

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. --Amendment II, US Constitution



The right of no person to keep and bear arms in defense of his home, person and property, or in aid of the civil power when thereto legally summoned, shall be called to question; . . . --Article II, § 13, Colorado Constitution

The Voice for Firearm Rights in the Pikes Peak Region

VOLUME 15, ISSUE 4

APRIL 2008

Supreme Court hears oral arguments in the District of Columbia handgun ban case

The Case: The District of Columbia only permits citizens to own licensed firearms. Since 1976, the District has not licensed any handguns; therefore, handgun possession is banned in the District of Columbia except for law enforcement, licensed security officers, and federal officials. Even though rifles and shotguns are permitted in DC homes, they must be kept locked up or disassembled.

A few cases were filed against the District of Columbia's total ban on handgun possession. All but one, District of Columbia versus Dick Anthony Heller, fell by the wayside. But, Heller's assertion that the DC total handgun ban was a violation of his Second Amendment rights was upheld by the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia, basically ruling that DC's handgun ban was a violation of our right to keep and bear arms.

The District of Columbia appealed to the Supreme Court of the United States. The Supreme Court agreed to hear the case. More than 45 friends of the court briefs were filed supporting Heller, while 20 were submitted supporting the District.

At issue is whether or not the Second Amendment is an individual right or a collective right (only members of the "militia" or National Guard).

The Supreme Court heard oral arguments on March 18, 2008. They heard first from the council for the District, then the Solicitor General of the United States, and then the council for Heller. The transcript of the oral argument, along with audio of the argument in two different formats, is available on the PPFC website.

Of course, the DC attorney argued that the 2nd Amendment only exists to allow for the arming of the militia and, today, the militia is the National Guard. The US Solicitor General argued that the 2nd Amendment does protect an individual right, but "reasonable" restrictions can be placed on that right. Heller's attorney argued the individual right case.

Based on the questions asked by the Justices during the presentations, it appears likely that at least five of the Justices will agree with the "individual" right assertion. These include Chief Justice Roberts, and Justices Kennedy, Alito, Scalia, and Thomas. This should give us at least a 5 to 4 ruling as an individual right.

However, what is not so sure is how narrow this ruling may be. That is, will the ruling still leave a lot of room for restrictions on, but not a total ban of, the possession of firearms? A ruling is expected in June 2008.

(Continued on page 2)

UPCOMING EVENTS

- **April 10, 2008: PPFC Membership Meeting**
- **April 17, 2008: PPFC Board Meeting**

PPFC Officers

President Dane Nowels
V President..... Bob Heinrich
SecretaryAmy Mullaney
Treasurer Bernie Herpin
MembershipDan Wandell
Programs Teri Goodall
Legislative.....Doug Davis
Publicity.....Harry Dierks
Fund Raising.. Dick Gandolf
Social Pat Smelser
Chaplain..... Rich Hilton
Sgt-at-Arms.....Doug Davis
Gun Shows.....Marc Hament
PPFC PAC Paul Paradis

PIKES PEAK FIREARMS COALITION, INC.
PO BOX 17253
COLORADO SPRINGS CO 80935-7253

info@ppfc.org

WE'RE ON THE WEB!

WWW.PPFC.ORG

Next PPFC Meeting
Thursday, April 10, 2008
VFW Post 4051
430 E Pikes Peak Ave
Colorado Springs CO
7:00 - 9:00 P.M.

PRSR STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Colorado Springs, CO
PERMIT NO. 1061

Colorado Legislation Update

Colorado Senate Bill 08-049, by Senator Windels (D), which will require you to lock up your guns if there is a possibility of a minor getting hold of it, is still sitting in the Senate Appropriations Committee. The good news is that it has not come out of committee yet (indicating that Windels is not sure she has the votes to get it passed). The bad news is it is still alive.

The current status of this, and any other bills which may impact our gun rights, can be found on the PPFC website, www.ppfc.org, along with the text of the bills.

District Attorney John Newsome to Address the April PPFC Meeting

John Newsome, 4th Judicial District Attorney, will be speaking at the April 10th PPFC meeting on the current trends and issues in the criminal justice system.

PPFC PAC Steering Committee Endorsements

The PPFC PAC Steering Committee has endorsed the following candidates:

5th Congressional: Jeff Crank

State Senate 10: Bill Cadman

State House 14: Kent Lambert

State House 16: Larry Liston

State House 19: Marsha Looper

State House 21: Bob Gardner

4th Judicial District Attorney: John Newsome

El Paso County Commissioner District 2: Amy Lathen

El Paso County Commissioner District 3: Sallie Clark

El Paso County Commissioner District 4: Dennis Hisey

State Senate 12: Keith King

State House 15: Mark Waller

State House 17: Catherine Roupé

State House 20: Amy Stephens

You can get 2008 election candidate information on the PPFC website under "2008 Elections".

PPFC Small Donor Committee

Thanks to our members, we raised \$2,212 in 2007 for the PPFC Small Donor Committee and have also received \$1,097 so far for 2008! **Please note: If you sent in a donation to the PPFC SDC, your cancelled check is acknowledgement that your donation was received. To save money for supporting candidates, we will not mail individual receipts.** Thanks!!