

# 14-319-CV

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IN THE  
**United States Court of Appeals**  
FOR THE SECOND CIRCUIT

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JUNE SHEW, STEPHANIE CYPHER, PETER OWENS, BRIAN McCLAIN, HILLER SPORTS, LLC,  
MD SHOOTING SPORTS, LLC, CONNECTICUT CITIZENS' DEFENSE LEAGUE, COALITION  
OF CONNECTICUT SPORTSMEN, RABBI MITCHELL ROCKLIN, STEPHEN HOLLY,

*Plaintiffs-Appellants,*

v.

DANNEL P. MALLOY, in his official capacity as Governor of the State of Connecticut,  
KEVIN T. KANE, in his official capacity as Chief State's Attorney of the State of  
Connecticut, REUBEN F. BRADFORD, in his official capacity as Commissioner of the  
Connecticut Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection, DAVID I.  
COHEN, in his official capacity as State's Attorney for the Stamford/Norwalk Judicial  
District, Geographic Areas Nos. 1 and 20, JOHN C. SMRIGA, in his official capacity as  
State's Attorney for the Fairfield Judicial District, Geographical Area No. 2, MAUREEN  
PLATT, in her official capacity as State's Attorney for the Waterbury Judicial District,  
Geographical Area No. 4, KEVIN D. LAWLOR, in his official capacity as State's Attorney

*(Additional Caption On the Reverse)*

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*On Appeal from the United States District Court  
for the District of Connecticut (New Haven)*

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**BRIEF FOR *AMICI CURIAE* S.P. FJESTAD AND  
THE CENTER FOR CONSTITUTIONAL JURISPRUDENCE  
IN SUPPORT OF PLAINTIFFS-APPELLANTS**

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*Defendants-Appellees.*

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## **CORPORATE DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**

Pursuant to Fed. R. App. P. 26.1, *Amicus* the Center for Constitutional Jurisprudence states that it is not a publically held corporation, does not issue stock, and does not have a parent corporation.

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## INTEREST OF *AMICI CURIAE*<sup>1</sup>

*Amicus* the Center for Constitutional Jurisprudence (the “Center”) was established in 1999 as the public interest law arm of The Claremont Institute, a public policy think tank devoted to restoring the principles of the American founding to their rightful and preeminent authority in our national life, including the proposition that the Second Amendment protects the right of a free people to armed self defense. The Center advances this mission by representing clients or appearing as *amicus curiae* in cases of constitutional significance, including *McDonald v. City of Chicago*, 130 S. Ct. 3020 (2010).

*Amicus* S.P. Fjestad is the Author, Editor & Publisher of The Blue Book of Gun Values. Mr. Fjestad is widely recognized as a preeminent authority on firearms history, and The Blue Book of Gun Values is the standard reference guide for all manner of firearms value and history. Over the past 30 years, Mr. Fjestad has edited and published over 160 books on a wide variety of subjects, including firearms, airguns, black powder reproductions and replicas, automobiles, guitars, engraving, billiards and pool cues, ammunition, and others. Additionally, Mr. Fjestad has written and edited hundreds of articles for various trade publications.

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<sup>1</sup> *Amici* make the following disclosures pursuant Fed. R. App. P. 29(c)(5): No person other than *Amici* contributed any funds towards the preparation of this brief except the National Rifle Association. No party’s counsel authored this brief in whole or in part. No party or party’s counsel contributed money towards this brief. No party or party’s counsel contributed money towards the preparation of this brief.

*Amici* seek to advise this Court of the history of detachable magazines with a capacity of greater than ten rounds, because this issue is critical to the determination of this case. An understanding of the history of multi-shot guns will be valuable to this Court’s review. All parties have consented to the filing of this brief.

## **SUMMARY OF ARGUMENT**

Magazines with a capacity of more than ten rounds have been common in the United States for the last 150 years, predating the ratification of the Fourteenth Amendment. These magazines have long been produced by iconic manufacturers such as Winchester, Browning, Colt, and many others. Such magazines were not so common when the Second Amendment was being ratified, but they had been invented over 200 years previously, and guns with such magazines represented the state of the art at the time. In American history, magazine prohibition has been a rarity. Connecticut’s prohibition of magazines of more than ten rounds has no support in American legal history.

## **ARGUMENT**

### **I. MAGAZINES WITH A CAPACITY OF MORE THAN TEN ROUNDS HAVE BEEN MANUFACTURED AND SOLD FOR CENTURIES.**

The history of magazines with a capacity greater than ten rounds is an important issue in determining whether such magazines can be banned. *See District of Columbia v. Heller*, 554 U.S. 570, 595 (2008) (using “text and history”

to interpret Second Amendment); *id.* at 588-89 (same); *id.* at 623-24 (*United States v. Miller* was flawed by its “scant discussion of the history of the Second Amendment”); *id.* at 629 (“Few laws in the history of our Nation have come close to the severe restriction of the District's handgun ban.”); *see also Peruta v. County of San Diego*, 742 F.3d 1144, 1150 (9th Cir. 2014) (“[W]e must consult ‘both text and history.’”); *Kerr v. Hickenlooper*, 744 F.3d 1156, 1178 (10<sup>th</sup> Cir. 2014) (Second Amendment analysis includes history, and “the rarity of state enactments in determining whether they are constitutionally permissible”).

Like many consumer products, magazines today are better-made and even more common than ever, but they are hardly novelties of recent vintage. Magazines of more than ten rounds are older than the United States. Box magazines pre-date the Civil War. In terms of large-scale commercial success, rifle magazines of more than ten rounds had become popular by the time the Fourteenth Amendment was being ratified. Handgun magazines of more than ten rounds would become popular in the 1930s.

