

# THE Gun Owners

44 YEARS OF NO COMPROMISE – 1975-2019

## Red Flag Laws Stalling Across the Country

by Erich Pratt

You won't hear this on the 6 o'clock news. But we're winning the battle against gun control across the country.

Right now, there are more states with Constitutional Carry (17) than there are states imposing "red flag" Gun Confiscation Orders (15).

Gun rights continue to advance. And it's happening:

- Despite gun control remaining one of the top issues for Nancy Pelosi and her fellow House Democrats;
- Despite the raging anti-gun bias of CNN and the entire mainstream media; and,
- In spite of the calls for gun restrictions from every Democrat presidential hopeful and from Democrat leaders in state legislatures around the country.

The exciting reality is that, except for a handful of blue states, gun control is not taking hold.

Florida was ground zero for gun control after the tragic Parkland shooting last year. And yet, the only states to fol-



Gun Owners of America is making it clear that candidates who support red flag laws will not receive GOA's support, nor the support of grassroots gun owners nationwide.

low the Sunshine State in passing red flag Gun Confiscation Orders have been states which can be classified as extremely "blue."

One can only imagine how this has dispirited the anti-gun Left. They have made a huge push to get red flag laws passed around the country — including

in red states like Texas — but they have very little to show for it.

The co-founder of Stop Handgun Violence in Massachusetts, John Rosenthal, was incredibly hopeful when speaking to *USA Today* last year. He

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## Trump Withdraws U.S. from UN Gun Control Scheme

by John Velleco

In late April, President Trump withdrew the United States as a signatory to the United Nations Arms Trade Treaty (ATT).

Gun Owners of America officials began meeting with White House staff beginning shortly after the 2016 election, arguing that the treaty represented a demonstrable threat to gun owners' rights in America.

So the move by the administration

came as welcome news to GOA members, and represents yet another shift in the U.S. stance towards the treaty.

The Bush administration refused to endorse the regulatory scheme, but the ATT was strongly supported by President Obama and his two Secretaries of State, Hillary Clinton and John Kerry (who signed the treaty in 2013).

Though it was written with ambiguity, at the very least the treaty would require onerous record keeping of "end

users" (in effect, a registration list of gun owners), and likely a ban on semi-

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- **GOA on the move across the country (page 4-5)**
- **GOA before the U.S. Supreme Court (page 8)**

## Red Flag Laws Stalling Across the Country

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said that if Texas were to pass a red flag law, “it might help be a tipping point” for other red states to pass similar gun control laws.

There was good reason for Rosenthal to be hopeful at the time. There was a wave of blue states passing red flag gun grabs. Many GOP legislators were looking at these laws as “gun control that conservatives can support.”

And there were even some gun advocates who were giving the wink and a nod to them.

But GOA pushed back hard — not only in Texas, but in other states across the country.

GOA Legislative Counsel Michael Hammond penned several articles in national publications — including *USA Today* — making it clear that gun owners do NOT support Gun Confiscation Orders.

I appeared on *Fox News*, which reaches over 125 million viewers every day, to deliver the “shot across the bow” to Republican and Democrat politicians across the country. In short, I said that if candidates support gun control, they you will lose the support of gun owners.

Within the past year, GOA personnel have also traveled to several state capitals — including Austin — to speak in opposition to red flag Gun Confiscation Orders.

Perhaps the biggest punch came when GOA launched a grassroots blitz in the more than 30 states which still do not have red flag laws.

The loud voice of GOA members has put tremendous heat on recalcitrant officials. So much so, one pro-gun legislator told GOA that the vigorous push by pro-gun activists against the red flag bill in his state had convinced the House Speaker to spike the anti-gun legislation.

### Red Flag gun grabs disarming honest gun owners

We are grateful at GOA that our supporters understand the importance of this issue. In GOA’s 2019 Members Survey, our activists listed red flag laws as the #1 issue they wanted us to tackle.



**Within the past year, GOA has launched a grassroots blitz in the more than 30 states that don’t have red flag laws. In May, GOA’s Erich Pratt traveled to the Pennsylvania state capitol to warn legislators about the dangers of passing these Gun Confiscation Orders.**

And with good reason. Red flag laws have authorized the confiscation of firearms from honest gun owners — without a jury trial; without an attorney present; and without any evidence that a crime had been committed or was even (allegedly) going to be committed.

