

Cover Story Continued . . .

thing about this type of ruling is that speaking cannot be made illegal, only abuse of the right to speak can have legal consequences. If you carry that over to firearms and use the same logic, you cannot make firearms illegal but you can make the misuse or abuse of firearms to have legal consequences. This type of decision would not be ideal because it would generate many lawsuits where state and local governments would fight to defend their gun laws with the focus on having an overriding public interest. The line as to where the overriding public interest begins and where it ends would keep this issue in court for many years to come.

And third, the court can declare that the Second Amendment is indeed an individual right protected by the U.S. Constitution and not one directed solely at a state's right to have a state militia or National Guard. This would be a clean definition and would allow the pro-gun forces to sue to have many of the 20,000 gun control laws on the books at all levels of government declared unconstitutional. Misuse of firearms ownership could still have legal consequences but that's about it.

The anti-gun forces are wetting their proverbial pants about the potential of the court ruling in any way that the Second Amendment is an individual right as the following statement shows from the Brady Campaign's (formerly

Handgun Control, Inc.) website:

"The D.C. Court of Appeals' decision in the Parker (now Heller) case was an example of judicial activism at its worst. The Court of Appeals ignored longstanding Supreme Court precedent and substituted its policy preferences for those of the District's elected representatives.

If the Supreme Court does not reverse the Court of Appeal's decision, sensible gun laws could be at risk...from the long-standing machine gun ban...to the Brady criminal background check law...to local and state gun laws like the ones in California and New Jersey banning military-style assault weapons."

And they are correct! If the court decides in any direction other than overturning the Appellate Court decision, many of California's gun control laws could well become unconstitutional, including and especially the so-called Assault Weapons Ban.

Gun Owners of California strongly believes that the clean interpretation of the Second Amendment is the correct one and we will be making a legal argument to the Supreme Court of that position. In the event of this type of ruling, GOC would focus much of its attention to taking all of California's gun control laws to court with the intent of having them declared unconstitutional once and for all.

And in the words of the founding fathers: Patrick Henry, "Guard with jealous attention

the public liberty. Suspect every one who approaches that jewel. Unfortunately, nothing will preserve it but downright force. Whenever you give up that force, you are inevitably ruined."

James Madison (author of the Second Amendment), "Besides, the advantage of being armed forms a barrier against the enterprises of ambition, more insurmountable than any which a simple government of any form can admit of. The governments of Europe are afraid to trust the people with arms. If they did, the people would certainly shake off the yoke of tyranny, as America did."

George Mason, "To disarm the people is the best and most effectual way to enslave them."

Noah Webster, "Before a standing army can rule, the people must be disarmed as they are in almost every kingdom in Europe. The supreme power in America cannot enforce unjust laws by the sword because the whole body of the people are armed, and constitute a force superior to any band of regular troops that can be, on any pretense, raised in the United States."

Expectations are that the U.S. Supreme Court will hear the case sometime next Spring and announce a ruling sometime around June of 2007.

(Gun Owners of California is a non-profit grassroots organization formed in 1975 to preserve and protect our Second Amendment Rights. Gun Owners of California Campaign Committee is the nation's oldest pro-Second Amendment political action committee dedicated to defeating anti-gun elected officials and electing pro-gun leaders.



# California GUN OWNERS

*Dedicated to crime control, not gun control.*

Celebrating  
★ 32 ★  
YEARS OF  
NO COMPROMISE  
1975-2007

4TH QUARTER • WINTER 2007

## GUN OWNERS OF CALIFORNIA TO SUBMIT AMICUS BRIEF BEFORE THE U.S. SUPREME COURT

**"A well regulated Militia being necessary to the security of a free state, the right of the people to keep and bear Arms shall not be infringed."**

*Second Amendment to the United States Constitution*

Gun Owners of California announced that they will join the efforts of its national affiliate Gun Owners of America Foundation to weigh in on a historic case scheduled to be heard by the United States Supreme Court. The District of Columbia v. Heller challenges whether the D.C. government has the right to ban handgun ownership by private citizens who reside in the community.

