

# THE Gun Owners

35 YEARS OF NO COMPROMISE – 1975-2010

## GOA testifies before the Senate



GOA attorney Bill Olson testified against Elena Kagan, the President's most recent pick for the U.S. Supreme Court. Olson told the Senate that throughout her career, Kagan has demonstrated a "visceral hostility" to the Second Amendment right to keep and bear arms. GOA's testimony can be viewed at <http://www.gunowners.org/kagantestimony>.

## UN Arms Treaty Threatens Gun Rights

by John Velleco

In July, a United Nations committee wrapped up a series of meetings on a comprehensive global arms treaty that may cover everything from bullets to battleships — and gun owners can take no comfort in the fact that radical anti-gunners at the U.S. State Department are at the negotiating table.

The Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) is a massive undertaking designed to regulate weapons trade throughout the world. But as discussions unfold, a general hostility to the private ownership of firearms could mean the final product will make the world less safe while at the same time undermining U.S. sovereignty and the American right to keep and bear arms.

The recent meetings of the Preparatory Committee for the ATT is a result of a UN General Assembly resolution — drafted in 2006 and passed in October of 2008 — entitled "Towards an arms trade treaty: establishing common international standards for the import, export and transfer of conventional arms."

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## Supreme Court Ruling Reverberating Across the Nation

by Erich Pratt

Gun Owners of America celebrated this summer when the U.S. Supreme Court ruled in favor of Otis McDonald and against the handgun ban imposed by the city of Chicago.

In issuing its June 28 decision, the Court reaffirmed that the reach of the Second Amendment extends beyond just the federal government and applies to all 50 states.

This was certainly great news for Otis McDonald in Chicago and even greater news for citizens who are languishing under restrictive gun control laws across the country.

Gun Owners of America and Gun Owners Foundation filed a scholarly amicus brief in this case, urging the Court to protect all U.S. citizens against any government infringement of the Second Amendment.

Two years ago, the Supreme Court

decided in *District of Columbia v. Heller* that the Second Amendment to the United States Constitution was violated by a District of Columbia handgun ban.

In June, the Court ruled in *McDonald v. Chicago* that a look-alike Chicago ban violated the Fourteenth Amendment. By so ruling, the Court held that the right to keep and bear arms secured to an American citizen living in the nation's capital was equally secured to a citizen in the nation's third largest city.

The *McDonald* opinion spent 45 pages reviewing the right to keep and bear arms — its history, its importance to Americans as the chief safeguard against tyrannical government, and even its significance to the newly freed slaves who were being disarmed and abused by southern officials in the mid-to-late-1800s.

While gun banners are making a big

to-do about the three sentences of *dicta* in the opinion which seem to provide them a little wiggle room for some types of gun control in the future, the

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- **Highlights of the McDonald case (page 4)**
- **Did your Senators vote to confirm another radical, anti-gun Justice to the Supreme Court? (page 5)**
- **GOA in the News (page 8)**

## *UN Arms Treaty*

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Though the Preparatory Committee did not spell out the terms of the treaty, it did work on what types of weapons should be included in the final product. The meetings were held behind closed doors, but from the information that is known it is clear that U.S. gun rights could be significantly affected.

For instance, a July 21, 2010 statement signed by Mexico — which is also pushing for the U.S. to ratify another gun control treaty (see [www.gunowners.org/cifta](http://www.gunowners.org/cifta)) — urges that the ATT:

[B]e flexible to cover all types of conventional weapons (regardless of their purpose), including small arms and light weapons, ammunition, components, parts, technology and related materials hence permitting the development of the concept “conventional arms” together with the future technological developments of the armaments industry.

The statement went on that, “It is important to maintain control throughout the whole life cycle of the weapon, from its production until its destruction,” and that all weapons “and their major parts and components must be marked at the time of production and information regarding marking numbers processed, and maintained, in databases that allow for efficient tracing.”

Under the Bush administration, and thanks to the leadership of UN Ambassador John Bolton, the U.S. opposed the treaty precisely due to the radical agenda of countries like Mexico. But in October 2009, Secretary of State Hillary Clinton famously reversed the U.S. position on the treaty, saying that “The United States is prepared to work hard for a strong international standard in this area.”

