

POINT BLANK

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



March 2014

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CCRKBA FUNDS CAPITOL HILL AMICUS BRIEF

The Citizens Committee for the Right to Keep and Bear Arms recently had the rare opportunity to be a background participant by funding the filing of an amicus curiae brief to the Supreme Court of the United States that was signed by 34 members of Congress in a case challenging the arbitrary nature of concealed carry permit issuance or denial in the State of New Jersey.

The case is *Drake v. Jerejian*, was filed by CCRKBA's sister organization, the Second Amendment Foundation, and the Association of New Jersey Rifle & Pistol Clubs.

It's an important case to CCRKBA members and all legally-armed citizens, as it could lead to an important ruling that helps define the parameters of the right to keep and bear arms, and whether government bureaucrats can limit that right on what essentially amounts to a whim.

The brief was signed by Mississippi Sen. Thad Cochran and 33 members of the House of Representatives whose names appear below.

"CCRKBA is delighted to have helped in a small way get this brief before the Supreme Court justices," noted Chairman Alan Gottlieb. "It was an opportunity for us to present important information in favor of Second Amendment rights that could have a huge impact beyond New Jersey's borders."

New Jersey is not the only state where government officials have enormous, and some would argue, inordinate authority over a citizen's right to bear arms. In a similar case recently in California, the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals ruled that San Diego County's policy of simply not issuing carry permits was unconstitutional.

Joining Sen. Cochran on the Capitol Hill brief were:

Rep. Kerry Bentivolio (MI-11)	Rep. Walter B. Jones (NC-3)
Rep. Paul Broun (GA-10)	Rep. Adam Kinzinger (IL-16)
Rep. Michael C. Burgess (TX-26)	Rep. Doug LaMalfa (CA-1)
Rep. John Campbell (CA-45)	Rep. Leonard Lance (NJ-7)
Rep. Steve Chabot (OH-1)	Rep. James Lankford (OK-5)
Rep. Howard Coble (NC-6)	Rep. Billy Long (MO-7)
Rep. Tom Cole (OK-4)	Rep. Cynthia Lummis (WY-AL)
Rep. Chris Collins (NY-27)	Rep. Jeff Miller (FL-1)
Rep. Doug Collins (GA-9)	Rep. Steve Pearce (NM-2)
Rep. Kevin Cramer (ND-AL)	Rep. Todd Rokita (IN-4)
Rep. Jeff Duncan (SC-3)	Rep. Adrian Smith (NE-3)
Rep. Blake Farenthold (TX-27)	Rep. Lamar S. Smith (TX-21)
Rep. John Fleming, M.D. (LA-4)	Rep. Marlin Stutzman (IN-3)
Rep. Trent Franks (AZ-8)	Rep. Lee Terry (NE-2)
Rep. George Holding (NC-13)	Rep. Joe Wilson (SC-2)
Rep. Richard Hudson (NC-8)	Rep. Don Young (AK-AL)
Rep. Bill Johnson (OH-6)	

CNN v. CCRKBA: GUNS WIN AND MORGAN LOSES

When Piers Morgan announced in late February that CNN was pulling the plug on his prime time show, he wasted no time blaming the gun issue as part of the reason for his ratings decline, and one contributing factor may have been how he tangled with gun rights advocates including Alan Gottlieb, chairman of the Citizens Committee for the Right to Keep and Bear Arms.

"We're offering a 21-gun salute to Piers Morgan for admitting that his push for gun control helped kill his show," Gottlieb said.

It was on April 18 of last year – the eve of the 238th anniversary of the Battles of Lexington and Concord – that Gottlieb suggested it might be time for Morgan to make an exit. This was after Morgan had infuriated gun owners with his demands for gun control in a country where he was only a visitor. When Morgan's departure was announced, the CCRKBA leader said it was about time, recalling earlier remarks.

"He made a habit of demonizing and insulting American gun owners, and dismissing our Second Amendment," he observed. "When you are a guest in another country, you really shouldn't denigrate their constitution or their traditions, but Piers seemed to go out of his way to do exactly this.

"One doesn't endear himself to people by sneering at them, or their freedoms," Gottlieb added.

Morgan, in an interview with the *New York Times* about his departure, acknowledged, "Look, I am a British guy debating American cultural issues, including guns, which has been very polarizing, and there is no doubt that there are many in

the audience who are tired of me banging on about it."

