



The Illinois Shooter

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Since 1903

Cook County's Gun Confiscation Law Challenged

by David Sigale

Wilson v. Cook County is a legal challenge to an Amendment to the Cook County Deadly Weapons Dealer Control Ordinance, specifically the portion entitled the Blair Holt Assault Weapons Ban (Cook County Code § 54-210–54-214). The ordinance sets forth therein its own definitions of “Assault Weapons” (Cook County Code § 54-211) and makes it a crime for any person who “shall manufacture, sell, offer or display for sale, give, lend, transfer ownership of, acquire or possess any assault weapon or large capacity magazine.” (Cook County Code § 54-212.)

As a penalty, the ordinance provides for “not more than

six months imprisonment, or [a fine] not less than \$5,000.00 and not more than \$10,000.00, or both.” (Cook County Code § 54-214(a).)

To avoid criminal penalties, a Cook County resident with an assault weapon must do one of the following:

- (a.) Remove the assault weapon or large capacity magazine from within the limits of the County of Cook;
- (b.) Modify the assault weapon or large capacity magazine either to render it permanently inoperative or to permanently make it a device no longer defined as an assault weapon or large capacity magazine;

(c.) Surrender the assault weapon or large capacity magazine to the sheriff or his designee for disposal.)

(Cook County Code § 54-212(c))

The ordinance provides further for the destruction of weapons confiscated upon direction of the Sheriff if he ascertains that said firearm is not required for evidence, thereby treating such confiscated weapons as contraband per se. Cook County Code § 54-213.

The plaintiffs are two Cook County residents who wish to possess banned assault weapons but cannot do so without violating the ordinance and subjecting themselves to criminal liability, so they are challenging the ordinance as unconstitutional, in violation of the Second and Fourteenth Amendments, and 42 U.S.C. § 1983. This case was originally filed in 2007, twice

went to the Illinois Supreme Court, was voluntarily dismissed, re-filed, removed to federal court, and dismissed by the court pursuant to the holding in *Friedman v. Highland Park* (7th Cir. 2015). It is now on appeal in the Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals where the plaintiffs argue:

- (1.) The district court did not correctly apply the Court's ruling in *Friedman*, and
- (2.) *Friedman* was wrongly decided and should be overturned.

Though this continues to be a hard fight, with the support of the Illinois State Rifle Association and Second Amendment Foundation, we will continue to push forward including, if necessary, to the Supreme Court.

David Sigale is ISRA's General Counsel.

One-quarter of Illinois Counties Now Gun Sanctuaries

Twenty-six of Illinois' 102 counties have passed “gun sanctuary” resolutions.

The resolutions were born of frustration and resentment when other Illinois cities and counties declared themselves “sanctuary cities” and the state of Illinois made itself a “sanctuary state.” While sanctuary cities refuse to comply with federal immigration law, gun sanctuaries ask that law enforcement not act on federal gun control laws.

Gun sanctuary counties now include Brown, Christian, Clark, Clay, Cumberland, Douglas, Effingham, Fayette, Ford, Greene, Hamilton, Hardin, Henry, Iroquois, Jasper, Jefferson, Lawrence, Monroe, Perry, Pope, Saline, Shelby, Washington, Wayne, White, and Woodford.

Sanctuary county resolutions have been aimed at the unconstitutionality of laws that regulate the possession of “assault weapons,” the use of large-capacity magazines, and the legal age to buy guns.

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Vitous Selected for International Team



Alex Vitous receiving the Col. Bill Deneke Trophy.

At the National Rifle Championships, ISRA Junior shooter Alex Vitous was selected to be on the 2019 Under 21 United

States International Palma Rifle Team. The match is fired at 800, 900 and 1,000 yards. Rifles must have iron sights and be either .223 or .308 caliber.

In July 2019, Alex will be shooting in the world championships in New Zealand. The Palma Matches were started in 1876 at the time of the Great Centennial Rifle Match. The winner of the 1,000-yard match received a seven-and-a-half-foot replica of a Roman Legion Standard designed by Tiffany & Co. of New York. The Great Centennial Rifle Match was soon replaced with the shorter Palma Match (Romans used palms and laurels to represent victory).

Read more coverage of the National Championships on pages 7, 9, and 12.

First-Time Shooting Surprises What an NRA Instructor Learns about Her Students

by Gretchen A. Fritz

Because my reputation as a concealed carry instructor precedes me, people often confess to me that they have never shot a gun and often say that they would like to learn to shoot a gun “someday.” That day may come sooner than you think when you're friends with a pushy pistol instructor with a writing assignment.

Two of my friends who were “never shooters” are Yen and Kathy. I have known both of them for many years. Yen is a graphic artist in his mid-30s. Kathy works for State Rep. Margo McDermid and is in her early 60s.

People's reasons for wanting to try shooting a gun are generally not as varied or complex as



Instructor Gretchen Fritz stands behind Yen.

ant” doesn't begin to describe her memory of the experience; “scarred for life” might not be a stretch. Kathy said, “My father

dog.’ But I don't anymore.”

Yen said he has always been interested in shooting because all the men in his family did compulsory military service in Taiwan and were familiar with firearms. He just never did it because the logistics and expense were intimidating. He only got a FOID card last year, at my urging.

Kathy and Yen met me at SAFER USA to prepare for their first time at a shooting range. I taught them the safety rules and the basics of marksmanship before we went out to the range. We took a .22 revolver and a .22 semi-automatic for them to try; SAFER USA recommends .22 caliber for all new shooters.

Yen is basically a jock, and
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People's reasons for wanting to try shooting a gun are generally not as varied or complex as their reasons for not doing it.

their reasons for not doing it. Kathy grew up on a farm. When she was about 12 years old, her father took her out to the pasture and had her shoot his military service rifle with precious little instruction about how she should do it or what to expect. Firing one round was more than enough for her. “Unpleas-

wanted me to respect guns, and I did. I never touched one again.”

But now she is ready to try it, albeit the right way. “It's time to use my Second Amendment rights before they're taken away from me. Personal safety, too, as my husband and I get older, and my dog died. I've always said, ‘I don't need a gun; I've got a big

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