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9 CHAD LINTON, PAUL MCKINLEY STEWART,
10 KENDALL JONES, FIREARMS POLICY FOUNDATION,
11 FIREARMS POLICY COALITION,
12 SECOND AMENDMENT FOUNDATION,
13 THE CALGUNS FOUNDATION and MADISON
14 SOCIETY FOUNDATION

15 **UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT**

16 **FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA**

17 CHAD LINTON, an individual; PAUL
18 MCKINLEY STEWART, an individual;
19 KENDALL JONES, an individual; FIREARMS
20 POLICY FOUNDATION; FIREARMS
21 POLICY COALITION; SECOND
22 AMENDMENT FOUNDATION;
23 CALIFORNIA GUN RIGHTS FOUNDATION;
24 and MADISON SOCIETY FOUNDATION,

25 Plaintiffs,

26 vs.

27 XAVIER BECERRA, in his official capacity as
28 Attorney General of California; BRENT E.
ORICK, in his official capacity as Acting Chief
of the Department of Justice Bureau of
Firearms; and ROBERT D. WILSON, in his
official capacity as Deputy Attorney General,

Defendants.

Case No. 3:18-cv-07653-JD

**PLAINTIFFS' FIRST AMENDED
COMPLAINT FOR DECLARATORY
AND INJUNCTIVE RELIEF**

COME NOW plaintiffs CHAD LINTON, PAUL MCKINLEY STEWART, KENDALL
JONES, FIREARMS POLICY FOUNDATION, FIREARMS POLICY COALITION, SECOND
AMENDMENT FOUNDATION, CALIFORNIA GUN RIGHTS FOUNDATION, and

SEILER EPSTEIN LLP
Attorneys at Law

1 MADISON SOCIETY FOUNDATION (collectively, “Plaintiffs”), by and through their
2 undersigned counsel, who hereby complain and allege as follows:

3
4 **INTRODUCTION**

5 1. The question presented by this case is whether the State of California, through its
6 chief law enforcement officers, can prevent current California residents who are not federally or
7 otherwise prohibited from purchasing and possessing firearms if their previously-disqualifying
8 offenses, which occurred in other states, have been vacated, and especially when their
9 fundamental, individual rights have been fully restored to them by courts of competent
10 jurisdiction in those respective states. Asked differently: In their zeal to prohibit as many
11 citizens from owning firearms as possible, may this State, its chief law enforcement officer, and
12 those responsible for the enforcement of California’s firearms laws and policies, ignore the
13 judgments and pronouncements of the courts of other states because they do not prefer the policy
14 outcome? The only honest, constitutionally-grounded answer to these questions must be a
15 resounding ‘no’.

16 2. Indeed, the State has no constitutionally-permissible interest in depriving
17 individuals of their right to own, possess, and bear firearms for all lawful purposes, including
18 self-defense in their homes, when any underlying convictions were remote, non-violent in nature,
19 and adjudged to have been vacated or set aside in those other jurisdictions, as the alternative –
20 and their laws, policies, practices, and customs challenged here – violate their rights under the
21 Second Amendment. Moreover, the State cannot simply decide to ignore the legal judgments of
22 courts in other states, as such a policy violates the United States Constitution’s Full Faith and
23 Credit Clause, Privileges and Immunities Clause, and the Fourteenth Amendment’s Privileges or
24 Immunities Clause.

25 3. Accordingly, Plaintiffs are bringing this challenge to the State of California’s
26 laws, policies, practices, and customs, as promulgated, implemented and enforced by the
27 Defendants, which refuse to honor the judgments of other states that vacated or otherwise
28

1 exonerated those disqualifying convictions, and which otherwise refuse to honor the out-of-state
2 restoration of an individual’s firearms rights, and to the extent that it forms the basis of the
3 Department’s enforcement practices, California Pen. Code §§ 29800 and 30305 as applied.
4

5 **PARTIES**

6 4. Plaintiff Chad Linton is a natural person who resides in the County of Placer,
7 California. Mr. Linton is a member and supporter of the Firearms Policy Coalition, Firearms
8 Policy Foundation, the California Gun Rights Foundation, the Second Amendment Foundation
9 and the Madison Society Foundation.

10 5. Plaintiff Paul McKinley Stewart is a natural person who resides in the County of
11 San Bernardino, California. Mr. Stewart is a member and supporter of the Firearms Policy
12 Coalition, Firearms Policy Foundation, the California Gun Rights Foundation, the Second
13 Amendment Foundation and the Madison Society Foundation.

14 6. Plaintiff Kendall Jones is a natural person who resides in the County of
15 Sacramento, California. Mr. Jones is a member and supporter of the Firearms Policy Coalition,
16 Firearms Policy Foundation, the California Gun Rights Foundation, the Second Amendment
17 Foundation, and the Madison Society Foundation.

18 7. Plaintiff Firearms Policy Foundation (“FPF”) is a non-profit membership
19 organization incorporated under the laws of Delaware with its principal place of business in
20 Sacramento, California, with members residing both within and outside of this state, that serves
21 to defend and advance constitutional rights through charitable purposes, with a focus on the
22 fundamental, individual right to keep and bear arms. FPF represents these members and
23 supporters, who include California firearm retailers and consumers. FPF brings this action on
24 behalf of itself, its members, supporters, who possess all the indicia of membership, and
25 similarly situated members of the public.
26

27 8. Plaintiff Firearms Policy Coalition, Inc. (“FPC”) is a non-profit membership
28 organization incorporated under the laws of Delaware with its principal place of business in

1 Sacramento, California, with members residing both within and outside of this state, that serves
2 its members and the public through direct and grassroots advocacy, legal efforts, and education.
3 The purposes of FPC include defending the United States Constitution and the People’s rights,
4 privileges and immunities deeply rooted in the Nation’s history and tradition, especially the
5 fundamental right to keep and bear arms. FPC represents these members and supporters, who
6 include California firearm retailers and consumers. FPC brings this action on behalf of itself, its
7 members, supporters, who possess all the indicia of membership, and similarly situated members
8 of the public.

9 9. Plaintiff Second Amendment Foundation, Inc. (“SAF”) is a non-profit
10 membership organization incorporated under the laws of Washington with its principal place of
11 business in Bellevue, Washington. SAF has over 650,000 members and supporters nationwide,
12 including California. The purposes of SAF include education, research, publishing and legal
13 action focusing on the Constitutional right to privately own and possess firearms, and the
14 consequences of gun control. SAF brings this action on behalf of itself, its members, supporters,
15 who possess all the indicia of membership, and similarly situated members of the public.

16 10. Plaintiff California Gun Rights Foundation, formerly The Calguns Foundation
17 (“CGF”) is a non-profit membership organization incorporated under the laws of California with
18 its principal place of business in Sacramento, California, with members residing both within and
19 outside of this state, dedicated to promoting education for all of stakeholders about California
20 and federal firearm laws, rights and privileges, and defending and protecting the civil rights of
21 California gun owners. CGF represents these members and supporters, who include California
22 firearm retailers and consumers. CGF brings this action on behalf of itself, its members,
23 supporters, who possess all the indicia of membership, and similarly situated members of the
24 public.

25 11. Plaintiff Madison Society Foundation (“MSF”) is a non-profit organization whose
26 purpose is preserving and protecting the legal and constitutional right to keep and bear arms for
27 its members and all responsible law-abiding citizens. MSF believes that individual constitutional
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1 rights should not be infringed to deny citizens their life, liberty, and pursuit of happiness. MSF
2 is headquartered in Stanislaus County, and the majority of its members are California residents.
3 The focus of MSF’s litigation efforts is challenging violations of the right to keep and bear arms.

4 12. Defendant Xavier Becerra is the Attorney General of the State of California, and
5 is sued herein in his official capacity. Under Article 5, § 13 of the California Constitution,
6 Attorney General Becerra is the “chief law officer of the State,” with a duty “to see that the laws
7 of the state are uniformly and adequately enforced.” Defendant Becerra is the head of the
8 California Department of Justice (“DOJ”). The DOJ and its Bureau of Firearms regulate and
9 enforce state law related to the sales, transfer, possession, and ownership of firearms. The
10 Attorney General and DOJ maintain an office in San Francisco, California.

11 13. Defendant Brent E. Orick is the Acting Chief of the DOJ’s Bureau of Firearms.
12 On information and belief, Defendant Orick reports to Attorney General Becerra, and he is
13 responsible for the various operations of the Bureau of Firearms, including the implementation
14 and enforcement of the statutes, regulations and policies regarding prohibited persons, and the
15 Armed Prohibited Persons System (“APPS”) program. Defendant Orick is sued in his official
16 capacity.

17 14. Defendant Robert D. Wilson is a Deputy Attorney General for the DOJ and its
18 Bureau of Firearms. On information and belief, Defendant Wilson reports to both Attorney
19 General Becerra and DOJ Bureau of Firearms Chief Horan. Upon information and belief,
20 Defendant is responsible for formulation, issuance, and implementation of the policy or policies
21 described below which prohibit Individual Plaintiffs and others similarly situated from
22 purchasing or possessing firearms. Defendant Wilson is sued in his official capacity.

23 15. On information and belief, all of the Defendants, and each of them, are
24 responsible in some manner for issuing, implementing, or enforcing the laws, policy or policies,
25 practices, and customs complained of herein, namely, those which prohibit or prevent a person
26 adjudicated in another state from acquiring a firearm in the State of California, where the
27 underlying matter has been adjudged to be vacated, set aside, or expunged in the respective state
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1 having jurisdiction, and particularly where courts of other states have expressly restored firearm
2 rights to the respective citizen.