In short, guns have been confiscated without any due process whatsoever.

So GOA has made it a priority to stop these onerous Gun Confiscation Orders from passing. And with your

- In New York, GOA is helping to spearhead a “county rebellion” in the state by encouraging local governments to enact Second Amendment Sanctuary Ordinances. Already, over 200 counties in nine states have vowed not to enforce red flag laws.

In most states, the legislatures are going out of session for the year. But GOA will stay active in the remaining states and will continue mobilizing the grassroots.

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**GOA supporters understand the importance of fighting red flag gun grabs. In GOA’s 2019 Members Survey, our activists listed red flag laws as the #1 issue they wanted us to tackle. And with good reason.**

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help, we are having tremendous success ... in most places.

Sadly, two more blue states (New York and Colorado) joined the red flag bandwagon this year. In Colorado, we lost the vote in the state senate by only one vote — a heartbreaker, to be sure.

### States interposing against red flag gun grabs

Despite the two setbacks this year, there are some encouraging signs, as a “prairie rebellion” has been ignited:

- In Colorado, more than half of the counties have passed resolutions opposing the new red flag law, and several sheriffs have stated they will not enforce it.

One of these states is Pennsylvania, where the prospects for defeating red flag gun grabs are already looking good.

When asked if and when a red flag bill would come up for a vote, the Senate Judiciary Chairman told GOA’s Pennsylvania State Director Dr. Val Finnell that she had “no plans” to bring it up.

This was echoed in the other chamber where one Representative told Dr. Finnell that red flag gun grabs would “never” come up.

We certainly won’t let up the pressure. But be encouraged, because right now, the collective voice of grassroots gun owners is carrying the day. ■

# Constitutional Carry Off to Great Start in 2019

By Jordan Stein

Long-time members of Gun Owners of America will remember that GOA was the original advocate for Constitutional Carry. Also known as “permitless carry,” these laws protect carrying defensive firearms as a matter of right — without government permission.

Well, 2019 has been a good year for permitless carry, as three new states joined the Constitutional Carry Club, with another state expanding its existing law.

The first state to adopt Constitutional Carry in 2019 was South Dakota. And to say that passing permitless carry in the Mount Rushmore State was difficult is an understatement.

One of the first Constitutional Carry bills to pass out of the legislature was in 2012, only to be vetoed by RINO Governor Dennis Daugaard. Constitutional Carry was vetoed again in 2017 by Daugaard and then failed to gain traction in 2018 under another veto threat.

But gun owners breathed a sigh of relief when the Constitutional Carry-supporting Kristi Noem was elected governor. She made permitless carry a priority, as it was the first bill she signed into law as governor in January.

Oklahoma was next to adopt Constitutional Carry. The Sooner State had also experienced RINO problems as



GOA's Erich Pratt with pro-gun Gov. Matt Bevin, who signed legislation this year making Kentucky the 17th Constitutional Carry state.

Constitutional Carry passed the legislature in 2018, only to be vetoed by Gov. Mary Fallin. However, in February of this year, Constitutional Carry was signed into law by Gov. Kevin Stitt.

The third state to join the Constitutional Carry Club was Kentucky. The Bluegrass State was already a “halfway” Constitutional Carry state, meaning that one could openly carry with no permit, but not concealed carry.

In essence, Kentucky's permitting system was just a tax on self-defense. Thankfully, complete Constitutional Carry was signed by GOA-endorsed Governor Matt Bevin in March.

In April, Idaho expanded its Constitutional Carry law to protect its 18-20-year old residents. While the bill was a simple measure, adults this age are

often the target of gun controllers' attack on their freedom to purchase rifles. It's encouraging to see a state respect 18-20-year-old citizens as adults and acknowledge their right to self-defense as well.

Constitutional Carry is still being considered in other states across the country, like Ohio; and more states may join the Club as the year progresses. In all of the battles mentioned above, GOA issued multiple action alerts mobilizing members to urge their legislators to support Constitutional Carry.

Nothing moves in politics unless it's pushed.

