAIM** of the **FRAUDULENT-FEDERAL-TITLES-USE** of the **FRAUDULENT-PARSE-SYNTAX-GRAMMAR &:**
FEDERAL-CODES-USE by the **C-S-S-C-P-S-G-P-NOW-TIME-D-C-F-P-S-C-V-P**.
: DOCUMENT-VESSEL = For the **D-C-F-P-S-C-V-P-CLERK-DOCKETING** of the **D-C-F-P-S-C-V-P-PAPERS ARE** with the **CORPORATION-CLAIM**
BETWEEN the **TWO-OR-MORE-PERSONS** with the **D-C-F-P-S-C-V-P-PORTING-STAMP** by the **D-C-F-P-S-C-V-P-CLERK**.
: DOCUMENT-VESSEL, DOCUMENT-VENUE, AND DOCUMENT-COURT: = For the **CORPORATION** of the **TWO-or-MORE-PERSONS ARE** with the
PORTING-CLAIM with the **D-C-F-P-S-C-V-P-PORT-CLERK** by this **DOCUMENT-CONTRACT-PARSE-SYNTAX-GRAMMAR**.
: CONJUNCTION: & and: = ALSO, COMMAND, or: = OPTION, EITHER.
: FRAUDULENT =: FICTION, MODIFICATION, PERJURY, GUESSING, OPINION, PRESUMPTION, ASSUMPTION, ILLUSION, FRAUD, MISLEADING.
: LODIAL = [ARTICLE] For the SPECIFIC = a, an, the, then, these, this, thru.
: POSITION = For, of, with, by, in, on, within, against. For the **POSITIONAL-LODIAL-FACT-PHASE** of the **CORRECT-SYNTAX-GRAMMAR-PHASE ARE**
with the COMMUNICATION-CLAIM of the **FACTS**.
: VASSALEE = For the **VASSAL=SERVANT; EE=EMPLOYEE** of this **COMPLAINT-DOCUMENT**.
: VOLITION = PERSON'S-KNOWLEDGE of the **FACTS ARE** with the **PERFORMANCE-THINKING-CLAIM** by the **C-S-S-C-P-S-G-P**.
: PARSE-SYNTAX-GRAMMAR: For the **WORD-MEANINGS** of the **WORD-PLACEMENT ARE within** the **C-S-S-C-P-S-G-P** by the **CORRECT-WORD-**
MEANINGS THROUGH the **QUANTUM-MATH-PARSE-SYNTAX-GRAMMAR-TECHNOLOGIES FRONTWARDS &: BACKWARDS**.
: REAL = RE=NO, AL=CONTRACT; "PARSE-TRANSLATION", For an **English-ParSe-Syntax-Grammar** since the **English-language-started ARE** with the
fraudulent-modification by an adverb-verb, adverb-adjective-pronoun, pronoun-adverb-adjective-pronoun, &: pronoun-adverb-verb-syntax-fiction.
: VERB-SYNTAX: IS=SINGULAR-SYNTAX-TENSE, ARE=PLURAL-SYNTAX-TENSE, THINKING-PERFORMANCE

Figure 5.62 Pseudolegal courtroom filing graphic prototype section seemingly inspired by the definition section of a contract

:DOCUMENT-CLAIM~1, For the C-S-S-C-P-S-G-P-COMMUNICATION-FACTS of the CONTEST ARE with the FACT-AS-FACT-CLAIMS of the C-S-S-C-P-S-G-P. with the D-C-F-P-S-C-V-P-CONTRACT-AUTHORITY-CORRESPONDENCE.

:DOCUMENT-CLAIM~2, For the JUDGE'S-WRITTEN-CONTRACT of the FACTS ARE with the C-S-S-C-P-S-G-P-CLAIMS of the NOW-TIME-CONTINUANCE with the CORRECT-EVIDENCE-CLOSURE-CORRECTIONS of the WRONG-WORD-MEANING-EVIDENCE with the SENTENCE-STRUCTURE-VIOLATIONS-CLAIMS of the TITLE~18: D-C-C-S-~1001: FRAUDULENT-PARSE-SYNTAX-GRAMMAR-COMMUNICATION & TITLE~15: D-C-C-S-~1692~E, with the FRAUD-SYNTAX-GRAMMAR-WRITINGS & misLEADING-STATEMENTS with the PENALTY-FINES: TITLE~15: D-C-C-S-~78~ff, by the WRONGDOER: VASSALEES.

:DOCUMENT-CLAIM~3, For the PERSONS'-C-S-S-C-P-S-G-P-KNOWLEDGE of the CORRECT-FACTS ARE with the FAIRNESS-EQUALITY-CLAIMS of the SPEECH, WRITINGS, FAITHS, PRESS, DOCUMENT-PORTING with the C-S-S-C-P-S-G-P-CONTRACT-GRIEVANCES by the D-C-F-P-S-C-V-P.

:DOCUMENT-CLAIM~4, For the CORPORATION-CASE of the D-C-F-P-S-C-V-P. ARE with the C-S-S-C-P-S-G-P-CLAIMS by the PERSON'S-FAIRNESS-EQUALITY-VOLITION.

:DOCUMENT-CLAIM~5, For the PERSON'S-KNOWLEDGE OF THE DOCKETING & FILING ARE WITH THIS D-C-F-P-S-C-V-P-CLERK-CLAIM of the QUO-WARRANTO-COMPLAINT with the FOURTY-FIVE-DAY-TRUST-LAW'S-WRIT of the DOCUMENT-CONTRACT-FAULT-CLAIM with the TWENTY-ONE-DAY-CORRESPONDENCE-BACK to the D-C-F-P-S-C-V-P-CLERK'S-DOCK with the C-S-S-C-P-S-G-P-CORRESPONDENCE of the VASSALEES with the THREE-DAY-GRACE-RECISSION-TIME-LIMIT-PERIOD & TWENTY-ONE-DAY-CORRESPONDENCE-BACK with the C-S-S-C-P-S-G-P-JUDGE'S-OATH-CORRESPONDENCE.

:DOCUMENT-CLAIM~6, For the CLAIM of the C-S-S-C-P-S-G-P-CAPTURE-WARRANT or: C-S-S-C-P-S-G-P-SEARCH-WARRANT ARE with the JUDGE'S-AUTOGRAPHED-C-S-S-C-P-S-G-P-OATH by the C-S-S-C-P-S-G-P-AUTHORITY-DUTY.

:DOCUMENT-CLAIM~7, For the WITNESSING-PERSON of the WITNESS'S-TESTIMONY ARE with the PERSON'S-C-S-S-C-P-S-G-P-KNOWLEDGE-CLAIM by the PERSONAL-SELF-CLAIMS.

:DOCUMENT-CLAIM~8, For the CLAIMANTS'-KNOWLEDGE of the C-S-S-C-P-S-G-P-FACTS ARE with the CLAIMANTS'-CLAIM of the CORRECT-NOW-TIME-EVIDENCE-FACTS.

:DOCUMENT-CLAIM~9, For the C-S-S-C-P-S-G-P-TWELVE-PERSON-KNOWLEDGE by the C-S-S-C-P-S-G-P-CLAIMS ARE with the C-S-S-C-P-S-G-P-TRIAL by the SAME-LEVEL-PLANE-D-C-F-P-S-C-V-P.

:DOCUMENT-CLAIM~10, For the TERMS of the CONVICTION-PERSON'S-PUNISHMENT ARE with the C-S-S-C-P-S-G-P-CLAIMS of the BAIL-CONDITIONAL-TERMS, FINANCIAL-TERM-FINES or: JAILING-TERMS with the D-C-F-P-S-C-V-P.

:DOCUMENT-CLAIM~11, For the D-C-F-P-S-C-V-P-FIDUCIARIES of the DOCUMENT-CONTRACT-FACTS ARE with the DUTY-CLAIM or: ELECTION-CLAIM by the C-S-S-C-P-S-G-P-OATH of the D-C-F-P-S-C-V-P.

Figure 5.63 Pseudolegal courtroom filing graphic prototype section seemingly inspired by legitimate legal complaint texts

Both of these examples also display the complicated intra-textual referencing that characterizes many Sovereign Citizen texts, but particularly quantum grammar ones.

In terms of methods of textual emphasis, almost everything in the prototype PCF text is capitalized and underlined, and a substantial portion of it is also bolded. While the intent behind that may be to communicate that everything in this text is of great import, the effect is ultimately a muting one; when everything is positioned as being hugely important, in other words, it is essentially the same thing as saying that nothing is. Compare the interior page from the prototype LCF text above in Figure 5.58 on page 217 with the following:

~13 For the C-S-S-C-P-S-G-P-WRIT of this POSSESSION ARE with the LAND & BUILDING-SALVAGE-CLAIM: TITLE~46: D.-C.-C.-S.-~781, by this C-S-S-C-P-S-G-P-CLAIMANTS'-ORIGINAL-AUTHORITY-VENUE-COMMAND-CLAIM.

~14 For the VaShan: Kyles's of this CASH-DOCUMENT-VALUE ARE with the WRIT of the FAULT-DOCUMENT-CONTRACT-CLAIMS with the CORRECT-PARSE-SYNTAX-GRAMMAR-COMMUNICATIONS of the TITLE~42: D.-C.-C.-S.-~1986: KNOWLEDGE with the C-S-S-C-P-S-G-P-WRIT of the DOCUMENT-CONTRACT-FAULT-CLAIM-RULE~55, when the VASSALEES'-CORRESPONDENCE-DUTIES-FAILURE by the SYNTAX-WRONGS-STATED-HEREIN.

~15 For the CLAIMANTS'-KNOWLEDGE of the UNITED-STATES-CRIMINAL-FRAUDULENT-SYNTAX-GRAMMAR-TREASURY-MONEY-PAYOUT or: UNITED-STATES-FRAUDULENT-SYNTAX-GRAMMAR-TREASURY-MONEY-CONSPIRACY-COLLECTION ARE with the UNITED-STATES-TREASURYS'-DAMAGE-CLAIM of the WRONG-DOER-VASSALEES-FRAUDULENT-PARSE-SYNTAX-GRAMMAR with the FRAUDULENT-BANKING-MORTGAGE-PAPERS of the ONE-PARTY-SIGNATURE &: FRAUD-SYNTAX-GRAMMAR-CLAIMS by the VASSALEES &: CLAIMANTS.

~16 For the FRAUD-PARSE-SYNTAX-GRAMMAR-WRITTEN-EVIDENCE as the MORTGAGE ARE with the DAMAGE-CLAIM of the SYNTAX-GRAMMAR-PERJURY: TITLE~18: D.-C.-C.-S.-~1621, VASSALEES'-TITLE-CORPORATION &: SYNTAX-GRAMMAR-BANK-FRAUD-MORTGAGE-PAPERS-LANGUAGE with the TITLE~15: D.-C.-C.-S.-~1692~E, of the FRAUD &: MISLEADING-STATEMENT-CRIMINAL-PENALTIES: TITLE~15: D.-C.-C.-S.-~78~ff, [\$25-MILLION-DOLLARS] &: OVERSIGHT by the FALSE-CLAIMS-ACT-ATTORNEY-GENERAL-TASK-FORCE-PERFORMANCE &: FEDERAL-POSTAL-COURT-JUDGE-AUTHORITY.

~17 For the VIOLATIONS of the TITLE~18: D.-C.-C.-S.-~641, ARE with the DAMAGE-CLAIMS of the FRAUDULENT-PARSE-SYNTAX-GRAMMAR-COMMUNICATION, MONETARY-WAGES, PAYMENT-WAGES, COMMERCE-WAGES or: CRIMINAL-ACTS with the SHERIFF-PARTICIPATION by the FRAUDULENT-FIDUCIARYS'-OATH-VOID with the VASSALEE'S-FRAUDULENT-SYNTAX-GRAMMAR-DOCUMENT-PLEADING-PERFORMANCE-EVIDENCE.

~18 For the C-S-S-C-P-S-G-P-ORIGINAL-CLAIMS of the C-S-S-C-P-S-G-P-FALSE-CLAIMS-ACT ARE with the CLAIMANTS'-KNOWLEDGE of the DAMAGE-CLAIM with the VASSALEES'-FRAUDULENT-SYNTAX-WORDING-MORTGAGE at the TREASURY-BANKING-PORT or: RESCISSION-ACT-POSTAL-TREASURY-PAYBACK within the SEVENTY-TWO-HOURS of the TIMES-TEN-FRACTION-BANKING-FINANCIAL-GAIN-PERFORMANCE by the FRACTIONAL-CASH-AMOUNT-CREATED.

~19 For the VaShan: Kyles's-DAMAGES by the VASSALEES'-FRAUDULENT-PARSE-SYNTAX-GRAMMAR-DOCUMENTS ARE with the VACATING-CLAIM of the FRAUDULENT-DOCUMENTS with the SANCTIONS of this LIS-PENDENS-LIEN with the HEREIN-WAGES as the CASH-VALUE-CARETAKER-GUARDIAN-TRUSTEE'S-CLAIM by the CERTIFICATE-HOLDER'S-NOW-TIME-FILE-STAMP-DATE-PAYABLE-WAGES-START-TIME-DATE~28~SEPTEMBER~2007, thru the NOW-TIME-GUARDIAN-UPKEEP-SECURITY of the CASH-WAGES-DUE: \$1682.00, -PER-WEEK-EACH with the TOTAL-WAGES-DUE: \$841,000.00, with the VaShan: Kyles's-PERPETUAL-CONTINUANCE-CORPORATION-CASE-TITLE~11: D.-C.-C.-S.-~101.

~20 For this FEDERAL-POSTAL-JUDGE: David-Wynn: Miller's-KNOWLEDGE of the TITLE~42: D.-C.-C.-S.-~1986, ARE with the CORRECTION-CLAIM of the PARSE-SYNTAX-GRAMMAR-COMMUNICATION-NUMBERING-KEY-CODED-WORDS: 'O'=CONJUNCTION, '1'=ADVERB, '2'=VERB, '3'=ADJECTIVE, '4'=PRONOUN, for the VASSALEES'-FRAUDULENT-SYNTAX-GRAMMAR-'MORTGAGE'-EVIDENCE by the CLAIMANTS'-CORPORATION-CASE.

~21 For the PARSE-FRAUDULENT-USES of the PREFIX-PARSE-WORDS ARE with the NEGATIVE-CLAIM of the PREFIXES: A, AB, AC, AD, AF, AM, AN, AP, AR, AS, AT, DE, DIS, EM, E, EN, ES, EX, IM, I, IN, MAL, MIS, NE, NO, NON, NOR, O, OB, OC, OP, OF, PRE, PRO, PRI, PRU, RE, SI, SUB, TO, U, UM, UN, or: with the MODIFICATION-FACTS by an ADVERB or: ADJECTIVE-MODIFICATION of the TITLE~18: D.-C.-C.-S.-~1001: FRAUDULENT-PARSE-SYNTAX-GRAMMAR-ENGINEERING-KNOWLEDGE by the VASSALEES'-FRAUDULENT-WRITING-PERFORMANCE.

~22 For the HANDYCAPPING-VICTIM-CLAIMANT-PERSONS of the FRAUDULENT-PARSE-SYNTAX-GRAMMAR-MORTGAGE-WORDING ARE with the DISABILITY-ACT-VIOLATION-CLAIM of the HANDYCAPPING-CAUSE with the NOTION &: MOTION by that PERSON'S-CLOSURE-CONTEMPT, APARTHEID, BIAS, CONTRACT-TREASON and/or: RAPE with the FRAUDULENT-UNITED STATES COURT.

~23 For the BREACH of this D.-C.-F.-P.-S.-C.-V.-P.-CORPORATION-CASE ARE with the TITLE~42: CHAPTER~16: D.-C.-C.-S.-~12182: BIAS &: HANDICAPPING-COMMUNICATIONS-DISABILITIES-ACT thru the BREACH of the TITLE~29: DOCUMENT-CONTRACT-CLAIMS, :CHAPTER~16: SECTION~701~c~2, with the TITLE~42: D.-C.-C.-S.-~1983: NOTE~349: POLICY, CUSTOM &: USAGE of an EQUAL-PARSE-SYNTAX-GRAMMAR-COMMUNICATION-DUTY within the TITLE~42: D.-C.-C.-S.-~1986: KNOWLEDGE &: CORRECTING against the WRONG-PARSE-SYNTAX-GRAMMAR-VASSALEES.

For the COPYCLAIM/COPYRIGHT~24~APRIL~2017 by the David-Wynn: Miller, FEDERAL-POSTAL-JUDGE, POST-MASTER, of this DOCUMENT-CONTRACT-FEDERAL-POSTAL-STATION-COURT-VENUE-PERFORMANCE &: CORPORATION-CASE-REGISTERED-MAIL-NUMBER~RE324739412US, ~4

Figure 5.64 Interior page from the pseudolegal courtroom filing graphic prototype

Both pages are essentially unmodified body text. Despite (or perhaps because of) the extent of the bolding, capitalization, and underlining throughout the page, no area of Figure 5.64

clearly stands out as the most important, or even as relatively more important than most of the rest of the page.

Italics are present in the prototype PCF text, though rarely, and there is one instance of highlighted text as well:

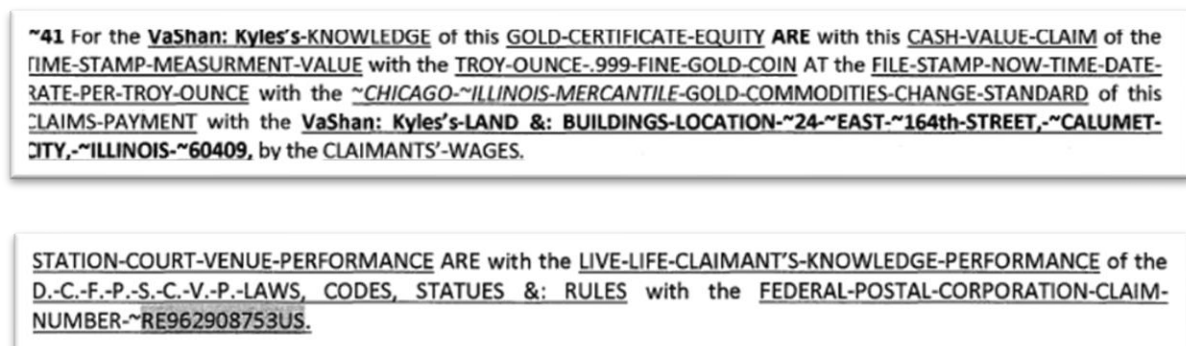


Figure 5.65 Italics and highlighting in the pseudolegal courtroom filing graphic prototype

If these more sparingly employed methods of textual emphasis are meant to occur in particular contexts, the exact nature of those contexts is not clear. Similarly, variation in font choice and size occurs rarely in the prototype PCF text, but with a clearer rationale. Font choice variation, as shown in Figure 5.66, occurs three times in the prototype text, always at the top of the page.

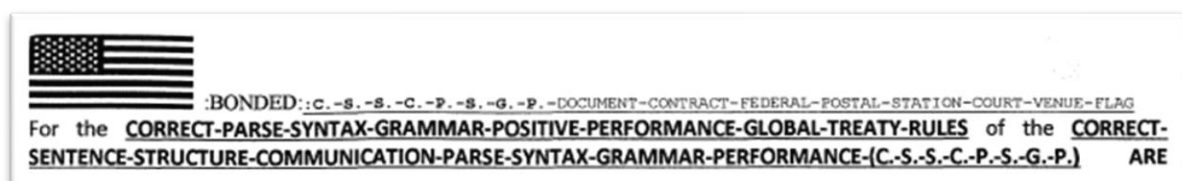


Figure 5.66 Variation in Font Choice in the pseudolegal courtroom filing graphic prototype

Font size variation is slightly more common than those other methods of textual emphasis in the PCF prototype, though still has fewer than ten occurrences in the main body text (i.e. excluding footers), and generally occurs at a section break, as seen in Figure 5.67:

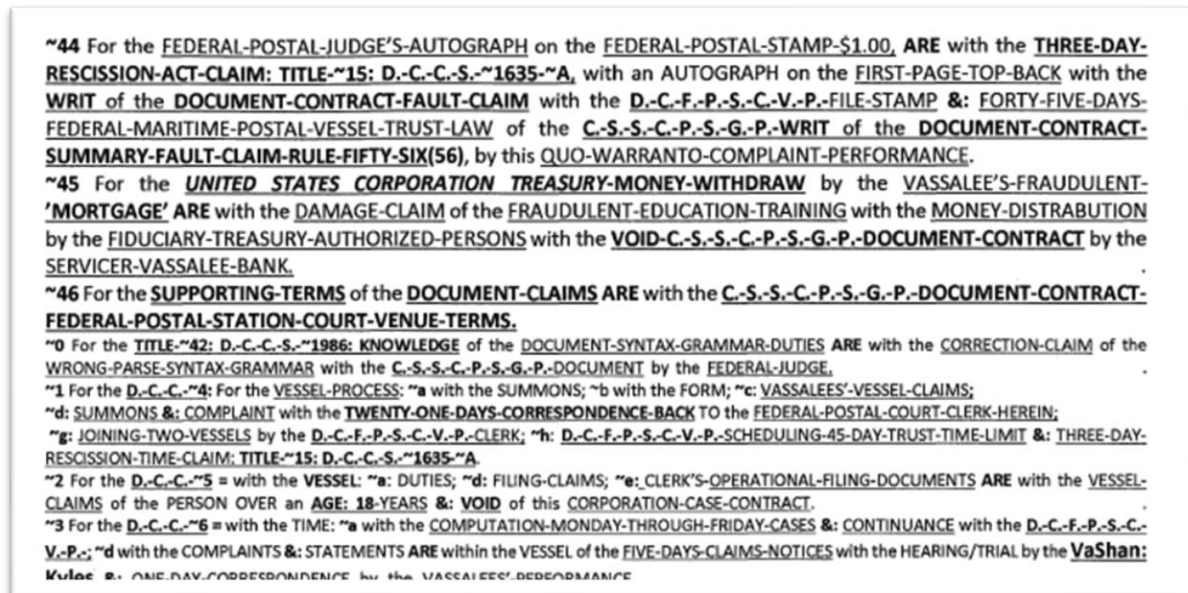


Figure 5.67 Variation in font size in the pseudolegal courtroom filing graphic prototype

As difficult to parse as this prototype PCF text may seem at first glance, the above discussion all indicates that it does in fact possess a coherent structure and internal logic which has clear ties to the legitimate courtroom filing genre.

Throughout this thesis, one of the primary differences that has been noted between LCF and PCF texts has been the way in which PCF texts emphasize the personal identity and supposed power of their authors as compared to the more objective and distanced positioning of LCF texts relative to their authors. This is true of quantum grammar PCF texts as well, though with a slight twist on the usual presentation: though the identity of the Sovereign Citizen litigant is emphasized throughout, the identity of “:David-Wynn:Miller”, the Sovereign Citizen guru behind this particular pseudolegal theory, receives even greater attention. Miller’s signature and thumbprint occur three times in the prototype LCF text, accompanied once by a postage stamp (as seen in Figure 5.59) and once by what appears to be a customized embossed seal bearing his name:

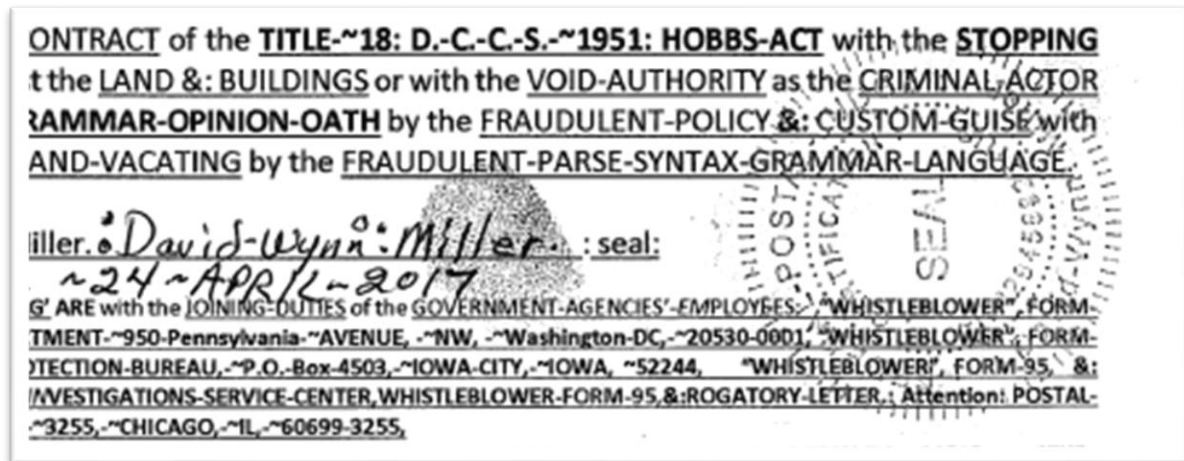


Figure 5.68 Signature, thumbprint, and seal of “:David-Wynn:Miller”

Miller, to be clear, is not an actual party to the suit from which this prototype text was taken. The Sovereign Citizen defendant in that case is named VaShan Kyles (though styled in the document as “:VaShan:Kyles”) and their signature appears only twice in the prototype text, without thumbprint, stamp, or other notable accompaniment on either occasion:



Figure 5.69 Sovereign Citizen litigant signature in the pseudolegal courtroom filing graphic prototype

Further emphasizing Miller’s role as the most important person in the prototype text, rather than the litigant, each page contains a footer to the following effect, reinforcing his claim on the entire text:



Figure 5.70 Footer from the pseudolegal courtroom filing graphic prototype

Miller even goes as far as advertising his services in the prototype PCF text, including by giving the address for his personal website at one point:

For THESE CORRECT-PARSE-SYNTAX-GRAMMAR-STYLES-MEANINGS ARE with the 85,000-HOURS-WORLD-WIDE-SEARCH of the QUANTUM-MATH-CERTIFICATION of the WWW.DWMLC.COM, with the 2500-WORLD-WIDE-LIVE-SEMINARS by the RADIO, INTERNET, TV, PERSONAL-LIVE, VIDEOS, CD, & PHONE.

Figure 5.71 An advertisement for :David-Wynn:Miller's Website in the pseudolegal courtroom filing graphic prototype

While a lawyer may include an email address in their signature block (see Figure 5.57), this is a different matter entirely; an email address is an avenue for communication, while a website address accompanied by boasts of one's expertise resulting from "85,000-HOURS-WORLD-WIDE-SEARCH of the QUANTUM-MATH-CERTIFICATION" is more of a recruitment tool. That raises the question of whom, exactly, Miller is intending to recruit. Judges and opposing lawyers seem unlikely to visit Miller's website out of anything other than a sense of morbid curiosity, and it is even more unlikely that the few that do would become adherents to his school of pseudolegal thought. At the same time, neither can this advertisement be meant for the Sovereign Citizen litigant involved in the case, since they have already engaged Miller's services. Instead, the target must be other Sovereign Citizens and laypeople not yet subscribed to quantum grammar theory.

This prototype PCF text was designed to be legal-seeming but ultimately inaccessible; that is how Sovereign Citizens are convinced it possesses greater authority than legitimate courtroom filings. To the extent that it makes a cogent argument, it appears to be saying that the Sovereign Citizen litigant never signed a valid mortgage and therefore cannot have their home foreclosed upon by the bank. This claim is justified with reference to a complex system of supposedly legally binding grammatical rules. Sovereign Citizen pseudolegal theories are, definitionally, not true; the reliance on these demonstrably false conspiracies is what separates a Sovereign Citizen litigant from a more typical *pro se* litigant. Despite the clear ultimate inaccessibility and objective legal falsehood of quantum grammar, however, this prototype PCF text does at least seem to be internally consistent. The text in Figure 5.62 provides a key to the many acronyms used throughout the text (e.g. "D.-C.-F.-P.-S.-C.-V.-P.: DOCUMENT-CONTRACT-FEDERAL-POSTAL-STATION-COURT-VENUE-PERFORMANCE"), and the text's final page contains the supposed rules of quantum grammar, a selection of which are given here:

~0 = CONJUNCTION= 'and', '&' = COMMAND, ALSO. 'or' = OPTION, EITHER, For an 'or' between the PRONOUN-WORDS ARE with the SAME-SYNTAX following the POSITION-ADVERB-PHRASE' with the 'FRAUDULENT-FICTION-SYNTAX-GRAMMAR' &: 'QUANTUM-CORRECT-SYNTAX-GRAMMAR'.
~1 = ADVERB = with the MODIFIER of the NEXT-WORD as an ADVERB, VERB, or: ADJECTIVE.
 For the WORDS-ENDING in a "LY" [9/10-TIME-FICTION] ARE with the MODIFIER-FACT as an ADVERB.
 For the [prePOSITIONS]-POSITIONS, & [articles]-MODIAL ARE with the SINGLE-POSITION-ADVERB.
 For an ADVERB-CONNECTS before the PRONOUN, &: VERB, or: ADJECTIVE-PRONOUN ["ONLY"].
~2 = VERB = For the MODIFIED-GERUND-NOUN-CHANGE into the FRAUDULENT-VERB-SYNTAX. GERUND-(NOUN=NO-NO). 'ADVERB-MODIFICATION' of the FACT-WORD into the FRAUD-NO-WORD-MEANING.
~3 = ADJECTIVE = For the MODIFIED-OPINION-COLORING of the (SYNTAX-PRONOUN=NO-NO-NO)
 For the HYPHEN-PLACEMENT between an ADJECTIVE-PRONOUN-MODIFIED-WORDS ARE with the JOINING-COMPOUND-VERBS or: SINGLE-PRONOUNS.
~4 = PRONOUNS = For the SINGLE-ONE-WORD; For an ADJECTIVE-MODIFYING-OPINION of the FACT-CHANGES with the FACT into the PRONOUN; For an ADVERB-CONNECTS to the PRONOUN before an ADVERB.
~8 For the PAST-TIME-TENSE: from, ed, after of the VOID-NOW-TIME ARE with the DAMAGE-CLAIM of the FRAUD-SYNTAX-GRAMMAR.
~9 For the FUTURE-TIME-TENSE: pre, to, of the SYNTAX-WORDS ARE with the DAMAGE-CLAIM of the VOID-FUTURE-MEANING &: VOID-NOW-TIME-PERFORMANCE-WORDS.
 ["BAR-CULT"]: FICTION-CODE: "NO₁ LAW₂ or NO₁ FACT₂, SHALL₄ BE₁ TRIED_{2,8}, IN₁ COURT_{2-dpv}."

Figure 5.72 A section listing some of the rules of quantum grammar in the pseudolegal courtroom filing graphic prototype

Of course, the inclusion of the acronym explanations and the rules of quantum grammar do not actually make the prototype text more accessible, but they do serve to make it seem that way. It is yet another way in which the PCF text is structured to convince a reader who may already be inclined to find a legal document overly complicated that this is as legitimate as an LCF text, if not more so.

As has been noted before, the dual parasitic and magical natures of Sovereign Citizen texts are in constant tension with one another. This is because they ultimately have different aims: a PCF text's parasitic purposes (which can perhaps be better attributed to a Sovereign Citizen guru like "David-Wynn:Miller") are intended to win over individual Sovereign Citizens, while its magical efforts are intended to allow those Sovereign Citizens to overpower the legitimate legal system. At no point in this process is the document's actual reception in the legitimate legal system a factor. The legitimate legal system may benefit from paying at least a degree of closer attention to these sorts of documents, however; while validating these pseudolegal theories in any way would be an obvious mistake, acknowledging the identity and personal dignity of Sovereign Citizen litigants could well be a step towards minimizing the attraction and mitigating the harmful effects of the Sovereign Citizen movement.

5.7 Conclusion

Where Chapter 4 examined the use of legal English in LCF and PCF texts, this chapter has examined the use of textual emphasis and images in the two corpora. Consistent with the findings of the previous chapter, the above analysis has found that, relative to LCF texts, PCF texts place much greater emphasis on the identity and supposed power of their authors. In Chapter 4 that was reflected by PCF texts' more frequent use of features such as first-person pronouns. Here it is seen multimodally via the quantity of "personal touches" throughout the PCF corpus, such as in the inclusion of handwritten text, particularly signatures, and the use of thumbprints. At every level examined in this chapter, from overall layout and design choices to the use of specific graphic features, LCF texts have consistently been more restrained in both the quantity and variety of their choices than their PCF counterparts, while PCF texts appear to have been more influenced by the individual stylistic preferences of their authors.

Discussion of the prototype LCF and PCF texts raised the question of who PCF texts are really meant to convince of their authority and concluded it is more likely to be the Sovereign Citizens using them than representatives of the legitimate legal system. Particularly in cases where a Sovereign Citizen guru is a strong presence, it may be better to think of the interaction between Sovereign Citizen litigants and the legal system as involving the guru as a third party. The following chapter will conclude this thesis with a discussion of its overall findings and their implications.

6. Conclusion

6.1 Introduction

This thesis has examined the relationship between the discourse of legitimate courtroom filings (“LCFs”) and Sovereign Citizen pseudolegal courtroom filings (“PCFs”) as well as what that relationship reveals about how authority is manifested in written legal texts. As part of that examination, it has more specifically considered how the use of legal English compares in legitimate courtroom filings and pseudolegal courtroom filings, how those two genres make use of graphic elements, and what their overall relationship reveals about the nature of parasitic genre. All the while it has also looked at how the magical nature of the PCF genre and its talismanic use of features characteristic of the LCF genre play into the answers to those questions. This final chapter concludes the thesis by synthesizing the findings of the preceding analyses and evaluating how they fit within and contribute to the existing literature, while also acknowledging the limitations of this thesis and suggesting several possible avenues for future research.

Section 6.2 reviews this study’s findings about the nature of the register of legal English and describes the ways in which the Legitimate Courtroom Filing (“LCF”) corpus and Pseudolegal Courtroom Filing (“PCF”) corpus make use of that register. Section 6.3 discusses the ways in which the authors of legitimate and pseudolegal courtroom filings employ textual emphasis and images to enhance a document’s apparent authority. Section 6.4 reevaluates the concept of parasitic genre first outlined in the Literature Review in light of this thesis’ overall findings and Section 6.5 considers this concept in light of the inherently magical nature of pseudolegal courtroom filings. Section 6.6 then considers what overall conclusions this thesis is able to draw about the manifestation of authority in written legal texts. Sections 6.7 and 6.8 conclude by discussing the limitations of the present study and proposing a number of potential avenues for future research, respectively.

6.2 The Register of Legal English

This thesis’ first research question asks how the register of legal English compares in legitimate courtroom filings and Sovereign Citizen pseudolegal courtroom filings. Section 6.2.1 presents this thesis’ findings regarding the nature of legal English as compared to standard English after

which Section 6.2.2 answers that research question regarding the use legal English in the LCF and PCF corpora.

6.2.1 Legal English and Standard English

As was discussed in Chapter 2 (see Section 2.5.3), prior linguistic descriptions of the register of legal English have been surprisingly without substantial empirical grounding. Though the literature has arrived at a seeming consensus on the prevalence of certain features of legal English relative to standard English (e.g. Kurzon 1989; Tiersma 2006; Hiltunen 2012), such as a greater frequency of negation and a lower frequency of pronoun use, this appears to have stemmed from something akin to a game of “telephone”¹ in which the findings of earlier studies have been increasingly misrepresented in later ones and used to support broader and broader points over time. In order to systematically evaluate that consensus and to establish a baseline for the presence of these supposedly notable features of legal English relative to standard English, the frequency of a selection of those consensus features was compared in the LCF corpus and in the combined written subcorpora of the Corpus of Contemporary American English (“COCA-W”) (Davies 2008), after which the frequency and use of those features in the LCF and PCF corpora was similarly examined. This thesis is both the first linguistic study to examine the legitimate courtroom filing genre and the most substantial quantitative evaluation of the relationship between legal English and standard English to date.

Table 6.1 summarizes this thesis’ findings regarding the relative frequency of a selection of consensus features of legal English in the LCF corpus and COCA-W. Due to the lack of prior quantitative research in this area, there are no more specific comparisons to be given in the “Consensus” column than whether a given feature is expected to be found more or less frequently in legal English than in standard English.

¹ “Telephone” (also known, somewhat problematically, as “Chinese Whispers” in the United Kingdom) is a children’s game in which a secret message is relayed down a chain of people with the goal of having the message which reaches the final player be the same as the message which was given by the initial player (ICAL TEFL 2014).

Table 6.1 Summary of findings regarding some “consensus” features of legal English observed in the Legitimate Courtroom Filing corpus relative to their frequency in COCA-W

Feature	Consensus	Observed
Negation	More in LCF	No significant difference
Negation minus “n’t”	More in LCF	Significantly more in LCF
Pronoun	Less in LCF	Significantly less in LCF
Passive Constructions	More in LCF	Significantly more in LCF
Nominalizations	More in LCF	Significantly more in LCF

With the exception of overall negation, all “consensus” features of legal English were observed at the expected frequency in the LCF corpus relative to their presence in standard contemporary American English as represented by COCA-W. Once the markedly informal (and thus less likely to be used in legal English) negator “n’t” was removed from consideration in both corpora, however, negation appeared at the expected rate relative to standard English. This thesis was not equipped to examine the question of what differentiates the register of legal English from standard English at any greater depth, but even this look at a single previously unexamined genre of legal writing appears to indicate that the “consensus” description of legal English largely holds true, though some of its broader claims (e.g. regarding negation) may need refinement. This difference in the expected versus observed frequencies of negation likely stems from the reliance upon Charrow and Charrow (1979) in the “consensus” literature; as mentioned in Chapter 4, that study was looking at what negation was present in the California civil jury instructions it examined rather than considering the use of negation in any broader sense and therefore, given the clear lack of “n’t” in legal English, would not have considered its use (see Section 4.2.2 for further discussion). While this does not necessarily call into question the findings of any prior research which has relied on that consensus description of legal English, it does indicate that the consensus description merits further study, particularly for features which have not yet explicitly been considered such as the frequency of multiple negation or of explicit performative speech acts across a wider variety of legal genres. Given the novelty of this systematic (if admittedly limited) examination of the consensus description of legal English, it is hoped that these results will serve as an important and original contribution to the study of language and law, and, as will be discussed further in Section 6.8, as a fruitful starting point for future study.

6.2.2 Legal English in Legitimate and Pseudolegal Courtroom Filings

Though commentators agree that the language used in PCF texts is intended to mimic that of LCF texts (e.g. Wessinger 1999; Dew 2015; Netolitzky 2018b), prior to this thesis there had

not been an attempt to quantitatively compare the language used within or across the two genres. From a purely imitative perspective, if PCF texts were supposed to be mere copies of LCF texts, then a reader could expect to find as many features as possible occurring at similar rates in the two corpora. Several areas were identified, however, in which the frequency of a given feature differed significantly between LCF and PCF texts. Table 6.2 presents the relative frequency of the consensus features of legal English that were examined in Table 6.1 in the LCF and PCF corpora:

Table 6.2 Summary of findings regarding some “consensus” Features of legal English observed in the Pseudolegal Courtroom Filing corpus to their frequency in the Legitimate Courtroom Filing corpus

Feature	Amount Relative to LCF Corpus
Negation	No significant difference
Negation (excl. “n’t”)	No significant difference
Pronoun	Significantly more frequent
Passive Constructions	No significant difference
Nominalizations	Significantly less frequent

In three of the five categories in the above table (including both ways in which negation was examined), the texts in the PCF corpus used these features at a statistically similar rate to the LCF corpus. The PCF corpus used pronouns at a significantly higher rate than the LCF corpus, however, and nominalizations at a significantly lower rate. An examination of those features in context revealed the two general ways in which, if all PCF texts are attempting to do is imitate LCF texts, they appear to miss the mark: in the case of pronoun use, the authors of PCF texts appear to be actively choosing to insert both themselves and the court into the narrative through a significantly higher use of first and second person pronouns, while in the case of nominalizations, their use at a statistically significantly lower rate seemed to more likely reflect of a lack of familiarity with the register of legal English (and relatedly a lack of genre competence when it comes to the creation of legitimate courtroom filings).

This use of pronouns appears to indicate the alternative source of authority upon which PCF texts are meant to draw: unlike LCF texts, which take their authority from that of the legal system, PCF texts are claiming that it is the inherent power as of their authors as individuals that makes them effective. Conversely, the significantly lower frequency of nominalizations does not seem to serve such a purpose. Though one could imagine a Sovereign Citizen-tinged version of the “Plain English” movement (see, e.g., Tiersma 1999, pp.211–230; Adler 2012) making an argument that it is necessary to avoid the use of certain grammatical structures to avoid submitting to the authority of the legal system, there is no indication of such a motivation

here. In fact, the stylistically-obsessed quantum grammar pseudolegal courtroom filings discussed at length in Section 5.6.3 appear to make exactly the opposite assumption by actively encouraging more complicated syntax.

In addition to the “consensus” features of legal English outlined in Table 6.2, this thesis also explored the use of legal technical terminology in the LCF and PCF corpora. A keyword analysis focused on legal technical terms found that PCF texts made frequent reference to a number of legal concepts that were, based on their lack of inclusion in the LCF corpus, not relevant to legitimate legal contexts in which these documents were filed (see Section 4.3.2). An examination of the legal “lockwords” in LCF and PCF texts (see Section 4.3.1) revealed that even when PCF texts used legal technical terms that appeared in the LCF corpus, those words would often be used in ways which were clearly inconsistent with their proper legal meanings. This use of a wider array of legal technical terms in the PCF corpus at a greater frequency than comparable terms appeared in the LCF corpus is a clear indication of Sovereign Citizens’ “talismanic” uses of legitimate legal features discussed more below in Section 6.5, particularly when their use is so clearly divorced from their standard legal meanings. Given that the terms are often not used consistently even within a single PCF text, they are clearly present more as symbols of authority than for any particular semantic content.

