

GUN RIGHTS – GUN WRONGS

Chardon...Sandy Hook...Aurora...Virginia Tech...Columbine...

An Open Dialogue on Reducing Gun Violence

Sponsored by the Federal Bar Association – Northern District of Ohio Chapter

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Federal Bar Association Kicks Off Discussion on Gun Violence with Seminar on the Second Amendment

CLEVELAND, OH -- The Federal Bar Association – Northern District of Ohio Chapter will sponsor a half-day seminar “**Taking Aim at Violent Crime: What Does the Second Amendment Tell Us**” from 9-11 a.m. Monday, Sept. 9, at the Marriott – Cleveland Downtown at Key Center.

The seminar is the first in a series entitled “Gun Rights-Gun Wrongs: Chardon...Sandy Hook...Aurora...Virginia Tech...Columbine...An Open Dialogue on Reducing Gun Violence.”

“After the school shootings in Chardon – right here in our community – and then in Sandy Hook, members of our chapter board started to ask what we, as lawyers, could do to help stop the devastating impact of gun violence,” said Virginia Davidson, chapter president. “We put together a task force and developed a series of seminars as a way to bring everyone together to talk about these issues.

“This isn’t just for lawyers,” Davidson said. “We hope everyone who is interested in this topic will join us. That includes police officers, school administrators and teachers, mental health professionals, parents and others. We want this to be a respectful, open discussion, with no particular agenda except to come together as a community to talk about these issues. We are hopeful that people can find common ground that leads to solutions.”

Speakers for the initial seminar include:

- **Alan Gura of Gura & Possessky**, who successfully challenged Washington, D.C.’s handgun ban before the United States Supreme Court in its landmark 2008 decision, *District of Columbia v. Heller*. Two years later, Gura returned to the High Court to successfully argue that the Second Amendment binds not only the federal government but state and local government officials as well (*McDonald v. Chicago*).

- **C. Kevin Marshall of Jones Day**, who has argued constitutional cases including First Amendment, Second Amendment and other matters in federal court. Marshall was part of the appellate team representing the National Federation of Independent Business in its challenge to the constitutionality of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act before the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit and the U.S. Supreme Court. Marshall wrote one of the briefs in *Heller*.
- **David B. Kopel, research director at The Independence Institute** and author of numerous books on the Second Amendment including *Aiming for Liberty: The Past, Present, and Future of Freedom and Self-Defense*; *The Heller Case: Gun Rights Affirmed!* (with Alan Korwin); *Supreme Court Gun Cases* (with Alan Korwin and Stephen Halbrook); and *Things You Can Do to Protect Your Gun Rights* (with Alan Gottlieb). Kopel has published numerous articles and spoken frequently on issues related to gun control and the Second Amendment. Kopel wrote one of the briefs in *Heller*.

Douglas A. Berman from The Ohio State University Moritz College of Law will moderate the panel discussion. Berman's principal teaching and research focus is in the area of criminal law and criminal sentencing. He is the creator and author of a widely cited web log, "Sentencing Law and Policy," which receives nearly 100,000 "hits" per month and had more than 20,000 hits the day of the Supreme Court's major sentencing decision in *United States v. Booker*.

Cost for the seminar, including 2.0 hours of CLE credit, is \$60 for FBA members and \$90 for non-members for CLE credit. Cost for members of the public and those not applying for CLE credit is \$30.

Davidson said the FBA will sponsor additional seminars throughout the year. "We hope to engage the community in discussion about reducing gun violence within the parameters of the Second Amendment. Our goal is to foster an open dialogue and move toward solutions before we suffer another Chardon, or Sandy Hook, or Aurora," she said.

To register, go to www.fba-ndohio.org/ProgramCalendar or call 440-226-4402. Immediately following the seminar, the FBA Chapter will host its annual State of the Court Luncheon from 12 noon to 1:30 p.m. at the Marriott – Cleveland Downtown at Key Center. More details and a registration form can be found at www.fba-ndohio.org.

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