In conclusion, the battle for Constitutional Carry is very telling. First, it shows that not every elected official who is a Republican is actually pro-gun. In two cases above, it was Republicans who killed Constitutional Carry, not the Democrats.

Next, the battle shows that when gun owners get out and vote, good things can happen. When gun owners elected truly pro-gun candidates, that is when their states joined the Constitutional Carry Club.

Seventeen states have now implemented Constitutional Carry laws, and while it's a tall order, Gun Owners of America will not stop pushing until that number is fifty. ■

## How to Place GOA



**You can help protect gun rights for future generations by placing Gun Owners of America in your will or estate plans.**

Here are some sample instructions to share with your advisor or attorney:

I give, devise and bequeath to Gun Owners of America (tax ID # 52-1256643), a non-profit, corporation in Springfield, Virginia:

- A. The sum of \$\_\_\_\_\_; or
- B. \_\_\_\_\_ percent of my estate; or
- C. Residue. I give my Residue to Gun Owners of America, 8001 Forbes Place, Suite 202, Springfield, Virginia 22151.





# Gun Owners of America



## ◀ Gearing Up to Send Gun Grabbers Packing

GOA's Erich Pratt with pro-gun activist and candidate for office, Maj Toure (L). With the 2020 election year just around the corner, GOA is already preparing efforts to elect solid, no compromise candidates in various offices across the country. Case in point: GOA recently endorsed Maj for the Philadelphia city council. As always, GOA will be mobilizing gun owners to get to the polls and equipping them with the "Congressional Scorecard" of federal candidates' voting records.

**"The modern NFA is a comprehensive regulatory scheme, masquerading as an exercise of Congress' taxing power and void for that reason."**

— GOA's petition for cert in *Kettler v. US*



## ▲ Eight Attorneys General Join in Support of GOA's *Kettler* Case

GOA is pleased to have eight Attorneys General joining in support of our *Kettler* Case! AGs from Arkansas, Idaho, Kansas, Louisiana, Montana, South Carolina, Texas, and Utah have asked SCOTUS to review the case. This case challenges the legitimacy of the National Firearms Act and protects a disabled veteran. You can support this case at [gunowners.me/KettlerLegalDefenseFund](http://gunowners.me/KettlerLegalDefenseFund)



## ▲ GOA Member, Sexual Assault Survivor Testifies Before Congress

Savannah Lindquist, a sexual assault survivor and GOA member, testified in Congress against Universal Background Checks (HR 8). Her powerful testimony exposes the flaws of criminalizing nearly every private transfer of a firearm. Instead, Savannah advocates for pro-gun measures like campus carry. Her testimony can be viewed at [gunowners.me/SavannahTestifies](http://gunowners.me/SavannahTestifies)

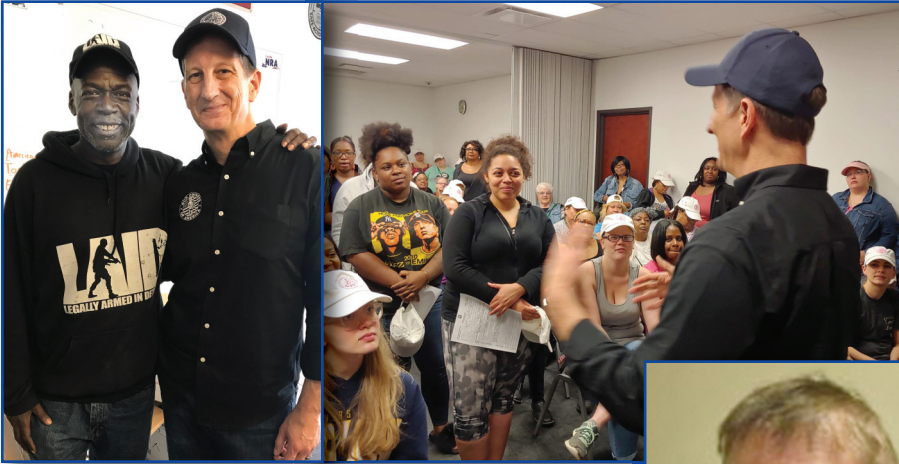
## Gun Owners Aren't Quiet About Suppressors

GOA has been a leading advocate for freeing suppressors from the burdensome regulations of the National Firearms Act. Federally, GOA is pushing for legislation like the SHUSH Act, which would completely deregulate suppressors from the NFA. On the state level, GOA's Rachel Malone (pictured here) pushes for legislation in the Lone Star state to rid the Texas law criminalizing suppressor ownership and prohibit Texas from helping enforce federal anti-suppressor regulations.





