

THE *BULLET*

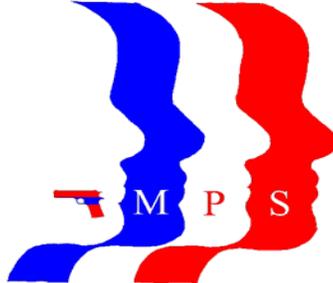
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Official Publication of Western Missouri Shooters Alliance

April 2021



GCLA



MPS



WMSA

Annual Missouri Statewide
Gun Rights Rally Day Sponsored by:
MPS-Missourians for Personal Safety
GCLA-Gateway Civil Liberties Alliance
WMSA-Western Missouri Shooters Alliance
MSSA-Missouri Sport Shooting Association

ATTEND THIS YEAR'S GUN RIGHTS RALLY DAY

In the Capitol Building in Jefferson City
Thursday, April 28th, 2021 - 10:00am-12:00 noon
Celebrating 18 years of Missouri Concealed Carry
Tell our legislators that your Rights are important

Make plans to be there. Bring your family and friends!

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For all other information about the Rally call
WMSA at (877) 333-WMSA (9672) or email WMSA at
bob.wmsa@gmail.com
Rally sponsored by MPS, GCLA, WMSA & MSSA and other pro-
Freedom groups
www.gclastl.org, www.moccw.org, www.wmsa.net,



...dedicated to the restoration of the inalienable right to keep and bear arms as guaranteed by the 2nd Amendment

The Alliance is a regionally-based, grass-roots organization that seeks to:

1. Counter the designs of malicious legislators.
2. Confront the media's twisted portrayals of gun rights issues.
3. Politicize and activate gun owners in defense of their rights.
4. Acquaint the public with the true nature of the Second Amendment.
5. Network with other pro-gun groups to coordinate local, state and national strategies.
6. Train people in basic firearm safety and handgun defense.
7. Sponsor and support pro-gun legislation
8. Make politicians aware that gun owners are awakening from their accustomed apathy and
WILL TOLERATE NO FURTHER EROSION OF THEIR FREEDOMS

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COMING EVENTS

Events may be cancelled at last minute due to Covid Restrictions.

• • •

WMSA

General Membership Meeting

7:00 PM

May 25, 2021

July 27, 2021

Sept. 28, 2021

Nov. 23, 2021

Bass Pro Conservation Room
 Independence, MO

• • •

MVACA

Missouri Valley Arms Collectors Assn.

July 24-25, 2021

KCI Expo Center
 Kansas City, MO

• • •

R. K. Shows

To Be Announced

KCI Expo Center

• • •

Lake Lotawana Gun & Knife Show

To be announced

29709 E Alley Rd.
 Lake Lotawana, MO

WANENMACHER'S TULSA ARMS SHOW

April 10-11, 2021

EXPO CENTER-EXPO SQUARE
 (TULSA FAIRGROUNDS)
 TULSA, OKLAHOMA

• • •

American Legion Gun & Knife Show

Apr. 17-18, 2021

16701 E. 40 Highway
 Independence, MO

• • •

Call 877-333-WMSA or check the web site www.wmsa.net



LIBERTY NOTES

By Kevin L. Jamison

It is a Good Day for Liberty.

I've listened to an audiobook "Level Zero Heroes." It concerns a detachment of Marines assigned to protect a village of Afghans who wanted to kill them. The author had taken specialized training in calling in air support. This is important; the American military relies on air support. When innocent persons are hit their relatives down to distant cousins are obligated to take revenge. The author was horrified to learn that the Afghan intelligence officer had contacts among the enemy. Certain families sent members to fight on both sides. This is the rule in unconventional warfare. When digging in on an old Russian position they found the skeleton of a Russian soldier, which they took to be ominous. On one occasion they had a group of Taliban cornered in a village and were astonished to see a van waived through the Afghan Army positions into the village. They stopped it on the way out and were told that it had been sent to recover the bodies of a woman and her daughter who had been killed by an American bomb. The men in the back reeking of gunpowder were identified as the burial party. The bodies each had one wound, made by a 7.62 mm bullet at close range. The Marines had been firing 5.56mm. The Taliban had killed the women as an excuse to escape. These being women they were of no importance. They tried to get compensation from the Marines for the women's deaths. They did not get it. This is reality in unconventional war. Winning such a war is tricky.

