

D.C. gun ban challenged in high court

by UPI

WASHINGTON - Attorneys for a D.C. resident filed a brief with the U.S. Supreme Court challenging the constitutionality of an outright ban on handguns in Washington. The case involving security guard Dick Heller challenges what it calls the "nation's most draconian gun laws." Heller's attorneys argued that District of Columbia laws forbidding the registration of handguns and other restrictions amounts to an effective ban on the possession such weapons. The lawyers point out that only Chicago specifically bans handguns but other "provisions appear unique to Washington, D.C." In the Supreme Court brief, attorneys argued the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit ruled correctly when it said that home possession of handguns is protected and the effective ban in the district is unconstitutional. D.C. officials have challenged that ruling to the Supreme Court, which has scheduled arguments for March 18.--(District of Columbia vs. Heller, 07-290)

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