3
4 **JURISDICTION AND VENUE**

5 16. This Court has jurisdiction over all claims for relief pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1331,
6 as this action arises under the Constitution and laws of the United States. The Court also has
7 jurisdiction under 28 U.S.C. § 1343(a)(3) and 42 U.S.C. § 1983, since plaintiffs seek to redress
8 the deprivation, under color of the laws, statutes, ordinances, regulations, customs and usages of
9 the State of California, by and through its officers named herein, the rights, privileges or
10 immunity secured by the Constitution of the United States and by Acts of Congress providing for
11 equal rights of citizens or of all persons within the jurisdiction of the United States. All Plaintiffs
12 herein are seeking relief under the Declaratory Judgment Act, 28 U.S.C. §§ 2201-2202. To the
13 extent that the court determines that Plaintiffs are asserting state law claims, this court has
14 supplemental jurisdiction under 28 U.S.C. § 1367(a).

15 17. Venue is proper under 28 U.S.C. § 1391, as the venue rules of this State
16 specifically would permit this action to be filed in San Francisco, since the Attorney General and
17 California Department of Justice maintain an office within this Division; Cal. Code of Civ. Pro. §
18 401(1).

19
20 **BACKGROUND AND FACTS COMMON TO ALL COUNTS**

21 ***Plaintiff Chad Linton***

22 18. Plaintiff Chad Linton is a life-long permanent resident of California, having been
23 born and raised here.

24 19. On or about August 20, 1987, while young plaintiff Linton was enlisted and
25 serving in the U.S. Navy, and stationed in the State of Washington, he made an error in
26 judgment. While on a motorcycle, driving intoxicated, and hurrying back to his base at Whidbey
27 Island Naval Air Station, traveling at a high rate of speed, he travelled past a Washington State
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1 Police car. For a brief period of time, Plaintiff Linton considered whether he might be able to
2 outrun and make it back to NAS Whidbey Island before the Washington State Patrol officer
3 would be able to catch up to him, and he accelerated. However, after a few moments, Plaintiff
4 Linton reconsidered that idea, pulled over to the side of the highway, and voluntarily allowed the
5 state trooper to catch up to him. He was then arrested and did not resist in any way.

6 20. Plaintiff Linton was charged in Washington State, Island County Superior Court,
7 with attempting to evade a police vehicle, a “Class C felony”¹ under section 46.61.024 of the
8 Revised Code of Washington (“RCW”), and with driving under the influence, charged as a
9 misdemeanor. He spent seven days in jail.

10 21. On or about December 29, 1987, Plaintiff Linton entered pleas of guilty to both
11 Count I (Attempting to Evade a Pursuing Police Vehicle, RCW 46.61.024) and Count II (Driving
12 While Intoxicated, RCW 46.61.502). Plaintiff Linton was sentenced to seven days in jail, with
13 credit for all seven days served, as was required to complete community service, pay fines, and
14 successfully complete all other terms of probation. At the time of his sentencing, the
15 Washington State court judge, who was sympathetic to Plaintiff Linton, told him that he would
16 not want to see his military career destroyed over the incident. He told Plaintiff Linton that if he
17 successfully completed all terms of his probation, that the court would reduce the matter to a
18 misdemeanor and have the matter discharged from his records. Plaintiff Linton had no reason to
19 believe that this had not occurred. In fact, in 1988, Plaintiff Linton received a certificate of
20 discharge, showing that he successfully completed his probation, and which included a statement
21 that “the defendant’s civil rights lost by operation of law upon conviction be HEREBY
22 RESTORED.”

23
24 22. After being discharged from the Navy, Plaintiff Linton moved back to California
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26
27 ¹The State of Washington classifies three types of felonies, based upon the seriousness of the
28 crime. RCW 9A.020.10. For offenses occurring after July 1, 1984, the maximum sentence for a
Class C felony is confinement in a state correctional institution for a period of five years, or by a
fine fixed at \$10,000, or both. RCW 9A.020.21(1)(c).

1 in 1988. Since moving back to California, Plaintiff Linton has undergone multiple background
2 checks and fingerprint-based “Live Scan” database queries of law enforcement records, in
3 connection with licensing, none of which revealed the presence of a felony conviction in another
4 state. Plaintiff Linton also reasonably relied upon the statements made by the trial judge in
5 Washington State, in believing that the attempted evading charge had been reduced to a non-
6 prohibiting misdemeanor, and that the restoration of rights upon successful completion of
7 probation entitled him to own firearms legally.

8 23. Since returning to California permanently, Plaintiff Linton has been and remains a
9 law-abiding citizen, has married, and has raised a family. He has not been arrested, and would
10 not otherwise be prohibited from owning firearms, under state or federal law. In fact, since
11 moving back to California, he legally purchased and owned several firearms, having passed all
12 necessary background checks that cross-referenced state and federal databases.

13 24. On or about December 26, 2015, Mr. Linton attempted to make a purchase of a
14 handgun. Plaintiff was denied the purchase by the State of California – but not the federal
15 government – and informed by the California DOJ that he was prohibited from taking possession
16 of the handgun due to the existence of a prior felony, and specifically that the disqualifying
17 offense was the Washington State matter dating back to 1987, which he believed had been
18 reduced to a misdemeanor. Nevertheless, based upon the DOJ’s denial of the firearm purchase,
19 Plaintiff Linton hired an attorney in the State of Washington who, on Plaintiff’s behalf, re-
20 opened the criminal proceedings, withdrew the guilty plea, and entered a not-guilty plea, which
21 was entered retroactively.

22 25. Pursuant to Plaintiff Linton’s efforts, on March 21, 2016, the Superior Court of
23 the State of Washington, Island County, on Plaintiff’s motion, issued its final Order on Motion
24 Re: Vacating Record of Felony Conviction, a copy of which is attached as **Exhibit A**, in which
25 the court specifically found that the offense for which plaintiff Linton was convicted was not a
26 violent offense under Washington State law. Accordingly, the Superior Court granted the
27 motion to vacate conviction records related to the underlying offense, set aside the guilty plea,
28

1 and released plaintiff from all penalties and disabilities resulting from the offense. (Exhibit A, p.
2 2.)

3 26. On April 18, 2016, the Superior Court of the State of Washington, Island County,
4 further issued, upon Plaintiff's petition, an Order Restoring Right to Possess Firearms pursuant
5 to Revised Code of Washington (RCW) 9.41.040(4). A copy of this order is attached as **Exhibit**
6 **B**. As part of that petition, and order, the court found that Plaintiff Linton was qualified,
7 pursuant to RCW 9.41.040(4), to have the right to possess firearms restored to him, and
8 accordingly, ordered "that Petitioner Chad Linton's civil rights and right to possess firearms are
9 FULLY RESTORED pursuant to RCW 9.41.040(4)." (*Id.*) The court further ordered the
10 Washington State Patrol to transmit a copy of its Order to the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

11 27. In addition, in order to determine whether he was prohibited from owing or
12 purchasing firearms under the State of California's and Defendant DOJ's laws, policies,
13 practices, and customs, on or about October 25, 2016, Plaintiff Linton voluntarily underwent a
14 Personal Firearms Eligibility Check ("PFEC") pursuant to Cal. Pen. Code § 30105(a) to confirm
15 his eligibility to purchase and/or possess a firearm. Based upon this check, the California DOJ's
16 Bureau of Firearms informed him that Plaintiff was eligible both to possess and purchase
17 firearms, based upon a search of California's records. The PFEC form indicated, however, that
18 the actual purchase of a firearm would involve the search of a federal database by the DOJ. A
19 copy of Plaintiff Linton's PFEC results, dated October 25, 2016, is attached hereto as **Exhibit C**.
20

21 28. Based upon the court orders from the State of Washington, and the PFEC results,
22 on October 30, 2018, Plaintiff Linton attempted to purchase a rifle that was, and is, legal for a
23 person to own and possess in California. Plaintiff Linton was once again denied his right to
24 purchase the rifle. On or about November 7, 2016, the California DOJ informed Plaintiff Linton
25 that he was ineligible to purchase or possess firearms pursuant to its review of state and/or
26 federal records which purported to show that plaintiff was a "Felon: Any person who has been
27 convicted of a felony under the laws of the United States, of the State of California, or of any
28 other state, government, or country." A true and correct copy of the DOJ's letter denying

1 Plaintiff Linton the right to purchase a firearm is attached hereto as **Exhibit D**. However, the
2 only felony conviction Plaintiff Linton had ever suffered was the Washington State conviction,
3 which by that time had already been set aside, vacated, and for which his firearms rights
4 specifically had been restored to him by the Washington court. (Exhibits A and B.)

5 29. After this firearm denial, Plaintiff Linton requested and underwent a “Live Scan”
6 fingerprint-based background check request with the DOJ directly. On or about November 10,
7 2016, the results of that Live Scan were returned to him and showed the presence of no felony
8 convictions.

9 30. In an effort to remedy the conflicts and access his rights, on or about February 2,
10 2017, Plaintiff Linton, through his attorney, Adam Richards, wrote the DOJ to contest its
11 determination regarding his status as a prohibited person. In furtherance of this claim of
12 inaccuracy and/or incompleteness, Plaintiff’s counsel provided the DOJ with the Washington
13 Court’s Order vacating Plaintiff’s felony conviction (Exhibit A), as well as the Order restoring
14 his firearm rights (Exhibit B). A copy of Plaintiff Linton’s counsel’s letter to the DOJ dated
15 February 2, 2017, is attached hereto as **Exhibit E**. The DOJ did not respond to this request and
16 communication, at all.