Clinton’s statement did not come as a surprise, given the current administration’s antagonism toward gun rights. In addition, the top legal advisor to the State Department is world-wide gun control advocate Harold Koh, who was confirmed by the Senate four months earlier.

GOA warned Senators for weeks before the vote that Koh was a radical anti-gun globalist dedicated to international gun control and for the U.S. to



**While the Bush administration nixed any treaty that would have infringed upon the Second Amendment rights of all Americans, current Secretary of State Hillary Clinton reversed our nation’s position, saying that “The United States is prepared to work hard for a strong international standard in this area.”**

adhere to “global norms” in the area of gun rights.

In a speech published in 2003 titled “A World Drowning in Guns,” Koh advocated “a global system of effective controls on small arms.” Koh also complained that “We are a long way from persuading governments to accept a flat ban on the trade of legal arms.”

Koh is now a lot closer to “persuading governments” in his current role at the State Department.

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***The UN Arms Trade Treaty is expected to cover rifles, shotguns and handguns, plus microstamping of ammunition, and could also include the registration of gun owners as well as requiring the mandatory destruction of surplus ammo and confiscated firearms.***

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The U.S. Undersecretary for Arms Control and International Security, a key negotiator of the ATT, is former Congresswoman Ellen Tauscher of California. Tauscher, who was “F” rated on gun rights issues during her twelve years in Congress, assured a Washington, D.C., audience that “We will work between now and the UN Conference in 2012 to negotiate a legally binding Arms Trade Treaty.”

There is no doubt that the ATT is on

the fast track. The Preparatory Committee envisions a treaty finalized by 2012, at which time it will be open to ratification by UN member states.

Ostensibly, the treaty is aimed at global regulations to keep guns out of the hands of “non-state actors.” But ignored are facts such as that in the 20th century alone, an estimated 1.5 million civilians a year died at the hands of officially recognized governments.

Often, non-state actors are oppressed people trying to fight a tyrannical, genocidal regime. Still, a troubling theme that runs through ATT talks is the idea of gun control as a “human right.” Most countries in the world — along with people like Harold Koh — do not recognize self-defense as a human right.

To the contrary, most members of the UN recognize civilian disarmament as a human right. In other words, if a nation doesn’t have tough enough gun control laws, THAT constitutes a violation of human rights.

Nations the world over could learn much from the wisdom of American Founding Fathers like St. George Tucker, a prominent judge and law professor in the late eighteenth century.

On the preeminence of the right to self-defense, Tucker wrote that, “The right to self defense is the first law of nature; in most governments it has been the study of rulers to confine this right within the narrowest limits possible. Whenever the right of the people to keep and bear arms is, under any color

or pretext whatsoever, prohibited, liberty, if not already annihilated, is on the brink of destruction.”

Like gun control at the national level, global gun control won’t work. Rogue nations — those that transfer weapons to terrorists and crime syndicates — will not abide by the treaty anyway, while the U.S. will be sure to follow the treaty to the letter even if it means

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# When Will Unarmed Victims Get their Apology from Uncle Sam?

by *Erich Pratt*

Two notable events occurred in June which serve as powerful “I told you so” moments for those who naively follow the gun control mantra.

The first event was the apology issued by the British Prime Minister David Cameron for the Bloody Sunday massacre of January 1972. The second event took place less than a week later when the U.S. Supreme Court handed down its decision in the *McDonald v. Chicago* case.

The Cameron confession was a long-overdue apology for events that occurred 38 years ago in Northern Ireland. During the Bloody Sunday massacre, British soldiers shot and killed more than a dozen Irish protesters, many of them from behind.

To compound matters, British officials engaged in an ensuing cover-up, claiming that many of the victims who were killed had guns — when really they did not. (Photographic and forensic evidence would later confirm that these victims were, in fact, unarmed.)

On the other side of the Atlantic, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled on June 28 that the Second Amendment right to keep and bear arms applies to individuals all across the country and not just in places like Washington, D.C.

But just as important, the Court also documented multiple examples of why this right is so important to American citizens. Namely, the right exists because even in a “civilized” society, government agents can abuse the rights of the people.

