



## Judge Throws Out Fed Law Against Guns With Serial Numbers Removed

### Description

USA: In a move that already has gun-control enthusiasts clutching their pearls, **a judge on Wednesday ruled that a federal law barring possession of a gun with a removed serial number is unconstitutional.**

Taking his cue from the guiding precedent of the Supreme Court's landmark June gun ruling that found Americans have a constitutionally-protected right to carry a handgun in public, **U.S. District Judge Joseph Goodwin said the serial-number-removal law was inconsistent with the country's "historical tradition of firearms regulation."**

[Wednesday's ruling in \*U.S. v Price\*](#) sprang from a criminal case in which a man named Randy Price was charged with possessing a firearm with its serial number removed. **The law that was struck down made it a crime to either transport such a gun across state lines, or simply possess such a gun if it had ever crossed a state line.**

Judge Goodwin, a President [Clinton nominee](#), [noted](#) that "serial numbers were not broadly required for all firearms manufactured and imported in the United States until the passage of the Gun Control Act of 1968," and **the ban on possessing a firearm with a removed serial number didn't come about until 1990.**

Given that, he found the law barring the removal of serial numbers fails the test established by June's Supreme Court case, *New York Rifle & Pistol Association v Bruen*. Specifically, to justify a firearm regulation, the Supreme Court said "the government must demonstrate that the regulation is consistent with this Nation's historical tradition of firearm regulation."

Though the *Bruen* test is only a few months old, it's already animated several rulings against gun laws, including:

**Before some of you start cheerfully obliterating your serial numbers, note that the federal government is likely to appeal the ruling,** which means the Fourth Circuit may have a say in it...but maybe not the final say.

Until then, take in a few of the reactions:

And a federal judge said banning firearms that have no serial number is unconstitutional. I wonder if they'd change their tune if one of their own was shot.

— Blue In A Red State Nicole (@Nicole07291960) [October 13, 2022](#)

A federal judge in West Virginia has ruled that a federal ban on possessing a gun with its serial number removed is unconstitutional.

Guns have more rights than women.

— ? TENACIOUS TEAH ? (@TeahCartel) [October 13, 2022](#)

Why? What good reason could there be to block a law banning owning guns with no serial number, or to own a gun with no serial number? <https://t.co/knAFpObJP7>

— Aliphaire Mistelski ??? (@Aliphaire) [October 13, 2022](#)

Republicans accuse Democrats of being soft on crime—then appoint Supreme Court justices whose rulings give Americans a right to obliterate their guns' serial numbers so the weapons are untraceable by law enforcement. Wild stuff. <https://t.co/0bwP7vuv7g>  
<https://t.co/3TNx5n9NbX>

— Mark Joseph Stern (@mjs\_DC) [October 13, 2022](#)

by Tyler Durden

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