



REPORTER

VICTORY IN SAF-FUNDED CASE CHALLENGING IL FOID MANDATE

A Circuit Court judge in Illinois has struck down the state's requirement to have a Firearm Owner Identification (FOID) card to possess a firearm in the home for personal protection in a case supported by SAF and Illinois State Rifle Association. The case is known as *State of Illinois v. Vivian Claudine Brown*.

In his 15-page decision, Circuit Judge T. Scott Webb observed, "The Defendant's possession of a .22 caliber rifle within the confines of her home, even without a valid FOID card falls squarely within the protections afforded her by the Second Amendment.

"If an intruder had entered Ms. Brown's home and threatened violence towards her and, God forbid, she was

forced to use that .22 rifle to defend herself, she would have committed a class A misdemeanor carrying with it a possible penalty of up to 364 days in the county jail. She could claim self-defense, but that does not change the fact that she possessed a firearm without a valid FOID Card. Such an outcome is asinine especially in this great nation that so cherishes the right to be secure and defend oneself within the home."

"This is an important ruling in a case that has been up and down the Illinois judicial ladder a couple of times already," noted SAF founder and Executive Vice President Alan M. Gottlieb. "We expect the state to appeal again, which could put the case right back before the Illinois

Supreme Court for the third time, and we are confident we will win. It's hard to see how the Illinois Supreme Court avoids the constitutional issue, as they have done on the previous two visits."

"Today's decision reflects a correct application of Supreme Court precedent to unconstitutional restrictions on the rights to keep and bear arms," said SAF Executive Director Adam Kraut. "Illinois' FOID card poses an untenable barrier to the exercise of Second Amendment rights in one's home as the court correctly identified. Determining the FOID card to be an unconstitutional obstacle to firearms ownership and possession in one's home was the only logical result."

SAF, CCRKBA HAIL TRUMP EXECUTIVE ORDER PROTECTING 2A RIGHTS

SAF and Citizens Committee for the Right to Keep and Bear Arms (CCRKBA) join in congratulating President Donald Trump for his Executive Order protecting Second Amendment Rights.

"It is reassuring that after four long years of the executive branch assaulting our Second Amendment rights that the Trump Administration is investigating avenues to undo the damage inflicted by the prior administration," said SAF Executive Director Adam Kraut. "We look forward to seeing tangible results benefiting gun owners and the individual liberty of every American."

"We are delighted that President Trump is following through on his promises to gun owners during the campaign," said CCRKBA Chairman Alan Gottlieb. "We are particularly grateful to see he is directing the Attorney General to examine all orders, regulations and other actions taken by the Biden administration affecting the Second Amendment rights of law-abiding American citizens during Joe Biden's entire term in office."

President Trump's executive order covers all actions from Jan. 2021 through Jan. 2025 pertaining to firearms and/or FFLS. The order focuses on rules pro-

mulgated by the Justice Department and ATF during that time period, and also directs the Attorney General to review reports issued by the White House Office of Gun Violence Prevention.

"Joe Biden and Kamala Harris waged war on American gun owners and the Second Amendment for four long years," Gottlieb recalled, "treating the right to keep and bear arms like a government-regulated privilege. That ended Jan. 20, and we are looking ahead to actions by the Trump administration which will reverse Biden's policies and correct the harm he has done."

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE: NEW LAWSUITS FILED!

Since our last issue, SAF has filed three new lawsuits, with several more in the works. In February, SAF challenged a Massachusetts statute which bans adults in the 18-to-20 age group from acquiring, possessing, or carrying any semiautomatic firearm of any type or any handgun. A few days later, SAF alongside Connecticut Citizens Defense League sued Connecticut over its 18-20 ban on handgun purchase, possession, and carry. At the end of March, SAF also sued Colorado over its newly implemented 6.5% excise tax on firearms, firearm precursor parts, and ammunition.

