

POINT BLANK

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



**April
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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 HAILS COURT NIXING OF DC GUN BAN

CCRKBA hailed a ruling by the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia that, for the first time in American history, struck down a gun law on Second Amendment grounds.

The case was *Parker v. District of Columbia*, challenging the 31-year-old District of Columbia ban on handgun registrations to allow citizens to keep functional handguns in their District residences for personal protection.

"Anti-gunners are screaming hysterically about 'judicial activism at its worst' that ignored decades of 'Supreme Court precedent,'" noted CCRKBA Executive Director Joe Waldron. "In fact, this ruling strikes a mortal blow to decades of judicial activism based on erroneous interpretation and deliberate misrepresentation of a 1939 Supreme Court decision, and returns the Second Amendment to its historically accurate place in the Bill of Rights.

"It is both sad and amusing at the same time that the dominant press have largely refrained from mentioning that the ruling says the Second Amendment protects an individual right to keep and bear arms that is not limited to militia service."

In writing the majority opinion in the 3-2 ruling, Senior Judge Laurence H. Silberman states that, "the Amendment does not protect the 'right of militiamen to keep and bear arms,' but rather 'the right of the people'."

"Judge Silberman properly concludes what gun rights scholars have been saying for years," Waldron observed. "The Second Amendment is not some mythical 'collective right,' but an individual civil right equal to rights guaranteed to individual citizens under the First, Fourth, Ninth and Tenth Amendments."

D.C. Mayor Adrian Fenty said he was "outraged" by the decision and intended to consult with lawyers regarding a challenge to it. D.C. Police said they would continue to enforce the ban until an appeal is heard.

In the meantime, "by astounding margins of seven to one, local media Internet snap polls demonstrated overwhelming public support for the decision overturning as unconstitutional Washington, D.C.'s ban on private handgun possession," noted John M. Snyder, CCRKBA Public Affairs Director.

An NBC4-TV survey showed that, out of 5,750 votes cast, 5,088 (88%) believe that people in Washington, D.C. ought to be able to get guns and only 662 (12%) disagree. A WTOP radio poll similarly indicated that 88% agreed with the court ruling and only 12% disagreed with it.

"This is a tremendous victory for the common man," said Snyder, "and a staggering defeat for certain elitists who really don't accept the fact that average law-abiding citizens ought to be able to get handguns for self-defense."

ZUMBO PROMISES CCRKBA: 'I WILL BECOME WORST NIGHTMARE FOR ANTI-GUNNERS'

Embattled veteran gunwriter Jim Zumbo – having taken lots of heat over comments he made regarding AR-15 rifles in February – has promised CCRKBA Chairman Alan Gottlieb that he will become “the worst nightmare” anti-gunners could imagine.

The Wyoming journalist not only took a “crash course” on AR-15 rifles from pro-gun rocker Ted Nugent, he has also signed up for a tactical course, and plans to do more hunting with semiautomatic rifles.

In a heartfelt letter to Gottlieb, Zumbo admitted he made a terrible mistake in calling AR-15s and similar guns “terrorist rifles” before realizing that hundreds of thousands of American shooters and hunters use such firearms for everything from competition to varmint hunting and predator control.

“I insulted legions of my fellow gun owners in the process,” he acknowledged. “I can never apologize enough for having worn blinders when I should have been wearing bifocals.

“My own lack of experience was no excuse for ignoring the fact that millions of Americans – people who would share a campfire or the shel-

ter of their tent, and who have hurt nobody – own, hunt with and competitively shoot or collect the kinds of firearms I so easily dismissed,” Zumbo said in a letter to CCRKBA, which was accompanied by a contribution to help fight Rep. Carolyn McCarthy’s HR 1022. That legislation would renew and expand the ban on so-called “assault weapons” and make it permanent.

Hoping to inspire other gun owners to follow his example, Zumbo wrote, “I’m putting my money where my mouth should have been, and where my heart and soul have always been. I know the Second Amendment isn’t about hunting and never has been. My blunder was in thinking that by working to protect precious hunting rights I was doing enough. I promise it will never happen again.”

