



# PROJECT ACHILLES HEEL

## AUTHORITY & SUBORDINATION OF JURISDICTIONS (U.S. CONTEXT)

### 1. Federal (U.S. Government)

- Supreme statutory authority within the United States.
- All state, county, and municipal governments are subordinate to federal law, so far as the U.S. Constitution allows.
- Federal law preempts state law where there is a conflict (Supremacy Clause).
- Federal agencies may physically operate offices within states, counties, or cities, but their jurisdiction and authority remain federal.

#### Agencies/Authorities:

- Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI)
- Department of Homeland Security (DHS)
- Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA)
- Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF)
- Internal Revenue Service (IRS)
- Federal Trade Commission (FTC)
- Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC)
- Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA)
- Federal Communications Commission (FCC)
- U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS)

>>> States are subordinate to the federal government for all matters within the constitutional/federal jurisdiction.

### 2. State Government

- Subordinate to the federal government but supreme within its own borders for all areas not preempted by federal law.
- Counties and cities are subordinate to the state and are created/empowered by state law.
- State agencies may operate offices in counties and cities, but their authority is statewide (not local).

**Agencies/Authorities:**

- State Police/Highway Patrol
- Office of the Attorney General
- State Department of Health

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└ Child Protective Services (CPS)

(CPS is a state agency; local county CPS offices are subordinate to the main state department.)

- State Licensing Boards
- State Department of Education
- Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV)
- State Environmental Agency
- State Taxation/Revenue Department
- State Fire Marshal

>>> Counties and municipalities are subordinate to the state and carry out delegated state powers.

**3. County Government**

- Subordinate to the state government; authority defined and limited by state law.
- Cities/towns located within the county are subordinate to both the state and, to certain administrative functions, the county.
- County agencies/offices may operate in any city or town within the county, but do not govern state or federal offices operating there.

**Agencies/Authorities:**

- County Sheriff's Department
- County Health Department
- County Courts (Superior, Probate, Family, etc.)
- County Jail/Detention Center
- County Recorder's Office
- County Assessor
- County Board of Supervisors/Commissioners
- County Emergency Management
- County Public Works

>>> Cities/towns are subordinate to the county where county-level authority is exercised (varies by state).



#### 4. Town/City (Municipal) Government

- Subordinate to both the county and state; authority and existence defined by the state legislature or constitution.
- Can only exercise powers granted to them by the state (and sometimes the county).
- Agencies may physically reside within a town or city, but their legal jurisdiction is defined by their parent governmental level.

##### Agencies/Authorities:

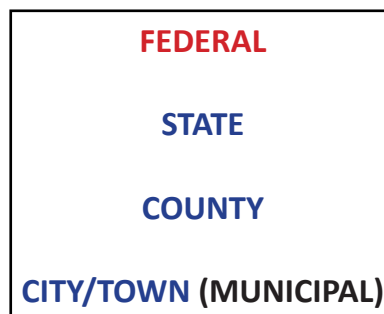
- City/Town Police Department
- City Council/Select Board/Mayor's Office
- Municipal Business Licensing Office
- Permitting Department
- Public Works Department
- City/Fire Department
- Planning and Zoning Commission
- Code Enforcement
- City Clerk

>>> Municipal departments/agencies are subordinate to city/town councils/mayors, which in turn are subordinate to the county/state.

#### Summary Hierarchy of Subordination

(highest to lowest government authority):

