



GUN OWNERS of California

THE COURTS:

By Sam Paredes, Executive Director

Members of Gun Owners of California (GOC) are fully aware that we concentrate our efforts in three primary areas: lobbying the legislature, participating in elections, and legally through the courts.

Our activities in the courts have risen to the top of our focus because that is where we are achieving our most far-reaching victories that can have a dramatic impact on the legislature and elections.

Absolutely everything you can imagine related to gun control is on the table. So-called assault weapons bans, large capacity magazines (commonly known as standard capacity), mandatory storage, 10-day waiting periods, the roster of approved handguns for sale in California, open carry, CCW regulations and restrictions, bump stocks, pistol braces, gun related advertising, ammunition regulation and restrictions, 18- to 20-year-old adults being denied their Constitutional rights, one-gun-a-month, so-called Red Flag/GVRO laws, and on and on. Like I said, absolutely everything.

Our concentration on the legal end of the gun control debate is by far our most expensive effort, but also the one with the most return on investment. GOC has teamed up with our sister organizations – Gun Owners of America and Gun Owners Foundation as well as other partners (California Rifle and

Pistol Association, the Second Amendment Law Center, and the Second Amendment Foundation) to assemble a “dream team” of the best pro-2A lawyers in the country. By doing this, we prevent needless duplication and are able to share the costs.

So how is this working? We are pleased to report that the Supreme Court of the United States (SCOTUS) has agreed to hear multiple cases this year that will impact the Second Amendment, and additional cases are also under consideration. A decision in any of these cases could further build on the clear direction that SCOTUS has given to inferior (lower) courts as to how to deal with Second Amendment (2A) cases.

The high court’s ruling in *NYSRPA v Bruen*, established a clear test that lower courts are required to use when ruling on gun related matters. This means that if a law or regulation being challenged in the courts impacts the 2A, then the burden switches to the government to prove that there is an historical analog going back to 1791, showing that the framers of the Constitution and the Bill of Rights would have tolerated a similar issue at the founding. If there is no analog, the law at issue is unconstitutional.

Constitution hating, gun control-loving lower court judges have been doing some spectacular gymnastics in circumventing the *Bruen* decision and instead, boldly moving to uphold unconstitutional laws. The cases presently before SCOTUS could give the justices the opportunity to correct the intransigence of many judges in the lower courts.

GOC is cautiously optimistic that we will

see some major victories coming from the high court. To keep up to date on all things court related, including new cases as they are filed, go to www.gunownersca.com/the-courts/

The following cases are a highlight of some of the most important cases that will affect California:

U.S. v Rahimi ⚡ **KEY LEGAL CHALLENGE TO “RED FLAG” LAWS**

This has been heard by SCOTUS, awaiting their decision.

May v Bonta ⚡ **CHALLENGES SB 2 “SENSITIVE PLACES” LAW FOR CCWS**

Won in the District, State appealed to the 9th Circuit.

Baird v Bonta ⚡ **CHALLENGES A BAN ON “OPEN CARRY” IN CALIFORNIA**

This case is working its way through the appeals process.

CRPA v LA Sheriff’s Dept. ⚡ **CHALLENGES EXPENSE, TIMELINESS AND PROCESS ON CCWS**

We are waiting for the District Court’s ruling on a preliminary injunction.

Rupp v Becerra /Bonta ⚡ **CHALLENGES CALIFORNIA’S “ASSAULT WEAPONS” LAWS**

Central Dist. Court rules in favor of the state. Appealed to the 9th Circuit.

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THE COURTS...CONT.

Duncan v Becerra / Bonta ☼**CA'S STANDARD CAP MAGAZINES ****

9/22/23

Judge Benitez ruled law unconstitutional; CA appealed to the 9th.

Miller v Becerra/Bonta**"ASSAULT WEAPON" BAN**

9th Circuit is holding the case pending the result of Duncan v Bonta.

Antonyuk v Negrelli ☼**"ASSAULT WEAPON" BAN | New York Case**

Waiting to see if SCOTUS accepts case.

Rhode v Becerra/Bonta ☼**CA'S AMMO SALES LAWS & REGULATIONS**

9th Circuit is holding case pending result of Duncan v Bonta.

☼ Indicates GOC is either a plaintiff or has filed an amicus brief in this case.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

It would not be an understatement to say this has been a crazy year legislatively for the Second Amendment. GOC's engagement in the process has been phenomenal, **and the best part is that the majority of the pressure has come from YOU. In fact, we are of the firm belief that Senator Portantino's SB 1160 was derailed due to the thousands and thousands of emails generated through our Legislative Action Center.**

And, who would have thought the massive deficit Governor Gavin Newsom has thrust onto the tax payers of the state would **actually be responsible for killing some of the gun bills GOC has been actively opposing.** This was not on GOC's bingo card, but we'll take it! Sounds crazy, but of the 30 bills we've been tracking since the first of the year,

a full half have been left to languish on what's called the "Suspense File" because they cost **a bunch of money which California doesn't have.** Over the next two fiscal years, Newsom plans to balance the budget shortfall of about \$56 billion through \$30 billion in ongoing and one-time spending cuts. The good news is that the axe fell on a bunch of gun bills – some of which impacted the Second Amendment on the fringes, and some like **SB 1160**, took aim at the very heart of California's gun owners by mandating a yearly registration on every firearm. The bills below which are noted with an ** are still moving through the legislative process. The Legislature officially adjourns on August 31, 2024.