I see that the hand sign for "OK" is reputed to be a symbol of white supremacy. Anyone who has innocently used this sign in the past has some explaining to do. Their license plates will be broken and their driver's license stamped "Not Good for Washington DC." They may be sent to Viet Nam, although that as not as dismal a destination as it once was.

I have had my first covid shot. I am now marginally healthier and more socially acceptable than before. The volunteers at the vaccination facility seemed uncommonly enthusiastic and helpful, like they were on commission. I have not suffered any side effects, much less the genetic modifications the conspiracy theorists claim. If I grow a second head I will let you know.

The local tabloid has published a lengthy article on the horrors of adult abusers having guns. Laws must be passed! Buried in the editorial masquerading as news is a sentence stating federal law already prohibits convicted adult abusers from having guns. So it is already illegal but we need to pass one more law on the same subject. It would be comical if the new law did not have further restrictions.

Restrictions is the word. I heard media reports on gun law "reform" but it is always restrictions that are being imposed.

Vice-President Harris has declared that proposed restrictions do not take away the Second Amendment. The poet declares, "If a clod be washed away by the sea, Europe is the less, as well as if a promontory were." For many years, the usual suspects have taken small slices of the Second Amendment under the delusion that we shall not notice. We have noticed. Over the last century the gun community has compromised over every restrictive scheme thrown at us. From the Pistol and Revolver Act of 1922 to the bump-stock ban, we have compromised. Now they must compromise. Before they demand any more restrictions they, must tell us which of our rights they shall never restrict, if someone else tries to restrict them will they stand with us and defend them, and why should we believe them?

Cinco de Mayo is nearly upon us. The fifth of May is a Mexican holiday commemorating a victory of the Mexicans over the French army. Local citizens took up arms and defeated one of the best armies in Europe at the time. The Mexican Constitution contains the right to possess arms. However various dictators have enacted "common sense" laws to make that right impossible to exercise. On this Cinco de Mayo buy a Mexican-American a beer and tell him that we are trying to preserve the rights of Mexicans in this country.

Attacks on Asian-Americans are said to have increased in the last year. This is blamed, of course, on President Trump referring to covid as the "Chinese virus." It takes a special kind of stupid to take the President's remark as permission to attack Asians in general. China is a large part of Asia, but Asians will be quick to tell you that there are other countries on the continent. An elderly Chinese woman was attacked by a bully twice her size. She picked up a board and laid him out. The bully was carried away in an ambulance and bystanders had to restrain the woman from caressing him with her assault board. Good on her. A go-fund-me account was established for the lady which has raised al-

LIBERTY (Continued on page 4)

LAFAYETTE GUN CLUB,
Higginsville, MO

IHMSA—USPSA/IPSC—SASS
Sporting Clays
Match & Membership info
www.lgconline.org

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LIBERTY (Continued from page 3)

most a million dollars. She said she would use it to help the Asian community. I hope she will keep a slice to buy a pistol and lessons on how to use it. One cannot rely on a board being available at all times.

The usual suspects claim that guns should be controlled like cars. OK. I can buy as many cars as I want. I don't have to have government permission to buy cars. I can buy cars that go faster than any known speed limit. I don't need a background check to buy a car. I don't need a government license to drive unless I drive on government roads. The only reason my car is registered and licensed is to ensure that I pay my taxes for those government roads.

Missouri's first elk hunt authorized five permits. Five elk were taken. One man shot his from his back porch. The next elk season cannot expect that kind of luck. We can expect a next elk season. We can expect more licenses in the future.

Many people have used their stimulus checks to buy guns, and ammunition, so much ammunition. I have read a number of statements from ammunition companies to the effect that they are cranking out all they can produce and are still a year behind in orders. The reasons is—us. We buy up ammunition as soon as it hits the store. Prices are raised and stores limit purchases and still inventory is sold out. We are not shooting that much ammunition we are squirreling it away because we fear crime and not being able to acquire more. I hear that reloaders have the same problems. There are stories that most of our lead comes from China. This may be true but there is plenty of scrap lead for bullets. Primers and powders are being snapped up. Next it will be bows and arrows.

We should be squirreling away this money to finance lawsuits. The NRA and Second Amendment Foundation have cases percolating through the system with the object of the Supreme Court giving an authoritative decision on the scope of our rights and the standard of proof the usual suspects must reach to infringe them. If this current administration reaches its goal we will need to finance several lawsuits. The Supreme Court can be choosy about what cases it will take. We need to have a number of cases in motion. The last gun case that reached the Supreme Court cost \$2.5 million. I know of a case that reached the Supremes, only to be sent back for further proceedings. In such a case we need to have another case to throw at them. The Court has refused to take a number of Second Amendment cases. If we keep sending them up it will realize that they have to make a decision.

