OMGs. Two other gangs, the Sons of Silence and the Cossacks, also are categorized by some law enforcement agencies as outlaw gangs. The OMGs are aligned in coalitions with one another and are in conflict with other gang coalitions over the control of criminal activity within various states and regions. One of the most infamous conflicts was the so-called "Quebec Biker War" in 2002 between Canadian biker gangs that resulted in over 150 murders, eighty-four bombings, and 130 instances of arson.

The federal government has engaged in several mass arrests of the members of OMGs. In 1985, Operation Roughrider resulted in the arrest of over 125 individuals, most of whom were members of the Hells Angels motorcycle club in eleven states. The raid resulted in the seizure of unlawful narcotics with a street value of roughly $2 million.

Biker gangs are decentralized and according to gang analysts are based on "amoral individualism" in which members are free to pursue their own criminal plans. As a result, law-abiding club members often claim that the motorcycle club with which they are affiliated does not sponsor illicit activity and may justifiably contend that their club is being unfairly labeled as a criminal organization. Motorcycle gang members who engage in criminal activity refer to themselves as "one percenters" based on a statement by the American Motorcycle Association that 99 percent of bikers follow the law.

In 2015, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives in a report leaked to the press warned that "insatiable appetite for dominance [of OMGs] has led to shootings, assaults and malicious attacks across the globe. OMGs continue to maim and murder over territory." The report concluded that as "tensions [between OMGs] escalate, brazen shootings are occurring in broad daylight."

The shoot-out in Waco allegedly was precipitated by the Bandidos Motorcycle Club claim that they were entitled to determine whether the Cossacks and other Texas motorcycle clubs were free to wear jackets ("colors") decorated with patches on their back with a "bottom rocker" that read "Texas," indicating that Texas was the geographic home territory of the club. There had been several confrontations between members of the Bandidos and Cossacks dating back to November 2013.

The May 2015 confrontation between the Bandidos and Cossacks occurred at a regularly scheduled meeting of the Texas Confederation of Clubs and Independents, a statewide organization that advocates for the rights of motorcyclists. The Bandidos reportedly had decided to mount a display of dominant force that symbolically proclaimed that Waco was a Bandidos town in which the Cossacks were unwelcome. The Cossacks, although not a part of the Confederation, decided to attend the meeting to make it clear that the Cossacks were entitled to ride their motorcycles in Waco. A shoot-out erupted over a dispute about a parking spot and escalated into a large-scale confrontation. Individuals arrested initially were held at $1 million bail, which later was reduced to $25,000. Defense attorneys alleged that most of the gunfire and fatalities resulted from the police rather than bikers. As a prosecutor, would you charge members of OMGs with conspiracy or a violation of RICO?