

# POINT BLANK

**STRAIGHT TALK  
ABOUT WHAT YOU  
CAN DO TO  
PRESERVE YOUR  
RIGHT TO KEEP AND  
BEAR ARMS**



**January  
2007  
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## **CITIZENS COMMITTEE FOR THE RIGHT TO KEEP AND BEAR ARMS**

*(a non-profit corporation)*

**National Headquarters:**  
12500 N.E. Tenth Place  
Bellevue, Washington 98005

**Capitol Hill Office:**  
1250 Connecticut Ave, N.W. #200  
Washington, D.C. 20036

## **CCRKBA THROWS DOWN CHALLENGE TO CONYERS**

CCRKBA has challenged Rep. John Conyers of Michigan, the new Chairman of the powerful House Committee on the Judiciary, to "close a real loophole" that seems to be putting quite a few guns on the street, particularly in his own congressional district.

"Conyers is an avowed anti-gunner who believes only cops should have guns," observed CCRKBA Chairman Alan M. Gottlieb. "Well, in the past six months, in and around his hometown of Detroit, police have lost at least five guns, including a submachine gun and an M4 semiautomatic rifle that are still missing. Instead of looking for ways to restrict our gun rights, maybe Conyers ought to be looking for those missing guns.

"Of course, the typical Conyers approach would be to hold every cop in the country responsible and institute some one-size-fits-all regulation for how police take care of their firearms. That would be ridiculous. The overwhelming majority of lawmen and lawwomen are responsible with their firearms. So, too, are the majority of gun owners. They're not criminals and should not be treated like they are, yet gun laws Conyers and his cronies have supported over the years do exactly that."

Joe Waldron, CCRKBA Executive Director, noted that, "for years, anti-gunners have campaigned against a mythical gun show loophole. A Department of Justice study of state and federal prisoners found that less than one percent of these criminals got their guns from gun shows, and the anti-gunners know it. But instead of going after criminals, they use the crimes these thugs commit as an excuse to attack the rights of law-abiding gun owners."

Gottlieb stated that, "we've still got a reward posted for the recovery of anti-gun Seattle Police Chief Gil Kerlikowske's stolen pistol. It was taken from his car, parked on a downtown Seattle street in 2004 while he and his wife were shopping. There have been firearms stolen from SWAT vehicles, guns lost by cops in rest rooms, and yet the gun control crowd insists that the problem is with gun shows and law-abiding gun owners.

"The only loophole lies in the imagination of Conyers and his ilk. Unlike them, we would never hold every cop responsible for the lapses of a few, same as we don't hold all gun owners responsible for crimes committed by armed criminals. Every time one of these thefts happens, it reflects badly on every over-worked, under-appreciated, often under-paid police officer and sheriff's deputy in the country. Holding all of them responsible is as silly as blaming gun shows and gun owners for this country's crime problem."

CCRKBA Members and Supporters who would like to support CCRKBA's challenge to Chairman Conyers could write him at the House Committee on the Judiciary, 2138 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20515.

# CCRKBA URGES BUSH TO HOLD FIRM ON GUNS

Shortly after the mid-term congressional elections last November, Alan M. Gottlieb, CCRKBA Chairman, and Joe Waldron, CCRKBA Executive Director, wrote President George W. Bush urging him to "hold firm" on the individual Second Amendment civil right of law-abiding American citizens to keep and bear arms."

The two CCRKBA leaders also suggested that the President "keep faith with the millions of Americans who support you and your presidency."

Gottlieb and Waldron continued that, "The outcome of the recent mid-term elections was a blow to all freedom-loving Americans. Democrat control of both chambers of Congress bodes ill for continued success in the War on Terrorism, both abroad and here at home."

They stated that, "Many Democrats who were successful in their campaigns did so by pointing out their support of the rights of gun owners."

"Despite public statements that the incoming Democrat-controlled Congress will move cautiously and avoid controversial issues, we can be sure that various gun control measures will make their way to the top of their agenda, and possibly be forwarded to you for your signature."

The two CCRKBA spokesmen wrote that, "on behalf of our 650,000 members and supporters, we urge you to hold firm on this issue and keep faith with the millions of Americans who support you and your presidency. The Constitution empowers the President with veto authority for a reason. Should the Democrat-controlled Congress choose to ignore the Constitution and especially the Second Amendment, we can think of

no greater justification in exercising that veto power than in protecting a fundamental right that helped us gain and maintain our freedom for more than two centuries.