"We are enthusiastically partnering with GOA in submitting an amicus curiae" said Executive Director Sam Paredes. "The Supreme Court has a momentous opportunity to finally set to rest the polarized views about the Second Amendment's guarantee for individual citizens - rather than the collective arm of the state - to keep and bear arms. The U.S. Supreme Court recently decided to review a decision by the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia in Parker, et al., v. District of Columbia, which virtually nullified the District's firearms ban while finding that the Second Amendment does, indeed provide for individual firearms possession. Adrian M. Fenty, Mayor of Washington D.C. filed the appeal (the case now known as District of Columbia v. Heller), who has cited that an excess of guns is responsible for his city's renown murder statistics. The FBI reports, however, that Washington D.C. has been labeled one of the most dangerous cities in the country, and consistently has one of the highest per-capita murder rates regardless of the weapons ban.

"The bottom line is that we have a widespread ignorance of our Constitution," commented Paredes. "Legislative leaders throughout the country continue to interpret

the Bill of Rights with little historical knowledge. The Founders were very clear in their intent that the Second Amendment applies to and protects individual Americans, and Gun Owners of California is confident the Court will uphold this implicit right." Paredes is not alone in his "individual rights" view. It is shared by some of the nation's top constitutional scholars, both liberal and conservative, including Lawrence Tribe, Sanford Levinson, Akhil Reed Amar, Alan Dershowitz, and William Van Alstyne.

The U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia regarding the appeal of the Washington DC District Court ruling that the Second Amendment was a "collective right" instead of an "individual right" in the original Parker v. D.C. case ruled as follows:

*Appellants contest the district court's dismissal of their complaint alleging that the District of Columbia's gun control laws violate their Second Amendment rights. The court held that the Second Amendment ("A well regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed") does not bestow any rights on individuals except, perhaps, when an individual serves in an organized militia such as today's National Guard. We reverse...*

The U.S. Supreme court can go one of three different directions in deciding this case and all of them have significant ramifications for California.

First, and in our opinion the worst case, the Court can overturn the D.C. Appellate Court ruling where, as Professor John Lott puts it, "...no gun regulation will be deemed unreasonable." For California that would mean business as usual. No change. All existing gun laws are okay.

Second, the high court can rule that the Second Amendment is an individual right but that the overriding public interest of the nation allows there to be some restrictions. Something along the lines of just as yelling fire in a crowded theater when there is no fire, is not considered protected free speech under the First Amendment. The interesting

*Continued on page 4 . . .*

**TO: SENATOR H. L. RICHARDSON, (ret.)**

YES! I want Gun Owners of California, Inc. to continue fighting for our 2nd Amendment rights. I understand the minimum donation of \$30.00 entitles me to full membership benefits.

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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.
- Access to high quality videos.
- Discounts on long distance phone service.
- Discounts on most internet purchases.

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Contributions and gifts to Gun Owners of California, Inc. are not deductible as charitable contributions for federal income tax purposes.

### Inside...

GOC Submit Amicus Brief Before S.C. .... 1

Related Bills Passed in 2007 ..... 2

Wildlife Conservationist ..... 3

Articles Continued ..... 4

## Schwarzenegger joins left wingers in California legislature by signing two major anti-gun bills into law.

Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger has signed two major anti-gun, anti-hunter bills into law this year leaving no doubt as to where he stands on the gun issue. AB 1471 (Feuer-D) the so-called micro-stamping bill and AB 821 (Nava-D) banning the use of any ammunition containing lead in the region of the state where the California Condor ranges.

With the full knowledge that AB 1471 was completely flawed, as reported by a study conducted by his own administration, and knowing that many of the major semiautomatic handgun manufacturers have declared that they cannot comply with the provisions of this bill and would therefore abandon all new sales into California, including to law enforcement, Governor Schwarzenegger signed AB 1471 into law.

In his own signing message Governor Schwarzenegger admits that the technology is flawed. He chose to sign this bill with the knowledge that it would, in effect, be a future ban on any new semiautomatic handgun sales in California, which will only hurt law-abiding citizens, not criminals.