**ASSEMBLY**





## 5. Assembly (Trusts, PMA, Ecclesiastical, Tribal, etc.)

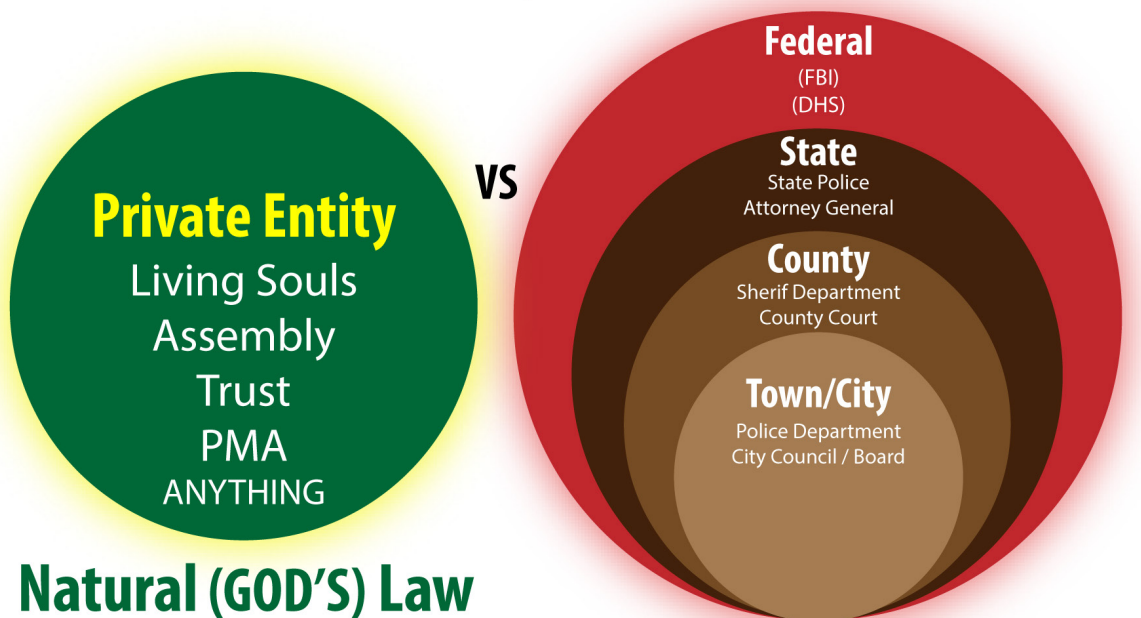
- Not generally part of the statutory governmental hierarchy (meaning these are private, religious, or indigenous organizations, not state or federal).
- Operate on the basis of contract, trust law, religious law, or tribal law.
- Members are subordinate to the internal rules of their assembly, so long as those rules do not contradict superior public law (federal or state).
- Some recognized tribal governments have sovereign status acknowledged by the U.S., but even that sovereignty has limits under federal law, as determined by Congress and the Supreme Court.

### Agencies/Authorities:

- Trust Board of Trustees
- PMA Directors (Private Membership Association)
- Ecclesiastical/Church Council
- Tribal Council
- Community Assembly/Council
- Arbitration Panels or Mediators
- Guardians or Custodians

>>> All internal members and entities are subordinate to the governing body or contract of the assembly.  
 >>> Assemblies themselves operate independently **unless/until** their activities come into conflict with state, county, or federal law.

## SHIELD OF SOULS.COM Statutory Law / Commerce Jurisdiction





## HOLDING THE ENTIRE SYSTEM ACCOUNTABLE:

### Alter Egos:

State, county, and city governments increasingly function as alter egos or administrative arms of the U.S. government, even though they are theoretically separate legal entities, because they are all subordinate and constrained by the federal structure—and often by direct federal mandates or funding requirements.

If the U.S. government is the **“principal,”** the others are often its **“agents,”** or practical extensions, even if the legal fiction of separate sovereignty remains.

If you’re looking for citation or case law, courts sometimes use the term **“political subdivisions”** or **“instrumentalities”** for local government—acknowledging that, while technically distinct, they exist to serve higher (ultimately federal) power. The term **“alter ego”** is less commonly used officially, but the functional reality is very close.

## 1. Separation for Legal Protection: Private Structures

### Why separation matters:

Keeping entities (e.g., Trust, PMA, Church Assembly) formally and functionally distinct means legal claims, liabilities, or attacks against one entity do not — by default — automatically harm or implicate the others. “Piercing the veil” (where courts ignore separateness) usually requires proof that one entity is just an alter ego or puppet of another.

If entities exercise authority over each other, or commingle assets/governance:

Courts are more likely to view them as a single legal entity for liability, compliance, or enforcement, making all susceptible to attack or judgment against any one.

True autonomy, separate boards, separate finances, and demonstrable independence are gold standards for legal protection.

## 2. Government Structure: Are Layers Truly Separate?

In government, levels (federal, state, county, municipal) are supposed to be somewhat distinct (“federalism”—dual sovereignty).



**BUT:** In practice, as discussed above, subordination, funding, and command-and-control from above often functionally unify these. If the federal government sends a mandate (funding laws, preemptive regulations), enforcement trickles down. If one layer is compromised, it can affect the effectiveness or legitimacy of the others—even if there’s formal separation.

