



*Issued March 9, 2007*

## **D.C. Circuit Issues Important Second Amendment Ruling**

Today, the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia issued a significant decision in the case *Parker v. District of Columbia*. *Parker* involved a challenge by District residents to various gun regulations in the District Code, including the District's strict laws banning most handgun possession. The residents alleged that these laws violated their Second Amendment rights. In a 2-1 decision, the court ruled that the restrictions were unconstitutional under the Second Amendment, finding that the Second Amendment protects an individual right to keep and bear arms.

This ruling is contrary to longstanding U.S. Supreme Court precedent and hundreds of lower court decisions. In 1939, the Supreme Court held in *U.S. v. Miller*, 307 U.S. 174 (1939), that the "obvious purpose" of the Second Amendment was to "assure the continuation and render possible the effectiveness" of the state militia and it "must be interpreted and applied with that end in view." Since *Miller* was decided, the scope of the Second Amendment has been addressed in more than 200 federal and state appellate cases. Those cases uniformly have rejected Second Amendment challenges to firearms laws. LCAV attorneys are currently analyzing the *Parker* decision and its implications for firearm regulations. LCAV will provide future updates on the case as it progresses.

[Click here to read](#) the court's decision in *Parker v. District of Columbia*.

For background information about the Second Amendment, visit [LCAV's Second Amendment page](#).