



The Activist

SAVE THE DATE

18th ANNUAL COURAGEOUS LEADERSHIP AWARDS BRUNCH

SUNDAY, MAY 20, 2012

11 a.m. – 2 p.m.

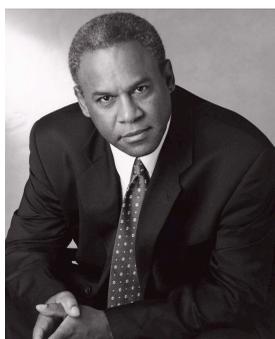
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Courageous Leader
New York City Mayor
Michael Bloomberg



Courageous Leader
LAPD Chief
Charlie Beck



Special Recognition
LA City Deputy Mayor
Guillermo Cespedes



Special Recognition
Community Activist
Dominique DiPrima



Courageous Leader
In Media
Journalist Laura Diaz



Honorary Chair
William "Bill" Bratton



Co-Chair
LAPD Deputy Chief
Debra McCarthy



Co-Chair
WAGV Board Chair
Katherine Hennigan

This year Women Against Gun Violence Courageous Leadership Honorees represent communities throughout Los Angeles and the United States.

In 2006, with an initial group of 15 mayors, **New York City Mayor Bloomberg** co-founded Mayors Against Illegal Guns, dedicated to making America's cities safer by cracking down on illegal guns. The coalition's

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IN THIS ISSUE

Legislative Update – AB 1527 to limit long guns in public is introduced by Assemblymember Portantino.

Guest Columnist – Dr. Art Kamm writes about gun ownership and minors.

Life & Culture • Upcoming Events • WAGV in the Community



AB1527 Prohibiting Open Carrying of Unloaded Rifles and Shotguns in Public Places

Bill builds on AB 144 to expand the open carry ban to long guns.

Assemblymember Anthony Portantino (D-La Canada Flintridge) has introduced AB 1527, a measure that will prohibit individuals from openly displaying unloaded rifles and shotguns in public. Portantino introduced the legislation at the urging of law enforcement as a follow up to last year's successful AB 144, which banned openly carrying an unloaded handgun in public places.

In reaction to the enactment of AB 144, open carry organizations across the state began hosting open carry events brandishing rifles and shotguns in place of the now illegal handguns. In at least once instance, they showed up at a police fundraiser wielding unloaded rifles.

Unfortunately, the Open Carry community has decided to once again force our hand by escalating their unnecessary activities and entering our communities with AR-15s and other long guns.

"Last year the state made it clear that this type of behavior had no place on Main Street, California," said Assemblymember Portantino. "Unfortunately, the Open Carry community has decided to once again force our hand by escalating their unnecessary activities and entering our communities with AR-15s and other long guns. I had hoped cooler heads would have prevailed and this law wouldn't be necessary, obviously that hasn't been the case and I must once again take action to ensure the safety of our communities."

AB 1527 builds on the newly enacted law authored by Portantino last year and provides a similar list of exemptions to enable safe transportation, lawful hunting, and use by law enforcement officials.

AB 1527 currently awaits referral from the Assembly Rules committee and will likely be set for hearing in the Assembly Public Safety committee sometime in late March or early April.

COURT UPDATES

This article originally appeared in the San Francisco Chronicle

High Court OKs Gun Ban for Misdemeanor Criminals

Bob Egelko, Chronicle Staff Writer

The U.S. Supreme Court turned down a Napa County man's challenge Tuesday of a California law that imposes a 10-year ban on gun ownership for anyone convicted of a misdemeanor crime involving violence or threats of force.

Rick Delacy's appeal was argued by a lawyer who also represents the National Rifle Association, and supporting arguments were also filed by the California Rifle and Pistol Association.

They contended gun restrictions based on convictions for misdemeanors, punishable by no more than a year in jail, violate the constitutional right to possess firearms for self-defense that the Supreme Court recognized in 2008.

They also argued that misdemeanor battery, Delacy's previous crime, is not necessarily violent. Although the law defines battery as a "willful and unlawful use of force or violence" against another, it can consist of touching someone in a harmful or offensive way without the person's consent.

The high court denied review without comment. The ruling left intact a February 2011 decision by a state appeals court in San Francisco upholding Delacy's conviction and the California law.

Delacy was on probation from his battery conviction when officers searched his home in April 2008 and found three rifles and a shotgun, said the appellate court, which did not give details of the battery. Another search six months later turned up two caches of shotgun shells. Delacy told officers he used the guns for hunting and hadn't been told he was prohibited from owning them.