**Example:**

If the federal government is held liable for violating constitutional rights, it often means state and local authorities (who implemented those policies) can be blocked from similar actions or are required to make reparations.

**This is how, for example, Supreme Court rulings, (Brown v. Board, etc.) cascade down and bind states and cities.**

### **3. Strategic Leverage: How Does This Aid Accountability?**

#### **A. Isolate to Protect, Link to Expose**

**In private trusts/assemblies:**

If an entity is attacked, strict separation can limit harm.

If an opponent tries to treat them as one, challenge this by showing distinctness—separate records, leadership, and purposes.

**In government:**

If misconduct or rights violations occur at one level (e.g., city police), you can demonstrate how that agency is implementing state or federal policy, funded by higher authorities, or acting under their direction. By “linking” these entities, you can argue that accountability should be shared up the chain, thereby preventing higher levels from avoiding responsibility by claiming separation.

#### **B. “Piercing the Veil” for Accountability**

**In Private Structures:**

Piercing the veil is generally a risk you want to avoid. If sued, your defense is absolute separation: each entity should have its own bank account, minutes, governance, and purpose. If this is done, courts are less likely to allow a judgment against one to affect the others.

**In Government:**

Here, you actually want courts, the public, or other watchdogs to “pierce the veil” of separation—demonstrate that, despite formal divisions, the state, county, and city are merely arms of a single government structure. You point to shared policies, inter-agency directives, and coordinated enforcement to argue that liability and accountability should “pierce” the paper separation and hold the full system responsible.

**C. Strategic Litigation and Public Pressure****Expose Chain of Command:**

If you uncover wrongdoing at a city agency, follow the chain up—subpoena state records, ask for correspondence with federal officials, etc. Frame your public narrative, legal briefs, and press work to show how failure (or abuse) is not isolated.

**Demand Top-Down Remedies:**

Courts and watchdogs often want to limit blame to “a few bad apples.” By showing the hierarchy actually acts as one (despite paper separation), you can demand structural remedies, not just cosmetic changes.

**D. Public Policy Leverage****If you can show interconnectedness:**

Use it to push for legislative or judicial reform at the highest relevant level—don’t let them pass off the issue as “just local.”

**If you need protection:**

Insist on the actual boundaries, citing local autonomy or separate powers to block overreach.

**4. Sample Script for Holding System Accountable:**

“Our investigation/litigation has established that City X, State Y, and Federal Agency Z function as coordinated agents, not independent actors—policies, funding, and enforcement flow straight down the chain. Any harm or rights violation resulting from this system is not the isolated responsibility of a single office—it is a systemic act, created, funded, and overseen at the federal/state level. Accountability and reform must be demanded of the system as a whole, not just scapegoated at the lowest level.”

Legal separation is a key shield for private entities—but unity is a weapon in public accountability.

When challenging government abuse or systemic wrongdoing, use their own hierarchy against them: treat the structure as unified when it serves justice, and demand answers from the top down.





## 1. Do Supreme Court Cases Explicitly “Pierce the Veil” of Governmental Subdivisions?

**Short answer:** The Supreme Court does not often use the specific phrase “**piercing the veil**” (as in corporate law) for governments. However, it consistently treats local governments as “**instrumentalities**,” “**agents**,” or “**political subdivisions**” of the state, and states as subordinate to federal authority. In practice, the Court disregards supposed independence when the structure or functioning makes one entity an extension of another.

### Key Doctrines and Cases

#### A. “Political Subdivisions” as Instruments/Alter Egos

##### **Hunter v. City of Pittsburgh, 207 U.S. 161 (1907)**

The Court declared that cities are “convenient agencies” of the state. The state has total discretion to define, alter, or abolish these entities. Quote:

“Municipal corporations are political subdivisions of the state, created as convenient agencies for exercising such of the governmental powers of the state as may be entrusted to them... The number, nature, and duration of the powers conferred upon these corporations... rests in the absolute discretion of the state.”

##### **Wilmington v. Delaware, 136 U.S. 48 (1890)**

The Court held that municipal corporations, such as cities, “are instrumentalities of the state for carrying on the government of the state.” Thus, their authority is wholly derivative; they are not sovereigns, but administrative arms of the state government.

##### **Avery v. Midland County, 390 U.S. 474 (1968)**

The Court stated explicitly that counties “are, after all, creatures of the State.” Counties have only those powers given by the state and may be reorganized or even abolished at the state’s discretion. Their policies, elections, and organization are subject to higher-level (state) control.