Here are just some of the examples the Court pointed to:

- So-called “Free-Soilers” in Kansas were disarmed by federal and state authorities who favored slavery. The 1856 Republican Party Platform protested these abuses, saying that the constitutional rights of the people had been “fraudulently and violently taken from them” and the “right of the people to keep and bear arms” had been “infringed.”
- After a Mississippi law used the issue of race to disarm newly freed slaves, state forces were “traversing



**The Irish recently got an apology for the Bloody Sunday Massacre (left) which killed 14 people in 1972. Now, one wonders how long it will take before Uncle Sam apologizes to the victims of gun control in this country — people like Suzanna Gratia-Hupp (right) who says she was in a perfect position to preemptively take down the gunman who killed her parents at a Luby’s cafeteria in 1991. Being a law-abiding citizen, Hupp says she left her handgun in her car in compliance with then-Texas state law.**

the State, visiting the freedmen, disarming them, perpetrating murders and outrages upon them.” The Court noted that this kind of thing was happening in other parts of the country as well.

- In one town, a U.S. Marshall “[took] all arms from returned colored soldiers, and [was] very prompt in shooting the blacks” whenever he had the opportunity.

instance, enable the people to resist and triumph over them.

While most of the liberal left thinks such statements are mere kookiness, they can’t deny that our government has, from time to time, acted in a despotic way.

After all, our country had its own Bloody Sunday in 1965, when state and local police officers in Alabama attacked unarmed, peaceful protesters

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***Our country had its own Bloody Sunday in 1965, when state and local police officers in Alabama attacked unarmed, peaceful protesters with billy clubs and tear gas.***

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See the common theme? Government agents don’t always act in our best interests, and when this happens, they prefer disarmed victims who can’t shoot back.

In making this point, the Court favorably quoted a nineteenth century commentary on the Constitution, saying guns are the primary way of protecting our liberties:

The right of the citizens to keep and bear arms has justly been considered, as the palladium of the liberties of a republic; since it offers a strong moral check against the usurpation and arbitrary power of rulers; and will generally, even if these are successful in the first

with billy clubs and tear gas.

It was because of abuses like this, says former Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, that her father would join with other members of the community to protect black citizens when the police would not protect them.

In an interview with *The Washington Post Magazine* (September 9, 2001), Rice recalled that when she was a child, her dad joined with other fathers who “got out their shotguns and formed nightly patrols, guarding the streets themselves.”

One liberal policy wonk remembers Rice telling him that she opposed gun registration because the infamous Police

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# McDonald v. Chicago (June 2010)

## The Good

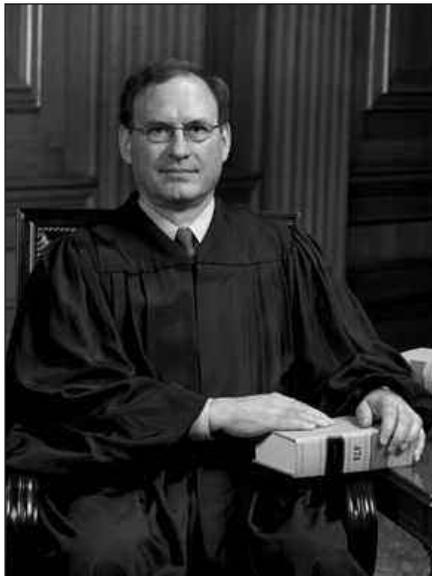
**Handguns are crucial for self-protection.** “Self-defense is a basic right, recognized by many legal systems from ancient times to the present day, and in *Heller*, we held that individual self-defense is ‘the central component’ of the Second Amendment right. . . . ‘[T]he American people have considered the handgun to be the quintessential self-defense weapon.’ Thus, we concluded, citizens must be permitted ‘to use [handguns] for the core lawful purpose of self-defense.’” (p. 19-20)

**Firearms are the palladium of liberty.** “[St. George Tucker] described the right to keep and bear arms as ‘the true palladium of liberty’ and explained that prohibitions on the right would place liberty ‘on the brink of destruction.’” (p. 22)

“The right of the citizens to keep and bear arms has justly been considered, as the palladium of the liberties of a republic; since it offers a strong moral check against the usurpation and arbitrary power of rulers; and will generally, even if these are successful in the first instance, enable the people to resist and triumph over them.” — Joseph Story, 1833 (p. 22)