**A. Firearms Capable of Firing Multiple Shots Without Reloading Originated over Four Hundred Years Ago.**

When a firearm being used for defense is out of ammunition, the defender no longer has a functional firearm. The Second Amendment, of course, guarantees the right to a functional firearm. *See Heller*, 554 U.S. at 576, 628, 630, 635 (right to an “operable” firearm). As the Court explained, D.C. could not require that

lawfully-possessed guns be kept in an inoperable status in the home, because doing so affects their utility with respect to “the core lawful purpose of self-defense.” *Heller*, 554 U.S. at 630.

When the defender is reloading, the defender is especially vulnerable to attack. When ammunition is low but not exhausted (e.g., two or three rounds remaining), that may be insufficient to deter or control the threat, especially if the threat is posed by more than one criminal. Accordingly, from the outset of firearms manufacturing, one constant goal has been to design firearms able to fire more rounds without reloading.

To this end, manufacturers have experimented with various designs of firearms and magazines for centuries. While not all of these experiments were successful, in terms of mass sales, they indicated where firearms development was headed. The first experiments to gain widespread commercial success in the United States came around the middle of the nineteenth century.

As with First Amendment technology (such as televisions or websites), the Second Amendment is not limited to the technology that existed in 1791. The *Heller* Court properly described such an asserted limit as “bordering on the

frivolous.”<sup>2</sup> But even if *Heller* had created such a rule, magazines of more than ten rounds are older than the Second Amendment.

The first known firearm that was able to fire more than ten rounds without reloading was a 16-shooter created around 1580, using “superposed” loads (each round stacked on top of the other).<sup>3</sup> Multi-shot guns continued to develop in the next two centuries, with such guns first issued to the British army in 1658.<sup>4</sup> One of the more successful of the early designs was the “Puckle Gun,” patented in 1718. It used pre-loaded cylinders of eleven charges and fired a separate charge with each pull of the trigger, much like a modern revolver.<sup>5</sup>

At the time that the Second Amendment was being ratified, the state of the art for multi-shot guns was the Girandoni air rifle, with a 20- or 22- shot magazine capacity. Merriweather Lewis carried one on the Lewis & Clark expedition. At the time, air guns were ballistically equal to powder guns, firing large bullets at a velocity similar to powder guns. The .46 and .49 caliber Girandoni rifles had been

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<sup>2</sup> *Heller*, 554 U.S. at 582 (“Some have made the argument, bordering on the frivolous, that only those arms in existence in the 18th century are protected by the Second Amendment. We do not interpret constitutional rights that way. Just as the First Amendment protects modern forms of communications . . . the Second Amendment extends, prima facie, to all instruments that constitute bearable arms, even those that were not in existence at the time of the founding.”).

<sup>3</sup> LEWIS WINANT, FIREARMS CURIOSA 168-70 (2009)(1<sup>st</sup> pub. 1954).

<sup>4</sup> Clayton E. Cramer & Joseph Olson, *Pistols, Crime, and Public Safety in Early America*, 44 WILLAMETTE L. REV. 699, 716-18 (2008).

<sup>5</sup> *Id.* at 716-17.

invented around 1779 for use in European armies, and were employed by elite units. One shot could penetrate a one-inch wood plank, or take down an elk.<sup>6</sup>

**B. The Nineteenth Century Brought Significant Advances in Multi-shot Technology.**

Firearm technology progressed rapidly in the 1800s. Manufacturers were constantly attempting to produce reliable firearms with greater ammunition capacities for consumers. One notable step came in 1821 with the introduction of the Jennings multi-shot flintlock rifle, which, borrowing the superposed projectile design from centuries before, could fire 12 shots before reloading.<sup>7</sup> Around the same time, pistol technology also advanced to permit more than ten shots being fired without reloading. “Pepperbox” pistols began to be produced in the 1830s. These pistols had multiple barrels that would fire sequentially. While the most common configurations were five or six shots, some models had 12 independently firing barrels, and there were even models with 18 or 24. Pepperboxes were

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<sup>6</sup> JIM GARRY, WEAPONS OF THE LEWIS & CLARK EXPEDITION 91-103 (2012); JOHN PLASTER, THE HISTORY OF SNIPING & SHARPSHOOTING 69-70 (2008); Girandoni Air Rifle, [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Girandoni\\_Air\\_Rifle](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Girandoni_Air_Rifle); JIM SUPICA, DOUG WICKLUND & PHILIP SCHREIER, TREASURES OF THE NRA NATIONAL FIREARMS MUSEUM 31 (2013).

<sup>7</sup> NORM FLAYDERMAN, FLAYDERMAN’S GUIDE TO ANTIQUE AMERICAN FIREARMS AND THEIR VALUES 683 (9th ed. 2007). According to James S. Hutchins, Historian Emeritus at the National Museum of American History, Smithsonian Institution, Mr. Flayderman is a “revered expert in antique American arms and a vast range of other Americana for half a century.” James S. Hutchins, Foreword, in NORM FLAYDERMAN, THE BOWIE KNIFE 7 (2004).

commercially successful, and it took a number of years for Samuel Colt's revolvers (also invented in the 1830s) to surpass them in the marketplace.<sup>8</sup>

The 1830s through the 1850s saw a number of different firearm designs intended to increase ammunition capacity. In 1838, the Bennet & Haviland Rifle was produced; it was a rifle version of the pepperbox, with 12 individual chambers that were manually rotated after each shot. This would bring a new chamber, pre-loaded with powder and shot, into the breach, ready to be fired.<sup>9</sup> Alexander Hall and Colonel Parry W. Porter each created rifles with capacities greater than ten in the 1850s, though they were limited in production. Hall's design had a 15-shot rotating cylinder (similar to a revolver), while Porter's design used a 38-shot canister magazine.<sup>10</sup>

The great breakthrough, however, began with a collaboration of Daniel Wesson (of "Smith & Wesson") and Oliver Winchester. They produced the first metallic cartridge—containing the gunpowder, primer, and ammunition in a metallic case, just like modern ammunition. And they invented a firearms mechanism that was well-suited to the new metallic cartridge: the lever action.

