

12/2/24 On November 29 Oak Park, IL police exchanged gunfire with a suspect who was said to have just exited a bank while carrying a gun. Detective Allan Reddins was killed, and the suspect, Chicago man Jerell Thomas, 37, was wounded. His criminal record includes two assaults on police officers, of which one led to a felony conviction, and several arrests for domestic battery. He is now charged with 1st. degree murder. His victim, Detective Reddins, is the first Oak Park officer shot while on duty “in over 85 years.”

10/24/24 Is the Federal law that bars felons from possessing guns unconstitutional? [One appeal](#) from a conviction under that law, in which the accused relied on the [Bruen](#) decision, was rejected by the 11th. Circuit. But other Circuits have split. So the Supreme Court just ordered that the 11th. Circuit revisit their case in light of the high court’s recent [Rahimi](#) decision. It held that persons who “pose a credible threat to the physical safety of another...may be temporarily disarmed consistent with the Second Amendment.” Only problem is, the felon gun prohibition isn’t “temporary.” (See 2/12/25 update)

9/17/24 [North Carolina corrections records](#) reveal that Ryan Wesley Routh, the 58-year old man who lay in wait with an assault rifle for Donald Trump, was convicted of felony machinegun possession in 2002 and felony possession of stolen goods in 2010. [He’s now been Federally charged](#) with being a felon with a gun and having a gun with an obliterated serial number. [In 2014 the FBI was tipped off](#) that Routh had guns, and it passed on the information to authorities in Hawaii, where he had moved. (See below update)

9/16/24 Ryan Wesley Routh, the 58-year old man who lay in wait with an AK-47 type rifle as Donald Trump played golf, had a substantial criminal record in North Carolina. His most serious reported arrest was in 2002, when he engaged in a “stand off” with cops who tried to stop him for driving on a revoked license. Routh fled and barricaded himself in a roofing business, where he was caught with a machine gun. He had other arrests, including a 2010 conviction for stolen goods. Routh moved to Hawaii in 2018. (See above update)

7/8/24 “We know it’s going on throughout the nation, but this is the first time that we’ve had a mass shooting in Florence.” In a heartfelt news conference, Florence, Kentucky Police Chief Jeff Mallery described the horrors perpetrated by 21-year old Chase Garvey, who burst into a birthday party and opened fire, killing a 44-year old householder and three guests and seriously wounding three others. Garvey, a local resident, committed suicide while being pursued. He had been convicted of felony rape and felony sodomy in 2021.

6/24/24 A study of state firearm “dispossession” laws reveals that 31 states require that persons subject to domestic violence protection orders relinquish their guns. Seventeen mandate it for persons with misdemeanor domestic violence convictions, and “only” nine for convicted felons. Eighteen states lack a dispossession law of any kind. And where such laws exist, most have “gaps” that hinder their usefulness. Few States impose unconditional requirements that judges issue “shall relinquish” orders whenever a person becomes prohibited, and that police take steps to enforce them.

6/13/24 Gun-packing evildoers, some armed with home-made “machineguns,” are besetting Naperville, a supposedly tony enclave an hour’s drive from Chicago. On June 11 Naperville police arrested a wanted parolee who was packing a loaded Glock that had been modified to fire fully automatically. A few days earlier officers seized a similar, illegally converted Glock from a 19-year old. And on that same day, they took two handguns from a 24-year old felon who had opened fire from his car.

6/12/24 To help combat the purchase of firearms on behalf of felons and other prohibited possessors, and the distribution of guns to criminal groups, Congress created specific laws that define “straw purchase” ([18 USC 932](#)) and “firearms trafficking” ([18 USC 933](#)). Enacted in June 2022 under the umbrella of the “Bipartisan Safer Communities Act”, these statutes have thus far led to more than five-hundred prosecutions. Each carries a maximum sentence of fifteen years.

6/5/24 On May 30 a police officer responding to a shots-fired call at a Minneapolis apartment complex approached a man sitting next to a car who seemed to need help. But Mustafa Mohamed, 35, was the shooter. He drew a gun and opened fire, killing officer Jamal Mitchell. Other officers exchanged fire with Mohamed. He was killed and an officer and bystander were wounded. A fatally wounded man and one with critical wounds were found inside an apartment. [Mohamed, a convicted burglar](#), was released from Federal prison in 2020 after serving a term for felon with a gun. He was presently wanted for robbery.