"If Republicans are to hold the White House in 2008 and regain control of Congress, it will be because they hold firm to conservative principles, among them protection of our cherished right to keep and bear arms."

CCRKBA Members and Supporters and, in fact, all law-abiding Americans who agree on this matter could make their own personal views known and encouraging the President to support the right to keep and bear arms, and urging him to use his veto pen should any restrictive gun control legislation reach his desk.

The proper address is: The Honorable George W. Bush, The White House, 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20050. The proper salutation is: Dear Mr. President.

It may also not be a bad idea to contact the leaders of the new, Democrat-controlled Congress.

True, much of the new leadership, especially the new Speaker of the House of Representatives, Rep. Nancy Pelosi of California, has been demonstrably anti-gun, and some may consider any approach no more than a futile gesture.

However, the leaders are all politicians and are at least somewhat attuned to the attitudes of the public, and especially to the attitudes and intensity of vocal publics on issues of major concern to them.

That's why it may be of some value for gun rights activists to let politicians like Pelosi, now the chief official of the

House of Representatives rather than simply a representative of a single congressional district, realize the full force of negative political reaction which will result from the passage of restrictive firearms legislation.

The proper address for Pelosi is The Honorable Nancy Pelosi, M.C., Speaker, U.S. House of Representatives, Washington, D.C. 20515. The proper salutation is: Dear Madame Speaker.



## POINT BLANK

*"Straight talk about what you can do to preserve your right to keep and bear arms."*

<b>Editor</b>	John M. Snyder
<b>Publisher</b>	Alan M. Gottlieb
<b>Managing Editors</b>	J. H. Versnel Dave Workman
<b>Associate Editors</b>	Tom Gresham Merrill Jacobs Bob Kukla Herb Stupp Peggy Tartaro Joe Waldron

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# ANTI-GUN LEADER ADMITS POLITICAL "RADIOACTIVITY"

"The president of one of the nation's leading anti-gun organizations recently admitted that the gun control lobby's agenda is politically radioactive," John M. Snyder, CCRKBA Public Affairs Director, noted

In an article appearing in the November 12, 2006 issue of the *Los Angeles Times*, Peter Wallsten and Janet Hook wrote that Paul Helmke, President of the Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence, "acknowledged that his challenge is to persuade potentially squeamish Democrats that his cause is not 'radioactive.'"

Snyder said that "Helmke, a former Republican mayor of Fort Wayne, Indiana who had been defeated in his last run for public office, is trying to promote a ban on the importation, manufacture and distribution of certain semiautomatic firearms, to which he and other gun grabbers refer incorrectly as 'assault weapons.'"

"The guns Helmke and the Brady group want to ban are similar to the firearm models owned and used legitimately by millions of law-abiding American citizens.

"It's no wonder he thinks his position is radioactive. It is. This is the ban that the Democratic majority enacted in 1994, shortly before the elections that year, the elections in which the Democrats lost their majority in the U.S. House of Representatives for the first time in decades. It's the ban that President Bill Clinton blamed for the Democrats' loss in his State of the Union speech two months after that, in January 1995, and also more recently in his autobiography."

Snyder explained that the so-called "ban" was allowed to expire after its "sunset" at the end of a 10-year period but that the gun control lobby is

promoting it again as a first step in its anti-gun owner legislative program. "Helmke and the others probably think that, with the Democrats back in power with majorities in both the House of Representatives and Senate, they have a pretty good chance of promoting reenactment of the ban," Snyder reasoned. "They'd also like to promote other elements of their anti-gun owner agenda.

"However, today's Democrats may not be as stupid as Helmke thinks they are. Although a number of anti-gun extremists from the Democrat majority come into positions of leadership and legislative authority this month, the majority probably realizes that gun control was not a significant issue in the elections last year. They probably also realize that other issues were determinative in the choices people made and that, even with those issues, Democrats won only by the skin of their teeth in a number of congressional races. They may not want to be loaded down with a lot of anti-gun radioactive baggage when they face the electorate again, including America's scores of millions of law-abiding firearm owners, in less than two years."

Later, Andrea Stone wrote in *USA Today* for November 21, 2006 that "Paul Helmke, President of the Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence, says he has seen a list of the top 100 Democratic priorities; reinstating the now-expired ban on military-style assault weapons is 'in the 90s.' At least, he says, conservatives can't weaken gun control laws."