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<sup>8</sup> LEWIS WINANT, PEPPERBOX FIREARMS (2001)(1<sup>st</sup> pub. 1952); SUPICA, TREASURES at 33, 250 (Marietta 18 shot model); JACK DUNLAP, AMERICAN, BRITISH AND CONTINENTAL PEPPERBOX FIREARMS 148-49, 167 (1964) (three European 18 shot models, and one 24 shot model); WINANT, FIREARMS CURIOSA at 250 (24 shot pepperbox).

<sup>9</sup> FLAYDERMAN at 711.

<sup>10</sup> FLAYDERMAN at 713, 716.



Their company, the Volcanic Repeating Arms Company, introduced the lever action rifle in 1855. This rifle had up to a 30-round tubular magazine under the barrel that was operated by manipulating a lever on the bottom of the stock. The lever-action allowed a shooter to quickly expel spent cartridges and ready the firearm for additional shots.<sup>11</sup> An 1859 advertisement bragged that the guns could be loaded and fire 30 shots in less than a minute.<sup>12</sup> In 1862, the Volcanic evolved into the 15-round Henry lever action rifle.<sup>13</sup>

The Henry rifle further evolved into the Winchester repeating rifle, and the market for these firearms greatly expanded with the first gun produced under the Winchester name. Winchester touted the Model 1866 for defense against “sudden attack, either from robbers or Indians.”<sup>14</sup> According to advertising, the M1866 “can be fired thirty times a minute,”<sup>15</sup> or with 17 in the magazine and one in the chamber, “eighteen charges, which can be fired in nine seconds.”<sup>16</sup> The gun was a

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<sup>11</sup> HAROLD F. WILLIAMSON, WINCHESTER: THE GUN THAT WON THE WEST 13, 25 (1952); FLAYDERMAN at 304-06 (about 1,250 made).

<sup>12</sup> WILLIAMSON at 25.

<sup>13</sup> FLAYDERMAN at 304-06.

<sup>14</sup> R.L. WILSON, THE WINCHESTER: AN AMERICAN LEGEND 11, 32 (1991).

<sup>15</sup> WILLIAMSON at 49.

<sup>16</sup> LOUIS A. GARAGLIA & CHARLES G. WORMAN, FIREARMS OF THE AMERICAN WEST 128-29 (1985). The Winchester Model 1866 was produced until 1898. FLAYDERMAN at 306.

particularly big seller in the American West.<sup>17</sup> There were over 170,000 Model 1866s produced.<sup>18</sup>

Next came the Winchester M1873, “The gun that won the West.” The Winchester M1873 and then the M1892 were lever actions holding 12 to 17 rounds in tubular magazines. There were over 720,000 copies of the Winchester 1873 produced, from 1873 to 1919.<sup>19</sup> Over a million of the M1892 were produced from 1892-1941.<sup>20</sup> Reproductions of all of the above Winchesters are produced today by the Italian company Uberti, which specializes in high-quality reproductions of Western firearms.<sup>21</sup> Another iconic rifle of the latter 19th century was the pump action Colt Lightning rifle, with a 15-round capacity.<sup>22</sup>

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<sup>17</sup> WILSON at 34.

<sup>18</sup> FLAYDERMAN at 306.

<sup>19</sup> FLAYDERMAN at 307-09. The Model 1873 was Pa Cartwright’s gun on the 1959-1973 television series *Bonanza*. SUPICA, TREASURES at 108.

<sup>20</sup> FLAYDERMAN at 307-12. The Model 1892 was John Wayne’s gun in many movies. SUPICA, TREASURES at 109.

<sup>21</sup> 2014 STANDARD CATALOG OF FIREARMS, at 1237, 1240-41 (Jerry Lee ed. 2013). This annually-published guide was relied on by *Kirkland v. District of Columbia*, 70 F.3d 629, 635 n.3 (D.C. Cir. 1995) (citing the 1995 5<sup>th</sup> edition).

<sup>22</sup> The Uberti is a modern replica of the Colt Lightning, medium frame model, of which 89,000 were produced between 1887 and 1904. The original Colt held up to 15 rounds, in calibers of .32-20, .38-40, and .44-40. FLAYDERMAN at 122-23.

Manufactured in Maine, the Evans Repeating Rifle came on the market in 1873. The innovative rotary helical magazine in the buttstock held 34 rounds.<sup>23</sup> It was commercially successful for a while, although not at Winchester's or Colt's levels. Over 12,000 copies were produced.<sup>24</sup>

Meanwhile, the first handgun to use a detachable box magazine was the ten-round Jarre harmonica pistol, patented in 1862.<sup>25</sup> Pin-fire revolvers with capacities of up to 20 or 21 entered the market in the 1850s; they were produced for the next half century, but were significantly more popular in Europe than in America.<sup>26</sup> For revolvers with other firing mechanisms, there were some models with more than 17 rounds.<sup>27</sup> The 20-round Josselyn belt-fed chain pistol introduced in 1866, and

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<sup>23</sup> DWIGHT B. DEMERITT, JR., *MAINE MADE GUNS & THEIR MAKERS* 294-95 (rev. ed.) (Friends of the Maine State Museum, 1997). A later iteration of the rifle held 25 or 28 rounds in the buttstock. *Id.* at 331; FLAYDERMAN at 694. The American Society of Arms Collectors endorses the Demeritt book as “the definitive work for historians and collectors” of Maine guns. DEMERITT at vi.

<sup>24</sup> FLAYDERMAN at 694; DEMERITT at 332.

