



# Press Release

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### Brown Rudnick Files

## U.S. Supreme Court Brief on Behalf of Criminologists in Gun Control Case, Otis McDonald v. City of Chicago

**Boston, MA, January 12, 2010** – Brown Rudnick, an international law firm with offices in the US and Europe, today announced that it has filed an amicus brief in the Second Amendment case before the U.S. Supreme Court entitled Otis McDonald v. City of Chicago. Brown Rudnick represents Northeastern University's James Alan Fox, the Lipman Family Professor of Criminal Justice and Professor of Law, Policy and Society, and Jack Levin, the Irving and Betty Brudnick Professor of Sociology and Criminology. Brown Rudnick's pro bono representation is provided through the firm's Center for the Public Interest, the umbrella entity that encompasses pro bono legal work, charitable giving, community involvement and public interest efforts. The legal team included Litigation Partner Elizabeth A. Ritvo and Litigation Associates Amanda Buck Varella and Dylan P. Kletter, as well as Albert W. Wallis, Executive Director of Brown Rudnick's Center for the Public Interest. The firm is providing its services on a pro bono basis.

The brief argues the Chicago handgun ban should be upheld because, since 1982, the ban has served as an effective legislative response to the tragedy of handgun violence and has saved hundreds of lives.

Professors Fox and Levin presented the criminologists' view in support of the Chicago handgun ban, arguing that the judgment of the Court of Appeals should be affirmed because the ban has:

- helped reduce handgun homicides involving family members and intimate partners
- favorably impacted Chicago's overall handgun homicide rate relative to other cities once economic and demographic factors are considered
- reduced the supply of handguns, which reduction is correlated with a reduction in handgun crime
- protected its citizens from the increase in crime associated with increased availability of handguns

Finally, Fox and Levin contended that the arguments raised by amici in support of the petitioners with respect to the efficacy of the handgun ban fail for several reasons. In particular, the data actually show that, post-ban the number of handgun homicides in homes has decreased and that Chicago residents are now safer in their homes than they were before the ban.



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This is the second gun control case in which Brown Rudnick filed an amicus brief on behalf of Professor James Alan Fox. In February 2008, the firm provided pro bono legal representation in the U.S. Supreme Court Gun Case entitled D.C. v. Heller. In that matter, the Washington D.C. handgun ban was struck down by the Court.

## **About Brown Rudnick LLP**

Brown Rudnick is an international law firm with offices in the United States and Europe. The firm represents clients from around the world, providing business-focused solutions that address today's ever-changing, ever-demanding competitive marketplace. With an entrepreneurial and collaborative mindset, Brown Rudnick offers a broad slate of capabilities and talents in areas that include: Bankruptcy & Corporate Restructuring, Complex Litigation, Corporate, Intellectual Property, Energy, Finance, Government Contracts, Government Law & Strategies, Health Law, and Real Estate. For more information, please visit [www.brownrudnick.com](http://www.brownrudnick.com).

The Brown Rudnick Center for the Public Interest is a measure of the Firm's strong commitment to the community and serves as an umbrella entity encompassing the Firm's pro bono legal work, charitable giving, community involvement and public interest efforts. For more information, please visit [www.brownrudnickcenter.com](http://www.brownrudnickcenter.com).

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