Kelvin Curtis, our NRA-ILA representative, is forming a list of persons who want to be informed of legislative action or activities in the state. I'm on his list. I try to be on as many lists as possible and his is a good one.

Rally Day will be Wednesday 28 April, 2021 from 10 AM to Noon in the Rotunda of the Capital Building in Jefferson City. This is a great occasion to let the government know that we will not accept any more restrictions on our rights.

In the words of two great time travelers, "Be excellent to each other!"
We shall overcome.

Self-Defense Bills Advance

House Bill 52 and House Bill 212 has been passed by the State House of Representatives by an overwhelming margin. It now goes to the Senate for hearing and approval.

House Bill 52 removes the prohibition on law-abiding citizens carrying firearms for self-defense on public transit property and in vehicles. In addition, it allows law-abiding citizens to transport unloaded or non-functioning firearms on buses. This repeals an arbitrary "gun-free zone" that does nothing to hinder criminals while leaving law-abiding citizens defenseless. It ensures that citizens with varying commutes throughout their day and of various economic means are able to exercise their Second Amendment rights and defend themselves.

House Bill 212 specifies that lawful owners of firearms may transport or store the firearms in locked, privately-owned motor vehicles without fear of civil liability, criminal liability, or employer retribution. Throughout the country, many employers and business owners have adopted "No Firearms" policies that extend beyond the physical workplace or building to include parking lots – areas often accessible to the general public and not secure. In order to comply with these policies, many law-abiding gun owners must choose between protecting themselves during their commutes and being subject to termination by their employer. The fundamental right to self-defense should not stop simply because you park your car in a publicly accessible parking lot owned by your employer or a business owner.

Please contact Senator Dave Schatz, who is President of the Senate and ask that HB 52 and Senate Bill SB 225 (Senate version of HB52) be placed on the Senate calendar for debate and a vote. Contact information: Phone: 573-751-3678 or Schultz@senate.mo.gov

"Laws that forbid the carrying of arms ... disarm only those who are neither inclined nor determined to commit crimes... Such laws make things worse for the assaulted and better for the assailants; they serve rather to encourage than to prevent homicides, for an unarmed man may be attacked with greater confidence than an armed man."

—Cesare Beccaria



PRESIDENT'S CORNER

GOOD NEWS

K. L. Jamison

It is traditional in a President's column to warn of disaster and plots and threats. All these things exist. I chose to consider what has gone right.

First consider the tenure of Wayne LaPierre. For all the complaints about him consider the results of his tenure. In the last thirty-five years, what have we lost? We lost bump stocks. We lost a national election. We won the other fights. They came for "Saturday Night Specials" and we beat them back. They came for .50 rifles and we beat them back. They came for "assault weapons" and we beat them back. There is a license to carry system in all 50 states and District of Columbia. Some of these systems are terrible. But they exist and provide a basis for more. "Stand Your Ground" laws have been established in three-quarters of the states and the number is growing. Some of these laws are by statute and the rest by judicial decision.

Courts have been staffed with judges appointed by President Trump. Two Supreme Court Justices have tipped the balance on the Court in our favor. The Supreme Court has ruled that the Second Amendment is an individual right. Lower courts have ignored or minimized this ruling. There are cases working their way before the Court in which it is likely to assert its authority.

Missouri has benefitted. When I began practicing law, the law was that if someone broke into your home, the homeowner could not shoot except when the intruder was stepping across his threshold; or crawling through the window. Once inside the intruder could take a nap, fix lunch or watch TV and the homeowner could do nothing. I used to tell people that and they would laugh, thinking I was telling a joke. It was not a joke it was a decision of the Missouri Supreme Court. A Missouri senator had lured a man into his home, killed him and then claimed self-defense. Stupid cases make stupid law. I asked a member of the jury instruction committee the reasoning for this extremely limited instruction. He said that they were afraid that a homeowner would come home and find a burglar asleep on the couch, kill him and not be punished. I should have asked how often that happened but was appalled by this thinking, or lack thereof.