<sup>25</sup> WINANT, *FIREARMS CURIOSA* at 244-45; SUPICA, *TREASURES* at 33. The magazine stuck out horizontally from the side of the firing chamber, making the handgun difficult to carry in a holster, which perhaps explains why the gun never had mass success.

<sup>26</sup> WINANT, *FIREARMS CURIOSA* at 60-61, 63, 67-71 (16, 18, and 20 shot European revolvers are on pages 67-71); SUPICA, *TREASURES*, at 48-49 (21 shot Belgian).

<sup>27</sup> WINANT, *FIREARMS CURIOSA* 62, 64-65 (.22 cal.; 18 shots from one cylinder); 207-08 (Enouy “Ferris Wheel” revolver; 42 shots from 7 cylinders). *Cf. id.* at 250 (Beals prototype 24 shot revolver).

various other chain pistols had even greater capacity.<sup>28</sup> Chain pistols did not win much market share, perhaps because the large dangling chain was such an impediment to carrying the gun.

The late nineteenth century also saw the introduction of the semi-automatic pistol. Even at this early stage of development, companies were selling firearms and magazines with a capacity of more than ten rounds. For example, Mauser sold the C96 semiautomatic pistol beginning in 1896. This firearm was very successful in both the civilian and military markets. It had a fixed magazine of six, ten, or twenty rounds.<sup>29</sup> The Luger semi-automatic pistol was introduced a few years later, in 1899, and also was very popular. Magazines designed and sold for this pistol contained either 7, 8, or 32 rounds.<sup>30</sup>

**C. Manufacturers in the Twentieth Century Continued the Trend of Increasing Ammunition Capacity and Reliability for Civilian Firearms.**

The Twentieth Century saw improvements on the designs pioneered in the 1800s, and expanding popularity for firearms with more than ten rounds.

Since the late 1890s, the Savage Repeating Arms Company has been one of the classic American firearms manufacturers. In 1911, the company introduced

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<sup>28</sup> WINANT, FIREARMS CURIOSA at 204-08 (Guycot 25 shot chain pistol and 100 shot chain rifle).

<sup>29</sup> 2014 STANDARD CATALOG OF FIREARMS at 708-09. The 20-round version was the “Cone Hammer.” *Id.*

<sup>30</sup> JEAN-NOËL MOURET, PISTOLS AND REVOLVERS 126-27 (1993); SUPICA, TREASURES at 86.

their bolt action Model 1911, a 20-shot repeater with a tubular magazine in .22 Short. The rifle was popular for boys, and for shooting galleries.<sup>31</sup>

By the 1930s, the classic American manufacturers were producing many tubular magazine rifles in .22 caliber. These firearms are classic rifles for “plinking” (casual target shooting), especially popular for young people. Based on firearms catalogues from 1936-1971, there were over 20 such firearms models from major American manufacturers with magazines of 16-30 rounds in one or more of the calibers.<sup>32</sup>

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<sup>31</sup> JIM PERKINS, *AMERICAN BOYS’ RIFLES 1890-1945*, at 191-92 (1976). Similarly, the Remington Model 12B Gallery Special was introduced in 1910, with an optional extended magazine that held 25 .22 short. ROY MARCOT, *REMINGTON, AMERICA’S OLDEST GUN MAKER* 149 (1998).

<sup>32</sup> *Shooter’s Bible 1936*: Remington Model 34 bolt action, Remington Model 121 slide action, Remington Model 341 bolt action, Stevens No. 71 slide action, Savage Model 5 bolt action, Stevens Model 76 semi auto, Stevens-Springfield Model 86 bolt action, Winchester Model 62 slide action, Winchester Model 61 slide action. STOEGER SHOOTER’S BIBLE TREASURY REPRODUCTION OF 1936 CATALOG 108-09, 112, 123, 124, 126, 127, 140 (1960).

Some additional models appearing in a 1948 hunting magazine: Stevens Model 87 bolt action, Remington 550 semi-auto, Mossberg Model 46B bolt action, Mossberg Model 46M bolt action, Winchester Model 74 semi-automatic, Marlin 39 A lever action, Marlin Model 81 DL bolt action. BROWNELL INDUSTRIES INC. *THE GUNSMITH MART* NO. 2 1949-1950, at 212, 214, 216, 218, 221 (reprinting article from *Hunting & Fishing*, Oct. 1948).

The 1959 annual edition of the *Shooter’s Bible* adds the semiautomatic Savage Model 6 to the above list. THE “SHOOTER’S BIBLE” NO. 50, 1959, at 103 (1959). *See id.* at 80, 87, 91, 101 for some of the models previously mentioned.

Histories of Savage and Stevens firearms includes the following not listed above: Stevens No. 66 bolt action, Stevens Model 46 bolt action, Model 1914 slide action, Savage Model 29 slide action, Savage Model 29 G slide action. JAY KIMMEL, *SAVAGE AND STEVENS ARMS* 49, 53, 79, 102, 165, 167-68, 177 (5<sup>th</sup> ed.

In 1927, the Auto Ordnance Company introduced their semi-automatic rifle that used 30-round magazines.<sup>33</sup> These rifles are still in production today.

The M-1 carbine was invented for the citizen soldier of World War II. The M-1 carbine has been a popular rifle for civilians in America for decades. The United States government's Civilian Marksmanship Program, a program created by Congress, put nearly a quarter-million of these guns into the hands of law-abiding American citizens, starting in 1963, at steeply-discounted prices. Partly using surplus government parts, the Plainfield Machine Company, Iver Johnson, and more than a dozen other companies cumulatively manufactured over 200,000 for the civilian market, starting in the late 1950s. The standard magazines are 15 and 30 rounds.<sup>34</sup>

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1990); BILL WEST, SAVAGE AND STEVENS ARMS 11-12, 13-8, 14-44, 15-10, 16-10 (1971) (page numbering recommences in each chapter). Savage purchased Stevens in 1920.