Still later, apparently, Helmke appeared to be pleading for a full-court Democrat consideration of the anti-gun agenda.

"I'm at a loss," he stated, "why some pundits and elected officials consider common sense measures to reduce gun violence as 'wedge issues' too controversial to be considered by the new Congress..."

"The new Congress could send the public a positive message of its concern for safer communities by taking common sense steps like eliminating current restrictions on publicizing data about the source of guns used in crimes, strengthening the powers of law enforcement agencies including the ATF, making it harder for criminals and terrorists to buy guns by requiring background checks for all gun sales, and restricting sales of military style weapons and the ammunition that's used in those weapons. Steps like this help make us safer and will score political points for those who support them."

Snyder said that, "regardless of the political lineups on Capitol Hill, it is most important that CCRKBA Members and Supporters and law-abiding gun owners generally resolve themselves to, for the next two years at least, maintain an awareness of what is going on with the gun issue on Capitol Hill.

"Initiate, develop and maintain relationships with your Representative and Senators. They represent you. It is essential that they know what you think about proposals relating to the individual Second Amendment civil right of law-abiding American citizens to keep and bear arms."

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# WALDRON RIPS INTO ANTI-GUN OFFICIALS

Joe Waldron, CCRKBA Executive Director, recently ripped into anti-gun public officials in different parts of the country.

Early last month, for instance, Waldron noted that, in a TIME magazine report offering reasons for the sharp rise in violent crime in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, the publication overlooked one significant factor.

"Twice in the past three years," said Waldron, "anti-gun Democrat Gov. Jim Doyle has vetoed the single piece of legislation that would put victims on equal footing with criminals, and instead he has left citizens at their mercy. Doyle's callous disregard for the self-defense rights of the citizens who put him in office puts their blood on his hands.

"Milwaukee Mayor Tom Barrett, who opposed concealed carry legislation, is also guilty of putting his own politics ahead of the safety of his constituents. Instead of supporting legislation that would have allowed law-abiding citizens to fight crime by fighting back, he's been rubbing elbows with New York's Michael Bloomberg, who won't be happy until he has disarmed every average citizen in the country."

"Isn't it ironic," mused Waldron, "that Doyle, Barrett and other anti-gun rights elitists beat the drums of hysteria about how there would be an increase in violence if law-abiding citizens were allowed to carry handguns. They bitterly opposed concealed carry legislation. Doyle vetoed it on the premise that he did not want violence to increase and yet violent crime is rising.

"The truth is that Doyle's anti-gun philosophy has disarmed the wrong people. Instead of enabling citizens

to defend themselves, he has perpetuated a low-risk working environment for predatory violent criminals and the Milwaukee murder rate proves it."

Waldron noted that, "police ranks are down precisely because so many of our police are now serving in reserve military units overseas, and this comes at a time when prisons are releasing thousands of hardened criminals back on the streets. Situations like this are what the Second Amendment is really all about. When police departments lack the manpower to protect the public, then the people must be able to protect themselves.

"Every homicide victim in Milwaukee and the rest of Wisconsin is a human sacrifice on Doyle's altar of political correctness."

## Virginia

In another part of the country, CCRKBA said that officials in Fairfax County, Virginia, including the county police chief, are "all wet" with their proposals to restrict the rights of law-abiding citizens because of a horrible crime committed in mid-2006 by a mentally ill 18-year-old who could never legally qualify to carry a firearm in Virginia or anywhere else.

Waldron said the proposed restrictions have been on the wish list of Old Dominion anti-gunners long before the early May shooting rampage at the Sully District Police Station. Gunman Michael Kennedy was killed, but not before he murdered Detective Vicky O. Armel and fatally wounded Officer Michael E. Garbarino.

"Fairfax County's anti-gun administrators have wanted to put restrictions on the rights of law-abiding, licensed Virginia gun owners for a long time,"

Waldron asserted. "They're just using the May 8 incident as a catalyst to revive their efforts."

Waldron added that, "their effort to ban legally-armed citizens from entering public areas of police stations would not have prevented Kennedy's rampage and they know it.