See UPDATE, page 3

JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 10

Senator De León's Senate Joint Resolution No. 10 calls for a comprehensive approach to stop the trafficking of illegal weapons and ammunition across the border into Mexico.

The resolution which passed the committee by a majority will be submitted to the full legislature later this spring.

It urges the President and Congress to pursue a comprehensive approach to stem the trafficking of illicit United States firearms and ammunition into Mexico enhancing collaboration among local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies by:

- Allocating a permanent source of federal funding to sustain local and state law enforcement operations to combat firearms

trafficking and other border-related crimes

- Redirecting federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF), United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement, and United States Customs and Border Protection resources towards this effort
- Reenacting a strong federal assault weapons ban, along with a ban on high-capacity ammunition magazines
- Strengthening federal authority to crack down on corrupt gun dealers
- Extending Brady criminal background checks to all gun sales, including all sales at gun shows to prevent firearms trafficking, and the maintenance of firearm purchase records to help law enforcement track down armed criminals and solve gun crimes.



Dr. Art Kamm has held the posts of Vice President, Clinical Development, Glaxo, Inc.; Sr. Vice President Research and Development and Chief Development Officer, Salix Pharmaceuticals; CEO, A.R. Kamm Associates, Inc., and Adjunct Professor, Campbell University School of Pharmacy.

Sacrificing Our Children in the Name of the Second Amendment

The US experiences a grossly disproportionate rate of firearm-related deaths in minors as compared to peer countries, and firearm deaths amongst the young account for more than 25% of the decreased life expectancy gap in America. The firearms industry, that is experiencing a long-term decline in American gun ownership, provides substantial financial support to the NRA and has had ties to that organization's Board of Directors. The NRA has become a powerful lobbying force at both federal and state levels with a record of opposing legislation that would negatively affect firearms sales and advocating for legislation that expands firearm sales. That our elected representatives continue to enact firearm market expansion policies, without implementing tougher regulatory restraints on gun sales to curb firearm deaths in minors, represents the worst of special interest-driven politics and is nothing short of a dereliction of duty in governance.

Having been engaged in cancer research at the Medical College, University of AZ, in the 1970's, what is occurring with the firearms industry is strikingly similar to what we witnessed with 'Big Tobacco' in the 1970's and 1980's that denied the health risks and continued market expansion activities that adversely affected our youth. In fact, the NRA was admired by Philip Morris management and cited as a template for carrying out effective pro-industry activities in which a corporation could not legally engage (ref). A January 1988 Phillip Morris Five Year plan stated: "In 1988 we intend to create local smokers' rights associations throughout the US. We intend to link (the captains of these associations) to local, state and ultimately a national rights organization. Once the national organization is established and funded, we will ... create a self-sustaining membership organization

similar to the National Rifle Association". My belief, is that with the well-established health risks associated with firearms, that industry will eventually face the same regulatory pressures as did Big Tobacco, but not after much damage has been done.

Although it is well-known that special interests buy influence in our government, our legislators should find themselves in a particularly troublesome position in advocating legislation that expands public exposure to guns without addressing the substantial loss of life with which the product is associated, especially in minors. We enact laws to protect minors in this

The NRA was admired by Philip Morris management and cited as a template for carrying out effective pro-industry activities.

country, and yet in this case our legislators are failing to take legislative action that could help prevent unnecessary loss of life. In fact, they are moving in the opposite direction. I submit that it was not the intent of the Second Amendment to justify the unnecessary loss of American lives.

Acknowledgement: appreciation for editorial comments extended to Hilton J. Cancel (career law enforcement and President, North Carolinians Against Gun Violence).

First published on January 10, 2012 at www.artonissues.com To read the full article and to see references go to www.artonissues.com

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He was convicted under a law that prohibits possession of guns or ammunition by anyone convicted within the past 10 years of one of about 40 misdemeanors, all involving either violence, threats or a dangerous mental condition. Delacy was sentenced to an

additional three years of probation.

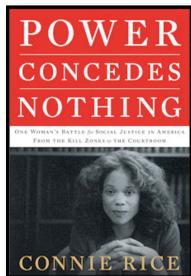
In upholding his convictions, the First District Court of Appeal noted that the Supreme Court's recent gun-rights decisions expressly left room for states to prohibit firearms ownership by convicted felons, including those whose crimes were nonviolent.

By the same reasoning, the appellate panel said, the Constitution allows the government to ban gun possession by misdemeanor criminals, including convicted batterers, "who have shown a propensity to commit violence against others."