An unexpected result of comparing the use of legal English in LCF and PCF texts was the finding that several ways in which PCF texts differed from LCF texts lined up with ways in which spoken English has been noted to differ from written English (Biber et al. 1999). This similarity to spoken English was most notable in the use of emphatic capitalization in PCF texts, resulting in their having a “shouting” tone (as in the excerpt “There was no substantive positive evidence presented and NO firsthand competent material fact witness...”, along with other examples in Table 4.6 on page 101). It was also visible in their significantly higher use of pronouns, particularly first- and second-person pronouns, relative to the LCF corpus mentioned earlier in this section. Compared to LCF texts, in which the relatively infrequent use of pronouns serves to impersonalize and distance their authors from their contents, the spoken-like elements of PCF texts impart an almost monologic character, where they refer to their authors in the first person and “shout” at the judge hearing their case using the second person. Ultimately, however, this thesis was not equipped to evaluate the connection between the language used in PCF texts and spoken English at any greater depth; such a comparison is left for future study.

The use of emphatic capitalization and first- and second-person pronouns in the PCF corpus are such obvious departures from what would be expected of a legitimate courtroom

filing that it suggests they may be knowing deviations from the expected format of LCF texts. Given that such features actively lessen the degree to which PCF texts appear like legitimate courtroom filings, they must then indicate a subject of special importance to Sovereign Citizen authors. Particularly when considered alongside the tendency in PCF texts to pair first-person pronouns with appositive statements (e.g. “[I] declare that I, a living, breathing, undead woman, am filing this affidavit...” in Table 4.12 on page 110) it is clear that these texts place a premium on emphasizing the identities of their authors and that such “shouting” is seen as an effective way to ensure that their concerns are heard (these qualities will be discussed further in Section 6.4). In contrast to their talismanic use of legal technical terminology, the emphasis that PCF texts place on the identity of their authors and on the apparent strength of their emotions serves to challenge an apparent assumption of the legitimate courtroom filing genre: namely, that the power of LCF texts stems from the wider legal system and that the identity of their authors is irrelevant to its legal authority.

Though there are many areas in which PCF texts appear (in a quantitative sense, at least) to successfully imitate the language used in LCF texts, a close reading of a prototype text from each corpus chosen based on their use of the legal technical keywords identified in Section 4.3.2 made clear the extent to which the two genres can differ. Where the prototype LCF text (see Appendix 4.1) presented its legal arguments from a relatively impersonal perspective, eschewing clear reference to its author or any of that authors’ personal opinions through the use of constructions such as “Considerations of fairness and efficiency also support a stay of discovery”, the prototype PCF text (see Appendix 4.2) was focused instead on the identity of its author, emphasizing, for example, that author’s status as the “True Heir” of a piece of property and their claimed power to singlehandedly “destroy the [mortgage]” they had signed to acquire it. Where the LCF prototype text makes references to statutes or other relevant points of law, it does so for a clearly articulated reason, while the PCF text refers to laws and legal concepts as if they were magic words whose mere invocation is in itself sufficient to achieve their desired ends.

Ultimately, given that both lawyers and the general public seem to have relatively little difficulty in identifying Sovereign Citizen pseudolegal writings as something other than legitimate legal writings (e.g. Patrice 2013; Guillot 2016; Kelley 2019b), it is unsurprising to find that LCF and PCF texts are easily differentiated by the ways in which they make use of features characteristic of legal English. What is more notable, however, and what was also found in the examination of the multimodal features present in the two corpora discussed in the next section, was how clearly that was true despite the many striking similarities between

LCF and PCF texts. The examination of legal English in this thesis identified a number of ways in which it is clearly differentiated from standard English and in doing so largely validated the consensus description of legal English found in Section 2.5.3. In their attempts to usurp the authority of the legitimate legal system, PCF texts have not just grasped many of those differences but either heightened them via increased rates of use or subverted them through the addition of a set of seemingly equal but opposite features. The following section turns to an even clearer example of heightened features of LCF texts in PCF texts: their use of methods of textual emphasis and images.

6.3 Multimodality in Legitimate and Pseudolegal Courtroom Filings

This thesis' second research question asks how the multimodal contents of legitimate and pseudolegal courtroom filings compare. Given that the LCF and PCF corpora are comprised entirely of static texts, this was explored via an examination of the graphic elements (i.e. the use of textual emphasis and images) in the two corpora. Based on the attention these types of features, particularly images, have received in prior descriptions of Sovereign Citizen documents (e.g. Southern Poverty Law Center 2010; Rooke 2012; Anti-Defamation League 2016), they are likely the most distinctive elements of PCF texts. However, as with the use of legal English in LCF and PCF texts, prior to this thesis there had been no substantial linguistic analysis of these features in pseudolegal courtroom filings, either in isolation or relative to the presence of comparable features in legitimate courtroom filings. This thesis is therefore the first linguistic study to have considered the prevalence of these features in a systematic way. Section 6.3.1 discusses the use of methods of textual emphasis in the LCF and PCF corpora, after which Section 6.3.2 looks at their use of images.

6.3.1 The Use of Textual Emphasis

Based upon a review of the most common font and text alignment choices in the two corpora, it was determined that the typical text in the LCF corpus was written in a serif font which was double spaced and justified, while the typical PCF text was written in a serif font which was single spaced and left-aligned. From the outset of this portion of the analysis, two trends quickly became apparent:

1. LCF texts were generally designed in ways that resulted in more blank space on the page, as seen in their use of double spacing as opposed to single spacing and in their justifying their text rather than having it be left aligned. Both choices result in a

document that appears to be more internally consistent (e.g. by seeming more like a continuous column of text) than their PCF counterparts.

2. Where they deviated from the practices of LCF texts, design choices in PCF texts were often identical to the default settings of popular word processing programs. Microsoft Word, for example, has text set to be single spaced and left aligned by default and these were the predominant spacing and alignment choices significantly more frequently in the PCF corpus than in the LCF corpus (see Table 5.1 on page 154).

This latter point does not necessarily mean these factors were not considered in the design of the PCF texts examined. However, given that other departures in PCF texts from what is expected of LCF texts generally have a more readily identifiable (and often explicitly stated in the document itself) purpose behind them, it does raise that lack of consideration as a possibility and therefore serves as a warning against automatically reading intentionality into every difference between the LCF and PCF corpora. These likely unconsidered features stand as a sort of mirror image to more clearly purposeful deviations from LCF texts, inasmuch as they reveal not the areas of particular import to Sovereign Citizens, but rather the ones that matter so little to them that they may not have been considered at all.

In terms of emphasizing text within the bodies of the documents themselves, with the exception of italicization on its own, which was significantly more common in the LCF corpus than the PCF corpus, every other combination of bolding, italics, underlining, and capitalization in LCF and PCF texts occurred either at a statistically similar rate in the two corpora, or at a significantly higher rate in the PCF corpus. Similarly, when looking at the formatting of headings in LCF and PCF texts, there was a clear preference for the combination of bolding, underlining, capitalization, and centering in LCF texts, with every other examined category either occurring at a statistically similar rate or significantly more frequently in the PCF texts. In other words, there is a very clear “house style” of italicization for in-paragraph emphasis and for the bolding, italics, underlining, and capitalization in the formatting of section headings in LCF texts. In contrast, there was no such clear or consistent system of textual emphasis in the PCF corpus; some texts, such as the one shown in Figure 5.11 on page 175, would even make use of multiple forms of textual emphasis on the same page, variously underlining, bolding, and italicizing different things with no clear internal logic as to which method was used in any given location. At the same time, what PCF texts lacked in consistency, they more than made up for in volume, with more than three times as many instances of in-paragraph emphasis than the LCF corpus. Similarly, PCF texts were much more likely to vary both the font size and the font used within a text (e.g. from Times New Roman to Helvetica)

than LCF texts were. As with the “shouting” quality of PCF texts noted in Section 6.2.2, here again PCF texts seemed to prioritize communicating the strength of their pseudolegal convictions over getting across any particular points of (pseudo)law or fact, clearly tying into their efforts at magically heightening features of LCF texts discussed more below in Section 6.5.

6.3.2 The Use of Images

Turning to the use of graphic elements in the two corpora, again it was found that LCF texts were much more consistent both in the features they used and in the ways that they used them than PCF texts. This was particularly evident in their use of legal captions (see Section 5.3.2) and list formatting. A caption in a legitimate courtroom filing firmly establishes the place of that filing in the legitimate legal system and, generally speaking, its acquiescence to the jurisdiction of the court in which it has been filed. The inclusion of a caption is therefore a persuasive sign of a text possessing legitimate legal authority. All LCF texts save one were found to have a properly formatted caption; by way of contrast, almost a quarter of PCF texts had nothing resembling one, and even many of those that did have a caption had modified its contents such that it was clearly of a different kind than those found in LCF texts. This possibly stems from the rejection of government authority fundamental to Sovereign Citizen pseudolegal conspiracy theories and the related desire of many Sovereign Citizens to avoid accidentally granting the government jurisdiction (or, in more magical terms, power) over themselves (Wessinger 1999).

In the case of list formatting, it seems to be yet another instance in which LCF texts are both more considered and more purposeful in their use of a feature than PCF texts. Lists are among the most common graphic features in both corpora, though they are significantly more common in the PCF corpus than the LCF corpus. An examination of the heatmaps in Figure 5.24 on page 185 shows that LCF texts are strikingly consistent with their use of lists in that they generally appear in the same place on the page and that they are usually limited to a single level. PCF texts, by way of contrast, have a much broader hotspot on that heatmap, indicating both that they are much more likely to use multi-level lists and to have multiple discrete lists on the same page. Though not as clearly talismanic as the use of legal technical terminology in PCF texts, this more frequent use of a feature in more places, especially when combined with the clear function of a list to impose structure on a document, seems to be yet another way in

which PCF texts attempt to increase their authority and power over the legitimate legal system by heightening a feature of LCF texts.

List formatting aside, the graphic features that were found to be significantly more common in the LCF corpus than in the PCF corpus tended to be those which contributed to a more organized document overall, such as the use of tables and footnotes. The graphic features which were significantly more common in the PCF corpus were those which placed greater emphasis on the identity of the authors of PCF texts and on the legal power and authority they were claiming. This focus on authorial power and identity was particularly evident in their heavy use of seals (especially notary seals) and the much greater frequency with which Sovereign Citizens would sign or otherwise hand write portions of their texts (at a rate nearly seven times that of LCF texts in the latter case). Once again, such a premium is placed on these identity-related features of PCF texts that their overall chances of parasitic success are jeopardized by featuring them too frequently.

Perhaps the most remarked upon features of PCF texts are those which bear little to no relation to those found in LCF texts. The uniquely Sovereign Citizen graphic features found in the PCF corpus fell into three categories:

1. Illustrations, particularly of modified versions of the American flag.
2. Postage stamps, seemingly legitimately purchased from the U.S. Postal Service.
3. Thumbprints, often accompanying handwritten signatures and seeming to serve as some sort of personal seal.

As shown in the heatmaps in Figure 5.42 on page 201, these three features typically occurred in distinct locations on a page, which seems to imply that these three features all serve different purposes in Sovereign Citizen pseudolegal discourse, even if those exact purposes are not immediately clear from the texts in which they appear.

A close reading of a prototype text from each corpus further emphasized the above points: the prototypical LCF text (see Appendix 5.1) was straightforwardly presented, with what minimal deviations there were from its standard design choices clearly working in service of enhancing clarity and maintaining the reader's focus on the legal issues at hand. The prototype PCF text (see Appendix 5.2) could not have been more different. It was a quantum grammar text, meaning that it belonged to a particularly infamous school of Sovereign Citizen pseudolegal thought (Conti 2018; Hay 2020). Where the LCF text made sparing use of methods of textual emphasis and graphic features, this quantum grammar text went in the entirely opposite direction, with almost every element being capitalized, bolded, underlined or involving some sort of graphic element. At the same time, despite such a stark difference in its

visual character, many of the individual elements of the prototype PCF text could be clearly mapped onto legitimate legal features (see, for example, the comparison of the “quantum grammar” caption to a legitimate legal caption in Figure 5.61 on page 222). While the PCF prototype text did include a number of distinctly Sovereign Citizen graphic elements, particularly thumbprints, it is best understood as the ultimate expression of the Sovereign Citizen strategy of heightening and exaggerating existing legal features. As with their use of legal English, when it comes to the presence of graphic elements, PCF texts have a clear preference for a greater variety of features used at a higher frequency than their LCF text counterparts. The multimodal design ethos of the authors of PCF texts can be effectively summarized as “more is more,” clearly relating to their efforts to magically overwhelm the legal system and its representatives.

6.4 The Nature of a Parasitic Genre

This thesis’s third and final research question asks what the relationship between legitimate courtroom filings and Sovereign Citizen pseudolegal courtroom filings reveals about the operation of parasitic genres. Genre was defined for the purposes of this thesis as “a class of communicative events, the members of which share some set of communicative purposes” (Swales 1990, p.58). In Chapter 2 (see Section 2.4.3), it was proposed that PCFs belong to a “parasitic” genre preying upon a “host” genre of LCFs. A parasitic genre was defined as a genre whose existence is both dependent upon the preexistence of a host genre and whose functioning actively interferes with the operation of that host genre. By mimicking the appearance of LCFs, it was suggested, Sovereign Citizen authors are both attempting to imbue their own writings with the authority of the legal system and to disrupt that system’s intended functioning. Though many commentators have noted that there is clearly a relationship between the LCF and PCF genres (Rooke 2012; Netolitzky 2016a), prior to this thesis there had not been an attempt to quantify just how similar they are. In light of the findings discussed in the prior chapters and summarized in the sections above, it is now possible to more specifically evaluate the concept of parasitic genre and how it applies to texts in the LCF and PCF genres.

To the extent that both LCFs and PCFs exist to support the case of a given litigant (i.e. that they share, in this sense, a communicative purpose), it was suggested in Section 2.4.3 that PCFs could potentially be interpreted simply as LCF texts written by authors who lacked genre competence. However, given the explicit anti-government stance of Sovereign Citizen pseudolegal theories, at anything except the most superficial of levels, the purposes of LCF

and PCF texts are fundamentally at odds. Furthermore, this thesis has demonstrated that while PCF texts are clearly designed to appear similar to LCF texts in some ways, in many others their authors appear to have intentionally made choices in the design of their texts which differentiate the two genres. At this point, any suggestion that PCF texts may simply be inexpertly written or otherwise “heterodox” versions of LCF texts can be resoundingly rejected. PCF texts ultimately meet both parts of the proposed definition of parasitic genre: they depend upon the preexistence of a “host genre” (after all, PCF texts could not imitate a genre which did not yet exist) and, given the ways in which PCF texts heighten or otherwise distort features characteristic of LCF texts in their quest for magical supremacy, they are also clearly intended to disrupt the intended functioning of LCF texts by breaking the genre chain (Swales 2004, pp.18–20).

Based on the analyses of the use of legal English and the presence of multimodal features in the LCF and PCF corpora discussed above, it is clear that the authors of PCF texts are generally adept at identifying the distinctive features of LCF texts. In the case of the features of legal English this thesis examined, for example, the only category of feature in Table 6.2 that appeared significantly less frequently in PCF texts than in LCF texts was the use of nominalizations. In fact, throughout the analyses in Chapters 4 and 5, though there were certainly specific instances of features that appeared more frequently in the LCF corpus than the PCF corpus (e.g. italicization as a means of textual emphasis) there were surprisingly few where, at the larger categorical level, the PCF corpus made significantly less frequent use of a given class of feature (e.g. textual emphasis via some combination of bolding, italicization, and underlining). On top of that, there were also relatively few instances in which PCF texts were found to include features which either occurred infrequently or not at all in the LCF corpus, with the use of first- and second-person pronouns and the presence of illustrations, postage stamps and thumbprints being the notable exceptions to that trend. To the extent that genre parasitism involves ensuring that the features that would be expected of the host genre are present in the parasitic genre, then, PCF texts can generally be said to be successful in their efforts.

PCF texts can be considered less imitatively successful, however, when it comes to mimicking the expected frequency of appearance of the features which characterize LCF texts. The use of legal technical terminology, for example, is often said to be one of the most clearly distinguishing features of legal English (Tiersma 2006). Like the LCF corpus, the PCF corpus does frequently use legal technical terminology, but based on a combination of lockword and keyword analyses, it appears to do so at a significantly higher rate than the LCF corpus in terms

of both types and tokens. Similarly, PCF texts make significantly more frequent use of graphic features such as notary seals than would be expected in an LCF text. At the same time, they often miss some of the more subtle elements of LCF text design, either through a potential lack of attention to detail, as in the typical document layout of a PCF text (which was found to hew closer to default word processor settings than to the typical layout of an LCF text) or through a lack of genre competence, as may be indicated by their underuse of nominalizations relative to legitimate courtroom filings. Overall, there is a clear trend in PCF texts to not just use but overuse the most visually impactful features of LCF texts in ways that appear to interfere with their chances of successfully passing themselves off as legitimate legal texts. In that sense, if the goal of PCF texts were to appear like LCF texts, then they could largely be judged to have failed. Though they are undeniably similar genres, there is often relatively little difficulty involved in telling apart an LCF text from a PCF text. As has been discussed elsewhere in this thesis, however, the true purpose of a PCF text is not to merely imitate an LCF text, but to magically overwhelm the legitimate legal system and its representatives. This purposeful interference with the operation of the legal system, and by extension, of the LCF genre, is the way in which PCF texts meet the second parasitic genre criterion.

6.5 The Magic of Sovereign Citizen Pseudolegal Courtroom Filings

Not only do religious studies scholars describe Sovereign Citizen pseudolegal texts as instances of magic practice (e.g. Wessinger 2000), but if given the chance, many Sovereign Citizens themselves will do so as well (e.g. Hume 2022b). Magic is generally said to be practiced via the use of “words of power” (Luhmann 1989); in the case of PCF texts, these words of power can be understood to be analogous to the features characteristic of LCF texts. As Wessinger (2000) explains, when Sovereign Citizens observe representatives of the legal system wielding real-world power over them via traffic tickets or mortgage foreclosures, they assume this is because of the power inherent in the words used and that, if Sovereign Citizens are able to claim those words for themselves, then they will then be able to master that power. However, it is not enough for the Sovereign Citizens to simply copy legal “words of power,” as that would merely place them on par with the representatives of the legal system. Instead, they must enhance the power of those words by heightening those aspects which they view as the most magically salient. This magical nature of PCF texts has proven to be a factor in every element of their design.

The primary way in which PCF texts appear to magically heighten the features which characterize LCF texts is by using them much more often. The logic behind that choice seems to be that if a small amount of a characteristically legal feature imparts a degree of legitimate legal authority, then a greater amount will impart even more (Wessinger 2000). In some cases, this heightening can involve a more profound modification of an existing LCF feature, as in the Sovereign Citizen-style caption of the quantum grammar multimodal prototype discussed in Section 5.6.3. In modifying the clearly established format of the standard legal caption, the Sovereign Citizen prototype text's overall chances of parasitic success are lessened in an apparent effort to increase its ultimate magical power. This tradeoff can be used to explain even some of the more seemingly outlandish features of PCF texts: postage stamps and thumbprints, for example, can be understood in this light not as random additions to PCF texts, but as magically heightened versions of the notary stamps and personal signatures that accompany courtroom filings. In particular, this impulse to heighten graphic features (through either increased frequency or visual emphasis) which emphasize the identity of a text's author at the expense of its similarity to LCF texts appears to underly many of the most striking differences between the two genres and can also be seen in the PCF corpus' much more frequent use of features such as first-person pronouns and handwritten signatures. Overall, it appears that PCF texts want to use the supposed magical powers of the legal system to emphasize the identity of their authors as individuals and increase their personal power over that system.

PCF texts' constant emphasis on the identity and power of their authors suggests that, at their core, these documents reflect a degree of powerlessness felt by their authors in the face of the legal system. These qualities can make interactions with the legal system seem alienating to those without legal training and, while most laypeople will seek legal representation to help them navigate these interactions, Sovereign Citizens instead fight the system on their own as fiercely as they can. Individual motivations for this may vary (e.g. lack of money to seek legal representation, a conflation of the court with the opposing party, or a preexisting tendency for conspiratorial thinking) but assigning such motives to individual Sovereign Citizen authors is beyond the scope of this thesis. Most conspiracy movements have a clear central thesis but are somewhat vague about its implications: a given movement may assert that the US never landed on the moon, for example (Swami et al. 2013), or that the earth is flat (Mohammed 2019), or that ancient aliens built the pyramids (Halmhofer 2021), but individual movement members will often disagree about the specific implications of their chosen conspiracy. Beyond a vague assertion that the government lacks the authority it claims to have (the explanation for which can vary significantly between movement members), however, the Sovereign Citizen

movement has no such central tenet. It is, conversely, very clear about what its implications are: namely, that individual Sovereign Citizens have, by themselves, the power and authority to stand up to the government and the legal system. In this way it can perhaps be considered less of a movement and more of a method, offering individuals who feel unheard by the legal system a way to assert their own authority, regardless of their particular circumstances or the ultimate legal failure that is essentially guaranteed. Considering it more method than movement would also align with reports that Sovereign Citizen-style arguments have become increasingly popular in other conspiracy movements, particularly QAnon and certain anti-vax factions (Kelley 2019a; Merlan 2020; Gilbert 2021a).

To be clear, this thesis is not suggesting that the rise of the Sovereign Citizen movement (or method, as the case may be) is the result of any failure on the part of the legal system to properly “market” or otherwise explain itself. Sovereign Citizens attempt to demonstrate their own personal authority by usurping that of the legitimate legal system which, to them, appears to require overusing and heightening the most markedly formal features of LCF texts. This is clearly magical thinking and is therefore unlikely to be addressable through a strictly rational explanation of how the legal system actually works. It does suggest, however, that attempts by the legal system to ameliorate the problems posed by Sovereign Citizens should keep in mind the importance which Sovereign Citizens seem to place on their own power and identity. If the Sovereign Citizen movement is attractive to those feel unheard and powerless in the face of the legal system, then addressing those issues (without, of course, validating any of the myriad Sovereign Citizen pseudolegal conspiracy theories) should be of the utmost importance.

6.6 The Authority of Legal Texts

As discussed in Section 2.7.1, law is only binding on society because it has the authority of the state behind it (Bourdieu 1991a, pp.107–109; Hobbes 2005 [1651], pp.128–129). The legitimate courtroom filings examined in this thesis attempt to demonstrate their access to that authority (i.e. their status authorized acts (Bourdieu 1991a)) via the use of certain signs (in the semiotic sense; see Section 2.7.2), which can be found in both the language and graphic elements they contain. This thesis has sought to identify those signs and the ways in which PCF texts attempt to appropriate the authority which they indicate, paying particular attention to what that attempted appropriation reveals about the ritual and magic natures of texts in both genres. The related findings can be summarized in three points:

1. The more clearly legal a given feature is, the more frequently it tends to appear in pseudolegal courtroom filings. It has been suggested (e.g. Danet 1980; Tiersma 2006), that legal English is most clearly distinguished from more standard varieties of English by its frequent use of legal technical terminology (see Sections 2.5.3 and 4.3). It is particularly notable, therefore, that the analysis in Chapter 4 found that PCF texts make significantly more frequent use of legal technical terminology than LCF texts. In many cases, these legal technical terms are used in PCF texts in ways that are inconsistent with their actual legal meanings; the improper (from the perspective of the legal system) use of legal technical terms can be understood as “talismanic” in the sense that the authors of PCF appear to be using them not because they comprehend their meanings, but because they believe their very appearance in a text imparts some degree of legitimate legal authority. The significantly higher presence of features such as stamps and seals in the PCF corpus as compared to the LCF corpus (see Sections 5.5.1 and 5.5.2) can be similarly explained. The most notable exception to this is the use of nominalizations, which were used significantly more in the LCF corpus than in COCA-W but still appeared significantly less in the PCF corpus than in the LCF corpus. Nominalizations, it can therefore be assumed, do not register to Sovereign Citizens as particularly indicative of authority; this leads to the second point.
2. The less visually impactful a given feature of LCF texts is, the more likely it is to be heightened when found in PCF texts. As seen in Sections 5.4 and 5.5, PCF texts were found to emphasize text (e.g. via bolding or variation in font size) significantly more than their LCF counterparts. This penchant for emphasis can also be seen in the use of lists, which both appear significantly more frequently in PCF texts than in LCF texts and, as seen in the heatmap in Figure 5.24 on page 185, are generally used with a greater number of levels. With their use of these features, it becomes clear that PCF texts value a high degree of visual emphasis in their texts, particularly in cases where they can heighten a given feature beyond its use in the LCF corpus. Even the use of illustrations, thumbprints, and postage stamps, though they lack direct analogues in the LCF corpus, can be understood as different methods of heightening existing legal features such as the use of notary seals and attorney registration stamps; compare Figure 5.49 on page 206 with Figure 5.27 on page 190, for example. These heightened features are all in service of the same message, which is summarized in the final point.
3. PCF texts are structured to emphasize the power and identity of their authors. The most clearly non-legal aspect of the PCF corpus is its significantly more frequent use of first

and second person pronouns than the LCF corpus (see Section 4.2.3). As shown in Table 4.10 on page 108 and Table 4.13 on page 111, PCF texts are most often referring to their authors when using first person pronouns and to the court when using second person pronouns; PCF texts are clearly not intended to be read as impersonal, objective statements of the law in the same way that LCF texts are. This can also be seen in the appositive statements in PCF texts (e.g. “I, the Affiant, the living woman...” in Table 4.12 on page 110) and the other “personal touches” in the PCF corpus, such as the frequent use of thumbprints and handwritten signatures (see Section 5.5). LCF texts draw their power from the legal system itself, and generally signal that relationship through their use of references to statutes and caselaw. While PCF texts are, in a sense, engaging with the legal system, they are ultimately rejecting its authority and therefore need to point to this alternative source of magic power and authority for their texts.

Based on the contents of the pseudolegal courtroom filings examined in this thesis, Sovereign Citizens appear to find the authority of legitimate courtroom filings in those features which either directly reference the legal system itself or which are used to impose order on the contents of a document. Where the use of these features in legitimate courtroom filings is relatively understated, they are heightened in pseudolegal courtroom filings in an effort to magically enhance their authoritative powers. Inasmuch as their invocations of the legal system are relatively understated, the lawyers who have authored the legitimate courtroom filings examined here seem to largely take for granted that readers will understand that the source of their authority is the legitimate legal system itself. Because, in contrast, Sovereign citizen authors are rejecting the authority of that legal system, their documents are instead structured in such a way as to emphasize the source of the power and authority they are magically claiming: themselves.

6.7 Limitations of this Thesis

The primary limitation of this thesis stems from the lack of prior research on legal English and the LCF genre in general. Without the foundation which this research would have provided, it was necessary to determine a number of things (e.g. regarding the differences between legal English and standard English) which, had they been previously established, would have allowed for a more detailed examination of the relationship between the LCF and PCF genres. It is also possible that some of the more distinctive features of PCF texts relative to LCF texts (e.g. the use of first person pronouns) may characterize pro se legal filings in general, rather

than Sovereign Citizen pseudolegal courtroom filings specifically; unfortunately, this thesis was not able to consider this question and, as with the lack of research on the register of legal English more generally, the subject of pro se legal writings appears to be understudied in the existing literature.

There are a number of practical limitations to the methodology used in this thesis that must similarly be acknowledged. The lack of access to the original hard copies of the texts examined in the LCF and PCF corpora, for example, complicated or foreclosed multiple potentially fruitful avenues of analysis. Because the .pdf files received were generally in greyscale, it was not possible to determine how LCF and PCF texts made use of color in their written or graphic contents. This is particularly worth highlighting because Sovereign Citizens have been noted to make frequent use of red ink or even blood in their texts, particularly in signatures and thumbprints (Anti-Defamation League 2016; Conti 2018). Color was therefore ignored as factor in the analysis, even for those few documents which were not in greyscale. Due to the format in which the component texts of the LCF and PCF corpora were received, with multiple filings often contained in the same .pdf file, it was at times not possible to determine the intended endpoint of a given text. This meant that the divisions imposed upon those texts may not be the same as when they were filed, with relevant material either being inadvertently excluded or material included that was actually part of a separate text.

In its examination of legal English, this thesis only looked at a subset of those features which had been previously noted as part of the register's "consensus" description. It is possible some of the other features of the consensus which this thesis did not examine (e.g. average sentence length or the use of words which are formal but not technical legal terms) would have also proven valuable. Similarly, given the lack of prior quantitative research into the characteristics of legal English, it is also possible there are other distinctive features of legal English not previously noted in the literature which could have been explored. Because the analysis in this thesis focused on the use of legal English in and the multimodal contents of the LCF and PCF corpora, it is possible it excluded some features falling outside of those categories (e.g. features which characterize spoken English) which would also have been relevant. Relatedly, while the presence of exclusively chancery cases in the LCF and PCF corpora served to enhance their comparability, an examination of cases from other areas of law may also have granted additional insight.

The LCF and PCF corpora each represent a relatively narrow genre, meaning that while this was the most comprehensive review of legal English and Sovereign Citizen pseudolegal writings to date, it is difficult to know how truly generalizable these findings are to those larger

discursive levels without further research. It is possible, for example, given the movement's international reach, that the Chicago Sovereign Citizen community is particularly idiosyncratic and that the PCF corpus does not contain features which would have been better captured elsewhere. It is doubtlessly true that the use of legal English can vary greatly even in other written legal contexts (e.g. in the Supreme Court opinions studied in Goźdz-Roszkowski (2011)).

As discussed in Section 3.5.6, the way that heatmaps examined in Chapter 5 were generated for this thesis focused on the center point of the rectangle drawn around each instance of a feature in UAM Image tool (O'Donnell 2011) during the annotation process. While this was a relatively minor issue for smaller features such as thumbprints, the more vertical or horizontal space a given feature occupied, the less useful the resultant heatmap became. At the moment, there do not appear to be any corpus tools available which can generate feature-based heatmaps like those examined in this thesis; given the interesting results gleaned from their limited use in this thesis, it is hoped that a more effective way to do so will be developed in the future.

6.8 Avenues for Future Study

The findings of this thesis indicate a number of areas that may provide fruitful avenues for future research. Perhaps most obvious is the need for further quantitative study of the register of legal English, in both written and spoken contexts. By expanding the range of legal genres analyzed (including writings by pro se litigants) and making more in-depth comparisons to more standard varieties of English than were possible in this thesis, such future research can establish a much clearer and more empirically grounded picture of the register of legal English than currently exists, doing away with the need for ad hoc agglomerations such as the “consensus” description entirely.

Relatedly, research into lay perceptions of legal English may shed even more light on the sorts of features that Sovereign Citizens pick for their magical heightening; it seems possible that the features that seem most salient to laypeople in legal English would also be those that most appeal to the authors of Sovereign Citizen texts. As noted multiple times throughout this thesis, given some of the trends observed in Chapter 4, a more direct comparison of the features of PCF texts to those of spoken English is also likely to shed additional light on the nature of this pseudolegal genre. An examination of other varieties of

Sovereign Citizen document, such as materials distributed as part of their “common law” seminars or other meetings (e.g. Hume 2022c), may also be similarly worthwhile.

Looking in a different direction, the ways in which PCF texts compare to other instances of magical practices, either historical or contemporary are also worthy of attention; a comparison of PCF texts to politically oriented contemporary magical practice was at one point planned for this thesis but ultimately not possible due to time constraints. Given the increase of such practices in recent years (e.g. “A Spell to Bind Donald Trump and All Those Who Abet Him” in Hughes (2018)), as well as the lack of linguistic engagement with such magical practices, this is yet another area of potential study which could grant insight into manifestations of power and authority in contemporary language. Similarly, there has been relatively little linguistic examination of conspiracy theories in any broader sense. A comparison of the pseudolegal writings of the Sovereign Citizen movement to the pseudoscientific writings of the flat earth movement or other similar groups would also likely prove worthwhile.

Based on the findings of this thesis, the authors of pseudolegal courtroom filings are essentially “shouting” at courts to recognize their authority. While acquiescing to their demands would obviously be a mistake, such shouting does seem to indicate both that Sovereign Citizens do not understand the functioning of the legal system and that they feel “unheard” by it. In order to combat the spread of pseudolegal theories such as those the Sovereign Citizen movement promulgates, it would behoove the representatives of the legal system to seriously consider the ways in which they help non-lawyers understand the nature of legal proceedings. If those attempts to help are instead furthering lay perceptions of powerlessness in the face of the legal system, then they are likely counterproductive at best. Instead, a strategy which emphasizes the personhood and dignity of everyone before the law could at least help to stem the spread of the movement before it becomes even more of a concern than it already is.

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Appendix 3.1:

Contents of the Legitimate Courtroom Filing Corpus

The columns in this table indicate the following:

- “L (#)” indicates the number associated with a given legitimate courtroom filing in the electronic copy of the LCF corpus submitted alongside this thesis (document reference numbers are occasionally nonconsecutive because they were assigned to files prior to the determination of the final contents of the LCF corpus).
- “Pages” gives the number of individual pages in a document.
- “Words” lists the total wordcount of a document as determined by AntConc (Anthony 2019).
- “Title” provides a document’s title as given in that document.
- “Topic” presents a brief word or phrase summarizing the primary legal or factual issue addressed by a document.

L (#)	Pages	Wordcount	Title	Topic
1	4	837	Plaintiff's Response to Defendant Skindy LLC's Motion to Vacate Judgment	foreclosure
2	2	382	Motion to Amend Complaint On Its Face	foreclosure
3	2	267	Emergency Motion for Immediate Discharge of Counsel	discharge of counsel
4	3	669	Answer to Complaint to Foreclose Mortgage	foreclosure
5	4	803	Motion to Allow Supplemental Briefing	foreclosure
6	8	2133	Defendants' Response to Plaintiff's 2-619.1 Motion	foreclosure
7	6	1877	Defendants' Sur-Response to Plaintiff's 2-619.1 Motion	foreclosure
8	12	3442	Defendants' Answer, Affirmative Defense and Counter-claim	foreclosure
9	7	1811	Plaintiff's Reply in Support of its Combined Motion to Strike Defendant's Affirmative Defenses and Counterclaim and Motion for Partial Summary Judgment on Defendant's Affirmative Defense	foreclosure
10	4	801	Plaintiff's Sur-Reply in Support of its Combined Motion to Strike Defendant's Affirmative Defenses and Counterclaim and Motion for Partial Summary Judgment on Defendant's Affirmative Defense	foreclosure
11	10	2134	Complaint to Foreclose Mortgage and for Other Relief	foreclosure

L (#)	Pages	Wordcount	Title	Topic
12	3	461	Motion for Extension of Time to File Responsive Pleadings	foreclosure
14	2	244	Motion for Additional Time to Answer or Otherwise Plead	foreclosure
15	3	511	Motion for Entry of an Order of Default	foreclosure
16	12	3099	Response to Motion to Dismiss Counterclaims	foreclosure
17	4	922	Reply Brief in Support of Motion to Strike Jury Demand	malpractice
18	11	3020	Reply Brief in Support of Motion to Strike Affirmative Defenses Pursuant to 5/2-615	malpractice
19	23	5954	Defendants' Answer to Complaint to Foreclose Mortgage and for Other Relief, Affirmative Defenses of Certain Defendants and Counter-Complaint of Certain Defendants	foreclosure
20	2	139	Stipulation to Dismiss Action	foreclosure
21	5	1356	Complaint to Foreclose Mortgage	foreclosure
22	5	1361	First Amended Complaint to Foreclose Mortgage	foreclosure
23	1	219	Affidavit as to Unknown Owners and Nonrecord Claimants	foreclosure
24	1	300	Motion for the Appointment of Special Process Server	foreclosure
25	4	1092	Complaint to Foreclose Mortgage	foreclosure
26	1	113	Motion for Entry of a Judgment for Foreclosure and Sale	foreclosure
27	1	207	Affidavit to Allow Service by Publication Pursuant to 735 ILCS 5/2-206	foreclosure
28	2	189	Motion of Plaintiff Seeking Appointment of a Guardian Ad Litem by the Court	foreclosure
29	1	214	Affidavit of Unknown Heirs and Legatees	foreclosure
30	1	220	Affidavit as to Unknown Owners and Nonrecord Claimants	foreclosure
31	1	217	Affidavit as to Military Service	foreclosure
32	1	300	Motion for the Appointment of Special Process Server	foreclosure
33	4	1125	Complaint to Foreclose Mortgage	foreclosure
34	3	690	Answer to Complaint to Foreclose Mortgage	foreclosure
35	4	813	Motion of Plaintiff Seeking Appointment of a Guardian Ad Litem by the Court	foreclosure
37	8	1717	Complaint	arbitration
38	7	1616	Plaintiffs' Motion to Strike and Response to Defendants' Motion for Leave to Amend Pleadings and File Counterclaim	arbitration
39	7	1242	Counterclaim	arbitration
40	5	1338	Defendants' Reply in Support of Motion for Leave	arbitration
41	10	2854	Response to Plaintiffs' Renewed Motion to Stay Defendants' Demand for Arbitration	arbitration
42	5	1432	Sur-Reply in Opposition to Plaintiffs' Renewed Motion to Stay Arbitration	arbitration

L (#)	Pages	Wordcount	Title	Topic
43	7	1615	Plaintiffs' Motion to Strike and Response to Defendants' Motion for Leave to Amend Pleadings and File Counterclaim	arbitration
44	7	1645	Plaintiff's Renewed Motion to Stay Arbitration	arbitration
45	1	299	Motion for the Appointment of Special Process Server	foreclosure
46	1	215	Affidavit of Unknown Heirs and Legatees	foreclosure
47	4	1048	Complaint to Foreclose Mortgage	foreclosure
48	2	204	Application to Appoint Standing Special Process Servers	foreclosure
49	24	6135	Class Action Complaint	class action
50	12	3254	Motion for Class Certification	class action
51	5	1198	Plaintiff's Motion for Leave to File an Amended Complaint	class action
52	21	5397	First Amended Class Action Complaint	class action
53	12	3170	Amended Motion for Class Certification	class action
54	27	6958	Class Action Settlement Agreement	class action
55	6	1412	Complaint to Foreclose Mortgage	foreclosure
56	34	9183	Class Action Complaint	class action
57	5	1111	Defendant's Rule 201(c)(1) Motion to Stay Discovery	class action
58	29	8089	City of Chicago's Memorandum in Support of its Section 2-619.1 Motion to Dismiss Plaintiffs' Class Action Complaint	class action
59	16	4630	City of Chicago's Reply in Support of its Motion to Dismiss Plaintiffs' Class Action Complaint	class action
60	26	8442	Plaintiffs' Response to Defendant's Section 2-619.1 Motion to Dismiss Plaintiffs' Class Action Complaint	class action
62	13	3863	Plaintiff's Motion for Temporary Restraining Order	temporary restraining order
63	26	5513	Verified Answer, Affirmative Defenses and Counterclaim	breach of contract
64	5	1153	Plaintiff's Motion to Strike Defendant's Affirmative Defenses and Dismiss Defendant's Counterclaims	breach of contract
65	18	4494	Plaintiff/Counter-Defendant Rachael D. Siciliano's Verified Answer to Defendant/Counter-Plaintiff Feline Friends's Counterclaims and Affirmative Defenses	breach of contract
66	11	2710	Complaint for Declaratory and Injunctive Relief	injunction
67	14	4088	Defendant's Reply in Support of its 735 ILCS 5/2-619(a)(9) Motion to Dismiss Plaintiff's Complaint for Declaratory and Injunctive Relief	injunction
68	15	4257	Plaintiff's Response in Opposition to Defendant's 735 ILCS 5/2-619(a)(9) Motion to Dismiss Plaintiff's Complaint for Declaratory and Injunctive Relief	injunction

L (#)	Pages	Wordcount	Title	Topic
69	15	4532	Defendant's 735 ILCS 5/2-619(a)(9) Motion to Dismiss Plaintiff's Complaint for Declaratory and Injunctive Relief	injunction
71	14	3450	Verified Counterclaim	class action
72	5	1029	Plaintiffs' Response in Opposition to Defendants' Motions in Limine to Bar Plaintiffs' 213(f)(3) Experts	class action
73	6	1615	Plaintiffs' Response in Opposition to Defendants' Motion for Judgment on the Pleadings As to Counts I, II, VI and VII of the Second Amended Complaint	class action
74	17	5038	Defendants' Cross-Motion for Partial Summary Judgment with Respect to Proxies	class action
76	5	1396	Plaintiffs' Response in Opposition to Defendants' Motion to Compel and for Judgment Pursuant to Supreme Court Rule 219	class action
78	12	3099	Plaintiff's Answer and Affirmative Defenses to Verified Counterclaim	class action
79	4	376	Motion to Continue Trial	class action
80	4	774	Motion to Modify Confidentiality Order or for Other Relief	class action
81	10	2673	Motion for Summary Judgment on Counter III - Section 19	class action
82	5	974	Motion to Quash Subpoenas	subpoena
83	4	275	Motion to Reconsider Summary Judgment on Derivative Standing	class action
84	7	1396	Motion to Reconsider Certain Questions of Law	class action
85	25	6738	Plaintiffs' Objections to Ballots and Proxies Relied Upon by Defendants with Respect to August 28, 2018 Unit Owners' Vote	class action
86	13	3145	Plaintiff's Motion for Class Certification or, Alternatively, for a Deferred Class Certification Ruling Pending Discovery	class action
87	14	3328	Class Action Complaint	class action
88	18	5078	Defendant's Reply Memorandum in Support of Its § 2-606 and § 2-619.1 Motion to Dismiss	class action
89	15	866	Plaintiff's Memorandum of Law in Opposition to Defendant Coffee Meets Bagel, Inc.'s Motion to Dismiss Plaintiff's Class Action Complaint	class action
90	21	5736	Defendant's Memorandum in Support of § 2-606 and § 2-619.1 Motion to Dismiss	class action
91	31	8634	Plaintiffs' Verified Second Amended Complaint for Declaratory Judgment, Writ of Mandamus and Injunctive Relief	injunction
92	11	2266	Verified Complaint for Accounting, Injunction and Other Relief	injunction
93	6	1653	Defendant Roy Otake's Reply to Plaintiff Dean Otake's Response to Defendant's Motion to Dismiss Pursuant to 2-619	injunction