17 31. Plaintiff’s counsel Richards made a second request to the DOJ to correct Plaintiff
18 Linton’s record, on November 11, 2017. On or about January 30, 2018, in apparent response to
19 attorney Richards’s letter, the DOJ sent a letter to Plaintiff Linton directly, stating that “the entry
20 in question cannot be found on your California criminal history record, therefore, no further
21 investigation is required.” A copy of the California DOJ’s letter to Plaintiff Linton dated January
22 30, 2018, is attached as **Exhibit F**. In addition, on about March 6, 2018, the DOJ sent Plaintiff
23 Linton an additional record stating that “as of the date of this letter, your fingerprints did not
24 identify any criminal history maintained by the Bureau of Criminal Information and Analysis.”
25 A copy of the DOJ’s letter dated March 6, 2018, is attached as **Exhibit G**.

26 32. Based upon the letters from the DOJ (Exhibits F and G) which appeared to be
27 responsive to his attorney’s letters, on March 20, 2018, Plaintiff Linton reasonably believed that
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1 the confusion had been cleared up, that the DOJ’s records had been corrected, and he then
2 attempted to purchase a .357 revolver, for self-defense in the home. But Plaintiff Linton was
3 again denied this purchase by the DOJ. On or about March 27, 2018, the DOJ sent Plaintiff
4 Linton a letter stating that the attempted firearm purchase was denied due to the presence of a
5 prior felony conviction—again, the only possible such matter being the now-vacated Washington
6 matter.

7 33. On or about April 3, 2018, agents of the California Department of Justice, Bureau
8 of Firearms, operating as a unit of their Armed Prohibited Persons System (APPS) enforcement
9 program, came to Plaintiff Linton’s home, and seized several firearms that Plaintiff Linton had
10 acquired and owned throughout the years, including an antique, family-heirloom shotgun that
11 was once owned by his grandfather. All of these firearms were acquired through legal purchases
12 or transfers, through federally-licensed firearm dealers (FFLs), and pursuant to DOJ DROS
13 (“Dealer’s Record of Sale”) background checks. Over the years, Plaintiff Linton had passed
14 many other background checks, and Live Scan fingerprint-based checks in connection with
15 professional licensing, none of which turned up the presence of any felony convictions, and in
16 conjunction with the trial judge’s statements at his sentencing in 1987, Plaintiff had reasonably
17 believed that the matter had been reduced to a misdemeanor and vacated at the time of discharge.
18 At the time of the DOJ’s entry into Plaintiff’s home and seizures, Plaintiff Linton’s wife showed
19 the DOJ agents the Washington State court orders that vacated the felony conviction, and
20 restored Plaintiff his gun rights (Exhibits A and B). On information and belief, the DOJ agents
21 sought approval from Defendant Deputy Attorney General Robert Wilson to return the firearms
22 to Plaintiff, but Defendant Wilson denied this request.

23
24 34. On information and belief, after the DOJ agents left, there was a continuing
25 debate within the DOJ as to whether Plaintiff Linton maintained prohibited status. On
26 information and belief, one DOJ agent expressed the opinion that the “felony prohibition has
27 been removed for the following subject,” and that they “believe he is not prohibited due to the
28 felony being vacated.” Plaintiff Linton was shown a copy of this e-mail that appeared to indicate

1 that the DOJ agents sided with Plaintiff Linton. Nevertheless, they were not permitted to restore
2 to him the firearms that were taken. On information and belief, defendant Wilson, supervising or
3 otherwise instructing the agents, considered the situation, and made the decision not to release
4 the firearms to him.

5 35. In June 2018, Plaintiff Linton was supplied with the results of the FBI fingerprint
6 search, which showed that the felony conviction from Washington State had been vacated, and
7 that Plaintiff's firearms rights had been restored to him. In addition, on or about August 16,
8 2018, Plaintiff Linton underwent another PFEC to make sure, and the results once more likewise
9 said that he was "eligible to purchase or possess firearms."

10 36. In order to test the DOJ's response, sometime in September 2018, Plaintiff Linton
11 attempted to make a simple purchase of a .22 rifle from a local, California-licensed FFL. On or
12 about September 7, 2018, the DOJ sent both Plaintiff Linton and the FFL notice that he was
13 "prohibited" from owning firearms and refused to allow release of the .22 rifle to Plaintiff, thus
14 once more denying Plaintiff Linton his fundamental rights.

15 37. On September 24, 2018, Plaintiff's counsel, Adam Richards, spoke with
16 Defendant Wilson about this ongoing inability of DOJ to reconcile and correct its records with
17 the (already-provided) records showing that the Washington State felony had been vacated and
18 firearms rights were restored to Plaintiff. Plaintiff's counsel was surprised to hear Defendant
19 Wilson express the policy that DOJ would continue to consider Plaintiff to be a "prohibited
20 person" and barred from owing or acquiring firearms pursuant to Pen. Code § 29800, as a result
21 of the vacated Washington State conviction (for which Plaintiff's firearms rights had been
22 restored). Defendant Wilson acknowledged that the DOJ had received, but that it was expressly
23 refusing to honor the Washington State Court's findings that Plaintiff's felony conviction had
24 been vacated and that Plaintiff's firearms rights had been restored to him. During this phone
25 call, Defendant Wilson stated that the only remedy that Plaintiff Linton had would be in the form
26 of a pardon from the President of the United States. Defendant Wilson thus expressed the
27 Defendants' policy that, notwithstanding the restoration of his firearm rights in Washington
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1 State, according to the laws and DOJ's policies, practices, and customs, such order of a court in a
2 different state had no effect whatsoever and would not be honored here. A copy of Plaintiff
3 Linton's counsel's December 4, 2018 confirming letter to Defendant Robert D. Wilson is
4 attached as **Exhibit H**.

5 38. Defendants did not respond to the request of Plaintiff's counsel, or reverse their
6 decision, or policy, within the time period requested or otherwise, and Plaintiff Linton is
7 therefore forced to file this action to vindicate his rights.

8
9 *Plaintiff Paul McKinley Stewart*

10 39. Plaintiff Paul McKinley Stewart has been a resident of the County of San
11 Bernardino, California, for over 30 years. He was a resident of Riverside County for several
12 years before that.

13 40. On June 6, 1976, when Plaintiff Stewart was 18 years old, he succumbed to a
14 crime of opportunity while he was living in the State of Arizona. Seeing an unlocked telephone
15 company truck in a commercial yard, Plaintiff Stewart hopped a fence, reached into the truck,
16 and stole some lineman's tools. He was seen by someone and reported to the police. When the
17 police went to his residence, Plaintiff Stewart gave up the tools and offered no resistance to his
18 arrest.

19 41. On or about August 3, 1976, Plaintiff Stewart was found guilty of a first degree
20 burglary, a felony, in the County of Yuma, Arizona. He was immediately sentenced to three
21 years of probation, and the Court imposed a suspended sentence during the probation period.
22 That court's sentencing order specifically stated: "If in all respects you obey this order at the end
23 of three years, or sooner upon the recommendation of your probation officer the judgment of
24 guilty as well as this order may be vacated and the case dismissed. This action will restore to you
25 all rights lost by this conviction except that notwithstanding such dismissal the conviction may
26 be considered if you are again convicted of another offense."

27 42. On or about October 5, 1978, Plaintiff Stewart successfully completed his
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1 probation and believed the matter was dismissed. His belief was further enforced by a statement
2 he had with his probation officer at the time, who told him that the felony conviction had been
3 dismissed due to his successful completion of probation.

4 43. Since moving to San Bernardino County in or around 1988, Plaintiff Stewart has
5 lived an honest life. He has married, raised a family, and is a father to two grown and successful
6 children. He has remained steadily and gainfully employed.

7 44. On or about December 28, 2015, Plaintiff Stewart, believing he was not
8 prohibited, attempted to purchase a pistol for self-defense in his home from a local gun dealer.
9 With no reason to believe he was prohibited from doing so, Plaintiff Stweart also attempted to
10 purchase additional firearms while waiting for DOJ's DROS clearance on the pistol purchase.

11 45. On or about January 1, 2014, the DOJ sent Plaintiff Stewart a letter regarding the
12 attempted firearm purchase, informing him that his status was still "undetermined" and that the
13 firearm purchase would be delayed. Eventually, Plaintiff Stewart was told he was disqualified
14 from purchasing or possessing any firearms due to the presence of a prior felony conviction.

15 46. Plaintiff Stewart requested a Live Scan fingerprint-based background check for a
16 copy of his criminal records. On or about March 28, 2016, Plaintiff Stewart received the results
17 of the FBI criminal records check, which indicated the presence of a conviction in Arizona, but
18 did not indicate whether it was classified as a felony or not. The FBI letter said that the matter
19 was "undetermined" as to whether he was eligible to purchase or possess firearms.

20 47. On or about May 13, 2016, Plaintiff Stewart filed with the Superior Court of
21 Yuma County, Arizona, an application to restore his civil rights, including his firearm rights, and
22 to set aside his judgment of guilt. On or about August 11, 2016, that Court issued an order
23 restoring his firearm rights, and specifically set aside the judgment of guilt. A copy of the
24 Court's order of August 11, 2016, is attached as **Exhibit I**.