At the time of this writing, the Supreme Court has still taken no action (granting or denying) our challenge to Maryland's Assault Weapons Ban – *Snope v. Brown*. Of course, we may know what happened by the time you are reading this. The case has been relisted a total of 11 times, which typically means the odds of a cert grant are almost non-existent. However, alongside our case is a challenge to Rhode Island's magazine capacity ban which is up on appeal from a denial of a preliminary injunction - a procedural posture the Supreme Court does not favor. What does this mean? No idea, other than the lack of an outright denial in that case might indicate the Court is interested in tackling the topic. It is worth noting, there have been other cases in the past, and more recently, that were relisted more times than *Snope* which ultimately were heard

by the Court.

While gun control bills continue to march on in blue states, the new administration is seemingly working to roll back federal edicts implemented by the Biden administration and address other roadblocks. Trump's executive order has resulted in ATF rolling back its "zero tolerance" policy as it relates to FFLs and caused the DOJ to reevaluate its litigation position in Second Amendment cases.

Perhaps more surprising was the publication of an interim rule by the Attorney General rescinding the authority delegated to ATF to conduct federal firearms relief determinations. This move opens the door for a new pathway to resume conducting these determinations. Since 1992, Congress has continuously passed a rider in the appropriations bill which prohibited ATF from using any funds appropriated to it for these relief requests. However, the law delegates the authority to the Attorney General. Rescinding the delegation of authority to ATF means that the prohibition on the use of funds would no longer impact the program. To that end, since the interim rule was published, federal firearms relief was granted to Mel Gibson and nine others. It remains to be seen how this program will become available to the public at large, but this is the first step in the right direction.

Additionally, we have provided a list of suggested actions to the Trump Administration for ways in which they



ADAM KRAUT
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

can restore Second Amendment infringements that have been implemented over the years.

Setting our sights to fall, the annual Gun Rights Policy Conference is set to take place in Salt Lake City Sept. 26th - 28th. The team at SAF is actively working on this year's agenda to continue building on the success we had last year with the change in how the program flowed. You can learn more, and register for the event, at saf.org/grpc. We hope to see you there and make this year the most successful GRPC yet!

In addition to planning for GRPC and getting new lawsuits underway, we have been examining our membership program and experience. Most don't know, but SAF has less than 12 employees with only a handful in the office. Denyel Brechbill was recently promoted to Director of Membership, and we look forward to seeing how she can continue to streamline processes, foster a better membership experience, and grow our membership base. After all, it is the members that make our work possible!



SECOND AMENDMENT
REPORTER

Published by the
Second Amendment Foundation
12500 N.E. Tenth Place
Bellevue, Washington 98005
425-454-7012
www.saf.org

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SAF SUES MASSACHUSETTS OVER GUN BAN FOR YOUNG ADULTS

SAF has filed a lawsuit in federal court challenging a Massachusetts statute which bans young adults in the 18-to-20 age group from acquiring, possessing, or carrying any semiautomatic firearm of any type or any handgun. The case is known as *Escher v. Noble*.

Joining SAF are the National Rifle Association, Gun Owners Action League, Commonwealth Second Amendment, Firearms Policy Coalition and a private citizen, Mack Escher, for whom the case is named.

They are represented by attorneys Jason Guida with a law office in Saugus, Mass., and David H. Thompson, Peter A. Patterson and William V. Bergstrom at Cooper & Kirk in Washington, DC.

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

Named as defendants are Col. Geoffrey Noble, superintendent of the



Massachusetts State Police, and Heath J. Eldredge, chief of police in Brewster, Mass., in their official capacities.

Plaintiffs are challenging provisions of Massachusetts law enacted with passage of H.B. 4885, signed in July 2024 by Gov. Maura Healey.

“Massachusetts’s law barring 18-20-year-olds from being able to acquire, possess, and carry commonly possessed firearms fails to comport with

the Constitution’s command,” said SAF Executive Director Adam Kraut. “These adult individuals are entitled to the full scope of the Second Amendment’s protections, yet the State has opted to affirmatively treat them as if they have less rights. An honest look at our nation’s history and tradition will only yield one result, that is, this law is blatantly unconstitutional.”