**The newly freed slaves needed the right of self-protection.** “Every man... should have the right to bear arms for the defense of himself and family and his homestead. And if the cabin door of the freedman is broken open and the intruder enters for purposes as vile as were known to slavery, then should a well-loaded musket be in the hand of the occupant to send the polluted wretch to another world, where his wretchedness will forever remain complete.” — Senator Samuel Pomeroy, debate over the 14th Amendment (p. 28)

**The Fourteenth Amendment keeps the states from disarming its citizens.** “Disarm a community and you rob them of the means of defending life. Take away their weapons of defense



Justice Sam Alito issued the majority opinion for the Court in *McDonald v. Chicago*.

and you take away the inalienable right of defending liberty. The fourteenth amendment, now so happily adopted, settles the whole question.” — Representative Thaddeus Stevens, 1868 (p. 29)

“In sum, it is clear that the Framers and ratifiers of the Fourteenth Amendment counted the right to keep and bear arms among those fundamental rights necessary to our system of ordered liberty.” (p. 31)

**Justices are not free to judge gun control laws using a “cost-benefit” analysis.** “[The City of Chicago



Justice Stephen Breyer is worried that the *McDonald* decision will lead to the demise of gun control laws across the country.

asserts] that, although most state constitutions protect firearms rights, state courts have held that these rights are subject to ‘interest-balancing’ and have sustained a variety of restrictions. In *Heller*, however, we expressly rejected the argument that the scope of the Second Amendment right should be determined by judicial interest balancing.” (p. 39)

## The Bad

**So-called “reasonable” restrictions could open the door to additional gun control.** “As noted by the 38 States that have appeared in this case as *amici* supporting petitioners, ‘[s]tate and local experimentation with reasonable firearms regulations will continue under the Second Amendment.’” (p. 38)

**The Court opens the door to a myriad of future gun cases.** “[T]he right to keep and bear arms is not ‘a right to keep and carry any weapon whatsoever in any manner whatsoever and for whatever purpose.’ ... We made it clear in *Heller* that our holding did not cast doubt on such longstanding regulatory measures as ... ‘laws forbidding the carrying of firearms in sensitive places such as schools and government buildings, or laws imposing conditions and qualifications on the commercial sale of arms.’ ... We repeat those assurances here.” (p. 39-40)

## The Ugly (for the Brady Bunch)

**The Second Amendment will prevent lots of gun control at the state level.** “Justice Breyer is correct that incorporation of the Second Amendment right will to some extent limit the legislative freedom of the States, but this is always true when a Bill of Rights provision is incorporated.” (p. 44)

**Gun control laws may be struck down all across the country.** “Indeed, incorporating the right recognized in *Heller* may change the law in many of the 50 states.” — Justice Stephen Breyer, dissenting (p. 31) ■

## Senate confirms radical anti-gunner to Supreme Court

The U.S. Senate voted on August 5, 2010, to confirm Elena Kagan to the U.S. Supreme Court.

Throughout her career, Kagan has demonstrated a tremendous hostility towards the Second Amendment. She lobbied for stricter gun restrictions as a policy adviser in the Clinton administration and, as a law clerk, she advised the Court to reject a gun owner's Second Amendment claims.

During the vote on Kagan's nomination, every Senate Republican opposed Kagan, while every Democrat and Independent voted for her — minus the following exceptions:

### Republicans voting anti-gun in support of Kagan

Collins (R-ME)	Lugar (R-IN)
Graham (R-SC)	Gregg (R-NH)
Snowe (R-ME)	

### Democrats voting pro-gun in opposition to Kagan

Nelson (D-NE)

A complete listing of who voted for Elena Kagan can be viewed at: [www.gunowners.org/kaganconfirmation](http://www.gunowners.org/kaganconfirmation) ■



**Republican Senator Lindsey Graham (SC) voted in favor of confirming anti-gun Elena Kagan to the Supreme Court.**

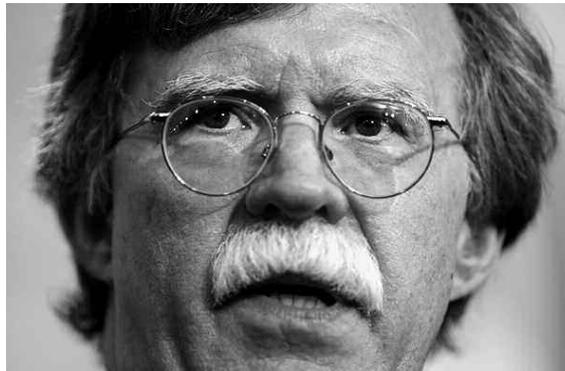
## UN Arms Treaty

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superseding the Second Amendment.