We went to the legislature and now we have a pure castle doctrine. If someone breaks in and places the homeowner in reasonable fear of unlawful force the homeowner may act in self-defense. This may not seem to be a great difference, but the difference is that the presumption now favors the homeowner. We have a stand-your ground. The usual suspects said that it would lead to blood in the street. They were wrong.

When we asked for a license to carry system, we were told it would lead to blood in the streets. Newspapers, the media, the governor's office all spread superstitions about concealed carry. We beat them.

Now we are faced with a president and congress that hate us. They say there will be blood in the streets if they do not legislate against us. We beat them before and we can beat them again.

Kansas City Star
Letters

Subject: police contract

Dear Sirs:

Regarding your 12/18/20 piece on the KCPD contract. You imply that the provision allowing an officer 48 hours after a shooting before making a statement evades justice. This is a standard provision in police contracts. Memory experts and the Force Science Institute have found that mild stress improves memory. Extreme stress, such as a gunfight, degrades memory. Adrenaline impedes recall and will not be out of the system for three days. Under stress, blood retreats from the frontal lobes of the brain to the primitive part. This works against recall.

Every citizen has the right to remain silent. Including police.

Kevin L. Jamison
Attorney at Law

"After a shooting spree, they always want to take the guns away from the people who didn't do it. I sure as hell wouldn't want to live in a society where the only people allowed guns are the police and the military."

—William S. Burroughs

"Is life so dear, or peace so sweet, as to be purchased at the price of chains and slavery? Forbid it, Almighty God! I know not what course others may take; but as for me, give me liberty or give me death."

—Patrick Henry



FBI's Shadow Gun Bans Threaten First and Second Amendment Rights

For several years the FBI has been operating a shadow gun ban regime whereby Americans who are not prohibited from possessing firearms under federal law are being denied their Second Amendment rights without due process. This extralegal practice was brought to light again in recent weeks in the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit case **Turaani v. Wray**. The case revealed that the FBI's current administration of the National Instant Criminal Background Check System amounts to a may-issue gun purchasing scheme that is incompatible with the proper adjudication of a Constitutional right.

For more than a decade, gun control advocates and their allies in Congress have pushed legislation that would prohibit those on one of the federal government's watch lists from purchasing firearms through the NICS system. As the federal government's watch lists are **often erroneous** and the procedures for placing an individual on them are **nebulous, opaque, and do not comport to any reasonable standard of due process**, such legislation would empower the government to extinguish Americans' Second Amendment rights with nearly unfettered discretion.

Given that such measures are a threat not only to Americans' Second Amendment rights, but also their First and Fifth Amendment rights, **NRA has been joined by the American Civil Liberties Union** in opposing this dangerous legislation. NRA is not opposed to prohibiting dangerous individuals from possessing firearms, but the government must be forced to prove that an individual is dangerous by securing a conviction against them in a court of law.

Despite Congress having repeatedly rejected this may-issue scheme for gun ownership, the FBI has pressed forward with their shadow gun ban.

In 2013, the Congressional Research Service published a report titled, "**Terrorist Watch List Screening and Background Checks for Firearms**." The document made clear that the FBI was checking the government's watch lists during NICS background checks. Moreover, if a person came up on a list the transfer would be flagged and delayed. The report explained,

As part of the background check process, NICS typically responds to a federally licensed gun dealer, otherwise known as a federal firearms licensee (FFL), with a NICS Transaction Number (NTN) and one of three outcomes:

(1) "proceed" with transfer or permit/license issuance because no prohibiting record was found; (2) "denied," indicating that a prohibiting record was found; or (3) "delayed," indicating that the system produced information suggesting that there could be a prohibiting record. In the case of a possible watchlist match, NICS sends a delayed transfer (for up to three business days) response to the querying federally licensed gun dealer or state POC. During a delay, NICS staff contacts immediately the FBI Headquarters' Counterterrorism Division and FBI Special Agents in the field, and a coordinated effort is made to research possibly unknown prohibiting factors. If no prohibiting factors are uncovered within this three-day period, firearms dealers may proceed with the transaction at their discretion.

Therefore, the FBI delays, as a matter of practice, firearms transactions involving individuals for whom they have no information suggesting they are prohibited from possessing firearms. This would be bad enough if it involved a temporary delay, however, the FBI does not clear the delay. Rather, the non-prohibited individual must rely on the Federal Firearms Licensee (FFL or gun dealer) to proceed with firearm transfer once three business days have elapsed since the NICS check was initiated, as they are permitted to do by law. Such "default proceed" transfers are at the FFL's discretion and some FFLs are reluctant to transfer a firearm under these circumstances. If a person delayed in this manner is unable to acquire the firearm from a reluctant FFL after a default proceed, the FBI has denied a non-prohibited individual their right to purchase a firearm.