“Federal law allows for legal action against states that deprive individuals of federal constitutional rights under color of state law,” explained SAF founder and Executive Vice President Alan M. Gottlieb. “State legislatures that adopt such restrictive laws invariably mask their motives by claiming they are ‘gun safety’ measures, but this isn’t about guns, it’s about rights. It’s time for anti-gun officials in Massachusetts and elsewhere to understand that.”

SAF FILES RESPONSE BRIEF WITH SCOTUS IN MINNESOTA CARRY CASE

Attorneys representing SAF and its partners in a case challenging the State of Minnesota’s prohibition on licensed concealed carry by adults ages 18-20 have filed a response brief with the U.S. Supreme Court encouraging the justices to “grant plenary review and set the case for argument.”

The case is known as *Jacobson v. Worth*, originally filed in June 2021 as *Worth v. Harrington*. SAF is joined by the Minnesota Gun Owners Caucus, FPC, and three private citizens, Kristin Worth, for whom the case is named, Austin Dye, and Axel Anderson. While all three have turned 21, the Eighth Circuit Court granted a motion to supplement the record and allow another individual, Joe Knudsen, to carry the complaint. They are represented by

attorneys David H. Thompson, Peter A. Patterson, John D. Ohlendorf and William V. Bergstrom at Cooper & Kirk in Washington, D.C. SAF won this case at trial and at the appeals court level. Minnesota is appealing the ruling.

“Today’s filing is unique in that we are agreeing with Minnesota’s request in asking the Supreme Court to hear our case to resolve a dispute between the circuits,” said SAF Executive Director Adam Kraut. “The lower courts are not unanimous in their approach to the Second Amendment rights of 18-20-year-olds. It is important that the Court weigh in to confirm that 18-20-year-olds are part of ‘the People’ and the Second Amendment applies in full to those individuals. The ban Minnesota seeks to uphold eviscerates

the right of those adults to be able to carry a firearm for self-defense. This is patently unconstitutional and while we prevailed at the court of appeals, the Supreme Court needs to ensure all the lower courts reach the proper result. By taking this case, they can do just that.”

“A clear majority of federal courts have already protected the Second Amendment rights of young adults,” added SAF founder and Executive Vice President Alan M. Gottlieb. “As we note in our brief, we are not aware of any evidence of colonial or Founding-era laws restricting 18-to-20-year-olds from their right to keep and bear arms. Indeed, history is full of evidence that people in this age group were not prevented from keeping or carrying their own arms.”

LIPSEY'S JOINS SAF AS DIAMOND-LEVEL CORPORATE PARTNER

The Second Amendment Foundation (SAF) is pleased to announce that Lipsey's – one of the largest independently owned shooting sports distributors in the country – has joined SAF as a corporate partner at the Diamond level.

Through a collaboration with SAF Diamond partner SIG SAUER, Lipsey's offered an exclusive lineup of SIG P365 pistols with a portion of proceeds from each sale benefitting SAF's legal efforts. SAF was the inaugural beneficiary of the program, and the collaboration raised more than \$125,000 to help defend, secure and restore our Second Amendment rights.

"We're proud to have the Second Amendment Foundation as the inaugural recipient of our SIG P365 2A project,"



said Lipsey's Vice President of Sales and Purchasing Brett Frey. "We hope this contribution will help SAF continue the amazing work they do in the courtroom to help protect and preserve our Second Amendment rights."

Lipsey's was formed in 1953 as a wholesale hunting and fishing distributor. Originally named S&S Wholesale, the name was changed 40 years later to Lipsey's in 1993. Today, Lipsey's is one of the largest independently owned,

single-location firearms distributors in the country.

"I have had the privilege of touring the Lipsey's facility in Louisiana, and I can say firsthand that the culture and operation they have created is second to none," said SAF Executive Director Adam Kraut. "Lipsey's understands that protecting our constitutional right to keep and bear arms is imperative for the nation, as well as their business. They have demonstrated this understanding through their 2A project, and we are honored to be the first recipient of this unique Lipsey's-SIG SAUER collaboration."