# America on the Frontlines



## GOA pushing Trump & Congress to reject gun confiscation ►

Some politicians in Washington want to pass red flag gun grabs this year. But GOA has been mobilizing the grassroots to generate thousands upon thousands of emails, letters and phone calls in opposition. Feedback from Capitol Hill has been positive, given indications that “squishy” Republicans are reticent to move ahead on imposing Gun Confiscation Orders.

## ◀ Equipping Women for Self-Defense through Firearms Training

In May, GOA's Erich Pratt traveled to Detroit, Michigan to support firearm instructor Rick Ector's annual training event for women. This year, he and his team trained over 800 women in firearm safety and function. Pratt also got to speak to the women on how important it is to stand for right to self-defense. Attendees also got an exclusive pink and white GOA hat, which was a hit with the trainees!



**“Radical, repressive, ‘middle-of-the-night-knock-on-the-door’ gun confiscation — with no due process whatsoever — is not a ‘reasonable alternative’ to anything.”**

— Michael Hammond,  
Legislative Counsel for  
Gun Owners of America,  
February 22, 2019



## ◀ Standing for State Preemption in Pennsylvania

The Pittsburgh city council this year passed gun control such as so-called “assault weapon” bans and Red Flag Gun Grabs, clearly violating Pennsylvania's preemption statutes. A GOA-supported lawsuit was quickly filed, challenging the Mayor and city council's lawless actions. GOA Pennsylvania Director, Dr. Val Finnell (pictured here), has also been one of the biggest critics of Pittsburgh's mayor, stating, “Why are ordinary citizens like you and I expected to obey the law while our elected officials can violate it with impunity?” In addition to backing a lawsuit against Pittsburgh's reckless laws, GOA is also backing legislation to impeach Mayor Bill Peduto.

## Defending “Shall Not Be Infringed” in the Courts ►

GOA is currently challenging ATF's bump stock ban in the Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals. GOA is fully committed to defeating this lawless act that made almost 500,000 innocent Americans felons overnight. (See an up-to-date report on the status of this case in the article beginning on page 8.)



**“The issue for me is government overreach.”**

— Tim from the  
Military Arms Channel,  
GOA member and  
plaintiff in GOA's  
bump stock suit  
(NPR, Feb. 4, 2019)

# Gun Owning Women Speak Out Against VAWA

by Rachel Malone

Anti-gunners often flaunt gun control like “red flag” gun confiscation as measures to keep women safe.

Not only that, they’re often willing to play dirty legislative tricks to pass their infringements.

Such is what recently happened in the House of Representatives.

Radical anti-gun leaders tried to pull a fast one on the American people by sneaking gun control into the so-called Violence Against Women Act (VAWA).

This bill, which has already passed the House, includes provisions that are actually dangerous to women. And that’s why the bill should instead be known as “the Disarm Women Act.”

Many women, like myself, carry guns for self-defense from thugs and criminals. But provisions in the Disarm Women Act would allow for any “dating partner or former dating partner” to strip a gun owning woman of her Constitutional rights with just a phone call to a judge.

A woman’s guns are confiscated with no warning and no due process. This is just like the “red flag” laws that we have been battling across the country.

In fact, we’ve had a lot of experience with these “quickie” proceedings. And we know that they are often used by an angry ex to exact revenge on a former partner.



**GOA’s Rachel Malone at a training course. In addition to serving as a GOA field director, Rachel is a certified firearms instructor, teaching defensive handgun and rifle courses.**

Consider in California, a cheating husband used his state’s red flag law to confiscate his wife’s Glock.

The truth is that women don’t need more government — and more gun control — to protect ourselves. But both women and men need guns for protection from those who would do them harm.

This is why Gun Owners of America

is strongly opposed to the gun control in this bill.