Morgan had discussed banning handguns and so-called "assault rifles." He seemed less like a proverbial "fish out of water" than he did a "bull in a china shop," Gottlieb observed.

"The guy just couldn't control his nasty temperament toward the right to keep and bear arms," he stated. "Maybe he holds a grudge about Lexington and Concord."

Gottlieb appeared on Morgan's program last October in a nine-minute discussion that quickly accelerated into a fiery debate over "Guns Save Lives Day." That was the national observation held to counter the exploitation by anti-gunners of the first anniversary of the Sandy Hook tragedy. The Guns Save Lives day events were tied to Bill of Rights Day, which coincidentally falls one day after the Sandy Hook anniversary, on Dec. 15.

Last year, when Gottlieb first suggested that Morgan take advantage of "daily flights" that leave from America to the United Kingdom, he noted, "Our forefathers sent a message to the British that tyranny is not welcome on these shores. Morgan's on-air demagoguery towards gun owners is a different type of tyranny, but it is no less unwelcome."

Morgan was up against stiff competition from the Fox News channel, where Megyn Kelly's evening program has rolled up the ratings ladder like a juggernaut, leaving Morgan in the dust.

As this edition of Point Blank went to press, it was not clear when Morgan's show would be signing off

officially. In his interview with the *New York Times*, the "Bombastic Brit" noted that "Jeff and I have been talking for some time about different ways of using me." That indicates Morgan may not be entirely finished with CNN, although America appears prepared to be finished with Morgan, considering his three year ratings decline, from about 2 million viewers to around 270,000, according to the *Daily Mail*.

Gottlieb said that if Morgan is leaving the United States to return home, "he should take the short cut."



POINT BLANK

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

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SEMI-ANNUAL FBI REPORT CONFIRMS CRIME DOWN WHILE GUN SALES UP

The FBI's semi-annual Uniform Crime Report for the first half of 2013 confirmed what the Citizens Committee for the Right to Keep and Bear Arms has been saying for quite some time: crime is down as gun sales have risen.

According to the FBI preliminary report, violent crime across the nation has fallen by 5.4 percent, with robberies down 1.8 percent, forcible rapes down 10.6 percent and homicides fell by 6.9 percent.

"All of this has occurred as gun and ammunition sales remained brisk," noted CCRKBA Chairman Alan Gottlieb. "It has also happened during a period when increasing numbers of citizens have obtained concealed carry permits and licenses all over the country."

The National Shooting Sports Foundation noted that, "The crime reductions, continuing a 30-year

trend, correspond with a steady increase in firearm sales."

While CCRKBA can hardly credit increased gun sales with the decline in crime, Gottlieb noted that the real issue here is that violent crime has not gone up, as the gun prohibition lobby has consistently predicted. He also suggested that with increased publicity about rising gun sales and more concealed carry, there could be a deterrent.

"The FBI report says burglaries and auto theft have also decreased," Gottlieb said, "and it is impossible to look at this pattern and not suggest that increased gun ownership just might be a contributing factor. Gun prohibitionists dismiss this suggestion, but you can bet your life savings that if the data was reversed, and violent crime had risen, the gun control lobby would be declaring that guns were to blame."

Information in the FBI preliminary report is based on information from 12,723 law enforcement agencies around the country. These agencies submitted three to six months of comparable data for the first six months of 2012 and 2013.

Some interesting data has emerged. According to the preliminary report, "Violent crime decreased 10.5 percent in non-metropolitan counties and 3.6 percent in metropolitan counties, with a decline in each of the nation's four regions.

"The largest decrease, 7.4 percent, was noted in the Midwest, followed by 5.9 percent in the South, 4.3 percent in the Northeast, and 3.7 percent in the West," the preliminary report revealed.

CCRKBA will continue to monitor the crime trends and how they coincide with gun sales and expanding concealed carry.

SMART GUNS, DUMB IDEA, SAYS CCRKBA CHAIR

Anti-gun Massachusetts Senator Edward Markey has submitted another piece of legislation that would require all firearms to be "personalized" so that only the users could press the trigger.

The idea immediately drew objections from Alan Gottlieb, chairman of the Citizens Committee for the Right to Keep and Bear Arms.

Gottlieb told the *London Daily Mail* that "The problem with 'smart guns' is that they are dumb when they need to be used for self-defense by multiple family members, or for example, by police

partners when one officer needs to use the other officer's gun."