AB 2917 | OPPOSE****Gun Violence Restraining Orders | Zbur (D)**

Expands the conditions under which a Gun Violence Restraining Order can be issued to include highly subjective criteria such as what some consider to be "violent." This could include something as benign as an American flag on a pickup truck which is "triggering" to many on the Left.

AB 3064 | OPPOSE****Firearm Safety Devices | Maienschein (D)**

Mandates that the DOJ certify and issue fees for firearm safety devices. If a device is de-certified, owners could be penalized for non-compliance.

AB 3067 | OPPOSE**Insurance; Guns in the Home | Gipson (D)**

Initially mandated insurance companies ask about guns in the home. Amended to pertain to interscholastic sports. **This is a win.**

SB 53 | OPPOSE****Firearm Storage | Portantino (D)**

This is a duplicative bill mandating firearm storage; violates federal case law.

SB 1038 | OPPOSE**Firearm Theft | Blakespear (D)**

Limits time to 48 hours for persons to report the theft of a firearm. Held in committee.

SB 1160 | OPPOSE**Annual Firearm Registration | Portantino**

Initially established an annual registration and fees on all firearms in the state. The language was gutted and the bill has been held in committee.

This is our biggest win!

SB 1253 | OPPOSE****Firearm Safety Certificates | Gonzalez (D)**

Initially prohibited **anyone** from possessing a gun until they have a valid firearm safety certificate; amended to only require those moving into California to have a certificate within 120 days.

LEGISLATORS LIE ABOUT GOC? WHAT A SHOCK!

GOC has had some interesting interactions with legislators during our long-standing lobbying tenure at the Capitol, but it never ceases to amaze us with how they can lie with such ease.

Recently, San Francisco Assemblyman Phil Ting called GOC out publicly and claimed we are liars.

Dude. Before you make such an inflammatory, ugly and false statement, you might want to check your facts. But then again, you are a Leftist and Leftists have a problem with the truth.

In testifying before the Public Safety Committee in opposition to AB 2917, **GOC's Sam Paredes made the point that he's always open to discuss gun violence issues with legislators.** This is a routine and consistent closing comment Sam makes.

Ting blustered however, said that Sam's remark was **"ABSOLUTELY FALSE"** and that he has **"reached out"** to GOC and that it was **"news to him"** that we'd ever

want to have a discussion.

GOC wonders if Ting's pants could be on fire at the same time his nose grows. To quote GOC's founder, the late Senator H.L. Richardson, ***"Dogs bark, snakes wiggle, jackasses bray, vultures vomit and radical leftists lie. It's in their nature to do so."*** Damn straight!

These are the facts:

With each bill GOC opposes, we submit an official letter to members of the Senate, Assembly as well as staff through the legislative portal, where we very clearly outline our issues with said legislation. The following have been pulled from actual letters on record:

- "I believe we should get down to the business of reducing crime, rather than penalizing the lawful for the misdeeds of the unlawful – it will never have its anticipated resolution. **For those who are interested in stemming the tide of illegal weapons, we share a common desire, and GOC believes we can cooperatively move towards this goal. I would be more than happy to discuss this and other related issues at your convenience."**
- **"As is the norm, I like to end my legislative letters with a sincere invitation to discuss the legislation at hand, plus other Second Amendment related issues; unfortunately, it is rarely accepted.** I remain hopeful however, that in the aftermath of the Bruen decision by the Supreme Court in New York State Rifle & Pistol Association v Bruen – and others in the past months on the concealed carry matter – **that we could ultimately have a productive Constitutional dialogue."**
- "This is yet another wrong-headed and futile approach to solving the problem of criminal firearm mis-

use. The safety of Californians is at the very foundation of GOC's mission, and it has been our consistent goal to work toward common sense solutions regarding the issue of crime and firearm ownership; this can be done, however, without sacrificing our Constitutional rights and the ability of the law abiding to protect their families. **As always, I would be pleased to discuss this with you should you so desire."**

- "It has long been our conviction that penalizing the lawful for the misdeeds of the unlawful will never have it's intended result. It is both a punitive and ineffective means to an end, and **I say enough with the scare tactics – let's get down to the business of reducing crime. I believe we have a common goal in stemming the tide of illegal weapons and would be more than pleased to discuss how we can cooperatively move towards this goal."**

GOC must be very clear: We have never received any sort of communication from either Assemblyman Ting or his staff. GOC's door has always been open. Our phones are in working order. You can also find us by Googling "Gun Owners of California." Anyone can call us – anytime!