Though most of the media attention of ATT is focused on international arms trade, John Bolton cautions that, "There is no doubt — as was the case back over a decade ago — that the real agenda here is domestic firearms control."

At the very least, the ATT is expected to cover rifles, shotguns and handguns, plus microstamping of ammunition, and could also include the registration of gun owners as well as requiring



**Former UN Ambassador John Bolton said that — in regard to the UN arms treaty — there is no doubt that "the real agenda here is domestic firearms control."**

the mandatory destruction of surplus ammo and confiscated firearms.

Once signed by the president, any treaty still needs to be ratified by the U.S. Senate. That may not seem likely in the near future, but is important to remember that there are a number of gun-related treaties swirling around the UN that gun banners will keep modifying until they are able to sneak something through the U.S. Senate. ■

## Apology from Uncle Sam?

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Commissioner Bull Connor "could have used it to disarm her father and others who patrolled Titusville in 1963."

Michael McFaul, an acquaintance of Rice, had this to say: "For me as a liberal, pro-gun control person, it really hit me over the head. I remember thinking, 'Who are we as white liberals to

respond?'"

Well for starters, maybe these white liberals should start reading the Constitution or just shut up.

Thankfully, some liberals do get it. Hubert Humphrey, who was Vice-President to Lyndon Johnson, said that "The right of citizens to bear arms is just one guarantee against arbitrary government, one more safeguard, against the tyranny which now appears remote in America but which historically has proven to be

always possible."

Humphrey was right ... there is always the possibility that our government could be a threat to our liberties.

It's certainly good news that Great Britain has apologized for its Bloody Sunday incident. But one wonders how long it will be before all the Americans who have suffered under draconian gun laws and have been victimized as a result will get their apology from Uncle Sam. ■

## Supreme Court Ruling

Continued from page 1

truth is that they only got three sentences in 45 pages! That would be like celebrating a beautiful field goal in a 70-3 loss in the Super Bowl. It ignores the fact that every single one of their arguments were smacked down by the Court.

Gun Owners of America and Gun Owners Foundation join with other gun rights organizations and advocates to celebrate this next great victory after *Heller*; yet, the joy of the victory is tempered by the closeness of the vote — five to four in both cases — as well as the tenuous grounds on which *McDonald* was decided.

It appears clear that eternal vigilance will be the price of defending the Second Amendment, as future threats are already forming against our gun rights.

### GOA's brief finds a receptive audience with Justice Thomas

In our amicus brief, GOA and GOF, along with a number of local gun rights organizations and other constitutionally-minded friends, urged the Court to base its decision upon Section 1 of the Fourteenth Amendment that prohibits any "State [to] make or enforce any law which shall abridge the privileges or immunities of citizens of the United States."

Four of the five majority justices declined this invitation, preferring to rely on the Court's Fourteenth Amendment due process "incorporation" doctrine — an artificial legal doctrine created by federal judges to expand their own power over the states.

Only Justice Clarence Thomas agreed with the GOA brief — that, as a matter of textual and historic fidelity, the due process guarantee was a weak reed upon which to rest so important a right that could be overturned if more anti-gun justices are confirmed to the High Court.

In a stirring opinion — jam-packed with textual and historical analysis — Justice Thomas recounted the freedman's struggle after the civil war to arm himself against a lawless tyranny that threatened his family's liberty and property, demonstrating conclusively that the Second Amendment right was among those precious "privileges or



**Otis McDonald, an elderly retiree, sued the City of Chicago in order to defend himself in a very dangerous neighborhood.**

immunities" that were now secured to him as a "citizen of the United States" — by the express text of the Fourteenth Amendment.

While Justice Thomas's four majority colleagues never disagreed with any of his textual and historical analysis, they nevertheless preferred to rest their ruling not on any constitutional text, but on "well established ... case law that most of the provisions of the Bill of Rights apply full force to ... the States" and that, like those rights, the Second Amendment right to keep and bear arms was "fundamental to our scheme of ordered liberty" and "deeply rooted in the Nation's history and tradition" — whatever that may mean to any given justice.