Gottlieb added, "If the police won't use them, why should I?"

Markey's proposal is to prohibit the sale of firearms without "biometric" technology that can operate in a number of ways, such as by fingerprint recognition, or by wearing a special item that activates the gun's firing mechanism.

The overriding problem with all of these technologies is electronics, many experts contend. Anything that relies on a battery to operate could fail, especially when someone

needs to use that firearm.

Gun rights activists should be on the lookout, though, because ideas such as the "smart gun" proposal have been floated in the past, not so much to push an idea but to divert public attention from something else. Proponents of the technology will pursue the idea, regardless whether it actually works.

Gottlieb and other gun rights leaders are less than impressed. So-called "smart guns" as a response to crime seems to be proposed every couple of years, almost on a cycle with other gun control propositions.

CCRKBA: NEW DATA SHOWS CCW NUMBERS CLIMBING

New anecdotal data from various sources confirm what the Citizens Committee for the Right to Keep and Bear Arms has been saying for years: Citizens value gun ownership and where it is possible, they will carry firearms for personal protection.

A report by Newsmax.com noted recently that, "Nationwide, an estimated 8 million to 10 million citizens legally carry guns, a jump from about 20 years ago, when the figure was less than 1 million."

At about the same time, CNN reported, "Almost 80 percent of gun retailers reported a rise in female customers in 2012, according to industry figures. In Florida, 22 percent of the concealed carry permits are held by women. In Texas, women hold 28 percent of concealed carry permits, up sharply over the past decade."

Now that Illinois has passed legislation to allow concealed carry, and that a three-judge panel on California's Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals has nullified the arbitrary nature of how permits are issued in San Diego County, there is almost certain to be a surge in the number of permits issued in that state. Illinois authorities have forecast as many as 400,000 applications for carry permits this year.

CCRKBA Chairman Alan Gottlieb hailed the developments as a positive step for gun rights.

Here are some of the highlights of recent news:

- In New Mexico, last year there were "more than twice as many concealed carry permits...issued," according to a news report on KWES.
- In Oklahoma in 2013, "more than 60,000 Oklahomans applied for a

gun license." The state Bureau of Investigation launched a new system that allowed users to submit license applications or renew their licenses on line.

- In Washington State, 2013 saw more than 54,000 new concealed pistol licenses issued by the Department of Licensing through county and municipal law enforcement agencies. The year wrapped up with about 450,000 active Washington CPLs in circulation, which may surprise some people because the state is generally considered "blue" in its voting pattern for national office.

- In Kansas, 2013 saw "a huge increase" in applications for concealed carry permits, and offered a prediction that the surge would continue if more talk about gun control came from Congress.

Sixty-thousand license applications in Oklahoma alone in one year in a single state says a great deal about the public's desire to be armed, and it puts the lie to claims that gun ownership is actually declining. Add to that the 54,000 reported in Washington, and you have the makings of a tidal wave. Increasingly, retailers across the country report that a growing portion of their sales is to first-time gun buyers, both men and women.

What is behind this surge?

Gottlieb and CCRKBA Communications Director Dave Workman, who are working on their

fifth book collaboration, have discovered that there are many reasons. For example, in Kansas, a newspaper suggested that "The uptick (in 2013) was driven by a push to tighten gun laws at the federal level and the December 2012 school shooting in Newtown, Conn."

Down in Georgia, many more women were interested in firearms. Reporters found one woman, Bethany Swem, who summed it up bluntly: "Women need to be able to protect themselves. You can't always count on a guy being there."

Also, it appears more women are participating in recreational and target shooting, Cowboy Action and even hunting. Gun makers seem to be introducing more models for smaller-framed shooters. Shotguns and rifles with shorter stocks and lengths-of-pull seem to be more common, and Mossberg this year unveiled a line of shotguns and a rifle with "Muddy Girl" camouflage, and other companies are marketing firearms with pink stocks.

With a growing number of women gun owners, and concealed carry permit holders, around the country, it could become increasingly difficult for gun prohibitionists to preach disarmament.

For more firearms rights news:

www.ccrkba.org

www.thegunmag.com

www.keepandbeararms.com

www.saf.org

www.womenandguns.com

CONCEALED CARRY ON SCHOOL CAMPUSES GAINS TRACTION

The issue of guns on school campuses is front and center in a number of places, and the Citizens Committee for the Right to Keep and Bear Arms is monitoring this as they develop.