Zumbo told Gottlieb that he had studied McCarthy’s legislation and was stunned by its intended reach.

“The extremist supporters of HR 1022 don’t want to stop criminals,” Zumbo observed. “They want to invent new ones out of people like you and me with the simple stroke of a pen. They will do anything they can to make it impossible for more and more American citizens to legally own any firearm.

“Realizing that what I wrote catered to this insidious attack on fellow gun owners has, one might say, ‘awakened a sleeping giant within me, and filled him with a terrible resolve,’” Zumbo added.

He said the lesson he learned about solidarity with other gun owners rather than segmenting shooters and hunters is a lesson he will pass on to every gun owner in America.

“I’m going to devote every ounce

of my energy to this battle,” Zumbo vowed. “I will remind my fellow hunters that we are first, gun owners. Whether we like it or not, our former apathy and prejudices may place that which we love, hunting, in jeopardy. I will educate fellow outdoorsmen who mistakenly think like I talked, even if I have to visit every hunting camp and climb into every duck blind and deer stand in this country to get it done. I was wrong, and I’m going to make it right.”



POINT BLANK

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

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

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CCRKBA QUESTIONS DEMOCRAT APPROACH TO FIREARM RIGHTS

Last November, as Democrats won control of both houses of Congress for the first time since the 1994 elections, observers began to wonder if the new Democrat majority would attempt to consolidate and build on its electoral success with outreach to groups the party previously had spurned with some of its extremist social policies. These groups included scores of millions of law-abiding firearm owners.

While the answer to that question remains to be seen, some recent developments on Capitol Hill could suggest that some Democrats at least are hell-bent on committing what well could turn out to be political suicide for the party as a whole.

Just before the President's Day recess in February, for instance, Rep. Carolyn McCarthy of New York proposed to reauthorize a gun control measure which former President Bill Clinton and others blamed for the Democrats' loss back in 1994!

Not only that, but the McCarthy proposal actually would impose more restrictions on law-abiding American gun owners than the one Clinton referred to in his 1995 State of the Union Message.!

Back in 1994, the extremist gun control lobby, with Clinton's support, pushed for and got a ban on the importation, manufacture and distribution of certain specific semiautomatic firearms as well as semiautomatic firearms which met certain criteria. In the legislation, the proponents referred to the firearms as assault weapons, even though the semiautomatic firearms really did not satisfy the military definition of assault weapons that includes the criterion of fully-automatic firing

capability.

As part of the bill which Clinton signed into law, there was a 10-year sunset, or expiration provision.

The general public outrage, especially from gun rights activists and organizations, following enactment of this so-called "ban" on so-called "assault weapons" was what led Clinton and others to conclude that it was Democrat enactment of the law which so heavily contributed to Democrat defeat at the polls in November of 1994.

Even though the extremist gun control lobby worked hard to revivify the law before it sunset a couple of years ago, their efforts did not succeed. Last year, as Democrats campaigned hard for congressional seats, there was hardly a mention in any of their campaigns of any gun control proposals. Many of the Democrat candidates appeared to be at least as supportive of the individual Second Amendment civil right of law-abiding American citizens as their Republican opponents, if not more so.

When one looks at the McCarthy bill, H.R. 1022, her proposed Assault Weapons Ban and Law Enforcement Protection Act of 2007, referred to the House Judiciary Committee, one cannot help but wonder if the Democrats really have learned their lesson, or just played possum with the gun control/right to bear arms issue for campaign purposes.

Not only would H.R. 1022 reenact the old "ban," it would do that without including a "sunset" provision. It would include a definition of "semiautomatic assault weapon" as a matter of law even though there really is not a good technical reason for such

inclusion. It even would authorize the U.S. Justice Department to determine and declare that even though a particular semiautomatic rifle or shotgun model is used in a sporting event it has no sporting purpose and therefore can be included in the list of "banned" guns. It would do this, obviously, with no consideration of the right to use firearms for self-defense.