L (#)	Pages	Wordcount	Title	Topic
94	12	3587	Plaintiff's Response to Defendant's Motion to Dismiss Pursuant to 2-619	injunction
95	7	2184	Defendant Roy Otake's Section 2-619 Motion to Dismiss Dean Otake's 3-Count Complaint for Accounting, Injunction, and Other Relief	injunction
96	11	3527	Plaintiff's Motion for Entry of Preliminary Injunction and to Remove Roy Otake as Successor Trustee	injunction
97	12	3129	Complaint for Review of Final Administrative Decision	admin review
98	16	4697	Pipeline Westlake Hospital LLC and SRC Hospital Investments II LLC's Opposition to Plaintiff's Emergency Motion to Stay Decision of Administrative Agency Pending Judicial Review	admin review
99	19	5389	Plaintiff Village of Melrose Park's Emergency Motion to Stay Decision of Administrative Agency Pending Judicial Review	admin review
100	11	2786	Mary Harrington, as Plenary Guardian of the Estate and Person of Daniel Harrington, Travelers Casualty and Surety Company of America, and Western Surety Company's Joint Motion to Dismiss "Kleronomos' Amended Petition Objecting to All Receiver's Reports and for Equitable Relief Against Daniel A. Harrington For Breach of His Receiver Statutory, Court Ordered and Fiduciary Duties"	breach of contract
101	36	13762	Kleronomos' Amended Petition Objecting to All Receiver's Reports and for Equitable Relief Against Daniel A. Harrington for Breach of his Receiver Statutory, Court Ordered and Fiduciary Duties	breach of contract
102	3	661	Motion to Vacate and Void the Order of Default, Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale and the Judicial Sale	foreclosure
103	1	186	Amended Motion for Order of Default	foreclosure
104	2	488	Affidavit	foreclosure
105	3	805	Affidavit	foreclosure
106	2	345	Defendant's Affidavit	foreclosure
107	3	619	Motion to Strike Jury Demand	foreclosure
108	23	5956	Defendant's Answer to Complaint to Foreclose Mortgage and for Other Relief, Affirmative Defenses of Certain Defendants and Counter-Complaint of Certain Defendants	foreclosure
109	16	5207	Motion to Dismiss Counterclaims Pursuant to 735 ILCS 5/2-619.1	foreclosure
110	2	368	Affidavit of Karl Leinberger	foreclosure
111	2	386	Affidavit for Service by Publication as to Unknown Owners and Non-Record Claimants	foreclosure
112	1	197	Affidavit to Allow Service by Publication Pursuant to 735 ILCS 5/2-206	foreclosure

L (#)	Pages	Wordcount	Title	Topic
113	3	420	Plaintiff's Motion to Appoint a Guardian Ad Litem for Disabled Mortgagor and to File First Amended Complaint	foreclosure
114	3	605	Affidavit of Amounts Due and Owing	foreclosure
115	2	235	Motion for Entry of an Order of Default and Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale	foreclosure
116	2	275	Plaintiff's Motion to Appoint a Special Selling Officer	foreclosure
117	3	442	Motion for Leave to Amend Pleadings and File Counterclaim	arbitration
118	8	1715	Complaint	arbitration
119	9	2211	Plaintiffs' Motion for Attorney's Fees and Costs and for Judgment in their Favor on the Complaint	arbitration
120	6	1205	First Amended Demand for Arbitration	arbitration
121	1	299	Motion for the Appointment of Special Process Server	foreclosure
122	8	1848	Plaintiffs' First Set of Requests for Production of Documents to Defendant	class action
123	2	134	Affidavit in Support of Motion to Continue Trial	class action
124	4	816	Affidavit of Christine Nyborg	class action
125	4	710	Affidavit of Kelly C. Elmore	class action
126	3	381	Affidavit of Kelly C. Elmore	class action
127	2	357	Affidavit of David J. Bloomberg in Support of Plaintiffs' Motion for Summary Judgment on Count III - Section 19	class action
128	3	722	Declaration of Eugene Y. Turin	class action
129	11	2270	Verified Complaint for Accounting, Injunction and Other Relief	injunction
130	15	4594	Plaintiff's Emergency Motion for a Temporary Restraining Order, Preliminary Injunction, and Expedited Discovery	temporary restraining order
131	23	6309	Complaint and Demand for Jury Trial	fraud
132	10	2207	The People's Verified Emergency Motion to Intervene as an Additional Plaintiff	fraud
133	3	492	Affidavit of Joseph Ottolino	administrative review
134	12	2495	The People's Verified Complaint for Declaratory and Injunctive Relief	fraud
135	11	2653	Reply to Plaintiff's Response to Defendant Skindy LLC's Motion to Vacate Judgment	foreclosure
136	6	1233	Reply to Plaintiff's Response to Defendant Scott E. Kindybalyk's Motion to Vacate Judgment	foreclosure
137	4	803	Plaintiff's Response to Defendant' Scott E. Kindybalyk's Motion to Vacate Judgment	foreclosure
138	2	419	Plaintiff's Motion for Service by Special Order of the Court Pursuant to 735 ILCS 5/2-203.1	foreclosure
139	4	929	Complaint to Foreclose Mortgage	foreclosure

L (#)	Pages	Wordcount	Title	Topic
140	6	1652	Plaintiff's Combined Motion to Strike Defendant's Affirmative Defenses and Counterclaim and Motion for Partial Summary Judgment on Defendant's Affirmative Defense	foreclosure
141	2	264	Motion of Plaintiff Seeking Appointment of a Guardian Ad Litem by the Court	foreclosure
142	5	1000	Feline Friends' Motion in Limine to Exclude Testimony of Toni McNaughton	breach of contract
143	3	524	Motion to Vacate Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale as a Result of Plaintiff's Failure to Comply with Said Judgment and Vacate the Judicial Sale	foreclosure
144	5	1596	Kleronomos' Response to Respondents Joint Motion to Dismiss Kleronomos' Amended Petition Objecting to All Receiver's Reports and for Equitable Relief Against Daniel A. Harrington for Breach of his Receiver Statutory, Court Ordered and Fiduciary Duties	breach of contract

Appendix 3.2:

Contents of the Pseudolegal Courtroom Filing Corpus

The columns in this table indicate the following:

- “S (#)” indicates the number associated with a given Sovereign Citizen pseudolegal courtroom filing document in the electronic copy of the PCF corpus submitted alongside this thesis (document reference numbers are occasionally nonconsecutive because they were assigned to files prior to the determination of the final contents of the PCF corpus).
- “Pages” gives the number of individual pages in a document.
- “Words” lists the total wordcount of a document as determined by AntConc (Anthony 2019).
- “Title” provides a document’s title as given in that document. “Untitled” indicates that no title was included.
- “Topic” presents a brief explanation of the primary subject discussed in a given pseudolegal courtroom filing document.

S (#)	Pages	Words	Title	Topic
4	6	1628	Affidavit in Support of Petition for Relief from Judgment	foreclosure
6	4	1799	Notorial Protest and Notice of Administrative Judgment Certificate of Dishonor	foreclosure
9	13	1129	Petitioner's Reply to Plaintiff's Response to Petition for Relief and Emergency Petition to Stay Order of Possession	foreclosure
10	1	297	Motion for Reconsideration	foreclosure
15	12	3787	2-1401(f) Petition to Vacate Orders as Void	foreclosure
16	1	277	Motion for Extension of Time to File Amendments and Leave to File Counterclaim	foreclosure
18	7	1729	Defendants (Amended) 2-1305 Emergency Motion to Stay Enforcement of Order of Possession Judgment & Waive Bond	foreclosure
20	20	5115	Motion to Reinstate Default & Summary Judgment Due to Judge Valderrama Trespassing Upon the Laws Committing Treason Making the Order "Void" a "Nullity" w/ Affidavit	treason
21	17	6306	Motion to Vacate (January 12, 2018) Order due to Error/Fraud "Trespassing Upon the Laws" Obstruction of Justice Making the Order Void a Nullity w/ Affidavit & Reinstate Motion Pursuant to the Implementation of the Judicial Conduct and Disability Act of 1980	foreclosure

S (#)	Pages	Words	Title	Topic
22	9	2453	Motion to Reinstate Case Due to Judge Fredrenna Lyle & Numerous Judges Trespassing Upon the Laws Committing Treason et al.	foreclosure
25	13	4465	Respondent's Motion for Disqualification of Judge for "Cause" Using Her Robe Engaging in a Criminal Conspiracy & Reconsideration Vacate (October 29th 2018) Order Due to Civil Rights Violations "Fraud" Trespassing Upon the Laws Making the Order a Nullity w/ Affidavit	foreclosure
27	3	611	Defendant's Response Motion to Deny Plaintiff's Motion for an Extension of Time to File a Third Amended Complaint	foreclosure
30	3	521	Defendant's Objections to the Report of Special Representative and Motion for Discharge (and Claim for Fees) Instante	foreclosure
34	8	2119	Untitled	foreclosure
39	2	308	Motion to Dismiss	injunction
47	12	2978	Memorandum in Support of Motion for a New Trial	injunction
48	3	641	In re Self-Incrimination Claim	injunction
49	6	1386	Defendant's Reply to Plaintiff's Response to Defendant's "In Re Self-Incrimination Claim"	injunction
51	1	162	Emergency Motion to Rescind Order	injunction
53	3	1421	Affidavit of Fact and Default	foreclosure
58	1	231	Motion to Intervene	foreclosure
60	1	394	Affirmative Defense - Fraudulent Mortgage	foreclosure
61	2	499	Agreement to Rescind Contract of Sale	foreclosure
66	2	691	Defendants Motion to Stay Proceedings Pending Motion to Compel Discovery	foreclosure
69	1	195	Lis Pendens	foreclosure
70	1	203	Motion to Stay Sale	foreclosure
73	2	451	Testimony in the Form of an Affidavit	foreclosure
74	4	1029	Motion for a Leave of Court to File a Motion to Dismiss	foreclosure
75	2	473	Motion for a Leave of Court to File a Motion to Stay Order of Possession	foreclosure
79	6	1360	Standard of Review for Pro Se Pleadings	foreclosure
86	4	950	First Notice of Fault and Demand for Payment	foreclosure
88	2	253	Declaration of Homestead	foreclosure
89	6	1411	Notice of Claim Dispute	foreclosure
90	7	1834	Notice of Claim Dispute	foreclosure
96	4	1166	Defendant in Error Verified Reply to Plaintiff's Response to Motion to Quash	foreclosure
98	4	1023	Vashan Kyles (Petitioner) Motion for Clarification and Motion for Declaratory Judgment Supported with Memorandum of Law	foreclosure
100	13	3889	Defendant in Error's Reply to Plaintiff's Response to Motion to Dismiss, Request for Judicial Notice/Judicial Estoppel and Declaratory Judgment/Strike the Response of the alleged Plaintiff Ocwen by Affidavit	foreclosure

S (#)	Pages	Words	Title	Topic
101	8	2309	Reply in Support of Petitioners' Amended Petition for Intervention and Motion to Dismiss by Affidavit	foreclosure
102	7	1839	Petitioner's Reply in Support of Motion for Clarification and Motion for Declaratory Judgment/Strike Alleged Plaintiffs Response By Affidavit	foreclosure
103	3	726	Motion to Reconsider Petition to Intervene by Affidavit	foreclosure
107	16	5217	Motion for Leave to File Defendants 1st Amended Cross Motion for Summary Judgment	foreclosure
108	4	770	Motion for Extension of Time to Respond to Residential Credit Solutions, Inc. Reply in Support of Its Motion for Summary Judgment and Response to Defendants Amended Cross-Motion for Summary Judgment	foreclosure
111	3	406	Untitled	foreclosure
112	3	2493	Untitled	foreclosure
114	2	393	Notice of Appeal	foreclosure
116	7	1755	Motion to Stay the Enforcement of the Order of Possession	foreclosure
118	13	10330	Untitled	foreclosure
120	5	1989	Motion to Approve a Performance Schedule to Avoid Foreclosure and to Settle a Debt	foreclosure
122	2	347	Verified Answer to Complaint to Foreclose Mortgage	foreclosure
125	27	1641	Affidavit of Notice of Conditional Acceptance	foreclosure
129	5	1075	Defendant's Motion for Clarification	foreclosure
130	3	696	Motion to Intervene	foreclosure
135	4	573	Default Judgment	foreclosure
138	4	1348	Good Faith Fiduciary Appointment & Authorization	foreclosure
139	1	183	Motion for Dismissal	foreclosure
140	4	1143	Notice of Motion to Stay	foreclosure
142	4	1399	De Jure Order: For Default Judgment, to Vacate and Dismiss with Prejudice/Affidavit of Fact in the Nature of a 'Motion'	foreclosure
144	1	548	Lawful Order and Notice	foreclosure
147	1	229	Withdrawal of the Order on the Nature of a 'Motion' for Default Judgment	foreclosure
150	3	744	Amended Motion to Vacate Judgment and Sale	foreclosure
152	8	1869	Defendant's Motion to Vacate the November 26, 2014 Sale, Confirmation of the Sale and Dismiss the Foreclosure Complaint Pursuant 735 ILCS 5/2-1203 and 735 ILCS 5/1508(b)(iv)	foreclosure
155	6	2927	Durable Power of Attorney	foreclosure
157	1	350	Notice of Assumed Name Certification	foreclosure
159	1	283	Petition to Vacate All Orders and Judgments	foreclosure
160	2	233	Judicial Notice to Clerk of Court	foreclosure
165	2	491	Notice of Acceptance, Standing and Status; Request for Remedy	foreclosure
169	3	1008	Demand to Dismiss	foreclosure
174	8	1977	Notice of Filing Demand for Judge Anna M. Loftus Oaths of Office and Demand Challenging the Jurisdiction of the Court	foreclosure

S (#)	Pages	Words	Title	Topic
177	3	683	Motion to Dismiss	foreclosure
179	4	1478	Motion to Dismiss Foreclosure and Judgment of Default	foreclosure
180	1	184	Special Appearance and Power of Attorney	foreclosure
181	1	227	Special Appearance	foreclosure
184	1	232	Special Appearance	foreclosure
187	16	7749	Demand to Reconsider the Judgment for Foreclosure and Sale	foreclosure
188	15	7227	Respond Demand for Dismissal	foreclosure
191	2	673	Facts and Evidence	foreclosure
192	5	1659	Motion for Rule 60 Relief from Judgment to Vacate Void Judgment	foreclosure
194	6	3156	Notice of Recission of Mortgage Contract/Transaction	foreclosure
197	2	301	Alleged Defendant's Motion for Extension of Time to File Response	foreclosure
199	6	1396	Alleged Defendant's Response to Plaintiff's Motion for Approval and Confirm the Sale	foreclosure
203	11	3522	Defendant's Amended Answer & Affirmative Defenses to Plaintiff's Complaint to Foreclose Mortgage	foreclosure
205	2	251	Motion to Dismiss	foreclosure
206	1	101	Motion for Enlargement of Time	foreclosure
208	10	1494	Defendant Richard A. Wikar, Amended Response Motion to Civil Action Filed by Plaintiff	foreclosure
210	5	808	(Alleged) Defendant's Motion to Remove Action to Tribal Court Under Applicable Federal Indian Law	foreclosure
211	6	804	Richard A Wikar Response to Motion on November 30, 2016, and Motion for; Sumamry Judgment, Order of Default, Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale, Dismiss Party Defendants, Appoint Foreclosure Sales Officer, and Substitute Attorney	foreclosure
214	13	4051	Affidavit of Truth and Fact	foreclosure
216	3	255	Affidavit for Amount Owed	foreclosure
223	2	453	Defendant's Motion to Dismiss with Prejudice	foreclosure
224	2	555	Notice of Intent to Preserve an Interest in Property Adverse Claim	foreclosure
226	6	1636	Plaintiff's Re-Amended Third-Party Complaint	foreclosure
228	26	11193	Defendant's Second Amended Answer, Affirmative Defenses and Counterclaim	foreclosure
231	1	367	Defendant's Motion for Extension of Time for Response to Summary Judgment	foreclosure
232	15	4289	Defendant's Opposition to Plaintiff's Motion for Summary Judgment of Foreclosure, Etc	foreclosure
236	2	394	Defendant's Response in Opposition to Plaintiff's Motion for Extension of Time	foreclosure
237	2	354	Defendant's Motion to Dismiss with Prejudice	foreclosure
239	3	680	Declaration of Truth and Damages	foreclosure
241	1	192	Full Settlement and Closure	foreclosure
242	2	638	Amended Motion to Dismiss for Lack of Standing and Jurisdiction	foreclosure

S (#)	Pages	Words	Title	Topic
244	11	3373	Motion to Vacate Order for Summary Judgment and Objection to Order of Summary Judgment	foreclosure
245	3	1077	Objection to Entry of Final Order	foreclosure
249	6	943	Defendant Richard A. Wikar's Notice of Appeal to the Illinois Appellate Court for the First District	foreclosure
250	4	795	Defendant Richard A Wikar's Written Response to Plaintiff's Motion for Judgment for Foreclosure and Sale	foreclosure
251	1	353	Untitled	foreclosure
255	2	380	Notice of Original Non-Statutory Common Law Demurrer	foreclosure
256	2	383	Demand for Removal of Custodian and Designation of Successor Custodian	foreclosure
258	2	801	Notice of Writ and Error	foreclosure
263	1	384	Affidavit of Want of Authority	foreclosure
266	2	406	Untitled	foreclosure
267	4	1225	Motion to Void Judgment	foreclosure
268	2	743	Untitled	foreclosure
269	2	331	Show Cause Hearing	foreclosure
272	1	179	1535 Substitution	replevin
278	1	300	3137 Vacate Motion	replevin
282	4	1078	Emergency Motion to Vacate Default Judgment & Stay Foreclosure Sale	foreclosure
285	3	1074	Notiec & Demand for Abatement	foreclosure
290	3	797	Amended Motion to Dismiss, Reinstate and Right to Subrogation	foreclosure
293	2	865	Untitled	foreclosure
294	2	584	Amended Motion to Dismiss	foreclosure
296	2	381	Writ of Conditional Acceptance	foreclosure
298	1	100	Motion to Stay/Vacate Judgment	foreclosure
302	1	218	Petitioner's Motion to Compel Arbitration and Dismiss, Vacate Judgment, or in the Alternative to Stay	foreclosure
303	11	2622	Memorandum of Law in Support of Petitioner's Motion to Compel Arbitration and Dismiss, Void Judgment or in the Alternative to Stay	foreclosure
308	1	436	Grant and Deed of Trust	foreclosure
309	1	141	Claim of Life Estate	foreclosure
310	1	214	Deed of Re-Conveyance	foreclosure
311	3	655	Motion to Dismiss	foreclosure
316	34	11114	Bill of Complaint in Equity Presentment to Void Proceedings and Jurisdiction	foreclosure
318	12	4561	Emergency Motion to Cancel Sale, Vacate Final Judgement, Dismiss Complaint and Request for Leave to File Countercomplaint	foreclosure
319	6	2311	Emergency Motion to Cancel Sale, Vacate Final Judgement, Dismiss Complaint and Request for Leave to File Countercomplaint	foreclosure
320	2	672	Motion to Vacate Judgement	foreclosure
321	5	1324	Constructive Notice of Conditional Acceptance	foreclosure

S (#)	Pages	Words	Title	Topic
325	4	919	Notice of, Certificate of Acceptance and Declaration of Land Patent	foreclosure
328	8	1215	"Void Judicial Sale!"	foreclosure
337	2	630	Notice & Demand for Mandatory Judicial Notice via Rules 201(d) and 902(3) of the Federal Rules of Evidence	foreclosure
340	2	440	Petition for Relief from Judgment and Memorandum	foreclosure
342	4	1491	Equity Under the Law is Paramount and Mandatory by Law	foreclosure
346	4	897	Defendants 2-1305 Emergency Motion to Stay Enforcement of Order of Possession Judgment & Waive Bond	foreclosure
347	17	6233	Respondent's Response Motion Reply Objecting Judge Lyle's Court Order Due to Her & Plaintiffs' Attorneys "Trespassing Upon the Laws" Judge Acting as a Private Citizen Entering Court Orders Void a Nullity w/ Affidavit	foreclosure
352	1	177	Affidavit	foreclosure
353	8	3001	Respondent's Motion Striking Petitioner's Response Motion for Disqualification of Judge as Frivolous For "Cause" Due to "Perjury" "Fraud" & Impose Sanctions Pursuant to Supreme Court Rule 137 Making the Response a Nullity w/ Affidavit	foreclosure
356	2	526	Memo	treason
365	1	293	Motion for a Leave of Court	foreclosure
368	3	1299	Affidavit of Negative Averment, Opportunity to Cure, and Counterclaim	foreclosure
370	2	791	Untitled	foreclosure
372	2	1259	Affidavit in Support of Simeon Lewis	foreclosure
374	4	1114	Affidavit of Fact	foreclosure
379	2	527	Answer to affidavit of Amounts Due and Owing	foreclosure
380	2	362	Answer to Plaintiff's Affidavit in Support of Motion on Count for Reformation	foreclosure
382	3	483	Affidavit of Interest of Clinton Eugene Ford & Linda Ann Ford	foreclosure
384	9	1679	Defendants' Emergency Motion for Rule 60 Relief from Judgment	foreclosure
386	2	347	Judicial and Administrative Notice of Fraud Upon the Court	foreclosure
388	4	523	Motion to Disqualify and Substitute Honorable Freddrenna M. Lyle, Judge for Equity and Cause	foreclosure
389	2	79	Motion to Disqualify and Substitute Judge for Equity and Cause	foreclosure
390	2	153	Untitled	foreclosure
395	2	439	Affidavit of VaShan Kyles; re: 11 Ch 35040	foreclosure
397	9	2441	Amended Verified Motion to Dismiss, Request for Judicial Notice/Estoppel and Declaratory Judgment by Affidavit	foreclosure
398	3	841	Commercial Affidavit of VaShan Kyles; re 11 CH 35040	foreclosure
399	1	410	Notary Certificate of Dishonor and Non-Response	foreclosure

S (#)	Pages	Words	Title	Topic
400	2	381	Affidavit of VaShan Kyles; re: 11 Ch 35040	foreclosure
401	4	932	Amended Petition for Intervention and Motion to Dismiss	foreclosure
403	22	6916	Defendant's in Error Verified Answer to Alleged Plaintiffs Complaint Affirmative Defenses and Counterclaim	foreclosure
405	2	620	Counter-Affidavit in Support of Cross Motion for Summary Judgment	foreclosure
407	1	265	Affidavit of Facts	foreclosure
411	4	2369	Untitled	foreclosure
413	1	259	Affidavit of Facts	foreclosure
417	2	291	Motion to Seal	foreclosure
418	1	239	Notice of Pro Per Status of Defendant	foreclosure
420	16	6406	Motion to Vacate a Void Judgement - Due to Fraud Upon the Court Mandatory Counterclaim	foreclosure
422	31	11786	Motion to Vacate a Void Judgement - Due to Fraud Upon the Court With Memorandum of Points & Authorities in Support Thereof	foreclosure
423	7	1356	Application for an Order to Show Cause	foreclosure
427	2	527	Notice of Advisement "Fraud," "Conspiracy to Commit Fraud," "Aiding and Abetting in a Criminal Crime and/or Activities"	foreclosure
428	2	698	Facts and Evidence	foreclosure
436	6	2325	Affidavit of Mortgage/Bank and/or Deed Fraud	foreclosure
437	3	1096	Truth Affidavit	foreclosure
438	3	908	Lawful Order and Notice	foreclosure
440	4	1163	Judgment for Default in Favor of Heir/'Counter Plaintiff'	foreclosure
442	2	1022	Averment of Jurisdiction - Quo Warranto Third and Final Attempt	foreclosure
443	2	606	Lawful Order and Notice	foreclosure
445	1	538	Lawful Order and Notice	foreclosure
446	4	2352	Default Judgment Affidavit of Fact	foreclosure
447	4	1130	Judgment for Default in Favor of Heir/'Counter Plaintiff'	foreclosure
451	2	139	Judicial Notice of Disclaiming Trusteeship	foreclosure
452	2	147	Judicial Notice of Return of Trust Res	foreclosure
454	3	775	Demand Challenging the Jurisdiction of the Court and Demanding a Copy of the Judge's Anna M. Loftus Oath of Office	foreclosure
457	2	592	Notice of Fraud and Intent to Litigate	foreclosure
458	3	864	Notice to the Court, Plaintiff Counsel and the Sheriff of Cook County of No Enforcement to Evict Can Be Issued by the Court for Lack of Jurisdiction or Standing	foreclosure
462	4	894	Affidavit of Deutsche Bank National Trust Company Lack of Interest in Property and Lack of Standing/Capacity to Foreclose Subject Matter Jurisdiction and Statute of Fraud	foreclosure
463	5	1866	Affidavit of Non Abandonment	foreclosure
466	2	274	Affidavit by: Claudia Ione Muhammad	foreclosure

S (#)	Pages	Words	Title	Topic
467	1	108	Special Appearance	foreclosure
469	1	252	Memorial [of record] upon Certificate of Title (Originating from Birth Record) For: Lloyd, Sharon Renee (Affidavit of Beneficial Interest Owner)	foreclosure
472	1	251	Addendum 11132017	foreclosure
476	2	258	Notice of Reservation of Rights UCC 1-308/UCC 1-207	foreclosure
479	3	1023	Affidavit	foreclosure
482	2	323	Motion for Leave to File Defendant's / Third-Party Plaintiff's Amended Answer Amended Third-Party Complaint and Opposition to Plaintiff's Motion to Dismiss and/or Strike	foreclosure
483	6	1632	Amended Third-Party Complaint	foreclosure
484	11	2701	Amended Third-Party Complaint	foreclosure
488	2	309	Motion for Leave to File Defendant's Corrected / Re-Amended Answer to Wells Fargo Complaint	foreclosure
489	23	8729	Defendant's Corrected / Re-Amended Answer, Affirmative Defenses and Counterclaim	foreclosure
494	10	4558	Affidavit of Denial of U.S. Citizenship and Denial of Existence of Fictitious Corporations	foreclosure
495	2	606	Reservation of Rights	foreclosure
498	1	333	Affidavit of Truth	foreclosure
504	4	1578	Will & Testament	foreclosure
505	1	161	Public Notice	foreclosure
508	2	523	Answer to Affidavit of Attorney's Fees and Costs	foreclosure
514	3	1009	Notice of Rescission of Signatures	foreclosure
519	2	537	Amended Response to Affidavit of Maria Isabel Martinez	foreclosure
520	1	175	Amended Response to Motion to Dismiss Party Defendant	foreclosure
522	2	560	Amended Response to Affidavit of Amounts Due and Owing	foreclosure
523	2	312	Amended Response to Loss Mitigation Affidavit	foreclosure
524	1	310	Amended Response to Plaintiff's Affidavit in Support of Motion on Count for Reformation	foreclosure
526	3	1014	Notice of Rescission of Signatures	foreclosure
527	5	1275	Declaration of Truth Rebuttal of Presumptions	foreclosure
529	1	319	Warranty Deed Acceptance and Acknowledgement by Grantee	foreclosure
530	2	715	Declaration of Homestead	foreclosure
533	2	364	Notice of Disclaimer of All Voluntary Implied Trustships - Nunc Pro Tunc Ab Initio	foreclosure
535	12	1893	Order to Show Cause	foreclosure
536	5	801	(Alleged) Defendant's Motion to Remove Action to Tribal Court Under Applicable Federal Indian Law	foreclosure
537	15	3424	Notice of Removal from State Court to Federal Court, Rule 11, Federal Rules of Civil Procedure and 28 United States Code 1446	foreclosure
538	6	944	Defendant Richard A. Wikar's Notice of Appeal to the Illinois Appellate Court for the First District	foreclosure
539	2	548	Affidavit of Richard A. Wikar	foreclosure

S (#)	Pages	Words	Title	Topic
541	10	1456	Defendant Richard A. Wikar's Response Motion to Civil Action Filed by Plaintiff; Defendant Richard A. Wikar's Prayer for Relief Against Mortgage Fraud Under Color of Law	foreclosure
543	2	532	Affidavit of Silver Surety	foreclosure
548	2	500	Statement of Truth and Fact	foreclosure
549	2	781	Notice of and Writ of Error	foreclosure
553	2	540	Writ of Mandate	foreclosure
554	2	317	Summons in Mandate	foreclosure
556	1	231	Affidavit to Proceed Exparte and Under Seal	foreclosure
557	2	734	Averment of Jurisdiction - Quo Warranto	foreclosure
558	6	2517	Writ in the Nature of Request Discovery and Disclosure	foreclosure
561	1	420	Lawful Order and Notice	foreclosure
565	1	221	Full Reconveyance	foreclosure
566	2	477	Notice of Default	foreclosure
569	3	862	Act of State	foreclosure
570	3	999	Judicial Notice; In the Nature of Writ of Error Coram Nobis & A Demand to State the Proper Jurisdiction	foreclosure
574	10	4384	Writ of Quo Warranto	foreclosure
578	3	681	Mandatory Notice Foreign Sovereign Immunities Act	foreclosure
581	2	629	Notice of Emancipation	foreclosure
583	3	886	Truth Affidavit	foreclosure
586	1	209	Affidavit of Acknowledgment and Acceptance of Warranty Deed	foreclosure
587	2	462	Affidavit of Interest of Renato D Garcia	foreclosure
588	11	3797	Respondent's Motion for Reconsideration Vacate (September 1st 2017) Order Due to Error "Fraud" Trespassing Upon the Laws Making the Order a Nullity w/ Affidavit	foreclosure
590	5	1388	Motion Moving for Default & Summary Judgment w/ Affidavit	treason
592	5	1673	Motion for Default Judgment	foreclosure
593	5	1558	Respondent's Motion for Summary Judgment Due to "Fraud" on the Court Pursuant to Supreme Court Rule 137 w/ Affidavit	foreclosure
596	2	676	Verified Complaint for Writ of Mandamus/Prohibition Under 28 U.S.C. Sect. 1333 and 1337, 28 U.S.C. Sect. 1516, Within the Admiralty/Common Law	foreclosure
597	2	349	Affidavit for Verified Summons and Verified Complaint for Writ of Mandamus/Prohibition Under 28 U.S.C. Sect. 1333 and 1337, 28 U.S.C. Sect. 1516, Within the Admiralty/Common Law	foreclosure
609	2	726	Memorandum In Support of Motion to Dismiss and Right to Subrogation	foreclosure
614	5	1069	Defendant's Motion to Dismiss Plaintiff's Second Amended Complaint	foreclosure

Appendix 3.3:

Legitimate Courtroom Filing Corpus Keywords

Keywords were generated in AntConc (Anthony 2019) following the procedure described in Section 3.5.3. The full list of LCF keywords is given below. The columns in this table indicate the following:

- “Rank” indicates where in the overall list of keywords a given item falls based on %DIFF score.
- “Keyword” lists the keyword itself.
- “Tokens” indicates how many times that word appears in the legitimate courtroom filing corpus.
- “Norm.” gives the frequency of the keyword normalized per hundred thousand words and rounded to the nearest integer.
- “LL” gives the log likelihood score that the keyword is significant, with a score of over 6.63 indicating greater than 99% confidence.
- “%DIFF” gives the observed effect size of that keyword.
- “Legal” shows whether a given keyword met the criteria for legal technical terminology outlined in Chapter 3, with an “x” indicating legal status.

Rank	Keyword	Tokens	Norm.	LL	%DIFF	Legal
1	roy	446	147	698.29	105761.8	
2	cmb	424	140	663.83	100539.9	
3	meyer	397	131	621.54	94131.22	
4	fest	363	120	568.28	86061.04	
5	harrington	357	118	558.89	84636.89	
6	markoff	344	114	538.53	81551.23	
7	feline	306	101	479.02	72531.62	
8	westlake	301	99	471.19	71344.83	
9	pipeline	273	90	427.34	64698.8	
10	beyer	223	74	349.06	52830.88	
11	cat	215	71	336.53	50932.02	
12	impoundment	197	65	308.35	46659.57	
13	kikue	190	63	297.39	44998.06	
14	rrapo	190	63	297.39	44998.06	
15	siciliano	178	59	278.6	42149.76	
16	kleronomos	167	55	261.38	39538.82	

Rank	Keyword	Tokens	Norm.	LL	%DIFF	Legal
17	planning	144	48	225.38	34079.58	
18	drsa	140	46	219.12	33130.15	
19	pokemon	139	46	217.55	32892.79	
20	zoo	122	40	190.94	28857.7	
21	skindy	120	40	187.81	28382.99	
22	proxies	228	75	345.24	26958.84	
23	subscription	113	37	176.85	26721.48	
24	refund	112	37	175.29	26484.12	x
25	premium	110	36	172.16	26009.4	
26	compl	108	36	169.03	25534.69	
27	melrose	107	35	167.46	25297.33	
28	otake	105	35	164.33	24822.61	
29	dean	209	69	315.67	24703.93	
30	margules	101	33	158.07	23873.18	
31	chang	97	32	151.81	22923.75	
32	foia	97	32	151.81	22923.75	
33	mugnolo	96	32	150.24	22686.39	
34	reggie	93	31	145.55	21974.31	
35	peta	92	30	143.98	21736.96	
36	condominium	89	29	139.29	21024.88	x
37	ml	88	29	137.72	20787.52	
38	ballots	87	29	136.16	20550.17	
39	round	86	28	134.59	20312.81	
40	subclass	85	28	133.03	20075.45	x
41	nyborg	84	28	131.46	19838.09	
42	ballot	83	27	129.9	19600.73	
43	niantic	82	27	128.33	19363.37	
44	proxy	159	53	237.94	18769.98	
45	warriors	77	25	120.51	18176.58	
46	impounded	70	23	109.55	16515.08	
47	charity	66	22	103.29	15565.64	x
48	doah	66	22	103.29	15565.64	
49	julia	65	21	101.72	15328.28	
50	mcc	63	21	98.59	14853.57	
51	vote	249	82	368.89	14675.55	x
52	chuhak	61	20	95.46	14378.85	
53	dating	61	20	95.46	14378.85	
54	leinberger	61	20	95.46	14378.85	
55	rental	56	18	87.64	13192.06	x
56	elmore	54	18	84.51	12717.34	
57	discontinuation	52	17	81.38	12242.63	x
58	friends	312	103	458.18	12242.63	
59	vehicles	103	34	151.14	12123.95	
60	ivc	51	17	79.81	12005.27	
61	rae	51	17	79.81	12005.27	

Rank	Keyword	Tokens	Norm.	LL	%DIFF	Legal
62	music	49	16	76.68	11530.55	
63	towing	49	16	76.68	11530.55	
64	moraitis	46	15	71.99	10818.48	
65	outdoors	46	15	71.99	10818.48	
66	bagel	45	15	70.42	10581.12	
67	coffee	45	15	70.42	10581.12	
68	docx	45	15	70.42	10581.12	
69	traffic	45	15	70.42	10581.12	x
70	tickets	44	15	68.86	10343.76	
71	trainers	44	15	68.86	10343.76	
72	zoological	44	15	68.86	10343.76	
73	municipalities	42	14	65.73	9869.046	x
74	attendance	41	14	64.16	9631.687	
75	cps	41	14	64.16	9631.687	
76	renaissance	41	14	64.16	9631.687	
77	selection	79	26	114.11	9275.65	
78	advertised	39	13	61.03	9156.971	
79	eric	39	13	61.03	9156.971	
80	loggins	39	13	61.03	9156.971	
81	lsc	39	13	61.03	9156.971	
82	attendees	38	13	59.47	8919.613	
83	criv	38	13	59.47	8919.613	
84	defer	38	13	59.47	8919.613	x
85	invoices	38	13	59.47	8919.613	x
86	shen	38	13	59.47	8919.613	
87	cast	37	12	57.9	8682.254	x
88	ver	37	12	57.9	8682.254	
89	cats	36	12	56.34	8444.896	
90	lodging	36	12	56.34	8444.896	
91	marketing	36	12	56.34	8444.896	
92	patients	36	12	56.34	8444.896	x
93	jiang	35	12	54.77	8207.538	
94	jonathan	33	11	51.64	7732.821	
95	ogden	66	22	94.12	7732.821	
96	promotions	33	11	51.64	7732.821	
97	adr	32	11	50.08	7495.463	
98	detective	32	11	50.08	7495.463	
99	hsv	32	11	50.08	7495.463	
100	mcnaughton	32	11	50.08	7495.463	
101	mtd	32	11	50.08	7495.463	
102	pepper	32	11	50.08	7495.463	
103	dan	31	10	48.51	7258.105	
104	dawoudi	31	10	48.51	7258.105	
105	gooch	31	10	48.51	7258.105	
106	morand	31	10	48.51	7258.105	

Rank	Keyword	Tokens	Norm.	LL	%DIFF	Legal
107	proximate	31	10	48.51	7258.105	x
108	tabulation	31	10	48.51	7258.105	
109	bus	30	10	46.95	7020.747	
110	icfa	30	10	46.95	7020.747	
111	putative	30	10	46.95	7020.747	x
112	resp	30	10	46.95	7020.747	
113	src	30	10	46.95	7020.747	
114	tecson	30	10	46.95	7020.747	
115	toon	30	10	46.95	7020.747	
116	facilities	59	19	83.38	6902.068	
117	accommodations	29	10	45.38	6783.389	x
118	jessie	29	10	45.38	6783.389	
119	kindybalyk	29	10	45.38	6783.389	
120	patient	29	10	45.38	6783.389	x
121	pavilion	29	10	45.38	6783.389	
122	discontinuance	28	9	43.82	6546.03	x
123	expert	28	9	43.82	6546.03	x
124	facebook	28	9	43.82	6546.03	
125	paterno	28	9	43.82	6546.03	
126	restates	28	9	43.82	6546.03	
127	shufflin	28	9	43.82	6546.03	
128	xiaosong	28	9	43.82	6546.03	
129	bob	27	9	42.25	6308.672	
130	cslegal	27	9	42.25	6308.672	
131	debreczenyi	27	9	42.25	6308.672	
132	elana	27	9	42.25	6308.672	
133	fengyun	27	9	42.25	6308.672	
134	hz	27	9	42.25	6308.672	
135	indoors	27	9	42.25	6308.672	
136	matches	27	9	42.25	6308.672	
137	meiting	27	9	42.25	6308.672	
138	olsen	27	9	42.25	6308.672	
139	peiming	27	9	42.25	6308.672	
140	raphaela	27	9	42.25	6308.672	
141	stappas	27	9	42.25	6308.672	
142	toole	27	9	42.25	6308.672	
143	uic	27	9	42.25	6308.672	
144	xie	27	9	42.25	6308.672	
145	attorneyzim	26	9	40.69	6071.314	
146	ernesti	26	9	40.69	6071.314	
147	numerosity	26	9	40.69	6071.314	x
148	stingray	26	9	40.69	6071.314	
149	video	26	9	40.69	6071.314	
150	admin	25	8	39.12	5833.956	
151	bowl	25	8	39.12	5833.956	

Rank	Keyword	Tokens	Norm.	LL	%DIFF	Legal
152	efficient	25	8	39.12	5833.956	
153	ihsa	25	8	39.12	5833.956	
154	predominate	25	8	39.12	5833.956	
155	prohibits	25	8	39.12	5833.956	x
156	animals	24	8	37.56	5596.597	x
157	daniels	96	32	133.16	5596.597	
158	edelson	24	8	37.56	5596.597	
159	fleischer	24	8	37.56	5596.597	
160	mcknight	24	8	37.56	5596.597	
161	residents	24	8	37.56	5596.597	x
162	designating	23	8	35.99	5359.239	x
163	preempted	23	8	35.99	5359.239	x
164	subpoenas	23	8	35.99	5359.239	
165	norton	45	15	62.01	5240.56	
166	bees	22	7	34.43	5121.881	
167	collectively	44	15	60.49	5121.881	
168	donahue	22	7	34.43	5121.881	
169	driving	22	7	34.43	5121.881	x
170	nihad	22	7	34.43	5121.881	
171	rewards	44	15	60.49	5121.881	
172	shuffle	22	7	34.43	5121.881	
173	tortious	44	15	60.49	5121.881	x
174	vehicle	218	72	299.47	5074.409	
175	imanager	21	7	32.86	4884.523	
176	locksmith	21	7	32.86	4884.523	
177	peckar	21	7	32.86	4884.523	
178	rsm	21	7	32.86	4884.523	
179	storage	42	14	57.45	4884.523	x
180	tr	21	7	32.86	4884.523	
181	tribune	21	7	32.86	4884.523	
182	twg	21	7	32.86	4884.523	
183	gifts	41	14	55.93	4765.844	x
184	accountant	20	7	31.3	4647.165	x
185	alsafweh	20	7	31.3	4647.165	
186	animal	20	7	31.3	4647.165	x
187	counted	20	7	31.3	4647.165	
188	deferral	20	7	31.3	4647.165	
189	gauthier	20	7	31.3	4647.165	
190	karl	20	7	31.3	4647.165	
191	lorch	20	7	31.3	4647.165	
192	noting	20	7	31.3	4647.165	
193	seaworld	20	7	31.3	4647.165	
194	steven	20	7	31.3	4647.165	
195	bloomberg	39	13	52.9	4528.485	
196	discontinue	19	6	29.73	4409.806	

Rank	Keyword	Tokens	Norm.	LL	%DIFF	Legal
197	jossell	19	6	29.73	4409.806	
198	lintzeris	19	6	29.73	4409.806	
199	mcgrath	19	6	29.73	4409.806	
200	tro	38	13	51.39	4409.806	x
201	society	224	74	302.35	4330.687	x
202	hospital	255	84	343.18	4223.311	
203	class	871	288	1172.59	4207.063	x
204	adopter	18	6	28.17	4172.448	
205	ansarullah	18	6	28.17	4172.448	
206	dental	18	6	28.17	4172.448	
207	eo	18	6	28.17	4172.448	
208	ios	18	6	28.17	4172.448	
209	thornton	18	6	28.17	4172.448	
210	receiver	317	105	424.87	4080.142	x
211	condo	35	12	46.86	4053.769	
212	boxing	103	34	137.56	3974.65	
213	adopts	17	6	26.6	3935.09	
214	nicholas	17	6	26.6	3935.09	
215	ucl	17	6	26.6	3935.09	
216	zimmerman	17	6	26.6	3935.09	
217	ardc	33	11	43.84	3816.411	
218	adequately	32	11	42.34	3697.732	x
219	alternatively	16	5	25.04	3697.732	
220	arbitrator	16	5	25.04	3697.732	
221	eleanor	16	5	25.04	3697.732	
222	enjoining	16	5	25.04	3697.732	x
223	facility	64	21	84.68	3697.732	
224	highway	16	5	25.04	3697.732	x
225	opt	16	5	25.04	3697.732	
226	orzano	16	5	25.04	3697.732	
227	parking	16	5	25.04	3697.732	x
228	prerequisites	16	5	25.04	3697.732	x
229	rachael	16	5	25.04	3697.732	
230	retention	16	5	25.04	3697.732	x
231	rough	16	5	25.04	3697.732	
232	strategy	16	5	25.04	3697.732	
233	tuition	16	5	25.04	3697.732	
234	software	31	10	40.84	3579.053	x
235	arguing	15	5	23.47	3460.373	x
236	arl	15	5	23.47	3460.373	
237	clra	15	5	23.47	3460.373	
238	excessive	30	10	39.33	3460.373	
239	fortgang	15	5	23.47	3460.373	
240	fsbw	15	5	23.47	3460.373	
241	harmon	15	5	23.47	3460.373	