The school board in Monticello, Indiana recently discussed a proposal that would ban the carrying of weapons on school property, but several people spoke out against that proposal. The speakers, want school administrators and teachers to have the ability to carry guns on school property.

The school board members will continue discussion on this issue with a vote expected soon thereafter on the proposal to ban guns on campus.

In Colorado, a House committee voted down a measure that would have permitted school employees

to carry their firearms on campus. The vote fell along party lines, and exposed a significant urban-rural divide on the issue. A number of people opposed to the bill attended the hearing, including the head of security for the Denver public schools.

In Wyoming, the state legislature is considering a measure to allow teachers and state concealed carry permit holders over 21 to carry their guns on campus.

The bill sponsored by Republican Rep. John Eklund and was advanced on a 54-6 vote in the House of Representatives. Officials from the University of Wyoming in Laramie, though are opposed to the idea

Eklund's legislation would repeal an existing statute that prohibits guns on K-12 school campuses.

In Idaho, the State Senate adopted a measure that will allow students over age 21 to carry concealed on public college and university campuses, despite objections from college presidents, local police chiefs and the State Board of Education. The bill was passed on a 25-10 vote and moved to the House of Representatives.

Alaska is also getting in on the discussion, with a new bill in under consideration in Juneau. The *Fairbanks Daily News-Miner* reported that a state senator from the Fairbanks area has introduced legislation that would permit concealed carry on the campuses of the University of Alaska, both in Anchorage and Fairbanks, throwing out a nearly 20-year-old ban instituted by the school's board of regents.

CITIZEN ACTION PROJECT

Do you know the name of your state Senator?

How about the name of your state Representative(s) or Assemblyperson(s)? Can you identify immediately who your U.S. Representative (Congressperson) or U.S. Senators? Do you know how to get in touch with them?

All U.S. Representatives are up for election/re-election this November, as are 33 U.S. Senators. In most states, your Representatives/Assemblypersons/Delegates face the voters in November as well, along with about half of state Senators (most of whom run for four-year terms).

What have you done so far this year to educate your elected officials about the issues surrounding lawful gun ownership? With a few exceptions, most elected officials are not experts on the gun issue.

You can't afford to let the other guy do it. When an issue comes up, dig out the facts, put them in a letter or e-mail, and send them to the legislators who will be voting on the issue.

Contact information for your U.S. Representatives and Senators can be found at www.house.gov and www.senate.gov. In addition to elected officials' individual web sites, they also offer information about specific votes on bills or amendments. Links to all state legislatures are available at <http://thomas.loc.gov/home/state-legislatures.html> (in some cases a single site contains both Senate and House/Assembly access; in others, there is a separate web site for each).

No internet access (available free at most public libraries)? Look in the blue-edged "Government" pages in your local telephone directory. It's up to YOU!

CLARK COUNTY COMMISSIONERS LOOK AT CCW FOR EMPLOYEES

Insisting that they are looking out for the safety of public employees, two members of the Clark County commission in Southwest Washington, announced they are considering allowing those employees with concealed pistol licenses to carry guns to work.

County Commissioner Tom Mielke, a former state legislator, discussed the situation recently, noting, "Employees do not, in my opinion, lose their constitutional rights because they work for the county."

The suggestion came after a high-profile shooting incident in the county office building in Vancouver during which a supervisor was seriously wounded by a former employee who had once been accused of stalking him. That woman now faces charges of attempted first-degree murder, cyberstalking, first-degree assault and stalking. She was arrested at the scene after other office personnel tackled and disarmed her. The man she shot is expected to recover.

Mielke, who discussed the plan with Point Blank, said he had not



Tom Mielke

heard a single negative reaction from any county employee, although there has been some opposition from local gun control advocates. The idea also drew criticism from readers of the Seattle Times, who thought the idea would lead to more workplace violence.

Mielke was joined by fellow Commissioner David Madore in the suggestion, noting that private citizens

can carry concealed handguns in county buildings, and so can he. But keeping county employees unarmed seems like a silly idea based more on political correctness than public safety, he indicated.

"We promote diversity, equal rights and the right to protect one's self and why in the world would I take that away from my employees," Mielke wondered. Why would I knowingly make them a target by putting a sign out here (that says) 'gun free zone?' That's what we do."

