



## JUDGE GRANTS PI, TRO IN SAF PUBLIC HOUSING GUN BAN CASE

A federal judge in New York has granted a temporary restraining order and preliminary injunction to SAF and its partners in a challenge of a public housing authority gun ban in Cortland, N.Y. The case is known as *Hunter v. Cortland Housing Authority*.

U.S. District Judge Glenn T. Suddaby handed down the 29-page decision, which enjoins the defendants and their officers, agents, servants, employees and attorneys “from, taking any action to enforce, or otherwise require any person or entity to comply with the firearms ban as set forth in the ‘Tenant’s Obligations’” in the standard lease agreement pending final resolution of the case.

SAF is joined by three public hous-



ing residents, Elmer Irwin, Doug Merrin and Robert Hunter, the latter for whom the case is named. “This is not the first time SAF has litigated a public housing case,” noted SAF Executive Director Adam Kraut, “which have all been about the same thing, a Second Amendment violation. We have won cases in Illinois and Tennessee, and by now, it would seem that public housing authorities should have

gotten the message that constitutional rights do not end at the front door. We will continue pursuing such cases as they come to our attention because people do not give up their rights simply because they live in subsidized housing.”

“No public housing authority should be allowed to simply block tenants from exercising their right to keep and bear arms,” said SAF founder and Executive Vice President Alan M. Gottlieb. “The Bill of Rights is an all-or-nothing proposition, not a buffet from which a bureaucracy should be able to pick and choose which rights they find acceptable. We’re delighted with Judge Suddaby’s decision, which is a victory for constitutional rights everywhere.”

“This is our second court victory of the new year,” noted SAF Executive Director Adam Kraut, “and we anticipate many more over the next 12 months as we observe our 50th Anniversary. Throughout 2024, we intend to keep winning firearms freedom one lawsuit at a time.”

## SAF VICTORY AGAINST CARRY BAN FOR YOUNG ADULTS IN PA

The Second Amendment Foundation won an important court victory in a challenge of a state law prohibiting young adults in the 18-20-year age group from open carrying a firearm during a declared state of emergency.

The 2-1 ruling, written by Circuit Judge Kent A. Jordan notes, “It is undisputed that 18-to-20-year-olds are among ‘the people’ for other constitutional rights such as the right to vote, freedom of speech, peaceable assembly, government and the right against unreasonable government searches and seizures...”

Indeed, wholesale exclusion of 18-to-20-year-olds from the scope of the

Second Amendment would impermissibly render “the constitutional right to bear arms in public for self-defense ... ‘a second-class right, subject to an entirely different body of rules than the other Bill of Rights guarantees.”

Judge Jordan was joined in his opinion by Circuit Judge Brooks D. Smith. Judge L. Felipe Restrepo dissented.

“This important ruling,” acknowledged SAF founder and Executive Vice President Alan M. Gottlieb, “firmly establishes young adults are members of a class we consider to be ‘the people.’ By remanding the case back to the District court with instructions to enter an

injunction forbidding the Commissioner of the State Police from arresting law-abiding 18-to-20-year-olds who openly carry firearms during a state of emergency declared by the Commonwealth. This is no small accomplishment in any state east of the Mississippi and north of the Mason-Dixon line.”

“This is our second court victory of the new year,” noted SAF Executive Director Adam Kraut, “and we anticipate many more over the next 12 months as we observe our 50th Anniversary. Throughout 2024, we intend to keep winning firearms freedom one lawsuit at a time.”

# EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

Spring is in the air and the seasons are changing once again. Likewise, SAF has experienced some changes over the past quarter. Lauren Hill, our VP of Development was promoted to Senior Vice President in recognition of her hard work, dedication, and invaluable insight this past year helping shape the organization's direction and programs. Bill Sack was promoted to Director of Legal Operations, ensuring that our legal program continues to have the dedicated oversight necessary to ensure success at all levels.

We've also been working to refine processes in our office. We recently welcomed new staff who have taken feedback from our members, identified areas of improvement, and have been implementing new systems to better serve our members.