In *Turaani v. Wray*, the FBI went a step further. According to the facts presented in Judge Jeffrey Sutton's opinion, in 2018 the plaintiff (Turaani) attempted to buy a firearm from an FFL. The requisite NICS check resulted in a delay. Then, as Sutton described,

The next day, FBI agent Jason Chambers went to the dealer's house, which doubled as his place of business, to speak to him about Turaani. Chambers wanted to see what information Turaani had provided about himself and explained that "we have a problem with the company" Turaani "keeps." He showed photographs of Turaani with another person of apparent Middle Eastern descent, whom the dealer did not recognize. And Chambers left his contact information with the dealer.

Turaani followed up with the dealer a few days later to purchase the gun. The dealer explained that he had received a visit from the FBI. While he "technically could sell the gun" because the three-day delay had passed without further prohibitions on the sale, the dealer told Turaani that he was "no longer comfortable doing so."

To recap, the FBI delayed the firearm transfer of a non-prohibited individual merely due to "the company" he "keeps." Then the FBI paid a visit to the FFL that all but assured the firearm transfer would not go forward. Of course, freedom of association is an essential component of the First Amendment right.

FBI (Continued on page 7)



FBI (Continued from page 6)

Following the FBI's actions, Turaani then filed suit, claiming that the federal government had impermissibly restricted his rights. However, the Sixth Circuit ruled for the government, claiming that while the FBI did share information with the FFL that made the dealer reluctant to transfer the firearm, they did not force the FFL to halt the transfer.

What the court failed to fully appreciate is that FFLs are licensed by the federal government and subject to its oversight. There is an obvious measure of coercion attendant a visit from the FBI to an individual whose livelihood is directly regulated by another branch of the Department of Justice.

The FBI's shadow ban regime could be used to target any number of politically disfavored groups and individuals.

Consider the 2009 U.S. Department of Homeland Security report "Rightwing Extremism: Current Economic and Political Climate Fueling Resurgence in Radicalization and Recruitment." The report explicitly targeted Second Amendment supporters and returned military as potential terrorists, stating,

The possible passage of new restrictions on firearms and the return of military veterans facing significant challenges reintegrating into their communities could lead to the potential emergence of terrorist groups or lone wolf extremists capable of carrying out violent attacks.

Further targeting gun rights supporters for heightened scrutiny, the report went on to explain,

Weapons rights and gun-control legislation are likely to be hotly contested subjects of political debate in light of the 2008 Supreme Court's decision in District of Columbia v. Heller in which the Court reaffirmed an individual's right to keep and bear arms under the Second Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, but left open to debate the precise contours of that right. Because debates over constitutional rights are intense, and parties on all sides have deeply held, sincere, but vastly divergent beliefs, violent extremists may attempt to co-opt the debate and use the controversy as a radicalization tool.

In recent months, rhetoric about using the federal government to target those with divergent political views as "terrorists" has reached a fever pitch. The ACLU and other civil libertarians have warned about attempts to empower the federal government to pursue a new and misguided domestic war on terror. Former CIA Director John Brennan even suggested that the national security apparatus be turned on libertarians.

As bad as the current shadow gun ban regime is, there is legislation moving through Congress to make it even worse. H.R. 1446, would eliminate the three-day default proceed on NICS checks and would empower the FBI to indefinitely block FFLs from transferring firearms.

Under the bill, there would no longer be a set timeframe under which the FFL could proceed with a transfer if the FBI failed to give a definitive answer to a NICS check. An unresolved delay would become a presumptive prohibition on the transfer, even if the FBI never identified a disqualifying record.

Instead, the intended transferee – who already filed the Form 4473 with the FFL – would have to file a second petition with the government making the exact same declarations of eligibility and, once again, asking the FBI to rule on the matter.

But what would happen if the FBI didn't resolve the follow-up petition?

In that case, the bill would require the FFL to wait at least 10 additional business days from the date the intended recipient filed the petition to consider making a default transfer. How the intended recipient is supposed to prove to the FFL the petition was even filed in the first place is not specified. This onerous and nebulous appeal procedure would only serve to exacerbate the threat posed by FBI's current abuses.