Rank	Keyword	Tokens	Norm.	LL	%DIFF	Legal
242	hostel	15	5	23.47	3460.373	
243	hourly	15	5	23.47	3460.373	
244	microchip	15	5	23.47	3460.373	
245	navar	15	5	23.47	3460.373	
246	posts	15	5	23.47	3460.373	
247	preemption	15	5	23.47	3460.373	x
248	prof	30	10	39.33	3460.373	
249	psychiatric	15	5	23.47	3460.373	x
250	renewed	15	5	23.47	3460.373	
251	restrictive	15	5	23.47	3460.373	
252	speaks	30	10	39.33	3460.373	
253	tribler	15	5	23.47	3460.373	
254	turin	15	5	23.47	3460.373	
255	update	15	5	23.47	3460.373	
256	suspension	118	39	154.36	3401.034	x
257	hospitals	29	10	37.84	3341.694	
258	imposition	29	10	37.84	3341.694	x
259	bin	28	9	36.34	3223.015	
260	clinic	14	5	21.91	3223.015	
261	connectivity	14	5	21.91	3223.015	
262	enact	14	5	21.91	3223.015	
263	engagement	84	28	109.03	3223.015	x
264	expedited	14	5	21.91	3223.015	
265	expensive	14	5	21.91	3223.015	x
266	goers	14	5	21.91	3223.015	
267	ksn	14	5	21.91	3223.015	
268	medically	14	5	21.91	3223.015	x
269	morrissey	14	5	21.91	3223.015	
270	preempt	14	5	21.91	3223.015	x
271	projects	14	5	21.91	3223.015	x
272	randall	28	9	36.34	3223.015	
273	rcw	14	5	21.91	3223.015	
274	reallege	14	5	21.91	3223.015	x
275	tally	14	5	21.91	3223.015	
276	travelers	14	5	21.91	3223.015	
277	underserved	14	5	21.91	3223.015	
278	kaiser	27	9	34.85	3104.336	
279	litem	27	9	34.85	3104.336	x
280	meets	54	18	69.7	3104.336	
281	partners	27	9	34.85	3104.336	x
282	users	53	18	68.2	3044.997	x
283	brock	13	4	20.34	2985.657	
284	cullen	13	4	20.34	2985.657	
285	detention	13	4	20.34	2985.657	
286	earphoria	13	4	20.34	2985.657	

Rank	Keyword	Tokens	Norm.	LL	%DIFF	Legal
287	enacting	13	4	20.34	2985.657	x
288	expenditures	13	4	20.34	2985.657	x
289	firefly	13	4	20.34	2985.657	
290	jeanes	13	4	20.34	2985.657	
291	judgmental	13	4	20.34	2985.657	
292	logic	13	4	20.34	2985.657	
293	miner	13	4	20.34	2985.657	
294	mobile	13	4	20.34	2985.657	
295	opioid	13	4	20.34	2985.657	
296	rda	13	4	20.34	2985.657	
297	store	26	9	33.36	2985.657	x
298	subpoena	13	4	20.34	2985.657	x
299	super	26	9	33.36	2985.657	
300	teachers	13	4	20.34	2985.657	
301	wcpa	13	4	20.34	2985.657	
302	similarly	77	25	98.59	2946.097	
303	spent	51	17	65.23	2926.317	
304	dr	224	74	285.4	2853.791	
305	brookfield	12	4	18.78	2748.299	
306	cappelen	12	4	18.78	2748.299	
307	guardianship	24	8	30.38	2748.299	x
308	importantly	12	4	18.78	2748.299	
309	impoundments	12	4	18.78	2748.299	
310	mcguire	12	4	18.78	2748.299	
311	promoters	12	4	18.78	2748.299	
312	schwartz	12	4	18.78	2748.299	
313	bylaws	23	8	28.9	2629.62	
314	features	23	8	28.9	2629.62	
315	attended	45	15	56.33	2570.28	
316	adequacy	11	4	17.21	2510.941	
317	adjudications	11	4	17.21	2510.941	x
318	adopt	44	15	54.85	2510.941	
319	applicants	11	4	17.21	2510.941	x
320	cellular	11	4	17.21	2510.941	
321	chip	11	4	17.21	2510.941	
322	chris	11	4	17.21	2510.941	
323	commonality	11	4	17.21	2510.941	
324	contingent	22	7	27.42	2510.941	x
325	daphne	11	4	17.21	2510.941	
326	decl	11	4	17.21	2510.941	
327	distinguishable	11	4	17.21	2510.941	x
328	expertise	11	4	17.21	2510.941	x
329	gen	11	4	17.21	2510.941	
330	generic	11	4	17.21	2510.941	
331	hao	11	4	17.21	2510.941	

Rank	Keyword	Tokens	Norm.	LL	%DIFF	Legal
332	jianjun	11	4	17.21	2510.941	
333	keating	11	4	17.21	2510.941	
334	legalserve	11	4	17.21	2510.941	
335	lihong	11	4	17.21	2510.941	
336	lin	11	4	17.21	2510.941	
337	link	11	4	17.21	2510.941	x
338	litigating	11	4	17.21	2510.941	x
339	maebetty	11	4	17.21	2510.941	
340	mike	11	4	17.21	2510.941	
341	miles	22	7	27.42	2510.941	
342	mom	11	4	17.21	2510.941	
343	nianticlabs	11	4	17.21	2510.941	
344	nuisance	11	4	17.21	2510.941	x
345	ottolino	11	4	17.21	2510.941	
346	persuasive	11	4	17.21	2510.941	x
347	planned	11	4	17.21	2510.941	x
348	potentially	11	4	17.21	2510.941	x
349	prizes	11	4	17.21	2510.941	
350	productions	11	4	17.21	2510.941	
351	roommate	11	4	17.21	2510.941	
352	selves	11	4	17.21	2510.941	
353	servs	11	4	17.21	2510.941	
354	siciliana	11	4	17.21	2510.941	
355	supplemental	11	4	17.21	2510.941	
356	uniformly	11	4	17.21	2510.941	x
357	unilaterally	11	4	17.21	2510.941	
358	unplayable	11	4	17.21	2510.941	
359	unsettled	11	4	17.21	2510.941	
360	voter	11	4	17.21	2510.941	
361	waiting	11	4	17.21	2510.941	
362	honesty	43	14	53.37	2451.601	x
363	abramson	21	7	25.95	2392.261	
364	directory	21	7	25.95	2392.261	
365	game	146	48	180.2	2375.307	
366	kenneth	41	14	50.43	2332.922	
367	anese	10	3	15.65	2273.582	
368	attendee	10	3	15.65	2273.582	
369	bargained	10	3	15.65	2273.582	x
370	beans	10	3	15.65	2273.582	
371	blog	10	3	15.65	2273.582	
372	boxers	10	3	15.65	2273.582	
373	coffeemeetsbagel	10	3	15.65	2273.582	
374	commingled	10	3	15.65	2273.582	
375	dbloomberg	10	3	15.65	2273.582	
376	eshaghi	10	3	15.65	2273.582	

Rank	Keyword	Tokens	Norm.	LL	%DIFF	Legal
377	geraldine	10	3	15.65	2273.582	
378	guidance	10	3	15.65	2273.582	
379	increases	10	3	15.65	2273.582	x
380	jstevens	10	3	15.65	2273.582	
381	lessmeister	10	3	15.65	2273.582	
382	low	10	3	15.65	2273.582	
383	mcginn	10	3	15.65	2273.582	
384	medicaid	10	3	15.65	2273.582	
385	mission	10	3	15.65	2273.582	
386	opp	10	3	15.65	2273.582	
387	outflows	10	3	15.65	2273.582	
388	pandi	10	3	15.65	2273.582	
389	pertain	10	3	15.65	2273.582	x
390	reasonableness	10	3	15.65	2273.582	x
391	steinberg	10	3	15.65	2273.582	
392	stevens	10	3	15.65	2273.582	
393	stingrays	10	3	15.65	2273.582	
394	suggested	10	3	15.65	2273.582	
395	torrey	10	3	15.65	2273.582	
396	vickery	10	3	15.65	2273.582	
397	ordinance	259	86	316.87	2264.453	x
398	safety	58	19	70.51	2194.463	
399	exemption	152	50	184.15	2154.903	x
400	experience	19	6	23.01	2154.903	
401	kelly	19	6	23.01	2154.903	
402	streets	19	6	23.01	2154.903	x
403	user	38	13	46.03	2154.903	x
404	contacted	18	6	21.56	2036.224	
405	pp	36	12	43.11	2036.224	
406	refunds	18	6	21.56	2036.224	x
407	satisfies	18	6	21.56	2036.224	
408	votes	53	18	63.21	1996.664	x
409	expense	52	17	61.76	1957.105	x
410	rent	52	17	61.76	1957.105	x
411	disbursed	17	6	20.1	1917.545	
412	exact	17	6	20.1	1917.545	
413	mother	68	22	80.41	1917.545	x
414	players	17	6	20.1	1917.545	
415	profile	17	6	20.1	1917.545	x
416	match	67	22	78.96	1887.875	
417	announced	16	5	18.65	1798.866	x
418	arbitrable	16	5	18.65	1798.866	
419	attend	80	26	93.28	1798.866	
420	receivership	64	21	74.62	1798.866	
421	weeks	16	5	18.65	1798.866	x

Rank	Keyword	Tokens	Norm.	LL	%DIFF	Legal
422	llp	31	10	35.87	1739.526	x
423	voting	31	10	35.87	1739.526	x
424	california	46	15	53.08	1719.746	
425	red	46	15	53.08	1719.746	
426	meeting	214	71	246.82	1714.095	x
427	levels	15	5	17.21	1680.187	
428	publishing	30	10	34.43	1680.187	
429	students	15	5	17.21	1680.187	
430	ticket	15	5	17.21	1680.187	
431	medical	59	19	67.43	1650.517	x
432	healthcare	29	10	33	1620.847	
433	units	174	57	198.02	1620.847	x
434	cite	28	9	31.57	1561.508	x
435	florida	56	18	63.14	1561.508	
436	interpreting	14	5	15.78	1561.508	x
437	litigate	14	5	15.78	1561.508	x
438	litigated	14	5	15.78	1561.508	x
439	rescue	14	5	15.78	1561.508	x
440	subscriptions	14	5	15.78	1561.508	
441	unrelated	14	5	15.78	1561.508	
442	processing	41	14	45.93	1521.948	x
443	thousands	41	14	45.93	1521.948	
444	western	27	9	30.14	1502.168	
445	label	39	13	43.08	1442.829	
446	ms	216	71	237.13	1407.923	
447	rehearing	38	13	41.67	1403.269	x
448	board	519	171	569.41	1402.304	x
449	affirmatively	63	21	68.98	1395.357	x
450	loyalty	50	17	54.62	1383.489	x
451	prevailing	25	8	27.31	1383.489	
452	reasoning	25	8	27.31	1383.489	x
453	hearings	37	12	40.26	1363.709	x
454	municipality	37	12	40.26	1363.709	
455	adams	36	12	38.85	1324.149	
456	defamation	48	16	51.8	1324.149	
457	adoption	106	35	113.76	1297.776	x
458	https	46	15	49	1264.81	
459	members	448	148	477.33	1263.288	x
460	donald	34	11	36.05	1245.03	
461	background	33	11	34.66	1205.47	
462	cites	33	11	34.66	1205.47	x
463	town	33	11	34.66	1205.47	
464	troy	33	11	34.66	1205.47	
465	expenses	219	72	229.72	1199.536	x
466	travel	76	25	79.48	1188.516	

Rank	Keyword	Tokens	Norm.	LL	%DIFF	Legal
467	unreasonable	54	18	56.37	1181.734	x
468	id	407	134	423.95	1171.116	x
469	approved	96	32	99.82	1165.911	x
470	net	64	21	66.54	1165.911	x
471	play	64	21	66.54	1165.911	
472	tom	32	11	33.27	1165.911	
473	apple	21	7	21.72	1146.131	
474	arrange	21	7	21.72	1146.131	
475	few	21	7	21.72	1146.131	
476	success	42	14	43.44	1146.131	
477	ultimately	21	7	21.72	1146.131	
478	reports	142	47	145.15	1103.745	x
479	comments	20	7	20.34	1086.791	x
480	voted	30	10	30.51	1086.791	x
481	area	59	19	59.65	1067.011	
482	preliminary	59	19	59.65	1067.011	x
483	accessed	29	10	29.14	1047.231	
484	litigation	192	63	192.47	1039.32	x
485	combined	19	6	18.97	1027.452	
486	impracticable	19	6	18.97	1027.452	
487	interpreted	19	6	18.97	1027.452	x
488	purchasing	19	6	18.97	1027.452	x
489	succeed	19	6	18.97	1027.452	
490	leon	28	9	27.77	1007.672	
491	malpractice	65	21	64.35	1002.02	
492	forum	109	36	107.03	978.0019	x
493	mark	27	9	26.41	968.112	
494	significant	36	12	35.22	968.112	x
495	six	36	12	35.22	968.112	
496	community	89	29	86.7	956.2441	x
497	injunction	62	20	60.28	951.1579	x
498	properties	97	32	94.16	946.534	x
499	application	360	119	349.01	942.0605	x
500	ass	61	20	58.94	934.2037	
501	awarded	26	9	25.06	928.5523	x
502	gov	26	9	25.06	928.5523	
503	relies	26	9	25.06	928.5523	
504	responsive	60	20	57.59	917.2495	x
505	seek	120	40	115.19	917.2495	
506	omissions	34	11	32.52	908.7725	x
507	suggest	17	6	16.26	908.7725	
508	wacker	17	6	16.26	908.7725	
509	temporary	42	14	39.98	896.9045	x
510	count	218	72	207.43	895.0787	x
511	counts	50	17	47.45	888.9926	x

Rank	Keyword	Tokens	Norm.	LL	%DIFF	Legal
512	lawsuit	133	44	126.09	886.5201	x
513	frank	58	19	54.91	883.3412	
514	pled	33	11	31.18	879.1027	
515	wife	33	11	31.18	879.1027	x
516	care	262	87	246.89	871.6852	x
517	began	32	11	29.85	849.4329	
518	restraining	39	13	35.99	825.6971	
519	unable	85	28	78.12	817.0659	
520	poa	61	20	55.73	804.9282	
521	factual	83	27	75.48	795.4878	
522	answering	30	10	27.21	790.0933	x
523	arbitrate	45	15	40.81	790.0933	
524	promised	30	10	27.21	790.0933	x
525	college	37	12	33.35	778.2254	
526	better	59	19	53.1	775.2585	
527	consumers	22	7	19.75	770.3135	
528	maintains	22	7	19.75	770.3135	x
529	reimbursement	22	7	19.75	770.3135	x
530	founded	29	10	25.9	760.4236	
531	village	193	64	171.25	748.3359	
532	vii	50	17	44.34	747.7079	
533	health	171	56	151.5	745.5887	x
534	alarm	21	7	18.45	730.7538	x
535	approval	126	42	110.69	730.7538	x
536	critical	21	7	18.45	730.7538	
537	joinder	21	7	18.45	730.7538	x
538	unpaid	42	14	36.89	730.7538	
539	argues	41	14	35.6	710.9739	x
540	motor	34	11	29.45	707.018	
541	adjudication	67	22	57.61	695.1501	x
542	fees	455	150	391.22	694.1029	x
543	base	20	7	17.15	691.1941	x
544	daughter	20	7	17.15	691.1941	
545	go	140	46	120.1	691.1941	
546	requiring	60	20	51.46	691.1941	
547	unit	251	83	214.36	683.9068	x
548	ordinances	33	11	28.16	683.2821	x
549	plain	46	15	39.17	679.8913	
550	production	92	30	78.35	679.8913	x
551	assessed	26	9	22.02	671.4142	
552	movement	26	9	22.02	671.4142	
553	oak	26	9	22.02	671.4142	
554	opinions	26	9	22.02	671.4142	x
555	adequate	45	15	37.89	662.9372	x
556	situated	51	17	42.76	656.5793	

Rank	Keyword	Tokens	Norm.	LL	%DIFF	Legal
557	approve	38	13	31.75	651.6344	x
558	substantially	25	8	20.74	641.7445	x
559	close	81	27	67.1	639.4622	x
560	email	86	28	70.71	629.0288	x
561	citations	24	8	19.48	612.0747	x
562	moreover	48	16	38.96	612.0747	
563	inconsistent	65	21	52.32	601.2857	x
564	choice	29	10	23.1	588.3389	x
565	liu	29	10	23.1	588.3389	
566	category	23	8	18.23	582.4049	
567	certifying	23	8	18.23	582.4049	x
568	effectuate	23	8	18.23	582.4049	
569	reviewing	23	8	18.23	582.4049	x
570	com	293	97	232.23	581.8231	
571	crew	28	9	21.86	564.603	
572	partial	28	9	21.86	564.603	x
573	moore	50	17	38.85	559.3284	
574	citation	22	7	16.99	552.7351	x
575	discussed	22	7	16.99	552.7351	
576	likelihood	33	11	25.49	552.7351	
577	prayer	38	13	29.12	544.258	
578	unnecessary	27	9	20.63	540.8672	x
579	jackson	43	14	32.76	537.9002	
580	fairness	48	16	36.4	532.9553	x
581	ninth	32	11	24.26	532.9553	
582	proposed	85	28	64.3	530.4828	
583	interested	37	12	27.9	527.3039	
584	impact	21	7	15.77	523.0653	
585	relied	42	14	31.54	523.0653	
586	reviewed	21	7	15.77	523.0653	x
587	warning	21	7	15.77	523.0653	
588	avers	26	9	19.41	517.1314	x
589	paul	26	9	19.41	517.1314	
590	school	88	29	65.51	514.3389	x
591	assembly	36	12	26.69	510.3497	x
592	scheduled	41	14	30.33	508.2305	x
593	award	112	37	82.5	504.1846	x
594	individually	56	18	41.25	504.1846	x
595	function	131	43	95.86	497.9601	x
596	def	25	8	18.2	493.3956	
597	regardless	25	8	18.2	493.3956	
598	pre	114	38	82.54	488.2356	
599	breached	44	15	31.57	480.209	x
600	change	127	42	91.07	479.7018	
601	governmental	161	53	115.37	479.0102	

Rank	Keyword	Tokens	Norm.	LL	%DIFF	Legal
602	pet	34	11	24.29	476.4414	
603	paragraphs	97	32	69.23	475.5937	
604	agree	58	19	41.29	473.6157	x
605	collected	29	10	20.65	473.6157	
606	indeed	53	18	37.66	471.8175	
607	interference	53	18	37.66	471.8175	x
608	penalties	213	70	149.56	461.7478	x
609	obtain	123	41	86.32	461.4435	x
610	potential	47	16	32.83	457.7918	x
611	impose	42	14	29.2	453.8359	x
612	lasalle	28	9	19.46	453.8359	
613	rely	37	12	25.56	448.8909	
614	collecting	32	11	21.93	442.5331	
615	park	187	62	127.96	441.2925	
616	finding	72	24	48.79	434.056	x
617	ga	27	9	18.29	434.056	
618	maintained	36	12	24.39	434.056	x
619	available	111	37	74.49	426.9353	x
620	context	31	10	20.76	425.5789	x
621	income	101	33	67.24	421.1561	x
622	event	153	51	101.52	418.7973	
623	injunctive	87	29	57.51	416.2541	x
624	services	274	90	181.16	416.1599	x
625	receipts	26	9	17.14	414.2762	x
626	short	26	9	17.14	414.2762	x
627	individuals	73	24	47.79	409.6221	x
628	deems	90	30	58.84	408.6248	x
629	rejected	30	10	19.61	408.6248	
630	promises	47	16	30.65	407.0835	x
631	harrison	34	11	22.09	404.3862	
632	plaintiffs	1159	383	751.64	402.004	x
633	around	38	13	24.56	401.0896	
634	disbursements	25	8	15.99	394.4963	
635	finally	50	17	31.99	394.4963	
636	technical	29	10	18.47	391.6706	
637	settlement	410	135	261.25	391.4994	x
638	amounts	62	20	39.42	390.5403	
639	awarding	41	14	25.9	386.5844	x
640	maintenance	45	15	28.38	385.5055	x
641	hearing	339	112	213.65	384.7255	x
642	citing	65	21	40.77	382.1339	x
643	aff	28	9	17.35	374.7165	
644	alleges	104	34	64.44	374.7165	x
645	argued	36	12	22.3	374.7165	x
646	detailed	28	9	17.35	374.7165	

Rank	Keyword	Tokens	Norm.	LL	%DIFF	Legal
647	remain	40	13	24.78	374.7165	
648	river	28	9	17.35	374.7165	
649	underlying	104	34	64.44	374.7165	x
650	language	123	41	75.71	370.8881	x
651	costs	221	73	135.46	368.3586	x
652	reasonable	213	70	130.51	368.1232	x
653	representations	63	21	38.53	367.299	x
654	enrichment	47	16	28.62	364.8265	x
655	events	35	12	21.19	361.5299	
656	expressly	62	20	37.42	359.8816	
657	far	27	9	16.23	357.7623	
658	limits	27	9	16.23	357.7623	x
659	rivera	27	9	16.23	357.7623	
660	questions	88	29	52.56	354.0766	x
661	determination	57	19	33.85	350.9806	x
662	arbitration	280	92	165.73	349.0561	x
663	analysis	45	15	26.42	345.0467	
664	local	75	25	44.03	345.0467	
665	specifically	142	47	83.13	343.4851	
666	association	399	132	233.27	342.5511	
667	remaining	41	14	23.94	342.3494	
668	aforesaid	93	31	54.23	341.4863	x
669	charges	85	28	49.28	338.5967	x
670	despite	55	18	31.67	335.1567	
671	imposed	33	11	19	335.1567	x
672	district	384	127	220.71	334.0265	
673	frontage	29	10	16.53	330.2118	
674	consistent	47	16	26.72	329.0706	
675	paragraph	242	80	137.53	328.6619	
676	appropriate	130	43	73.85	328.5635	
677	body	68	22	38.31	324.7463	x
678	unfair	68	22	38.31	324.7463	x
679	accordingly	75	25	42.18	323.854	
680	predecessor	32	11	17.92	321.9702	x
681	permit	71	23	39.71	321.3108	x
682	emphasis	124	41	69.24	320.4631	
683	hud	60	20	33.38	318.8675	
684	allegations	303	100	168.38	318.1369	x
685	borrowers	42	14	23.19	315.3769	x
686	deficiency	28	9	15.46	315.3769	x
687	least	63	21	34.78	315.3769	
688	list	42	14	23.19	315.3769	x
689	mr	234	77	128.97	314.4912	
690	city	478	158	263.34	314.0775	
691	daniel	31	10	16.86	308.7836	

Rank	Keyword	Tokens	Norm.	LL	%DIFF	Legal
692	instructions	31	10	16.86	308.7836	x
693	charged	54	18	28.81	300.542	x
694	legislature	37	12	19.67	299.1934	x
695	review	262	87	139.19	298.6401	x
696	cal	60	20	31.63	295.597	
697	likely	40	13	21.08	295.597	x
698	profit	43	14	22.49	292.554	x
699	insufficient	49	16	25.32	287.6851	
700	administrative	410	135	211.18	286.1781	x
701	freedom	39	13	20.05	285.7071	
702	suffered	55	18	28.15	283.9618	x
703	arguments	42	14	21.46	283.4248	x
704	effort	42	14	21.46	283.4248	
705	governing	48	16	24.29	279.7732	
706	requirement	80	26	40.49	279.7732	x
707	omitted	35	12	17.61	277.6154	
708	hereto	183	60	91.31	274.4531	x
709	delaware	41	14	20.44	274.2957	
710	police	44	15	21.86	272.9915	x
711	punitive	71	23	34.62	266.3573	x
712	decided	40	13	19.44	265.1665	
713	provides	135	45	65.41	264.1291	
714	comply	95	31	45.97	263.6941	x
715	argument	147	49	71.08	263.4548	x
716	referral	49	16	23.69	263.4548	
717	substantial	55	18	26.53	262.6306	x
718	accounting	155	51	74.34	260.6914	
719	three	205	68	97.47	257.7826	
720	incurred	84	28	39.72	256.0373	x
721	firm	125	41	58.6	253.2116	x
722	dismissal	71	23	33.06	251.0924	x
723	ability	62	20	28.8	250.386	x
724	fee	85	28	39.17	247.8526	x
725	defendants	1186	392	545.66	246.6833	x
726	apply	101	33	45.73	242.474	x
727	limit	46	15	20.74	241.2024	x
728	website	37	12	16.49	237.779	
729	suite	102	34	45.22	236.2575	
730	policy	115	38	50.38	232.8804	x
731	added	128	42	55.55	230.2375	x
732	regulations	111	37	48.01	229.3345	x
733	connection	83	27	35.77	228.3455	
734	months	47	16	20.24	228.1128	
735	member	110	36	47.07	226.3676	x
736	report	121	40	51.77	226.3676	x

Rank	Keyword	Tokens	Norm.	LL	%DIFF	Legal
737	scope	55	18	23.53	226.3676	
738	determined	63	21	26.82	225.0776	x
739	instead	82	27	34.83	224.3896	
740	purchased	41	14	17.41	224.3896	x
741	records	294	97	122.9	220.107	x
742	various	51	17	21.18	218.5597	
743	simply	67	22	27.77	218.06	
744	ex	212	70	86.67	214.4996	x
745	october	208	69	84.34	212.4716	
746	pray	42	14	16.96	211.5327	
747	later	60	20	24.04	209.5977	
748	took	60	20	24.04	209.5977	
749	relevant	104	34	41.49	208.5657	x
750	violates	39	13	15.56	208.5657	
751	affirmative	197	65	78.29	207.6288	x
752	work	67	22	26.42	205.8269	x
753	unjust	59	19	23.12	204.4377	x
754	municipal	82	27	32.1	204.1152	x
755	counterclaim	142	47	54.82	200.9363	x
756	however	189	62	72.37	199.0714	
757	similar	55	18	20.83	196.6978	
758	waived	40	13	15.15	196.6978	
759	february	102	34	38.38	195.2505	
760	november	199	66	73.61	191.5697	
761	provision	113	37	41.78	191.5378	
762	include	88	29	32.31	190.1045	x
763	purchase	102	34	37.12	188.2207	x
764	able	80	26	29.04	187.7069	x
765	amend	53	18	19.07	185.9088	x
766	il	414	137	148.86	185.6579	
767	emergency	69	23	24.38	182.3744	x
768	face	133	44	46.89	181.8629	x
769	ii	193	64	67.16	179.3301	
770	though	70	23	24.04	176.9179	
771	dist	331	109	113.58	176.6393	
772	sum	65	21	22.16	175.5051	x
773	result	188	62	64.08	175.4528	x
774	forth	301	99	102.25	174.7878	
775	because	533	176	180.22	173.8354	
776	administrator	53	18	17.87	173.478	x
777	high	46	15	15.46	172.962	
778	breach	172	57	57.58	172.1708	x
779	mortgagor	55	18	18.39	171.973	x
780	based	236	78	78.91	171.925	x
781	commonly	64	21	21.31	171.2665	

Rank	Keyword	Tokens	Norm.	LL	%DIFF	Legal
782	second	102	34	33.54	169.006	x
783	redemption	54	18	17.55	167.028	x
784	deny	175	58	56.64	166.2672	
785	related	163	54	52.37	164.9958	x
786	seeks	78	26	24.98	164.4849	
787	while	115	38	36.39	162.4634	
788	seq	106	35	33.46	162.083	x
789	attorneys	328	108	103.07	161.2533	x
790	ownership	165	54	51.78	161.094	x
791	would	595	196	185.19	159.6106	
792	allege	98	32	30.25	158.4567	x
793	admits	50	17	15.39	157.9981	
794	presence	56	18	16.97	155.6166	
795	sought	155	51	46.96	155.4898	
796	numerous	60	20	18.03	154.3124	
797	ilcs	589	194	174.97	152.3538	
798	addition	102	34	30.24	152.1931	x
799	section	775	256	227.66	150.6167	x
800	terms	315	104	91.57	149.2261	x
801	about	153	51	44.31	148.7384	
802	seeking	100	33	28.66	147.2482	
803	control	104	34	29.73	146.8526	x
804	prior	163	54	45.95	144.8696	x
805	interests	68	22	19.12	144.5509	
806	agreement	601	198	168.85	144.2676	x
807	decision	164	54	45.71	143.2922	x
808	providing	55	18	15.15	141.7537	
809	removal	59	19	16.22	141.4506	x
810	app	683	226	187.73	141.2436	
811	denies	67	22	18.35	140.9546	
812	allegation	64	21	17.06	137.3582	x
813	continue	66	22	17.59	137.3582	
814	instant	60	20	15.99	137.3582	x
815	actions	189	62	49.91	136.109	x
816	at	1502	496	396.79	135.7884	
817	agreed	108	36	27.83	133.0426	x
818	period	81	27	20.17	128.8811	
819	those	265	88	65.45	127.8983	
820	his	818	270	202.27	127.8862	x
821	august	163	54	40.14	127.5847	
822	counsel	313	103	75.49	125.1307	x
823	issues	140	46	33.57	124.5281	x
824	were	592	195	142.03	124.4666	
825	fully	136	45	32.51	124.1717	
826	parties	511	169	121.83	123.7824	x

Rank	Keyword	Tokens	Norm.	LL	%DIFF	Legal
827	january	171	56	40.46	123.0124	
828	extent	71	23	16.6	121.7426	x
829	whether	275	91	63.61	120.5186	
830	service	327	108	75.64	120.5004	x
831	admit	139	46	31.11	117.0579	
832	duties	140	46	30.94	115.7802	x
833	direct	69	23	15.21	115.4963	x
834	follows	163	54	35.73	114.9411	
835	through	362	120	79.29	114.8092	
836	requests	123	41	26.89	114.6696	x
837	limited	159	53	33.85	112.0222	x
838	set	348	115	73.12	110.716	
839	chicago	504	166	105	109.8746	
840	here	104	34	21.49	109.1971	
841	could	153	51	31.46	108.7115	
842	iii	130	43	26.66	108.4903	
843	individual	157	52	30.13	102.5285	x
844	dispute	87	29	16.68	102.4526	x
845	damages	237	78	45.4	102.3522	x
846	each	208	69	39.84	102.3382	
847	granting	90	30	17.07	101.5306	
848	favor	134	44	24.6	98.7875	x
849	discovery	107	35	19.55	98.4166	x
850	even	142	47	25.9	98.2639	
851	statute	184	61	32.93	96.7293	x
852	should	414	137	73.95	96.5326	
853	including	248	82	44.1	96.2161	x
854	enforcement	94	31	16.61	95.7164	x
855	behalf	186	61	32.71	95.3479	x
856	relief	445	147	77.12	94.1625	
857	counter	264	87	45.28	93.403	x
858	code	298	98	51.02	93.2589	x
859	st	316	104	53.43	92.321	
860	had	443	146	74.48	91.879	x
861	letter	95	31	15.79	91.0935	x
862	statutory	103	34	17.1	90.9992	x
863	violations	103	34	17.1	90.9992	
864	its	840	277	139.66	90.9779	
865	requirements	105	35	16.91	88.8077	x
866	found	106	35	16.82	87.761	
867	trial	166	55	25.62	85.856	x
868	wherefore	138	46	20.72	84.0193	x
869	ill	736	243	107.88	82.3545	
870	conduct	201	66	29.3	82.0954	x
871	july	138	46	20.08	81.9746	

Rank	Keyword	Tokens	Norm.	LL	%DIFF	Legal
872	out	183	60	26.21	80.9856	
873	only	387	128	55.32	80.8221	
874	llc	510	168	67.84	76.4617	x
875	some	117	39	15.36	75.7653	
876	fiduciary	134	44	17.29	74.7583	x
877	two	142	47	17.99	73.7364	
878	defense	149	49	18.75	73.3646	x
879	stay	146	48	18.34	73.2715	x
880	further	375	124	46.47	72.4987	
881	thus	129	43	15.83	72.018	
882	attached	333	110	40.75	71.8267	
883	dismissed	130	43	15.78	71.4254	x
884	amended	187	62	22.4	70.7153	x
885	rule	373	123	43.75	69.6065	x
886	claims	371	123	43.3	69.346	x
887	complaint	769	254	82.29	65.0348	x
888	did	370	122	39.07	64.4617	
889	owners	163	54	16	61.2058	x
890	action	627	207	59.96	60.0254	x
891	provided	208	69	19.51	59.2597	
892	amount	203	67	18.7	58.4991	
893	required	227	75	18.61	53.9438	
894	exhibit	416	137	33.98	53.8022	x
895	over	198	65	15.21	51.603	
896	information	235	78	15.22	46.0188	x
897	home	257	85	16.22	45.2406	x
898	defendant	1244	411	75.18	43.8955	x
899	he	507	167	26.76	40.2571	x
900	these	356	118	17.21	38.0711	
901	filed	368	122	17.57	37.7726	
902	from	998	330	43.59	35.6721	
903	see	542	179	20.2	32.3541	x
904	act	584	193	19.53	30.2793	x
905	their	723	239	21.1	27.8763	
906	that	4437	1465	127.26	27.4085	
907	plaintiff	1607	531	43.35	26.5543	x
908	on	2000	660	38.73	21.8471	
909	was	1371	453	22.02	19.639	
910	an	1533	506	22.89	18.8341	
911	for	3330	1100	45.7	17.9002	
912	as	3071	1014	29.29	14.6112	
913	the	20992	6931	68.93	7.9565	
914	to	9630	3180	26.91	7.4539	

Appendix 3.4:

Pseudolegal Courtroom Filing Corpus Keywords

Keywords were generated in AntConc (Anthony 2019) following the procedure described in Section 3.5.3. The full list of PCF keywords is given below. The columns in this table indicate the following:

- “Rank” indicates where in the overall list of keywords a given word falls based on %DIFF score.
- “Keyword” lists the keyword itself.
- “Tokens” indicates how many times that word appears in the pseudolegal courtroom filing corpus.
- “Norm.” gives the frequency of the keyword normalized per hundred thousand words and rounded to the nearest integer.
- “LL” gives the log likelihood score that the keyword is significant, with a score of over 6.63 indicating greater than 99% confidence.
- “%DIFF” gives the observed effect size of that keyword.
- “Legal” shows whether a given keyword item met the criteria for legal technical terminology outlined in Chapter 3, with an “x” indicating legal status.

Rank	Keyword	Tokens	Norm.	LL	%DIFF	Legal
1	kyles	447	124	546.65	75229.18	
2	vashan	260	72	317.9	43715.63	
3	mers	246	68	300.78	41356.33	
4	beverly	453	126	541.32	38070.15	
5	affiants	205	57	250.64	34446.94	x
6	wikar	199	55	243.3	33435.81	
7	ucc	181	50	221.29	30402.42	x
8	ginnie	179	50	218.84	30065.38	x
9	usc	179	50	218.84	30065.38	x
10	syntax	175	49	213.95	29391.29	
11	remic	158	44	193.17	26526.42	x
12	ocwen	155	43	189.5	26020.86	
13	us	284	79	335.52	23830.07	x
14	grammar	139	39	169.93	23324.51	
15	citimortgage	131	36	160.15	21976.34	
16	ann	492	137	578.81	20628.16	

Rank	Keyword	Tokens	Norm.	LL	%DIFF	Legal
17	jones	238	66	279.61	19954.08	
18	creditor	114	32	139.37	19111.47	x
19	pnc	226	63	265.04	18942.95	
20	congress	112	31	136.92	18774.42	x
21	republic	110	31	134.48	18437.38	x
22	lyle	108	30	132.03	18100.34	
23	admiralty	107	30	130.81	17931.82	x
24	anselmo	107	30	130.81	17931.82	
25	muhammad	104	29	127.14	17426.25	
26	indigenous	100	28	122.25	16752.17	
27	lindburg	99	28	121.03	16583.64	
28	juris	98	27	119.8	16415.12	x
29	woman	98	27	119.8	16415.12	
30	claudia	88	24	107.58	14729.91	
31	securitization	88	24	107.58	14729.91	x
32	treason	86	24	105.13	14392.86	x
33	neheh	83	23	101.46	13887.3	
34	ali	82	23	100.24	13718.78	
35	holland	82	23	100.24	13718.78	
36	spreck	81	23	99.02	13550.25	
37	ava	80	22	97.8	13381.73	
38	ione	78	22	95.35	13044.69	
39	reserved	78	22	95.35	13044.69	x
40	russell	76	21	92.91	12707.65	
41	teverbaugh	76	21	92.91	12707.65	
42	persona	75	21	91.68	12539.12	x
43	renee	74	21	90.46	12370.6	
44	securitized	71	20	86.79	11865.04	x
45	tbw	70	19	85.57	11696.52	
46	elaine	69	19	84.35	11527.99	
47	propria	69	19	84.35	11527.99	x
48	hodges	68	19	83.13	11359.47	
49	carr	67	19	81.9	11190.95	
50	simmons	66	18	80.68	11022.43	
51	sui	66	18	80.68	11022.43	x
52	em	65	18	79.46	10853.91	
53	loftus	130	36	148.75	10853.91	
54	neser	65	18	79.46	10853.91	
55	bess	64	18	78.24	10685.39	
56	maritime	64	18	78.24	10685.39	x
57	freddie	63	18	77.01	10516.86	x
58	mac	63	18	77.01	10516.86	x
59	oliver	63	18	77.01	10516.86	
60	calumet	61	17	74.57	10179.82	
61	emily	60	17	73.35	10011.3	

Rank	Keyword	Tokens	Norm.	LL	%DIFF	Legal
62	freedman	60	17	73.35	10011.3	
63	dba	59	16	72.12	9842.777	
64	noticed	58	16	70.9	9674.256	x
65	investors	57	16	69.68	9505.734	x
66	vessel	57	16	69.68	9505.734	x
67	bias	55	15	67.23	9168.691	x
68	debtor	55	15	67.23	9168.691	x
69	domestic	55	15	67.23	9168.691	x
70	fictitious	55	15	67.23	9168.691	x
71	tender	110	31	124.63	9168.691	x
72	warranto	55	15	67.23	9168.691	x
73	darryl	54	15	66.01	9000.169	
74	rescission	54	15	66.01	9000.169	x
75	silver	54	15	66.01	9000.169	
76	ss	54	15	66.01	9000.169	x
77	clinton	53	15	64.79	8831.648	
78	henry	53	15	64.79	8831.648	
79	parse	105	29	118.61	8747.387	
80	bradley	51	14	62.34	8494.604	
81	monzella	51	14	62.34	8494.604	
82	vassalees	51	14	62.34	8494.604	
83	autograph	50	14	61.12	8326.083	x
84	dishonor	50	14	61.12	8326.083	x
85	fiction	50	14	61.12	8326.083	x
86	indian	50	14	61.12	8326.083	
87	leslie	50	14	61.12	8326.083	
88	lyles	50	14	61.12	8326.083	
89	coin	49	14	59.9	8157.561	
90	linda	49	14	59.9	8157.561	
91	trustor	49	14	59.9	8157.561	x
92	yhwhnewbn	49	14	59.9	8157.561	
93	converted	94	26	105.38	7820.518	x
94	territory	47	13	57.45	7820.518	x
95	tex	46	13	56.23	7651.996	
96	ra	45	13	55.01	7483.474	
97	treaty	45	13	55.01	7483.474	x
98	felony	44	12	53.79	7314.953	x
99	gloria	44	12	53.79	7314.953	
100	infant	43	12	52.56	7146.431	x
101	irs	43	12	52.56	7146.431	x
102	romel	43	12	52.56	7146.431	
103	validation	42	12	51.34	6977.909	x
104	von	84	23	93.38	6977.909	
105	wages	42	12	51.34	6977.909	x
106	courtroom	41	11	50.12	6809.388	x

Rank	Keyword	Tokens	Norm.	LL	%DIFF	Legal
107	nations	82	23	90.98	6809.388	x
108	subrogation	41	11	50.12	6809.388	x
109	endorsement	40	11	48.9	6640.866	x
110	springs	40	11	48.9	6640.866	
111	collusion	39	11	47.67	6472.344	x
112	provident	39	11	47.67	6472.344	
113	que	39	11	47.67	6472.344	
114	securities	154	43	170	6388.084	x
115	amen	38	11	46.45	6303.823	
116	issuer	38	11	46.45	6303.823	x
117	trespassing	38	11	46.45	6303.823	x
118	cestui	37	10	45.23	6135.301	x
119	postal	147	41	161.63	6093.171	
120	iisia	36	10	44.01	5966.779	
121	negotiable	72	20	79.01	5966.779	x
122	tribal	36	10	44.01	5966.779	
123	birth	35	10	42.78	5798.258	x
124	declares	35	10	42.78	5798.258	
125	pg	35	10	42.78	5798.258	
126	wynn	35	10	42.78	5798.258	
127	calendar	68	19	74.24	5629.736	x
128	countrywide	34	9	41.56	5629.736	
129	god	33	9	40.34	5461.215	
130	shapiro	33	9	40.34	5461.215	
131	tortfeasor	33	9	40.34	5461.215	
132	adverb	32	9	39.12	5292.693	
133	appellant	32	9	39.12	5292.693	x
134	convention	32	9	39.12	5292.693	x
135	corruption	32	9	39.12	5292.693	x
136	czerwonka	32	9	39.12	5292.693	
137	karol	32	9	39.12	5292.693	
138	kreisman	32	9	39.12	5292.693	
139	mae	192	53	208.43	5292.693	x
140	pooling	32	9	39.12	5292.693	x
141	bey	31	9	37.89	5124.171	
142	england	31	9	37.89	5124.171	
143	notarized	31	9	37.89	5124.171	x
144	station	31	9	37.89	5124.171	
145	treaties	31	9	37.89	5124.171	x
146	validate	31	9	37.89	5124.171	x
147	affirmation	30	8	36.67	4955.65	x
148	cmi	30	8	36.67	4955.65	
149	fdcpa	30	8	36.67	4955.65	x
150	firsthand	30	8	36.67	4955.65	
151	treasury	30	8	36.67	4955.65	x