25 48. On or about February 2, 2018, the Arizona Department of Public Safety further
26 sent Plaintiff Stewart additional documentation showing that the felony conviction had been set
27 aside and that his records had been so corrected.
28

1 55. In 1980, while he was 19 years old, and a resident of the State of Texas, plaintiff
2 Jones was arrested arising from an incident involving the alleged misuse of a credit card. On or
3 about August 22, 1980, Plaintiff Jones was made an offer by the prosecution by which the
4 charges would be set aside and dismissed, following a period of probation, if he were to plead
5 guilty to a single charge of “credit card abuse,” a third degree felony under Texas law and which
6 involved no term of confinement. Plaintiff Jones accepted this deal, pled guilty to the charge as
7 offered, and completed a three-year term of probation under community supervision.

8 56. Having successfully completed the term of Plaintiff Jones’s community
9 supervision probation, on or about August 22, 1983, the district court for the County of Harris,
10 Texas, permitted Plaintiff Jones to withdraw his plea of guilty, set aside and dismiss the
11 judgment of conviction. A true and correct certified copy of the Texas court’s FULL
12 TERMINATION ORDER OF THE COURT DISMISSING THE CAUSE in Plaintiff Jones’s case is attached
13 hereto as **Exhibit K**. See, Texas Code of Crim. Procedure art. 42.12 section 20(b) (“If the judge
14 discharges the defendant under this section, the judge may set aside the verdict or permit the
15 defendant to withdraw the defendant's plea, and shall dismiss the accusation, complaint,
16 information or indictment against the defendant, *who shall thereafter be released from all*
17 *penalties and disabilities resulting from the offense or crime of which the defendant has been*
18 *convicted* or to which the defendant has pleaded guilty[.]”) (emphasis added). And by operation
19 of this set-aside and dismissal, Plaintiff Jones is eligible to own and possess firearms under
20 federal law. See, 18 U.S.C. § 921(a)(20).

21 57. Since that time, Plaintiff Jones moved to California and has successfully pursued
22 a career in law enforcement with the State of California. During his career, plaintiff Jones
23 necessarily and legally owned and possessed firearms, as a part of his profession, for personal
24 protection, recreation and sport. Currently, Plaintiff Jones is an instructor in the use of force and
25 firearm trainer as his chosen current profession, which necessarily requires him to own and
26 possess firearms and to handle firearms and ammunition.

27 58. Plaintiff Jones received Peace Officers’ Standards and Training (POST)
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1 certification since 1997, and has continued in his new profession as a firearms, self-defense and
2 use of force trainer for peace officers and other citizens. Plaintiff Jones has personally trained
3 thousands of peace officers and private citizens in the proper use of handguns, rifles, shotguns,
4 and less lethal options involving the use of force. Plaintiff Jones has received specialized
5 training with handguns, rifles and shotguns, and has received NRA-training and proficiency as a
6 part of his chosen, post-law enforcement profession.

7 59. Having successfully held Certificates of Eligibility (“COE”) to own/possess
8 firearms and/or ammunition under Cal. Penal Code § 26710, a necessary requirement to
9 becoming or maintaining status as a certified firearm instructor under current DOJ policy. (See
10 form BOF 037, available at:
11 https://oag.ca.gov/sites/all/files/agweb/pdfs/firearms/forms/bof_037.pdf (“All applicants for
12 Certified Instructor must have a valid Certificate of Eligibility (COE).”)

13 60. In fact, at the current time, Plaintiff Jones is listed on the DOJ’s website as one of
14 its Certified Instructors eligible to provide training specified by Pen. Code § 31635(b). A true
15 and correct excerpt from the DOJ’s current list of instructors authorized to provide “Comparable
16 Firearm Safety Training” which includes Plaintiff Jones is attached hereto as **Exhibit L**.

17 61. Sometime in 2018, Plaintiff Jones submitted his application to the California DOJ
18 for renewal of his COE which he had held without incident since 2010. Sometime in or around
19 February 2018, the DOJ informed Plaintiff Jones that the COE application was being delayed.
20 Plaintiff Jones then initiated a record review request pursuant to Pen. Code § 11126 and 11 Cal.
21 Code Regs. § 4040(b). On or about February 23, 2019, the DOJ Bureau of Firearms informed
22 Plaintiff Jones that according to the Department’s records, he was “not eligible to own, possess
23 or have under [his] custody or control any firearm[,]” and denied Plaintiff a Certificate of
24 Eligibility. A true and correct copy of the DOJ’s letter of February 23, 2019 is attached hereto as
25 **Exhibit M**.

26 62. On information and belief, the same laws and policies, practices, and customs that
27 were used to deny Plaintiffs Linton and Stewart their rights, in the face of valid court orders from
28

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1 other states that specifically set aside, vacated or otherwise dismissed the felony convictions, and
2 restored the subjects' firearm rights, were determined to be of no application to the purchase of
3 firearms in California, and operated to deny Plaintiff Jones the same.

4 63. On information and belief, Defendants, and each of them, are responsible for
5 issuing, implementing, and enforcing the laws, policies, practices, and customs that denied
6 Plaintiff Jones the right to purchase, possess, and keep a firearm in his home for self-defense and
7 for his chosen profession as a law enforcement and civilian firearms trainer.

8 64. Plaintiff Jones has suffered and is continuing to suffer irreparable injury as a
9 result of the DOJ's determination, through policies issued and implemented by defendants, that
10 Plaintiff is prohibited from owning, possessing or handling firearms and ammunition. After over
11 thirty years of faithful service in a career in law enforcement, Plaintiff Jones is now unable to
12 pursue his career as a firearms instructor and trainer as a result of the defendants' policies.

13 65. Furthermore, Plaintiff Jones reasonably fears arrest and prosecution as a result of
14 defendants' policies and practices as they pertain to the Department of Justice's Armed
15 Prohibited Persons (APPS) enforcement program. Armed agents of the California DOJ have
16 been known to show up at the homes of persons of whom the DOJ became aware is on their
17 "list" of allegedly prohibited persons, such as Plaintiff Linton above, to intimidate and coerce
18 such persons into giving up important rights, including the right to keep and bear arms
19 guaranteed by the United States Constitution. Furthermore, the California Department of Justice
20 has been known to retaliate against citizens who exercise their right to petition the courts to
21 restore their firearm rights by sending armed agents to their homes. See, e.g., *James v. Granger*,
22 E.D. Cal. No. 1:13-cv-00983. Accordingly, both preliminary and permanent injunctive relief is
23 appropriate.
24

25 66. As to all claims for relief set forth below, all Plaintiffs are seeking relief from all
26 Defendants named herein.

27 //

28 //

CLAIMS FOR RELIEF

COUNT I: VIOLATION OF U.S. CONST., AMEND. II

1
2
3 67. Plaintiffs incorporate by reference paragraphs 1 through 66 as if fully set forth
4 herein.

5 68. The Second Amendment to the United States Constitution states, in pertinent part,
6 that “the right of the people to keep and bear arms, shall not be infringed.” The Second
7 Amendment further “elevates above all other interests the right of law-abiding, responsible
8 citizens to use arms in defense of hearth and home.” *District of Columbia v. Heller*, 554 U.S.
9 570, 635 (2008).

10 69. As the Court subsequently held in *McDonald v. City of Chicago*, 561 U.S. 742,
11 130 S.Ct. 3020 (2010): “it is clear that the Framers and ratifiers of the Fourteenth Amendment
12 counted the right to keep and bear arms among those *fundamental* rights necessary to our system
13 of ordered liberty.” 130 S.Ct. at 3043 (emphasis added).

14 70. Individual Plaintiffs are now responsible, law-abiding citizens with no history of
15 violent behavior or conduct that would suggest that they pose any elevated threat or danger to
16 others. The felony convictions that they were charged with, and found guilty of, were punishable
17 by imprisonment, or by probation. Neither of the Individual Plaintiffs were sentenced to a term
18 in prison, and all Individual Plaintiffs successfully completed the terms of their probation.

19 71. Individual Plaintiffs, now permanent residents of California, desire and intend to
20 purchase, possess, and keep firearms for self-defense, and for the defense of their families,
21 primarily self-defense within their homes. However, Individual Plaintiffs are prevented from
22 purchasing, inheriting, obtaining and keeping firearms, for lawful purposes, on account of the
23 laws of the State of California and Defendants’ policies, practices, and customs described herein,
24 that are being applied to them.

25 72. Defendants’ policies that have been adopted, and are being enforced, which
26 operate to deny these plaintiffs, and others similarly-situated to them, the ability or right to
27 purchase, possess, and keep firearms within their home, and which are based upon the imposition
28

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1 of non-violent felony convictions occurring in other states, notwithstanding that (a) those prior
2 felony convictions were vacated, set aside, or were otherwise adjudged to have been exonerated
3 by courts of those state, and (b) those other states specifically adjudged plaintiffs to be permitted
4 a restoration of their firearm rights.

5 73. The crimes for which the Individual Plaintiffs had been convicted are all more
6 than ten (10) years old, were for non-violent, lesser-classified felonies, and did not involve the
7 use of force. The sentences imposed upon the plaintiffs were minor, and their convictions were
8 eventually adjudged to have been vacated, expunged, or set aside under the laws of those states
9 by a court of competent jurisdiction. Notwithstanding the non-violent nature of those
10 convictions, and the subsequent restoration of plaintiffs' rights, the laws and Defendants'
11 policies, practices, and customs described herein, as applied to Individual Plaintiffs, amount to a
12 total and permanent deprivation of their fundamental, individual right to keep and bear arms and
13 ammunition, as guaranteed by the Second Amendment, and are therefore an infringement upon
14 those rights. The circumstances surrounding the Individual Plaintiffs' convictions are therefore
15 and should be distinguishable from those persons that have been historically excluded from the
16 right to keep and bear arms.