Continuing, he said, "All their proposal really would do is drive a wedge between armed citizens and police, reinforcing an 'us-against-them' kind of mentality. It's a genuine pity that Fairfax County Police Chief David Rohrer doesn't get this, and instead has reportedly asked the Board of Supervisors to submit the proposal to the Virginia General Assembly.

"It is not right, and never has been, to hold all gun owners responsible for crimes committed by criminals or crazy people. Law-abiding armed citizens are no threat to police or public officials, so why treat them as would-be criminals? If such restrictions were proposed against any other social group, there would be such a public cry of outrage that it would be heard from coast to coast."

Waldron said that "this is just one more attempt to plant the seeds of public distrust and sanction social bigotry against firearm owners, particularly against those who are legally licensed to carry. That's ironic because these citizens, unlike anyone else, have gone through criminal background checks and required training. If anything, they are the safest segment of the public, and it is an insult that they should be targeted as if they are terrorists."



# COURT HEARS CASE ON SECOND AMENDMENT

In a critical case for the right to keep and bear arms, attorneys for the District of Columbia argued early last month that the Second Amendment right refers only to militias, not individuals.

The city defended its long-standing ban on handguns, a law that some anti-gunners would like to see enacted in other jurisdictions.

At issue in the case is whether the Second Amendment right to "keep and bear arms" applies to all law-abiding citizens or only to "a well regulated militia." The Bush Administration has endorsed individual gun ownership rights but the Supreme Court has never ruled definitively on the issue.

If the dispute makes it to the high

court, it would be the first case in nearly 70 years to address the scope of the Second Amendment. Four years ago, several groups of firearm owners were disappointed when the Court declined to take up a challenge to California's ban on so-called "assault weapons."

In the Washington, D.C. case (Shelly Parker et al. v. District of Columbia, case No. 04-7041), a lower-court judge told six city residents in 2004 that they did not have a constitutional right to own handguns. The plaintiffs include residents of high crime neighborhoods who want to be able to own guns for personal protection.

Courts have upheld bans on automatic firearms and sawed-off shotguns, reports the Associated Press,

but this case is unusual because it involves a prohibition on all pistols. Voters passed a similar ban in San Francisco in 2005 but a judge ruled it violated state law. The Washington, D.C. case is not clouded by state law and hinges directly on the Constitution.

"We interpret the Second Amendment in military terms," said Todd Kim, the District's Solicitor General, who told the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit that the city also would have had the authority to ban all weapons.

"Show me anybody in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century who interprets the Second Amendment the way you do," Judge Laurence Silberman said. "It doesn't appear much later, the middle of the 20<sup>th</sup> century."

## CITIZEN ACTION PROJECT

The 110<sup>th</sup> Congress gets sworn in for its two-year term on January 4<sup>th</sup>, 2007. Speaker of the House will be Representative Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) and Senate Majority Leader will be Senator Harry Reid (D-NV). The Judiciary Committees will be chaired by Representative John Conyers (D-MI), House Judiciary, and Senator Patrick Leahy (D-VT), Senate Judiciary.

Despite their majority control of both houses of Congress, if they pursue too liberal an agenda (including on guns), they risk a backlash in two years. This is the kind of situation where grassroots lobbying – communications from individual constituents – plays a major role in influencing legislation.

ALL gun owners need to write, e-mail or call their elected officials. Tell them you are concerned that while gun control was not an issue in this election, some elected officials will attempt to exploit the Democrat majority to further their gun control agenda. Gun control is a failed policy that does not reduce crime; in many cases it encourages it by disarming law-abiding citizens.

A simple one-page letter, just three or four paragraphs, carries a lot of weight. Ask them to keep you informed of pending gun control legislation. Then follow up with an occasional telephone call to the official's office. Most will have a staff member who handles gun issues.

Below is the postal (snail-mail) address for your elected officials, the Capitol switchboard telephone number, and the internet link to the House and Senate web pages, where you can find your legislators and send them a direct e-mail.

Representative \_\_\_\_\_, United States House of Representatives, Washington, D.C. 20515. - <http://www.house.gov> AND Office of Senator \_\_\_\_\_, United States Senate, Washington, D.C. 20510. - <http://www.senate.gov> The Capitol switchboard can be reached at (202) 224-3121.

# CCRKBA NAMES HUNTER ITS GUN RIGHTS DEFENDER

Congressman Duncan Hunter of Alpine, California has been named CCRKBA Gun Rights Defender of the Month for January.