For use of *The Shooter's Bible* by the courts, see *United States v. Olson*, 1995 WL 746177 at \*1 (9th Cir. Dec. 15, 1995) (book was properly used as a source for ATF agent's expert opinion); *United States v. Precise Import Corp.*, 458 F.2d 1376, 1377 (Cust. & Pat. App., 1972) (record reflects district court's admission of pages from the 1967 edition as an exhibit); *United States v. Fisher*, 353 F.2d 396, 399 (5th Cir. 1965) (Gewin, J., dissenting) (noting that experts had relied on the book); *Potter v. United States* 167 Ct. Cl. 28, 80 n.1 (Ct. Cl. 1964) (citing the book for the history of Gabilondo firearms).

<sup>33</sup> 2014 STANDARD CATALOG at 84.

<sup>34</sup> LARRY L. RUTH, WAR BABY COMES HOME: THE U.S. CALIBER .30 CARBINE (1993); BRUCE N. CANFIELD, COMPLETE GUIDE TO THE M1 GARAND AND THE M1 CARBINE 163, 165, 167, 206-08, 279 (2d ed. 2010); Civilian Marksmanship Program, Carbine Sales, <http://www.thecmp.org/Sales/carbine.htm> M1 Carbines

The most popular rifle in American history is the AR-15 platform, a semi-automatic rifle with standard magazines of 20 or 30 rounds.<sup>35</sup> The AR-15 was brought to the market in 1963, with a then-standard magazine of 20; the 30-round standard magazine was developed a few years later.<sup>36</sup> By 1969 there was also the Armalite-180 (20-round optional magazine), the J&R 68 carbine (30 rounds), and the Eagle Apache carbine (30 rounds).<sup>37</sup>

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Incorporated website, <http://www.m1carbinesinc.com/> (on company-specific pages, the largest producers were Plainfield's 112,000 from 1962-78; and Iver Johnson's 96,700 from 1978-92). The U.S. government sold 240,000 of its own surplus in 1963 into the Civilian Marksmanship Program. Thereafter, the program (then known as "DCM"—Director of Civilian Marksmanship), sold M1s to Americans from the supply of WWII M1 carbines that had been exported to allied nations, and subsequently returned to the U.S. when the allied nation switched to a newer type of rifle. As of 2014, the CMP's supply of carbines for sale has been exhausted. See Civilian Marksmanship Program, Carbine Sales, <http://www.thecmp.org/Sales/carbine.htm>.

<sup>35</sup> The "AR" stands for "Armalite Rifle." ArmaLite, <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/ArmaLite>.

<sup>36</sup> PATRICK SWEENEY, GUN DIGEST BOOK OF THE AR-15 104 (2005). About this time, the Cetme-Sport semi-auto rifle with optional 20-round detachable box mag magazine came on the market. GUN DIGEST 22<sup>ND</sup> ANNIVERSARY 1968 DELUXE EDITION, at 335 (John T. Amber ed. 1967); H.B. Young, *The CETME—Military to Sporter*, GUNS (Nov. 1967): 26-27, 57-58.

<sup>37</sup> GUN DIGEST 24<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY 1970 DELUXE EDITION 294 (John T. Amber ed. 1969).

Springfield Armory brought out the M1A semi-automatic rifle in 1974, with a 20-round detachable box magazine.<sup>38</sup> The next year, the Ruger Mini-14 was introduced, with manufacturer-supplied standard 5-, ten-, or 20-round detachable magazines.<sup>39</sup> Both the M1A and the Mini-14 are very popular to this day.<sup>40</sup>

By 1979, all of the above guns faced competition in the American market from high quality European imports such as the Belgian FN-FAL Competition rifle (optional 20-round magazine), the German Heckler & Koch HK-91 and HK-93 rifles (20 rounds), the Swiss SIG AMT rifle (20 rounds), and the Finnish Valmet M-71S rifle (30 rounds).<sup>41</sup>

Citizen firearms with detachable magazines holding more than ten rounds were not limited to rifles, however. In 1935, Browning introduced the Hi-Power

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<sup>38</sup> 2014 STANDARD CATALOG at 1102; “M1A,” Wikipedia, [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/M1A\\_rifle](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/M1A_rifle) (year of introduction).

<sup>39</sup> 2104 STANDARD CATALOG at 1173.

<sup>40</sup> Another gun introduced in 1975 also used magazines larger than 15. The Bingham company (from Norcross, Georgia) brought out the PPS 50 and AK-22, .22 caliber rifles with detachable magazines of 50 or 29 rounds. 2014 STANDARD CATALOG at 164. The PPS-50 is currently manufactured by Mitchell’s Mausers. <http://www.mauser.org/pps-50-22/>. That the gun is still in production four decades later is impressive, but the PPS-50 never became an all-American favorite as did the M1, AR-15, M1A and the Mini-14.

<sup>41</sup> GUN DIGEST 1980, at 319-21 (1979). Also on the market were the Commando Arms carbine (5, 15, 30 or 90 rounds), and the Wilkinson Terry carbine (31 rounds). *Id.* at 319, 322.



pistol. This handgun was sold with a 13-round detachable and is still in production.<sup>42</sup>

In Europe more so than in America, Browning faced competition from the Spanish Gabilondo 20-round “Plus Ultra,” introduced in 1925.<sup>43</sup> Spain’s Arostegui, Eulogio brought out the Azul—a semi-automatic with standard magazines of ten, 20 and 30—in 1935.<sup>44</sup>

Browning’s first notable American competition came with the 1964 introduction of the Plainfield Machine Company’s “Enforcer,” a pistol version of the M1 carbine (discussed above), with a 30-round magazine.<sup>45</sup>

A tremendous commercial success was the Beretta model 92, a 9mm pistol with a 16-round magazine, which entered the market in 1976.<sup>46</sup> In various configurations (currently the Beretta 92F), the Beretta is one of the most popular of all modern handguns.<sup>47</sup> Browning introduced another popular handgun in 1977, the

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<sup>42</sup> 2014 STANDARD CATALOG at 182-83, 432-33.