The Clark County Commission may be at odds with a 1991 State Supreme Court ruling in *Cherry v. The Municipality of Metropolitan Seattle*, however. In that case, Metro bus driver John Cherry was dismissed because he was carrying a handgun on the job in violation of Metro employee policy. The state high court upheld the firing.

Opponents of the idea have raised concerns about liability from accidental discharges and workplace violence, but nobody has discussed the equal concern about people being able to defend themselves from workplace violence.

Mielke, who is licensed to carry, noted that as a commissioner, he's exempt from the no-guns policy for employees. He considers that something of a double standard, and he trusts Clark County employees far more than the gun control crowd evidently does.

The story even got attention from John Carlson, the morning drive time host for KVI, Seattle's popular conservative talk radio station.

There are more than 450,000 active concealed pistol licenses in Washington.

GUN OWNERS WIN ON STATE LEGISLATION

In New Hampshire, pro-gunners convinced lawmakers to reject a proposal that would have expanded background checks on all firearms transactions and transfers to include gun shows, flea markets and online sales.

The 242-118 vote followed two hours of debate that included proposals to study the idea instead of enacting the so-called "universal background check" measure, HN 1589.

In Oregon a similar proposal was also handed a setback which likely ends any chance of passage for this legislative session.

The Oregon Senate Judiciary Committee, by a narrow one-vote margin (3-2), voted to send SB 1551 to the House Rules committee instead of to the Senate floor.



QUICK SHOTS

From the “self-defense with a gun file” comes this story out of South Carolina where a crook’s stun gun was no match for a senior citizen’s firearm recently.

According to WCSC-TV, Linconville police responded to the home of a 76-year old man after he called 911 to say that he had just shot a man who had attempted to rob him. Once there, according to the TV station citing a police report, the victim had indicated he had been a previous robbery target and that he was getting into his vehicle to leave his home when the suspect approached and allegedly tried to use the stun gun on the elderly man.

The victim told dispatchers he fired three shots at his attacker and finally hit him with one, killing him.

The suspect, reports the TV station, was identified as a local man in his 20’s.



Gun permit applicants in one Indiana county are seeing a change in how those permits are processed.

According to WFIE-TV, the sheriff’s office in Dubois County, in the southern part of the state near Evansville, has implemented electronic fingerprinting for the permit applications. Previously, the office had been using paper fingerprints to process those applications, but sheriff’s officials told the TV station that the state had asked local sheriffs to make the switch.

WFIE reported that an outside vendor has been hired to perform the

fingerprinting, and permit applicants are able to get that done one day a week by appointment.



Police officers in one southwestern Colorado city are seeking a new shooting range, citing increasing concerns they are negatively impacting public access to the community’s local gun range.

The *Pine River Times* reported that the local county sheriff in Durango asked county commissioners for a new practice shooting range, suggesting that increasing usage of the Durango Gun Club’s range by area cops is affecting the club’s ability to operate its facility. The sheriff’s office had its own facility in the past, but the newspaper reported it was shut down to allow for expansion of the local jail.



Idaho legislators are mulling over ending an exemption which allowed them to carry their guns without the need for a permit.

The *Twin Falls Times-News* reported that a Republican House member introduced proposed legislation that would end that practice; the issue has been in the news since late last year, when a fellow GOP lawmaker resigned following a controversy surrounding his being allowed to carry his weapon even though his permit had been revoked after it was found that he had lied on his application.

The bill was approved by a legislative committee and is now on the House floor.



Kentucky lawmakers may make it easier for domestic violence victims to protect themselves with a firearm.

WEKU radio reported that lawmakers were considering a bill that would allow people who are covered by emergency protective orders issued in domestic violence cases to request temporary concealed carry licenses from judges; according to the legislator who proposed it, judges would make the decision and if granted, permits would last a maximum of three months or until the order is lifted. A domestic violence advocate expressed concerns about the bill in comments to the radio station, so the proposal may face some opposition.



Kansas lawmakers are mulling legislation regarding guns in cars.

The Associated Press reported that a state House committee passed a bill that would allow gun owners to carry their handguns loaded while in their cars, among other things. According to the AP, the bill would also create a statewide pre-emption on local gun laws, and allow for open carry of firearms is permitted around Kansas.

The AP reported the bill passed on a voice vote and is awaiting full House consideration.

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