5/17/24 Illinois requires that would-be gun owners get an FOID card, which confirms they are eligible to have a gun. But authorities have not checked on more than eighty-thousand card holders who had their rights revoked due to a felony conviction, mental health issue or other serious reason. Police are supposed to take their cards and insure they don’t have guns. Illinois has provided some funding for revocation teams, but resources are lacking. Meanwhile gun misuse by revoked card holders continues.

5/1/24 A Deputy U.S. Marshal, two State corrections officers and a local police officer

were killed, and four local police officers were wounded, when they sought to arrest a felon wanted for gun violations at a residence in Charlotte, North Carolina. Terry Clark Hughes, 39, inflicted the casualties by firing on the officers with an AR-15 rifle from the home's second story as they approached. Clark was later shot and killed when he exited the residence. Two female occupants of the home are being questioned. [Chief's briefing](#)

[3/21/24](#) Just launched, "Operation Safe Cities" partners the FBI and ATF with local police to combat commercial robbery, kidnapping, extortion and gun crime in Southern California. "Sophisticated investigative tools" including firearms tracing will be used to target dangerous offenders for Federal prosecution. For example, persons with three or more prior convictions for violent crimes can draw a mandatory fifteen-year Federal term if caught with a gun.

[1/3/24](#) A ten-year old Sacramento County, Calif. boy shot and killed another ten-year old using a gun he found in his father's car. His dad, Arkete Davis, a 53-year old ex-con, then threw the gun into a trash can. Deputies found the gun, which had been reported stolen in 2017. They arrested the father on a variety of felonies, including felon with a firearm. His son was detained on murder charges.

[11/17/23](#) In the prosecution of a five-time convicted felon who used a gun during an armed robbery, a New York Federal judge ruled that the Supreme Court's [Bruen](#) decision rendered the Federal law that bars felons from possessing firearms unconstitutional. But he agreed that it was "a close question." His decision is now in the hands of the Seventh Circuit, which set a December 19 deadline for prosecutors to file their objection.

[11/8/23](#) A passerby spotted a 21-year old man ambling down the sidewalk across from D.C.'s Union Station. He was carrying an assault-style pistol. Because of the location's proximity to the Capitol, its police responded. But the man ignored their orders to stop. So they Tased him. Ahmir Lavon Merrell, a convicted sex offender, was arrested without further incident. Merrell, who is wanted for violating probation in Georgia, faces multiple charges, including ex-con with a gun.

[4/25/23](#) In March 2021 the 10-year old son of a Hanford, Calif. woman was shot dead by her ex-husband as he watched over the child. Victor Gomes then committed suicide. A judge had issued a restraining order years earlier forbidding Gomes from having firearms. Gomes turned in the gun he had, then went to a store and bought the one he would use in the murder-suicide. Apparently the restraining order had never been entered, as required, into the statewide CLETS database. Gomes' ex-spouse is now suing the State. She's also writing a book entitled "Can I Still Be Funny After My Son's

Murder?”

4/12/23 California’s “Armed and Prohibited Persons” system identifies persons who lawfully purchased a gun in the State but later became unqualified to possess firearms due to a felony conviction or other reason. State agents then endeavor to seize the firearms. In 2022 agents contacted about 24,000 persons and retrieved 1,437 firearms, including “712 handguns, 360 rifles, 194 shotguns, 80 assault weapons, 54 ghost guns, 43 receivers or frames, 3 short-barreled shotguns, and 1 machine gun.

12/17/22 Two-and-one-half years in Federal prison. That’s the sentence handed down to Jamel Danzy, who straw-purchased (bought for someone else) the pistol that two brothers, Eric and Emonte Morgan, used to shoot and kill Chicago police officer Ella French last year. Danzy admitted to an ATF agent that he bought the gun for Eric Morgan, who as a felon couldn’t do it himself. U.S. District Judge Gettleman gave Danzy, a “college-educated” man who expressed great remorse, half the maximum term.

8/22/22 Robert Adams, the 23-year old Black man shot dead by San Bernardino, Calif. officers July 16, [was on probation for armed robbery](#) and had outstanding warrants. Officers encountered him after being called about a man armed with a gun. [Video shows](#) Adams approaching their unmarked car, then running off while holding a pistol in his hand. Officers chased him on foot and ordered him to drop the gun. He did not, and they repeatedly fired. All the bullets entered from his back. A 9mm. pistol was recovered. Civil rights lawyer Benjamin Crump, who represents Adams’ survivors, criticized the shooting as needless.

