



GUN OWNERS of California

AN ANALYSIS OF ARGUMENTS IN PENDING SUPREME COURT CASE

By Sam Paredes, Executive Director

On November 3, 2021, the Supreme Court of the United States (SCOTUS) heard arguments in the case of **NYSR-PA v. Bruen**. The legal issue challenged in this suit is whether New York's denial of petitioners' applications for concealed-carry licenses for self-defense violated the Second Amendment. This may have massive impacts on all lawsuits involving the Second Amendment - both past and future - depending on how SCOTUS decides this case. Given analysis of the arguments and comments from the justices, this case is being described by some that it is **not the beginning of the end for gun control cases, but the end of the beginning**. For sure, there is much more work that must be done, **but this case is critical to how we move forward in restoring and protecting the Second Amendment via the courts and legislatures across the nation**.

GOC attorneys and staff listened intently as the hearing began. The following is a summary:

Justice **Clarence Thomas** surprised everybody by asking multiple questions and making several comments showing clearly that he supports the Second Amendment. The highlight of Justice **Thomas'** questions was when he asked if constitutional rights somehow mean different things based on population density - - how rural must a place be to be permitted to have freedom?

Chief Justice **John Roberts** was surprisingly a lion for the Second Amendment. The Chief Justice said we "*begin with Heller,*" and that — like with any other constitutional right — a person should not have to justify to the government their bona fides to exercise the right, but instead the government should have to justify *any removal* of that right.

Justice **Brett Kavanaugh** seemed determined to have the case boil down to may issue versus shall issue. He claimed that "the issue before us will have effects, but it's a narrow legal issue of 'shall issue' versus 'may issue.'"

Justice **Breyer** made no secret of his hatred of firearms and disdain for the Second Amendment and gun owners. He claimed "*I mean, they are dangerous, guns.*" He theorized that "*when you have a self-defense just for whatever you want to carry a concealed weapon, you go shooting it around and somebody gets killed.*" That's ample evidence that Justice **Breyer** would gut the Second Amendment.

Neither was Justice **Sotomayor** on board with gun rights, claiming "*What it appears to me is that the history tradition of carrying weapons is that states get a lot of deference on this.*"

Justice **Gorsuch** did not give much to go on. He primarily asked basic questions that didn't give much away as to his thinking.

Justice **Kagan** surprisingly opined that, although she would prefer different gun regimes in New York versus Wyoming, that's "*a hard thing to -- match with our notion of constitutional rights generally,*"

and concluding that the Court "*would never really dream of ... allow[ing] that level of local flexibility ... for the First Amendment or other constitutional rights.*" Even with this form of rational thinking we fully expect the judge to rule against the Second Amendment.

Justice Alito did not give much as to where he stands, but he did go off on the New York Solicitor General, accusing her of misquoting from a historical source, leaving off the key word "offensively" in a statute prohibiting going "armed offensively." The SG replied that being armed with a gun is always offensive, but Alito responded that the word "offensively" would then be unnecessary.

Likewise, Justice **Barrett** did not express many clear views, but she did opine that *Heller* should be used not just for its basic holdings, but also for how it treated certain historical records. She pushed back on the New York SG and their use of historical sources that *Heller* already discounted in its historical analysis.

Paul **Clement** came prepared but surprisingly agreed that a state could likely ban firearms under specified circumstances. Further, he argued more than once that a state could prohibit open carry, or concealed carry, but not both — that a person must at least have some available outlet to exercise his rights. Of course, *Heller* explicitly rejected this type of either/or argument as does the text of the Second Amendment.

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PENDING SUPREME COURT CASE...CONT.

To his credit, Clement's closing argument was sound; we theorized that maybe someone gave him a well-deserved smack upside the head after his main argument.

Our guess is that there are theoretically six conservative votes, meaning they can go as principled as the best five will allow, and just give up the sixth vote (whoever that may be).

If the Chief Justice is in the majority, he could decide to write the opinion. Ordinarily, this would be very concerning, but he made many great points at oral argument. If not him, then Thomas is the next senior justice, and is probably itching for the opportunity.

We will know the outcome as late as June of 2022. Stay tuned.

EAST COAST IMPACT ON CALIFORNIA IN THE COURTS – AND ELECTIONS

By Laurie Paredes

Gun Owners of California's founder, Senator H.L. Richardson was a maverick. He did things a lot of people said he couldn't do – and did them well. He was also a visionary. He knew exactly what would happen if the nation began to slide into socialism and he was right on the money. He also knew how to stem the Leftist steamroller, and GOC is encouraged that his political playbook is being used across the country. Now, more than in any recent history, frustrated people are courageously standing up to local and state bureaucrats. *Enough, they say – is ENOUGH.*

While the election results from Virginia rolled in last month, there was no hiding the sour faces of TV's talking heads. They know full well the political implications of a blue state turning red could

actually have an impact elsewhere. *Even all the way to California.*

In short, the anti-gun left took a massive shellacking from the very top of the political ladder to the bottom – from school board upsets to a new pro-constitution Governor (Glenn Youngkin), Lt. Governor (Winsome Sears) and Attorney General (Jason Miyares). In fact, in spite of nasty ads that depicted Lt. Governor candidate Sears as some crazy right-wing gun nut, she sailed to victory, providing a stunning upset to the gun control crowd.