Significantly, neither of the two dissenting justices — Stevens and Breyer — made any attempt whatsoever to attack Justice Thomas' careful and thorough analysis. Rather, they took aim at the majority use of the Court's "incorporation" doctrine.

Incorporating the Second Amendment clearly troubled Stevens and Breyer, since it could ultimately lead to the overturning of state gun laws around the country. Lamented Justice Breyer: "[I]ncorporating the right recognized in *Heller* may change the law in many of the 50 states."

We can only hope so.

In a brilliant concurring opinion, Justice Scalia tore to shreds Justice Stevens' reinterpretation of the Court's incorporation formulas, and Justice Alito made short shrift of Justice Brey-

er's revisionist views. But the fact remains that — given the legal bankruptcy of Obama nominees — a single change of the personnel on the Court could tip the balance against our Second Amendment rights.

No legal grounds — including anchoring the Second Amendment in the constitutional text of the privileges or immunities clause — can guarantee against future assaults by lawless justices. Having said that, if our right to keep and bear arms is based in the Court's evolving "case law," rather than in the original, written Constitution itself, that will open the door more widely to justices who are committed to a "living" Constitution that changes with changing times.

Nevertheless, while there are potential pitfalls that could develop from this opinion, it is also clear that very positive results have come about already.

### McDonald's positive ripple effects

Does the Court's opinion in *McDonald* mean that gun control laws across the nation are automatically repealed?

No, but it does give pro-gun District Attorneys a reason to stop prosecuting otherwise law-abiding Americans who have committed non-violent infractions of their states' gun laws. (See the related story, "D.A. Using *McDonald* Case to Stop Prosecuting Gun Owners" on page 7.)

Furthermore, the *McDonald* case gives our side a powerful tool in challenging many of the gun control laws that are still in force. Consider just some of the following cases in which Gun Owners of America is involved.

#### a. Firearms Freedom Acts

Seven states have followed Montana's lead in passing Firearms Freedom Act legislation. These laws provide that if a gun is made in the state — and remains in the state — it is immune from most federal gun laws. Not surprisingly, the anti-gun Justice Department being run by Eric Holder has gone on record stating they will prosecute anyone who makes a gun in the state without submitting that firearm to federal controls.

Gun Owners Foundation has filed an amicus brief in *MSSA v. Holder*, and on

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## Supreme Court Ruling

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July 15, GOF attorney Herb Titus helped argue the case in favor of Montana's law.

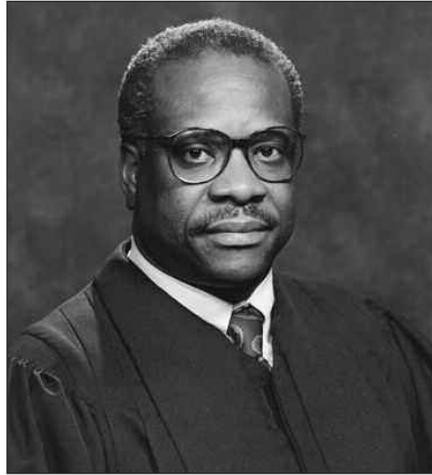
Our position in this case is tremendously bolstered by the decision in *McDonald v. Chicago* since the Court rejected one of Chicago's chief arguments — namely, that the need to protect the public safety justified their handgun ban. This fundamentally undercuts one of the potential arguments that could be put forth by the Obama Administration.

### b. *Heller II*

After the District of Columbia lost its 2008 case in *Heller I*, the city council enacted a firearms registration scheme that was nearly as draconian as the original law which the Court had struck down.

Gun Owners Foundation is now involved in challenging this law in a case known as *Heller II*.

As mentioned above, the Court — in *McDonald* — has tremendously helped



**Justice Clarence Thomas laid out a wonderful defense of the Second Amendment, recounting the struggle that blacks engaged in after the Civil War to arm themselves against a lawless tyranny that threatened their families' liberty and property.**

our position in this case by rejecting the notion that the need to protect the public safety somehow justifies strict gun control laws.

Furthermore, the *McDonald* and *Heller I* Courts rejected a "judicial interest balancing" test which has

become very common with First Amendment cases. Rather than treating rights as God-given liberties which cannot be infringed, the courts have frequently resorted to "balancing" our rights against the government's "need" to infringe upon those rights for some perceived public good.