Rank	Keyword	Tokens	Norm.	LL	%DIFF	Legal
152	valderrama	30	8	36.67	4955.65	
153	verb	30	8	36.67	4955.65	
154	vonspreck	30	8	36.67	4955.65	
155	perjury	119	33	128.23	4913.519	x
156	anoa	29	8	35.45	4787.128	
157	canon	29	8	35.45	4787.128	x
158	quafin	29	8	35.45	4787.128	
159	rescind	29	8	35.45	4787.128	x
160	vassalee	29	8	35.45	4787.128	
161	sovereign	57	16	61.14	4702.867	x
162	crimes	28	8	34.23	4618.606	x
163	haines	28	8	34.23	4618.606	
164	nameholder	28	8	34.23	4618.606	
165	nullity	56	16	59.95	4618.606	x
166	oaths	28	8	34.23	4618.606	x
167	ryszard	28	8	34.23	4618.606	
168	accredited	27	8	33	4450.085	x
169	breathing	27	8	33	4450.085	
170	democratic	27	8	33	4450.085	x
171	homestead	27	8	33	4450.085	x
172	ink	27	8	33	4450.085	
173	simko	27	8	33	4450.085	
174	trespassers	27	8	33	4450.085	x
175	wet	27	8	33	4450.085	
176	lenders	53	15	56.39	4365.824	x
177	lloyd	53	15	56.39	4365.824	
178	averment	26	7	31.78	4281.563	x
179	codes	26	7	31.78	4281.563	x
180	doc	26	7	31.78	4281.563	
181	ernest	26	7	31.78	4281.563	
182	servants	26	7	31.78	4281.563	x
183	backed	51	14	54.03	4197.302	x
184	lawfully	51	14	54.03	4197.302	
185	wise	51	14	54.03	4197.302	
186	acceptor	25	7	30.56	4113.041	x
187	clarrisa	25	7	30.56	4113.041	
188	glenn	25	7	30.56	4113.041	
189	lakeside	25	7	30.56	4113.041	
190	millicent	25	7	30.56	4113.041	
191	myself	25	7	30.56	4113.041	
192	patent	25	7	30.56	4113.041	x
193	usca	25	7	30.56	4113.041	x
194	adhesion	24	7	29.34	3944.52	x
195	bac	24	7	29.34	3944.52	
196	collectors	24	7	29.34	3944.52	

Rank	Keyword	Tokens	Norm.	LL	%DIFF	Legal
197	colonial	24	7	29.34	3944.52	
198	natives	24	7	29.34	3944.52	x
199	pronoun	24	7	29.34	3944.52	
200	steal	24	7	29.34	3944.52	x
201	beneficial	47	13	49.3	3860.259	x
202	artificial	23	6	28.12	3775.998	x
203	bancorp	23	6	28.12	3775.998	
204	bench	23	6	28.12	3775.998	x
205	counterfeit	23	6	28.12	3775.998	x
206	creditors	23	6	28.12	3775.998	x
207	ditech	23	6	28.12	3775.998	
208	kerner	23	6	28.12	3775.998	
209	lewis	23	6	28.12	3775.998	
210	lodial	23	6	28.12	3775.998	
211	madam	23	6	28.12	3775.998	
212	maria	23	6	28.12	3775.998	
213	robo	23	6	28.12	3775.998	
214	grantor	137	38	143.19	3747.911	x
215	blood	22	6	26.89	3607.476	x
216	cert	22	6	26.89	3607.476	x
217	charter	22	6	26.89	3607.476	x
218	congressional	22	6	26.89	3607.476	
219	convicted	22	6	26.89	3607.476	x
220	democrats	22	6	26.89	3607.476	
221	maker	22	6	26.89	3607.476	x
222	marcia	22	6	26.89	3607.476	
223	titles	22	6	26.89	3607.476	x
224	unschooled	22	6	26.89	3607.476	
225	war	22	6	26.89	3607.476	x
226	articles	21	6	25.67	3438.955	x
227	cbi	21	6	25.67	3438.955	
228	copyclaim	21	6	25.67	3438.955	
229	debtors	21	6	25.67	3438.955	x
230	germane	21	6	25.67	3438.955	x
231	guaranty	21	6	25.67	3438.955	x
232	ledger	21	6	25.67	3438.955	x
233	maddocks	21	6	25.67	3438.955	
234	tautges	21	6	25.67	3438.955	
235	nation	41	11	42.23	3354.694	
236	aiding	20	6	24.45	3270.433	x
237	anthony	20	6	24.45	3270.433	
238	assignments	40	11	41.06	3270.433	x
239	continental	20	6	24.45	3270.433	
240	disqualification	20	6	24.45	3270.433	x
241	fault	40	11	41.06	3270.433	x

Rank	Keyword	Tokens	Norm.	LL	%DIFF	Legal
242	freddrenna	20	6	24.45	3270.433	
243	judiciary	20	6	24.45	3270.433	x
244	jurat	20	6	24.45	3270.433	x
245	libellees	20	6	24.45	3270.433	
246	louis	20	6	24.45	3270.433	
247	native	20	6	24.45	3270.433	x
248	sealed	20	6	24.45	3270.433	x
249	select	20	6	24.45	3270.433	
250	tara	20	6	24.45	3270.433	
251	territories	20	6	24.45	3270.433	x
252	unaltered	20	6	24.45	3270.433	
253	valuable	20	6	24.45	3270.433	x
254	vitiates	20	6	24.45	3270.433	x
255	vs	118	33	120.84	3214.259	x
256	adjective	19	5	23.23	3101.911	
257	bean	19	5	23.23	3101.911	
258	defraud	19	5	23.23	3101.911	x
259	deutsche	38	11	38.72	3101.911	
260	disqualified	19	5	23.23	3101.911	x
261	drawer	19	5	23.23	3101.911	x
262	flesh	19	5	23.23	3101.911	
263	gop	19	5	23.23	3101.911	
264	indorsement	19	5	23.23	3101.911	x
265	jbw	19	5	23.23	3101.911	
266	jur	19	5	23.23	3101.911	
267	lp	19	5	23.23	3101.911	x
268	racketeering	19	5	23.23	3101.911	x
269	repurchased	19	5	23.23	3101.911	
270	supremacy	19	5	23.23	3101.911	x
271	therese	19	5	23.23	3101.911	
272	criminal	151	42	153.71	3080.846	x
273	lending	37	10	37.55	3017.651	x
274	committing	73	20	73.93	2975.52	x
275	acknowledgement	36	10	36.38	2933.39	x
276	appearing	36	10	36.38	2933.39	
277	bramlett	18	5	22	2933.39	
278	docketing	18	5	22	2933.39	x
279	indorser	18	5	22	2933.39	x
280	nunc	18	5	22	2933.39	x
281	renato	18	5	22	2933.39	
282	reservation	18	5	22	2933.39	x
283	tacit	18	5	22	2933.39	x
284	terrorist	18	5	22	2933.39	x
285	volition	18	5	22	2933.39	
286	african	17	5	20.78	2764.868	

Rank	Keyword	Tokens	Norm.	LL	%DIFF	Legal
287	bonded	17	5	20.78	2764.868	x
288	clean	17	5	20.78	2764.868	
289	codlis	17	5	20.78	2764.868	
290	correction	34	9	34.04	2764.868	
291	deceit	17	5	20.78	2764.868	x
292	disrespect	17	5	20.78	2764.868	
293	duress	17	5	20.78	2764.868	x
294	hrol	17	5	20.78	2764.868	
295	lis	17	5	20.78	2764.868	x
296	millard	17	5	20.78	2764.868	
297	pendens	17	5	20.78	2764.868	x
298	prose	17	5	20.78	2764.868	
299	ratified	17	5	20.78	2764.868	
300	rebuttal	17	5	20.78	2764.868	x
301	rogatory	17	5	20.78	2764.868	x
302	styled	17	5	20.78	2764.868	
303	territorial	17	5	20.78	2764.868	x
304	testimonial	17	5	20.78	2764.868	
305	tila	17	5	20.78	2764.868	x
306	tribe	17	5	20.78	2764.868	x
307	unsecured	17	5	20.78	2764.868	
308	warranty	17	5	20.78	2764.868	x
309	expressed	33	9	32.88	2680.607	x
310	peoples	65	18	64.6	2638.477	x
311	abetting	16	4	19.56	2596.346	x
312	affixed	16	4	19.56	2596.346	x
313	authentic	16	4	19.56	2596.346	
314	cc	16	4	19.56	2596.346	x
315	confession	16	4	19.56	2596.346	x
316	divine	16	4	19.56	2596.346	
317	evangel	16	4	19.56	2596.346	
318	eviction	16	4	19.56	2596.346	x
319	exoneration	16	4	19.56	2596.346	x
320	indenture	16	4	19.56	2596.346	x
321	lindberg	16	4	19.56	2596.346	
322	marino	16	4	19.56	2596.346	
323	matteson	16	4	19.56	2596.346	
324	nc	16	4	19.56	2596.346	
325	powell	16	4	19.56	2596.346	
326	racist	16	4	19.56	2596.346	
327	recipient	16	4	19.56	2596.346	
328	reconsideration	16	4	19.56	2596.346	
329	respa	16	4	19.56	2596.346	x
330	substantiated	32	9	31.72	2596.346	x
331	trespass	16	4	19.56	2596.346	x

Rank	Keyword	Tokens	Norm.	LL	%DIFF	Legal
332	trinsey	16	4	19.56	2596.346	
333	unalienable	16	4	19.56	2596.346	x
334	wentworth	16	4	19.56	2596.346	
335	certificates	31	9	30.56	2512.086	x
336	garcia	31	9	30.56	2512.086	
337	aboriginal	15	4	18.34	2427.825	
338	allonge	15	4	18.34	2427.825	x
339	clarification	30	8	29.4	2427.825	
340	constitutionally	15	4	18.34	2427.825	x
341	delegation	15	4	18.34	2427.825	x
342	derivatives	15	4	18.34	2427.825	x
343	indians	15	4	18.34	2427.825	
344	initiated	15	4	18.34	2427.825	
345	manifestation	15	4	18.34	2427.825	
346	maturity	15	4	18.34	2427.825	
347	organic	15	4	18.34	2427.825	x
348	pagliaro	15	4	18.34	2427.825	
349	retired	15	4	18.34	2427.825	
350	solemnly	15	4	18.34	2427.825	
351	sommerville	15	4	18.34	2427.825	
352	tyrants	15	4	18.34	2427.825	
353	foreign	119	33	116.46	2406.76	x
354	young	414	115	404.87	2391.713	
355	notary	294	82	287.17	2377.268	x
356	nominee	57	16	55.34	2301.434	x
357	accuracy	14	4	17.11	2259.303	
358	acknowledgment	14	4	17.11	2259.303	x
359	americans	14	4	17.11	2259.303	
360	blacks	14	4	17.11	2259.303	
361	collections	14	4	17.11	2259.303	x
362	dart	14	4	17.11	2259.303	
363	desist	14	4	17.11	2259.303	x
364	institutions	14	4	17.11	2259.303	x
365	lands	28	8	27.09	2259.303	x
366	liberties	14	4	17.11	2259.303	x
367	marie	14	4	17.11	2259.303	
368	moral	14	4	17.11	2259.303	x
369	notarial	14	4	17.11	2259.303	x
370	pooled	14	4	17.11	2259.303	
371	reconveyance	14	4	17.11	2259.303	x
372	tribes	14	4	17.11	2259.303	x
373	validating	14	4	17.11	2259.303	
374	writs	14	4	17.11	2259.303	x
375	acknowledged	55	15	53.03	2217.173	
376	man	109	30	104.93	2196.108	x

Rank	Keyword	Tokens	Norm.	LL	%DIFF	Legal
377	complainant	27	8	25.94	2175.042	x
378	gold	54	15	51.88	2175.042	
379	holders	27	8	25.94	2175.042	x
380	judges	242	67	232.38	2165.68	x
381	jay	105	29	100.33	2111.847	
382	atkins	13	4	15.89	2090.782	
383	bellwood	13	4	15.89	2090.782	
384	beyers	13	4	15.89	2090.782	
385	cognizance	13	4	15.89	2090.782	x
386	concealment	13	4	15.89	2090.782	x
387	enemy	13	4	15.89	2090.782	x
388	epa	13	4	15.89	2090.782	
389	fixed	26	7	24.79	2090.782	x
390	heavner	13	4	15.89	2090.782	
391	heredes	13	4	15.89	2090.782	x
392	intervener	13	4	15.89	2090.782	x
393	magistrate	13	4	15.89	2090.782	x
394	mihlar	13	4	15.89	2090.782	
395	ministry	13	4	15.89	2090.782	
396	quit	13	4	15.89	2090.782	x
397	shrewberry	13	4	15.89	2090.782	
398	strawman	13	4	15.89	2090.782	
399	trespassed	13	4	15.89	2090.782	x
400	victim	13	4	15.89	2090.782	x
401	chancery	231	64	219.75	2062.695	x
402	ford	102	28	96.89	2048.651	
403	petitioner	254	71	241.12	2040.225	x
404	lawful	201	56	190.36	2017.053	x
405	honor	50	14	47.3	2006.521	x
406	counsels	24	7	22.51	1922.26	x
407	reserves	23	6	21.37	1837.999	x
408	revocation	23	6	21.37	1837.999	x
409	fargo	613	171	568.2	1813.033	
410	fidelity	90	25	83.2	1795.869	
411	bayview	22	6	20.23	1753.738	
412	constructive	87	24	79.8	1732.673	x
413	anna	129	36	118	1711.608	
414	declared	43	12	39.33	1711.608	
415	reserve	43	12	39.33	1711.608	x
416	exercising	21	6	19.1	1669.477	x
417	stephanie	42	12	38.2	1669.477	
418	executor	62	17	56.17	1641.39	x
419	contribution	41	11	37.07	1627.347	x
420	paper	61	17	55.04	1613.304	x
421	american	221	61	198.87	1592.877	

Rank	Keyword	Tokens	Norm.	LL	%DIFF	Legal
422	chapman	20	6	17.97	1585.217	
423	draft	40	11	35.94	1585.217	x
424	gr	20	6	17.97	1585.217	
425	liens	20	6	17.97	1585.217	x
426	morgan	20	6	17.97	1585.217	
427	quantum	20	6	17.97	1585.217	x
428	stock	40	11	35.94	1585.217	x
429	voluntary	20	6	17.97	1585.217	x
430	fraudulently	38	11	33.7	1500.956	x
431	grace	19	5	16.85	1500.956	
432	joe	19	5	16.85	1500.956	
433	signature	171	48	151.68	1500.956	x
434	whistleblower	19	5	16.85	1500.956	x
435	living	149	41	131.46	1469.358	x
436	dorothy	37	10	32.58	1458.825	
437	restatement	37	10	32.58	1458.825	x
438	assigns	73	20	64.05	1437.76	x
439	oath	199	55	174.21	1424.355	x
440	drawn	18	5	15.73	1416.695	
441	mortgages	54	15	47.2	1416.695	x
442	stringent	18	5	15.73	1416.695	
443	uphold	18	5	15.73	1416.695	
444	writ	142	40	123.65	1395.63	x
445	affiant	440	122	382.39	1382.991	x
446	heir	86	24	74.22	1349.286	x
447	chain	34	9	29.24	1332.434	
448	documented	34	9	29.24	1332.434	x
449	hearsay	34	9	29.24	1332.434	x
450	recourse	34	9	29.24	1332.434	x
451	truth	136	38	116.99	1332.434	x
452	land	269	75	230.69	1316.635	x
453	stat	83	23	70.9	1298.73	x
454	men	33	9	28.14	1290.304	x
455	aka	65	18	55.17	1269.238	x
456	registration	81	23	68.69	1265.025	x
457	united	714	199	602.18	1236.938	
458	debts	62	17	51.87	1206.043	x
459	edition	31	9	25.93	1206.043	x
460	judgement	62	17	51.87	1206.043	x
461	dec	122	34	101.56	1184.978	
462	sec	166	46	137.73	1171.573	x
463	claimant	120	33	99.37	1163.912	x
464	conditional	45	13	37.26	1163.912	x
465	seal	120	33	99.37	1163.912	x
466	certificate	148	41	122.03	1147.06	x

Rank	Keyword	Tokens	Norm.	LL	%DIFF	Legal
467	currency	74	21	61.01	1147.06	x
468	me	381	106	313.22	1134.745	
469	regards	73	20	59.92	1130.208	
470	investor	29	8	23.75	1121.782	x
471	signatures	58	16	47.5	1121.782	x
472	crime	43	12	35.08	1107.739	x
473	investment	43	12	35.08	1107.739	x
474	trying	43	12	35.08	1107.739	
475	division	200	56	163.01	1103.726	x
476	instruments	85	24	69.07	1093.695	x
477	settlor	55	15	44.24	1058.586	x
478	guilty	40	11	31.83	1023.478	x
479	committee	26	7	20.5	995.3907	x
480	custodian	26	7	20.5	995.3907	x
481	authenticated	51	14	39.93	974.3255	x
482	holder	279	78	218.09	968.5805	x
483	subscribed	63	18	49.11	961.6864	
484	master	25	7	19.43	953.2603	x
485	el	85	24	65.35	923.1672	
486	johnson	109	30	83.72	920.4922	
487	ed	133	37	102.09	918.79	
488	color	48	13	36.73	911.1299	x
489	lawrence	24	7	18.37	911.1299	
490	love	60	17	45.92	911.1299	
491	par	96	27	73.47	911.1299	x
492	privileges	24	7	18.37	911.1299	x
493	judge	890	248	678.88	899.8951	x
494	respondent	166	46	126.46	899.0926	x
495	fraud	683	190	519.26	892.2439	x
496	error	200	56	151.9	891.3038	x
497	wade	47	13	35.67	890.0647	
498	want	47	13	35.67	890.0647	
499	commit	35	10	26.49	883.043	x
500	silence	23	6	17.31	868.9995	x
501	today	23	6	17.31	868.9995	
502	zip	34	9	25.43	854.956	
503	banking	45	13	33.56	847.9343	x
504	bond	101	28	75.25	845.5937	x
505	deed	155	43	114.85	832.8877	x
506	accommodation	22	6	16.25	826.8691	x
507	dc	22	6	16.25	826.8691	x
508	mistake	33	9	24.38	826.8691	x
509	walker	44	12	32.51	826.8691	
510	z	22	6	16.25	826.8691	
511	numbers	54	15	39.59	810.0169	

Rank	Keyword	Tokens	Norm.	LL	%DIFF	Legal
512	lender	235	65	171.52	800.0588	x
513	escrow	32	9	23.34	798.7821	x
514	richard	74	21	53.76	790.7573	
515	citizen	116	32	84.18	788.5687	x
516	petitions	21	6	15.21	784.7387	x
517	presentment	42	12	30.42	784.7387	x
518	whereby	21	6	15.21	784.7387	x
519	mind	31	9	22.3	770.6952	x
520	constitutional	82	23	58.77	763.6735	x
521	my	642	179	456.01	745.2414	
522	assignment	210	58	148.86	742.6083	x
523	conspiracy	69	19	48.58	730.571	x
524	equivalent	49	14	34.41	725.7561	x
525	knows	49	14	34.41	725.7561	
526	competent	78	22	54.64	721.543	
527	dollar	39	11	27.32	721.543	
528	null	48	13	33.38	708.9039	x
529	deposit	67	19	46.53	706.4965	x
530	sheriff	38	11	26.29	700.4778	x
531	stamp	38	11	26.29	700.4778	x
532	character	47	13	32.36	692.0518	x
533	title	554	154	381.47	691.1949	x
534	national	244	68	167.89	690.7554	x
535	box	28	8	19.21	686.4344	x
536	complaints	28	8	19.21	686.4344	x
537	contempt	28	8	19.21	686.4344	x
538	petitioners	28	8	19.21	686.4344	x
539	pro	163	45	110.2	663.0286	x
540	america	242	67	162.79	655.2267	
541	assoc	26	7	17.19	630.2605	
542	proven	52	14	34.37	630.2605	
543	minor	43	12	28.31	624.6431	x
544	citizens	60	17	39.43	622.2356	x
545	liberty	34	9	22.25	616.217	x
546	sharon	84	23	54.62	607.7909	
547	presiding	25	7	16.19	602.1735	
548	acting	116	32	74.88	598.1611	x
549	points	57	16	36.45	586.1239	x
550	nd	145	40	92.17	578.7678	
551	wells	611	170	388.23	577.4127	
552	hundred	32	9	20.26	574.0866	
553	mentioned	48	13	30.39	574.0866	x
554	substitute	24	7	15.19	574.0866	x
555	union	24	7	15.19	574.0866	x
556	committed	95	26	59.8	567.0649	x

Rank	Keyword	Tokens	Norm.	LL	%DIFF	Legal
557	acceptance	110	31	68.95	562.0493	x
558	article	225	63	140.04	553.7478	x
559	thousand	31	9	19.28	553.0214	
560	agents	139	39	86.27	550.6808	x
561	assign	38	11	23.36	540.3823	x
562	filings	30	8	18.3	531.9562	x
563	litigant	30	8	18.3	531.9562	x
564	theft	52	14	31.54	525.9376	x
565	delivered	44	12	26.48	517.9127	
566	laws	344	96	206.89	516.7175	x
567	south	173	48	103.06	507.3801	
568	instrument	393	109	232.92	502.0819	x
569	natural	100	28	59.23	501.863	x
570	lines	85	24	50.08	496.8475	
571	etc	92	26	54.17	496.3074	x
572	transfer	141	39	82.84	494.0388	x
573	secured	145	40	84.07	481.8009	x
574	u	669	186	385.33	475.2091	
575	age	68	19	39.03	472.9736	x
576	profits	27	8	15.42	468.7606	x
577	sentence	27	8	15.42	468.7606	x
578	fraudulent	255	71	145.14	465.4345	x
579	twenty	40	11	22.66	461.7388	
580	grantee	33	9	18.57	456.1214	
581	officers	98	27	54.78	450.5041	x
582	notes	104	29	57.93	447.6954	x
583	debt	499	139	277.56	446.0539	x
584	fide	32	9	17.63	439.2693	
585	matthew	51	14	28.03	437.1628	
586	tribunal	51	14	28.03	437.1628	x
587	proof	235	65	128.86	435.1701	x
588	na	38	11	20.79	433.6519	
589	beneficiary	265	74	144.65	431.6457	x
590	bona	31	9	16.71	422.4171	x
591	please	43	12	23.02	417.6022	
592	president	43	12	23.02	417.6022	x
593	sur	43	12	23.02	417.6022	x
594	credit	180	50	94.75	405.565	x
595	res	30	8	15.79	405.565	x
596	recorded	89	25	46.46	399.9476	x
597	constitution	384	107	199.88	397.787	x
598	collection	118	33	61.34	397.1389	x
599	banks	53	15	27.51	396.2026	
600	misleading	53	15	27.51	396.2026	x
601	ave	47	13	24.35	395.0324	

Rank	Keyword	Tokens	Norm.	LL	%DIFF	Legal
602	funding	52	14	26.6	386.8403	x
603	clerk	127	35	64.93	386.4148	x
604	bankruptcy	69	19	35.17	384.4997	x
605	witness	161	45	82.07	384.4997	
606	affidavit	484	135	242.77	374.2121	x
607	expires	45	13	22.55	373.9671	x
608	live	45	13	22.55	373.9671	
609	security	286	80	143.01	372.5215	x
610	affirm	56	16	27.96	371.8606	x
611	you	408	114	203.51	370.9372	
612	country	39	11	19.39	369.4532	x
613	ohio	39	11	19.39	369.4532	
614	am	286	80	140.81	363.4345	
615	official	71	20	34.75	360.1937	x
616	servicing	211	59	102.49	355.8727	x
617	sue	43	12	20.77	352.9019	x
618	accepted	96	27	46.08	349.3911	
619	lawyer	96	27	46.08	349.3911	x
620	extension	53	15	25.3	346.5824	x
621	discharge	90	25	42.93	346.0867	x
622	your	402	112	191.72	345.6954	
623	chief	79	22	37.52	343.7737	x
624	rights	583	162	276.47	342.5591	x
625	charles	42	12	19.89	342.3693	
626	organization	47	13	22.16	340.0288	x
627	al	341	95	159.4	335.3476	x
628	sold	129	36	60.21	334.7859	
629	authorities	67	19	31.24	334.2673	x
630	lisa	36	10	16.75	333.3414	
631	obligation	179	50	82.92	330.9339	x
632	thereby	71	20	32.64	327.3228	x
633	affirmed	45	13	20.43	321.3041	x
634	alleged	620	172	281.76	321.3041	x
635	sup	40	11	18.16	321.3041	x
636	dollars	84	23	37.74	316.3476	
637	verification	69	19	30.93	315.2855	x
638	assigned	49	14	21.85	312.878	x
639	memorandum	73	20	32.35	310.0694	x
640	recorder	73	20	32.35	310.0694	x
641	asset	77	21	33.77	305.5052	x
642	forever	43	12	18.73	302.5795	
643	respond	128	36	55.36	299.4587	
644	corporate	71	20	30.66	298.8346	x
645	black	52	14	22.43	298.3239	
646	note	1230	342	529.95	297.0912	x

Rank	Keyword	Tokens	Norm.	LL	%DIFF	Legal
647	don	80	22	34.36	296.5215	
648	evidence	541	151	232.44	296.3922	x
649	hand	70	19	29.82	293.2172	x
650	ch	400	111	169.96	291.9108	
651	corporations	88	24	37.22	290.2607	x
652	capacity	171	48	72.19	289.4217	x
653	federal	567	158	238.92	288.4219	x
654	claiming	55	15	23.03	286.1955	x
655	east	73	20	30.43	284.44	
656	rebut	45	13	18.5	279.1737	x
657	consent	85	24	34.74	276.9563	x
658	promissory	255	71	104.26	276.9563	x
659	pc	40	11	16.24	274.4926	x
660	substance	40	11	16.24	274.4926	x
661	declare	84	23	33.93	272.5215	
662	hereby	277	77	111.29	270.4801	x
663	loan	476	132	189.98	267.9647	x
664	registered	144	40	57.39	267.6836	
665	deeds	61	17	24.27	267.1365	x
666	know	69	19	27.16	263.3748	
667	our	133	37	52.08	261.5061	
668	damage	55	15	21.22	256.4881	x
669	king	55	15	21.22	256.4881	x
670	agrees	42	12	16.08	253.8955	x
671	appeal	88	24	33.6	253.093	x
672	states	966	269	368.6	252.3635	x
673	circuit	363	101	138.03	251.571	x
674	trusts	54	15	20.42	250.0065	x
675	assumed	45	13	16.74	244.7034	
676	document	411	114	150.37	239.5216	x
677	cfr	44	12	15.95	237.0433	x
678	commercial	112	31	40.62	237.0433	x
679	back	79	22	28.24	232.8303	x
680	believes	79	22	28.24	232.8303	x
681	word	75	21	26.79	232.6085	
682	summons	71	20	25.34	232.3621	x
683	material	180	50	63.65	229.7163	x
684	civ	82	23	28.92	229.0185	
685	performance	121	34	42.65	228.889	x
686	original	417	116	145.2	225.3404	x
687	cash	54	15	18.77	225.006	x
688	prove	119	33	41.13	223.4528	x
689	bank	859	239	296.91	223.1252	
690	judicial	355	99	120.35	218.2191	x
691	exchange	49	14	16.56	217.5985	x

Rank	Keyword	Tokens	Norm.	LL	%DIFF	Legal
692	secretary	49	14	16.56	217.5985	x
693	brown	60	17	20.15	215.9781	
694	according	93	26	30.93	213.4503	
695	jurisdiction	579	161	192.2	212.7373	x
696	page	377	105	124.45	211.4346	
697	commission	96	27	31.63	211.1169	x
698	life	51	14	16.52	206.9502	x
699	we	227	63	72.52	203.6065	
700	void	341	95	108.43	202.452	x
701	give	118	33	37.32	201.2963	x
702	trust	1026	285	324.93	201.2251	x
703	agreements	53	15	16.5	197.7216	x
704	commerce	53	15	16.5	197.7216	x
705	o	197	55	60.99	196.4175	
706	course	105	29	32.28	194.9129	
707	loans	56	16	17.21	194.9129	x
708	words	59	16	17.93	192.4346	
709	correspondence	55	15	16.5	189.6466	
710	appeared	79	22	23.67	189.4176	
711	accept	58	16	17.22	187.4781	
712	done	95	26	27.99	185.8849	
713	international	54	15	15.79	184.3803	
714	signing	54	15	15.79	184.3803	x
715	mail	189	53	53.91	179.3912	x
716	rd	56	16	15.82	177.5651	
717	person	492	137	138.22	176.3755	x
718	said	385	107	107.31	174.9188	x
719	value	100	28	27.39	171.8091	x
720	deemed	122	34	33.18	170.5216	x
721	signed	195	54	52.7	169.3584	x
722	exists	115	32	31.04	169.1665	
723	sworn	73	20	19.51	167.4365	
724	se	120	33	31.83	166.0868	x
725	become	63	18	16.65	165.4216	
726	prejudice	170	47	44.88	165.2656	x
727	c	1745	485	457.34	163.5038	
728	listed	78	22	20.31	162.8938	
729	trustee	383	107	99.45	162.3731	x
730	foreclose	140	39	36.29	162.1448	x
731	avenue	62	17	15.98	161.2086	
732	g	364	101	93.13	159.9232	
733	third	219	61	56.01	159.9031	
734	department	203	56	51.68	159.1659	x
735	justice	126	35	32.03	158.9479	x
736	kimberly	67	19	16.79	156.6125	

Rank	Keyword	Tokens	Norm.	LL	%DIFF	Legal
737	mortgage	1287	358	321.44	155.7634	x
738	ct	148	41	36.59	154.5021	
739	john	66	18	16.13	152.7825	
740	name	348	97	85.12	152.7825	x
741	transferred	69	19	16.87	152.7825	x
742	knowledge	293	82	71.26	151.9227	x
743	TRUE	367	102	88.96	151.4124	
744	now	340	95	82.36	151.3042	
745	nor	280	78	67.67	150.9897	
746	washington	89	25	21.36	149.9738	
747	created	112	31	26.59	148.3477	
748	certified	156	43	36.95	148.013	x
749	county	763	212	180.01	147.2731	x
750	take	196	55	45.94	146.4944	x
751	p	868	241	203.39	146.2572	
752	FALSE	170	47	38.82	142.7854	x
753	receipt	92	26	20.92	142.2499	x
754	successor	135	38	30.66	142.0258	x
755	day	271	75	60.81	140.3651	x
756	m	267	74	58.34	136.8173	
757	lien	106	29	22.84	135.0434	x
758	collector	75	21	16.04	134.0578	
759	nationstar	94	26	19.92	132.9564	
760	notice	763	212	159.74	131.2626	x
761	th	488	136	101.9	131.0072	
762	office	207	58	42.67	129.4999	x
763	another	137	38	27.5	126.3477	
764	party	641	178	126.32	124.1128	x
765	none	87	24	16.83	122.1422	
766	courts	208	58	40.14	121.8513	x
767	people	261	73	48.5	117.7433	x
768	vacate	126	35	23.17	116.6707	x
769	k	172	48	30.55	113.1303	
770	presented	149	41	26.38	112.7943	x
771	real	266	74	46.46	111.447	x
772	penalty	105	29	18.19	110.6521	x
773	government	194	54	32.31	106.919	x
774	being	314	87	52.18	106.7023	
775	via	125	35	20.72	106.5216	x
776	stated	345	96	57	106.1701	x
777	comes	117	33	19.16	105.3858	x
778	given	181	50	28.97	103.3495	x
779	f	448	125	71.43	102.9508	
780	estate	386	107	60	100.7696	x
781	every	123	34	18.78	99.3093	

Rank	Keyword	Tokens	Norm.	LL	%DIFF	Legal
782	record	434	121	65.86	98.7456	x
783	et	385	107	57.76	97.8074	x
784	default	249	69	36.56	96.0836	x
785	rules	204	57	29.66	95.3319	x
786	correct	200	56	27.67	91.5019	
787	show	135	38	18.19	89.5869	x
788	standing	252	70	33.97	89.5869	x
789	cook	550	153	73.74	89.157	
790	entity	150	42	19.95	88.6436	x
791	i	1344	374	177.9	88.1172	
792	claim	718	200	94.6	87.8859	x
793	due	458	127	59.84	87.3372	x
794	property	680	189	87.23	86.0304	x
795	officer	150	42	19.18	85.8695	x
796	interest	503	140	62.1	83.477	x
797	acts	152	42	17.87	80.3894	x
798	foreclosure	460	128	50.49	76.1817	x
799	summary	187	52	20.12	75.0753	x
800	corporation	245	68	24.31	70.6108	x
801	payment	208	58	19.82	68.5217	x
802	non	271	75	25.51	67.9021	x
803	contract	556	155	51.77	67.3179	x
804	w	252	70	23.39	67.1947	
805	facts	441	123	40.49	66.6324	x
806	matter	453	126	39.8	64.5265	x
807	civil	192	53	16.46	63.4149	x
808	l	362	101	28.54	59.6985	
809	into	343	95	26.47	58.7992	
810	fact	486	135	36.9	58.111	x
811	upon	562	156	42.41	57.8486	
812	has	1578	439	118.99	57.7267	
813	without	475	132	33.98	55.735	
814	been	666	185	47.32	55.4507	
815	law	1283	357	88.38	54.2177	x
816	state	867	241	56.97	52.5139	x
817	cause	283	79	16.8	49.0363	x
818	e	636	177	37.58	48.8608	
819	can	324	90	18.85	48.3723	x
820	case	778	216	45.22	48.3143	x
821	legal	516	144	29.12	47.385	x
822	owner	347	97	17.96	44.7451	x
823	or	4063	1130	208.72	44.2696	
824	n	579	161	28.29	43.0704	
825	judgment	603	168	28.28	41.9254	x
826	right	381	106	16.73	40.1894	x

Rank	Keyword	Tokens	Norm.	LL	%DIFF	Legal
827	all	1402	390	56.19	37.8456	
828	this	2935	817	116.97	37.6213	
829	v	1424	396	50.02	34.8173	x
830	they	660	184	22.28	34.0052	
831	is	4587	1276	143.41	32.2287	
832	are	1646	458	46.95	30.5963	
833	no	1467	408	36.63	28.2268	
834	it	1534	427	32.83	25.7355	
835	any	1713	477	35.11	25.0769	
836	court	2448	681	32.64	19.5078	x
837	by	2900	807	19.5	13.2853	
838	of	14557	4050	32	7.1628	

Appendix 3.5:

Legitimate Courtroom Filing and Pseudolegal Courtroom Filing Corpus Lockwords

The lockwords of the LCF and PCF corpora were generated following the procedure generated in Section 3.5.4. The full list of lockwords is given below. The columns in this table indicate the following:

- “Rank” indicates where in the overall list of lockwords items a given item falls based on CV score.
- “Lockword” lists the word itself.
- “LCF Freq.” indicates how many times that word appears in the legitimate courtroom filing corpus.
- “LCF Norm.” gives the frequency of the lockword normalized per hundred thousand words and rounded to the nearest integer.
- “PCF Freq.” indicates how many times the word appears in the pseudolegal courtroom filing corpus.
- “PCF Norm.” gives the frequency of the lockword normalized per hundred thousand words and rounded to the nearest integer.
- “CV” lists its coefficient of variance between the two corpora.
- “Legal” shows whether that word met the criteria for legal technical terms outlined in Chapter 3, with an “x” indicating legal status.

