Local Officials' Preparedness to Combat Extremism:
A Survey of New York and California County Clerks

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Extremist Contact by Group Type
California and New York
(past five years)

A Right Wing Phenomenon

(NDIA Conference 15 Jun 2005)
Eugenia Guilmartin

Percent

Group Type

- Tax Protest: California 65%, New York 53%
- Sovereign Citizen: California 41%, New York 52%
- Militia: California 17%, New York 15%
- Property Rights/"Wise Use": California 10%, New York 17%
- White Supremacist: California 0%, New York 10%
- Anti-Abortion Activists: California 5%, New York 0%
- Radical Environmentalist: California 0%, New York 7%

(CA: N=31, NY: N=39)
**Extremist Tactics**
**California and New York**
(past five years)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tactics</th>
<th>Percent</th>
<th>California</th>
<th>New York</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Challenging Oaths</td>
<td>67</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>67</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Liens</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>67</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Warrants</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>67</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Intimidation</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>67</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FOIA</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>67</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tax Fraud</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>67</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disruption</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>67</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot;Bogus&quot; Checks</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>67</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(CA: N=39, NY: N=31)
Employees under Threat…

- Lawsuits: NY = 8, CA = 36
- Liens: NY = 3, CA = 16
- Weapons: NY = 0, CA = 3
- Calls: NY = 8, CA = 16
- Letters: NY = 18, CA = 35
- Verbal: NY = 15, CA = 45

Percent of Counties Reporting

NY = 39, CA = 31
Extremist identification: Employees often first to know

- Suspicious speech or behavior: NY = 26, CA = 74%
- Law enforcement notification: NY = 3, CA = 7%
- Complaint by resident: NY = 0, CA = 3%
- Self-identified: NY = 33, CA = 42%

NY = 39, CA = 31

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The solution?
Shared (and protected) Information…

- Few counties have policies to address problem
  -- only 5 of the 70 counties (all in California)

- On average, clerk’s staffs are 86% women
  -- longtime employees, known to community
  -- 23% use verbal persuasion against extremists

- Information across counties
- Protection of property records (think defensively)

“Paper terrorism” is not an oxymoron… it’s effective!