In addition, H.R. 1022 would include every firearm model constructed in such a way as to be authorized even under the previous Clinton era ban; firearms exempted under the Clinton ban; all semiautomatic shotguns; all detachable magazine semiautomatic rifles; certain target shooting semiautomatic rifles; 65 specifically designated firearm models, or 46 more than were named in the Clinton ban; semiautomatic fixed magazine pistols with a capacity of more than 10 rounds; and frames, receivers and parts used to repair or refurbish guns.

H.R. 1022 also would ban the importation of magazines exempted by the Clinton era ban, ban the sale of a legally owned "assault weapon" with a magazine of over 10 rounds capacity, and initiate registration of guns by requiring private sales of banned guns, frames, receivers and parts to be conducted through licensed dealers.

It's going to be interesting to see where congressional Democrats go with this bill.

We urge each CCRKBA Member and Supporter to contact his or her U.S. Representative, regardless of political party affiliation, and request that the Representative oppose H.R. 1022.

CCRKBA TELLS BLOOMBERG: 'CLOSE LAW ENFORCEMENT

The Citizens Committee for the Right to Keep and Bear Arms has challenged New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg's "Mayors Against Illegal Guns" coalition to go after what appears to be a major source of guns that seem to wind up in criminal hands: Law Enforcement.

Recently, the *Washington Post* revealed that the Federal Bureau of Investigation had, between February 2002 and September 2005, reported 160 firearms missing. That was in addition to the 352 guns that the agency had reported lost or stolen in an earlier audit that was made public in 2002, and it is only a part of the total number of firearms reported lost or stolen by federal agencies with law enforcement authorities.

"In 2003," said CCRKBA Chairman Alan Gottlieb, "we know that an audit by the General Accounting Office revealed that some 18 different federal agencies had reported more than 800 guns missing, and that included 19 submachine guns, 541 handguns and assorted rifles and shotguns."

Gottlieb noted that this kind of loss from a private business would get that business shut down, and the owner possibly prosecuted.

The *Washington Post* story said that at least 18 of the most recent missing firearms had turned up in connection with criminal investigations, and several had been used in armed robberies. The same pattern appeared in a Government Accounting Office report in 2003 that noted three government guns that had been recovered during the arrest of one individual for a firearms violation. Two more guns were found during searches that involved other investigations, and at least two federal

firearms were recovered in connection with investigations of a robbery and a drive-by shooting.

The federal gun audit only touches firearms lost by or stolen from federal agencies. It does not include guns lost or stolen from municipal police, county sheriff's deputies or state law enforcement officers. One such gun was stolen from anti-gun Seattle, WA Police Chief Gil Kerlikowske in December 2004. He left a loaded 9mm Glock pistol in his city-owned car on a downtown Seattle street while he and his wife were shopping on the day after Christmas. That gun has not been recovered, and CCRKBA still is offering a \$1,000 reward for its recovery and the arrest of the thief. Kerlikowske has campaigned this year for restrictive gun show legislation before Washington's Legislature.

"Bloomberg and his buddies have been railing about all of the illegal guns they want to take off the streets," said Gottlieb. "Here's an opportunity for them to put their energy into an effort that will not infringe in the least on the individual citizen's right to keep and bear arms."

"Don't tell us about some mythical gun show loophole that needs closing," he observed. "We obviously have a far more serious problem of theft and loss of firearms in our own law enforcement community, and until that problem is solved, Bloomberg and his anti-gun soul mates on Capitol Hill and in mayor's offices around the country need to leave law-abiding citizens alone."

It was not the first time CCRKBA has called on a politician to investigate what it calls the "government gun loophole." Earlier, Gottlieb had called upon anti-gun Michigan Congress-

man John Conyers, chairman of the House Judiciary Committee, to "close a real loophole." Conyers is an avowed anti-gunner who has in the past suggested that only police should have firearms.

ANOTHER MAYOR QUILTS BLOOMBERG'S 'COALITION'

Another mayor has quit Michael Bloomberg's Mayors Against Illegal Guns coalition.

The latest departure is Mayor Mary Wolf of Williamsport, PA. In a letter to Bloomberg, Mayor Wolf noted, "I have learned that the Coalition may be working on issues that conflict with legal gun ownership and that some actions on your behalf are dubious."