SAF employees attended SHOT Show along with Safari Club International's convention and met with a number of companies during both events. I am excited to report that our new communications program is catching the attention of many in the industry. The feedback we received is the messaging about our work is reaching a larger audience and those previously unfamiliar, or who saw less of SAF in their news feeds, are seeing us more and more. Since I've started, we've on-boarded 17 new Corporate Partners who, among other things, have helped share SAF and our work with their customer base.

In that same vein, since March of

2023, SAF was mentioned in more than 35,000 articles and reached a potential audience of more than 18 billion people. Our website now features a place, SAF in the News, that collects all the news articles where SAF was mentioned. The more people our work reaches, both within and outside the industry, the better we'll be able to serve our mission of education, along with organizational awareness to generate new members and supporters.

To that end, if you like our work (and I sure hope you do), please make sure to tell your friends and family about us. It is members and supporters like yourself (and hopefully those who you tell about SAF!) who enable us to challenge the unconstitutional laws across the country.

On the legal front, 2024 started off strong with the Third Circuit ruling that the Second Amendment applies to 18-20-year-olds and a federal district court in New York granting a temporary restraining order and preliminary injunction in a case challenging a ban on firearms in public housing. In February, SAF filed two cert petitions with the U.S. Supreme Court stemming from two separate "assault weapons" ban challenges in Illinois and Maryland, asking the Court to correct the egregious errors of the lower courts.

In late February, a federal district court in California granted summary judgment for SAF in a case challenging California's prohibition on individuals convicted of felonies in other jurisdic-



**ADAM KRAUT**  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

tions that were vacated, set-aside, or dismissed. March brought another blow to California's gun control scheme when a federal judge granted summary judgment in a challenge to the state's one-gun-a-month law. We are currently working on putting together more lawsuits in a variety of jurisdictions that will be filed over the course of the coming months.

I'd also be remiss if I did not mention that registration for this year's Gun Rights Policy Conference is now live before I reached my word limit. The 2024 GRPC will be held at the Mission Valley Marriott in San Diego, CA, Sept. 27 - 29. Early registration is encouraged and be sure to take advantage of our discounted room block at the hotel. We're actively working on the agenda and speaker list for this year and look forward to bringing you another weekend of Second Amendment education and camaraderie. If you're unable to attend in person, the event will be live streamed with no registration required. Visit [saf.org/grpc](http://saf.org/grpc) for more information.



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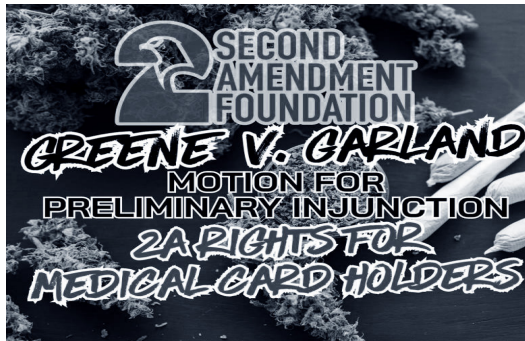
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# SAF SUES U.S. AG, HEADS OF ATF, FBI OVER MEDICAL MARIJUANA 2A BAN

The Second Amendment Foundation and a District Attorney in Pennsylvania have filed a federal lawsuit against Attorney General Merrick Garland, the heads of the FBI and ATF, and the U.S. Government, challenging the federal prohibition on gun ownership by medical marijuana users.

The lawsuit was filed in U.S. District Court for the Western District of Pennsylvania.

In addition to Garland, the lawsuit names FBI Director Christopher Wray and ATF Director Steven Dettelbach as defendants. SAF is joined by Warren County, Pa., District Attorney Robert Greene, who has served in that office since 2013 and currently possesses a medical marijuana ID card under Pennsylvania law. They are represented by attorneys Adam Kraut, who serves as SAF's executive director, and Joshua



Prince of Bechtelsville, Pa.

The lawsuit challenges restrictions contained in 18 U.S.C. §§ 922(g)(3), (d) (3), which prohibit firearms purchases and possession by persons who use marijuana or other controlled substances.

