



New York State Rifle & Pistol Assn. v. Bruen (S. Ct.)

Topics Covered: Public Health

Issue

The issue in this case is whether New York State's licensing scheme for concealed carry of firearms infringes on the 2nd Amendment right to bear arms.

AMA Interest

The AMA considers firearm violence to be a public health emergency.

Case Summary

New York State requires that an applicant seeking an unrestricted license to carry a concealed handgun must show "proper cause." The phrase "proper cause" is not defined in the statute, but courts in New York have interpreted it as "[a person must] demonstrate a special need for self-protection distinguishable from that of the general community or of persons engaged in the same profession." Proper cause requires a particular need for self-protection, greater than living in a dangerous neighborhood, for example. New York does not allow the carry of firearms other than through its concealed carry licensure process.

An association of New York firearm owners and two of its members (who were denied concealed carry permits) sued New York to challenge the existing scheme. The defendants are Kevin P. Bruen, Superintendent of the New York State Police Department, and numerous other government officials. The plaintiffs are asking the United States Supreme Court to declare the New York law unconstitutional under the 2nd Amendment, as they argue, it unduly restricts the right to carry handguns in public spaces.

Litigation Center Involvement

The Litigation Center joined the Medical Society of the State of New York and several specialty medical societies in filing an *amicus* brief in support of New York.

United States Supreme Court Brief