In nominating the San Diego-area U.S. Representative for the Award, John M. Snyder, CCRKBA Public Affairs Director, said that, "the longer one observes what happens on Capitol Hill, the more one realizes that we Americans rely on a number of public figures, and not always those who are most well-known as promoters of 'our issues,' for the preservation of our individual Second Amendment civil right to keep and bear arms. As controversies develop in Congress, Representatives or Senators who serve on committees of original jurisdiction of those particular issues receive the most attention with regard to those controversies. However, individuals who serve on other committees often deserve as much credit for their service to the cause as those who do.

"Duncan Hunter is just such an individual. As his congressional career indicates, and as he himself has indicated to *Point Blank*, he believes firmly in the constitutional right of law-abiding citizens to safely and responsibly possess firearms and has consistently voted to ensure that gun control laws do not infringe upon our Second Amendment rights. He certainly is most deserving of this Award."

Most recently, Congressman Hunter voted in favor of H.R. 5013, by Rep. Bobby Jindal of Louisiana, to prohibit any agency using federal disaster relief funds from seizing firearms from law-abiding citizens during emergencies such as Hur-

ricane Katrina. Titled the Disaster Recovery Personal Protection Act, the measure was included in the Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2007 and signed into law by President George W. Bush last October.

In the 109<sup>th</sup> Congress, which ended last month, Rep. Hunter cosponsored the proposed District of Columbia Personal Protection Act, which would have repealed the outrageous District of Columbia gun ban, and allowed residents of our Nation's Capital to acquire and use handguns for the protection of their lives and the lives of their loved ones.

"Since gun control measures often only penalize law-abiding citizens while having little effect on the proliferation of illegal arms," Hunter told *Point Blank*, "Congress' efforts should focus on imposing tougher penalties on those who break the law rather than taking guns away from legitimate gun owners."

In 2005, Congressman Hunter voted for the Protection of Lawful Commerce in Arms Act, the law, hotly opposed by the gun control lobby, which prohibits civil liability actions from being brought or continued against manufacturers, distributors, dealers or importers of firearms or ammunition for damages, injunctive or other relief from the misuse of their products by others.

In 2003, Hunter voted for a similar proposal.

Back in 1999, Hunter voted in favor of a bill proposed by then-Rep. Bill McCollum of Florida to require anyone who purchases a gun at a gun show to go through an instant criminal records background check which must be completed within 24

hours instead of 72 hours. McCollum last November was elected Attorney General of the State of Florida.

First elected to Congress in 1980, and reelected to each succeeding Congress, Hunter won the Bronze Star for his service in the Army in Vietnam.

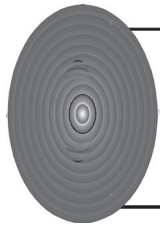
Born May 31, 1948 in Riverside, California, Hunter now is considering the possibility of declaring a candidacy for the Republican nomination for President of the United States in 2008.

He served as Chairman of the House Armed Services Committee for three years and now is the Ranking Member of that Committee.

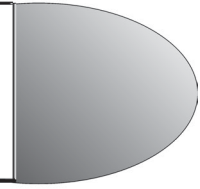
Hunter briefly attended the University of Montana and the University of California, Santa Barbara before enlisting in the United States Army. He served in the Vietnam War in the 173<sup>rd</sup> Airborne Brigade and the 75<sup>th</sup> Army Rangers.

After leaving the Army, Hunter enrolled at Western State University College of Law in San Diego in 1973 on the GI Bill while also working at farming and construction. He earned a BSL and JD in 1976. He then worked as a plaintiff's attorney, opening a law office in Barrio Logan San Diego. He assisted many in the Hispanic community free of charge and without government compensation before being recruited in 1980 to run for Congress.

In 1973, Hunter married the former Lynne Layh. Their son, Duncan Duane Hunter, born in 1977, a First Lieutenant in the United States Marine Corps, was deployed to Iraq in 2003. The couple has another son, Samuel. They also have two grandchildren.



# QUICK SHOTS



Over U.S. objections from the Bush Administration, the UN gun grabbers continued its attacks on the right to keep and bear arms. The organization's General Assembly last month approved a resolution that could lead to the first international treaty for controlling the trade in so-called "assault rifles" and other "small arms." The nonbinding resolution asks the Secretary General to seek the views of the 92-member General Assembly on the feasibility of a comprehensive treaty "establishing common international standards for the import, export and transfer of conventional arms." The resolution asks the Secretary General to report in the next General Assembly session, which begins in September of this year. It also asks the Secretary General to establish a group of government experts to examine the feasibility of a treaty based on the report.