“Medicinal marijuana has been adopted by 38 states despite federal inaction on the issue,” said Kraut, who is also a practicing attorney in Pennsylvania. “With the increasing acceptance of medicinal cannabis, millions of Americans are

forced to choose between the exercise of their Second Amendment rights or treating their symptoms with a substance that disenfranchises them from their constitutionally guaranteed right to keep and bear arms. Such a choice is incompatible with the constitution and finds no basis in this country's history and tradition. We look forward to vindicating the rights of medical marijuana users.”

“The use of medical marijuana should not translate to an automatic surrender of one's Second Amendment rights,” added SAF founder and Executive Vice President Alan M. Gottlieb. “The current restrictions unquestionably and arbitrarily infringe on the right to keep and bear arms, and the restriction lacks any direct or analogous historical support, as required by the Supreme Court's 2022 Bruen ruling.”

## SAF, PARTNERS PETITION SCOTUS FOR REVIEW IN CHALLENGE OF IL GUN BAN

Attorneys representing SAF and its partners in a federal challenge of the Illinois ban on modern semi-auto firearms and “large-capacity magazines” have filed a petition with the U.S. Supreme Court, seeking certiorari in the case of *Harrel v. Raoul*.

SAF is joined by the Illinois State Rifle Association, FPC, Inc., C4 Gun Store, LLC, Marengo Guns, Inc., and a private citizen, Dane Harrel, for whom the case is named. The federal complaint was originally filed in January 2023. They are represented by attorneys David Thompson, Peter Patterson, and Will Bergstrom of Cooper & Kirk, PLLC and David Sigale in Wheaton, Ill.

“Clearly,” said SAF founder and Executive Vice President Alan M. Gottlieb, “the Illinois gun and magazine bans



are unconstitutional under principles set down in the 2008 *Heller* ruling and the 2022 *Bruen* decision. In both opinions,

the high court said the Second Amendment protects firearms in common use. It is indisputable that modern semiautomatic rifles and magazines holding more than ten cartridges are in common use by tens of millions of U.S. citizens, so such a ban is, in the court's own words, ‘off the table.’”

“The questions here are simple and straightforward,” explained SAF Executive Director Adam Kraut. “Does the

U.S. Constitution allow the government to prohibit law-abiding, responsible, peaceable citizens from protecting themselves, their families and homes with semiautomatic firearms that are in common use? Does the same Constitution allow the government to prohibit those same citizens from using commonly-owned magazines for such protective purposes? Pending similar actions in other jurisdictions make it paramount that the Supreme Court accept this case for review, as the lower courts continue to ignore the Court's edict.”

Gottlieb and Kraut say this case exemplifies SAF's commitment to winning firearms freedom one lawsuit at a time, and will allow the Court to further define the parameters of the Second Amendment.

# TAURUS JOINS SAF AS PLATINUM CORPORATE PARTNER

SAF is excited to announce that Taurus Holdings Inc. has joined the organization as a corporate partner at the Platinum level.

“We are proud to join forces with the Second Amendment Foundation as a corporate sponsor,” said Bret Vorhees, President & CEO at Taurus Holdings Inc. “Their proven track record of winning crucial battles and ongoing commitment to protecting our rights makes SAF a vital ally for American gun owners. By supporting them, we reassert our dedication to the Second Amendment, both in principle and practice.”

Founded in 1982, Taurus Holdings Inc. is a Georgia-based holding company that owns some of the most robust firearms brands currently



available on the U.S. market. The company is owned by the famous public Brazilian firm Taurus Armas, S.A. Taurus Armas not only builds the firearms for which it is rightfully famous, but also an incredible array of globally distributed consumer and industrial products.

“We are proud to have Taurus join our fight to defend, secure and restore our Second Amendment freedoms,” said

SAF Executive Director Adam Kraut. “In 2023 alone, SAF scored a dozen victories across the United States, and it’s because of companies like Taurus and their unapologetic support of SAF that we can continue our mission of winning firearms freedom one lawsuit at a time.”

Since its inception in 1974, SAF has been involved in more than 260 legal cases across the nation and has litigated – and won – cases at the highest levels of the American judicial system. The organization now has 58 active cases across the U.S., all with the goal of protecting our right as Americans to keep and bear arms.

For more information about the program or to view a list of our current partners, visit [saf.org/partners](http://saf.org/partners).