The case is Delacy vs. California, 11-290

POWER CONCEDES NOTHING: One Woman's Quest for Social Justice in America, from the Courtroom to the Kill Zones

BY **Connie Rice**
(Simon & Schuster, Hardcover, 978-1-4165-7500-9)



Rice, a civil rights lawyer (and cousin of Condoleezza) describes her strange and remarkable journey from prosecuting important civil rights cases and suing the LAPD for civil rights violations to allying with 'good cops' to fight rampant violence in neighborhoods where 'guns and gangs ruled, not civil rights.' She is surprisingly open and insightful about herself as well as about the workings of the virtually impregnable institutions she challenges. The most interesting part of her account, and the most visceral and difficult to read, is the inner workings of L.A. gangs: Rice describes shocking details of violence, abuse, and dysfunction. Her descriptions of the intransigence and institutional flaws of the LAPD are almost equally disheartening. There are flashes of progress to be optimistic about, and Rice's own powerful voice when attacking the myriad problems that poverty and neglect cause for children, cities, and the nation. Readers will be appalled by the evils Rice fights, but astounded by the energy and intelligence she brings to the battle.

— Publishers Weekly (Starred Review)

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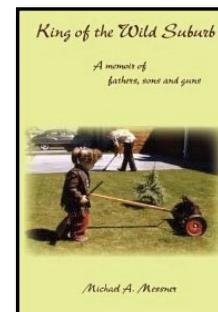
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KING OF THE WILD SUBURB: A memoir of fathers, sons and guns

BY **Michael A. Messner**
(Plain View Press, 978-1-935514-90-9)

Michael Messner, already known for his nuanced explorations of masculinities in sport, here humanely explores the evolving, often confusing dynamics of masculinities between three generations of boys and men. This candid memoir will make engrossing reading for both seasoned scholars and newcomers to



gender studies.

— Cynthia Enloe, author of *Nimo's War*, *Emma's War: Making Feminist Sense of the Iraq War*

For decades, feminist scholars, memoirists, and novelists have explored the lineaments of mother-daughter relationships, yet the world of fathers and sons has garnered relatively little attention. In his closely observed memoir, *King of the Wild Suburb*, noted Gender Studies

scholar Michael Messner opens up the affective terrain between fathers and sons, and in the process deepens and complicates our understanding of masculinity.

— Alice Echols, author of *Hot Stuff: Disco and the Remaking of American Culture*

Starbucks' Love for Guns Prompts Nationwide Boycott



A nationwide boycott of Starbucks stores and its products will be launched on Valentine's Day 2012. Its goal is to eliminate the risk of guns in public places and ultimately to bring sane gun laws to the U.S.

This boycott is being called by the National Gun Victim's Action Council (NGAC), a network of 14 million gun victims, the faith community including the: Episcopal Peace Fellowship, United Church of Christ, Fellowship of Reconciliation (46 peace fellowships and 43 affiliate fellowships), secular groups working to reduce gun violence and many of the organizations that support passing sane gun laws.

WHY STARBUCKS? Currently, Starbucks allows guns and assault weapons to be openly carried in its stores (in 43 states) and concealed and carried in its stores (in 49 states). Starbucks' compliance with the

National Rifle Association's Pro-Gun Agenda was exposed in 2010 when members of the "open carry" movement began meeting in popular chains, such as California Pizza Kitchen, Peets, IKEA, Disney and Starbucks openly carrying their handguns and assault rifles. To protect their customers and employees, all of the retail chains – except for Starbucks – banned guns from being carried in their stores.

"Starbucks allowing guns to be carried in thousands of their stores significantly increases everyone's risk of being a victim of gun violence," says Elliot Fineman, CEO of the NGAC. "Open and conceal and carry are among the reasons there are 12,000 gun homicides each year in the U.S. If we had England's gun laws we would expect 375 gun homicides each year – 97% less than we have. England's gun laws are based on protecting public safety, ours on maximizing sales for the gun industry."

Starbucks has the legal right to ban guns but despite having been petitioned by thousands, asked at a shareholder meeting, and a direct appeal made to their Board, Starbucks clings to this policy that puts millions of Americans at risk every day and encourages the spread of

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BRUNCH, continued from page 1

bipartisan ranks have grown to more than 600 mayors from more than 40 states embracing the principle that mayors have a responsibility to protect their communities by holding gun offenders and irresponsible gun dealers accountable, demanding access to trace data that is critical to law enforcement efforts to combat illegal gun trafficking, and working with legislators to fix gaps, weaknesses and loopholes in the law that make it far too easy for criminals and other prohibited purchasers to get guns.