<sup>43</sup> *Id.* at 464-66 (manufactured 1925-33).

<sup>44</sup> *Id.* at 72-73 (manufactured 1935-40); JOHN W. BREATHED, JR. & JOSEPH J. SCHROEDER, JR., SYSTEM MAUSER, A PICTORIAL HISTORY OF THE MODEL 1896 SELF-LOADING PISTOL 216-17 (1967).

<sup>45</sup> GUN DIGEST 1965, 19TH ANNIVERSARY DELUXE EDITION 229 (John T. Amber ed. 1964).

<sup>46</sup> 2014 STANDARD CATALOG at 121.

<sup>47</sup> *Id.* at 121-26. In 1985 the M9 version of this pistol became the standard U.S. military issue sidearm.

14-round BDA (Browning Double Action).<sup>48</sup> Also coming on the market at this time were European handguns such as Austria's L.E.S. P-18 (18 rounds) and Germany's Heckler & Koch VP 70Z (also 18).<sup>49</sup>

## II. CONNECTICUT'S DRACONIAN RESTRICTION ON MAGAZINE CAPACITY HAS NO HISTORICAL BASIS.

At the time the Second Amendment was adopted, there were no laws restricting ammunition capacity. This was not because all guns were single-shot. As detailed above, multi-shot guns predate the Second Amendment by about 200 years, and Lewis & Clark carried a powerful 22 round gun on their famous expedition.

Laws prohibiting magazines are not "longstanding and thereby deserving of a presumption of validity." *Heller v. District of Columbia*, 670 F.3d 1244, 1260 n. \* (D.C. Cir. 2011) ("*Heller II*").<sup>50</sup> The first laws that actually restricted magazine

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<sup>48</sup> *Id.* at 184.

<sup>49</sup> GUN DIGEST 34TH ANNIVERSARY 1980 DELUXE EDITION, at 297-98 (Ken Warner ed., 1979). L.E.S. was the American partner of Austria's Steyr. The following courts have relied on one of the annual issues of *Gun Digest*: *A. Uberti and C. v. Leonardo*, 892 P.2d 1354, 1364 (Ariz. 1995) (when certain guns were available for sale to Arizona residents); *Citizens for a Safer Community v. City of Rochester*, 627 N.Y.S.2d 193, 203 n.5 (N.Y. Sup. 1994); *Sturm, Ruger & Co. Inc. v. Arcadia Mach. & Tool Inc.*, 1988 WL 391514 at \*2 (C.D. Cal. 1988) (influence of a particular model on Ruger's recognition by consumers); *Couplin v. State*, 378 A.2d 197 205 n.2 (Md. App. 1977)(examples of a particular type of gun).

<sup>50</sup> The *Heller II* Court was correct about history, but was not rigorous in its application of modern doctrine. In upholding the D.C. magazine ban, the divided panel relied heavily on an analogy to the First Amendment's "alternative channels

capacity were enacted during the Prohibition Era, nearly a century and a half after the Second Amendment was adopted.

In 1927, Michigan prohibited the sale of “machine gun[s] or firearm[s] which can be fired more than sixteen times without reloading . . . .” 1927 Mich. Laws 887, 888. Rhode Island enacted a similar law. *See* R.I. Acts 1927, ch. 1052 § 1 (12-shot limitation). Notably, these were sales-only limits, not the criminalization of mere possession. The two statutes applied only to firearms and not to a magazine that was not even inserted in a firearm. These statutes did not go so far as Connecticut’s more-than-ten-round ban on mere possession. *Cf. Jackson v. City and County of San Francisco*, No. 12-17803 (9th Cir. March 25, 2014) (upholding local ban on sales while emphasizing that it is not a ban on possession).

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of communication” doctrine. The D.C. Circuit panel majority failed to consider that “alternative channels” is a doctrine for public speech, especially on public property, which allows leafleting to be limited on public property; it is not a doctrine allowing the criminalization of the possession of leaflets within one’s own home.

More fundamentally, the alternative channels doctrine mandates a serious inquiry into the adequacy of those alternative channels, and strong evidence that the alternative channels are (at least) nearly as effective as whatever channel is being restricted. However, the *Heller II* majority merely cited to the opinion of the D.C. police chief, and to the legislative testimony of a gun prohibition lobbyist, as evidence that self-defense with other firearms and smaller magazines would be just as effective. *Heller II*, 670 F.3d at 1259. It was clearly erroneous for the D.C. Circuit to treat such highly-contested assertions as conclusive at the summary judgment stage.

In the following decades, the Michigan and Rhode Island statutes were modified to increase the limits, and then were completely repealed. *See* M.C.L. § 750.224 (currently prohibiting, as a machine gun, only a “firearm that shoots or is designed to shoot automatically more than 1 shot without manual reloading, by a single function of the trigger”); *see also* 1989 R.I. ALS 542, § 7 (same).

In 1932, Congress passed a D.C. law prohibiting the possession of a firearm that “shoots, is designed to shoot or can be readily converted to shoot . . . semi-automatically, more than 12 shots without reloading.”<sup>51</sup> In contrast, when Congress enacted the National Firearms Act of 1934 to impose stringent regulations on machine guns, it chose to impose no restrictions on magazines. Act of June 26, 1934, ch. 757, 48 Stat. 1236. When D.C. achieved home rule in 1975, the Council did not choose to repeal the law, but instead promptly enacted the bans on handguns and on self-defense with any gun in the home, which were later ruled unconstitutional by the Supreme Court in *Heller*. “Firearms Control Regulations Act of 1975,” Law 1-85, Bill no. 1-164, 23 D.C.R. 2464. The D.C. government interpreted the law so that it outlawed all magazines and all semi-automatic handguns. (In contrast to the state approach, discussed above.)<sup>52</sup> D.C. stands alone in its twentieth century restriction of magazines.