After receiving letters from major manufacturers like Glock, Smith and Wesson, Kahr Arms, and SigArms (now Sig-Sauer), the Governor instead chose to follow the request of the consistently anti-gun California State Chiefs of Police Association in signing the microstamping bill. All year long the Chiefs of Police Association had been neutral on the bill, largely based on presentation made to them by the firearms manufacturers showing significant problems with the legislation. Near the deadline for bill signings, the Chiefs changed their position from neutral to support of AB 1471. Capitalizing on the euphoria generated from the press campaign on the successful passage of a major anti-gang program, the Chiefs most assuredly used that opportunity to convince the Governor to sign the bill.

In another amazing action, Governor Schwarzenegger signed AB 821 into law siding with the most anti-hunting, anti-gun environmental extremists in the country, banning the use of ammunition containing lead in the portion of the state known as the California Condor range. This constitutes approximately one tenth of the huntable portion of California. The interesting thing is that the Governor opposed this bill all the way through the legislative process and his administration indicated that this issue should be dealt with in his Fish and Game Commission based on science instead of in the legislature based on politics.

The Governor joined the radical anti-gun environmentalists in proving that they are not interested in partnering with the hunting and sport shooting community to achieve wildlife conservation goals. They don't care that we provide virtually all of the financial resources used to manage wildlife in California through our licenses, fees, stamps and excise taxes. It's their way or the highway as far as they are concerned and we must remember that in the future.

Ultimately, science and facts lost out to politics and could not overcome the influence of the Audubon Society (a front for many radical environmentalists), who by the way brilliantly hired Schwarzenegger political consultant Marty Wilson as a "consultant" apparently to whisper into the Governor's ear...

Although many Administration staffers and officials expressed opposition to these bills, GOC was told that the Governor never expressed his intent until he actually signed the bills, thus showing his true colors.

GOC will continue to fight, tooth and nail, to defeat all of the anti-gun bills that will most assuredly be introduced in the second half of this session with the goal of preventing them from making it to the Governor's desk because we know that he is no friend of the Second Amendment.

Gun Owners of California Supports

## Let's Talk Guns

San Diego's only local PRO GUN & Educational Safety radio show with host John Conely. John Conely and his PRO GUN, PRO- Self Defense, and Pro Safety Awareness radio show will educate listeners and discuss all aspects of owning, collecting or possessing a firearm in CA.

John Conely is an avid hunter and has extensive knowledge about law enforcement. He is a state certified firearm instructor and safe handling instructor. John also has an avid gun collector and collects guns dating back to the 1800's up to the new 2007 Smith and Wesson 460 XVR.

So TUNE IN to the newest and ONLY gun talk show in San Diego.

Every Wednesday from 11am - 1pm. Only on KCEO am Radio Gun Owners of California's Executive Director Sam Paredes has been frequently on the Let's Talk Guns Radio Show as a guest.

Sam Paredes is very knowledgeable about what takes place throughout the state pertaining to the gun issue. He lobbies at the Capitol during session, instigates good pro-gun legislation, and is informative on the ins and outs of how legislation becomes law. As a guest on John Conely's Radio Show, Sam fields questions with expertise and agility. Sam regularly appears on the show on the first Wednesday of every month.

The Southern California area is well served by Let's Talk Guns on the Radio. Tune in and listen to the entire 2 hours. GOC Raffle tickets are being sold and you could be an excited winner in 2008 by hearing your name on the radio.

If you have a question or a gun related incident that is perplexing, call Sam and John on the Let's Talk Guns radio show for an answer! 1-800-292-5236 1-760-720-5236

## HELP GUN OWNERS OF CALIFORNIA!

GOC has been around for over 32 years only because of the support of dedicated gun owners who believe that they can help to protect their Second Amendment rights by being a part of an organization that is hard-hitting and dedicated to fighting for our rights. We appreciate all of the support we have received over the past three decades but the fight is not over.