The prejudices and unproven hunches of federal bureaucrats should never determine the exercise of a Constitutional right. That is why NRA members and other gun rights supporters must continue to work to oppose legislation that would give the federal government further discretion over the exercise of Second Amendment rights or compound the government's current abuses.

Major gun-rights group banned from Facebook without explanation

Facebook has given a top Virginia gun-rights group the boot, and the social media giant is yet to provide any justification .

President of the Virginia Citizens Defense League, Philip Van Cleave, said the group's page simply disappeared. Facebook told the group the decision was final, but they would not provide an explanation.

"This was correctly actioned and we will not be republishing," said Kristen Morea, Facebook spokeswoman.

According to Van Cleave, the group used its Facebook page specifically to communicate with its members. The page helped raise awareness of Gov. Ralph Northam's gun-control agenda and mobilized activists in an attempt to block Democratic proposals.

"If they did this to us, it's just a matter of time," said Van Cleave. "I think we're a high-profile group and that's why we got singled out. Those who aren't as high profile as we are, I'm sure they're on the chopping block next."

The VCDL has never advocated for violence, nor was it involved with protesting the results of the 2020 election, according to Van Cleave. He believes the lack of clarity from Facebook suggests that the ban is "political."



“Unity” President Vows to “Defeat” America’s Oldest and Largest Civil Rights Group

Joe Biden wants Americans to believe that he will focus on what he calls “the renewal of a politics that’s about solving problems – not stoking the flames of hate and chaos.”

Yet what “problem” is Biden promising to “solve” before he even takes office? Why the “defeat” of the National Rifle Association, a group of over 5 million Americans of all different backgrounds from all different walks of life united in their commitment to the nation’s constitutional freedoms.

Biden issued this “pledge” in a January 8 tweet that falsely tried to suggest the men and women of the NRA were somehow implicated in an infamous crime that was committed a decade ago by a manifestly deranged individual with no clear motivation or political agenda.

Defaming one’s political opponents – and by extension, their supporters – is hardly unheard of in Washington, D.C. But doing so while claiming the mantle of a “unifier” is especially hypocritical, particularly at a time when the nation has real problems to solve, including the economic, psychological, and physical threats posed by the ongoing coronavirus outbreak.

If Joe Biden were reading the newspapers – or better yet, NRA-ILA’s own Grassroots Alert – he would know that a viewpoint uniting an especially large and diverse group of Americans in 2020 was the necessity of a owning a firearm for personal protection. Last year was the busiest ever for the national background check system used to process retail firearms transactions. Americans, by all accounts, voted in record numbers with their feet and their pocketbooks in favor of their Second Amendment rights as the country struggled through one calamity after another.

Through it all, the NRA continued doing what it has done for 150 years: ensuring that Americans can meaningfully exercise the right to keep and bear arms and educating gun owners on how to safely and responsibly use their firearms. Our commitment to these goals is non-partisan and is intended to benefit every person in the U.S. who would own a firearm for lawful use.

Nevertheless, of all the things an incoming president could talk about, Biden made it a point to emphasize that he intends to target the NRA and its members.

We wouldn’t believe everything Joe Biden says, but on this point, at least, we will take him at his word.

Biden was at least forthright during the campaign on his intentions to curb Americans’ right to keep and bear arms to a degree never seen in the nation’s history.

At the top of his agenda is a ban on America’s most popular class of centerfire rifles, as well on the factory-spec magazines for most of the defensive pistols sold in the U.S. Current owners would be forced to pay hundreds of dollars in taxes to keep the property they had already lawfully acquired or risk being forced to surrender it to the government.

Joe Biden also supports litigation to hold firearm manufacturers and sellers responsible for the acts of unaffiliated criminals who misuse guns, even when the merchants had strictly obeyed all laws relating to the marketing and sale of the products. Such an extraordinary regime of liability would make it nearly impossible for America’s firearm industry to survive.

Biden would even like to ban the online sale of ammunition and “gun parts.”

The incoming president has also shown his antagonism toward gun owners and the NRA with his announced list of appointments, which includes Merrick Garland for U.S. attorney general. Garland had formerly been nominated by Barack Obama for the U.S. Supreme Court, a move that was vigorously opposed by the NRA because of Garland’s anti-gun record as a federal circuit judge.

