



## C.D. "Chuck" Michel

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**R**ight now, the biggest issue facing Chuck Michel and his firm is what he calls the "Blue Resistance." By that, he means the many laws the California Legislature keeps adopting to restrict firearms.

"The state Legislature has passed a bunch of what I would call vindictive gun laws after [the U.S. Supreme Court's decision in] Bruen because they wanted to ... make gun ownership and getting a license to carry in public as expensive and as red-tape intensive as they could," he said.

Defending the Second Amendment and gun ownership is a major focus of Michel's 12-lawyer firm. It also handles some personal injury, business, criminal, municipal and environmental matters.

In addition, "there's a big regulatory compliance component to our practice," he said. "It's very easy to accidentally violate a gun control law. There's something like a thousand of them on the books in California, many of which are just regulatory."

Growing up in New Jersey, he had gone hunting and target shooting often with his father, who was an NRA instructor. So those minor violations "didn't make a lot of sense to me," he said. They weren't violent crimes, but rather the accused "carried it wrong or ... didn't have it locked up."

The major issue in the Second Amendment area currently is the proper interpretation of the Supreme Court's Bruen decision, Michel said. It requires that any arms control law be "consistent with this nation's historical tradition of firearm regulation." *New York State Rifle & Pistol Association Inc. v. Bruen*, 597 U.S. 1 (U.S., June 23, 2022).

"The battle now is about methodology and whether or not the courts are applying the Bruen methodology faithfully. That's the undercurrent of every lawsuit that we're litigating right now," he said.

And he is litigating many. Michel and his colleagues have cases pending challenging California's ammunition sales restrictions, its magazine capacity restrictions, its "so-called assault weapon laws" and restrictions on weapon permits imposed by cities and counties.

Many of those cases are on appeal at the 9th Circuit. Michel turns over all the appellate work on his cases to former U.S. solicitor general Paul Clement and his firm.