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IMPORTANT CASES THIS WEEK



Strauder v. West Virginia

*Riley v. California**District of Columbia v. Heller*

Strauder v. West Virginia

The detailed right to a jury trial.



Photo from NewseumED

Under Virginia state law, Black men were not eligible for jury participation. After being convicted of murder, Strauder petitioned the Court for removal, arguing that he

was being denied his civil rights in being tried by a jury that was not composed of peers and equals. The Court ultimately held that excluding individuals from participating in juries solely on the basis of race was a violation of the Equal Protection Clause and was consequently unconstitutional. The Court also held that Congress had the authority to enact the federal removal statute whenever a federal right was involved. Read the full decision [here](#).

Riley v. California

The search and seizure of electronics.

In this case, Riley was stopped for a traffic violation and was eventually arrested on weapons charges. However, his conviction was only made possible after policemen obtained incriminating evidence from his phone. Riley filed suit and argued that any evidence obtained from his phone without a search warrant should be considered inadmissible. The Court ultimately ruled in his favor and held that "police officers could not, without a warrant, search digital information on the cell phones seized from the defendants as incident to the defendants' arrests." Read the full decision [here](#).



Photo from Richmond Journal of Law & Technology

District of Columbia v. Heller

The far reach of the Second Amendment.

A DC law prohibited people from carrying unlicensed handguns and required residents to keep registered weapons unloaded, disassembled, or locked up. After a special policeman filed suit, the Court ultimately held that the DC law hindered "immediate self-defense" and consequently violated the Second Amendment. The Court also held that the "Second Amendment protected an individual right to possess a firearm unconnected with service in a militia." Read the full decision [here](#).



Photo from The New York Times