Currently, this anti-gun bill has been sent to the Senate, and Gun Owners of America is actively mobilizing gun owners all across the country to oppose it. ■

*Rachel Malone is a GOA Field Director in Texas.*

**Did  
you  
know?**

**GOA helped spearhead** a coalition of over a hundred conservative and pro-gun groups — a who’s who of the conservative movement — in opposition to the Violence Against Women Act (H.R. 1585). The coalition authored a joint letter which was sent to the Senate leadership, demanding that they throw Nancy Pelosi’s H.R. 1585 into the waste basket.

## Are you a GOA Life Member yet?



Enroll as a Life Member at the special charter rate of only \$500, which entitles you to full member privileges.

Also consider the easy payment plan with an initial deposit of as little as \$20 (with the remainder to be billed to you as a monthly charge to your debit or credit card) until

your GOA Life Membership is fully paid.

When you contact us by phone, email or mail, please provide us with your name, address, city, state, zip and member number to begin enjoying your Life Member privileges with Gun Owners of America.

**Gun Owners of America**  
8001 Forbes Place, Suite 202  
Springfield, Virginia 22151  
703-321-8585

**Sign up at: [gunowners.me/life](http://gunowners.me/life)**



## Trump Withdraws U.S. from UN Gun Control Scheme

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automatic rifles.

While it is encouraging to see the President withdraw the U.S. from the treaty, his move hardly puts the issue to rest. The UN culture thinks and plans in terms of decades and longer, not to the rhythms of American electoral politics.

In fact, the ATT is the result of several decades of lobbying by groups which believe that *firearms in private hands* constitute a human rights violation.

And most of the countries pushing the ATT do not even recognize gun ownership as an essential right.

Such views turn the American right to keep and bear arms on its head. As the U.S. Supreme Court has ruled —

twice — the Second Amendment protects a fundamental, individual, right.

Of course, fundamental freedoms enshrined in the Bill of Rights are not something that can be altered by international agreements — especially with nations that do not have America's best interests in mind.

Thankfully, we live under a system of checks and balances. So if the U.S.

here and abroad, insisting that the U.S. ratify the ATT — the U.S. will continue to be pressured to comply with the treaty's "best practices" and "implementation recommendations."

Gun-grabbers at the UN know full well that should anti-gun Democrats consolidate power in the next election, or the one after that, they will find a sympathetic ear in Washington.

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### "Gun Owners of America officials began meeting with White House staff beginning shortly after the 2016 election, arguing that the treaty represented a demonstrable threat to gun owners' rights in America."

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signs the treaty again in the future (as it did in 2013), it still must be ratified by a two-thirds vote in the Senate.

But even if it is not ratified, it still represents a danger to our rights.

In addition to hanging over the Second Amendment like Damocles' Sword — with enemies of gun rights, both

It is for this reason that GOA continues to educate legislators and candidates for office on the dangers of the treaty. President Trump made the right move and a strong statement protecting American's gun rights, but unfortunately the ATT remains, decidedly, not dead. ■

## GOA Goes Before the U.S. Supreme Court

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due June 24.

We will continue to update you as this case progresses.

### Several States now supporting GOA's NFA case

GOA has previously informed you about our challenge to the National Firearms Act (NFA) in *Kettler v. U.S.*

Well, earlier this year, our case got a huge boost when eight Attorneys General filed an *amicus* brief, urging the

Supreme Court to grant *certiorari* in the case.

GOA is contesting the unconstitutional tax and registration scheme of the NFA. And a successful lawsuit would mean the deregulation of items such as firearms suppressors, at a minimum. You can read a copy of the case here: [www.gunowners.me/Kettler](http://www.gunowners.me/Kettler).

In suing on Kettler's behalf, GOA is defending a disabled veteran who was prosecuted by Obama's Justice Department for possessing an unregistered firearms suppressor — even though he was abiding by the laws of his state.

Kansas law says that any suppressor manufactured, possessed, and used

within the borders of Kansas is exempt from federal law. GOA helped push this law through the legislature, so we have an active interest in defending it, because we want to see other states pass interposition laws like this as well.

Nothing is clearer than this: If the archaic, repressive NFA is ever to be challenged, it will have to be through litigation like this. Quivering congressmen won't go near the issue — even the best of them.