For more information about SAF's corporate partner program, email Lauren Hill at lhill@saf.org.

BLACKOUT COFFEE JOINS SAF AS SILVER-LEVEL CORPORATE PARTNER

The Second Amendment Foundation (SAF) is pleased to announce that Blackout Coffee has joined as a corporate partner at the Silver level.

"At Blackout Coffee, we believe in the fundamental right to bear arms and defend our freedoms," said Blackout Coffee CEO and Founder John Santos. "That's why we proudly support the Second Amendment Foundation, an organization that relentlessly fights to protect and restore our constitutional rights. Just like a strong cup of coffee fuels the day, safeguarding the Second Amendment fuels the American spirit."

Blackout Coffee has been a long-standing advocate of SAF's mission to defend, secure and restore our Second Amendment freedoms. More than a year ago, Blackout created a special SAF roast and continues to donate a portion of



proceeds from each bag sold to benefit the organization's legal efforts.

"Blackout's support of SAF, and our Second Amendment freedoms as a whole, is evident through their generous contributions and unwavering advocacy," said SAF Executive Director Adam Kraut. "From creating the special SAF roast to sponsoring our annual Gun Rights Policy Conference, and now as a Silver-level corporate partner, Blackout Coffee has been a steadfast supporter of the Second Amendment Foundation. We are grateful they continue to remain at the forefront of helping fight for the Constitutional freedoms we all hold dear."

Blackout Coffee is unapologetically patriotic, proudly roasting premium coffee

for hardworking Americans who love God, country, and freedom. Founded in 2018 out of a garage, and now operating from a 65,000-square-foot facility, Blackout has grown from humble beginnings into a national brand by staying true to their values: bold flavor, fierce independence, and unwavering support for the Constitution.

"We don't just make coffee – we make a statement," said Blackout Coffee co-owner and Guns & Gadgets CEO Jared Yanis. "Whether it's supporting the Second Amendment, backing our troops and law enforcement, or calling out corporate hypocrisy, we believe in standing up for what's right. That's why we proudly support the Second Amendment Foundation. Together, we're not just brewing coffee – we're fueling the fight for freedom."

SAF FILES AMICUS BRIEF IN CHALLENGE OF D.C. MAG. BAN

The Second Amendment Foundation has filed an amicus brief with the U.S. Supreme Court supporting petitioners in a case known as *Andrew Hanson, et.al., v. District of Columbia, et.al.*, challenging the District's ban on so-called "high-capacity magazines" capable of holding more than ten cartridges.

SAF is joined by the National Rifle Association. The case has national implications and the amicus brief calls the court's attention to the fact that the federal circuit courts are divided on the question whether magazines are "arms," what constitutes "common use," and whether arms most useful for military service are protected by the Second Amendment.

SAF is represented by attorney



Adam Kraut, who is SAF's executive director. NRA is represented by attorneys Joseph G.S. Greenlee and Erin M. Erhardt at the NRA Institute for Legislative Action.

"In our brief," Kraut noted, "we remind the court that repeating arms predate the Second Amendment by roughly three centuries, and that semiautomatic firearms were invented in 1885. Likewise,

detachable box magazines came along back in 1862. Despite technological advances over the past 200 years, neither the sale nor possession of repeating arms of any capacity were ever banned in the United States."

"The very essence of the Second Amendment is to protect the right to keep and bear arms," said SAF founder and Executive Vice President Alan M. Gottlieb. "The language of the Second Amendment does not stipulate which bearable arms are protected, only that they are, and that the right of the people to bear those arms shall not be infringed. Because of the lower court split on whether magazines are 'arms,' we believe the high court needs to resolve this controversy without further delay."

SAF FILES LAWSUIT CHALLENGING CO'S EXCISE TAX ON GUNS, AMMO

SAF has filed a lawsuit in Denver County District Court challenging Colorado's Proposition KK as an unconstitutional tax on the exercise of a fundamental constitutional right.

Joining SAF in *Langston v. Humphreys* are the NRA, FPC, Magnum Shooting Center of Colorado Springs, the Colorado State Shooting Association, and a private citizen, Zachary Langston.