8/12/22 Carlos Delcid, 20, and a 17-year old companion were arrested for the August 8 robbery-murder of rookie Monterey Park, Calif. police officer Gabriel Solorio. Officer Solorio, who was off-duty, was shot five times as he tried to flee. Delcid was on felony probation after recently pleading no contest to burglary and domestic violence (charges of assault with a deadly weapon, false imprisonment and witness intimidation were dismissed.) He also had a prior record.

6/30/22 Justin Flores, a 35-year old Southern California man, had a long criminal record. But thanks to the D.A.’s intercession, his conviction last year for felon with a gun resulted in probation. And even as Flores continued misbehaving - a warrant was recently issued for domestic violence - probation officers failed to follow up in person. So they’re also catching blame for the violent deaths of two El Monte police officers earlier this month, shot dead by Flores when they responded to reports of an assault at a motel. [According to the L.A. Times](#), probation officers visited Flores *once* in sixteen months.

6/20/22 A proposed gun-control compromise in the Senate would extend gun purchase background checks to juvenile records. But the present system, which scans buyers for adult felony convictions, domestic violence and drug use, is already highly stressed and riddled with “loopholes.” Authorities have only three days to respond before a weapon must be delivered. So thousands of buyers later deemed unqualified get guns each year. Incorporating information about 18-21 year olds would be a stretch.

6/17/22 According to a deputy L.A. county prosecutor, Justin Flores, who murdered two El Monte police officers on June 14, had a prior felony conviction that should have counted as a “strike” when he was arrested for drug and gun offenses in 2020. But new, progressive D.A. George Gascon forbid using enhancements. In 2021 Flores pled no contest, and the lack of a “strike” enabled him to get probation instead of prison time. Flores was under probation supervision when he gunned down the officers. Judges later ruled that State sentencing laws overruled Gascon’s lenient policy, and he withdrew it.

6/16/22 Justin Flores, the 35-year old man who shot and killed two El Monte (CA) police officers responding to a reported stabbing in a motel room, had multiple felony convictions dating back to 2011 and was barred from having guns. Indeed, he was on felony probation for a 2021 conviction for illegally possessing a firearm. His supervising officer had just requested that the probation be revoked because Flores assaulted his girlfriend, but instead of an arrest a hearing was scheduled for the near future.

1/31/22 On January 27, Roland Caballero, a three-time felon pending charges for aggravated robbery, opened fire with an alleged machinegun as Houston police officers responded to a domestic disturbance. His estimated 50-round barrage caused three officers to sustain “non-life threatening” wounds. Caballero eventually surrendered and is hospitalized with a bullet wound to the neck.

1/8/22 In a [*Washington Post* op-ed](#), Senator Dick Durbin (D-Ill), chair of the Judiciary Committee, cites [the killing of Chicago police officer Ella French](#) with a gun bought at a store on a felon’s behalf as an example of the risks of “straw” purchase. Senator Durbin and colleagues have introduced a “bipartisan bill,” the “[Stop Illegal Trafficking in Firearms Act of 2021](#)” that specifically makes purchasing guns for legally unqualified persons a Federal crime.

8/3/21 In response to a 2019 mass shooting that killed five persons and wounded six, including five police officers (see 2/16/19 update) Illinois enacted a law that directs State police to confiscate firearms from persons whose State firearms ID cards have been revoked, say, due to a felony conviction, but may still have guns. Background checks for private party gun sales will also be required beginning in 2024.

7/2/21 Missouri is one of nine States that has enacted laws that “discourage or prohibit” police from cooperating in the enforcement of Federal gun laws. Its “Second Amendment Preservation Act,” [which was ostensibly intended](#) to soften the blow should new Federal gun regulations pass, declares many Federal gun laws “invalid” and prohibits police from participating in their enforcement. Accordingly, some Missouri agencies have pulled their officers from working with ATF. However, [the Administration’s gun bill has stalled in the Senate](#). It would expand background checks to include private party and gun show sales and lengthen the waiting period from three to ten days. That seems important as [a surge in gun sales has overwhelmed the FBI background check process](#). During Jan. - Sept. 2020, it couldn’t complete 3.4 percent (316,000) within three days, so guns were delivered without them.