In the end, our hope is to get Kettler's felony conviction overturned by the Supreme Court and to challenge the NFA — even while upholding Kansas' pro-gun laws. ■



GOA  
Patriot

## Upgrade Your Membership to the Patriot Level!

Become a Patriot Member today and receive:

- ★ A special custom membership card available only to Patriot members
- ★ Embroidered GOA baseball cap
- ★ Automatic entry into all GOA gun giveaway sweepstakes
- ★ And more!

**Sign up at: [gunowners.me/patriot](http://gunowners.me/patriot)**



## GOA Goes Before the U.S. Supreme Court

by Erich Pratt

Gun Owners of America — and its legal arm, Gun Owners Foundation (GOF) — is heavily invested in three important court cases. And all of them have come

before the U.S. Supreme Court in some form.

The first one is *NYSRP v. New York City* — a case that relates to the city's restrictions on the right of citizens to possess and carry firearms.

Of course, the underlying issue is much broader, given that our brief smacks down what many judges are doing around the country to restrict our rights.

These judges have empowered themselves to ignore the Second Amendment and to limit the protections that are guaranteed to American gun owners.

Our brief argues that the Second Amendment text is what should guide our nation's judges, and that they are NOT at liberty to impose their own, flawed judgments to circumvent our rights.

As stated by the GOA brief:

*Heller* and *McDonald* leave little doubt that courts are to assess gun bans and regulations based on **text, history, and tradition**, not by a balancing test ... [where Judges] usurp the role of the Framers of the Second Amendment.

GOA is optimistic that this case will provide much-needed relief to New Yorkers and those "living behind enemy lines" in anti-gun states.

GOA's effort in the case can be supported financially through our foundation at: [www.gunowners.com/contribute](http://www.gunowners.com/contribute).

### GOA's Bump Stock Case on Appeal to Sixth Circuit

In March, Gun Owners of America appealed all the way to the U.S. Supreme Court, asking for a stay (or suspension) of the final bump stock rule.

This flurry of activity — six emergency legal filings in nine days — came after a federal district court judge in Michigan denied our motion for a preliminary injunction to block implementation of the rule.

Sadly, both the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit and the Supreme Court denied our motions for a stay, thus allowing the ATF's bump stock rule to go into effect on March 26.

GOA is not alone in this fight. Including ours, there are four separate cases, in three separate circuits, challenging ATF's bump stock ban.

Unfortunately, the courts have all sided with the Trump administration, and have refused to halt ATF's implementation of the bump stock ruling.

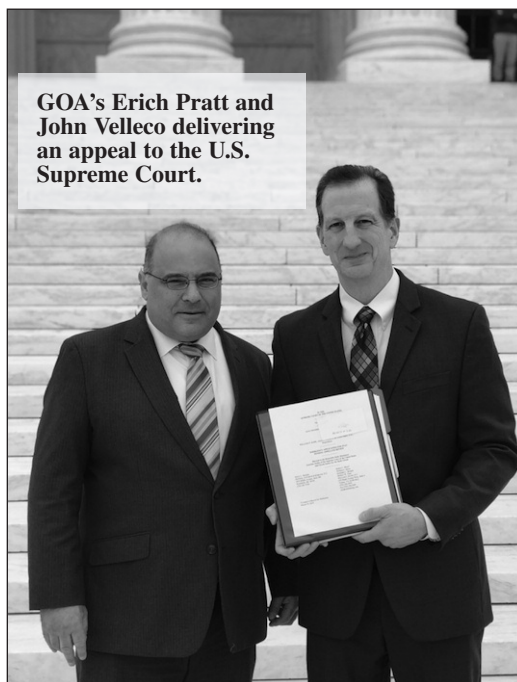
Although a couple of courts had issued short term stays for particular plaintiffs in specific cases, those stays have now all expired.

This means that, as it now stands, there is no person in the

United States who is protected from the ATF rule. And unless we prevail, this means that every bump stock in America is illegal to possess, and subject to serious criminal penalties, fines, and forfeiture.

Nevertheless, GOA's appeal is still active in the Sixth Circuit, where we are seeking review of the district court's prior ruling (on the preliminary injunction). The court recently issued a scheduling order, and our opening brief is

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GOA's Erich Pratt and John Velleco delivering an appeal to the U.S. Supreme Court.

## THE Gun Owners

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