

The Right to Bear Arms

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The Second Amendment

- “A well regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed.”

Early treatments of the Second Amendment

- *United States v. Miller* (1939)



Contemporary treatments of the Second Amendment

- *District of Columbia v. Heller* (2008)
- *McDonald v. City of Chicago, Illinois* (2010)



Dick Heller

Conclusion

- As you can see, the Supreme Court has heard shockingly few Second Amendment cases.
- Modern justices have bitterly disagreed over the meaning of the amendment's text, but the result has been that individuals may keep firearms.
- Nevertheless, the Court has been consistently clear that government can limit this right.
- Future case-law is likely to test exactly what these limits look like.