17 74. The State of California's laws and Defendants' policies cannot be justified, and
18 therefore fail to satisfy any level or mode of scrutiny at all, let alone the heightened scrutiny that
19 is required to deprive individuals of such fundamental rights, as established by the Supreme
20 Court in *Heller*, 554 U.S. at 628, n. 27. The challenged laws and policies unquestionably burden
21 conduct and activity protected by the Second Amendment, as they result in a complete
22 prohibition of firearm possession, for any and all purposes, including self-defense within the
23 home. This burden is severe because it completely eviscerates the right, or a core exercise of the
24 right, with no actual means to restore those rights, absent – according to Defendants – a
25 presidential pardon.
26

27 75. Defendants' policy of permanently depriving Individual Plaintiffs the right to
28 keep and bear arms, under such circumstances, violates the Second Amendment. To the extent

1 that Cal. Pen. Code §§ 29800 (prohibiting possession of a firearm by a felon) and 30305
2 (prohibiting possession of ammunition by a felon) is applied to Individual Plaintiffs, and other
3 members of the Organizational Plaintiffs and similarly-situated members of the public, it is
4 unconstitutional.

5 WHEREFORE, Plaintiffs seek declaratory and injunctive relief as set forth below.

6
7 **COUNT II: VIOLATION OF U.S. CONST., Art . IV § 1**
8 **Full Faith and Credit Clause**

9 76. Plaintiffs incorporate by reference paragraphs 1 through 75 as if fully set forth
10 herein.

11 77. Article IV, section 1 of the United States Constitution provides that “Full Faith
12 and Credit shall be given in each State to the public Acts, Records, and judicial Proceedings of
13 every other State.” “That Clause requires each State to recognize and give effect to valid
14 judgments rendered by the courts of its sister States.” *V.L. v. E.L.*, 136 S. Ct. 1017, 1020 (2016).
15 The purpose of this Clause is “to alter the status of the several states as independent foreign
16 sovereignties, each free to ignore obligations created under the laws or by the judicial
17 proceedings of the others, and to make them integral parts of a single nation.” *Id.* (citing
18 *Milwaukee County v. M.E. White Co.*, 296 U.S. 268, 277, 56 S.Ct. 229 (1935)).

19 78. The Full Faith and Credit Clause, and its enabling statute (28 U.S.C. § 1738)
20 create a rule of preclusive effect of final, binding adjudications from one state court in another
21 court. “A final judgment in one State, if rendered by a court with adjudicatory authority over the
22 subject matter and persons governed by the judgment, qualifies for recognition throughout the
23 land.” *Baker by Thomas v. General Motors Corp.*, 522 U.S. 222, 233, 118 S.Ct. 657, 664 (1998)

24 79. Moreover, there is no “roving public policy exception” to the full faith and credit
25 due judgments, and the Full Faith and Credit Clause orders submission, even to the hostile
26 policies reflected in the judgment of another state. *Baker*, 522 U.S. at 233.

27 80. Defendants’ policies, which amount to a refusal to honor the expungements, set-
28

1 aside, and/or vacation of felony convictions in other states, and their refusal to honor the
2 restoration of firearm rights expressly adjudicated by the courts of the other states, and their
3 refusal to restore firearm rights to such individuals, including the Individual Plaintiffs herein,
4 violate the Constitution’s Full Faith and Credit Clause, and its enabling statute, 28 U.S.C. §
5 1738.

6 WHEREFORE, Plaintiffs seek declaratory and injunctive relief as set forth below.

7
8 **COUNT III: VIOLATION OF U.S. CONST., Art . IV § 2; Amend. XIV, § 1**
9 **Privileges and Immunities Clause**
10 **(Against All Defendants)**

11 81. Plaintiffs incorporate by reference paragraphs 1 through 80 as if fully set forth
12 herein.

13 82. The State of California honors and permits a process by which persons convicted
14 of certain, less serious felony offenses within this state may have their firearms rights reinstated.
15 Specifically, this process generally allows certain persons convicted of qualifying offenses,
16 namely, certain “wobbler” offenses [i.e., offenses that can be charged either as a felony or a
17 misdemeanor] that did not involve the use of a dangerous weapon, or for which the person was
18 not sentenced to a term in state prison, to apply for reduction of a felony “wobbler” to a
19 misdemeanor, pursuant to Cal. Penal Code § 17(b). Furthermore, under such circumstances, a
20 person convicted of a felony in California may also seek and obtain expungement of a criminal
21 record under Pen. Code § 1203.4. An application for a reduction of a felony conviction to a
22 misdemeanor may be made and granted at any time, even after the sentence was served or
23 probation completed.

24 83. By virtue of a post-conviction reduction of a felony to a misdemeanor utilizing
25 Pen. Code § 17(b), many if not most felony offenses so reduced may also result in a restoration
26 of civil rights, including the right to possess and obtain firearms by those previously convicted in
27 California courts and prohibited from purchasing or possessing firearms.

28 84. Defendants’ policies, practices, and customs are to honor the reduction of certain

1 qualifying offenses committed in California, where a reduction to a misdemeanor has been
2 adjudged by a Superior Court within this state, pursuant to Pen. Code § 17(b). Under such
3 circumstances, the California Department of Justice, and its Bureau of Firearms, which
4 administers firearm purchase and transfer applications within this State, will not prevent a person
5 previously convicted of a felony wobbler from obtaining and keeping firearms for lawful
6 purposes, including self-defense, if such offense is reduced to a misdemeanor, post-conviction,
7 pursuant to Pen. Code § 17(b), and if the offense otherwise qualifies. Otherwise, a person
8 convicted of a felony *in any jurisdiction* cannot own, purchase, receive, or have in his or her
9 possession, custody or control any firearm. Pen. Code § 29800.

10 85. However, the State of California will only honor the reduction of these qualifying
11 felony convictions utilizing the statutes and the process described above. As shown throughout
12 this complaint, California refuses to honor the comparable process utilized by other states,
13 including the States of Washington, Arizona, and Texas, shown above, even where the courts of
14 those jurisdictions expressly have set aside the felony convictions and have restored, by order of
15 the court or by operation of law, firearms rights to such persons who have successfully
16 completed their terms of probation. Accordingly, Defendants’ refusal to honor the set-aside or
17 vacation of those felony convictions, and/or restoration of firearm rights, by courts of those other
18 states, amounts to unlawful discrimination, favoring California’s citizens, since persons
19 convicted of felonies in other states, in essence, have no actual means to seek judicial restoration
20 of their firearms rights here, or otherwise comparable to the process of reduction under those
21 mechanisms (including Pen. Code § 17(b)) described above.

22 86. Article IV, section 2, clause 1 of the United States Constitution requires that
23 “[t]he Citizens of each State shall be entitled to all Privileges and Immunities of Citizens in the
24 several States.” The purpose of this Clause is to prevent a state from treating a citizen of another
25 state as an alien, or discriminating against him or her in favor of its own citizens. “The primary
26 purpose of this clause, like the clauses between which it is located—those relating to full faith
27 and credit and to interstate extradition of fugitives from justice—was to help fuse into one
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1 Nation a collection of independent, sovereign States. It was designed to insure to a citizen of
2 State A who ventures into State B the same privileges which the citizens of State B enjoy.”
3 *Toomer v. Witsell*, 334 U.S. 385, 395, 68 S.Ct. 1156, 1162 (1948).

4 87. Furthermore, the Privileges and Immunities Clause provides important protections
5 for non-residents who enter the state to obtain employment, or for any other purposes, including
6 the right to travel and become a permanent resident of the state. *Saenz v. Roe*, 526 U.S. 489,
7 502, 119 S.Ct. 1518, 1526 (1999). The right to travel is further protected by the opening words
8 of the Fourteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution, which states: “All persons born
9 or naturalized in the United States, and subject to the jurisdiction thereof, are citizens of the
10 United States and of the State wherein they reside. No State shall make or enforce any law which
11 shall abridge the privileges or immunities of citizens of the United States[.]” *Id.*

12 88. The laws of the State of California, and the policies, practices, and customs of the
13 California Department of Justice, as issued, implemented, and enforced by Defendants, and each
14 of them, which refuse to recognize that felony convictions have been vacated or set aside by
15 courts in other states, and ignore the express findings of those states’ courts that have restored a
16 person’s firearm rights, discriminates against citizens from the other states of the Union, and in
17 favor of California residents, by denying those persons, including the Individual Plaintiffs herein
18 and those similarly-situated to them, any means of judicial recourse to obtain felony
19 expungements and to seek a restoration of their firearm rights, even though such a path is
20 available to persons convicted of similar, less serious, and qualifying felonies within this state.
21 Accordingly, these policies of Defendants, and each of them, violates the constitutional rights of
22 those persons convicted outside of California, now residing here, including the Individual
23 Plaintiffs as these policies are applied to them.