In Cherry Tree, Pennsylvania, Councilman Henry Statkowski, a 59-year old retired Army master sergeant and Vietnam veteran, has proposed a Civil Protection Ordinance recommending that all households keep firearms and ammunition to ward off would-be burglars and prevent crime from creeping into the area. Statkowski maintains the proposed ordinance would keep crime down – "way down" – in Cherry Tree, a quiet village where streets are marked with wooden signs. "This is rural America," Statkowski told the Associated Press. "You want to break into someone's house here, you might not

like the consequences." He says the police "can't be everywhere. When you need help, you need it now." He says he was inspired by similar steps taken recently in Greenleaf, Idaho.



"Despite increased security at courthouses following shootings in Chicago and Atlanta about a year ago," wrote Amanda Bronstad last month in *The National Law Journal*, "many judges are bringing their own guns into their courtrooms for protection." She reported that, "in Nevada, Oklahoma and Texas, incidences of violence in the last year have prompted new laws or solidified rules allowing judges to bring guns into courtrooms. 'Judges in our courthouses have been carrying guns almost all the time,' said Cynthia Stevens Kent, a Texas judge in the 14<sup>th</sup> District Court, where a man in a family law case killed his ex-wife and son last year on the steps of a Tyler courthouse. 'We feel strongly about providing adequate security, but it comes down to personal responsibility, and you've got to take responsibility for your own safety,' Kent said."



Anti-gun New York City Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg said last month that the city had reached agreements with six out-of-state gun dealers, who agreed to let court officials monitor their operations to

prevent illegal gun sales, reported *The New York Times*. Bloomberg said that New York had contacted a number of additional gun stores to demand similar oversight. The agreements let a court-appointed special master scour the gun dealers' financial records, put up video cameras, and require that employees take part in training sessions on when gun sales are prohibited. The city also may send undercover investigators into the stores at any time, to make sure that all relevant gun laws are being followed. Larry Mickalis, owner of Mickalis Pawn Shop in Summerville, South Carolina, said that he was suing the City of New York because he did not trust New York's ability to trace firearms to his store.



In Ohio last month, CCRKBA Chairman Alan M. Gottlieb and CCRKBA Executive Director Joe Waldron congratulated the State House of Representatives and the State Senate for their respective 71-21 and 21-12 votes to override Gov. Bob Taft's veto of concealed carry reform legislation. Gottlieb said, "We're proud of the lawmakers in taking this sensible, courageous vote. This reform measure effectively overrides local gun bans in such places as parks and it will also nullify local bans on certain firearms." Waldron noted that, "this reform measure abolishes the absurd requirement that Ohio citizens who are licensed to carry concealed must have their guns in the open while driving.

# 4 Publications from the Second Amendment Foundation:



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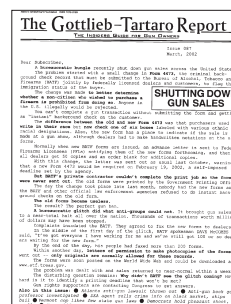
## The Journal of Firearms and Public Policy:

At last, an academic journal dedicated to scholarly discussion of firearms and public policy! The JOURNAL OF FIREARMS AND PUBLIC POLICY has published annually since 1989. Its mission: to encourage objective research on the right to keep and bear arms, and explore America's Constitutional heritage to privately own and possess firearms. Edited by David B. Kopel – Research Director at the Independence Institute and renowned gun-rights scholar – and contributors include Randy E. Barnett, Glenn Harlan Reynolds, John R. Lott, Joseph P. Tartaro, Gary Kleck, and others.

## The Gottlieb-Tartaro Report:

Here's a monthly newsletter that gives you inside gun-rights information from the desks of active principals in the battle for the right to keep and bear arms. The GOTTLIEB-TARTARO REPORT is headed by Alan M. Gottlieb – chairman of the Citizens Committee for the Right to Keep and Bear Arms – and Joseph P. Tartaro – editor of Gun Week and president of the Second Amendment Foundation. This monthly newsletter is full of inside gun rights news straight from the desks of the experts. Not available on newsstands. Regular subscription \$60 per year.

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