"All mayors in this coalition share a common concern about illegal guns and a common desire to move beyond the tired old politics of exaggeration and mischaracterization that has unfortunately dominated the illegal gun debate in the past," said Bloomberg spokesman Jason Post, according to the *New York Sun*.

Wolf sent CCRKBA Chairman Alan Gottlieb a copy of her letter to Bloomberg. In her letter to Gottlieb, Mayor Wolf said that, in her opinion, "It was always clear that licensed gun dealers, sportsmen, gun collectors and other similarly situated individuals were not part of the problem..."

Mayor Wolf told Bloomberg that, "The intent of the coalition was well-founded but current initiatives seem counterproductive to...reduce the criminal misuse of firearms."

KIDS AND CRIME IN GUN-FREE BRITAIN

When a recent article in Times On Line of the United Kingdom examined the issue of school-aged children being mugged on a regular basis, sometimes at knife point, America's Jennifer Freeman of Liberty Belles (www.libertybelles.org) decided to analyze the situation.

Her analysis is significant because U.S. gun grabbers for years have been holding up U.K. prohibitive gun laws as worthy of American emulation.

Freeman's analysis demolishes that argument.

According to the Times article, writes Freeman, "There were 24,000 muggings of children aged 11-16 last year. This is just one of a series of articles over the past few years demonstrating how crime in the United Kingdom has spiraled out

of control since private ownership of handguns has been banned.

"The question is whether or not gun banners will take responsibility for their position and admit that strict gun control actually puts children at greater risk of violent crime. One or two law-abiding 'subjects' in possession of a handgun and concealed carry permit would pretty much end the muggings in any given area allowing children to walk to and from school worry-free. Common sense dictates that a potential mugger would flee the scene upon sight of a societal defender with a gun."

Freeman writes that "people in the United Kingdom are looking to government for help in reducing the incidences of muggings. The government created this situation in

the first place by banning gun ownership... The government appears to be nowhere when it comes to catching criminals. There seems to be a direct correlation between the lack of gun ownership and the lack of personal responsibility."

Not surprisingly, the Times article listed several things children might do to "reduce the risk" of being mugged, including "Sometimes it is better to let someone take something rather than to get into a confrontation and risk injury."

The article also tries to shift blame for being mugged to the victim by admonishing youths that they attract the attention of thugs by "Talking on your mobile phone, carrying a laptop, or showing off your new gold ring to your friends."

CITIZEN ACTION PROJECT

Having tried her hand at "improving" her old "Our Lady of Peace Act" (NICS expansion) with her new bill, H.R. 297, New York Democratic Congresswoman Carolyn McCarthy is at it again with H.R. 1022, the new and improved so-called "assault weapon" ban. H.R. 1022 goes far beyond what Congress passed in 1994, the Clinton "assault weapon" ban that expired three years ago.

The Clinton gun ban listed 19 specific firearms, and in addition banned others that had at least two "evil" parts such as flash suppressors, hand guards, folding/collapsing stocks or pistol grips. The McCarthy gun ban lists 65 specifically banned guns, and only requires ONE "evil part."

H.R. 1022 also bans "conversion kits," defined as any part that may be used to make an "assault weapon." And don't forget normal capacity magazines, dubbed "large capacity ammunition feeding devices" in the bill. Again stretching farther than the Clinton magazine ban, this bill prohibits the transfer of such magazines under felony penalty.

While possession of existing firearms is grandfathered, under the new bill any transfer (sale or trade) of such firearms can only be made through a federally-licensed firearms dealer, thus assuring a paper audit trail. The bill also gives the Attorney General the authority to ban any firearm originally designed for military or police use, even if the firearm uses a fixed magazine such as the M1 Garand or SKS carbine.

There is one notable section left out of H.R. 1022. The Clinton gun ban included a list of "good guns" that Congress would not come after. This listing is absent in the new bill. Thus there are no guarantees that this or any future Congress won't declare any other firearms to be illegal to possess by law-abiding citizens.

