The “Castle Doctrine”

We have a great topic and a top notch speaker for our May 12, 2011, membership meeting. Attorney Dan Usiak will speak on the “Castle Doctrine”. A Castle Doctrine (also known as a Castle Law or a Defense of Habitation Law) is an American legal doctrine arising from English Common Law that designates one's place of residence (or, in some states, any place legally occupied, such as one's car or place of work) as a place in which one enjoys protection from illegal trespassing and violent attack. It then goes on to give a person the legal right to use deadly force to defend that place (his "castle"), and any other innocent persons legally inside it, from violent attack or an intrusion which may lead to violent attack. In a legal context, therefore, use of deadly force which actually results in death may be defended as justifiable homicide under the Castle Doctrine. Castle Doctrines are legislated by state though not all states in the US have a Castle Doctrine law. The term "Make My Day Law" comes from the landmark 1985 Colorado statute that protects people from any criminal charge or civil suit if they use force – including deadly force – against an invader of the home. This is an important topic and Dan will explain the legal ramifications should you have to use deadly force to protect your home and when that deadly force can be used.

Colorado Springs Mayoral Election

The Colorado Springs mayoral runoff election is in full swing. The liberals are crawling out of the woodwork to try to get Skorman elected. Skorman is anti-gun.

In the summer of 1999, a group called “Gun Violence Prevention Group” was formed to bring more gun control to Colorado Springs. They proposed to bring several gun control measures to the Colorado Springs Council. From a September 1, 1999 Gazette article: “While the council appears divided over guns, [Police Chief] Kramer has an ally in Councilman Richard Skorman, who has attended a few of meetings of the gun violence prevention group. He agrees the city needs to act, especially to keep guns away from children.

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"Their access to guns is tremendous,’ Skorman said. ‘We regulate young adults under 21 in terms of drink- ing, but they can have as many guns as they want and they can drive around with them on their front seats and the police can't do anything about it.

‘It's unconscionable that we're allowing them this level of access without parental supervision or responsibil- ity.’"

Ballots have already been mailed in this mail-only election. If you live in Colorado Springs, please vote for our endorsed candidate: Steve Bach. Ballots must be received by 7:00PM on May 17. **We must work hard to ensure that Bach beats anti-gun Skorman in the mayoral runoff.**

**Democrats want to break up El Paso County**

Democrats in the Colorado legislature want to redraw the 5th Congressional District to move Fort Carson, Schriever AFB, and most of eastern El Paso County into the 3rd Congressional District. They have until May 11th to decide on a redistricting map based on the 2010 census. Since Republicans control the House, it is doubtful the legislature will agree on a redistricting plan so it will likely go to the courts. In 2001, the courts turned down the Democrat plan which would have split up El Paso County. If this should go to court, hopefully the court will rule the same way.

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