Also being awarded our Courageous Leadership honor is **LAPD Chief Charlie Beck**. Appointed Chief in November 2009, Chief Beck continues to evolve and refine strategies to further the Department's ascendancy to the pinnacle of 21st Century policing. He is renowned for his ability to forge traditional policing methods, community outreach programs, tempered with the input of diverse stakeholders to form enduring crime abatement programs. During his tenure as Central Area's Commanding Officer he formulated the original Safer Cities Initiative that brought together a coalition of City

Department, Council Offices, homeless advocacy groups, and service providers to provide shelter and mitigate crime perpetrated against the homeless.

Receiving our Special Recognition Award is **Los Angeles Deputy Mayor Guillermo Cespedes**. Cespedes joined the Mayor's Office of Gang Reduction and Youth Development in December 2007 initially as the Program Manager for the Baldwin Village/Southwest Gang Reduction and Youth Development Zone. He was named Director of the Summer Night Lights Program in 2008 and guided that successful violence prevention strategy during the summers of 2008 and 2009. On September 21, 2009, Mr. Cespedes assumed the position as Deputy Mayor of the Gang Reduction Youth Development office.

Also receiving our Special Recognition Award is community activist **Dominique DiPrima**, host and producer of the early morning talk radio show The Front Page on Los Angeles radio station KJLH 102.3-FM. She was the Director of the acclaimed Summer of Success violence prevention program in Baldwin

Village in 2003 and 2004 and currently serves on the Board of Directors for The Community Coalition in South Los Angeles.

Receiving WAGV's First Annual Courageous Leadership in the Media Award is journalist **Laura Diaz**. Ms. Diaz' relentless pursuit of the facts and emotions behind a story fuels a passion to serve our community and to make it a safer city in which to live. Her reporting on gun violence and her efforts to explore the personal stories of gun violence survivors provides us with both the head and the heart behind this terrible tragedy.

For More Information about the WAGV Courageous Leadership Awards Brunch and Silent Auction, please follow us on Twitter, Facebook, or on our website at www.wagv.org

See page 7 for a sneak peak of the exciting items our Silent Auction will offer. To receive the Silent Auction Program prior to the Brunch, please email us at wagv@wagv.org

STARBUCKS, continued from page 4

guns being carried in public.

According to NGAC, the boycott will end when Starbucks rejects the NRA's Pro-Gun agenda by banning all guns from their stores and committing to be an Aggressive Corporate Advocate for sane gun laws.

TO PARTICIPATE IN NGAC'S STARBUCKS BOYCOTT, VISIT:
<http://gunvictimsaction.org/starbucks-boycott/>

ABOUT NGAC: The National Gun Victims Action Council (NGAC) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit network of 14 million gun victims, survivors, their families, supporters, the faith community, secular organizations working on gun violence reduction and ordinary people leveraging their economic (buying) power to change America's gun laws. NGAC can be found at www.gunvictimsaction.org

The Activist Editor's Note: AB144 banning Open Carry in California passed in 2011. It is illegal to openly carry handguns in Starbucks or elsewhere in California.

IMPORTANT LINKS

Elected Officials

This website will help you locate and contact your elected officials – federal, state, and local. It also helps you locate and contact government agencies.
<http://www.usa.gov/Contact/Elected.shtml>



Federal Legislation

To track federal legislation, check out this link:
<http://thomas.loc.gov/home/thomas.php>

Voting Records

To track federal legislation and see how your representatives voted, use this site: <http://www.govtrack.us/>

WAGV in the Community

TOO MANY VICTIMS Lost To Gun Violence

On Sunday, January 8, 2012 – the one-year anniversary of the tragic shootings in Tucson, Arizona – communities throughout our nation gathered to remember those lost to gun violence.

First Congregational Church of Los Angeles generously donated their facility for the solemn event co-sponsored by Women Against Gun Violence, Brady Campaign of Los Angeles, and Brady Campaign of Orange County. Reverend Shanna Steitz, Associate Minister, opened the ceremony with her powerful comments about loss. Mourners then came forward, accompanied by the Los Angeles Police Cadets, to recite the names of their loved ones lost to gun violence and to ring the bell that has also been rung by two past California Governors in victory after the signing of important laws to prevent gun deaths and injuries in California.

The ceremony ended with the lighting of memorial candles and a moment of silence that most certainly contained private prayers of grief and hope.



Clockwise from left: Blek family in front of bell; Sheri Barnett remembers her son; Candlelighting ceremony.

THAT TAKES OVARIES Girls Night Out

On November 16, 2011, both men and women enjoyed the first in a quarterly series of events sponsored by WAGV's Young Professionals group. The staged reading of the play by Rivka Solomon and Bobbi Ausubel was received with loud applause as was both the raffle of a Fredericks of Hollywood gift basket and the delicious mini cupcakes by My Sweet Mini!



