

ILA REPORT

NRA LEGISLATIVE ACTIVITY

NRA-ILA And NRA Foundation Co-Sponsor Law Symposium

On Nov. 13, 2010, nearly 100 attorneys and interested citizens gathered for the fourth in a series of legal seminars organized by NRA-ILA and funded by a generous grant from The NRA Foundation. Appropriately enough, in light of the Supreme Court's decision striking down Chicago's handgun ban, this year's event was held at the John Marshall Law School in downtown Chicago and was graciously hosted by the school's chapter of the Federalist Society.

As always, the "Firearms Law & The Second Amendment Symposium" featured presentations by leading firearm law scholars and attorneys. The moderator was Assistant Professor William K. Ford, of John Marshall Law School.

This year, the discussion was led off by Stephen P. Halbrook, who represented NRA in both the *Heller* and *McDonald* cases, and who currently represents plaintiffs challenging the

District of Columbia's outrageous post-*Heller* restrictions on gun owners' rights. Joining Halbrook for the discussion was David Thompson of Cooper & Kirk, LLC, who represents plaintiffs challenging Chicago's equally outrageous new laws. Thompson also discussed the cases challenging federal age limits on handgun purchases by 18-year-old adults, and on issuance of Texas carry permits to those same citizens. Thompson represents both NRA and individual plaintiffs in the age limit cases.

A second panel, led by NRA-ILA Legislative Counsel Christopher Conte, featured a diverse group of practitioners in the field, each discussing key topics in his or her practice. C.D. Michel of Long Beach, Calif., updated the audience on California litigation challenging restrictive issuance of carry permits. Edward George of Malden, Mass., discussed his work protecting ranges

from closure. Marie D'Amico of Rochester, N.Y., discussed New York state law on mental health and firearms. And Safari Club International litigation director Anna Seidman gave an overview of recent hunting-related litigation.

For the last panel, two NRA-ILA attorneys aimed to prepare the audience with background for upcoming legislative debates. Research Attorney Christopher Zealand reviewed post-*Heller* state legislative developments in a presentation entitled "The Good, the Bad and the Ugly." Finally, John Frazer, NRA-ILA's Director of Research and Information, reviewed the law behind ongoing federal issues such as firearm tracing, import restrictions and reform of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

To be notified of future seminars and of other important news, sign up for NRA-ILA's free e-mail alerts at www.nraila.org.



Panelists (seated, front row from left) Ed George, counsel to Gun Owners Action League of Massachusetts; Christopher Conte, NRA-ILA; Chuck Michel, Michel & Associates; attorney and author Stephen P. Halbrook; John Frazer, NRA-ILA; and (back row from left) John Marshall law student Matthew Fender; Christopher Zealand, NRA-ILA; attorney Marie D'Amico, Rochester, N.Y.; John Marshall Professor William Ford, moderator; John Marshall law student Josue Barba; Anna Seidman, Safari Club International; and John Marshall law student Christopher Ciesla.