



Exercising the Right

Heller II

Gun-rights advocates cheered when the Supreme Court delivered its opinion in *District of Columbia v. Heller* that declared there is a constitutionally protected “individual right” to possess a firearm for private use and struck down the D.C. gun ban. That statement was ground-breaking, since liberal collectivists had argued the opposite for years and used this argument to support their gun-banning laws as 100 percent constitutional. To these fervent anti-gunners, the Founders were closet Marxists who believed only in “positive rights” — rights decided upon and granted by a benevolent, powerful central government — and a disarmed citizenry.

Alas those progressive, true believers in gun bans did not stop after what they viewed as minor setback. The D.C. City Council simply enacted a new firearms registration scheme that critics argue is nearly as oppressive as the original law. The pro-gun organization Gun Owners of America (GOA) is challenging the new D.C. gun law because, as GOA puts it in their press release, “What good does it do if the Court says you have an ‘individual right’ to own a gun, but the city in which you live is still allowed to impose draconian restrictions which will cost you hundreds of dollars just so you can exercise that right?” Supreme Court observers believe that the gun-phobic liberals might be facing another disappointing loss as gun rights are again recognized by our highest court.

How About an AK-47 With That New Truck?

The newswire service AFP reported on November 15 that a “truck dealer and gun-rights supporter in Florida has tripled his sales by offering a free AK-47 assault rifle to all new buyers.” Nick Ginetta, of Nations Trucks, told the news that his sales have skyrocketed with the new promotion and that in the last four days he handed out 21 vouchers for AK-47s that can be used at a nearby gun shop where he has reserved 100 of the assault rifles.

Ginetta’s clientele consists mostly of hunters, fishermen, and outdoorsmen, and the promotion is appealing to them. Ginetta commented: “If I (were) selling Hyundais, I would not go for that. It wouldn’t attract my customer base.” He also explained how the arrangement worked and why he chose that specific weapon. “I give you a voucher to go to the gun shop, and you have to pass all state and federal regulations.... The whole reason to advertise (AK-47s) was to create buzz.... I chose the weapon for that specific reason. I wanted the buzz. To be honest, I didn’t anticipate the success.”

Armed Attorney

Attorneys are taught to let their clients know when they are not acting in their own best interest. A case in San Antonio, Texas, showed a perfect example of this when an attorney pulled a gun on his own client. On November 12, the client, a 40-something-year-old man going through a nasty divorce, pulled out a gun and pointed it at his wife in the legal office. A witness said the couple was in the middle of signing paperwork to advance the case when the outburst happened. The man yelled “Stop! Stop!” and pulled out a weapon, which he aimed at his wife. The emotionally distraught man threatened her and threatened to kill himself. At that moment, the fast-acting attorney, Armando Martinez, pulled out a pistol of his own and pointed it at the armed man. Martinez calmly told his client not to shoot or hurt anyone, and he then ordered everyone except the armed man to leave the room. The authorities soon



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arrived, and the man, after talking with negotiators, surrendered without further incident.

Kobe Bryant Under Fire

A recent television advertisement for the new militaristic video game “Call of Duty: Black Ops” featured NBA player Kobe Bryant firing an automatic weapon in an urban warfare setting. Critics from all corners predictably jumped in on the two-minutes-of-hate bandwagon once they saw a weapon being wielded by someone other than a government worker. It glorified gang violence and the gun culture! they shrieked. How dare the NBA allow Kobe to appear in this ad! Don’t the NBA and Kobe know that parents want professional athletes and the entertainment industry to serve as role models for their children and that such role models would only handle guns when in the employ of government? Meanwhile nearly 500 U.S. troops have been killed in the unconstitutional conflict in Afghanistan in 2010 alone, and many of these troops have been around the target audience age for that video game ad. So ask yourself this question: What is more dangerous for young men? A hyped up ad for a video game or a never ending war with an escalating body count? The critics find it much easier to go after Kobe than question our latest deadly quagmire.

Open Carry in Texas

The *Miami Herald* reported on November 27 that pro-gun activists are asking state lawmakers to give gun owners more freedom. John Pierce, co-founder and spokesman of OpenCarry.org, a group championing the right to carry pistols openly, explained his rationale: “In Texas, there’s no viable reason why Texans are denied their rights the way they are.... We’re talking about a tradition and history of rugged individualism that Texas embodies.”

Some of the pro-gun legislation filed by the state legislature includes:

- Allowing guns at state colleges;
- Temporary sales tax exemptions for guns and ammunition; and
- State sovereignty legislation that would exempt guns made in Texas, for use in Texas, from federal regulation.

OpenCarry.org is a national organization dedicated to expanding gun rights, most specifically open-carry laws, across the country. Its website serves as a legal resource and discussion forum for gun owners and has become a social networking portal for the open-carry movement.



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