24 WHEREFORE, Plaintiffs seek declaratory and injunctive relief as set forth below.

25 //
26 //
27 //
28 //

PRAYER FOR RELIEF

WHEREFORE, Plaintiffs request that judgment be entered in their favor and against Defendants, and pray for relief as follows:

1. For declaratory judgment and relief, pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 2201, that Defendants’ policy of refusing to honor the set-aside and vacation of felony convictions, and restoration of firearm rights by the courts of the other states, is unconstitutional as applied to Individual Plaintiffs and others similarly-situated to them, and violates the Second Amendment, and likewise, that Pen. Code §§ 29800 and 30305, as applied to Individual Plaintiffs and others similarly-situated to them, is unconstitutional;

2. For declaratory judgment and relief, pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 2201, that Defendants’ policy of refusing to honor the set-aside and vacation of felony convictions, and restoration of firearm rights by the courts of the other states, is unconstitutional as applied to Individual Plaintiffs and others similarly-situated to them, is unconstitutional and violates the Full Faith and Credit Clause;

3. For declaratory judgment and relief, pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 2201, that Defendants’ policy of refusing to honor the set-aside and vacation of felony convictions, and restoration of firearm rights by the courts of the other states, is unconstitutional as applied to Individual Plaintiffs and others similarly-situated to them, is unconstitutional and violates the Privileges and Immunities Clause (Art. IV, § 2), and the Privileges or Immunities Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment;

4. For temporary, preliminary and permanent injunctive relief, consistent with declaratory relief sought herein, enjoining Defendants, and their officers, agents and employees, from enforcing their laws, policies, practices, and customs of refusing to honor the set-aside and vacation of felony convictions, and restoration of firearm rights by the courts of the other states, insofar as it applies or may apply to any and all plaintiffs or their members, and from otherwise enforcing or administering the Armed Prohibited Persons (APPS) program, or similar enforcement programs, or acting in concert with other law enforcement agencies to enforce or

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Attorneys at Law

EXHIBIT A

STATE OF WASHINGTON)
COUNTY OF ISLAND) ss

FILED
DEBRA VAN PELT
ISLAND COUNTY CLERK
2016 MAR 21 PM 3:34

I, Debra Van Pelt, Clerk of Island County and ex-officio clerk of the Superior Court, do hereby certify that this instrument consisting of 3 page(s), is a full, true and correct copy of the original now on file in my office; WITNESS my hand and official seal this 30th day of November, 2016.

DEBRA VAN PELT
By: 
Deputy
Coupeville, Washington

SUPERIOR COURT OF WASHINGTON
ISLAND COUNTY

STATE OF WASHINGTON,
Plaintiff,

vs.

CHAD JAY LINTON,

Defendant.

No. 87-1-00064-9

Order on Motion Re: Vacating Record of
Felony Conviction
Granted (ORVCJG)

Clerk's Action Required, para. 3.6

I. Basis

This matter comes before the court on defendant's motion for order vacating record of felony conviction pursuant to RCW 9.94A.640. The court having heard argument of the parties and considered the case records and files, and the pleadings submitted on the matter.

II. Findings

- 2.1 Adequate notice was given to the appropriate parties and agencies.
- 2.2 On or about December 29, 1987, the defendant was convicted of the following offense(s):
Cause No: 87-1-00064-9 Count: I Offense: Attempting to Elude Pursuing Police Vehicle in violation of RCW 46.61.024.
- 2.3 Defendant was discharged under RCW 9.94A.637 as having completed the requirement of his or her sentence for the offense listed in paragraph 2.2 (RCW 9.94A.640).
- 2.4 Defendant satisfied the following requirements of RCW 9.94A.640(2) or has met the equivalent of these requirements as they would be applied to a person convicted of a crime committed after July 1, 1984:

There are no criminal charges pending against the defendant in any court of this state or another state, or in any federal court (RCW 9.94A.640(2)(a)).

The offense for which the defendant was convicted is not one of the following offenses (RCW 9.94A.640(2)(b), (c), (g)):

A violent offense as defined in RCW 9.94A.030
A crime against persons as defined in RCW 43.43.830
A class C felony described in RCW 46.61.502(6) or 46.61.504(6)

- 2.5 The defendant has not been convicted of any new crime in this state, another state, or federal court since the date of discharge under RCW 9.94A.637 or expiration of probation, based upon the criminal history check of the following records (RCW 9.94A.640(2)(d)):
- Washington State Crime Information Center (WACIC), RCW 43.43.500 et seq;
National Crime Information Center (NCIC), including the Interstate Identification Index (Triple I), 28 USC Section 534;
Judicial Information System (JIS), including Defendant Case History (DCH) from the District and Municipal Court Information System (DISCIS), RCW 2.68 et seq. and JISCR; AND/OR
Other: Washington State Patrol Washington Access To Criminal History (WATCH).
- 2.6 The offense for which the defendant was convicted was a class C felony, other than a class C felony described in RCW 46.61.502(6) or 46.61.504(6), and it has been at least five years since the date of discharge under RCW 9.94A.637 or expiration of probation (RCW 9.94A.640(2)(f)).

III. Order

The court orders:

- 3.1 The motion for order vacating conviction records of the following offense is granted.


Cause No: 87-1-00064-9 Count: I Offense: Attempting to Elude Pursuing Police Vehicle in violation of RCW 46.61.024.

The court further orders that:

- 3.2 The defendant's guilty plea for the offense listed in paragraph 3.1 is withdrawn and a not guilty plea is entered.
And/Or
The guilty verdict for the offense listed in paragraph 3.1 is set aside.
- 3.3 The information or indictment for the offense listed in paragraph 3.2 is dismissed.
- 3.4 The defendant shall be released from all penalties and disabilities resulting from the offense listed in paragraph 3.1 and the conviction of that offense shall not be included in the defendant's criminal history for purposes of determining a sentence in any subsequent conviction. However, the conviction may be used in a later criminal prosecution.
- 3.5 For all purposes, including responding to questions on employment applications, the defendant may state that he or she has never been convicted of the offense listed in paragraph 3.1.


3.6 The clerk of the court shall immediately transmit a certified copy of this order to the Washington State Patrol and to the Island County Sheriff which agencies shall immediately update their records to reflect the vacation of the record of conviction of the offense(s) listed in paragraph 3.1. The Washington State Patrol shall transmit a copy of this order to the Federal Bureau of Investigation. The Washington State Patrol or local law enforcement agency may not disseminate or disclose a conviction that has been vacated under RCW 9.94A.640 to any person, except to other criminal justice enforcement agencies.

Dated: 5/21/2016


Judge/Print Name:
Alan R Hancock

Presented by:

Approved for entry:


Brent Thompson, WSBA# 44778
Attorney for Respondent

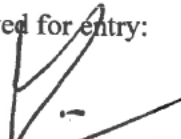

Michael Schstrom, WSBA# 46425
Prosecuting Authority

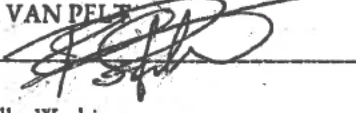
EXHIBIT B

STATE OF WASHINGTON)
COUNTY OF ISLAND) ss


FILED
DEBRA VAN PELT
ISLAND COUNTY CLERK

2016 APR 18 AM 11:47

I, Debra Van Pelt, Clerk of Island County and ex-officio clerk of the Superior Court, do hereby certify that this instrument consisting of 1 page(s), is a full, true and correct copy of the original now on file in my office. WITNESS my hand and official seal this ~~30th~~ day of November, 20 16.

DEBRA VAN PELT
By: 
Deputy
Coupeville, Washington

SUPERIOR COURT OF WASHINGTON
ISLAND COUNTY

CHAD JAY LINTON,

Petitioner,
vs.
STATE OF WASHINGTON,
Respondent.

No. 16-2-00196-8

RCW 9.41.040(4) ORDER RESTORING
RIGHT TO POSSESS FIREARMS

Clerk's Action Required

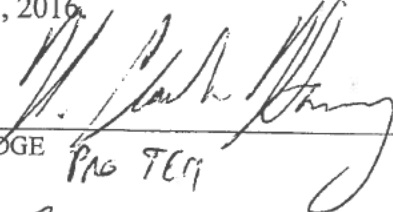
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THIS MATTER having come on for hearing before the above entitled court on a RCW 9.41.040(4) Petition for Order Restoring Right to Possess Firearms and the court having reviewed the Petition and having heard any objections thereto, and being otherwise fully advised:


THE COURT HEREBY FINDS on August 11, 1988 the Island County Superior Court discharged Petitioner and restored his civil rights lost as a result of Island County Superior Court Cause No. 87-1-00064-9; on March 21, 2016 the Island County Superior Court also vacated, set aside, dismissed, and released Petitioner from all penalties and disabilities resulting from Island County Superior Court Cause No. 87-1-00064-9; and the Petitioner is qualified, pursuant to RCW 9.41.040(4), to have the right to possess firearms fully restored; now therefore:

THE COURT HEREBY ORDERS that Petitioner Chad Linton's civil rights and right to possess firearms are FULLY RESTORED pursuant to RCW 9.41.040(4). The clerk of the court shall, forthwith, provide a certified copy of this Order to the Washington State Patrol-Identification Section. The Washington State Patrol shall transmit a copy of this order to the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

DONE IN OPEN COURT this 18th day of April, 2016.


JUDGE
PAG TER

Presented by:


Brent Thompson, WSBA #44778
Attorney for Petitioner

Approved for entry:



Michael Sattrom, WSBA #46225
Attorney for State of Washington

EXHIBIT C



State of California
Department of Justice
Bureau of Firearms



P.O. Box 820200, Sacramento, CA 94203-0200

PERSONAL FIREARMS ELIGIBILITY CHECK (PFEC) NOTIFICATION

October 25, 2016

(date check was completed)

CHAD JAY LINTON

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

**THIS NOTICE IS FOR INFORMATION PURPOSES ONLY
IT DOES NOT AUTHORIZE THE SALE OR TRANSFER OF ANY FIREARM**

- You are eligible to both possess and purchase firearms as of the date the check was completed. This determination is based on a check of California records.
- You are ineligible to either possess or purchase firearms as of the date the check was completed.
- You are eligible to possess firearms as of the date the check was completed, but ineligible to purchase firearms as of the date the check was completed.
- A firearms eligibility determination could not be confirmed as of the date the check was completed. Please contact (916) 227-7527 for more information.