You need to call your Representative and ask him or her to oppose this intrusive legislation. E-mail contact information for your federal elected officials can be found in the left margin at <http://www.ccrkba.org> under "Contact your Senators" and "Contact your Rep." Their district office telephone numbers can be found in the "blue pages" government directory in the front of your telephone book. You can also call the Congressional Hotline at (202) 224-3121.

FAA CORRECTOR THE CCRKBA GUN DEFENDER

Several years ago, the U.S. Justice Department under John Ashcroft, the Attorney General at the time, declared that the Second Amendment refers to an individual right to keep and bear arms.

At the time, CCRKBA acclaimed this as a most significant development in the ongoing controversy over whether the Second Amendment refers to an individual or a collective right.

When the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) declared December 16, 2006 in the *Federal Register* that the Second Amendment refers to a collective right, gun rights activists were disappointed.

David Codrea, CCRKBA Gun Rights Defender of the Month for April, wrote a letter of complaint to President George W. Bush regarding the FAA's position, and used his website, <http://www.waronguns.blogspot.com>, to inform the public about the situation and to encourage supporters to follow suit.

Then, in late February, FAA changed its position and now recognizes that the Second Amendment does refer to an individual right.

When news of this development reached John M. Snyder, CCRKBA Public Affairs Director, he immediately nominated Codrea for the CCRKBA Award. "Although some gun rights activists may not yet realize it," he said, "people who want to preserve our Second Amendment rights have to keep hawk's eyes on the federal bureaucracy and take the necessary steps to correct the bureaucrats when they get out of line. In this FAA case, David Codrea took the lead and paved the way that led

to the FAA's correction of its error. He deserves the thanks of America's law-abiding gun owners, and certainly is most deserving of this Award."

When the FAA made its mistake late last year as part of a ruling on security aboard space flights, it stated that nearly all courts have "held that the Second Amendment is a collective right, rather than a personal right. Therefore, despite the Second Amendment collective right to bear arms, the FAA has the authority to prohibit firearms on launch and re-entry vehicles for safety and security purposes."

Laura Montgomery, Senior Attorney in the FAA Office of the Chief Counsel, wrote that the rule had been "reviewed and approved by the Executive Office of the President."

In his New Year's Day open letter to the President, Codrea recalled that President Bush previously had stated he supports the individual right interpretation of the Second Amendment and even had declared that the Constitution refers to "a personal right to bear arms."

Codrea wrote, "The language that the Senior Attorney, Office for the Chief Counsel for FAA says was 'reviewed and approved by the Executive Office of the President' directly contradicts your earlier stated position.

"Some have suggested this is merely a bureaucratic oversight – a staffer issuing routine approval without a meticulous detail check and without your cognizance. Others feel it may signal a change in your administration's official position on the Second Amendment. If it's the former, will you take immediate steps to revise

the Final Rule and delete all references to "collective rights," as well as establish controls to prevent such oversights from happening in future rulemaking? If it's the latter, will you issue a public explanation of your new position and the reasons behind it?"

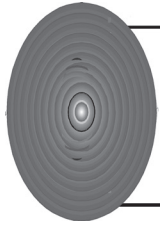
In its February 20 *Federal Register* notice, the FAA wrote that, "when the FAA issued a final rule on human space flight, it described one rule as consistent with the Second Amendment of the Constitution because, among other things, the right to bear arms is a collective right. The FAA now withdraws that characterization and amends its description."

The FAA noted further that, "The Executive Branch, through the Department of Justice, interprets the Second Amendment as securing a right of individuals to keep and bear arms...Regardless of the nature of the right, however, it remains true, as we noted, that the right is, like any other, not unfettered."

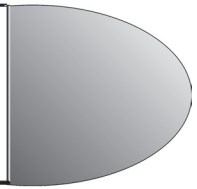
Commenting, Codrea wrote, "now the debate can focus on the 'fettering' (read 'infringing') aspect of the rule...withdrawing the collective rights interpretation is significant."