For example, when a panel of his judicial peers ruled that D.C.’s ban on handguns and operable firearms in the home was unconstitutional, Garland voted to give the District another chance to prove its case that the Second Amendment does not protect an individual right. Gun owners should be wary that a lawyer who has had his doubt about the legitimacy of their rights will likely become the nation’s highest law enforcement official.

Meanwhile, Biden’s pick to head the Justice Department’s powerful Civil Rights Division is someone who has commented favorably on a proposal to get “rid of the 2nd Amendment.”

Add it all up, and Biden’s vision of “unity” seems suspiciously unwelcoming to the more than 100 million Americans who own or live in a household with firearms.

But just as when Joe Biden unsuccessfully pursued gun control as Barack Obama’s vice-president, your NRA is fully prepared to oppose whatever plans he may have to “defeat” America’s largest and oldest civil rights organization and the fundamental liberties it protects.



“Woke supremacy is as bad as white supremacy.” –Senator Tim Scott



'To Bear Arms' Is Not a Right, Says Ninth Circuit

The court contradicts the Second Amendment and itself in a bizarre anti-gun ruling.

"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 U.S. Constitution

"There is no right to carry arms openly in public; nor is any such right within the scope of the Second Amendment." —Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals

Who are you going to believe, the Founders who wrote the Second Amendment or the lying despots seated on the Ninth Circuit?

The 7-4 *en banc* majority of the Ninth Circuit is apparently of the leftist school of thought that insists the Second Amendment is all about militias and not the people. In the original understanding of the Founders, however, the people *are* the militia, so these leftists are plainly wrong.

The judges added, "We can find no general right to carry arms into the public square for self-defense." Instead, they insist, the Second Amendment applies only to the "defense of hearth and home." They have reduced the word "bear" to utter meaninglessness.

Imagine this onerous restriction in light of any other constitutional right. "Congress shall make no law ... abridging the freedom of speech [in the home]." Or even of faux constitutional rights like abortion or marriage. You can have an abortion, so long as the doctor comes to your home. You can marry a same-sex partner, but it doesn't count once you leave your house.

The absurdity is self-evident. Yet that's what passes for leftist logic when it comes to guns.

Moreover, the offending judges reach around the Constitution by appealing to 150-year-old Hawaii law. "In order to reach their conclusions," notes gun writer Cam Edwards, "the judges in the majority decided that laws in place in Hawaii before it ever became a state take precedence over the clear and unambiguous language of the Second Amendment, which declares that the right of the people to both keep and bear arms shall not be infringed. According to the Ninth Circuit, those 'longstanding traditions' in Hawaii law matter more than the Constitution itself."

That's to say nothing of King Edward I, whom the judges also cite in going all the way back to English law in the Middle Ages. Didn't we fight a war of independence from England in which the first shots were fired over an attempt at gun confiscation? Yes, yes we did.

This bizarre ruling also flies in the face not only of the Ninth Circuit's own previous jurisprudence but of the Supreme Court's important rulings in *Heller* and *McDonald*. Unfortunately, *Heller* largely focused on confirming that the Second Amendment is an individual right, while *McDonald* held that the Second Amendment is "incorporated" against the states. That narrow focus left the question of *bearing* arms outside the home a glaring example of the Supreme Court's dereliction on the Second Amendment.

Perhaps that will change now that the Ninth Circuit has somewhat contradicted itself, as well as two other circuit courts. Three years ago, the Ninth struck down Hawaii's "may issue" gun-permit regime. In *Young v. Hawaii*, Judge Diarmuid O'Scannlain, who dissented in this week's case, wrote, "The Second Amendment does protect a right to carry a firearm in public for self-defense."

The current majority nevertheless pointed to a 2016 ruling in which it "held that individuals do not have a Second Amendment right to carry concealed weapons in public." Yet that ruling was itself an *en banc* decision overturning a previous ruling to the contrary.

The court, as O'Scannlain put it in his dissent, "has decided that the Second Amendment does not mean what it says."

Obviously, it's time for the Supreme Court to provide some clarity on an amendment that is abundantly clear to originalists but has been treated as a second-class right.

"Without Freedom of Thought there can be no such Thing as Wisdom; and no such Thing as Public Liberty, without Freedom of Speech."

—Benjamin Franklin



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The tickets are \$5 each or 5 for \$20. As an added incentive, bring in a new member at a General Membership Meeting and get a free raffle ticket. Any current member who brings in a new WMSA member gets a free raffle ticket for each new member added to our rolls.

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