No person or agency may require or request another person to obtain a firearms eligibility check or notification of firearms eligibility pursuant to section 30105 of the Penal Code. A violation of these provisions is a misdemeanor.

If the applicant for a firearms eligibility check purchases, transfers, or receives a firearm through a licensed dealer as required by law, a waiting period and background check are both required.

PLEASE BE AWARE OF THE FOLLOWING

If you are ELIGIBLE to purchase:

Federal law does not authorize a check of the National Instant Criminal History Background Check System (NICS) as part of a Personal Firearms Eligibility Check (PFEC). Therefore, although the results of the PFEC indicate you are eligible to possess and purchase firearms, you could still be prohibited based on information in a federal database that the California Department of Justice was not authorized to check.

Upon application to purchase a firearm another background check will be conducted and the waiting period will apply.

A valid California Driver License or Identification Card is required at the time of purchase of any firearm.

A valid Alien Registration Card or I-94 is required at the time of purchase of any firearm if applicant is a non-U.S. citizen. The non-U.S. citizen applicant must also meet certain federal requirements to purchase a firearm, unrelated to the firearms eligibility background check.

If you are INELIGIBLE to purchase:

And if you are also ineligible to possess, you must relinquish any firearms in your possession to your local law enforcement agency or complete and follow the directions stated on the enclosed 'General Notice of Firearm Prohibition and Power of Attorney for Firearms Relinquishment, Sale or Transfer for Storage.'

If you have questions regarding this notification, please contact DOJ at (916) 227-7527.

EXHIBIT D

KAMALA D. HARRIS
Attorney General

State of California
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE



BUREAU OF FIREARMS
P.O. BOX 820200
SACRAMENTO, CA 94203-0200
Telephone: (916) 227-7527
Fax: (916) 227-3744

November 07, 2016

CHAD JAY LINTON
[REDACTED]

RE: Firearm Denial

Dear CHAD JAY LINTON:

You recently applied to purchase a firearm. When a person applies to purchase a firearm in California, the California Department of Justice (the Department) is required by state and federal laws to examine its records to determine whether the purchaser is eligible under state and federal law to purchase and possess firearms. Your recent firearm purchase application is being denied because the Department's review of state and/or federal records matching your identifying information revealed the following information:

Felon: Any person who has been convicted of a felony under the laws of the United States, of the State of California, or of any other state, government, or country.

This determination was based upon information you provided in your application to purchase a firearm, such as your name, date of birth, driver's license number and physical description, but has not been confirmed with fingerprint comparison. It is possible that the criminal record may not be yours and may belong to another individual whose name and identifying information is similar to yours.

If you wish to challenge the accuracy of the Department's determination or the completeness of your criminal history record, please complete a request for Live Scan Service form (BCIA/BOF8016) located on the Bureau of Firearms web page at <http://oag.ca.gov/firearms>.

FIREARMS CLEARANCE SECTION
Bureau of Firearms

For **KAMALA D. HARRIS**
Attorney General

EXHIBIT E

LAW OFFICES OF

ROTHSCHILD WISHEK & SANDS LLP

765 UNIVERSITY AVENUE
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Of Counsel
MICHAEL ROTHSCHILD
QUIN DENVIR (1940-2016)
KENDALL DAWSON WASLEY

Retired
MICHAEL S. SANDS

February 2, 2017

VIA U.S. MAIL

State of California Department of Justice
Bureau of Criminal Information and Analysis
Record Review Unit
P.O. Box 903417
Sacramento, CA 94203-4170

Re: Chad Linton
Claim of Alleged Inaccuracy or Incompleteness



To Whom It May Concern:

This office represents Chad Linton. We are in receipt of the letter from your office to Mr. Linton dated November 10, 2016. We are also in receipt of a letter from the Firearms Clearance Section dated November 7, 2016 informing Mr. Linton that his application to purchase a firearm has been denied due to a felony conviction. Please consider this letter as a claim of inaccuracy or incompleteness. The basis for this claim is that the DOJ appears to attribute a felony offense to Mr. Linton from the State of Washington. This offense was vacated by the Superior Court of Washington, County of Island and his right to own firearms was expressly restored by the court. I have enclosed two documents for the Department's review, both of which are stamped, certified copies of the relevant court record. The documents provide the following:

1. Document 1: Order on Motion Re: Vacating Record of Felony Conviction Granted.
 - a. This document provides, among other things, the following:
 - i. The defendant's guilty plea for the offense listed in paragraph 3.1 is withdrawn and a not guilty plea is entered.
 - ii. The guilty verdict for the offense listed in paragraph 3.1 is set aside.
 - iii. The defendant shall be released from all penalties and disabilities resulting from the offense listed in paragraph 3.1 and the conviction of that offense shall not be included in the defendant's criminal history for the purposes of determining a sentence in any subsequent conviction. However, the conviction may be used in a later criminal prosecution.
 - iv. For all purposes, including responding to questions on employment applications, the defendant may state that he or she has never been convicted of the offense listed in paragraph 3.1.
2. Document 2: Order Restoring Right to Possess Firearms.
 - a. This document provides, in summary, that the rights lost by defendant in the case number at issue are thereby restored and defendant is qualified, pursuant to

Record Review Unit
Re: Claim of Alleged Inaccuracy or Incompleteness
February 2, 2017
Page 2

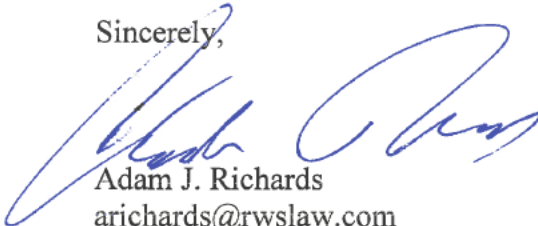
Washington law, to have the right to possess firearms fully restored. The court then orders that his rights are restored.

The enclosed court records unequivocally demonstrate that Mr. Linton's right to own and possess firearms was fully restored and that the offense which originally caused him to lose his rights, was fully vacated.

Based on the foregoing, please correct your record concerning Mr. Linton such that it reflects that he has not been convicted of a felony and that he is able to own and possess firearms.

Please contact me or Mr. Linton should you have any questions or concerns or should you disagree with this request and the information contained herein.

Sincerely,



Adam J. Richards
arichards@rwslaw.com

AJR/clu

Enclosure: Claim of Alleged Inaccuracy or Incompleteness

cc: Chad Linton

EXHIBIT F

XAVIER BECERRA
Attorney General

State of California
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE



Bureau of Criminal Information and Analysis
Record Review Section
P. O. Box 903417
Sacramento, CA 94203-4170

January 30, 2018

Chad Jay Linton
[REDACTED]

RE: Criminal History Record
[REDACTED]

Dear Mr. Linton:

This correspondence is in response to your claim of alleged inaccuracy or incompleteness in your California state summary criminal history record as maintained by the California Department of Justice (DOJ), received on May 24, 2017 and November 28, 2017.

The DOJ is required to record arrest and disposition information that is received from a law enforcement agency or court of this state. The entry in question cannot be found on your California criminal history record, therefore, no further investigation is required.

The event dated November 1, 2001 is not an arrest entry but was generated by California Alcohol Beverage Control when they conducted a fingerprint-based background check on you regarding your License Certification or Permit submission. This entry can only be deleted at the direction of the submitting agency. You must contact Alcohol Beverage Control and ask that they submit a request to the DOJ to remove the applicant entry.

If you have questions concerning firearms eligibility, etc., please contact the California Department of Justice, Bureau of Firearms, at (916) 227-1375.

If you have any further questions concerning this matter, please direct your correspondence to the Record Review Section at the address provided above.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Annette AH PO".

ANNETTE AH PO, DOJ Administrator
Record Review and Challenge Program
Bureau of Criminal Information and Analysis

For XAVIER BECERRA
Attorney General

EXHIBIT G



XAVIER BECERRA
Attorney General

State of California
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

BUREAU OF CRIMINAL INFORMATION AND ANALYSIS

P.O. Box 903417
SACRAMENTO, CA 94203-4170

March 06, 2018

CHAD JAY LINTON

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

RE: California Criminal History Information

Dear Applicant:

This is in response to your record review request initiated due to either a notification regarding a delay in your firearms eligibility check or a notification that your firearms eligibility check was denied. As of the date of this letter, your fingerprints did not identify any criminal history record maintained by the Bureau of Criminal Information and Analysis. As requested, a copy of this record review has been sent to your designee.

This response does not constitute a complete firearms eligibility clearance. If you have any questions regarding your firearms clearance, please contact the Firearms Bureau directly at (916) 227-7527.