Calling her a "gun-toting" former Marine, the opposition used an image of Sears with an AR-style rifle that her campaign had posted with the caption that it was a **"beautiful range day"**. Obviously, the hopes were that it would frighten voters, but – *and pun fully intended* – it backfired big time.

All three top-of-the-ticket races were stunning upsets and Sears is the first Black woman elected to statewide office in Virginia history. *Believe it or not, it took MSNBC almost a half hour to mention this big win – and they did so without even using her name.* Other media outlets reacted similarly, and USA Today initially gave the cold shoulder to both Sears and Miyares when they omitted them in a report highlighting the "candidates of color" who made history in various election races.

Imagine that such hypocrisy would come from the very same media that bleated out over and over and over again that the Virginia upsets were driven by **racism**. This was shameful and frankly embarrassing to watch from a pure human perspective.

Can what happened in Virginia – and in Minneapolis with the defeat of the defund police referendum, the election of a Republican to the Seattle City Council and the defeat of the Democrat Dean of the

Senate in New Jersey – happen in California? It can – but success will most likely occur in more localized areas where people are finally waking up to what's happening down the road in their kid's school. As noted above, much of this is due to the work done by GOC's founder many years ago with his book on **Confrontational Politics** (see below) – **and we are more than happy to take some of the credit for many of the new raised voices the Left is whining about.** We firmly believe good stuff can happen in the Golden State if enough people **stand up to the jack-booted thuggery of our government.**

We know for a fact that gun owners were galvanized into action by the radical anti-gun turn Virginia had taken in recent years, and they stepped up in organizing folks and getting people to vote. **It turns out that rather than voting for or against a political party, people across the country are resisting being called racists, and don't much like being told how they can protect their families and educate their children. There are an awful lot of folks out there who are damn tired of sanctimonious, self-righteous preaching from those who think the gray matter between our ears is mush. We love the United States, and as we've watched the zeal for tyranny expand, our passion for freedom has been re-ignited. The tide is turning and those of us in the political trenches fighting for the 2nd Amendment are excited.**

GOC is encouraged by a newly energized electorate and is pleased to announce that we will be re-launching our Confrontational Politics workshops. For more information, contact us at (916) 984-1400 or email at: laurie@gunownersca.com

WHAT TO EXPECT WHEN LEGISLATURE RETURNS

As expected, Governor Gavin Newsom

signed every bad gun bill that made it to his desk. The silver lining is that not many actually got that far. The Governor signed the following bills after the legislative session was adjourned. To read a more detailed analysis of each bill, check out the articles we have posted under the “**Legislation**” tab on our website.

SB 264 – Min (D) This bill bans gun shows in Orange County.

SB 715 – Portantino (D) This bill creates new requirements for a hunting license exception for adults age 18-21 when purchasing a long gun and the loaning provisions to minors. The bill is chock-full of “specified exemptions” which will reasonably make the law difficult to navigate.

AB 173 – Trailer Bill | “Clarifies” the process of disclosure of specified (confidential) information to the California Firearm Violence Research Center at UC Davis by the Department of Justice (DOJ) for “research or statistical activities.”

On January 3, 2022, the Assembly and Senate both return to Sacramento for the second half of the 2021-22 Legislative Session. It is still unclear whether the Capitol will be fully opened, or what mandates the state will put on those entering the building. Rest assured, however, GOC will continue to advocate on behalf of the Second Amendment and the phenomenal community of gun owners.

GOC SPONSOR SPOTLIGHT: PRECISION HOLSTERS

By Sam Paredes, Executive Director

One of the most significant lessons a gun owner can learn – especially if the choice has been made to carry outside the home – is how important it is to choose the right holster.

I have a drawerful of holsters. I’ve accumulated them for over 40 years and have not so much as touched them in the past three years since I discovered what works best for me: a PH Ultra Carry Inside-the-Waistband (IWB) from Precision Holsters (PH). I was sold because it checked every box: it must be comfortable to use, and it must retain the gun securely under all circumstances. It must conceal the gun well and be made of high-quality materials in order to endure long-term daily use.