If the U.S. Supreme Court rules that the Second Amendment is an individual right, GOC will be putting much of its focus on overturning many of California's gun control laws in court; all the more reason why we need your continued support.

Thank you in advance for considering any of these suggestions as ways of continuing to support Gun Owners of California. If you have any other suggestions as to what GOC and its supporters can do to develop more support, please feel free to contact us either through our website: [www.gunownersca.com](http://www.gunownersca.com) or by calling our office at (916) 967-4970.

You can be a big help in building the membership of Gun Owners of California by doing any of these things:

1- Host a dinner, cocktail party, barbecue, coffee or just a get-together with your pro-gun friends and neighbors. We will send you a written outline of the points you can make to your friends and neighbors about losing their gun rights and why their help is needed. We'll also send along brochures to pass out to your guests so they can take them and read more about GOC and what we do. We'll also send along membership forms so you can collect memberships and return them in the postage-paid envelope we'll provide.

2- We raise money every year with our GOC 52 Guns in 52 Weeks Raffle, where one gun a week for the whole year is given to the lucky ticket drawing winner for that week. You can help us sell our raffle tickets, which sell for \$50 each. The tickets are great gifts for friends and family, for Christmas, birthdays or just to have fun watching the GOC website each week to see who won. Tell your friends to give us a call before the tickets are all sold out!

3- You can invite Sam Paredes, GOC's Executive Director, or a GOC representative to

come speak to your local gun club to personally bring everyone up to date on the latest information on both the legislative front and elections. Call to calendar a date.

4- Send a note to your email list about GOC and ask them to join on-line. The more members we have, the more influence we can have on California politics.

5- You can hold a trap, skeet, sporting clays, silhouette, rifle, pistol or any kind of shoot to help GOC continue to fight for your Second Amendment freedoms right here in California. As an example, recently, Dave Macy of Grass Valley and Jim Garcia joined together to create a shoot at Garcia's Hunting Preserve in Loomis. The event gave great sport to the men who attended and raised funds for GOC through raffle ticket sales and contributions.

6- You can Join our Newsletter Distribution Team to get extra newsletters and membership forms to distribute at your local gun stores or gun friendly businesses, clubs, and amongst your family and friends.

7- You can continue to support GOC with your regular contributions including annual membership renewals, donations to our campaign committee to fund our political action committee and special projects or fund raising events we present.

8- As a business, you can do what El Cajon Gun Exchange did for us this year. They advertised on the radio that they would give discounts on specified items when a buyer would sign up for a GOC membership. It worked great! They gained more sales and we gained new members! We encourage those who live in or around El Cajon, California, to do business with El Cajon Gun Exchange because of their support in this continuing battle for firearm freedoms.



For Calendar speakers or Events, or participating in any of the above suggestions you can call Gwen at the GOC office: 916 721-7833 or check out our website at: [www.gunownersca.com](http://www.gunownersca.com) or email: [gunownca@gunownersca.com](mailto:gunownca@gunownersca.com).

## HUNTING EXPO USA

Hunting Expo USA is proud to announce the 2nd annual HUNTING EXPO in Southern California! We would like to extend a warm welcome and personal invitation for you to the BEST show for HUNTING \* FISHING \* SAFARI \* GUN \* SHOOTING SPORT \* OUTDOORS!

Hunting Expo USA is representing American and International premier outdoor, adventure-travel, hunting, fishing, safari, shooting-sports, taxidermy, services, lodges, outdoor product manufacturers, boats, retailers, guides, outfitters, national and local conservation organizations, nonprofit groups and services. Exhibitors and professionals will be on-hand to answer your questions, share information, and demonstrate new technologies. This expo is developed by avid sportsmen and for more information, please visit our website:

[www.huntingexpousa.com](http://www.huntingexpousa.com)

March 29-30, 2008  
Pasadena Convention Center  
300 East Green St.  
Pasadena, CA  
Los Angeles

Show Hours:  
SAT: 9-6, SUN: 9-5  
Open to the Public  
Adults \$10/Ticket  
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