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<sup>51</sup> Act of July 8, 1932, ch. 465, §§ 1, 8, 47 Stat. 650, 650, 652.

<sup>52</sup> *See* Vivian Chu, Cong. Res. Svc., *DC Gun Laws and Proposed Amendments* (2011) (“Prior to *Heller*, the DC Code’s definition of ‘machine gun’ included ‘any

The only widespread restriction on magazine capacity came in 1994 when Congress enacted a ban on new magazines holding more than ten rounds. The law was in effect until 2004, at which point Congress allowed it to sunset. Pub.L. 103-322, Title XI, § 110105(2), Sept. 13, 1994, 108 Stat. 2000. The effects of this law were studied extensively by Dr. Christopher Koper, who reported on the law's efficacy in 2004. He stated "the ban has not yet reduced the use of [such magazines] in crime . . . ." Christopher Koper, *Updated Assessment of the Federal Assault Weapons Ban: Impacts on Gun Markets and Gun Violence, 1994-2003* at 2 (2004). Dr. Koper was even more critical of the notion that laws restricting certain firearms and limiting magazine capacity could reduce criminal activity: "[b]ecause offenders can substitute non-banned guns and small magazines for banned [guns and magazines], there is not a clear rationale for expecting the ban to reduce assaults and robberies with guns." *Id.* at 81. Dr. Koper noted also that state-level firearm bans have not had an impact on crime. *Id.* at 81, n. 95.

Despite the ineffectiveness of the federal law on criminal events using banned magazines, a few states have recently enacted restrictions on magazines.

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firearm, which shoots, is designed to shoot or can be readily converted to shoot ... semiautomatically, more than 12 shots without manual reloading.' [citing DC Code § 7-2501.01(10)(B) (2008)]. By virtue of this broad definition, any semiautomatic weapon that could shoot more than 12 shots without manual reloading, whether pistol, rifle, or shotgun, was deemed a 'machine gun, and prohibited from being registered. It appears under the District's old definition, registration of a pistol was largely limited to revolvers.'").

Only two states, Hawaii and New York, ban completely the possession of all magazines over a certain capacity, and Hawaii's law applies only to handguns. Haw. Rev. Stat. § 134-8(c); N.Y. Penal L. § 265.00(23) (enacted 2013). California does not prohibit the possession of magazines with a capacity greater than ten, even though the manufacturing, importing, selling, buying, and lending of such magazines is prohibited. Cal. Penal Code § 32310(a). Maryland prohibits sales, but does not ban possession or importation. Md. Code Ann. Crim. L. § 4-305.

New Jersey's 15-round limit is only for magazines for semi-automatic firearms, not for other types of firearms, and it has exemptions for certain competitive shooters. N.J. Stat. § 2C:39-1y.<sup>53</sup> Ohio's statute simply forbids actually inserting a magazine of more than 31 rounds into a firearm. Ohio Rev. Code Ann. 2923.11(E) (also exempting .22 caliber).

Most importantly, Massachusetts shows the ready availability of a "less restrictive alternative." That is, the law does "not burden the right substantially more . . . than is necessary to further the government's legitimate interests." *Peruta v. County of San Diego*, 742 F.3d 1144, 1177 (9th Cir. 2014)(quoting *Turner Broadcasting System, Inc. v. FCC*, 520 U.S. 180, 214 (1997)(internal quotation marks and brackets omitted). Besides allowing for complete grandfathering,

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<sup>53</sup> New Jersey prohibits the possession of magazines over a certain capacity unless the possessor also lawfully possesses an "assault weapon" and uses the banned magazine in connection with a sanctioned competitive shooting match. N.J. Stat. § 2C:39-3(j).

Massachusetts also allows for new acquisitions if the citizen has a “Class A” firearms license—which most of Massachusetts gun owners do.<sup>54</sup>

### **III. MAGAZINES WITH A CAPACITY OF MORE THAN TEN ROUNDS ARE COMMONLY POSSESSED FOR LAWFUL PURPOSES.**

The District Court correctly determined that the “magazines at issue are ‘in common use’ within the meaning of Heller and, presumably, for lawful purposes.” SPA-17.<sup>55</sup> The District Court’s determination that “millions of Americans commonly possess firearms that have magazines which hold more than ten cartridges,” SPA-16-17, is in harmony with the other courts that have dealt with the question of magazine commonality. *Accord Heller II*, 670 F.3d at 1261 (“[F]ully 18 percent of all firearms owned by civilians in 1994 were equipped with magazines holding more than ten rounds, and approximately 4.7 million more [of] such magazines were imported into the United States between 1995 and 2000.”); *Fyock v. City of Sunnyvale*, No. 13-5807, 2014 U.S. Dist LEXIS 29722 at \*13-14 (N.D. Cal. March 5, 2014)(“Whatever the actual number of such magazines in

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<sup>54</sup> Mass. Gen. Laws 140 §§ 121, 131 (grandfathering for all lawful owners; acquisition of magazines manufactured before Sept. 1994 by anyone with a Class A license); Matt Carroll, *Snapshot: Gun Licenses Per 1,000, 2012*, BOSTON GLOBE, Jan. 24, 2013, [http://www.boston.com/yourtown/specials/snapshot/massachusetts\\_snapshot\\_gun\\_licenses\\_2012](http://www.boston.com/yourtown/specials/snapshot/massachusetts_snapshot_gun_licenses_2012) (prevalence of Class A licenses).