## BLACKOUT COFFEE ANNOUNCES SPECIAL ROAST TO BENEFIT SAF

SAF is pleased to announce a special collaboration with Blackout Coffee, a staunch Second Amendment advocate, to produce a special SAF roast. For every bag sold, \$2 will be donated to help SAF continue its fight for our right to keep and bear arms.

As part of the project, Blackout Coffee will prominently display SAF’s 50th anniversary logo on the packaging, and for orders placed through the link [blackoutcoffee.com/saf](http://blackoutcoffee.com/saf), Blackout Coffee will also donate 15% of the total purchase amount to benefit SAF’s efforts.

“Blackout Coffee proudly stands with the Second Amendment Foundation, because just as a well-brewed cup energizes the body, the protection of our rights empowers the soul,” said Blackout Coffee Founder and CEO John Santos. “Together, we uphold the fundamental freedoms



that fuel the heartbeat of our nation.”

The special roast is a limited-

edition blend that embodies the spirit of freedom. With its rich and bold flavor, the SAF roast is the perfect way for SAF supporters to start their day while supporting SAF’s mission.

“We are delighted that Blackout Coffee has chosen to work with SAF on this special project,” said SAF Executive Director Adam Kraut. “Their support demonstrates their commitment to fighting those who wish to infringe on

our constitutional rights. By purchasing a bag of the special SAF roast, customers not only get to enjoy Blackout Coffee’s exceptional flavor, but also support SAF at the same time.”

A longstanding supporter of SAF, Blackout Coffee co-owner and Guns & Gadgets CEO Jared Yanis is unapologetic in his support of SAF and the Second Amendment.

“I support the Second Amendment Foundation because defending the Second Amendment isn’t just about protecting our rights, it’s about safeguarding the very essence of freedom itself,” Yanis said. “SAF has been ensuring that the flame of liberty burns bright for 50 years and will continue for generations.”

For more information about Blackout Coffee’s special roast in support of SAF, visit [blackoutcoffee.com/saf](http://blackoutcoffee.com/saf).

# SAF PROMOTES LAUREN HILL TO SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT

SAF has promoted Lauren Hill to the position of Senior Vice President, effective immediately.

Hill joined SAF in November 2022 with more than 15 years of experience in the nonprofit fundraising field. She has worked in multiple aspects of fundraising including corporate and donor relations, strategic partnerships, special events, sales, marketing, communications, and branding for SCI, Better Business Bureau, International Sports Council, MLB and the NFL.

A resident of Southern California, Hill has considerable experience in promotion and outreach. As an outdoor enthusiast, Hill pursued her personal passion for hunting, fishing, shooting and other conservation efforts through

ReelCamo Girl, an online community of sportswomen she founded in 2015. She holds a master's degree in business administration/marketing from the University of Phoenix and bachelor's degree in communications from John Carroll University.

Hill will continue serving as vice president of development for the foundation, taking on additional responsibilities in the overall SAF operation, according to SAF Executive Director Adam Kraut.

"Over the past year, Lauren has been an instrumental part of building the future of SAF," Kraut noted. "Her willingness, enthusiasm, and initiative to tackle projects beyond the boundaries of the development program, ideas for

new organizational functions, and vision for the future have demonstrated that she rightfully belongs in a position that will help guide SAF through the future. I am pleased to have Lauren accept such a material role and look forward to seeing her continue to push the organization to new levels through her devotion to SAF and our mission."

"Since coming aboard 15 months ago, Lauren has been a dynamic addition to our team," said SAF founder and Executive Vice President Alan M. Gottlieb. "Her experience, energy and drive has helped SAF move forward in so many ways, especially as we've entered our 50th year of operation. She will be essential to setting SAF's course in the years ahead."

## MAKE A GIFT THAT COSTS YOU NOTHING DURING YOUR LIFETIME!

As SAF prepares to celebrate its 50th Anniversary, dozens of individuals have included SAF in their estate planning to help invest and secure the future for the next 50 years! Making a bequest, or leaving a gift in your will, offers several advantages:

**Legacy:** One of the primary motivations for making a bequest is to leave a lasting legacy. By including charitable organizations in your will, you support causes that are important to you and leave a positive impact on future generations.