Record Review and Challenge Program
Applicant Record and Certification Branch
Bureau of Criminal Information and Analysis

For XAVIER BECERRA
Attorney General

EXHIBIT H

LAW OFFICE OF
ADAM J. RICHARDS

2530 J Street, Ste. 320
Sacramento, California 95816
TELEPHONE (916) 399-3486
FACSIMILE (916) 823-3307

December 4, 2018

SENT BY U.S. MAIL AND EMAIL TO Robert.Wilson@doj.ca.gov

Deputy Attorney General Robert D. Wilson
Office of the Attorney General
California Bureau of Firearms
1300 I St, Ste 125
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: DEPARTMENT DENIAL OF RIGHT TO PURCHASE A FIREARM --
CHAD LINTON

Dear Mr. Wilson:

Thank you for speaking with me on Tuesday, September 24, 2018 about my client, Chad Linton. Based on our conversation, it is my understanding that the Department's position is that Mr. Linton is prohibited from owning or possessing firearms in the State of California pursuant to Penal Code section 29800 as a result of his vacated and dismissed 1988 felony conviction in the State of Washington. During our call, you stated that the only measure that would restore his rights, according to your Department, is a presidential pardon. As I informed you during our conversation, I strongly disagree with the Department's position as I believe it to be arbitrary and capricious for several reasons. As evidenced by the Washington State court records, certified copies of which were provided to your department, Mr. Linton's conviction was vacated and dismissed. The unequivocal language in the Washington State Superior Court order states, among other things, that 1) the information/indictment against him was dismissed, 2) that he shall be released from all penalties and disabilities resulting from the offense, 3) that the conviction was vacated, and 4) that for all purposes, defendant may state that he was never convicted of the offense. While this order in and of itself restores his right to own and possess firearms in all jurisdictions, including federally pursuant to 18 USC 921(a)(20)(B), Mr. Linton also received an express order from the Washington Superior Court restoring his right to own and possess firearms, a certified copy of which was also provided to your office. Your position that Washington orders have no authority over California is irrelevant and misses the crux of the issue; Washington courts are not seeking to modify a California order or case. Instead, the question of whether Mr. Linton was convicted of a felony resides with the jurisdiction in which the conviction allegedly occurred. Mr. Linton has no record in the State of California and now, effectively, has no record in the State of Washington.

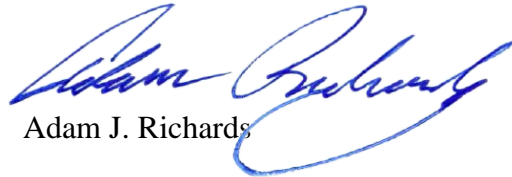
Deputy Attorney General Robert Wilson
Re: Linton, Chad
12/4/2018
Page 2

The Department's position that Mr. Linton is still prohibited is spurious and deprives him of the free exercise of a fundamental right and equal protection under the law. The Department's current position is especially troubling given that the Department informed Mr. Linton in response to his Personal Firearms Eligibility Check (hereafter, "PFEC") that he was eligible to own and possess firearms in August of this year, 2018. Yet, he was denied the ability to purchase a firearm shortly thereafter. While, you made clear during our call that the PFEC only checks California law and records, Mr. Linton has no California record and he is not federally prohibited or prohibited in the state of Washington. Yet, California still maintains that he is prohibited as a result of his 1988 conviction for attempting to elude a pursuing police vehicle which has since been vacated and dismissed; His rights, including with respect to firearms were fully restored.

It seems that Mr. Linton has exhausted his remedies with the Department and, as you informed me during our call, the Department will not change its position with regard to its view of Mr. Linton's record and that he is currently prohibited from owning or possessing a firearm. Please confirm in writing within ten (10) days of this letter the Department's position that it will not change their policy as it pertains to the facts of this case nor issue to Mr. Linton written clearance to purchase a firearm.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Adam J. Richards

EXHIBIT I

FILED
2016 AUG 11 PM 12:24
LYNN FAZZ
CLERK OF SUPERIOR COURT
YUMA ARIZONA 85364

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IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF ARIZONA
IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF YUMA

STATE OF ARIZONA,

Plaintiff,

vs.

PAUL MCKINLEY STEWART,

Defendant.

Case No. S1400CR7608338

ORDER

HONORABLE STEPHEN J. ROUFF
COMMISSIONER TWO

PAUL MCKINLEY STEWART, defendant above named, was adjudged guilty on August 12, 1976, to-wit: Count One, First Degree Burglary and Count Two, Theft.

On May 13, 2016, the defendant, submitted an Application to Restore Civil Rights, Restore Gun Rights, and Set Aside Judgment of Guilt.

The Court having determined the defendant successfully completed the sentence imposed herein,

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that the civil rights lost at the time of sentencing are now restored and setting aside judgment of guilt and dismissal of the Information/Indictment, and those rights shall include the right to possess weapons as defined in A.R.S. §§13-604 and 13-3101.

DATED this 11th day of August, 2016

STEPHEN J. ROUFF
HONORABLE STEPHEN J. ROUFF
JUDGE OF SUPERIOR COURT

EXHIBIT J



BUREAU OF FIREARMS
P.O. BOX 820200
SACRAMENTO, CA 94203-0200
Telephone: (916) 227-7527
Fax: (916) 227-3744

February 27, 2018

PAUL MCKINLEY STEWART



RE: Firearm Denial

Dear PAUL MCKINLEY STEWART:

You recently applied to purchase a firearm. When a person applies to purchase a firearm in California, the California Department of Justice (the Department) is required by state and federal laws to examine its records to determine whether the purchaser is eligible under state and federal law to purchase and possess firearms. Your recent firearm purchase application is being denied because the Department's review of state and/or federal records matching your identifying information revealed the following information:

Felon: Any person who has been convicted of a felony under the laws of the United States, of the State of California, or of any other state, government, or country.

This determination was based upon information you provided in your application to purchase a firearm, such as your name, date of birth, driver's license number and physical description, but has not been confirmed with fingerprint comparison. It is possible that the criminal record may not be yours and may belong to another individual whose name and identifying information is similar to yours.

If you wish to challenge the accuracy of the Department's determination or the completeness of your criminal history record, please complete a request for Live Scan Service form (BCIA/BOF8016RR) located on the Bureau of Firearms web page at <http://oag.ca.gov/firearms>.

FIREARMS CLEARANCE SECTION
Bureau of Firearms

For XAVIER BECERRA
Attorney General

EXHIBIT K

FULL TERMINATION ORDER OF THE COURT-DISSMISSING THE CAUSE

THE STATE OF TEXAS

VS. NO. 317020

KENDALL JONES

29/337

IN CRIMINAL DISTRICT COURT NO. 180
OF HARRIS COUNTY, TEXAS

It appears to the Court, after considering the recommendation of the defendant's probation officer, and other matters and evidence to the effect that the defendant has satisfactorily fulfilled the conditions of probation during the full period of the original probationary period to which he was sentenced. Therefore the period of probation is terminated.

It is therefore the order of the Court that the defendant be and he is hereby permitted to withdraw his plea of guilty, the indictment against the defendant be and the same is hereby dismissed and the Judgment of Conviction be hereby set aside as provided by law.

Probation Officer: Clara D. Perez

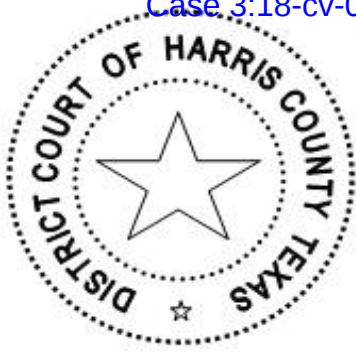
Entered this 22nd day of August, A.D. 1983

[Signature], Judge Presiding



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44003 942 040 90a



I, Marilyn Burgess, District Clerk of Harris County, Texas certify that this is a true and correct copy of the original record filed and or recorded in my office, electronically or hard copy, as it appears on this date.

Witness my official hand and seal of office this March 22, 2019

Certified Document Number: 79056150 Total Pages: 1

Marilyn Burgess, DISTRICT CLERK
HARRIS COUNTY, TEXAS

In accordance with Texas Government Code 406.013 electronically transmitted authenticated documents are valid. If there is a question regarding the validity of this document and or seal please e-mail support@hcdistrictclerk.com

EXHIBIT L

State of California Department of Justice



XAVIER BECERRA

Attorney General

HOME ABOUT MEDIA CAREERS REGULATIONS RESOURCES PROGRAMS CONTACT

Becoming A DOJ Certified Instructor And Maintaining Current DOJ Certified Instructor Certification

Home / Firearms / *Becoming A DOJ Certified Instructor And Maintaining Current ...*

[...]

Comparable Training In Firearms Safety

Entities Recognized by DOJ as Providing Comparable Firearm Safety Training to Those Entities Specified by Penal Code section 31635, subdivision (b).

Penal Code section 31635, subdivision (b) authorizes the California Department of Justice (DOJ) to recognize entities which provide firearms safety training comparable to the entities specified within that subdivision. Individuals possessing a Certificate of Completion from any of the entities so recognized by DOJ may apply to be a DOJ Certified Instructor.

The entities recognized by DOJ as providing firearms safety training comparable to the entities specified by Penal Code section 31635, subdivision (b) are:

[...]

Sacramento Gun Club

Kendall Jones Sacramento



[Excerpts from: <https://oag.ca.gov/firearms/fscinfo> as of 11/15/19]

EXHIBIT M

XAVIER BECERRA
Attorney General

State of California
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE



BUREAU OF FIREARMS
P.O. BOX 160487
SACRAMENTO, CA 95816-0487
Telephone: (916) 227-3751
Fax: (916) 227-1032

February 23, 2019

KENDALL JONES
[REDACTED]

RE : Certificate of Eligibility Denial Notice

Dear KENDALL JONES:

The California Department of Justice (the Department) has reviewed your application for a Certificate of Eligibility. Department records indicate you are not eligible to own, possess, or have under your custody or control any firearm. Therefore, your application for a Certificate of Eligibility is denied.

California law affords you the opportunity to obtain a copy of your records and to refute any erroneous or inaccurate information contained therein. (Pen. Code, §§ 11120 – 11127.) If you wish to obtain a copy of your record, you must complete a Firearms Record Review Request for Live Scan (BOF 8016RR). This form can be found on the Department's website at <https://oag.ca.gov/firearms/forms>.

If you have any questions, please email the Bureau of Firearms at COE@doj.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

CERTIFICATE OF ELIGIBILITY UNIT
Bureau of Firearms

For XAVIER BECERRA
Attorney General