

Class Action Lawsuit Against Osceola County and Sheriff Calling Part of Gun Permit Law Unconstitutional

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CONTACT: Erick G. Kaardal, 612-341-1074

Sioux City, IA - Claiming infringement of constitutional rights to keep and bear arms, due process, and equal protection, a class action lawsuit against Osceola County, IA's Sheriff Douglas Weber, the Sheriff's Department, and Osceola County, was filed in federal court today. The plaintiffs, Paul Dorr and Alexander Dorr, are also challenging a part of Iowa's state law governing how a nonprofessional permit to carry a weapon is decided by issuing authorities, claiming it as unconstitutional. The basis of the Dorr's complaint arises from Sheriff Weber's denial to issue both Paul and Alexander Dorr a permit to carry a weapon. The Dorr's assert he did so without a legitimate or rational reason. Paul Dorr has been a leading and vocal challenger to County officials, including Weber and County Attorney Robert Hansen regarding excessive budgets.

Paul Dorr said, "I have been a victim of County policies enforced through the Sheriff's Department and Sheriff Weber to intentionally have my constitutional right under the 2nd Amendment Right infringed based on the political whim of the deciding official. It is my belief this is happening throughout Iowa and my intent is to put a stop to it."

One of the Dorr's attorneys, Vince Fahnlander stated that "We are not seeking to eliminate a state's right to regulate guns, but it must be reasonable, objective, and within the parameters of constitutional law especially in light of a recent Supreme Court decision recognizing a person's right to keep and bear arms."

Paul Dorr also noted that "45,300 South Dakotans enjoy the privilege of carrying a weapon on their person, *58 per 1,000 citizens*. Meanwhile, 28,400 Iowans are allowed to carry a weapon, *17 per 1,000 citizens*. The Iowa rate being 17% of the South Dakota rate is not right and Iowa Code §724.8(5) is, in large part, to blame. We want the court to review this provision. We believe the court will agree with us and strike it down."

Dorr continued, "If we win, we hope the taxpayers of Osceola County will see that this is not about money, it is about justice. I will do everything in my power not to let this cost local taxpayers."

Dorr concluded, "This suit is being funded by a group of Osceola County residents, Republican and Democrat alike, and would have not been possible without them. This fight for freedom is every bit as much theirs as it is mine and my son's. If Iowans want to provide their tax-deductible support of this lawsuit, please call me at 712-758-3660."