**Tax Benefits:** Charitable bequests are tax-deductible, meaning the value of the gift can be deducted from the estate's taxable assets. This can result in significant tax savings for your estate and potentially reduce the tax burden on your heirs.

**Control:** Making a bequest allows you to retain control over your assets during your lifetime while ensuring they are used to support causes you care about after your death. You can specify how you want your bequest to be used and which organizations or individuals should benefit.

**Fulfillment:** Leaving a bequest to a cause or an organization that aligns with your personal values can provide a sense of fulfillment and satisfaction, knowing your contribution will support a cause meaningful to you.

**Family Tradition:** Some families have a tradition of philanthropy, passing down a commitment to charitable giving to future generations. This can be a way to continue this tradition.

**Recognition and Perpetuity:** Many organizations name buildings,

scholarships, programs or other initiatives after donors to acknowledge and honor individuals who make bequests. This recognition can serve as a lasting tribute to your generosity and perpetuate your memory.

**Impact Beyond Lifetime:** A bequest allows you to support causes that you may not have been able to contribute to during your lifetime. It extends your ability to make a difference beyond your lifetime, leaving a positive mark on the world.

Overall, making a bequest can be a powerful way to support causes you care about, provide for your heirs, and leave a lasting legacy that reflects your values and beliefs.

If you have any questions or would like more information, email us at [Give@saf.org](mailto:Give@saf.org) or call (425) 454-7012.

# SAF ON THE INTERNATIONAL STAGE: FROM GENEVA TO NUREMBERG

On Feb. 28, the World Forum on Shooting Activities (WFSA) held its annual Plenary Session in Nuremberg at the IWA Outdoor Classics show. Just like the Second Amendment Foundation, the show is celebrating its 50th anniversary in 2024. IWA is the European version of SHOT and is the world's leading exhibition for the hunting and target sports industry.

WFSA is an official United Nations Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) recognized by the Economic and Social Council of the UN General Assembly. It is one of the few NGOs in the world to have been invited to speak before one of the five committees of the UN General Assembly.

Julianne Hoy Versnel, VP of International Outreach and Special Assistant to the EVP, gave the annual Call to Action. As well as representing SAF on the WFSA



JULIANNE HOY VERSNEL

Executive Committee, she serves as the first female Chairman of a Committee: Image.

Since joining WFSA in 2007, SAF

together with 50 international member organizations, constantly fights the battles against the anti-self defense NGOs that continue in the bastions of the United Nations and European Union.

As Ms. Versnel explained, “We continue to hunker down in the halls at the UN in New York and Geneva and the EU battles in Vienna and Brussels. We confer with our country's delegations and literally have stood outside in the cold when a ‘neutral’ meeting chair decided to close an open meeting. We always stand up to the very well-funded, and sometimes personally hostile, NGOs that call us terrorists and murderers.”

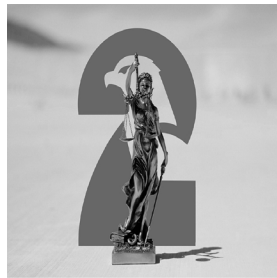
“SAF continues to represent firearms owners and industry interests on the international level. We will not be let out of the debate,” she added.

## SAF FILES RESPONDENTS' BRIEF TO SCOTUS IN FRAME, RECEIVER CASE

The Second Amendment Foundation and its partners in a case challenging the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives' “final rule” redefining frames and receivers as firearms, have filed a response brief with the U.S. Supreme Court in a case known as *VanDerStok v. Garland*.

SAF is joined by Defense Distributed, Polymer80, Inc., and Not an LLC, LLC (doing business as JSD Supply). They are represented by Houston, Texas attorney Charles R. Flores.

The brief recalls how Congress enacted the Gun Control Act of 1968 pursuant to the Commerce Clause with no intention of discouraging or eliminating the private ownership or use of firearms by law-abiding citizens for lawful purposes. This includes the long-standing tradition of building personal



firearm. In 1978, ATF promulgated a rule defining the “frame or receiver” of a firearm, taking the position that “receiver blanks” were not “firearms” under the 1968 Act.

