

**IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS  
DIVISION OF ST. THOMAS AND ST. JOHN**

SEAN DALE HENRY, GUN OWNERS )  
OF AMERICA, INC., and GUN OWNERS )  
FOUNDATION )

Plaintiffs, )

v. )

HONORABLE MARIO BROOKS, in his )  
Official Capacity as COMMISSIONER )  
OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS POLICE )  
DEPARTMENT, and the GOVERNMENT )  
OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS )

Defendants. )  
\_\_\_\_\_ )

Civil Action No. \_\_\_\_\_

---

DECLARATION OF ERICH M. PRATT

---

1. My name is Erich M. Pratt. I am a U.S. citizen and resident of Virginia. I make this declaration in support of Plaintiffs' Complaint for Declaratory and Injunctive Relief. Unless otherwise stated, I make this declaration based on personal knowledge. If called as a witness, I can testify to the truth of the statements contained herein.

2. I am the Senior Vice President of Gun Owners of America, Inc. ("GOA"), and the Senior Vice President of Gun Owners Foundation ("GOF").

3. In that capacity, I oversee staff that is in daily contact with members and supporters regarding their concerns, questions, requests, and suggestions on how GOA and GOF can best represent their interests.

4. Gun Owners of America, Inc. is a California non-stock corporation with its principal place of business in Springfield, Virginia. GOA is organized and operated as a nonprofit membership organization that is exempt from federal income taxes under Section 501(c)(4) of the U.S. Internal Revenue Code. GOA was formed in 1976 to preserve and defend the Second Amendment rights of gun owners. GOA has more than 2 million members and supporters across the country, including within the United States Virgin Islands. Many of GOA's members, like Plaintiff Henry, are law-abiding citizens of the United States, but nonresidents of the USVI, who wish to apply for and receive a license to carry a handgun while traveling to the USVI, or otherwise to have their currently issued licenses be recognized by the USVI. Consequently, GOA members and supporters like Plaintiff Henry have been, are being, and will continue to be irreparably harmed by the USVI's blatantly unlawful contravention of their Second and Fourteenth Amendment rights.

5. Plaintiff Gun Owners Foundation ("GOF") is a Virginia non-stock corporation with its principal place of business in Springfield, Virginia. GOF was formed in 1983 and is organized and operated as a nonprofit legal defense and educational foundation that is exempt from federal income taxes under Section 501(c)(3) of the U.S. Internal Revenue Code. Although not a "traditional" membership organization, GOF possesses "indicia of membership" under *Hunt v. Wash. State Apple Advert. Comm'n*, 432 U.S. 333 (1977), for purposes of representing its supporters' interests in litigation. See, e.g., *Texas v. BATFE*, 737 F. Supp. 3d 426, 438 (N.D. Tex. 2024). GOF is financially supported by gun owners across the country, including by myself and another board member, all of whom receive updates about GOF's activities and fund the organization's activities so that it can, *inter alia*, file litigation such as this to preserve, protect, and defend their right to keep and bear arms. Additionally, GOF funds its litigation efforts, in part, by way of individual contributions, along with contributions received from individuals through the

Combined Federal Campaign. GOF's supporters provide the funds directly used to support GOF's litigation efforts, which efforts would be impossible without contributions from our supporters. Our supporters contribute to GOF specifically so that we can bring litigation like this. As part of keeping its supporters up to date on this and other litigation, and various other Second Amendment topics, GOF provides its supporters with a newsletter which provides updates directly to them, keeping them advised of what GOF is doing.

6. GOF brings this action on behalf of its supporters, who intend and desire to exercise their Second Amendment right to publicly carry handguns for self-defense in the USVI, but who cannot by virtue of their USVI nonresidency. These GOF supporters, like Plaintiff Henry who contributed funds to GOF specifically for this lawsuit, would carry handguns in the USVI but for their reasonable fear of prosecution.

7. GOA and GOF's members and supporters desire and overwhelmingly support our involvement in litigation to protect their right to publicly carry firearms, a right that is being unconstitutionally infringed by the US Virgin Islands' ongoing refusal to allow them to even apply for a license.

8. As noted, GOA and GOF together have more than two million members and supporters nationwide, including many within this district.

9. In addition to Plaintiff Henry, GOA has been in contact with members and supporters nationwide who wish to apply for a license to carry a firearm in the United States Virgin Islands, but are unable to.

10. For example, one GOA member, Alisabet Valdes, lives in Florida. Mrs. Valdes has a license to carry issued by the State of Florida. Mrs. Valdes is planning to travel to the US Virgin Islands in the next 90 days and would take her firearm with her to carry for self-defense if the US Virgin

Islands allowed for her to apply for and receive a non-resident license to carry a firearm. If allowed to apply for a US Virgin Island license to carry a firearm, Mrs. Valdes would apply and because she meets all of the standards besides residency, Mrs. Valdes would be issued a license to carry.

I, Erich M. Pratt, declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

7/17/2026

**DATE**

  
**ERICH M. PRATT**