Does GOC get tired of sincerely offering to sit down and discuss possible areas of common ground regarding the Constitution and the Second Amendment? Yes – but we do it anyway, even though we are routinely dismissed by childish staff who haven't the foggiest idea of how to act like professionals. For real, people - this can be done with those of differing perspectives.

GUN OWNERS *of California*

LEGISLATIVE SPOTLIGHT: ASSEMBLYMAN BILL ESSAYLI

When it comes to the 40 Senators and 80 Assemblymembers who represent us at the State Capitol, there aren't many who are willing to push back at the Leftist majority. Thank goodness there are a few exceptions – one of the most effective is first term Assemblyman Bill Essayli (R-Corona).

Essayli has proven time and time again in his short tenure that he is not afraid to mix things up - he's gone head-to-head with California's Attorney General Rob Bonta on behalf of his local school district and parents' rights, and was recently disrespectfully shut down by the Leftist leadership on the Assembly Floor. Why? Essayli tried to force a vote on ending sanctuary protections for illegals convicted of sex crimes against minors – but the libs wouldn't have any of that!

Not only that, but he has been one of the most vocal proponents of the Second Amendment, speaking against bad gun bills on the Floor and authoring AB 1310, which would have restored sentencing enhancements for anyone using a gun in the course of a violent crime. Essayli said *"More gun laws on the books do nothing if we do not punish the criminals who use guns to hurt people."* AB 1310 would have given judges the ability to impose greater punishment for criminals who use firearms to terrorize California's communities, but the bill died an unfortunate and very partisan death.

GOC appreciates legislators who don't tremble at the thought of standing up to the legislative bullies who run the Capitol. Thank you, Assemblyman Essayli – for standing strong in defense of the Second Amendment and the Californians whom you ably represent.

IN MEMORIAM

This year, we have lost two treasured members of the Gun Owners family:

Tim Ricker

Tim Ricker served on GOC's committees for years and was instrumental in making our events a great success.

Tim was the first volunteer to show up and help us set things up – and he was the last to leave as we tore down. He was always looking for how he could help and was willing to step in wherever he was needed – and he did it with a smile on his face.

Tim was deeply committed to the Second Amendment and to the work that we do at GOC. We are immeasurably honored that his incredible family has graciously stepped up and will continue Tim's legacy of working alongside GOC in defense of the Second Amendment. We are grateful and will miss Tim's incredible spirit.

Jeff Jordan

For well over a decade, Jeff Jordan was an essential part of our Gun Owners family. Not only did Jeff provide the majority of firearms for our many events, but he and his family were consistent

and faithful volunteers, who were also responsible for securing a host of valuable auction and raffle items for GOC.

Ever positive and supportive, Jeff was a family man who was earnestly dedicated the Second Amendment and GOC's mission in fighting for our rights. Guns we can get anywhere, friends...not so much.

It's hard to put into words how much GOC appreciates the blessings of our large family of friends and supporters. Each and every one of you are important to us and an essential part of what we have dedicated our lives to do – fight for our God given rights.

Life seems to be so short sometimes so we should relish every possible minute we can with those we love.

Gun Owners of California is dedicated to carrying on the work we have been given in honor of those who have gone before us. Jeff and Tim, we will always remember you. We miss you immensely.

GOC EVENTS IN YOUR AREA!

A fun time was had by all at the Great Gun Give Away at Camanche Hills in Lone and the **SOLD OUT** flagship Gun Owners of

California Sacramento Crab Feed! Incredible food and amazing gun raffles and auctions are always the fare at GOC events.

Be sure to get your tickets for the following – they are coming up fast:

• **Gold Country Kids at the El Dorado County Fairgrounds: July 13 NEW!**

This is a brand-new event in partnership with the El Dorado and Amador County Sheriffs and will benefit youth shooting sports in the area and GOC.

• **San Jose Dinner: August 9 NEW!**

We have been trying to get a fund-raising dinner on the calendar in the San Jose area for a while now and it is finally coming to pass! Join us at this inaugural event and help make it a huge success!

• **Vacaville: October 25**

GOC's events are an excellent way to hobnob with fellow 2A advocates and have a great time, all while helping to support GOC's efforts to protect our Second Amendment rights. You can use this QR code to order tickets or give us a call at 916-984-1400.



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.

www.gunownersca.com

Gun Owners of California, Inc.

1190 Suncast Lane, Suite 2

El Dorado Hills, CA 95762

Office (916) 984-1400

Fax (916) 984-1402

email: goc@gunownersca.com



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