Rank	Lockword	LCF Freq.	LCF Norm.	PCF Freq.	PCF Norm.	CV	Legal
1	injury	49	16	56	16	0	x
2	purposes	56	18	63	18	0	x
3	payments	57	19	67	19	0.092312	x
4	north	88	29	105	29	0.260444	
5	respectfully	150	50	180	50	0.335918	
6	faith	70	23	84	23	0.46562	x
7	granted	103	34	124	34	0.554594	x
8	protect	53	18	64	18	0.569621	
9	a	5937	1960	7075	1968	0.623002	
10	under	732	242	873	243	0.76033	

Rank	Lockword	LCF Freq.	LCF Norm.	PCF Freq.	PCF Norm.	CV	Legal
11	answer	328	108	383	107	0.836813	x
12	within	242	80	285	79	0.924323	
13	b	472	156	553	154	0.968639	
14	first	217	72	261	73	0.968639	
15	where	215	71	258	72	1.032273	
16	public	394	130	460	128	1.149767	x
17	made	291	96	352	98	1.168772	
18	pursuant	431	142	520	145	1.240538	x
19	subject	256	85	297	83	1.251516	x
20	both	125	41	145	40	1.262691	
21	common	120	40	148	41	1.321695	x
22	which	822	271	1000	278	1.556361	
23	april	98	32	111	31	1.625533	
24	use	93	31	116	32	1.782622	x
25	and	9351	3088	10750	2991	1.862693	
26	grant	92	30	112	31	1.911099	x
27	regarding	94	31	108	30	2.029972	
28	appearance	85	28	103	29	2.465994	x
29	order	500	165	615	171	2.6558	x
30	properly	81	27	94	26	2.668327	x
31	mortgagee	76	25	95	26	2.702319	x
32	in	5259	1736	6494	1807	2.8715	
33	be	1752	578	2164	602	3.133991	
34	reasons	70	23	80	22	3.16615	x
35	pending	69	23	79	22	3.189955	x
36	cannot	193	64	242	67	3.449301	
37	reference	66	22	75	21	3.595458	x
38	street	125	41	154	43	3.646969	x
39	fair	64	21	72	20	3.689253	x
40	what	120	40	151	42	3.70213	
41	west	63	21	72	20	3.731434	
42	principal	117	39	146	41	3.78132	x
43	her	370	122	416	116	3.78132	
44	inc	304	100	342	95	3.822199	x
45	entitled	119	39	133	37	3.955842	
46	illinois	987	326	1112	309	4.063832	
47	she	223	74	250	70	4.079462	
48	s	3320	1096	3723	1036	4.119069	
49	contained	55	18	60	17	4.226385	
50	considered	50	17	65	18	4.373856	
51	below	49	16	62	17	4.541469	x
52	will	415	137	463	129	4.714045	x
53	him	99	33	111	31	4.745683	

Rank	Lockword	LCF Freq.	LCF Norm.	PCF Freq.	PCF Norm.	CV	Legal
54	may	461	152	582	162	5.009476	x
55	there	368	122	466	130	5.01658	
56	authority	241	80	271	75	5.030799	x
57	intended	48	16	53	15	5.142595	
58	current	45	15	56	16	5.173952	
59	herein	215	71	273	76	5.189775	x
60	sale	238	79	266	74	5.189775	x
61	equitable	90	30	102	28	5.237828	x
62	of	11446	3779	14557	4050	5.275402	
63	not	2225	735	2467	686	5.359993	
64	proceeding	90	30	101	28	5.39143	x
65	transaction	82	27	103	29	5.439283	x
66	private	175	58	194	54	6.148755	x
67	to	9630	3180	10636	2959	6.202691	
68	place	86	28	95	26	6.257582	
69	means	78	26	101	28	6.3323	x
70	support	209	69	230	64	6.487218	x
71	statement	114	38	147	41	6.52714	x
72	the	20992	6931	23077	6420	6.589526	
73	copy	210	69	271	75	6.690951	x
74	response	173	57	223	62	6.73435	x
75	undersigned	71	23	89	25	6.73435	x
76	number	138	46	178	50	6.73435	
77	documents	224	74	245	68	6.765031	x
78	d	1103	364	1436	400	6.827238	x
79	duty	121	40	159	44	7.001057	x
80	proper	121	40	158	44	7.001057	x
81	september	101	33	107	30	7.020127	
82	but	300	99	391	109	7.032001	
83	equity	119	39	154	43	7.209716	x
84	process	172	57	227	63	7.281858	x
85	received	116	38	150	42	7.294111	x
86	actual	94	31	100	28	7.674027	x
87	general	186	61	196	55	7.703887	
88	established	60	20	66	18	7.731464	x
89	brought	58	19	62	17	7.856742	
90	either	79	26	104	29	7.856742	
91	motion	633	209	672	187	7.905542	x
92	year	51	17	67	19	7.958778	x
93	nature	76	25	99	28	8.072678	x
94	issue	139	46	147	41	8.08122	x
95	beneficiaries	56	18	57	16	8.092121	x
96	force	49	16	64	18	8.144685	x

Rank	Lockword	LCF Freq.	LCF Norm.	PCF Freq.	PCF Norm.	CV	Legal
97	such	546	180	576	160	8.276568	
98	date	216	71	286	80	8.286408	x
99	against	369	122	389	108	8.318903	
100	best	53	18	57	16	8.318903	
101	manner	47	16	64	18	8.318903	
102	neither	46	15	62	17	8.421948	
103	by	2157	712	2900	807	8.796544	
104	exhibits	50	17	54	15	8.838835	x
105	unknown	88	29	120	33	9.026895	
106	t	126	42	133	37	9.263408	x
107	must	353	117	369	103	9.42809	
108	once	50	17	53	15	9.42809	
109	with	1536	507	2076	578	9.42809	
110	defined	73	24	75	21	9.448247	x
111	known	193	64	201	56	9.507318	
112	if	519	171	703	196	9.555497	
113	as	3071	1014	3180	885	9.677841	
114	consideration	80	26	107	30	9.80148	x
115	good	113	37	114	32	9.820928	x
116	representative	57	19	79	22	9.842718	x
117	dismiss	132	44	184	51	10.10153	x
118	written	75	25	105	29	10.27082	
119	so	215	71	297	83	10.3183	
120	persons	127	42	128	36	10.47566	x
121	r	105	35	149	41	10.48513	
122	provide	210	69	211	59	10.50559	
123	same	271	89	272	76	10.52918	x
124	entered	145	48	147	41	10.68137	x
125	j	145	48	147	41	10.92952	x
126	failed	185	61	187	52	10.93977	x
127	have	822	271	1148	319	10.95182	
128	bring	62	20	61	17	11.17574	
129	time	322	106	451	125	11.40495	x
130	specific	60	20	61	17	11.52322	x
131	for	3330	1100	3352	933	11.53912	
132	h	68	22	92	26	11.5446	
133	held	132	44	187	52	11.59191	
134	purpose	82	27	114	32	11.78511	x
135	unless	64	21	91	25	11.9271	
136	do	208	69	293	82	12.05296	x
137	like	59	19	56	16	12.12183	x
138	copies	47	16	68	19	12.36839	
139	an	1533	506	1531	426	12.40538	

Rank	Lockword	LCF Freq.	LCF Norm.	PCF Freq.	PCF Norm.	CV	Legal
140	receive	77	25	76	21	12.42393	x
141	denied	114	38	114	32	12.4568	
142	court	1726	570	2448	681	12.64744	x
143	accounts	53	18	54	15	12.85649	x
144	company	72	24	105	29	12.85649	x
145	requested	111	37	113	31	12.85649	x
146	was	1371	453	1360	378	12.85649	
147	foregoing	72	24	105	29	13.01787	
148	entities	53	18	53	15	13.08303	x
149	agent	101	33	145	40	13.23502	x
150	account	230	76	226	63	13.29602	x
151	procedure	106	35	103	29	13.34164	x
152	dated	88	29	86	24	13.41633	x
153	protection	43	14	61	17	13.54034	x
154	suit	42	14	62	17	13.58143	x
155	described	69	23	68	19	13.76668	
156	other	689	228	674	188	13.81614	
157	until	85	28	84	23	13.86484	
158	named	69	23	99	28	13.90474	
159	on	2000	660	1948	542	14.01473	
160	practices	68	22	65	18	14.23298	x
161	filing	119	39	173	48	14.25176	x
162	one	302	100	441	123	14.25176	
163	assets	81	27	78	22	14.58606	x
164	request	241	80	235	65	14.6069	x
165	leave	80	26	77	21	14.69971	x
166	part	192	63	182	51	14.76115	
167	called	63	21	60	17	14.77537	
168	power	160	53	237	66	14.86049	x
169	therefore	217	72	209	58	14.87886	
170	any	1154	381	1713	477	15.40233	
171	who	335	111	501	139	15.56312	
172	respect	77	25	72	20	15.59399	
173	otherwise	137	45	131	36	15.71348	x
174	showing	48	16	71	20	15.9099	x
175	shall	357	118	531	148	15.93022	x
176	attorney	484	160	460	128	16.05324	x
177	june	82	27	124	34	16.17735	
178	it	1028	339	1534	427	16.4065	
179	business	179	59	170	47	16.47076	x
180	days	179	59	169	47	16.51112	x
181	constitute	46	15	70	19	16.56286	x
182	how	57	19	86	24	16.61786	

Rank	Lockword	LCF Freq.	LCF Norm.	PCF Freq.	PCF Norm.	CV	Legal
183	address	80	26	119	33	16.80828	x
184	closing	59	19	54	15	16.81233	x
185	file	157	52	238	66	16.91966	x
186	declaration	131	43	122	34	17.18203	x
187	plaintiff	1607	531	1507	419	17.22696	x
188	own	110	36	166	46	17.85623	x
189	effect	85	28	79	22	17.88086	x
190	clause	113	37	105	29	17.90144	x
191	funds	113	37	105	29	17.93493	x
192	that	4437	1465	4133	1150	17.95827	
193	does	380	125	354	98	18.07641	x
194	no	964	318	1467	408	18.13094	
195	self	56	18	52	14	18.17146	
196	matters	96	32	146	41	18.22935	x
197	their	723	239	671	187	18.29331	
198	submitted	178	59	165	46	18.44626	x
199	agency	110	36	100	28	18.54798	x
200	also	354	117	328	91	18.58681	
201	march	68	22	61	17	18.62423	
202	status	60	20	94	26	18.7548	x
203	petition	90	30	140	39	18.77275	x
204	associates	134	44	121	34	18.93042	x
205	except	61	20	92	26	19.17578	
206	pleadings	119	39	109	30	19.1929	x
207	are	1062	351	1646	458	19.2333	
208	when	305	101	473	132	19.31986	
209	remedy	59	19	91	25	19.41077	x
210	special	88	29	136	38	19.49417	x
211	act	584	193	532	148	19.61318	x
212	liability	96	32	152	42	19.64186	x
213	before	231	76	360	100	19.66787	
214	amendment	77	25	70	19	19.72011	x
215	proceedings	102	34	93	26	20.31687	x
216	paid	152	50	138	38	20.41913	
217	is	2923	965	4587	1276	20.6483	
218	up	77	25	67	19	20.77834	
219	full	111	37	177	49	20.95131	
220	never	128	42	201	56	20.98009	
221	see	542	179	486	135	21.14273	x
222	co	99	33	158	44	21.2132	x
223	after	244	81	218	61	21.29421	
224	since	107	35	170	47	21.48805	
225	following	170	56	152	42	21.65913	

Rank	Lockword	LCF Freq.	LCF Norm.	PCF Freq.	PCF Norm.	CV	Legal
226	used	122	40	107	30	21.75713	x
227	they	415	137	660	184	21.75713	
228	verified	62	20	97	27	21.93165	x
229	v	890	294	1424	396	22.64951	x
230	above	178	59	289	80	22.86719	
231	re	100	33	163	45	22.87698	x
232	consumer	57	19	52	14	22.98097	x
233	issued	59	19	93	26	23.02208	x
234	statements	127	42	111	31	23.02208	x
235	possession	132	44	214	60	23.0892	x
236	demand	242	80	211	59	23.10667	x
237	from	998	330	873	243	23.27187	
238	liable	40	13	66	18	23.36527	x
239	between	125	41	108	30	23.40272	
240	this	1797	593	2935	817	23.57023	
241	all	857	283	1402	390	23.60072	
242	make	192	63	166	46	23.99364	x
243	violation	225	74	195	54	24.38299	x
244	contrary	78	26	130	36	24.46244	
245	point	39	13	65	18	24.47677	x
246	quo	38	13	65	18	24.49819	
247	david	67	22	56	16	24.63469	
248	per	85	28	139	39	24.65143	x
249	allow	66	22	56	16	24.87761	x
250	right	229	76	381	106	24.95671	x
251	drive	53	18	48	13	24.98295	
252	filed	368	122	317	88	25.06201	x
253	these	356	118	306	85	25.16085	
254	disclose	45	15	74	21	25.25381	x
255	well	160	53	137	38	25.29488	x
256	honorable	74	24	124	34	25.42908	x
257	unlawful	51	17	87	24	25.71297	x
258	years	106	35	90	25	25.82477	x
259	pay	191	63	161	45	25.87282	x
260	he	507	167	429	119	25.92725	x
261	accordance	51	17	85	24	25.94887	
262	jury	73	24	62	17	25.97535	x
263	judgment	358	118	603	168	26.0513	x
264	n	341	113	579	161	26.08743	
265	violated	62	20	52	14	26.13949	
266	more	186	61	153	43	26.15326	
267	supreme	118	39	202	56	26.36669	x
268	or	2373	784	4063	1130	26.36669	

Rank	Lockword	LCF Freq.	LCF Norm.	PCF Freq.	PCF Norm.	CV	Legal
269	failure	157	52	270	75	26.44464	x
270	times	61	20	50	14	26.45702	x
271	intent	90	30	76	21	26.48129	x
272	lacks	71	23	58	16	26.60402	
273	most	71	23	58	16	26.62745	
274	them	128	42	221	61	27.02719	
275	form	122	40	208	58	27.19641	x
276	insurance	40	13	70	19	27.19641	x
277	owner	202	67	347	97	27.33354	x
278	then	138	46	115	32	27.37188	
279	defendant	1244	411	1026	285	27.41843	x
280	concerning	80	26	63	18	27.42933	

Appendix 4.1:

Legitimate Courtroom Filing Legal English Prototype

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS
COUNTY DEPARTMENT, CHANCERY DIVISION

RITA LINTZERIS; STEVEN MORAITIS;
WILLIAM MORAITIS; ZARON JOSSELL;
CLARENCE DANIELS,

Plaintiffs,

v.

CITY OF CHICAGO, an Illinois Municipal
Corporation,

Defendant.

Case No. 2017-CH-11365

Hon. Kathleen M. Pantle

DEFENDANT'S RULE 201(c)(1) MOTION TO STAY DISCOVERY

Defendant City of Chicago ("City"), by its attorney, Edward N. Siskel, Corporation Counsel for the City of Chicago, hereby moves this Court pursuant to Illinois Supreme Court Rule 201(c)(1) to stay discovery pending resolution of Defendant's Section 2-619.1 Motion to Dismiss Plaintiffs' Class Action Complaint. In support of its Motion, the City states as follows:

1. In this putative class action lawsuit, Plaintiffs allege that the Municipal Code of Chicago § 2-14-132 ("Impoundment Ordinance"), which allows for the imposition of administrative penalties on owners of impounded vehicles, was preempted by the enactment of Section 11-208.7 of the Illinois Vehicle Code. Compl. ¶¶ 1-3. Plaintiffs allege that as a result, the City has been unlawfully collecting impoundment penalties from Section 11-208.7's January 1, 2012 enactment date through the filing date of their Complaint. Plaintiffs further allege that the impoundment notice received by Plaintiff Daniels did not comply with the notice provisions of Section 11-208.7, and that as a result, default judgments entered against him and other putative class members are null and void. *Id.* ¶¶ 29, 32-34.

2. Plaintiffs purport to bring this claim on behalf of a class. In addition to declaratory and injunctive relief, Plaintiffs assert an unjust enrichment claim and seek return of

all administrative penalties paid to the City since 2012, as well as a refund of all proceeds the City has obtained from the sale of impounded vehicles. *Id.* ¶¶ 4, 155-57.

3. On January 19, 2018, the City was served with Plaintiffs' request to produce documents ("RFPs"). See Plaintiffs' First Set of Requests For Production Of Documents, attached hereto as Exhibit A. Plaintiffs request that the City produce three broad categories of documents concerning the Statewide Relocation Towing Licensure Commission ("Commission"), which is not directly related to any of Plaintiffs' claims and is potentially relevant to a small portion of the Complaint. Plaintiffs seek documents responsive to the RFPs from all Commission committee members, including the Mayor of Chicago and/or his designees (see Exhibit A at 5), as well as Commission documents sent or received by the Governor and all members of the Illinois General Assembly (see RFP 3, Exhibit A). Under Supreme Court Rule 214, the City's response is due February 16, 2018.

4. The City asks that discovery be stayed because the City filed a Section 2-619.1 Motion to Dismiss the Complaint in its entirety on January 8, 2018. The Motion to Dismiss asks the Court to enter judgment for the City because, even taking the allegations in the Complaint as true, Plaintiffs' claims fail as a matter of law.

5. Furthermore, at the January 26, 2018 court hearing between the parties, Plaintiffs' counsel indicated that she may request leave to file an Amended Complaint. In a phone call with Plaintiffs' counsel on February 13, 2018, Mr. Morrissey confirmed that he will be seeking leave on behalf of Plaintiffs to file an Amended Complaint on February 21, 2018, the parties' next court date.

6. Under Rule 201(c)(1), the Court may "make a protective order as justice requires, denying, limiting, conditioning, or regulating discovery to prevent unreasonable annoyance,

expense, embarrassment, disadvantage, or oppression.” Ill. S. Ct. R. 201(c)(1).

7. When it is clear from the pleadings that a case presents “a question of law and not of fact,” there is no purpose to discovery because it cannot lead to any “ultimately admissible facts.” *Dept. of Revenue v. Prestige Cas. Co.*, 68 Ill. App. 3d 988, 995 (1st Dist. 1979), *rev’d on other grounds*, *People ex. rel. Skinner v. Hellmuth, Obata & Kassabaum, Inc.*, 114 Ill. 2d 252, 264 (1986). Staying discovery pending resolution of a motion to dismiss is appropriate. *See, e.g., DOD Techs. v. Mesirow Ins. Servs., Inc.*, 381 Ill. App. 3d 1042, 1055 (1st Dist. 2008)(noting “the trial court’s discretion to stay discovery while a motion to dismiss is pending”); *Evitts v. DaimlerChrysler Motors Corp.*, 359 Ill. App. 3d 504, 514 (1st Dist. 2005) (“Discovery is not necessary where a cause of action has not been stated.”).

8. The central claim underlying all four counts of Plaintiffs’ Complaint is that the Impoundment Ordinance, which authorizes the assessment of penalties on owners of vehicles impounded for various violations of the Municipal Code of Chicago, allegedly exceeds the City’s home rule authority and is preempted by Section 11-208.7. As explained further in Defendant’s Motion to Dismiss, Plaintiffs’ theory is faulty for two reasons. First, it wrongly assumes that the Impoundment Ordinance is in conflict with state law; it is not. The Impoundment Ordinance imposes penalties for various underlying offenses resulting in impoundment, whereas Section 11-208.7 merely authorizes municipalities to assess reasonable administrative fees. Second, the City has home rule powers granted by the Illinois Constitution, and these powers were not limited by the enactment of Section 11-208.7, which does not apply to home rule units. Plaintiffs’ claims fail for the additional reason that none of the named Plaintiffs sought administrative review of the administrative decisions imposing penalties as required under the Illinois Administrative Review Law, 735 ILCS 5/3-103. Therefore, this Court lacks jurisdiction

over Plaintiffs' claims, and discovery will not aid or affect this Court's ruling on dismissal of the claims.

9. Considerations of fairness and efficiency also support a stay of discovery. The City and taxpayers will incur inconvenience and expense if discovery proceeds even though Plaintiffs' claims can be resolved as a matter of law, and the Court may be required to devote resources to resolving discovery disputes which will be moot if the Court grants the City's Motion to Dismiss. *See Bilal v. Wolf*, No. 06-C-6978, 2007 WL 1687253, at *1-2 (N.D. Ill. June 6, 2007) ("Stays of discovery are ... appropriate where the motion ... can resolve the case. [T]he often excessive and time-consuming burdens discovery imposes on the resources and energies of litigants ... ought to be postponed until the threshold question ... is resolved."). Additionally, inconvenience and expense to the City and taxpayers will only be increased if the City is required to respond to discovery contemporaneously with Plaintiffs seeking leave to file an Amended Complaint.

10. On February 13, 2018, counsel for the City requested that Plaintiffs' counsel either withdraw their Requests for Production or agree to postpone the deadline for a response, given that Plaintiffs' counsel intends to seek leave to file an Amended Complaint and that the City has moved to dismiss. Plaintiff's counsel did not agree to that request. While Plaintiff's counsel indicated it could limit the requests, the City does not believe it is appropriate to enter into the discovery phase at this time.

WHEREFORE, the City respectfully requests that this Court exercise its authority pursuant to Supreme Court Rule 201(c)(1) to stay discovery pending resolution of the Defendant's Section 2-619.1 Motion to Dismiss.

Date: February 16, 2018

Respectfully submitted,

EDWARD N. SISKEL
Corporation Counsel of the City of Chicago

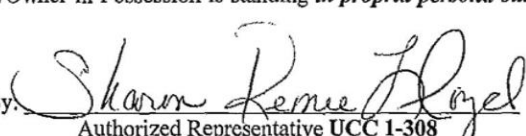
By: 

JENNIFER ZLOTOW
CHRISTIE STARZEC
City of Chicago, Department of Law (Attorney No. 90909)
30 North LaSalle Street, Suite 1230
Chicago, Illinois 60602
(312) 744-9018 / (312) 744-7864
Christie.Starzec@cityofchicago.org

Attorneys for Defendant

Appendix 4.2:

Pseudolegal Courtroom Filing Legal English Prototype

		FILED-1	
		SEP 29 PM 12:36	
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY ILLINOIS, CHANCERY DIVISION		CLERK DOROTHY BROWN	
WELLS FARGO Plaintiff		Case No. 2013-CH-25951	
v.			
BENITEZ MADELEINE, et al		Judge Presiding	
Defendant			
<u>SPECIAL APPEARANCE</u>			
COME NOW, Sharon Renee [Lloyd], the True Heir/Owner in Possession for the land in question being described as 4856 South Winchester in Chicago Illinois Republic. Sharon Renee [Lloyd] is filing in this case in order to destroy the contract on the real property. Sharon Renee [Lloyd]/Heir/Owner in Possession is standing <i>in propria persona suri juris</i> and has standing in this matter.			
Autograph By:			
		Authorized Representative UCC 1-308	
Sharon Renee [Lloyd] 4856 South Winchester Non-Domestic Chicago, Illinois Republic [60609] Real Land North America (312) 852-1764			

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2017-CH-09057
PAGE 2 of 15

Case No. 17 CH 9057

filed a claim for declaratory judgment and that seeks relief beyond that provided under Section 2 of the Arbitration Act, their argument that Defendant cannot pursue a counterclaim outside the scope of Section 2 of the Act is belied by the scope of their own Complaint.

Plaintiffs cite to *Asset Acceptance* in opposition to Defendants' Motion for Leave, but this case is inapposite and distinguishable. *Asset Acceptance* involved a single-count action to confirm an arbitration award pursuant to Section 10 of the Arbitration Act. *Asset Acceptance, LLC v. Tyler*, 2012 IL App (1st) 093559, ¶ 25. Based on authority pertaining strictly to actions to confirm an arbitration award, the court dismissed the defendant's counterclaims because they were "beyond the scope of the defenses enumerated in the Act" for confirmation proceedings (710 ILCS 5/11 [confirmation of award], 5/12 [vacating award], 5/13 [modification or correction of award]) and "would change the nature of the confirmation proceedings and would defeat the purpose of the Act." *Id.*

First, *Asset Acceptance* and the supporting authority does not apply because it pertains only to the procedure for confirming an award, which expressly limits a responding party to proceeding under Sections 12 and 13 to challenge an award within a specified limitation period. Here, Plaintiffs have invoked Section 2 of the Act which contains no such language that expressly limits a responding party.

Second, the court in *Asset Acceptance* dismissed the counterclaims because of the "limited nature of the arbitration-based proceedings before the circuit court." *Id.*, ¶ 27. In the present case, these are not proceedings similarly limited to the scope of the Arbitration Act because Plaintiffs have also made this an action for declaratory judgment and have sought relief beyond what is permitted under Section 2 of the Act. Plaintiffs' action is more than a proceeding to stay arbitration: it is an action for a declaratory judgment and for a monetary award under a

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2017-CH-09057
PAGE 3 of 15

fee provision. This constitutes an equitable and legal cause of action independent of an order staying arbitration proceedings pursuant to a statute. Because Plaintiffs have themselves expanded this case beyond the limited type of action and relief offered under Section 2 of the Arbitration Act, they cannot now invoke the limited nature of arbitration-based proceedings to deflect Defendants' claims. There is no requirement that a defendant's counterclaim be of the same nature or character as the original matter pled in the complaint. *Rozema v. Quinn*, 51 Ill. App. 2d 479, 483 (1st Dist. 1964).

Plaintiffs also argue that Defendants' request for leave must be denied because no responsive pleading has been filed and because the parties moved forward with a summary proceeding on their Emergency Motion to Stay Arbitration pursuant to Section 2 of the Arbitration Act. But this would deprive Defendants of the right to respond to the allegations pled against them in Plaintiffs' Complaint, notwithstanding the adjudication of Plaintiffs' Motion under Section 2 of the Arbitration Act. The option of filing an answer in a civil cause is a matter of right. *Trusler v. Sears, Roebuck & Co.*, 125 Ill. App. 3d 325, 328 (4th Dist. 1981); *see also Gorin v. McFarland*, 80 Ill. App. 2d 398, 407-08. This Court has before it a Complaint and it cannot enter a judgment without affording Defendants the opportunity to seek leave to file a responsive pleading, including their counterclaim. *See Id.* Defendants have not yet had such an opportunity.

This situation is similar to *Crawford County Oil* where the defendant inadvertently failed to file an answer at the outset of litigation. *Crawford County Oil, LLC v. Weger*, 2014 IL App (5th) 130382. Shortly after the complaint was filed, the defendant filed a motion for summary judgment that was denied. *Id.* at ¶ 4. The court entered an order disposing of the motion for summary judgment, but never specifically entered an order directing that an answer be filed by

ELECTRONICALLY FILED
4/27/2018 3:15 PM
2017-CH-09057
PAGE 5 of 15

any particular date. *Id.* at ¶ 5. The case proceeded to trial, where Plaintiff requested that the allegations in the complaint be deemed admitted and the Defendant sought leave to file a responsive pleading. *Id.*

In granting Defendant leave to answer, the court highlighted the legislature's intent that the Illinois Code of Civil Procedure "be liberally construed, to the end that controversies may be speedily and finally determined according to the substantive rights of parties." *Id.* at ¶ 14; *citing* 735 ILCS 5/1-106. The reviewing court found that court's decision to grant defendant leave to file an answer was consistent with the liberal discretion afforded to the court with respect to permitting the filing and amendment of pleadings. *Id.* at ¶ 18; *citing* Ill. Sup. Ct. R. 183 (holding further that under section 2-610 the allegations of a complaint are not admitted due to failure to file answer).

Here, Defendants have not filed an Answer, but this is because the Emergency Motion filed by Plaintiffs under the Arbitration Act put the case on an abnormal timeline different than what is typical under the Rules of Civil Procedure. After Plaintiffs file their Complaint on June 29, 2018, they quickly filed an Emergency Motion to Stay Arbitration on July 5, 2018. The parties appeared before this Court on July 10, 2017, and the Court entered an order setting a briefing schedule and hearing solely on Plaintiffs' Emergency Motion. (**Ex. A**, Court's Order dated July 10, 2017). In that Order, the Court did not address Plaintiffs' Complaint or set a time for Defendants to answer or otherwise plead.

This Court then entered a ruling on Plaintiffs' Motion to Stay Arbitration on November 20, 2017. Again, the ruling encompassed only Plaintiffs' Motion, and did not make reference to the pleadings. (**Ex. B**, Court's Order dated November 20, 2017). It was not a judgment disposing of this entire litigation, as it did not address all the matters pled and relief sought in by

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2017-CH-09057
PAGE 6 of 15

Plaintiff in its Complaint. Thus the litigation now stands at a point where Plaintiffs' remaining claims must be addressed and determined according to the substantive rights of parties.

Moreover, this is the first time the lack of a responsive pleading has been brought to the court's attention, and the Court is permitted discretion to allow the filing of late pleadings under Illinois Supreme Court Rule 181. *See Crawford*, 2014 IL App (5th) 130382, ¶ 18. In short, Defendants must be given the opportunity to plead in this case, as Plaintiffs have been afforded, including the opportunity to plead their counterclaim, as is warranted under the Rules of Civil Procedure. Because Plaintiffs, by their Complaint, have rendered this an action beyond the scope of Section 2 of the Arbitration Act, and because Section 2 of the Act does not restrain Defendants from filing their Counterclaim, Defendants' Motion for Leave should be granted.

WHEREFORE, Defendants, Frank Mugnolo and Round Three Production, LLC, by their attorneys, moves this court for entry of an order granting them leave to file their Answer and Counterclaim against Plaintiffs, Leon R. Margules and Warriors Boxing and Promotions, LLC, and for any other and further relief that the Court deems just in the premises.

Marty J. Schwartz
Schain, Banks Kenny & Schwartz, Ltd.
70 W. Madison Street, Suite 5300
Chicago, Illinois 60602
(312) 345-5700
mschwartz@schainbanks.com
Attorney Number 50839


Frank Mugnolo and Round Three Production,
LLC

By: 
One of their Attorneys

Appendix 5.2:

Pseudolegal Courtroom Filing Image and Textual Emphasis Prototype

**: FOR THE FEDERAL-POSTAL-COURT-FILING
BY THIS FEDERAL-POSTAL-REGISTERED-NUMBER:
~RE324739412US
DATE~24~APRIL~2017
TIME~9~o'clock and: ~ minutes: 41M
:J. D. Sgarlata, Clerk-Of-The-Court :David Wynn Miller.**

 : BONDED: C.-S.-S.-C.-P.-S.-G.-P.-DOCUMENT-CONTRACT-FEDERAL-POSTAL-STATION-COURT-VENUE-FLAG.

In the **DOCUMENT-CONTRACT-FEDERAL-POSTAL-STATION-COURT-VENUE-PERFORMANCE** of this **C.-S.-S.-C.-P.-S.-G.-P.-DOCUMENT-CONTRACT-QUO-WARRANTO-COMPLAINT,** **C.-S.-S.-C.-P.-S.-G.-P.-LIS-PENDENS-DOCUMENT-CLAIM &: C.-S.-S.-C.-P.-S.-G.-P.-WRIT** of the **DOCUMENT-CONTRACT-FAULT-CLAIM** ARE with the **C.-S.-S.-C.-P.-S.-G.-P.-FEDERAL-POSTAL-REGISTRATION-DOCKET-CORPORATION-CASE-NUMBER~RE324739412US.**

: VaShan: Kyles,~NOW-TIME-MAIL:~680-WENTWORTH-AVENUE,~UNIT~94,~CALUMET-CITY-ILLINOIS~60409. (LOST-LAND & BUILDINGS~24~EAST~164th~STREET,~CALUMET-CITY,~ILLINOIS~60409.)

: David-Wynn: Miller, : FEDERAL-POSTAL-JUDGE, For this FEDERAL-POSTAL-JUDGE'S-KNOWLEDGE of the QUALIFICATIONS &: CERTIFICATIONS ARE with these C.-S.-S.-C.-P.-S.-G.-P.-CORRECTIONS of the FRAUD-PARSE-SYNTAX-GRAMMAR-PERFORMANCE. :CLAIMANTS:

:CONTEST~VS.: TAYLOR, BEAN & WHITAKER MORTGAGE CORPORATION~1417~NORTH MAGNOLIA-AVENUE, OCALA,~FLORIDA~34475, = CLOSED by the FBI=BANKRUPTCY. [Now-time]= RESIDENTIAL CREDIT SOLUTIONS are owned by the DITECH FINANCIAL L.L.C., &: FEDERAL HOME LOAN MORTGAGE CORPORATION.

:VASSALEES:
For the **WORD-TERMS** of this **C.-S.-S.-C.-P.-S.-G.-P.-NOW-TIME-D.-C.-F.-P.-S.-C.-V.-P.** ARE WITH THIS CLAIM BY THIS VESSEL-PAPER-DOCUMENT:
:D.-C.-F.-P.-S.-C.-V.-P.: DOCUMENT-CONTRACT-FEDERAL-POSTAL-STATION-COURT-VENUE-PERFORMANCE.
:VASSALEE-(WORD-MEANING) VASSAL=SERVANT of this DOCUMENT, **EE=EMPLOYEE** of this DOCUMENT.
: C.-S.-S.-C.-P.-S.-G.-P. =: CORRECT-SENTENCE-STRUCTURE-COMMUNICATION-PARSE-SYNTAX-GRAMMAR-PERFORMANCE.
: D.-C.-C. =: DOCUMENT-CONTRACT-CLAIM.
: D.-C.-C.-S. =: DOCUMENT-CONTRACT-CLAIMS-SECTION. For this **PARSE-SYNTAX-GRAMMAR-COMMUNICATION-WORD-CORRECTION-PERFORMANCES ARE** with the **CORRECTION-CLAIM** of the **FRAUDULENT-FEDERAL-TITLES-USE** of the **FRAUDULENT-PARSE-SYNTAX-GRAMMAR &: FEDERAL-CODES-USE** by the **C.-S.-S.-C.-P.-S.-G.-P.-NOW-TIME-D.-C.-F.-P.-S.-C.-V.-P.**
: DOCUMENT-VESSEL = For the **D.-C.-F.-P.-S.-C.-V.-P.-CLERK-DOCKETING** of the **D.-C.-F.-P.-S.-C.-V.-P.-PAPERS ARE** with the **CORPORATION-CLAIM** BETWEEN the **TWO-OR-MORE-PERSONS** with the **D.-C.-F.-P.-S.-C.-V.-P.-PORTING-STAMP** by the **D.-C.-F.-P.-S.-C.-V.-P.-CLERK.**
: DOCUMENT-VESSEL, DOCUMENT-VENUE, AND DOCUMENT-COURT: = For the **CORPORATION** of the **TWO-or-MORE-PERSONS ARE** with the **PORTING-CLAIM** with the **D.-C.-F.-P.-S.-C.-V.-P.-PORT-CLERK** by this **DOCUMENT-CONTRACT-PARSE-SYNTAX-GRAMMAR.**
: CONIUNCTION: &: and: = ALSO, COMMAND, or: = OPTION, EITHER.
: FRAUDULENT =: FICTION, MODIFICATION, PERJURY, GUESSING, OPINION, PRESUMPTION, ASSUMPTION, ILLUSION, FRAUD, MISLEADING.
: LODIAL = [ARTICLE] For the SPECIFIC = a, an, the, then, these, this, thru.
: POSITION = For, of, with, by, in, on, within, against, For the **POSITIONAL-LODIAL-FACT-PHASE** of the **CORRECT-SYNTAX-GRAMMAR-PHASE ARE** with the **COMMUNICATION-CLAIM** of the **FACTS.**
: VASSALEE = For the **VASSAL=SERVANT; EE=EMPLOYEE** of this **COMPLAINT-DOCUMENT.**
: VOLITION = PERSON'S-KNOWLEDGE of the **FACTS ARE** with the **PERFORMANCE-THINKING-CLAIM** by the **C.-S.-S.-C.-P.-S.-G.-P.**
: PARSE-SYNTAX-GRAMMAR: For the **WORD-MEANINGS** of the **WORD-PLACEMENT ARE within** the **C.-S.-S.-C.-P.-S.-G.-P.** by the **CORRECT-WORD-MEANINGS THROUGH the QUANTUM-MATH-PARSE-SYNTAX-GRAMMAR-TECHNOLOGIES FRONTWARDS &: BACKWARDS.**
:REAL = RE=NO, AL=CONTRACT, "PARSE-TRANSLATION", For an **English-Parse-Syntax-Grammar** since the **English-language-started ARE** with the **fraudulent-modification by an adverb-verb, adverb-adjective-pronoun, pronoun-adverb-adjective-pronoun, &: pronoun-adverb-verb-syntax-fiction.**
: VERB-SYNTAX: IS=SINGULAR-SYNTAX-TENSE, ARE=PLURAL-SYNTAX-TENSE, THINKING-PERFORMANCE.

For the **COPYCLAIM/COPYRIGHT~24~APRIL~2017** by the **David-Wynn: Miller, FEDERAL-POSTAL-JUDGE, POST-MASTER,** of this **DOCUMENT-CONTRACT-FEDERAL-POSTAL-STATION-COURT-VENUE-PERFORMANCE &: CORPORATION-CASE-REGISTERED-MAIL-NUMBER~RE324739412US.** ~1

!David-Wynn: Miller

the JOINING-VENUE of the FEDERAL-POSTAL-SEA-TREATY, FEDERAL-POSTAL-SEE-PASS, DRUGUE-LAW-POSTING-LOCATION(WWW.DWMLC.COM) of the 'UNITED-STATES-POSTAL-SERVICE-POSTING', UNITED-STATE-BANKING-TREATY-POSTING, 'JUSTICE-DEPARTMENT-POSTING' & 'SUPREME-COURT-CONTRACT-POSTING' with an UNITED STATES of an AMERICA-CORPORATION-DATE~2~FEBRUARY~2000,"THRU-NOW-TIME-TREATY-PERFORMANCE.

~B For the TITLE~28: D.-C.-C.-S.-~1331, of the D.-C.-F.-P.-S.-C.-V.-P.-CLERK'S-DUTIES ARE with the C.-S.-S.-C.-P.-S.-G.-P.-DOCKING-PAPER-VESSEL-VENUE-TITLE-NAME: D.-C.-F.-P.-S.-C.-V.-P., of the NOW-TIME-C.-S.-S.-C.-P.-S.-G.-P.-QUO-WARRANTO-COMPLAINT-CLAIM with the FEDERAL-POSTAL-REGISTERED-MAIL-CORPORATION-CASE~RE324739412US. [C.-S.-S.-C.-P.-S.-G.-P. of the D.-C.-F.-P.-S.-C.-V.-P.-RULE~17: "RADIFICATION of the COMMENDMENT"-1999].

~C For the C.-S.-S.-C.-P.-S.-G.-P.-AUTHORITY: TITLE~28: D.-C.-C.-S.-~1361, of the D.-C.-F.-P.-S.-C.-V.-P.-FEDERAL-POSTAL-SEAL ARE with the TWENTY-ONE-DAY-CORRESPONDENCE-BACK & THREE-DAY-RESCISSION: TITLE~15: D.-C.-C.-S.-~1635~a, with the FEDERAL-POSTAL-JUDGE: David-Wynn: Miller of the FEDERAL-POSTAL-COURT-VENUE-LOCATION with the VaShan: Kyles~24~EAST~164th-STREET,~CALUMET-CITY,~ILLINOIS~60409 by the CORRESPONDENCE-PERFORMANCE-FACTS.

~D For these CONTRACT-DOCUMENT-TERMS of the D.-C.-F.-P.-S.-C.-V.-P.-RULES ARE within these C.-S.-S.-C.-P.-S.-G.-P.-NOW-TIME-TERMS of the D.-C.-F.-P.-S.-C.-V.-P.-QUO-WARRANTO-COMPLAINT, C.-S.-S.-C.-P.-S.-G.-P.-LIS-PENDENS, & C.-S.-S.-C.-P.-S.-G.-P.-WRIT of the DOCUMENT-CONTACT-FAULT-CLAIM-RULE~55, with the TITLE~46: D.-C.-C.-S.-~ONE-CLOSURE-EQUALITY-DOCUMENT-CLAIMS:

:DOCUMENT-CLAIM~1, For the C.-S.-S.-C.-P.-S.-G.-P.-COMMUNICATION-FACTS of the CONTEST ARE with the FACT-AS-FACT-CLAIMS of the C.-S.-S.-C.-P.-S.-G.-P. with the D.-C.-F.-P.-S.-C.-V.-P.-CONTRACT-AUTHORITY-CORRESPONDENCE.

:DOCUMENT-CLAIM~2, For the JUDGE'S-WRITTEN-CONTRACT of the FACTS ARE with the C.-S.-S.-C.-P.-S.-G.-P.-CLAIMS of the NOW-TIME-CONTINUANCE with the CORRECT-EVIDENCE-CLOSURE-CORRECTIONS of the WRONG-WORD-MEANING-EVIDENCE with the SENTENCE-STRUCTURE-VIOLATIONS-CLAIMS of the TITLE~18: D.-C.-C.-S.-~1001: FRAUDULENT-PARSE-SYNTAX-GRAMMAR-COMMUNICATION & TITLE~15: D.-C.-C.-S.-~1692~E, with the FRAUD-SYNTAX-GRAMMAR-WRITINGS & misLEADING-STATEMENTS with the PENALTY-FINES: TITLE~15: D.-C.-C.-S.-~78~ff, by the WRONGDOER: VASSALEES.

:DOCUMENT-CLAIM~3, For the PERSONS'-C.-S.-S.-C.-P.-S.-G.-P.-KNOWLEDGE of the CORRECT-FACTS ARE with the FAIRNESS-EQUALITY-CLAIMS of the SPEECH, WRITINGS, FAITHS, PRESS, DOCUMENT-PORTING with the C.-S.-S.-C.-P.-S.-G.-P.-CONTRACT-GRIEVANCES by the D.-C.-F.-P.-S.-C.-V.-P.

:DOCUMENT-CLAIM~4, For the CORPORATION-CASE of the D.-C.-F.-P.-S.-C.-V.-P. ARE with the C.-S.-S.-C.-P.-S.-G.-P.-CLAIMS by the PERSON'S-FAIRNESS-EQUALITY-VOLITION.

:DOCUMENT-CLAIM~5, For the PERSON'S-KNOWLEDGE OF THE DOCKETING & FILING ARE WITH THIS D.-C.-F.-P.-S.-C.-V.-P.-CLERK-CLAIM of the QUO-WARRANTO-COMPLAINT with the FOURTY-FIVE-DAY-TRUST-LAW'S-WRIT of the DOCUMENT-CONTACT-FAULT-CLAIM with the TWENTY-ONE-DAY-CORRESPONDENCE-BACK to the D.-C.-F.-P.-S.-C.-V.-P.-CLERK'S-DOCK with the C.-S.-S.-C.-P.-S.-G.-P.-CORRESPONDENCE of the VASSALEES with the THREE-DAY-GRACE-RECISSION-TIME-LIMIT-PERIOD & TWENTY-ONE-DAY-CORRESPONDENCE-BACK with the C.-S.-S.-C.-P.-S.-G.-P.-JUDGE'S-OATH-CORRESPONDENCE.

:DOCUMENT-CLAIM~6, For the CLAIM of the C.-S.-S.-C.-P.-S.-G.-P.-CAPTURE-WARRANT or: C.-S.-S.-C.-P.-S.-G.-P.-SEARCH-WARRANT ARE with the JUDGE'S-AUTOGRAPHED-C.-S.-S.-C.-P.-S.-G.-P.-OATH by the C.-S.-S.-C.-P.-S.-G.-P.-AUTHORITY-DUTY.

:DOCUMENT-CLAIM~7, For the WITNESSING-PERSON of the WITNESS'S-TESTIMONY ARE with the PERSON'S-C.-S.-S.-C.-P.-S.-G.-P.-KNOWLEDGE-CLAIM by the PERSONAL-SELF-CLAIMS.

:DOCUMENT-CLAIM~8, For the CLAIMANTS'-KNOWLEDGE of the C.-S.-S.-C.-P.-S.-G.-P.-FACTS ARE with the CLAIMANTS'-CLAIM of the CORRECT-NOW-TIME-EVIDENCE-FACTS.

:DOCUMENT-CLAIM~9, For the C.-S.-S.-C.-P.-S.-G.-P.-TWELVE-PERSON-KNOWLEDGE by the C.-S.-S.-C.-P.-S.-G.-P.-CLAIMS ARE with the C.-S.-S.-C.-P.-S.-G.-P.-TRIAL by the SAME-LEVEL-PLANE-D.-C.-F.-P.-S.-C.-V.-P.

:DOCUMENT-CLAIM~10, For the TERMS of the CONVICTION-PERSON'S-PUNISHMENT ARE with the C.-S.-S.-C.-P.-S.-G.-P.-CLAIMS of the BAIL-CONDITIONAL-TERMS, FINANCIAL-TERM-FINES or: JAILING-TERMS with the D.-C.-F.-P.-S.-C.-V.-P.

:DOCUMENT-CLAIM~11, For the D.-C.-F.-P.-S.-C.-V.-P.-FIDUCIARIES of the DOCUMENT-CONTACT-FACTS ARE with the DUTY-CLAIM or: ELECTION-CLAIM by the C.-S.-S.-C.-P.-S.-G.-P.-OATH of the D.-C.-F.-P.-S.-C.-V.-P.

For the COPYCLAIM/COPYRIGHT~24~APRIL~2017 by the David-Wynn: Miller, FEDERAL-POSTAL-JUDGE, POST-MASTER, of this DOCUMENT-CONTRACT-FEDERAL-POSTAL-STATION-COURT-VENUE-PERFORMANCE & CORPORATION-CASE-REGISTERED-MAIL-NUMBER~RE324739412US. -2

DOCUMENT-CLAIM-~12, For this VESSEL-DOCUMENT-WRITTEN-PERFORMANCE of the CONTRACT-HEREIN ARE with the VOLITION-CLOSURE-CLAIM-PERFORMANCE of this DOCUMENT-CONSTITUTION, &: CONTRACT-CORPORATION-TRUST.

~0 For the C.-S.-S.-C.-P.-S.-G.-P.-CAUSES by the QUO-WARRANTO-COMPLAINT-DOCUMENT-CONTRACT:

~1 For the CLAIMANTS'-KNOWLEDGE of the VASSALEES'-EVIDENCE ARE with the VOID-HISTORY-DOCUMENTATION of the C.-S.-S.-C.-P.-S.-G.-P.-LAND-TITLE &: BUILDING-TITLE-CLAIM of the STOPPING-FRAUDULENT-PARSE-SYNTAX-GRAMMAR-COMMUNICATION-DOCUMENT-EVIDENCE with the FOUR-TIMES-CASH-DAMAGES of the CLAYTON-ACT-(1914): TITLE-~15: D.-C.-C.-S.-~1639-~a, with the D.-C.-F.-P.-S.-C.-V.-P.-AUTHORITY by this QUO-WARRANTO-COMPLAINT-CONTRACT.

~2 For the PARSE-SYNTAX-GRAMMAR-COMMUNICATION-ONE-THOUGHT-SENTENCE &: ONE-AUTHORITY-VENUE of the ONE-NOW-TIME ARE with the COMMAND-CLAIMS by the D.-C.-F.-P.-S.-C.-V.-P.-JUDGE'S-AUTHORITY-PERFORMANCE.

~3 For the CLAIMANTS'-KNOWLEDGE of the C.-S.-S.-C.-P.-S.-G.-P.-CLOSURE-PORTING: D.-C.-C.-~26-~e, of the D.-C.-C.-~60-~b: CLOSURE-EVIDENCE ARE with an AUTHORITY-CLAIM: TITLE-~42: D.-C.-C.-S.-~1986, with the C.-S.-S.-C.-P.-S.-G.-P.-KNOWLEDGE of the FRAUDULENT-PARSE-SYNTAX-GRAMMAR-DAMAGE with the VASSALEES'-EVIDENCE-DOCUMENTS.

