

McDonald v. City of Chicago

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AOC joined in with over forty other state firearm associations in an Amici Curiae in support of *Otis McDonald, et al.* being heard before the Supreme Court of the United States. (The brief for the State Firearms Associations as Amici Curiae can be viewed on the AOC website)

Otis McDonald is a retired union worker and community organizer who wanted to keep a handgun in his Chicago home for self-defense. The City of Chicago bans the ownership of handguns within its city limits. Otis sued, and on June 28, 2010 the U.S. Supreme Court issued an opinion on his case.

The Court found that Chicago's ban on handgun ownership was unconstitutional; the case has now been sent back to the U.S. Seventh Circuit Court for further proceedings consistent with the Supreme Court's opinion. (The Courts opinion in the *McDonald v. City of Chicago* case can be viewed on the AOC website) The 5-4 decision reiterates and expands the Supreme Court conclusion that individuals have the right to own handguns for their protection.

While the 2008 *Keller* case assured individuals the right to own handguns in the District of Columbia the *McDonald* case sets the legal precedent for protection of individual 2nd Amendment rights over states and local government regulations. The court's decision is a clear victory for law-abiding firearms owners.

The attorney, James W. Hrykewicz, for the state firearms association cautioned gun owners not to assume that states and local governments could not continue to prohibit the possession of firearms in sensitive places such as schools and government buildings. State and local governments will continue to be able to require firearms owners to obtain permits that may include requirements such as taking firearms training. Individuals convicted for violent crimes, mentally ill, or with drug or DWI convictions could still be forbidden from possessing firearms.

AOC will continue to work with other state firearms associations to assure the 2nd Amendment rights bestowed on Americans are not unnecessarily infringed upon by state or local governments. All law abiding firearms owners have good reason to be thankful for the contributions made by the NRA, numerous firearms associations, and legal attorneys for their time and financial support in defending the individual right of citizens to defend themselves with the use of firearms.

Your contributions as an AOC member helped pay for our defense.