Named as defendants are Heidi Humphreys, executive director of the state Department of Revenue and Michael J. Allen, district attorney of El Paso County, in their official capacities.

SAF and its partners contend that the state's 6.5% excise tax on the retail sale of any firearm, firearm precursor part, or ammunition is unconstitutional in that it impermissibly singles out the exercise



of a constitutional right for special taxation. There have been several rulings by the U.S. Supreme Court prohibiting such a tax scheme.

"Colorado's new law impermissibly taxes an enumerated constitutional right," said SAF Executive Director Adam Kraut. "Not only does the tax

lack any basis in our nation's history and tradition of firearms regulation, it violates Supreme Court precedent that states the exercise of constitutional rights cannot be targeted through taxation. We look forward to vindicating the rights of all Coloradans who are affected by this egregious attempt to chill the exercise of Second Amendment rights."

"Federal legislation to prevent this sort of tax was introduced just days ago in both the House and Senate," noted SAF founder and Executive Vice President Alan M. Gottlieb. "They're calling it the Freedom from Unfair Gun Taxes Act, and greedy, anti-gun lawmakers in Colorado are probably at least partly responsible for such a bill on Capitol Hill. You simply cannot tax the exercise of a constitutionally-protected fundamental right."

MAGPUL RENEWS PLATINUM-LEVEL CORPORATE PARTNERSHIP

The Second Amendment Foundation (SAF) is pleased to announce that Magpul has renewed their commitment to the organization as a Platinum-level corporate partner.

“Magpul is proud to continue our support and sponsorship of the ongoing efforts of the Second Amendment Foundation in defending our Second Amendment rights,” said Magpul Executive Vice President Duane Liptak. “With the never-ending legal attacks on firearms owners and companies in the firearms industry, the Second Amendment Foundation is a leader in protecting American citizens’ choices regarding the right to own and bear arms.”

Magpul was founded in 1999 with the concept of developing an easy-to-use product to solve the handling and speed



MAGPUL

problems associated with handling rifle magazines under stress. The company name comes from this original product, the Magpul.

This simple innovation – and the mindset of problem-solving through better design, materials, and user experience – led to others that redefined the experience customers had with their firearms.

More than two decades later, Magpul has grown significantly, but still follows the same mission and processes,

focusing on innovation, simplicity and efficiency.

“Magpul’s commitment to SAF’s mission is unwavering and we are grateful to have such a steadfast partner,” said SAF Executive Director Adam Kraut. “We fight in court everyday against government overreach, and Magpul understands that SAF’s challenges to magazine capacity bans could have a significant and longstanding impact on their business and customers. We appreciate the trust Magpul – and all our corporate partners and donors – place in SAF’s ability to ensure Americans have the ability to exercise their Second Amendment rights, no matter where they live.”

For more information about SAF’s corporate partner program, contact Lauren Hill at lhill@saf.org.

VORTEX RENEWS SAF CORPORATE PARTNERSHIP AT GOLD LEVEL

The Second Amendment Foundation (SAF) is pleased to announce that Vortex Optics has renewed their commitment to the organization as a Gold-level corporate partner.

“The Second Amendment Foundation is an incredible resource for both current and future gun owners – decades of important legal work and education has helped the 2A community remain informed and engaged with what is being done to preserve our rights,” said Vortex CEO Joe Hamilton. “We look forward to working closely with SAF to help ensure that this important work can continue.”

Headquartered in Barneveld, Wis., Vortex is an employee-owned and operated business providing customers with some of the best optics on the market. Whether it’s a rifle scope for hunting,



a red dot for the range or a pair of binoculars for getting up close with nature, Vortex has something that fits every need.

Along with renewing their Gold-level partnership, Vortex also produced a limited-edition run of T-shirts to benefit SAF’s legal efforts last year through their Crafted Impact program. A collaboration between a

rotating group of artists and organizations, the effort puts advocacy front and center.

The limited-run apparel drops showcase artwork that brings awareness — and money donated from every purchase — to help advance issues important to the community.