“In 2022, this changed,” SAF founder and Executive Vice President Alan M. Gottlieb recalled, “when the ATF redefined the term ‘firearm’ to include parts kits or segments known as frames and receivers. This arbitrary and complete reversal of its own rule essentially criminalizes an

firearms, and the original act defined “firearm” as a working gun, not a gun part, or kit, or incomplete

American tradition dating back to the colonial era.”

According to SAF Executive Director Adam Kraut, who is a practicing attorney, this definition change carries “huge legal consequences” for American gun owners, particularly the “home gunsmiths” who continue the tradition of building their own, personal firearms.

“American citizens,” Kraut said, “have always had the right to make personal guns without government permission. The Second Amendment protects this right, which has its foundation in the nation's history. This rule change is an egregious attempt by a federal agency, and the current administration, to essentially criminalize an activity which is part of the American heritage.”

# JUDGE GRANTS SUMMARY JUDGMENT AGAINST CA 2A RIGHTS LAW

A federal judge in California has granted summary judgment to three individuals in a lawsuit challenging that state's Penal Code which permanently denies Second Amendment rights to people who have had felony convictions vacated, set aside or dismissed, and their rights to possess firearms fully restored. The case is known as *Linton v. Bonta*.

U.S. District Judge James Donato in the Northern District of California wrote, "After multiple hearings and several rounds of briefing, and in light of the guidance provided by *New York State Rifle & Pistol Association, Inc. v. Bruen*... the Court concludes that California has violated the Second Amendment rights of the individual plaintiffs. Consequently, summary judgment is granted in favor of (Chad) Linton, (Paul

McKinley) Stewart, and (Kendall) Jones on their as applied Second Amendment claim."

The case was originally filed in December 2018. The challenge was originally brought by SAF, the Calguns Foundation, Madison Society Foundation, FPC and Firearms Policy Foundation and the three individuals. In his opinion, Judge Donato dismissed all the institutional plaintiffs.

According to SAF Executive Director Adam Kraut, "The three individual plaintiffs were all convicted of non-violent felonies in other states decades ago. None of the convictions involved a weapon, drugs, or violence, in the ordinary meaning of the word. Each of the plaintiffs had their conviction vacated, set aside, or dismissed, and their right to

possess firearms restored by the jurisdiction in which they were convicted. Linton legally acquired firearms in California on prior occasions, and Jones was a career law enforcement officer in California with special training and certification as a firearms instructor. Even so, California acted to permanently deny them of the right to possess or own firearms, solely on the basis of their original convictions."

"This is a huge victory," said SAF founder and Executive Vice President Alan M. Gottlieb. "It could amount to a first major step to create an avenue for other people with similar circumstances to return to lives of full citizenship. We're delighted with Judge Donato's ruling. This is just one more example of our mission to win firearms freedom, one lawsuit at a time."

## SAF HAILS 9TH CIRCUIT DENIAL OF EN BANC HEARING

SAF is cheering the decision by a 9th Circuit Court panel to deny the State of California an en banc hearing in a case known as *Junior Sports Magazines, Inc. v. Bonta*, in which the state tried to prohibit firearm advertising which it claims, "reasonably appears to be attractive to minors."

SAF is joined in the case by Junior Sports Magazines, the California Youth Shooting Sports Association, Redlands California Youth Clay Shooting Sports, California Rifle & Pistol Association, CRPA Foundation, Gun Owners of California and Raymond Brown, a private citizen.

"It seems like forever since the 9th Circuit has refused to hear a gun case en banc," said SAF founder and Executive Vice President Alan M.



Gottlieb. "Hopefully, this is a new trend."

SAF attorney Donald Kilmer noted, "This means that our win before the three-judge panel will become the case law on this issue in the Ninth Circuit. It means the trial court's denial of a preliminary injunction remains reversed and that court will be required to enter

a preliminary injunction, preventing enforcement of this law while the case proceeds to final judgment."

SAF Executive Director Adam Kraut said the court's decision is a victory for the First Amendment as well as the Second.