David was born in Akron, Ohio and now lives in Redondo Beach, California with his wife and two sons. He holds a Bachelor of Science from Kent State University where he majored in Journalism and Advertising. He says he's "been everything from a lifeguard to a factory laborer to a procedures specialist in both defense electronics and medical practice management."

He writes a monthly column for *Guns* magazine.



QUICK SHOTS



In Washington, D.C., CCRKBA Public Affairs Director John M. Snyder stated that “we’re 100 percent in support of H.R. 1096, the proposed Second Amendment Protection Act of 2007 introduced recently by Congressman Ron Paul of Texas, a CCRKBA Congressional Advisor.” H.R. 1096 would repeal provisions of the Internal Revenue Code and the federal criminal code distinguishing firearms used or sold for “sporting purposes” from rifles, shotguns and handguns generally. By eliminating the “sporting purpose” criteria, the bill would restore self-defense criteria as sufficient reason for use and sale of the affected firearms. It was referred to the House Judiciary Committee and in addition to the House Committee on Ways and Means.



A Florida man in North Miami-Dade stopped a would-be robber with a bullet that proved fatal early last month, reported the *Miami Herald*. Two men were trying to rob a third in front of a certain location, Miami-Dade police said. One of the robbers escaped and was being hunted by police. It was not clear whether charges would be filed against the shooter. Florida’s new “Stand Your Ground” law allows anyone who feels threatened to shoot even if he or she does not see a gun. There have been three high profile self-defense killings in recent months and none of the men involved was charged. In January, liquor store owner Pedro Agudelo shot and killed an armed man who tried robbing the West

Gables business. Five years earlier, Agudelo wounded a man in a similar robbery. In November, a Miami man tried robbing another man with a nickel-plated lighter made to look like a handgun. With an actual gun, his victim shot and mortally wounded him. In October, a security guard at a strip club in Miami Gardens shot into a car that was headed toward him. One man died, another was wounded.



CCRKBA announced its support for H.R. 1399, the proposed District of Columbia Personal Protection Act. Introduced by Reps. Mike Ross of Florida and Mark Souder of Indiana, the measure would junk the draconian anti-gun laws in the District of Columbia and restore Second Amendment rights to law-abiding District residents. It was referred to the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform. CCRKBA Public Affairs Director John M. Snyder said, “even though a court case challenging the constitutionality of the D.C. ban on handguns is wending its way through the judicial system, we’re supporting H.R. 1399 because we think that, given the severity of the situation in D.C. for gun owners and would-be gun owners, it’s good policy to pursue a two track mode of attack on the ridiculous D.C. anti-gun ordinance.”



Last month, Kennesaw, Georgia marked the 25th anniversary of its ordinance requiring every head of

household to own a firearm and have the appropriate ammunition. City officials say they intend to keep the law. The population has increased from 5,000 to over 30,000. Mayor Leonard Church says he thinks the ordinance helps deter crime, reports www.foxcarolina.com. Since the law was passed, police say there have been few accidental shootings in Kennesaw and none involving children in 20 years. Conscientious objectors to firearms, felons and people with physical or mental disabilities are exempt from the law.



ATTENTION: Now’s the time to start thinking about participating in the national 2007 Gun Rights Policy Conference. This will be the 22nd Annual GRPC, cosponsored by CCRKBA and the Second Amendment Foundation. Freedom’s Future? is the theme for this year’s gathering of hundreds of gun rights activists from around the country. It is scheduled this year for October 5, 6 and 7 at the Drawbridge Inn & Convention Center in the Cincinnati, Ohio area. Registration is free. This is a once a year opportunity to network and get an insider look and plan pro-gun rights strategies for the coming year. For further information, please call 425-454-7012.



VISIT CCRKBA.ORG to register for GRPC and get information to contact your U.S. Senators, and Representatives.

4

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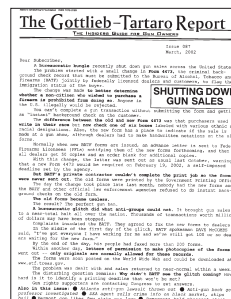
The Journal of Firearms and Public Policy:

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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