##### **United States v. California, 297 U.S. 175 (1936)**

The Supreme Court recognized that states and their subdivisions must yield to federal authority, especially under the Supremacy Clause. The “state as well as its subdivisions are bound by the federal Constitution and laws enacted pursuant to it.”





## B. Federal Mandate/Preemption and Chain of Accountability

### Cooper v. Aaron, 358 U.S. 1 (1958)

The Court held that all state officials (including governors, legislatures, and local agents) are bound by the Supreme Court's interpretation of the Constitution, meaning state and local governments are not legally independent from federal directives.

### Printz v. United States, 521 U.S. 898 (1997)

Although the Court limited direct commandeering of state officers for federal purposes, it reiterated that federal law binds state entities where constitutionally authorized, and that the structure is fundamentally hierarchical—local actors follow federal constitutional law above all else.

### Howlett v. Rose, 496 U.S. 356 (1990)

This case reaffirmed that state courts are obligated to hear federal claims and enforce federal law, even against subdivisions of the state, and cannot use state law to bypass federal mandates. The subordination is functionally total under the Supremacy Clause.

## C. “Piercing the Veil” in Governmental Contexts

No Supreme Court case uses the exact corporate phrase “**piercing the veil**” regarding government layers. However, the principles underlying veil-piercing are present whenever the Court:

- Holds states responsible for the acts of their subdivisions;
- Treats state and local actors as a single system for purposes of constitutional liability;
- Recognizes that political subdivisions exist only to serve (and are accountable to) higher-level authority.

## D. Local Governments as “Alter Egos” in Federal Court

### Monell v. Department of Social Services, 436 U.S. 658 (1978)

The Court held that local governments can be sued as “persons” under federal civil rights law (Section 1983) for the actions of their officials and policies. This treats the government entity as a single functional or operational whole for federal accountability.

## 2. What Does This Mean for Accountability and Government Litigation?

When government layers (federal, state, county, city) operate as a coordinated, subordinate system, courts will not allow them to avoid responsibility through claim of separation in cases where constitutional or statutory duties are at issue. Categories like “**political subdivision**,” “**instrumentality**,” and “**agent**” serve here much like “**alter ego**” does in corporate law. Accountability moves up and down the governmental hierarchy, and local autonomy is routinely superseded by higher law or policy.



### 3. Useful Supreme Court Language for Your Argument

“Political subdivisions of States—counties, cities, or whatever—never were and never have been considered as sovereign entities. They are instead subordinate governmental instrumentalities created by the State to assist in the carrying out of state policy and subject to the State’s control.”

– **Port Authority v. New Jersey, 429 U.S. 894 (1976)**

“The acts of subordinate state officials, whether executive, legislative or judicial, are acts of the State.”

– **Ex Parte Young, 209 U.S. 123 (1908)**

“No state official has power to place himself above the Supreme Law of the Land.”

– **Cooper v. Aaron, 358 U.S. 1 (1958)**

“Counties... are, after all, creatures of the State.”

– **Avery v. Midland County, 390 U.S. 474 (1968)**

Local governments “are instrumentalities of the State for carrying on the government of the State.”

– **Wilmington v. Delaware, 136 U.S. 48 (1890).**

### 4. Bottom Line

Supreme Court precedent consistently affirms that cities, counties, and other local governments are not truly independent, but are “**arms,**” “**agencies,**” “**instrumentalities,**” or “**political subdivisions**” of the state—and the state is itself subordinate to federal law. While the words “**piercing the veil**” and “**alter ego**” are more common in private law, the same practical doctrines of unity, subordination, and top-down accountability absolutely apply in U.S. constitutional law and are reaffirmed across many major cases.

For advocacy or litigation, cite these cases and doctrines, and use clear language about political subdivisions, instrumentalities, and agents to frame government as a unified, accountable system.



## 5. Affirmation

With this knowledge, we trust you now have a clear grasp of how Natural Law operates, and how accessible it is to develop innovative alternatives to the oppressive system. By embracing these principles, you empower yourself—and anyone ready to understand—with freedom rooted in courage and sincerity, rather than fear.

“Chief Lead,” “Founder” \_\_\_\_\_

**Name:** Ethan Allen UST **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

(“Fear no darkness, for God is the light” — Nullas tenebras metue, nam Deus lux est.)