~4 For the VaShan: Kyles's-KNOWLEDGE of the FACTS ARE with the LABOR-WAGES-LOSS-CLAIM of the GUARDIAN-CARETAKER-TRUSTEE-CASH-WAGES-DUE: \$841,000.00, with the BUILDING &: LAND-LOCATION-~24-~EAST-~164th-STREET, ~CALUMET-CITY, ~ILLINOIS-~60409 with the START-TIME-DATE-~28-~SEPTEMBER-~2007, with the NOW-TIME-GUARDIAN-TRUSTEE-CARETAKER-UPKEEP & with the PAYMENT-NOW-DUE-TRUSTEE-EMPLOYEES'-CASH-WAGES of the TWENTY-FOUR-HOURS-PER-DAY-EVERYDAY-TRUSTEE-GUARDIAN-CARETAKER-DUTY with the ~ILLINOIS-TERRITORY-LABOR-WAGE-RATE by the CLAIMANT: VaShan: Kyles.

~5 For the CLAIMANTS'-C.-S.-S.-C.-P.-S.-G.-P.-DOCUMENTS of the NOW-TIME-FACTS ARE with the POSITIONAL-LODIAL-FACT-PHRASES, &: ONE-VERB: IS=SINGLAR, &: ARE=PLURAL, by the SINGLE-STYLES-THINKING-PERFORMANCE.

~6 For the FEDERAL-POSTAL-JUDGE: David-Wynn: Miller's-KNOWLEDGE of the C.-S.-S.-C.-P.-S.-G.-P.-EVIDENCE-FACTS ARE with the CORRECT-VOLITION-CLAIMS of the SUMMARY-CORRECTION-AUTHORITY: TITLE-~42: D.-C.-C.-S.-~1986, with the KNOWLEDGE of the STOPPING-WRONG-PARSE-SYNTAX-GRAMMAR by the BONDED-VASSALEE'S-WRITTEN-EVIDENCE.

~7 For the C.-S.-S.-C.-P.-S.-G.-P.-CLAIMANTS'-SALVAGE-CLAIM: TITLE-~46: D.-C.-C.-S.-~781, of the LAND &: BUILDING-LOCATION-~24-~EAST-~164th-STREET, ~CALUMET-CITY, ~ILLINOIS-~60409, ARE with the D.-C.-F.-P.-S.-C.-V.-P.-COMMUNICATION-CLOSURE-AUTHORITY-VENUE-CLAIM against the EVIDENCE-VOID-MORTGAGE.

~8 For the FEDERAL-POSTAL-JUDGE as the SAFEGUARD-OVERSIGHT ARE with the DAMAGE-CLAIM of the COMMUNICATION-DISABILITY-KNOWLEDGE &/or: HANDICAPPING-COMMUNICATION-FRAUDS by the VASSALEES.

~9 For the VOID-CLOSURE: TITLE-~46: MARITIME-CODES, FIRST-CAUSE: CLOSURE of the VASSALEE'S-WRONG-WORD-MEANING-VOLITION with the SENTENCE-STRUCTURES ARE with the VIOLATIONS-CLAIMS of the TITLE-~18: D.-C.-C.-S.-~1001: FRAUDULENT-SYNTAX-COMMUNICATION-GRAMMAR &: TITLE-~15: D.-C.-C.-S.-~1692-~E, with the FALSE-WRITINGS &: MISLEADING-STATEMENTS with the FRAUD-PENALTY-FINES: TITLE-~15: D.-C.-C.-S.-~78-~ff, (\$25-MILLION-DOLLARS) by the VASSALEES'-PERFORMANCE.

~10 For the VaShan: Kyles's-KNOWLEDGE of the GUARDIAN-CARETAKER'S-WORKING-CASH-WAGES with the MINIMUM-WAGE of the ~ILLINOIS-TERRITORY-RATES ARE with the '8700'-HOURS-PER-YEAR-CLAIM of the TIME-DATE-~28-~SEPTEMBER-~2007, thru the CURRENT-DATE of this DOCUMENT-FILE-STAMP-CLOSURE with the GUARDIAN-CARETAKER-DUTIES-PERFORMANCE by the VASSALEES'-MORTGAGE.

~11 For the WORDS of an ADVERB-SYNTAX-GRAMMAR-MODIFICATIONS ARE with the USE of the SINGLE-[PRE]POSITION or: SINGLE-LODIAL-[ARTICLE] with the VOID of the POSITIONAL-LODIAL-FACT-PHRASE with the SINGLE-WORD-MODIFIER: A, AS, AT, AM, BECAUSE, BEFORE, BEGIN, BUT, BY, CAN, COME, COULD, DO, DOES, DOWN, FROM, GET, GIVE, HAS, HAS, HAVE, HOW, HOWEVER, HE, HER, HIS, IN, IT, JUST, KEEP, KEPT, MUCH, NO, NOT, OF, OUT, OVER, OWN, PUT, RE, SO, SHE, SHOULD, SOME, SUCH, THAT, THAN, THE, THEY, THEIR, THEM, THEN, TO, THIS, THOSE, THROUGH, THRU, UP, UNDER, USE, WANT, WAS, WE, WENT, WHEN, WHAT, WHERE, WITH, WITHOUT, WITHIN, WHO, WHOM, WOULD, YAH, YES, YOU, YOUR, YOURSELF of the VERB-FICTION-FRAUDULENT-WORD-MEANING with the PREFIX = FUTURE-TIME = 'TO', 'PRE' &: SUFFIX = PAST-TIME: ED, &: FROM by the VOID-NOW-TIME.

~12 For the PARSE-SYNTAX-GRAMMAR-COMMUNICATION-WORD-OPERATIONS of the FRAUDULENT-SENTENCE-STRUCTURES ARE with the DOCUMENTED-BONDED-EVIDENCE-CLAIMS of the WRITTEN-PLEADINGS, NOTION, MOTION by the VASSALEES. PARSE: ORDER=: OR=NO, DER=CONTRACT; MOTION=: MO=NO, TI=TITLE, ON=: CONTRACT; NOTIONS: NO=NO, TI=TITLE, ONS=CONTRACTS.

For the COPYCLAIM/COPYRIGHT-~24-~APRIL-~2017 by the David-Wynn: Miller, FEDERAL-POSTAL-JUDGE, POST-MASTER, of this DOCUMENT-CONTRACT-FEDERAL-POSTAL-STATION-COURT-VENUE-PERFORMANCE &: CORPORATION-CASE-REGISTERED-MAIL-NUMBER-~RE324739412US. ~3

~13 For the C.-S.-S.-C.-P.-S.-G.-P.-WRIT of this POSSESSION ARE with the LAND &: BUILDING-SALVAGE-CLAIM: TITLE~46: D.-C.-C.-S.-~781, by this C.-S.-S.-C.-P.-S.-G.-P.-CLAIMANTS'-ORIGINAL-AUTHORITY-VENUE-COMMAND-CLAIM.

~14 For the VaShan: Kyles's of this CASH-DOCUMENT-VALUE ARE with the WRIT of the FAULT-DOCUMENT-CONTRACT-CLAIMS with the CORRECT-PARSE-SYNTAX-GRAMMAR-COMMUNICATIONS of the TITLE~42: D.-C.-C.-S.-~1986: KNOWLEDGE with the C.-S.-S.-C.-P.-S.-G.-P.-WRIT of the DOCUMENT-CONTRACT-FAULT-CLAIM-RULE~55, when the VASSALEES'-CORRESPONDENCE-DUTIES-FAILURE by the SYNTAX-WRONGS-STATED-HEREIN.

~15 For the CLAIMANTS'-KNOWLEDGE of the UNITED-STATES-CRIMINAL-FRAUDULENT-SYNTAX-GRAMMAR-TREASURY-MONEY-PAYOUT or: UNITED-STATES-FRAUDULENT-SYNTAX-GRAMMAR-TREASURY-MONEY-CONSPIRACY-COLLECTION ARE with the UNITED-STATES-TREASURYS'-DAMAGE-CLAIM of the WRONG-DOER-VASSALEES-FRAUDULENT-PARSE-SYNTAX-GRAMMAR with the FRAUDULENT-BANKING-MORTGAGE-PAPERS of the ONE-PARTY-SIGNATURE &: FRAUD-SYNTAX-GRAMMAR-CLAIMS by the VASSALEES &: CLAIMANTS.

~16 For the FRAUD-PARSE-SYNTAX-GRAMMAR-WRITTEN-EVIDENCE as the MORTGAGE ARE with the DAMAGE-CLAIM of the SYNTAX-GRAMMAR-PERJURY: TITLE~18: D.-C.-C.-S.-~1621, VASSALEES'-TITLE-CORPORATION &: SYNTAX-GRAMMAR-BANK-FRAUD-MORTGAGE-PAPERS-LANGUAGE with the TITLE~15: D.-C.-C.-S.-~1692~E, of the FRAUD &: MISLEADING-STATEMENT-CRIMINAL-PENALTIES: TITLE~15: D.-C.-C.-S.-~78~ff, (\$25-MILLION-DOLLARS) &: OVERSIGHT by the FALSE-CLAIMS-ACT-ATTORNEY-GENERAL-TASK-FORCE-PERFORMANCE &: FEDERAL-POSTAL-COURT-JUDGE-AUTHORITY.

~17 For the VIOLATIONS of the TITLE~18: D.-C.-C.-S.-~641, ARE with the DAMAGE-CLAIMS of the FRAUDULENT-PARSE-SYNTAX-GRAMMAR-COMMUNICATION, MONETARY-WAGES, PAYMENT-WAGES, COMMERCE-WAGES or: CRIMINAL-ACTS with the SHERIFF-PARTICIPATION by the FRAUDULENT-FIDUCIARYS'-OATH-VOID with the VASSALEE'S-FRAUDULENT-SYNTAX-GRAMMAR-DOCUMENT-PLEADING-PERFORMANCE-EVIDENCE.

~18 For the C.-S.-S.-C.-P.-S.-G.-P.-ORIGINAL-CLAIMS of the C.-S.-S.-C.-P.-S.-G.-P.-FALSE-CLAIMS-ACT ARE with the CLAIMANTS'-KNOWLEDGE of the DAMAGE-CLAIM with the VASSALEES'-FRAUDULENT-SYNTAX-WORDING-MORTGAGE at the TREASURY-BANKING-PART or: RESCISSION-ACT-POSTAL-TREASURY-PAYBACK within the SEVENTY-TWO-HOURS of the TIMES-TEN-FRACTION-BANKING-FINANCIAL-GAIN-PERFORMANCE by the FRACTIONAL-CASH-AMOUNT-CREATED.

~19 For the VaShan: Kyles's-DAMAGES by the VASSALEES'-FRAUDULENT-PARSE-SYNTAX-GRAMMAR-DOCUMENTS ARE with the VACATING-CLAIM of the FRAUDULENT-DOCUMENTS with the SANCTIONS of this LIS-PENDENS-LIEN with the HEREIN-WAGES as the CASH-VALUE-CARETAKER-GUARDIAN-TRUSTEE'S-CLAIM by the CERTIFICATE-HOLDER'S-NOW-TIME-FILE-STAMP-DATE-PAYABLE-WAGES-START-TIME-DATE~28~SEPTEMBER~2007, thru the NOW-TIME-GUARDIAN-UPKEEP-SECURITY of the CASH-WAGES-DUE: \$1682.00, PER-WEEK-EACH with the TOTAL-WAGES-DUE: \$841,000.00, with the VaShan: Kyles's-PERPETUAL-CONTINUANCE-CORPORATION-CASE-TITLE~11: D.-C.-C.-S.-~101.

~20 For this FEDERAL-POSTAL-JUDGE: David-Wynn: Miller's-KNOWLEDGE of the TITLE~42: D.-C.-C.-S.-~1986, ARE with the CORRECTION-CLAIM of the PARSE-SYNTAX-GRAMMAR-COMMUNICATION-NUMBERING-KEY-CODED-WORDS: '0'=CONJUNCTION, '1'=ADVERB, '2'=VERB, '3'=ADJECTIVE, '4'=PRONOUN, for the VASSALEES'-FRAUDULENT-SYNTAX-GRAMMAR-'MORTGAGE'-EVIDENCE by the CLAIMANTS'-CORPORATION-CASE.

~21 For the PARSE-FRAUDULENT-USES of the PREFIX-PARSE-WORDS ARE with the NEGATIVE-CLAIM of the PREFIXES: A, AB, AC, AD, AF, AM, AN, AP, AR, AS, AT, DE, DIS, EM, E, EN, ES, EX, IM, I, IN, MAL, MIS, NE, NO, NON, NOR, O, OB, OC, OP, OF, PRE, PRO, PRI, PRU, RE, SI, SUB, TO, U, UM, UN, or: with the MODIFICATION-FACTS by an ADVERB or: ADJECTIVE-MODIFICATION of the TITLE~18: D.-C.-C.-S.-~1001: FRAUDULENT-PARSE-SYNTAX-GRAMMAR-ENGINEERING-KNOWLEDGE by the VASSALEES'-FRAUDULENT-WRITING-PERFORMANCE.

~22 For the HANDYCAPPING-VICTIM-CLAIMANT-PERSONS of the FRAUDULENT-PARSE-SYNTAX-GRAMMAR-MORTGAGE-WORDING ARE with the DISABILITY-ACT-VIOLATION-CLAIM of the HANDYCAPPING-CAUSE with the NOTION &: MOTION by that PERSON'S-CLOSURE-CONTEMPT, APARTHEID, BIAS, CONTRACT-TREASON and/or: RAPE with the FRAUDULENT-UNITED STATES COURT.

~23 For the BREACH of this D.-C.-F.-P.-S.-C.-V.-P.-CORPORATION-CASE ARE with the TITLE~42: CHAPTER~16: D.-C.-C.-S.-~12182, BIAS &: HANDICAPPING-COMMUNICATIONS-DISABILITIES-ACT thru the BREACH of the TITLE~29: DOCUMENT-CONTRACT-CLAIMS, :CHAPTER~16: SECTION~701~c~2, with the TITLE~42: D.-C.-C.-S.-~1983: NOTE~349: POLICY, CUSTOM &: USAGE of an EQUAL-PARSE-SYNTAX-GRAMMAR-COMMUNICATION-DUTY within the TITLE~42: D.-C.-C.-S.-~1986: KNOWLEDGE &: CORRECTING against the WRONG-PARSE-SYNTAX-GRAMMAR-VASSALEES.

For the COPYCLAIM/COPYRIGHT~24~APRIL~2017 by the David-Wynn: Miller, FEDERAL-POSTAL-JUDGE, POST-MASTER, of this DOCUMENT-CONTRACT-FEDERAL-POSTAL-STATION-COURT-VENUE-PERFORMANCE &: CORPORATION-CASE-REGISTERED-MAIL-NUMBER~RE324739412US. -4

~24 For the HOBBS-ACT-TITLE~18: D.-C.-C.-S.-~2404: [EX]TORTION, THREAT, & CONTEMPT of the C.-S.-S.-C.-P.-S.-G.-P. ARE with the DAMAGE-CLAIM by the FRAUDULENT-SYNTAX-GRAMMAR-VASSALEES-EVIDENCE.

~25 For the C.-S.-S.-C.-P.-S.-G.-P.-FEDERAL-ATTORNEY-GENERAL-KNOWLEDGE of the D.-C.-F.-P.-S.-C.-V.-P. ARE with the CASH-CLAIMS of the DOCUMENT-EVIDENCE-AUTHORITY-FILING with the THIRTY-FIVE-PERCENT-ROYALTY-SETTLEMENT-PORTION of the C.-S.-S.-C.-P.-S.-G.-P.-FEDERAL-ATTORNEY-GENERAL-COVERY-CASH-COLLECTION-DAMAGES.

~27 For the C.-S.-S.-C.-P.-S.-G.-P.-FALSE-CLAIMS-ACT of the CORPORATION-CASE ARE with this C.-S.-S.-C.-P.-S.-G.-P.-CONTRACT-LAW-CLAIM of the LIABILITY with the PERSONS &/or: COMPANY of the FEDERAL-CONTRACTOR with the PORT-AUTHORITIES of the CORPORATION-FEDERAL-POSTAL-SERVICE with the VOLITION of the FRAUDULENT-PARSE-SYNTAX-GRAMMAR: TITLE~18: D.-C.-C.-S.-~1001, & TITLE~15: D.-C.-C.-S.-~1692-E: FRAUD & MISLEADING-SYNTAX-GRAMMAR-STATEMENTS, & MONEY-PENALTIES: TITLE~15: D.-C.-C.-S.-~78~ff; [\$25-MILLION] & BANKING-FRAUD-DOCUMENTS with the TITLE~18: D.-C.-C.-S.-~242: BLOCKING-PUBLICATION-RIGHTS with the COLORING of the LAWS with the TITLE~42: D.-C.-C.-S.-~1985~1: CIVIL-CONSPIRACY by the PERSONS with the TITLE~42: D.-C.-C.-S.-~1985~2: BLOCKING-EVIDENCE & WITNESSES by the TITLE~18: D.-C.-C.-S.-~1001: FRAUDULENT-PARSE-SYNTAX-GRAMMAR-BONDED-EVIDENCE with the TITLE~42: D.-C.-C.-S.-~1985~3: BLOCKING-WITNESSES & EVIDENCE by the TITLE~18: D.-C.-C.-S.-~1001: FRAUDULENT-SYNTAX-GRAMMAR with the RACKETEERING-TITLE~18: D.-C.-C.-S.-~1961; with the TITLE~18: D.-C.-C.-S.-~3: PARTICIPATING-CRIME & CRIMINAL-VIOLATIONS & TITLE~18: D.-C.-C.-S.-~4: MISPRISON with the FELONY of the FRAUDULENT-SYNTAX-GRAMMAR-VASSALEES'-DOCUMENTS-EVIDENCE within the D.-C.-F.-P.-S.-C.-V.-P.

~28 For this GOLD-CERTIFICATE of this LIS-PENDENS-CLAIM ARE with this GOLD-CERTIFICATE-VALUE-LIEN-CLAIM of this D.-C.-F.-P.-S.-C.-V.-P.-CORPORATION-CASE-NUMBERS~RE324739412US, with the FINANCIAL-SECURITY-HOLDING-CLAIM of the GUARDIAN-TRUSTEE-LOCATION~24~EAST~164th-STREET,~CALUMET-CITY,~ILLINOIS~60409 within this NOW-TIME of the C.-S.-S.-C.-P.-S.-G.-P.-WRIT of the DOCUMENT-CONTRACT-FAULT-CLAIM.

~29 For the VaShan: Kyles's-CONTRACT as the GOLD-CERTIFICATE-VALUES ARE with the GOLD-CERTIFICATE-CLAIM of an AUTHORIZATION with an AUTOGRAPH-WRIT of the DOCUMENT-CONTRACT-FAULT-CLAIM by an AUTHORITY with the D.-C.-F.-P.-S.-C.-V.-P.-FEDERAL-POSTAL-JUDGE'S-TIME-DATE of the C.-S.-S.-C.-P.-S.-G.-P.-PERFORMANCE.

~30 For the QUO-WARRANTO-COMPLAINT & LIS-PENDENS of the FORTY-EIGHT-DAYS-GRACE-TIME ARE with the WRIT of the DOCUMENT-CONTRACT-FAULT-CLAIM with the D.-C.-F.-P.-S.-C.-V.-P.-CORPORATION-CASE-NUMBER~RE324739412US, by the FICTION-FORECLOSURE-STATE-COURT-DOCKET-NUMBER~ || CH 350 90.

~31 For the QUI-TAM of the CONTRACT-DOCUMENT-CO-OPERATION ARE with the JOINING-CLAIM of the PARSE-SYNTAX-GRAMMAR-COMMUNICATION-OPERATIONS with the CONTRACT-DUTY: TITLE~42: D.-C.-C.-S.-~1986: KNOWLEDGE of the STOPPING & CORRECTING with the VASSALEES'-FRAUDULENT-PARSE-SYNTAX-GRAMMAR-BONDED-EVIDENCE-HEREIN.

~32 For the GOVERNMENTS'-POSSESSIONS of the CASH-MONEY-LOSS ARE with the CORRECTION-CLAIM of the C.-S.-S.-C.-P.-S.-G.-P.-CONTRACT-DOCUMENTATION with the QUI-TAM-LAWSUITS-CLAIM of the VASSALEES'-AUTOGRAPH-VIOLATION-LIABILITIES, RECKLESS-VOLITION with the CORPORATION-CASE of the C.-S.-S.-C.-P.-S.-G.-P.-FACTS with an EVIDENCE-STANDARD of the CONTRACTING-DUTY-ELEMENTS with the VIOLATORS-LOST-POSITION by the FOUR-TIMES-MONEY-DAMAGES & CIVIL-FINES of the FALSE-CLAIM, FRAUD & MISLEADING-STATEMENTS: C.-S.-S.-C.-P.-S.-G.-P.-TITLE~15: D.-C.-C.-S.-~1692~E, of the PENALTY: C.-S.-S.-C.-P.-S.-G.-P.-TITLE~15: D.-C.-C.-S.-~78~ff, with the \$25-MILLION-FINE of the COLLECTION-CASH-COMPENSATION-BENEFIT with the QUI-TAM-CLAIMANT: VaShan: Kyles-WITNESSING & PERFORMANCE-WORK-CONSOLIDATION of the CERTIFIED-EVIDENCE & C.-S.-S.-C.-P.-S.-G.-P.-OPERATIONAL-LAWS with the THIRTY-FIVE-PERCENT-CASH-FUNDS-CLAIMING-NOW-TIME-FACTS of the PENALTY-PAYMENTS with the CLAIMANT'S-COSTS & LABORS with the PLOYMENT-SECURITY of the C.-S.-S.-C.-P.-S.-G.-P.-STATEMENTS with the SPECIAL DAMAGES, by the VASSALEES'-FRAUD-WRITING-EVIDENCE-PERFORMANCE.

~32 For the NOW-TIME-DATE-FILE-STAMP-GOLD-CERTIFICATE-AUTHORIZATION-CLAIMS of the VaShan: Kyles ARE with the C.-S.-S.-C.-P.-S.-G.-P.-TRANSFER-CLAIM of the LAND & BUILDING-CASH-VALUE with the LIS-PENDENS-LABOR-WAGE-VALUE: \$841,000.00, against the LAND & BUILDING-LOCATION~24~EAST~164th-STREET,~CALUMET-CITY,~ILLINOIS~60409.

~33 For the 'WRIT of the DOCUMENT-CONTRACT-FAULT-CLAIM'~RULE~55, ARE with the LIS-PENDENS-DOCUMENT-FILING-CLAIM of the FORTY-EIGHT-DAYS-TIME-GRACE-PERIOD-CORRESPONDENCE with the VaShan: Kyles's-BONDED-EVIDENCE-SUMMARY-CORRECTION of the VASSALEES'-FRAUD-SYNTAX-PLEADINGS.

For the COPYCLAIM/COPYRIGHT~24~APRIL~2017 by the David-Wynn: Miller, FEDERAL-POSTAL-JUDGE, POST-MASTER, of this DOCUMENT-CONTRACT-FEDERAL-POSTAL-STATION-COURT-VENUE-PERFORMANCE & CORPORATION-CASE-REGISTERED-MAIL-NUMBER~RE324739412US. ~5

~34 For the TITLE~15: D.-C.-C.-S.-1639~A of the RESCISSON-ACT ARE with the DAMAGE-CLAIM of the FAILURE-CERTIFICATION of the VASSALEES'-C.-S.-S.-C.-P.-S.-G.-P.-LAND-TITLE-CLAIM with the VOID-MORTGAGE-SALE & with the VOID-LODIAL-TITLE-TIMELINE-OWNERSHIP of the C.-S.-S.-C.-P.-S.-G.-P.-LAND-TITLE-CLAIM with the FOUR-TIMES-PENALTY-FEES-PAID-BACK into the DAMAGED-CLAIMANTS by the VASSALEES'-PERFORMANCE.

~35 For the 'UNITED STATES of the AMERICA-CORPORATION'S-POLICY, CUSTOM &: USAGE of the FRAUD-PARSE-SYNTAX-GRAMMAR-STYLES ARE with the DAMAGE-CLAIMS of the MORTGAGE-PAPERS, with the CORRECT-SYNTAX-GRAMMAR-TITLE~42: D.-C.-C.-S.-~1983, at the NOTE~349: POLICY, CUSTOM &: USAGE of the FRAUDULENT-FIDUCIARY-TEACHING-SUPERVISORS with the "UNITED STATES of an AMERICA-CORPORATION-DATE~2~FEBRUARY~2000.

~36 For this GOLD-CERTIFICATE or: EQUIVALENT-VALUE ARE with the WAGE-CLAIMS by the VaShan: Kyles's-KNOWLEDGE of the WRIT of the DOCUMENT-CONTRACT-FAULT-CLAIM with the CASH-DAMAGE-LOSS of the CARETAKER-GUARDIAN-LABOR-WAGES: \$841,000.00, &: "CLAYTON-ACT-TITLE~15: D.-C.-C.-S.-~1639-A," with the FOUR-TIMES-DOWN-PAYMENT-CASH-CLAIM of the HOUSE &: LAND-LOCATION~24~EAST~164th-STREET,~CALUMET-CITY,~ILLINOIS~60409, with the START-TIME-DATE~28~SEPTEMBER~2007, of the CARETAKERS-GUARDIAN-LABOROR-MINIMUM-WAGES with an EVERYDAY-(24-HOUR)~ILLINOIS-TERRITORY-LABOR-RATE of this FILE-STAMP with the TOTAL-MONIES-DUE: VaShan: Kyles by the VASSALEES'-FINANCIAL-BANK-FRAUD.

~37 For the D.-C.-F.-P.-S.-C.-V.-P.-SUMMARY-PAYMENT-COMMAND of the FRAUDULENT-PARSE-SYNTAX-GRAMMAR-'MORTGAGE'-EVIDENCE ARE with the PERJURY, BANK-FRAUD &: MONEY-THEFT by the FRAUDULENT-SYNTAX-GRAMMAR-LANGUAGE with the TITLE~15: D.-C.-C.-S.-1692~E, by the FRAUD &: MISLEADING-STATEMENTS &: TITLE~15: D.-C.-C.-S.-~78~ff, with the CASH-DAMAGE-CLAIM of the CRIMINAL-PENALTY[\$25-MILLION-DOLLARS] with the C.-S.-S.-C.-P.-S.-G.-P.-FALSE-CLAIMS-ACT-SANCTIONS &: VOID-WORD-TERM-CLOSURE by the VASSALEES against the VaShan: Kyles's-WAGES &: CASH-CLAIM-DUE: \$1,078,500.00., with the LOSS by the GUARDIANS-CARETAKERS-LABOR-WAGES-PAYABLE with the C.-S.-S.-C.-P.-S.-G.-P.-WRIT of the DOCUMENT-CONTRACT-FAULT-CLAIM-PERFORMANCE-RULE~55.

~38 For the C.-S.-S.-C.-P.-S.-G.-P.-FALSE-CLAIMS-ACT: TITLE~31: D.-C.-C.-S.-~3729-THROUGH-TITLE~31: D.-C.-C.-S.-~3733: PARSE-SYNTAX-GRAMMAR-CORRECTIONS ARE with the FALSE-TAKING: TITLE~18: D.-C.-C.-S.-~641, of the VaShan: Kyles's-HOME-&: LABOR-EQUITY with the DAMAGE-CLAIMS of the VASSALEE'S-WRITTEN-FRAUDULENT-SYNTAX-GRAMMAR-EVIDENCE with the C.-S.-S.-C.-P.-S.-G.-P.-CORRECTIONS by this FEDERAL-POSTAL-JUDGE.

~39 For the WHISTLEBLOWERS: VaShan: Kyles's of these CONTRACT-FACTS ARE with the DUTY-CLAIM AGAINST the TITLE~29: D.-C.-C.-S.-~701, with the VASSALEES'-HANDICAPPING-FRAUDULENT-PARSE-SYNTAX-GRAMMAR of the MORTGAGE-WRITING-FRAUD-WORD-MEANINGS by the 'DISABILITIES-ACT-VIOLATION-CLAIM with the APARTHEID, BIAS, CONTRACT-TREASON and/or: RAPE by the FORCE or: INTIMIDATION with the FRAUDULENT-GRAMMAR-COURT-OPINIONS by the VASSALEES'-PERFORMANCE-EVIDENCE with the VIOLATIONS of the HOBBS ACT: TITLE~18: D.-C.-C.-S.-1951.

~40 For the D.-C.-F.-P.-S.-C.-V.-P.-TREATY of the "ILLINOIS-TERRITORY ARE with the DOCUMENT-CONTRACT-QUO-WARRANTO-COMPLAINT, LIS-PENDENS-DOCUMENT, &: WRIT of the DOCUMENT-CONTRACT-FAULT-CLAIM-CORPORATION-CASE-NUMBER~RE324739412US.

~41 For the VaShan: Kyles's-KNOWLEDGE of this GOLD-CERTIFICATE-EQUITY ARE with this CASH-VALUE-CLAIM of the TIME-STAMP-MEASUREMENT-VALUE with the TROY-OUNCE-.999-FINE-GOLD-COIN AT the FILE-STAMP-NOW-TIME-DATE-RATE-PER-TROY-OUNCE with the "CHICAGO~ILLINOIS-MERCANTILE-GOLD-COMMODITIES-CHANGE-STANDARD of this CLAIMS-PAYMENT with the VaShan: Kyles's-LAND &: BUILDINGS-LOCATION~24~EAST~164th-STREET,~CALUMET-CITY,~ILLINOIS~60409, by the CLAIMANTS'-WAGES.

~42 For the BREACH of the REGISTRATION-CORPORATION-CASE-NUMBER~RE324739412US, ARE with the BREACH-DAMAGES of the TITLE~29: D.-C.-C.-S.-~701, with the POLICY of an EQUAL-PARSE-SYNTAX-GRAMMAR-DUTY-CONTRACT within the D.-C.-F.-P.-S.-C.-V.-P., with the TITLE~42: D.-C.-C.-S.-~1986, by the CLAIMANTS'-C.-S.-S.-C.-P.-S.-G.-P.-CORRECTIONS.

~43 For the 'WRIT of the DOCUMENT-CONTRACT-FAULT-CLAIM'-~RULE~55, of the FORTY-EIGHT-DAYS-TIME-GRACE-PERIOD-CORRESPONDENCE ARE with the HEREIN-LIS-PENDENS-DOCUMENT-FILING-CLAIMS by the VaShan: Kyles's-BONDED-EVIDENCE-SUMMARY-CORRECTION.

For the COPYCLAIM/COPYRIGHT~24~APRIL~2017 by the David-Wynn: Miller, FEDERAL-POSTAL-JUDGE, POST-MASTER, of this DOCUMENT-CONTRACT-FEDERAL-POSTAL-STATION-COURT-VENUE-PERFORMANCE &: CORPORATION-CASE-REGISTERED-MAIL-NUMBER~RE324739412US, ~6

~44 For the FEDERAL-POSTAL-JUDGE'S-AUTOGRAPH on the FEDERAL-POSTAL-STAMP-\$1.00, ARE with the THREE-DAY-RESCISSON-ACT-CLAIM: TITLE~15: D.-C.-C.-S.-~1635~A, with an AUTOGRAPH on the FIRST-PAGE-TOP-BACK with the WRIT of the DOCUMENT-CONTRACT-FAULT-CLAIM with the D.-C.-F.-P.-S.-C.-V.-P.-FILE-STAMP &: FORTY-FIVE-DAYS-FEDERAL-MARITIME-POSTAL-VESSEL-TRUST-LAW of the C.-S.-S.-C.-P.-S.-G.-P.-WRIT of the DOCUMENT-CONTRACT-SUMMARY-FAULT-CLAIM-RULE-FIFTY-SIX(56), by this QUO-WARRANTO-COMPLAINT-PERFORMANCE.

~45 For the UNITED STATES CORPORATION TREASURY-MONEY-WITHDRAW by the VASSALEE'S-FRAUDULENT-'MORTGAGE' ARE with the DAMAGE-CLAIM of the FRAUDULENT-EDUCATION-TRAINING with the MONEY-DISTRIBUTION by the FIDUCIARY-TREASURY-AUTHORIZED-PERSONS with the VOID-C.-S.-S.-C.-P.-S.-G.-P.-DOCUMENT-CONTRACT by the SERVICER-VASSALEE-BANK.

~46 For the SUPPORTING-TERMS of the DOCUMENT-CLAIMS ARE with the C.-S.-S.-C.-P.-S.-G.-P.-DOCUMENT-CONTRACT-FEDERAL-POSTAL-STATION-COURT-VENUE-TERMS.

~0 For the TITLE~42: D.-C.-C.-S.-~1986: KNOWLEDGE of the DOCUMENT-SYNTAX-GRAMMAR-DUTIES ARE with the CORRECTION-CLAIM of the WRONG-PARSE-SYNTAX-GRAMMAR with the C.-S.-S.-C.-P.-S.-G.-P.-DOCUMENT by the FEDERAL-JUDGE.

~1 For the D.-C.-C.-~4: For the VESSEL-PROCESS: ~a with the SUMMONS; ~b with the FORM; ~c: VASSALEES'-VESSEL-CLAIMS;

~d: SUMMONS &: COMPLAINT with the TWENTY-ONE-DAYS-CORRESPONDENCE-BACK TO the FEDERAL-POSTAL-COURT-CLERK-HEREIN;

~g: JOINING-TWO-VESSELS by the D.-C.-F.-P.-S.-C.-V.-P.-CLERK; ~h: D.-C.-F.-P.-S.-C.-V.-P.-SCHEDULING-45-DAY-TRUST-TIME-LIMIT &: THREE-DAY-RESCISSON-TIME-CLAIM: TITLE~15: D.-C.-C.-S.-~1635~A.

~2 For the D.-C.-C.-~5 = with the VESSEL: ~a: DUTIES; ~d: FILING-CLAIMS; ~e: CLERK'S-OPERATIONAL-FILING-DOCUMENTS ARE with the VESSEL-CLAIMS of the PERSON OVER an AGE: 18-YEARS &: VOID of this CORPORATION-CASE-CONTRACT.

~3 For the D.-C.-C.-~6 = with the TIME: ~a with the COMPUTATION-MONDAY-THROUGH-FRIDAY-CASES &: CONTINUANCE with the D.-C.-F.-P.-S.-C.-V.-P.-; ~d with the COMPLAINTS &: STATEMENTS ARE within the VESSEL of the FIVE-DAYS-CLAIMS-NOTICES with the HEARING/TRIAL by the VaShan: Kyles &: ONE-DAY-CORRESPONDENCE by the VASSALEES'-PERFORMANCE.

~4 For the D.-C.-C.-~7 = ~a: COMMANDS IN the C.-S.-S.-C.-P.-S.-G.-P.-; ~b: C.-S.-S.-C.-P.-S.-G.-P.-COMPLAINT-CLAIMS ARE with the C.-S.-S.-C.-P.-S.-G.-P.-DAMAGES by the CORRECTION-FOUGHT.

~5 For the D.-C.-C.-~8 = ~a: COMMAND-CLAIMS of the MONEY-COMPENSATION-WAGES, &: CASH-VALUE-LAND-C.-S.-S.-C.-P.-S.-G.-P.-CORRECTIONS; ~b: C.-S.-S.-C.-P.-S.-G.-P.-CLAIM; ~c: C.-S.-S.-C.-P.-S.-G.-P.-JUDGES'-OATH;

~d: CORRECT-FACT-FAILURE: PERJURY, FRAUD, LIES, FICTION, PRESUMPTIONS, ASSUMPTIONS, OPINIONS, &: MODIFICATIONS;

~e: COMMANDS by the CLOSURE-WORD-MEANINGS &: TERMS of A SINGLE-THOUGHT IN EACH C.-S.-S.-C.-P.-S.-G.-P.-FACT-PHASE, &: 'FOR THE ONE-VERB-THINKING' IS with the CORRECTION IN EVERY SENTENCE.

~6 For the D.-C.-C.-~9 = SPECIAL-COMMANDS; ~b: WRITTEN-FRAUDULENT-PARSE-SYNTAX-GRAMMAR ARE with the CONDITION, WILL &: VOLITION of the MIND; ~e: FACTUAL-C.-S.-S.-C.-P.-S.-G.-P.-CLAIM; ~f: NOW-TIME &: NOW-PLACE; ~g: NOW-TIME-FACTS IN the C.-S.-S.-C.-P.-S.-G.-P. ARE with the DAMAGE-CLAIMS by the VASSALEES.

~7 For the D.-C.-C.-~10: For the FORM of the COMMAND-CORRECT-FACTS, ~b with the NUMBERING of the SENTENCES or: PARAGRAPHS &: PAGES; ~c with the BONDING-CORPORATION-CASE, (GLUEING, STITCHING or: MECHANICAL-RIVETTING).

~8 For the D.-C.-C.-~11: FRIVOLOUS-FILINGS of the WITNESS'S-PLEADINGS ARE with the SANCTION-DAMAGE-CLAIM of the FRAUDULENT-PARSE-SYNTAX-GRAMMAR by the VASSALEE.

~9 For the CAUSE of the D.-C.-C.-~9~b; D.-C.-C.-~12~b; D.-C.-C.-~56~d, &: D.-C.-C.-~7: CORRECT-DUTIES; &: EQUAL-GUARANTEE of the VOID-COURT-COMMUNICATIONS: TITLE~42: D.-C.-C.-S.-~1985~2, BLOCKING-DAMAGING-CORRECT-FACTS &: WITNESSES &: FACTUAL-EVIDENCE.

~10 For an AUTOGRAPH of the D.-C.-F.-P.-S.-C.-V.-P.-JUDGE-CORRECTIONS ARE with the C.-S.-S.-C.-P.-S.-G.-P.-LAW-DOCUMENT of the FIVE-DAY-TIME-LIMIT with the SANCTIONS AGAINST the VASSALEES'-EVIDENCE.

~11 For the DURESS: For an ILLEGAL-PURPOSE/THREAT of the PERSON'S-COMPLIANCE with the VIOLENCE, PAIN or: FREEDOM-LOSS by the PRISON or MENTAL-HARM or: FINANCIAL-HARM by the COERCING: TITLE~28 CHAPTER~85: D.-C.-C.-S.-~1359.

~12 For the SUMMARY-CORRECTIONS of the DOCUMENT-CLAIM-LIST: DOCUMENT-CONTRACT-CLAIM~12~b~7,~6,~5,~4,~3,~2,~1.

~13 For the D.-C.-C.-~12~b~7: JOINING ARE with the C.-S.-S.-C.-P.-S.-G.-P.-VENUE by the D.-C.-F.-P.-S.-C.-V.-P.-CLAIMANTS.

~14 For the D.-C.-C.-~12~b~6: NOW-TIME-C.-S.-S.-C.-P.-S.-G.-P.-COMMANDS ARE with the C.-S.-S.-C.-P.-S.-G.-P.-FACTUAL-CLAIM-DOCUMENTS.

~15 For the D.-C.-C.-~12~b~5: CORRECT-CLOSURE-DUTY of the CASE-DOCUMENTS ARE within the C.-S.-S.-C.-P.-S.-G.-P.-CERTIFICATION of the D.-C.-F.-P.-S.-C.-V.-P.-CLERK with the C.-S.-S.-C.-P.-S.-G.-P.-PAPERWORK-CLAIM by the DOCKETING-CORRESPONDENCE-VESSEL.

~16 For the D.-C.-C.-~12~b~4: CORRECT-VESSEL of the PAPERWORK ARE with an AUTOGRAPH-CANCELATION ON the FEDERAL-POSTAL-VESSEL-STAMP &: END-DORSEMENT ON the TOP of the COVER-PAGE-BACK & ON the DOCKETING-PORT-STAMP.

~17 For the D.-C.-C.-~12~b~3: C.-S.-S.-C.-P.-S.-G.-P.-VENUE-FILINGS ARE with the C.-S.-S.-C.-P.-S.-G.-P. by the D.-C.-F.-P.-S.-C.-V.-P.

~18 For the D.-C.-C.-~12~b~2: For the FRAUDULENT-PARSE-SYNTAX-GRAMMAR of the VASSALEES ARE with the DAMAGE-CLAIM of the C.-S.-S.-C.-P.-S.-G.-P.-PORT-FEDERAL-POSTAL-COURT-VENUE-AUTHORITY by the DOCUMENT-TERMS.

~19 For the D.-C.-C.-~12~b~1: For the CLAIMANT'S-KNOWLEDGE of the C.-S.-S.-C.-P.-S.-G.-P.-FACTS ARE with the CLAIMS of the FACTS with an AUTHORITY-CORPORATION-CASE by the DOCUMENT-TERMS.

For the COPYCLAIM/COPYRIGHT~24~APRIL~2017 by the David-Wynn: Miller, FEDERAL-POSTAL-JUDGE, POST-MASTER, of this DOCUMENT-CONTRACT-FEDERAL-POSTAL-STATION-COURT-VENUE-PERFORMANCE &: CORPORATION-CASE-REGISTERED-MAIL-NUMBER~RE324739412US. ~7

~20 For the ADJECTIVES, PRONOUNS or: ADVERB-MODIFIERS IN the FRAUDULENT-GRAMMAR-FORMAT ARE with the PERJURY: TITLE~18: D.-C.-C.-S.-~1621: FALSE-SWEARING of the FIRST-STATEMENT-NOW-TIME.

~21 For the TITLE~18: D.-C.-C.-S.-~1621: PERJURY of an OATH ARE with DAMAGE-CLAIM of the COERCION: TITLE~28: D.-C.-C.-S.-~1359, with the 'RAPE'(TAKING) of the PERSON'S-FREEDOM with the TITLE~18: D.-C.-C.-S.-~4: PRISON-THREAT by A FICTION-FELONY-PLEADING with the FRAUDULENT-PARSE-SYNTAX-GRAMMAR &: TITLE~18: D.-C.-C.-S.-~3: PARTICIPATION by the FRAUDULENT-PARSE-SYNTAX-GRAMMAR-DOCUMENTS.

~22 For the TRAPS IN the TITLES, NAMES, DATES, CASE-NUMBERS, ITALIC-WORDS, BOXING &: TITLE-SITES ARE with the FRAUDULENT-SYNTAX-GRAMMAR-FORMAT by the VASSALEES'-AUTOGRAPH-CONFESSION.