<sup>55</sup> Citations to “SPA- ” are to the Special Appendix attached to Plaintiffs-Appellants brief in this Court.

United States' consumers hands is, it is in the tens of millions, even under the most conservative estimates.”).

Tellingly, two government defendants involved in litigation over this issue conceded that they are in common use nationally. *See N.Y. State Rifle & Pistol Ass'n v. Cuomo*, No. 13-CV-291S, 2013 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 182307 at \*37 (December 31, 2013)(conceding that magazines with a capacity greater than ten are in common use); *Colorado Outfitters Association, et al. v. John W. Hickenlooper*, No. 1:13-cv-01300, Dkt. 119 (D. Co. Jan. 31, 2014)(The parties stipulated: “Although the total number is not known, the number of lawfully owned semi-automatic firearms that utilize a detachable box magazine with a capacity greater than 15 rounds is in the tens of millions.”).

Magazines capable of holding more than ten rounds are commonly used for lawful purposes, including self-defense, as the lower court held here.<sup>56</sup> SPA-16-17; *see also Fyock*, 2014 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 29722 at \*12 (noting the Plaintiffs' evidence illustrated the utility of these magazines for self-defense); *see also N.Y. State Rifle & Pistol Ass'n*, 2013 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 182307 at \*37-38; *Colorado Outfitters Association*, Dkt. 119 (stipulation that “Semi-automatic firearms

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<sup>56</sup> Indeed, some competitive shooting events require magazines with a capacity greater than ten to compete. *See The Exciting Sport of 3-Gun Shooting*, NSSF, <http://www.nssf.org/events/featurette/2012/0712.cfm> (stating that most competitors choose .223 caliber rifles with 30-round magazines but any rifle that “will handle larger magazines” will be permitted).



equipped with detachable box magazines with a capacity greater than 15 rounds are used for multiple lawful purposes, including recreational target shooting, competition shooting, collecting, hunting, and are kept for home defense and defense outside the home.”). The utility of magazines holding more than ten rounds for self-defense is illustrated most clearly when considering an individual who, because of age or disability, cannot quickly change magazines. For example, an individual with a significant injury to one arm or hand can be an extremely proficient marksman with a pistol, but will not be able to change magazines quickly, or even without assistance. Limiting magazine capacity to ten rounds artificially limits this person’s ability to defend himself.

The lower court did not even address the impact of the magazine ban on citizens’ ability to lawfully defend themselves with a firearm. Not all shots hit an attacker. Of those that do, few are immediately incapacitating, unless they strike the heart or the central nervous system. Yet when the defender has sufficient reserve capacity, even multiple attackers may decide to desist from an attack. That is why American law enforcement officers ubiquitously carry handguns with more than ten rounds of ammunition, and often more than 15. It is also why their rifles typically have 20 or 30 round magazines, not ten. IACP NATIONAL LAW ENFORCEMENT POLICY CENTER BOARD, *The Patrol Rifle: Considerations for Adoption and Use*, THE POLICE CHIEF 68, 77 (Feb. 2007), available at

<http://www.policechiefmagazine.org/magazine/issues/22007/pdfs/ThePatrolRifle.pdf> (“Police-suitable rifles may offer a variety of magazine capacities. The typical magazine for the .223 rifle holds 20 or 30 rounds.”).

The District Court’s methodology, or lack thereof, was flatly contrary to *Heller*. The *Heller* Court repeatedly emphasized how often law-abiding American citizens choose to possess or use handguns for self-defense. 554 U.S. at 616 (“an individual right to use arms for self-defense”), 625 (“typically possessed by law-abiding citizens for lawful purposes”), 625 n.25 (criticizing on other grounds a case which described a ban on gun possession by convicted criminals as “legislative restrictions on the use of firearms”); 627 (approvingly quoting *U.S. v. Miller*: “arms supplied by themselves and of the kind in common use at the time”); 628-29 (quoting with approval the opinion below, “the most preferred firearm in the nation to ‘keep’ and use for protection of one’s home and family”); 629 (listing reasons why Americans prefer to possess handguns: “handguns are the most popular weapon chosen by Americans for self-defense in the home, and a complete prohibition of their use is invalid.”); *id.* (requirement that firearms in the home must be inoperable “makes it impossible for citizens to use them for the core lawful purpose of self-defense”); 635 (Second Amendment “surely elevates above all other interests the right of law-abiding, responsible citizens to use arms in defense of hearth and home.”).

What mattered to the *Heller* Court was the choice of the American people about what guns to own. Accordingly, and by definition, handgun prohibition was unconstitutional. The same is true for the choice of magazines. The Connecticut law literally outlaws magazines that were invented before the Second Amendment. The Defendants-Appellees' assertions about the evils of magazines above ten rounds and the people who own them are belied by a very long history of the common ownership of such magazines by American citizens. Whether judged by American history and tradition, or by comparison to the handful of states in 2014 which restrict magazines, the Connecticut law is an eccentric and repressive outlier.

## CONCLUSION

For the foregoing reasons, this Court should declare that the Connecticut law violates the Second and Fourteenth Amendments to the United States Constitution.

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## CERTIFICATE OF COMPLIANCE

This brief complies with the type-volume limitations of Fed. R. App. P. 28(e)(2)(a) because this brief contains 6,483 words, excluding the parts of the brief exempted by Fed. R. App. P. 32(a)(7)(B)(iii).

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Dated: May 23, 2014

/s/ Patrick W. Brophy  
Patrick W. Brophy, Of Counsel

**CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I HEREBY CERTIFY that on this 23rd day of May, 2014, this brief of *Amici Curiae* the Center for Constitutional Jurisprudence and S.P. Fjestad was served, via electronic delivery to all parties' counsel via CM/ECF system which will forward copies to Counsel of Record.

/s/ Patrick W. Brophy  
Patrick W. Brophy, Of Counsel