
Note: The following quotations are taken from the majority and dissenting opinions in District of Columbia v. Heller (2008).

1. “The inherent [natural] right of self-defense has been central to the Second Amendment right.”

2. “The handgun ban amounts to a prohibition of an entire class of “arms” that is overwhelmingly chosen by American society for that lawful purpose [of self-defense].”

3. “The Second Amendment protects an individual right to possess a firearm unconnected with service in a militia, and to use that arm for traditionally lawful purposes, such as self-defense within the home.”

4. “We must decide whether a District of Columbia law that prohibits the possession of handguns in the home violates the Second [Amendment]…In my view, it does not.”

5. “The Second Amendment protects militia-related, not self-defense-related, interests.”

6. “The protection the Amendment provides is not absolute. The amendment permits (allows) government to regulate the interests that it serves.”