~23 For the POSITIONS: FOR, OF, WITH, BY, THROUGH, IN &: ON ARE with the NOW-TENSE-AUTHORITY-VENUE-POSITION-CLAIMS of the "POSITION-LODIAL-FACT-PHRASE" with the NOW-TIME-AUTHORITY.

~24 For the TITLE~18: D.-C.-C.-S.-~641, with the TAKING/STEALING of the GOVERNMENT-PAYROLL-WAGE-MONEY ARE with the VOID-PERFORMANCE-JOB-DUTY of the "UNITED STATES CORPORATION-POSTAL-GOVERNMENTS'-FIDUCIARY-SECURITY" of the CLAIMANTS' with the TITLE~42: D.-C.-C.-S.-~1986: STOPPING &: CORRECTING by the VASSALEES'-NEGLECT-STANDING WITHOUT the CLEAR &: C.-S.-S.-C.-P.-S.-G.-P.-PAPERWORK-TITLE-CLAIM of the LAND: & BUILDINGS~24~EAST~164th-STREET,~CALUMET-CITY,~ILLINOIS~60409 &: 'BOXING-STYLES'=VOID-SPACE, ~WORD-VACATING, ITALIC-STYLES=WORD-VACATING, For the -VASSALEES-FRAUDULENT-PARSE-SYNTAX-GRAMMAR-DOCUMENT-FILINGS: MORTGAGE, AS the FUTURE-TIME-SIMULATION with the "FICTION-SYNTAX-NOTARY": SIGNING ON A BLANK-PAGE.

~25 For the LEGAL-ELEMENT of the FEAR ARE with the TORT-CLAIMS by the TITLE~42: D.-C.-C.-S.-~1985~3. (RICO-TITLE~18: D.-C.-S.-~1961.)

~26 For the RACKETEERING AS the OVER-POWERING-FORCES ARE with the FRAUDULENT-FINANCIAL-CLAIM of the THREAT with the TOTAL-LOSS by the MOVING-PERSON(S) with an ORGANIZATION-CONSPIRACY of the CRIMES with the TORT/COERCION, RAPE or: COERCION of the LIFE, PARTY, PERSON, &: DOCUMENT with an ENGINEERING-DAMAGE by the TORT-PERSONS.

~27 For an ADJECTIVE AS the COLORFUL-OPINION ARE with the MODIFICATION of the FACT, with the TWO-OR-MORE-FACTS-JOINING with the LAST-FACT of the FACT-PHRASE-CHANGING of the FIRST-FACT into an ADJECTIVE & with the ADJECTIVE-CHANGES of the SECOND-FACT-WORD into the PRONOUN-PARSE-SYNTAX-GRAMMAR.

~28 For the D.-C.-C.-S.-~24: TITLE~28: D.-C.-C.-S.-~2403: C.-S.-S.-C.-P.-S.-G.-P.-CHALLENGE of the FRAUD-SYNTAX-DOCUMENT-FACTS.

~29 For the CHANGING-TREATMENT of the PERSON'S-EQUALITY ARE with the DAMAGE-CLAIM of the NEGLECT with the FAVORING-ONE-PERSON by A CONSPIRACY with the SECOND-PERSON. [WITH the TITLE~VII of THE~1964: DOCUMENT-CIVIL-RIGHTS-ACT].

~30 For the D.-C.-C.-S.-~38-a: For the TRIAL by the TWELVE-PERSON-JURY ARE with the SAME-ONE-PLANE-CLAIM of the D.-C.-F.-P.-S.-C.-V.-P.-

~31 For the D.-C.-C.-S.-~41~a: VOLUNTARY-WITHDRAW of an ADVERB-VERB-FRAUDULENT-PARSE-SYNTAX-GRAMMAE ARE with the PARSE-SYNTAX-GRAMMAR-ERROR-CLAIM of the TITLE~42: D.-C.-C.-S.-1986: KNOWLEDGE &: CORRECTION by the CLAIMANTS.

~32 For the TITLE~18: D.-C.-C.-S.-~242~1: TWO or: MORE-PERSON-TOGETHER ARE with the VOID-PARSE-SYNTAX-GRAMMAR-CLAIMS of the STATUTE, ORDINANCE, CODES, REGULATION, OR: LAWS with the TWO-DIFFERENT-PUNISHMENTS, PAINS, PENALTIES or: TREATMENT ON an ACCOUNT of the PERSON-BEING-FOREIGN = (NO PUNCTUATION IN the DEAD-NAME) = FRAUD/FOREIGN, or by the PERSON'S-COLOR, RACE, FAITH, or: SEX ARE with the DAMAGE-CLAIMS by an AILING-GUISE-COMMUNICATIONS.

~33 For the TITLE~18: D.-C.-C.-S.-~1621: For the PERJURY-CONDITION of the PERSON'S-VOLITION ARE with the PAYMENT-WAGE-CLAIM of the FRAUD-PARSE-SYNTAX-GRAMMAR-WRITINGS with the PAYMENT or: WAGES by the CONTRACT-BREACH-AUTHOR.

~34 For the D.-C.-C.-S.-~50: For the NEW-TRIAL of the FRAUD-SYNTAX-GRAMMAR-CASE ARE with the 'WRIT of DE NOVO' by an ORIGINAL-COURT-JUDGE'S-VOID-CORRECTION-PERFORMANCE of the PARSE-SYNTAX-GRAMMAR-FACTS with the C.-S.-S.-C.-P.-S.-G.-P.-QUO-WARRANTO-COMPLAINT.

~35 For the D.-C.-C.-S.-~54: For the CLAIMS of the SUMMARY-DOCUMENT-CONTRACT ARE with the C.-S.-S.-C.-P.-S.-G.-P.-CORRECTIONS by the FEDERAL-POSTAL-JUDGE: David-Wynn: Miller.

~36 For the D.-C.-C.-S.-~56: For the C.-S.-S.-C.-P.-S.-G.-P.-SUMMARY-CORRECTIONS of the EVIDENCE-CONFESSION ARE with the DAMAGES-DICISION-CLAIMS of the FEDERAL-POSTAL-COURT-C.-S.-S.-C.-P.-S.-G.-P.-COMMAND-DICISION.

~37 For the D.-C.-C.-S.-~57: For the WRITTEN-COMMAND-CONTRACT-VENUES of the PHYSICAL-EVIDENCE-DAMAGES ARE with the DAMAGES-CLAIM-PAYMENTS by the C.-S.-S.-C.-P.-S.-G.-P.-CLAIMANTS'-FACTS &: VASSALEES'-BONDED-EVIDENCE-FRAUD.

~38 For the BREACH, of the COMMISSION, OMISSION, DOCUMENT-DUTY, AUTHORITY &: OR: FIDUCIARY'S-CONTRACT-TERMS ARE with the DAMAGE-CLAIM by the NEGLIGENT-PERSON'S-DOCUMENT-CONTRACT.

~39 For the BIAS: For an OPINION-LEANING-TOWARDS-ONE-SIDE of the MATTER/CAUSE/FACT ARE with the CONVICTION by A WRONG-OPINION.

~40 For the 'TORT' of the DOCUMENT-WRONGS ARE with the CONSPIRACY-CLAIM of the DUTY-CONTRACT, PERSON-CORPORATION or: FRAUDULENT-PARSE-SYNTAX-GRAMMAR-CONSTITUTION by the FIDUCIARY'S-VOLITION with the NOW-TIME-THREAT/FEAR-DOCUMENT-LAW: TITLE~18: D.-C.-C.-S.-~871. (CAUSE: LIE-TOGETHER or: LAY-TOGETHER)

~41. For the PRONOUN-STYLES-SYNTAX-GRAMMAR=: VOID: For the PRONOUN=NO-NO-NO of the FRAUDULENT-STYLES-SYNTAX-GRAMMAR ARE with the WORD-TERM-CLAIMS as the TRICK, TRAP or: FICTIONAL-VOLITION-COURTROOM-COMMUNICATIONS.

~42 For these VASSALEES-PHYSICAL-EVIDENCE of the QUO-WARRANTO-COMPLAINT ARE with the DAMAGE-CLAIMS of the CONSPIRATORS'-EVIDENCE-PERFORMANCES with the JOINING-VENUE by the VASSALEES.

~VaShan: Kyles: *Vashan:Kyles* ~24~EAST~164th-STREET,~CALUMET-CITY,~ILLINOIS~60409.:F.R.C.P.-RULE~70. For the FORCING of this COMMAND-JUDGMENT ARE with the DAMAGE-CLAIM of this COMMAND-CONTRACT. (a) For this VASSALEES'-FAILURE of this PERFORMANCE or: COMMAND-PERFORMANCE. For the COMMAND-CONTRACT of the LOCATION~24~EAST~164th-STREET,~CALUMET-CITY,~ILLINOIS~60409, ARE with the CONVEYANCE-TITLE-DOCUMENT of this PERFORMANCE-CONTRACT & with the VASSALEES'-FAILURE of this PERFORMANCE-CONTRACT within the "FORTY-EIGHT-DAYS-TIME-SPECIFIED, for this DOCUMENT-CONTRACT-FEDERAL-POSTAL-STATION-COURT-VENUE-PERFORMANCE-JUDGE of this DUTY-COMMAND with the PERFORMANCE of this QUO-WARRANTO-COMPLAINT-PAYMENT with the CLAIMANT'S-COVERY of the QUO-WARRANTO-COMPLAINT-CONTRACT-PLEADINGS & with the SILENT-VASSALEE with the CONTEST-COSTS-PAYING.

For the COPYCLAIM/COPYRIGHT~24~APRIL~2017 by the David-Wynn: Miller, FEDERAL-POSTAL-JUDGE, POST-MASTER, of this DOCUMENT-CONTRACT-FEDERAL-POSTAL-STATION-COURT-VENUE-PERFORMANCE &: CORPORATION-CASE-REGISTERED-MAIL-NUMBER~RE324739412US. -8

For the DOCUMENT-CONTRACT-FEDERAL-POSTAL-STATION-COURT-VENUE-PERFORMANCE of this DOCUMENT-CONTRACT-QUO-WARRANTO-COMPLAINT, &: LIS-PENDENS-DOCUMENT-WAGE-CLAIMS &: FOURTY-EIGHT-DAY-CORRESPONDENT-VIOLATION ARE with the D.-C.-F.-P.-S.-C.-V.-P.-COMMAND of the 'WRIT of the DOCUMENT-CONTRACT-FAULT-CLAIM' with the FEDERAL-POSTAL-REGISTRATION-CORPORATION-CASE-NUMBER-~RE324739412US.

~1 For the VaShan: Kyles's-KNOWLEDGE of the FRAUDULENT-VASSALEES'-COMMUNICATION ARE with the DAMAGE-CLAIMS of the TITLE-COMPANY'S-CLOSING-ATTORNEY-DOCUMENT-KNOWLEDGE with the FRAUDULENT-PARSE-SYNTAX-GRAMMAR-VASSALEES'-ENGINEERING by the FRAUDULENT-LOAN-VOLITION.

~2 For this QUO-WARRANTO-COMPLAINT &: LIS-PENDENS of the C.-S.-S.-C.-P.-S.-G.-P.-CLOSURE-SYNTAX-GRAMMAR-CONTRACT-DUTY ARE with the FORTY-EIGHT-DAYS-GRACE-TIME-CORRESPONDENCE-BACK within the D.-C.-F.-P.-S.-C.-V.-P. OR with the 'WRIT of the DOCUMENT-CONTRACT-FAULT-CLAIM' with this FEDERAL-POSTAL-JUDGE'S-VENUE by the FEDERAL-POSTAL-COURT-CORPORATION-CASE-NUMBER-~RE324739412US.

~3 For this DOCUMENT-CONTRACT-FEDERAL-POSTAL-STATION-COURT-VENUE-PERFORMANCE-COMMAND of the C.-S.-S.-C.-P.-S.-G.-P.-SUMMARY-WRIT of the FEDERAL-POSTAL-REGISTRATION-DOCKETING-NUMBER-~RE324739412US with the WRIT of the FAULT-DOCUMENT-CONTRACT-COMMAND-CLAIM ARE with the VASSALEE'S-FAILURE of the C.-S.-S.-C.-P.-S.-G.-P.-CORRESPONDENCE with the LAND-TITLE-CLAIM-EVIDENCE &: C.-S.-S.-C.-P.-S.-G.-P.-'MORTGAGE' &: TITLE-INSURANCE by the VASSALEE-TITLE-CLOSING-CORPORATION.

~4 For the CARETAKERS-GUARDIAN-TRUSTEES-WAGES-CLAIM of the MECHANIC-LIEN: EIGHT-HUNDRED-FORTY-ONE-THOUSAND-DOLLARS (\$841,000.00) ARE with the COLLECTION-CLAIM of the EACH-MONTH-COMPOUND-ONE-PERCENT-RENT-RATE-FEES with the UNITED-STATES-TREASURY-CURRENCY of the C.-S.-S.-C.-P.-S.-G.-P.-CONTRACT with the UNITED STATES of an AMERICA-CORPORATION-TREASURY.

~5 For the SAME-FLAG-VENUE-CLAIM &: TITLE-CLAIM of the POSSESSIVE-PERFORMANCE-DUTIES with these CURRENT-LIVE-LIFE: VaShan: Kyles's-QUO-WARRANTO-COMPLAINT &: C.-S.-S.-C.-P.-S.-G.-P.-WRIT of the DOCUMENT-CONTRACT-FAULT-CLAIM with this WRIT of the POSSESSION-COMMAND by this D.-C.-F.-P.-S.-C.-V.-P.- For the VaShan: Kyles's-LAND &: BUILDINGS-LOCATION-~24-~EAST-~164th-STREET, ~CALUMET-CITY, ~ILLINOIS-~60409, by the FEDERAL-POSTAL-JUDGE: David-Wynn: Miller's-COMMANDS.

~6 For the FEDERAL-POSTAL-JUDGE: David-Wynn: Miller's-KNOWLEDGE of this COMMAND-CORRECTION-AUTHORITY: TITLE-~42: D.-C.-C.-S.-~1986, ARE with the TIPSTAFFING-DUTY-AUTHORITY of the MARSHALL-SERVICE, SHERIFF-SERVICE, POSTAL-SPECTOR-SERVICE, FEDERAL-BEREAU of an investigation-SERVICE, SECURITIES &: ex-CHANGE &: LOCAL-STATE-POLICE SERVICE with the C.-S.-S.-C.-P.-S.-G.-P.-FORCE of the TIPSTAFFING-FIDUCIARY with this C.-S.-S.-C.-P.-S.-G.-P.-CORRECTION-COMMAND by this FEDERAL-POSTAL-JUDGE: David-Wynn: Miller.

~7 For this QUO-WARRANTO-COMPLAINT &: LIS-PENDENS of the FORTY-EIGHT-DAYS-GRACE-TIME ARE with the DAMAGE-CLAIM of the 'WRIT of the DOCUMENT-CONTRACT-FAULT-CLAIM', by this FEDERAL-POSTAL-CORPORATION-CASE-NUMBER-~RE324739412US, &: TITLE-~15: D.-C.-C.-S.-1639-~A, with the FOUR-TIME-DAMAGES of the LAND-TITLE with the PAID-INTEREST-TRICKERY, PAID-PRINCIPAL, &: DOWN-PAYMENT as the PROPERTY-TAX-ASSESSMENT-CLAIM.

~8 For the POSTAL-SERVICE-GOVERNMENT-PLOYEES of this TIPSTAFF-OATH-DUTY ARE with the C.-S.-S.-C.-P.-S.-G.-P.-OATH &: PUBLIC-DUTY-SECURITY-DOCUMENT-CONTRACT of the TITLE-~18: D.-C.-C.-S.-~1951: HOBBS-ACT with the STOPPING of the FRAUDULENT-FORECLOSURE against the LAND &: BUILDINGS or with the VOID-AUTHORITY as the CRIMINAL-ACTOR with the FRAUDULENT-PARSE-SYNTAX-GRAMMAR-OPINION-OATH by the FRAUDULENT-POLICY &: CUSTOM-GUISE with the VACATING-POSITION with this COMMAND-VACATING by the FRAUDULENT-PARSE-SYNTAX-GRAMMAR-LANGUAGE.

:FEDERAL-POSTAL-JUDGE: David-Wynn: Miller. *David-Wynn: Miller* : seal:

~5166-NORTH-~63rd-STREET, ~MILWAUKEE, ~WI-~53218. *~24-APRIL-2017*

:CC: For the CONTRACT-LAWS of the 'UNITED-STATES-FLAG' ARE with the JOINING-DUTIES of the GOVERNMENT-AGENCIES'-EMPLOYEES'-WHISTLEBLOWER, FORM-95, &: ROGATORY-LETTER. : FEDERAL-JUSTICE-DEPARTMENT-950-Pennsylvania-AVENUE, ~NW, ~Washington-DC, ~20530-0001, 'WHISTLEBLOWER', FORM-95, &: ROGATORY-LETTER. : CONSUMER-FINANCIAL-PROTECTION-BUREAU, ~P.O.-Box-4503, ~IOWA-CITY, ~IOWA, ~52244, 'WHISTLEBLOWER', FORM-95, &: ROGATORY-LETTER. : POSTAL-INSPECTOR: CRIMINAL-INVESTIGATIONS-SERVICE-CENTER, WHISTLEBLOWER-FORM-95, &: ROGATORY-LETTER. : Attention: POSTAL-MAIL-FRAUD-~433-~WEST-~HARRISON-STREET, ~ROOM-~3255, ~CHICAGO, ~IL-~60699-3255. : SENATE-OVERSIGHT-COMMITTEE on the GOVERNMENT-CORRECT-FORM, ~2157-RAYBURN-HOUSE-OFFICE-BUILDING, ~WASHINGTON-DC, ~20515. : SEND-ROGATORY-LETTER. : SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE-OFFICE, "WHISTLEBLOWER", ~100-F-STREET, ~NE, ~MAIL-STOP, ~5971, ~WASHINGTON-D.C., ~20549, FORM-SEC-TCR. : WHISTLE-BLOWER-HOTLINE-~866-963-5672. For the CORRESPONDENCE-COPY to the STATE-COURT or: COUNTY-COURT with the ROGATORY-LETTER &: FORECLOSURE-LAWFIRM.

For the COPYCLAIM/COPYRIGHT-~24-~APRIL-~2017 by the David-Wynn: Miller, FEDERAL-POSTAL-JUDGE, POST-MASTER, of this DOCUMENT-CONTRACT-FEDERAL-POSTAL-STATION-COURT-VENUE-PERFORMANCE &: CORPORATION-CASE-REGISTERED-MAIL-NUMBER-~RE324739412US. ~9



:C.-S.-S.-C.-P.-S.-G.-P.-DOCUMENT-CONTRACT-FEDERAL-POSTAL-STATION-COURT-VENUE-FLAG.

For the FOREIGN-CORRESPONDENTS'-WRIT of the CORRECT-SENTENCE-STRUCTURE-COMMUNICATION-PARSE-SYNTAX-GRAMMAR-PERFORMANCE-LETTER-ROGATORY with the DOCUMENT-CONTRACT-FEDERAL-POSTAL-STATION-COURT-VENUE-PERFORMANCE ARE with the LIVE-LIFE-CLAIMANT'S-KNOWLEDGE-PERFORMANCE of the D.-C.-F.-P.-S.-C.-V.-P.-LAWS, CODES, STATUES &: RULES with the FEDERAL-POSTAL-CORPORATION-CLAIM-NUMBER-~RE962908753US.

FOR the WORD-TERMS of this C.-S.-S.-C.-P.-S.-G.-P.-NOW-TIME-VESSEL:

:D.-C.-F.-P.-S.-C.-V.-P.-: DOCUMENT-CONTRACT-FEDERAL-POSTAL-STATION-COURT-VENUE-PERFORMANCE

: VASSALEE-(WORD-MEANING) VASSAL=SERVANT of this DOCUMENT, EE=PLOYEE of this DOCUMENT.

: C.-S.-S.-C.-P.-S.-G.-P.-: CORRECT-SENTENCE-STRUCTURE-COMMUNICATION-PARSE-SYNTAX-GRAMMAR-PERFORMANCE.

: D.-C.-C.-R.- = For the DOCUMENT-CONTRACT-CLAIM-RULES.

: D.-C.-C.-S.- = For the DOCUMENT-CONTRACT-CLAIMS-SECTION, of this D.-C.-F.-P.-S.-C.-V.-P.-CODES with the C.-S.-S.-C.-P.-S.-G.-P.-WORD-CORRECTIONS ARE with the DAMAGE-CLAIM of the UNITED-STATES(sic)-FRAUDULENT-PARSE-SYNTAX-GRAMMAR-FEDERAL-TITLES, CODES, REGULATIONS, STATUES, &: ORDERS. [OR=NO, DERS=CONTRACT, AS the PARSE-SYNTAX-WRITING=VOID]

: DOCUMENT-VESSEL = For the D.-C.-F.-P.-S.-C.-V.-P.-P.-CLERK-DOCKETING of the D.-C.-F.-P.-S.-C.-V.-P.-PAPERS ARE with the PORT-DOCKING-CLAIM of the TWO-OR-MORE-PERSON with the D.-C.-F.-P.-S.-C.-V.-P.-PORT-STAMPING by the D.-C.-F.-P.-S.-C.-V.-P.-CLERK.

: DOUCMENT-STATE: = For the CORPORATION of the TWO-OR-MORE-PERSONS ARE with the PAPER-VESSEL-PORTING-CLAIM with the FEDERAL-POSTAL-COURT-VENUE-PORT-CLERK by this DOCUMENT-VESSEL.

: CONJUNCTION: &:=and:= ALSO, COMMAND; or:= OPTION, EITHER.

: FRAUDULENT:=: FICTION, ADVERB-MODIFICATION, PERJURY, GUESSING, OPINION, PRESUMPTION, ASSUMPTION, ILLUSION, FRAUD, MISLEADING,&: WRONG, CRIMINAL-VOLITION, FORCEFUL-PERFORMANCE, RAPE.

: LODIAL = [ARTICLE] For the SPECIFIC = A, AN, THE, THIS, THESE, THROUGH.

: POSITION = FOR, OF, WITH, BY, IN, AS, ON, WITHIN. For the POSITIONAL-LODIAL-FACT-PHASE of the CORRECT-SYNTAX-GRAMMAR-PHASE IS with the COMMUNICATION-CLAIM of the FACT.

: VASSALEE = For the VASSAL=SERVANT; EE=EMPLOYEE of this COMPLAINT-DOCUMENT.

: VOLITION = For the CLAIMANT'S-KNOWLEDGE of the FACTS ARE with the MOTION-THINKING-CLAIM by the C.-S.-S.-C.-P.-S.-G.-P.-NOW-TIME-D.-C.-F.-P.-V.-F.-E.-V.-P.

: PARSE-SYNTAX-GRAMMAR: For the NOW-TIME-WORD-MEANINGS of the C.-S.-S.-C.-P.-S.-G.-P.-MEANING.

: VERB-SYNTAX: IS = SINGULAR-SYNTAX-TENSE, ARE = PLURAL-SYNTAX-TENSE, THINKING-MOTION.

~A For this CLAIMAINT'S-KNOWLEDGE of the C.-S.-S.-C.-P.-S.-G.-P.-AUTHORITY ARE with the C.-S.-S.-C.-P.-S.-G.-P.-CONTRACT-TERM-CLAIMS by the TITLE-~28: D.-C.-C.-S.-~1331, of the C.-S.-S.-C.-P.-S.-G.-P.-COMPLIANCE-CLERK'S-DUTIES with the C.-S.-S.-C.-P.-S.-G.-P.-DOCKING-PAPER-VESSEL-VENUE-TITLE-NAME:

-D.-C.-F.-P.-S.-C.-V.-P.-NOW-TIME-C.-S.-S.-C.-P.-S.-G.-P.-

QUO-WARRANTO-COMPLAINT-CLAIM of this FEDERAL-POSTAL-CORPORATION-CASE-NUMBER-~ RA 286054212US with an C.-S.-S.-C.-P.-S.-G.-P.-AUTHORITY: TITLE-~28: D.-C.-C.-S.-~1361, ON the C.-S.-S.-C.-P.-S.-G.-P. of the D.-C.-F.-P.-D.-C.-V.-P.-CLERK &: with the CONTRACT-CLAIM-FAULT-COMMAD-CLERK-JUDGE by this CONTRACT-DOCKETING-D.-C.-F.-P.-S.-C.-V.-P. with the CLERK'S-SEAL ON the CORRESPONDENCE with the CONTRACT-CONSTITUTIONAL-TERMS by this CONTRACT-DUTY.

~B For the FAILURE of the C.-S.-S.-C.-P.-S.-G.-P.-CORRESPONDENCE-BACK within the TWENTY-ONE-DAYS ARE with the 'WRIT of the FAULT-DOCUMENT-CONTRACT-CLAIM' with the TWENTY-ONW-DAYS-GRACE-TIME-LIMIT &: THREE-DAY-RESCISSION-MAIL-GRACE-TIME &: C.-S.-S.-C.-P.-S.-G.-P.-OATH-DUTY-PERFORMANCE with the C.-S.-S.-C.-P.-S.-G.-P.-CORRESPONDENCE of the D.-C.-F.-P.-S.-C.-V.-P. as an ELECTED-POSTMASTER-BANKER-JUDGE with the FEDERAL-POSTAL-VESSEL-STAMP-AUTOGRAPHING-CONTRACT-AUTHORITY of the NOW-TIME-FEDERAL-POSTAL-CONTRACT-AUTHORITY with the CLAIMANT'S-C.-S.-S.-C.-P.-S.-G.-P.-KNOWLEDGE-CORRESPOND.

~C For this CLAIMANT'S-LETTER-ROGTAORY-WRIT of the FACTS ARE with the C.-S.-S.-C.-P.-S.-G.-P.-CLAIM of the NOW-TIME-CONTINUANCE with the CORRECT-EVIDENCE-CLOSURE-CORRECTIONS against the WRONG-WORD-MEANINGS with the SENTENCE-STRUCTURE-VIOLATIONS-CLAIMS of the TITLE-~18: D.-C.-C.-S.-~1001: FRAUDULENT-PARSE-SYNTAX-GRAMMAR-COMMUNICATION &: TITLE-~15: D.-C.-C.-S.-~1692~e: FRAUD-WRITING &: MISLEADING-STATEMENTS with the FRAUD-PENALTY-FINES: TITLE-~15: D.-C.-C.-S.-~78ff:(25-MILLION-DOLLARS) by the VASSALEE.

~D ROGATORY-WRIT: COMPOUND-FACT = For this CLAIMANT'S-KNOWLEDGE-CLOSUSRE of OUR QUANTUM-MEDIA-TREATY-DIRECTOR'S-PARTY-MEMBERS-CLAIM IS with the PACT-CLAIM of the PORTINGS with the C.-S.-S.-C.-P.-S.-G.-P.-FACTS/HAPPENINGS of the NOW-TIME-NETWORKING with the KNOWLEDGE-CLOSURE by the CLAIMANT'S-KNOWLEDGE-CONTRACTING-DIRECTOR-PARTY-MEMBERS. PAGE-1

FOR THE COPYCLAIM-COPYRIGHT-DATE-~4-~JULY-~1775, THROUGH this NOW-DATE BY THE FEDERAL-POSTAL-JUDGES-DIRECTORS: David-Wynn: Miller. DOCUMENT-CONTRACT-CORPORATION-TREATY.

~E For the "LATE: BENJAMIN FRANKLIN'S-FEDERAL-POSTAL-COURT-FRAUDULENT-PARSE-SYNTAX-GRAMMER-CHARTER" & VOID-SEA-PASS, VOID-SEA-TREATY, VOID-SYNTAX-DROGUE-LAW-TREATY & VOID-SYNTAX-GRAMMAR-OATH as the FICTION-ENGLAND-OVERSIGHT-COMMITTEE-APPOINTMENT-AGENT as the FRAUDULENT-ATTORNEY & "FRAUDULENT-PARSE-SYNTAX-GRAMMAR, & NO-OATH-JUDGE with the FEDERAL-POSTAL-COURT-VENUE-DATE~4~JULY~1775,~PHILADELPHIA~PENNSYLVANIA-STATE-DRYDOCK ARE with the CORRECTION-PARSE-SYNTAX-GRAMMAR-CLAIM of the NOW-TIME-C-S-S-C-P-S-G-P-FEDERAL-POSTAL-COURT-OPENING with the C-S-S-C-P-S-G-P-TWO-CORPORATE-FEDERAL-JUDGES'-KNOWLEDGE of the TITLE~28: D-C-C-S-~636: C-S-S-C-P-S-G-P-COURT-OPENING with the C-S-S-C-P-S-G-P-SEE-PASS, C-S-S-C-P-S-G-P-SEA-TREATY, & C-S-S-C-P-S-G-P-DROGUE-LAWS with the DATE~21~DECEMBER~2012, by the POSTMASTERS, BANKERS, & TWO-FEDERAL-JUDGES & POSTMASTERS: David-Wynn: Miller: PASSPORT-NUMBER~457238105, & POSTMASTER-GENERAL: Russell-Jay: Gould as the NEW-CORPORATION-FEDERAL-POSTAL-JUDGES & PASSPORT-NUMBER~486979541, of this C-S-S-C-P-S-G-P-FEDERAL-POSTAL-COURT-VENUE with the CONTINUOUS-CORRECTION-NOW-TIME-LINE from the DATE~4~JULY~1775, thru the CURRENT-NOW-TIME-DATES-CONCLUSIVE with the STOPPING & CORRECTING-WRONGS: TITLE~42: D-C-C-S-~1986 with the C-S-S-C-P-S-G-P-KNOWLEDGE of the TWO-FEDERAL-POSTAL-JUDGES, PLENIPOIENTIARY-JUDGES & POSTMASTERS with an ORIGINAL-NATION-TREATY-DATE~12-AUGUST~1999, with the UNITED-NATIONS-~NEW-YORK-CITY,~NEW-YORK-STATE by the DOCUMENT-CONTRACT-CORPORATION-SOVEREIGN-UNITED-NATIONS-CORPORATION. ~F For this CLAIMANT'S-KNOWLEDGE-CONSTITUTIONAL-DOCUMENT of the D-C-F-P-S-C-V-P-RULES ARE WITHIN THESE C-S-S-C-P-S-G-P-NOW-TIME-D-C-F-P-S-C-V-P-CLAIMS by the C-S-S-C-P-S-G-P-LETTER-ROGATORY with the JOINER-CORRESPONDENCE-TREATY-CLAIM by the D-C-F-P-S-C-V-P: DOCUMENT-CLAIM~1: For the CLAIMANT'S-KNOWLEDGE-COMMUNICATION-FACTS of the C-S-S-C-P-S-G-P-ARE with the FACT-AS-FACT-CLAIM of the C-S-S-C-P-S-G-P. : DOCUMENT-CLAIM~2: For the CLAIMANT'S-KNOWLEDGE-JUDGE'S-WRITTEN-CONTRACT of the FACTS ARE with the C-S-S-C-P-S-G-P-CLAIMS of the NOW-TIME-CONTINUANCE with the C-S-S-C-P-S-G-P-VIOLATIONS-CLAIMS of the TITLE~18: D-C-C-S-~1001: FRAUDULENT-PARSE-SYNTAX-GRAMMAR-COMMUNICATION & TITLE~15: D-C-C-S-~1692~e, with the FRAUDULENT-SYNTAX-GRAMMAR-WRITINGS & MISLEADING-STATEMENTS with the FRAUD-PENALTY-FINES: TITLE~15: D-C-C-S-~78ff, (\$25-MILLION-DOLLARS) by the VASSALEES. : DOCUMENT-CLAIM~3: For the CLAIMANT'S-C-S-S-C-P-S-G-P-KNOWLEDGE of the C-S-S-C-P-S-G-P-FACTS ARE with the CLAIMS of the SPEECH, WRITINGS, FAITHS, PRESS, ARMA, & DOCUMENT-PORTING with the GRIEVANCES IN the C-S-S-C-P-S-G-P-VENUE-FEDERAL-COURT-DOCUMENTS. : DOCUMENT-CLAIM~4: For the CORPORATION-CASE of the D-C-F-P-S-C-V-P. IS with the C-S-S-C-P-S-G-P-CLAIM by the CLAIMANT'S-LODIAL-VOLITION. : DOCUMENT-CLAIM~5: For the D-C-F-P-S-C-V-P-CONSTITUTION of the FACTS ARE with the CLAIMS by the CLAIMANT'S-C-S-S-C-P-S-G-P-KNOWLEDGE. : DOCUMENT-CLAIM~6: For the CLAIMS of the C-S-S-C-P-S-G-P-CAPTURE-WARRANT OR: C-S-S-C-P-S-G-P-SEARCH-WARRANT ARE with the JUDGE'S-AUTOGRAPH & C-S-S-C-P-S-G-P-OATH by the C-S-S-C-P-S-G-P-AUTHORITY-DUTY. : DOCUMENT-CLAIM~7: For the WITNESSING-CLAIMANT'S-KNOWLEDGE of the WITNESS'S-TESTIMONY ARE with the CLAIMANT'S-C-S-S-C-P-S-G-P-KNOWLEDGE-CLAIMS by the CLAIMANT'S-PERSONAL-SELF-CLAIMS. : DOCUMENT-CLAIM~8: For the CLAIMANT'S-KNOWLEDGE of the C-S-S-C-P-S-G-P-FACTS ARE with the CLAIMANT'S-CLAIM of the CORRECT-NOW-TIME-EVIDENCE-FACTS. : DOCUMENT-CLAIM~9: For the C-S-S-C-P-S-G-P-TWELVE-PERSONS'-KNOWLEDGE of the C-S-S-C-P-S-G-P-CLAIMS ARE with the ONE-LEVEL-PLANE-CLAIM of the C-S-S-C-P-S-G-P-TRIAL-COURT. : DOCUMENT-CLAIM~10: For the TERMS of the CONVICTION-PERSON'S-PUNISHMENT ARE with the C-S-S-C-P-S-G-P-CLAIMS of the BAIL-CONDITIONAL-TERMS, FINANCIAL-TERM-FINES & JAIL-TERMS with the D-C-F-P-S-C-V-P. : DOCUMENT-CLAIM~11: For the D-C-F-P-S-C-V-P-FIDUCIARIES of the DOCUMENT-FACTS ARE with the DUTY-CLAIM OR: ELECTION-CLAIM of the C-S-S-C-P-S-G-P-OATH with the D-C-F-P-S-C-V-P. : DOCUMENT-CLAIM~12: For the VESSEL-DOCUMENT of the D-C-F-P-S-C-V-P-HEREIN ARE with the CLOSURE-CLAIM of the CONSTITUTION, DOCUMENT-CONTRACT-CORPORATION & PERSON'S-TRUST-DOCUMENTS. ~O For this CLAIMANTS'-KNOWLEDGE of the C-S-S-C-P-S-G-P, ARE with the TITLE~42: D-C-C-S-~1986: STOPPING & CORRECTING-WRONG-WORD-SYNTAX-MEANINGS, COMMUNICATION-LANGUAGE, COURT-VENUE by the PERSONS. ~G For this LETTER-ROGATORY-WRIT of the FOREIGN-CORRESPONDENCE ARE with the C-S-S-C-P-S-G-P-AUTHORITY-CLAIM OR: DOCUMENT-CASE-VACATE. ~H For the D-C-F-P-S-C-V-P. of the STATE: Illinois -TERRITORY ARE with the LOCATION-CLAIM of this LETTER-ROGATORY with the C-S-S-C-P-S-G-P-CLAIM, RULE & LAWS by the CLAIMANT-KNOWLEDGE. ~I For the FEDERAL-COURT-VENUE-FIDUCIARIES of the DOCUMENT-VESSEL-COURT ARE with the DUTY-CONTRACT-CLAIM by the C-S-S-C-P-S-G-P-OATH of the D-C-F-P-S-C-V-P.

: Vashan:Kyles: : AUTOGRAPH-CLAIMANT-LIFEBIRTH/: COPYCLAIM.

PAGE-2

FOR THE COPYCLAIM-COPYRIGHT-DATE~4~JULY~1775, THROUGH this NOW-DATE BY THE FEDERAL-POSTAL-JUDGES-DIRECTORS: David-Wynn: Miller. DOCUMENT-CONTRACT-CORPORATION-TREATY.



:BONDED::C.-S.-S.-C.-P.-S.-G.-P.-DOCUMENT-CONTRACT-FEDERAL-POSTAL-STATION-COURT-VENUE-FLAG

For the CORRECT-PARSE-SYNTAX-GRAMMAR-POSITIVE-PERFORMANCE-GLOBAL-TREATY-RULES of the CORRECT-SENTENCE-STRUCTURE-COMMUNICATION-PARSE-SYNTAX-GRAMMAR-PERFORMANCE-(C.-S.-S.-C.-P.-S.-G.-P.) ARE with the QUANTUM-KNOWLEDGE-CLAIM of the NOW-TIME-WORDS by the GLOBAL-STYLES-MANUAL-TREATY.

For these STYLES-RULES of the SYNTAX-GRAMMAR ARE with these GLOBAL-POSITIVE-PERFORMANCES:

~0 = CONJUNCTION = 'and', '&' = COMMAND, ALSO. 'or' = OPTION, EITHER. For an 'or' between the PRONOUN-WORDS ARE with the SAME-SYNTAX following the POSITION-ADVERB-PHASE with the 'FRAUDULENT-FICTION-SYNTAX-GRAMMAR' & 'QUANTUM-CORRECT-SYNTAX-GRAMMAR'.

~1 = ADVERB = with the MODIFIER of the NEXT-WORD as an ADVERB, VERB, or: ADJECTIVE.

For the WORDS-ENDING in a "LY" [9/10-TIME-FICTION] ARE with the MODIFIER-FACT as an ADVERB.

For the [prePOSITIONS]-POSITIONS, & [arTICLES]-LODIAL ARE with the SINGLE-POSITION-ADVERB.

For an ADVERB-CONNECTS before the PRONOUN, &: VERB, or: ADJECTIVE-PRONOUN ["ONLY"].

~2 = VERB = For the MODIFIED-GERUND-NOUN-CHANGE into the FRAUDULENT-VERB-SYNTAX. GERUND-(NOUN=NO-NO). 'ADVERB-MODIFICATION' of the FACT-WORD into the FRAUD-NO-WORD-MEANING.

~3 = ADJECTIVE = For the MODIFIED-OPINION-COLORING of the (SYNTAX-PRONOUN=NO-NO-NO)

For the HYPHEN-PLACEMENT between an ADJECTIVE-PRONOUN-MODIFIED-WORDS ARE with the JOINING-COMPOUND-VERBS or: SINGLE-PRONOUNS.

~4 = PRONOUNS = For the SINGLE-ONE-WORD; For an ADJECTIVE-MODIFYING-OPINION of the FACT-CHANGES with the FACT into the PRONOUN; For an ADVERB-CONNECTS to the PRONOUN before an ADVERB.

~8 For the PAST-TIME-TENSE: from, ed, after of the VOID-NOW-TIME ARE with the DAMAGE-CLAIM of the FRAUD-SYNTAX-GRAMMAR.

~9 For the FUTURE-TIME-TENSE: pre, to, of the SYNTAX-WORDS ARE with the DAMAGE-CLAIM of the VOID-FUTURE-MEANING &: VOID-NOW-TIME-PERFORMANCE-WORDS.

["BAR-CULT"]]: FICTION-CODE: "NO₁ LAW₂ or₀ NO₁ FACT₂, SHALL₄ BE₁ TRIED_{2,8}, IN₁ COURT_{2-dpv}."

For THESE CORRECT-PARSE-SYNTAX-GRAMMAR-STYLES-MEANINGS ARE with the 85,000-HOURS-WORLD-WIDE-SEARCH of the QUANTUM-MATH-CERTIFICATION of the WWW.DWMLC.COM, with the 2500-WORLD-WIDE-LIVE-SEMINARS by the RADIO, INTERNET, TV, PERSONAL-LIVE, VIDEOS, CD, &: PHONE.

~2 = VERB: CORRECT-QUANTUM-MEANING-THINKING = 'IS'=SINGULAR-FACT, 'ARE'=PLURAL-FACTS-VERB.

~5 POSITION-WORDS = For, of, with, by, through, thru, between, in, on, against. For the TERMS of these WORDS ARE with the JOINING-POSITION-LODIAL-FACT=PHRASE of an ALPHABET-'ABCD-ect', WORD-SPELLING-CONTRACT-MEANING-TREATY, WORD-PERFORMANCE-TERMS-MEANING-NOW-TIME &: CORRECT-SYNTAX-CONNECTION with the LODIAL-WORD-TERM["ARTICLE"]. (5-6-7, 5-6-7, IS/AREverb, 5-6-7-5-6-7.)

~6 LODIAL-WORD = For the OWNERSHIP of the FACT: A, a, an, I, the, this, these, our, ["ARTICLE"] (5-6-7)

~7 FACT-WORD = For the ~5 & ~6 of the CORRECT-FACT with the SENTENCE-VALUES ARE with the FRONTWARDS &: BACKWARDS with an OPPOSITE-POSITION of the POSITIONAL-LODIAL-FACT-PHRASES with the CORRECT-SENTENCE-STRUCTURE-COMMUNICATION-PARSE-SYNTAX-GRAMMAR-PERFORMANCE-(C.-S.-S.-C.-P.-S.-G.-P.)

:ONE-VENUE: For the MARITIME-CONTRACT of the PAPER-DOCKING-DOCKET-DOCUMENT-COURT ARE with the ONE-VENUE-FLAG by the C.-S.-S.-C.-P.-S.-G.-P.-CLAIM.

For the VOWELS: A,E,I,O,U ARE with the STARTING-SINGLE-SYLLABLE-MEANS: "NO" or with the FOLLOWING-TWO-CONSONANTS-MEANS: "NO-CONTRACT"-WORD.

For this COPYRIGHT-COPYCLAIM by the FEDERAL-POSTAL-JUDGE: David-Wynn: Miller~6~APRIL~1988, with the DOCUMENT-CONTRACT-CORPORATION-CLAIM.