

Federal Court Just Dealt a Major Blow to Anti-Gun Advocates in California

Feb. 13, 2014 2:44pm [Jason Howerton](#)

A federal appeals court struck down key parts of California's permit system for handguns on Thursday, ruling that the state must allow law-abiding citizens to carry concealed firearms in public.



Credit: Getty Images

In a 2-1 decision, the Ninth U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in San Francisco ruled that by requiring citizens to prove “good cause” — rather than just the right to self-defense — in order to obtain a concealed weapons permit, San Diego County is in direct violation of the U.S. Constitution. If the decision stands, the permit system for the entire state of California would be invalidated, [the Washington Post reports](#).

California state law also requires gun owners who apply for a concealed weapons permit to show “good cause” as to why they want to carry a firearm. The permit process would still be left up to individual cities and counties if the ruling holds.

In the majority opinion, Judge Diarmuid O’Scannlain [said](#) the “right to bear arms includes the right to carry an operable firearm outside the home for the lawful purpose of self-defense.”

Further increasing the chances that the Supreme Court will take on the issue, O’Scannlain disagreed with federal appeals courts that have upheld nearly identical laws in left-leaning states like New York, New Jersey and Maryland, [SFGate reports](#). The high court generally tackled issues when there is a significant split among appellate circuits, as there is in this case.

“The high court ruled in 2008 that the Second Amendment protects the right to keep a handgun in the home for self-defense, but has not addressed its application to carrying weapons in public,” the report [adds](#).