



Written by [Patrick Krey](#) on March 23, 2011

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Exercising the Right

New Children's Book on Open-carry

Michigan-based Brian Jeffs and Nathan Nephew are the gun-enthusiast co-founders of Michigan Open Carry Inc., a gun-rights group that challenges unlawful gun-control laws. Jeffs and Nephew decided that they needed to broaden their message and recently authored a book on the subject of open carry for children. The soft-cover book is published by White Feather Press of Hamilton, near Grand Rapids. The book's description is as follows:

Come join 13-year-old Brenna Strong along with her mom, Bea, and her dad, Richard, as they spend a typical Saturday running errands and having fun together. What's not so typical is that Brenna's parents lawfully open carry handguns for self-defense. The Strongs join a growing number of families that are standing up for their Second Amendment rights by open carrying and bringing gun ownership out of the closet and into the mainstream.

Besides explaining the reasons for gun ownership as well as open carry, the book also includes lessons on safety for children. In a phone interview with the *Lansing State Journal*, co-author Jeffs explained that the book's main message is that you "can't rely on others to protect you. You have a natural right to self-defense. The cops do the best they can, but can't be there all the time." *My Parents Open Carry* can be ordered through www.myparentsopencarry.com.

"I Shot a Man in Reno..."

The *Reno Gazette Journal* reported on April 7 that a "32-year-old homeowner ... shot and killed a 19-year-old man who drove up to his home [in Northwest Reno] and confronted him with a gun while demanding his property." Local police lieutenant Mohammad Razaqat told the media that the homeowner had just arrived home when he noticed a dark-colored pickup drive past his house several times. It finally parked with its headlights shut off. The homeowner was immediately suspicious and ran inside his home to write down the license plate. The homeowner also tucked his 9mm gun inside his sweatshirt pocket and approached the truck to determine what was going on. At that moment, a man hopped out of the truck, pointed a firearm at the homeowner, and demanded his property. With no time to lose, the homeowner fired several shots at the man who fled the scene with his accomplices. The would-be robber was later dropped off at a nearby hospital where he was pronounced dead. The authorities are saying that the shooting appears to be a case of justified self-defense.

Wisconsin Concealed Carry Ban Ruled Unconstitutional

The Wisconsin Radio Network reported on October 14 that a Clark County judge ruled that a state ban on carrying concealed weapons is unconstitutional. The defendant in the case was charged with carrying a concealed weapon, after he admitted he had a knife in his waistband but had never actually threatened anyone. Citing the landmark Supreme Court ruling in *McDonald v. City of Chicago*, defense attorney William Poss filed a motion to dismiss the case on constitutional grounds. Judge Jon Counsell agreed and granted the motion. Counsell ruled that the law is overly broad and violates both the Second and 14th Amendments of the Constitution. In his decision, Counsell wrote that the law forces citizens to



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“go unarmed (thus not able to act in self defense), violate the law or carry openly.” The ruling’s precedence is limited only to Clark County and will likely get appealed to a higher court by the District Attorney’s office.

Defense attorney Poss told the news that there’s “a lot of interest in this obviously.... It’s not a left or right type of thing quite frankly. It’s a liberty thing.... Like many of my counterparts, I believe strongly in the Constitution.... As Ronald Reagan once said, ‘It’s not a buffet.’ The Bill of Rights is not a buffet where you can pick and choose, where some people say they want the First Amendment applied to everyone, but somehow they jump over the Second Amendment.” Wisconsin is one of only two states that completely ban carrying concealed weapons.

Perhaps this ruling is just the beginning of lower court rulings throughout the nation that will protect the individual right to armed self-defense. Readers of this column can only hope that more judges like the Honorable Jon Counsell take a stand for the Second Amendment.

Flint, Michigan, Felons

The *Flint Journal* out of Flint, Michigan, reported on August 5 that Sheldon Golden, 54, was standing in the driveway of his home around 11 p.m. when he was approached by a group of five young adults. The gang had a gun in their possession and tried to rob Golden. In response, Golden opened fire and killed one of the suspects and wounded two others. The other suspects ran off before the authorities arrived.

Neighbors spoke approvingly of Golden’s actions. Forty-year-old neighbor Melissa Taylor told the news, “He has to do what he has to do to protect himself.... I would have probably done the same thing. I have two kids.”

Even a spokesman for a Washington, D.C.-based gun-control advocacy group reluctantly agreed that Golden had a right to protect himself. Peter Hamm, communications director of the Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence, told the news through grinding teeth, “We’ve never taken issue with law abiding citizens who have a weapon legally.... They have the right to defend themselves when in danger.”

The authorities have charges pending against the two wounded suspects, said assistant Genesee County prosecutor Randall Petrides. Petrides would not address the specifics of the Golden case, but did tell the news, “In general, if a person feels if his life is in danger, he can protect himself.”



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