6/6/21 Three days of protests have followed the shooting death of Minneapolis resident Winston Smith, 32 by sheriff’s deputies assigned to a Federal fugitive task force. Smith, who was wanted on Federal charges of being a felon with a gun, allegedly fired on officers as they approached his vehicle. The gun he reportedly used and a spent bullet casing were recovered. There is no bodycam video.

12/2/20 In *U.S. v Folajtar*, the 3rd. Circuit Court of Appeals recently held that even non-violent felony convictions, such as for felony tax fraud, disqualify persons from possessing a gun. Their opinion quoted *D.C. v. Heller* (2008), a Supreme Court decision that rejected an outright ban on guns in the home but endorsed “prohibitions on the possession of firearms by felons.” What *kind* of felon was never settled, and Ms. Folajtar is expected to appeal the Circuit’s decision to a more conservative Supreme Court.

10/13/20 DOJ announced that a concerted effort by ATF, U.S. Attorneys and state and local agencies to reduce gun violence by “investigating and prosecuting individuals who illegally buy, sell, use, or possess firearms” led to 14,200 Federal prosecutions of gun-toting felons and their suppliers during FY 2000.

8/19/20 A.G. William Barr cited examples of casework in eight Operation Legend cities. So far most of the Federal arrests are for felons illegally acquiring or possessing firearms, and for the possession or use of firearms in furtherance of a Federal drug offense or crime of violence.

8/14/20 Indianapolis, where homicide has reportedly increased by 51 percent, joined DOJ’s “Operation Legend.” The roster now includes Albuquerque, Cleveland, Detroit, Chicago, Indianapolis, Kansas City, Memphis, Milwaukee and St. Louis. Operation Legend commits the ATF, FBI, DEA, and U.S. Marshals Service “to help state and local officials fight high levels of violent crime, particularly gun violence.”

8/5/20 Chicago police are quickly turning over felons caught with guns to ATF agents brought in under “Operation Legend.” Federal penalties feature longer terms, and

release requires that at least 85 percent of a term be served, avoiding what some consider the state's "revolving door."

4/22/20 In Chicago, Jose Flores, an ex-con, awaits Federal sentencing for acting as the "middleman" in buying two assault rifles for his gang, the Latin Saints. When arrested he was carrying a handgun with an obliterated serial number. Flores was being held without bond because of his dangerousness, but according to his lawyer he suffers from asthma and is at special risk during the pandemic. U.S. District Chief Judge Rebecca Pallmeyer released him to await sentencing while confined at home.

11/15/19 Attorney General William Barr rolled out "Project Guardian," an initiative that would enhance Federal-local efforts to tighten up gun background checks, target armed criminals and ensure that serious felons who get caught with guns are considered for Federal prosecution.

9/30/19 NYPD officer Brian Mulkeen was accidentally shot and killed by other officers after he fired at an armed felon whom he encountered at a crime-ridden housing project in the Bronx. Although overall crime in New York City is down, the area, patrolled by the 47th. Precinct, had ten shootings to date in 2018 [but fifteen so far this year](#).

8/15/19 A Philadelphia man who had served Federal prison time for being a felon with firearms fired repeated barrages at police serving a narcotics search warrant. Six officers sustained minor wounds. The suspect eventually surrendered. An AR-15 rifle and a handgun were recovered.

8/13/19 On August 12 veteran California Highway Patrol officer Andre Moya, 34, was shot and killed and two colleagues were injured when a convicted felon whom officer Moya pulled over for a traffic violation opened fire with an "AR-15 style" rifle. Their assailant was reportedly a gang member who had served prison time for an armed assault.

2/21/19 California is the only state that actively tries to confiscate guns from buyers who were convicted of a felony post-purchase. California, Connecticut and Nevada [are the only states](#) that require felons prove they have surrendered guns previously bought.

2/16/19 Five years ago a faulty background-check process enabled a 45-year old man with a 19-year old aggravated assault conviction in Mississippi to buy a Smith & Wesson .40 caliber handgun at an Illinois store. His conviction came to light when he subsequently applied for a carry permit, but the gun was not seized. On February 15, as he was being fired from his job, Gary Martin, 45, used the weapon, which was outfitted with a laser sight, to kill five co-workers and wound one. He went on to wound five police officers before cops shot him dead.

8/23/18 Federal prosecutors charged a 47-year old Las Vegas man who bought hundreds of guns and resold them using the Internet. Dozens were later recovered in crimes, most recently the murder of a Sacramento, CA sheriff's deputy. [ATF news release](#) [US Attorney news release](#)