

Gun Rights Case Back In the Supreme Court

BY: JAID PERRY

FOR THE FIRST TIME since 2008, the Supreme Court has decided to rule on gun control laws. Thirteen years ago, the court ruled that the second amendment right to bear arms includes the right for individuals to possess a firearm inside the home for self-defense purposes. Since then, over 1,400 cases have been filed for hearing in an attempt to change these laws or add to them, yet the Supreme Court did not rule on any of them.

Now, several years later, the court is looking into solidifying how far individual states may go to place regulations on gun laws. The Supreme Court case that is being analyzed comes from New York, a state with some of the strictest gun laws. In New York, there are limited reasons deemed acceptable to carry a gun; therefore, concealed carry permits are few and far between. Individuals in New York are not allowed to carry based solely on a want of “self-defense.”

This current law is being challenged by two New York natives associated with the New York State Rifle and Pistol Association. Both individuals have carrying permits for hunting and target practice, but they were denied permits to carry for self-defense purposes.

General Paul Clement, a former U.S. Solicitor, is representing the challenging side with the argument that carrying a gun outside the home should be a right like any other right guaranteed by the Constitution.

Richard Dearing stands on the other side of the argument. Dearing, chief of appeals for New York City, defends by stating that the item in contention is a literal weapon that is designed for killing people.

The defending side also argues that New York City has a population of 8 million spanning throughout a 303 square mile area, making the population density an astounding 27,000 residents per square mile. The defense is worried that with a population density so high, it only takes a small outburst to turn into a bigger issue if guns are readily available and are able to get involved.

After this argument, Clement comes back by stating that for an ordinary, law-abiding citizen with no criminal record, there should be no grounds to restrict a person from the right to carry a firearm outside of their home.

For many years, longer than a decade, the court decided to deal with the discrepancies by ignoring them. With three new justices appointed by former president, Donald Trump, there is a strong majority in the Supreme Court that supports gun rights.

As this case is further tried, there will be more information that comes out. As of now, citizens around the country can only hold tight to see what the Supreme Court decides. Ultimately, this case will set the precedent for states around the nation looking to change their gun control laws as well.

Cinematographer Tragically Killed on Set of *Rust*

BY DAVINA BELLINGER

THE CHIEF LIGHTING TECHNICIAN is suing the movie producers, other crew members, and lead actor of the film *Rust* Alec Baldwin for on-set negligence which led to a fatal shooting of a cinematographer named Halyna Hutchins. The prop weapon was shot by Baldwin during one of the scenes they were filming. One of the actors who was on the set said that it felt “life-threatening” when they were speaking openly about another fatal movie shooting that happened involving Brandon Lee being shot and killed on the set of “The Crow.” A lot of suspicions were made on what really happened on the set of *Rust* by believing that someone may have sabotaged the prop weapon with actual live rounds. Several crew members had walked off a day before the fatal shooting for no good reason, hence the reason why the frustration is building on friends and family of Hutchins.

The assistant director David Hall did acknowledge the failure of not checking Baldwin’s gun more carefully, therefore a search warrant was applied. During the interview with Hall and the armorer Hannah Gutierrez, he said that Gutierrez had shown him the rounds before the rehearsal and only remembered seeing three of them in the gun. He knew he should

have checked all of them before shooting the rehearsal but did not. According to more reports, there was a van that also stored more of the prop weapons on the set so there was a search in the van as well. The investigators had checked with Gutierrez where she said that the day of the incident she had made sure all of the dummies were clear for use and ensured that there were no hot rounds left.

There have also been suspicions that this was not the first time that the armorer had mishandled weapons on a movie set before. One example was she was shooting off a gun on another movie set that starred Nicholas Cage where she had shot an actual bullet at him. Nearly scaring him to death. Cage wanted her to be let go because of how close she had shot near him. This is just one of the main accusations that one of these members had on them and could prove the reason to sue members like Gutierrez for the negligence that resulted in the death of Hutchins.

Overall, there is reason to believe and theories going around about this incident that could prove to be either an accident or not. The courts are still deciding what will happen with the charges being brought on these people.

Climate Change Impacts on MN Winters

BY SIRAK THEODROS

WITH CLIMATE CHANGE becoming an immediate problem in the world and its greater impact on the future. We are seeing environmental changes in Minnesota with shorter winters and temperatures heating up, we are seeing how climate change is taking a hold in Minnesota. According to the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, the state is experiencing alerting temperatures across the greater MN. “Across the state, communities and individuals are experiencing higher temperatures, more extreme storms with intense flooding, and changes in our unique and cherished ecosystems.”

Aside from worsen conditions that Minnesota may undergo there is some risk of natural resources being available. Minnesota’s winters are going to experience warmer weather and increased rainfalls as well, stated by the MN Department of Natural Resources “Substantial warming during winter and at night, increased precipitation, and heavier downpours already have affected our natural resources, and how we interact with and use them. The decades ahead will bring even warmer winters and nights, and even larger rainfalls, along with the likelihood

of increased summer heat and the potential for longer dry spells.”

There was a law passed in Minnesota called the Next Generation Energy Act which is dedicated to reducing greenhouse gases in the state which will help slow down global warming on the planet. The law will also have plans for effective ways of saving energy as well. The website Do It Green Minnesota states they hope the law can lower greenhouse gases that is contributing to climate change and affecting the weather in Minnesota. “The main component of this new law is the Global Warming Mitigation Act, which commits the state to developing a climate change action plan for aggressively reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 15% by 2015, 25% by 2025, and 80% by 2050.”

To conclude, despite the dangerous signs of climate change approaching there is still hoped to prevent climate change from harming the weather and environment in Minnesota by reducing greenhouse gases and implanting practical energy-saving practices we can reverse further damage cause by climate change.