LEFT: Rhonda Foster receives applause from playwright Bobbi Ausubel as she shares her story of triumph over despair; RIGHT: Sarah Mallory, chair of the Young Professionals, welcomes guests to Girls Night Out.

Annenberg Alchemy Leadership Seminar 2012: WAGV Chair Emertus Ann Reiss Lane, WAGV Board Chair Katherine Hennigan, and WAGV Executive Director Margot Bennett attended the Annenberg Alchemy Leadership Seminar this past January.

WAGV CALENDAR

MAR
8

Speakers Series

Second in a quarterly series is guest author Connie Rice in conversation with Judith Palarz, Book Club Facilitator, discussing her book *Power Concedes Nothing: One Woman's Quest for Social Justice in America, From the Courtroom to the Kill Zones* (Simon & Schuster). This hard-hitting memoir chronicles a fiercely dedicated woman's quest to win the first of all human rights: freedom from violence.

MAR
27

Education for Action

Jointly sponsored by Women Against Gun Violence, the Violence Prevention Coalition of Greater Los Angeles, and the Violence Prevention Coalition of Orange County, this year's full-day Education for Action Conference is scheduled for Tuesday, March 27, 2012 and will be held at the California Endowment in Downtown Los Angeles. The conference theme is "Vectors of Violence: The Impact, Trajectory, and Intersections of Guns in Violence Prevention and Intervention Efforts." A variety of conference sessions will appeal to law enforcement, social workers, and community activists alike! For more information email us at wagv@wagv.org

MAY
20

18th Annual Courageous Leadership Awards Brunch and Silent Action

WAGV's 18th Annual Courageous Leadership Awards Brunch will present awards to New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg, co-founder of Mayors Against Illegal Guns; LAPD Chief Charlie Beck; Los Angeles City Deputy Mayor of the Gang Reduction Youth Development office, Mayor Guillermo Cespedes; Community Activist Dominique DiPrima, and to Los Angeles Journalist Laura Diaz.

EVERY
WEEK

Outreach and Education

Each and every week, WAGV reaches out to the Los Angeles Community through schools, community events, and public gatherings to deliver its message of anti-gun violence. Since July 2011, over 1,500 youth and parents have received our message delivered by gun violence survivors and WAGV staff and board members.

EVERY
QUARTER

WAGV NEWSLETTER

Starting with this issue, WAGV will now produce *The Activist* quarterly! Filled with relevant articles written by guest columnists, book and movie reviews of interest to our community, and important updates on legislation throughout the nation, each newsletter will be valued! Our Summer Edition, distributed in August, will be WAGV's Annual Report and include important program and financial information, accomplishments, and recognition of our fiscal year's donors. *The Activist* will be distributed by snail mail as well as by email depending on your communicated preference.

SILENT AUCTION

This year's Silent Auction, held in conjunction with WAGV's Courageous Leadership Brunch, will include a wide variety of exciting vacations to "Destinations of Excellence"!

Be prepared to bid on:

A Trip for Two to New York, NY for Four Days & Three Nights at The Plaza with Economy Class Air, Plus Live Entertainment Package
Starting bid: \$3,765
(Value: \$5,100)

Fabulous Shopping Trip for Two to New York, NY for Four Days & Three Nights at The Plaza with Economy Class Air, Including a \$2,000 Shopping Spree at Your Choice of Bergdorf-Goodman, Saks Fifth Avenue or Bloomingdale's
Starting bid: \$5,565
(Value: \$6,800)

A Trip for Two to Washington, DC for Four Days & Three Nights at any Ritz-Carlton in the Washington, DC Area with Economy Class Air + an opportunity to meet with a representative of the California delegation.
Starting bid: \$2,745
(Value: \$4,200)

A Trip for Two to Paris, France (Europe) for Six Days & Five Nights with Economy Class Air, Including a Workshop at Le Ritz Escoffier or Elegant Cooking, a Tour of Paris, Lunch at Altitude 95 at the Eiffel Tower, and a River Seine Cruise
Starting bid: \$7,365
(Estimated Value \$10,900)

To receive more information about these trips and others, or if you'd like to receive our silent auction program prior to the event including ALL the exciting items we will have available, please email wagv@wagv.org

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**WOMEN
AGAINST
GUN
VIOLENCE**

The Activist

Winter 2012

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Women Against Gun Violence

Mission Statement

To prevent gun violence by educating the public, policymakers and the media about the human, financial and public health consequences of this epidemic and to mobilize communities to take decisive action against the dangers of firearms.

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Media Honoree: Journalist Laura Diaz