"The state was determined to regulate the First Amendment as well as the Second," Kraut stated, "and we prevented California from continuing to enact unconstitutional laws. We're pleased the 9th Circuit has decided to leave the panel's decision undisturbed."

This is a ground-breaking First Amendment case, which defends the right of Junior Sports Magazine and other periodicals to publish Second Amendment-related material in California.

# SAF FILES SCOTUS AMICUS BRIEF IN SUPPORT OF 1ST AMENDMENT SUIT

SAF has filed an amicus brief with the U.S. Supreme Court in support of the National Rifle Association's lawsuit against Maria Vullo, former Superintendent of the New York State Department of Financial Services, alleging she mis-used the power of her office to hamper their advocacy activities by discouraging financial institutions from doing business with the organization.

SAF is joined in this brief by the John Locke Foundation and Independence Institute. They are represented by attorneys Joseph G.S. Greenlee of McCall, Idaho, David Kopel of Denver, Colo., and Jonathan D. Guze of Raleigh, N.C. The case is known as *NRA v. Vullo*.

"In our brief," said SAF founder and Executive Vice President Alan M. Gottlieb, "we point to Vullo's abuse of governmental authority to punish the



NRA for its lawful advocacy efforts. SAF has experienced similar abuse by government agencies, which have tried to use their power to block our free speech, and it is unconscionable. This is why we felt it necessary to file this amicus, and we're delighted to be joined by the John Locke Foundation and Independence Institute."

"What happened in New York is very much like efforts by southern states to suppress the activities of the NAACP

60 years ago," stated SAF Executive Director Adam Kraut. "In both instances, state government officials used the power of their agencies to stifle and penalize rights secured under the First and Second Amendments. In this case, New York attempted to cause financial ruin to the NRA because Vullo, and then-Gov. Andrew Cuomo, harbor considerable animus toward NRA and its members."

"NRA was penalized for doing the job it was created to do," Gottlieb added. "This case is about correcting and preventing this sort of abuse now, and anytime in the future. When a government is able to weaponize its agencies, and its authority, to stifle views and activities with which it disagrees, something must be done to stop it and set an example that discourages others from trying the same thing."

## SAF, CCRKBA ASK SCOTUS TO REVIEW MARYLAND SEMI-AUTO BAN

SAF and CCRKBA have once again petitioned SCOTUS to grant certiorari in their continuing challenge of Maryland's ban on so-called "assault weapons."

They are joined in this petition by the FPC, Field Traders, LLC, and three private citizens, David Snope, Micah Schaefer and Dominic Bianchi, for whom the case is titled. The case is known as *Bianchi v. Frosh*. The Supreme Court in late June 2022 granted certiorari in the case, and vacated the earlier ruling by a lower federal court and then remanded the case back to the Fourth Circuit for further action based on guidelines established in the 2022 *Bruen* ruling.

Since being remanded, the case was fully briefed and argued before a three-judge panel for the Fourth Circuit. Inexplicably, over a year after argument was

held and with no panel opinion issued, the Fourth Circuit sua sponte elected to hear the case en banc, further delaying the exercise of a fundamental right and seemingly to prevent publication of an opinion that favors the plaintiffs. Seeking certiorari before judgment is an extraordinary remedy reserved for cases of imperative public importance.

"It is clear to us this case must be decided by the Supreme Court," said SAF founder and Executive Vice President Alan M. Gottlieb. "The type of modern semiautomatic rifle banned in Maryland is in common use across the country, and is the most popular rifle in America. Yet, the Fourth Circuit and other courts of appeals have strained credulity to uphold such bans in the wake of the high court's ruling in *Bruen*.

This issue must be resolved."

"The Fourth Circuit's decision to hear this case en banc, over a year after it was argued before a panel and with no published opinion, seems to imply the court desired to take this case from a panel with which it disagreed," noted SAF Executive Director Adam Kraut. "The unconstitutionality of Maryland's Assault Weapons Ban has been apparent since it was passed into law, as *Heller* already provided the proper analysis, which the Fourth Circuit previously ignored to shield the law from a swift death. Intervention from the Supreme Court is necessary to restore order and force the lower courts to properly address this issue in a timely manner, as each day the Plaintiffs rights are being infringed upon."