By rejecting this type of approach, the Supreme Court has tremendously strengthened our argument in *Heller II* that the type of "balancing" which denies people their Second Amendment rights is unconstitutional.

*McDonald* is not a perfect decision, and even the good language in the decision could be unduly overwritten if the Court picks up just one more Obama nominee. This just underscores the need to get a pro-gun Senate elected in November that will not rubberstamp any additional liberal judges to the bench.

Having said that, the *McDonald* decision is already having positive consequences all across the country, and that's something that gun owners can rejoice over for now. ■

*Herb Titus, one of GOF's trial attorneys, also contributed to this article.*

## D.A. Using *McDonald* Case to Stop Prosecuting Gun Owners

by *Erich Pratt*

Wisconsin District Attorney Gerald Fox celebrated the *McDonald v. Chicago* decision this summer by announcing that he would no longer prosecute non-violent infractions of the state's gun laws.

"This Supreme Court ruling is binding on all states and local governments, and immediately renders some of Wisconsin's current laws unconstitutional," Fox said.

As a result of the Court decision, Fox laid out several laws which he will no longer enforce or prosecute:

- Section 167.31, prohibiting uncased or loaded firearms in vehicles;
- Section 941.23, prohibiting the carrying of concealed weapons, including firearms;
- Section 941.235, prohibiting the possession of firearms in public buildings;
- Section 941.237, prohibiting the possession of firearms in establishments where alcohol may be sold or served; and,
- Section 941.24, prohibiting the possession of knives that open with a button, or by gravity, or thrust, or movement.

Fox said that all of these statutes represent "unjustifiable

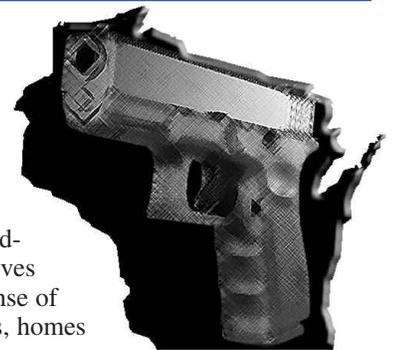
infringements" on the fundamental right of every law-abiding American to arm themselves for self-defense and the defense of their "loved ones, co-workers, homes and communities."

Fox is a registered Democrat who clearly understands the history and importance of the Second Amendment.

"If you remember our history, it wasn't freedom of the press or freedom of association that won us our independence from Great Britain," Fox said in a radio interview. "It was individual citizens standing together at Lexington and Concord to protect their stores of ammunition from the British who were there to confiscate it."

Not only does Fox know his history, he has quite a bead on the statistical arguments in favor of gun ownership, as well. "To me, it's no accident that Washington, DC and Chicago, Illinois are two of the most dangerous places to live," Fox said. "It's because they don't trust their citizens to protect themselves."

Well said, Mr. Fox! ■





# GOA in the News



**In support of concealed carry.** GOA's Erich Pratt appeared on Fox News to discuss concealed carry in early July. Pratt's debate with the Brady Campaign can be viewed at [www.gunowners.org/video.htm](http://www.gunowners.org/video.htm).



**On the Supreme Court decision.** Larry Pratt, Executive Director of GOA, discussed the impact of the *McDonald* decision with Judge Andrew Napolitano of Fox Business News. The Court's ruling generated dozens upon dozens of media appearances for GOA spokesmen during the ensuing weeks, thus allowing GOA to reach millions of viewers with pro-gun arguments and facts.



**On GOA's opposition to Kagan.** "After reviewing Ms. Kagan's record and testimony at her confirmation hearing, the GUN OWNERS OF AMERICA concluded that, 'The available evidence portrays her as a forceful advocate of restrictive gun laws and driven by political considerations rather than rule of law.'"

- Sen. John Thune (R-SD), August 5, 2010



**On GOA's opposition to squelching gun owners' speech.** "[The DISCLOSE Act is] not about the Democrats' affinity for the Second Amendment. If it were, they would have carved out an exception for the GUN OWNERS OF AMERICA as well. As it is, the GOA vehemently opposes this bill. Why? Because they know it restricts First Amendment rights."

- Senator Mitch McConnell (R-KY), June 24, 2010

## THE Gun Owners

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