“Vortex has been a longstanding SAF partner and we’re truly appreciative of everything they do to support our legal efforts,” said SAF Executive Director Adam Kraut. “Whether it’s through a partnership renewal, providing T-shirts that allow people to showcase their support of SAF, donating to SAF’s monthly sweepstakes program or sponsoring the 2025 Gun Rights Policy Conference, Joe and the entire Vortex team are true advocates of our right to keep and bear arms.”

OUTRAGEOUS RULING BY IL JUDGE ALLOWS LAWSUIT TO PROCEED: SAF

The Second Amendment Foundation (SAF) is calling a decision by Lake County, Ill., Judge Jorge L. Ortiz to allow a wrongful death lawsuit against Smith & Wesson to proceed “outrageous.”

Seven people were killed and dozens more were injured when Robert Crimo III opened fire at a July 4, 2022 parade in Highland Park. He has pleaded guilty in the case and will likely spend the rest of his life in prison.

“Such legal actions are precisely why Congress passed the Protection of Lawful Commerce in Arms Act (PLCAA) back during the George W. Bush administration,” said SAF founder and Executive Vice President Alan M. Gottlieb. “Smith & Wesson is no more responsible for the evil act committed by the Highland Park shooter than a car

manufacturer would be if some drunk behind the wheel smashed into a school bus and caused a fatal crash.”

“Smith & Wesson, like any number of other manufacturers in other industries, had absolutely no control over the criminal misuse of their product,” said SAF Executive Director Adam Kraut. “Allowing these types of lawsuits to proceed only invites further litigation against firearms manufacturers to drive them out of business through lawfare. While such an end result may be the desired effect by the anti-gun crowd, it would be detrimental to the exercise of Second Amendment rights and also national defense.”

More than 20 years ago, several cities tried to sue the firearms industry in an effort to hold gun makers and

firearms retailers responsible for violent crimes committed by people over whom they had no control.

“The argument today is essentially the same used almost 25 years ago,” Gottlieb recalled. “They are accusing Smith & Wesson of marketing practices aimed at teens and younger people, in violation of Illinois consumer protection laws, which is nonsense. This legal action appears solely designed to cost the company millions of dollars in an attempt to drive it out of business. We’re aware the plaintiffs have been working with billionaire Michael Bloomberg’s Everytown for Gun Safety, which has previously supported lawsuits in an attempt to bankrupt the firearms industry, thus depriving consumers from purchasing firearms and exercising their rights under the Second Amendment.”

SAF APPLAUDS ADMINISTRATION CUTS TO CDC ‘GUN VIOLENCE’ STAFF

While the gun prohibition lobby is lamenting reported reductions in staff at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Second Amendment Foundation is applauding the Trump administration cuts, which will hopefully take the CDC out of the gun control arena, at least for the foreseeable future.

“With these reductions,” said SAF founder and Executive Vice President Alan M. Gottlieb, “the government is no longer treating gun ownership as a communicable disease.”

The staff reductions, announced by HHS Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr., have caused tremors within the gun control community. Critics are complaining the cuts will undermine the federal government’s ability to combat so-called “gun violence” research.



“Ever since the CDC inserted itself into the gun rights debate,” Gottlieb observed, “the agency has spent millions of dollars to promote the notion that gun-related violence is a public health issue, and they’ve mostly gotten away with it, thanks largely to their allies in the media treating everything they say

as gospel. But it’s not a ‘health crisis,’ it’s a crime problem, and the antidote is not restricting the rights of law-abiding gun owners, which CDC research invariably seems to suggest, but instead restricting the freedom of violent repeat offenders.

“One complaint we’ve heard is that these cuts have ‘decimated’ staff responsible for so-called ‘gun violence research and prevention,’ but so far all of this research does not appear to have prevented a single violent crime,” he stated. “Instead, we see declarations that more research is needed, while anti-gunners use CDC data to erode Second Amendment rights. That sounds like a perpetual ‘make work’ effort to keep the public funding flowing while gun owners are essentially treated like plague carriers, or lepers.”



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