As a firearm instructor, it’s been essential that I have confidence in the products I use, and I found the right holsters from Precision Holsters, a family run, and veteran owned business located in the foothills of the Sierra Nevada mountains. Their passion for quality drives the development of their products to the highest standard, and through creative thinking they present new innovative designs to the gun owner. PH’s *state of the art* thermoplastic forming techniques and manufacturing solutions brings a high standard of fit and finish. Not only are they high in product quality, but PH is high in service as well.

Precision Holster has been a sponsor and supporter of GOC for several years and just recently has teamed up with us to offer a 5% discount to our members and friends. They have also committed to directly supporting GOC with a portion of every holster purchased with this discount code: **supportthe2nd**.

We are honored to stand with businesses such as Precision Holsters in defense of the 2nd Amendment and encourage you to check out their full line of products which include, mag pouches, belts and of course, holsters including IWB, OWB, Appendix & competition holsters at precisionholsters.com or give them a call at 800-577-9374. If you hurry, you might be able to get one as a Christmas gift for yourself or your favorite gun owner.

MERRY CHRISTMAS FROM GOC

There are many things that both 2020 and 2021 have taught all of us – the most important being that we must remain steadfast and grateful for the blessings we have as Americans. Although the thorn of discouragement has certainly pierced many of us and our nation remains fiercely divided, GOC wants to sincerely thank you for standing with us through such uncertainty and encourage you to continue in your support. It remains our earnest hope that your Christmas will be blessed, that 2022 will bring a renewed sense of courage and purpose for us all. Regardless of what is happening in Sacramento or Washington DC, GOC is steadfastly hopeful, and grateful. *We’ve said it before, and we believe it still:*



*I heard the bells on
Christmas Day*

*Their old, familiar carols play,
and wild and sweet
The words repeat
Of peace on earth,
good-will to men!*

*Then pealed the bells more
loud and deep:*

*“God is not dead,
nor doth He sleep;
The Wrong shall fail,
The Right prevail,
With peace on earth,
good-will to men.”*



**52 GUNS IN 52 WEEKS
RAFFLE TICKETS: FLYING
OUT THE DOOR!**

Get yours and get them fast – we sold out in record time last year and we are on track to do the same this year! This is our biggest fundraiser, and since we’ve had to pare down our events in the past almost-two-years, **we need your help to keep our war chests prepped for 2022.** For just \$50, you can get a ticket to the raffle where we give one gun away, **EVERY WEEK for a YEAR!** We only sell 1,500 tickets, so the odds are certainly in your favor. State law prohibits us from selling tickets online, so just call the office today at **(916) 984-1400** to get your ticket before they are gone – they make great Christmas gifts!

IN MEMORY

Last year, in dedication to the passing of our founder, Senator H.L. Richardson, we began honoring fellow faithful members of Gun Owners of California who have also passed away. This issue is dedicated to the memory of **Nadine Sanford**, who served on GOC’s Advisory Board for over 20 years. Nadine was a true patriot in every sense of the word.

BREAKING EVENT NEWS!

GOC is moving full-steam ahead on setting up events for 2022. We are eager to put the past two years behind us and get back to celebrating the Second Amendment together. While we were able to host some limited “shindigs” this year, it just made us all the more excited to get things going again. Our 2-day Great Guns Giveaway Sporting Clay Shoot this summer was a **solid-out success** and a whole lot of fun, and we were able to shift our Sacramento Crab Feed to a smaller venue in another county which **also sold out.** The energy and excitement at both events was **spectacular!**

- **Saturday, April 30, 2022:** The Great Gun Giveaway Sporting Clay Shoot and Dinner at Camanche Hills Hunting Preserve in Lone.
- **Friday, May 6, 2022:** Sacramento Crab Feed at the Citrus Heights Community Center.
- **Friday, May 26, 2022 (TENT):** Oroville Crab Feed at the Southside Oroville Community Center.

The great news is that we will soon be announcing firm dates for our crab feed in Vacaville. **PLUS,** dinner committees are currently being launched in **San Joaquin/Stanislaus** counties, **Lake County AND Riverside/East San Diego** counties, too! **Anyone interested in stepping up and getting involved with GOC and these dynamic dinners that are chock-full of great guns, great prizes, great food and GREAT PEOPLE, contact us TODAY!** We want your help and we need your help!



**GUN OWNERS
of California**

YES! I want Gun Owners of California, Inc. to continue fighting for our 2nd Amendment rights. I understand the minimum donation of \$35.00 entitles me to full membership benefits.

\$100 \$75 \$50 \$35 Other \$ _____

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*Gun Owners of California
Membership Benefits*

- Regular newsletters informing members of pending legislation and issues affecting gun rights.
- Information alerts through our website, email.
- Voting records of all California Legislators.
- Access to all Legislators through our website.

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