

More sports, law, and military news...

The NSSF petitions U.S. Supreme Court in NSSF v. James to challenge New York’s public nuisance law from sports page 1

forced to redress criminals' misdeeds, on the theory that they "unreasonably" made, sold or marketed a firearm that is later misused in New York. New York enacted a law to — in the then-Governor Andrew Cuomo's own words — "reinstate the public nuisance liability for gun manufacturers" that Congress prohibited in the PLCAA, in an avowed effort to "right the wrong" that New York believes Congress committed when it enacted that federal law.

"We earnestly believe that New York's punitive public nuisance law is exactly what Congress had in mind when it passed the PLCAA with a bipartisan majority. The PLCAA is designed to prohibit frivolous lawsuits against members of the firearm industry based on the criminal actions of remote third parties, and we continue to believe the New York statute is intended to evade the will of Congress," said Lawrence G. Keane, NSSF Senior Vice President and General Counsel. "The PLCAA is codification of bedrock tort law. It codifies common law and



common-sense principles to prevent baseless litigation from bankrupting an entire industry, especially one that provides the necessary means for the lawful exercise of the Second Amendment." NSSF argues that New York's public nuisance law is preempted by PLCAA, and — contrary to the Second Circuit's holding — does not fit within the predicate

exception of the statute, which permits a narrow subset of lawsuits based on knowing violations of certain state or federal laws. Indeed, the Supreme Court has already spoken on the PLCAA's predicate exception and concluded that it does not allow states to resurrect the very claims the PLCAA prohibits. Applying the logic of the Court's decision in Smith & Wesson Brands, Inc.,

et al v. Estados Unidos Mexicanos, if laws like New York's public nuisance statute fall within the predicate exception, then that exception "would swallow most of the rule." In that case, the Court expressed "doubt Congress intended to draft such a capacious way out of PLCAA" and explained that "in fact it did not." This commonsense reading of the predicate exception has al-

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ready been adopted by the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit and the D.C. Court of Appeals, which creates a circuit split necessitating the Supreme Court's intervention. NSSF argues that the Court should also take the case because attempts to circumvent the PLCAA are proliferating; 10 states have passed anti-PLCAA laws and more are expected.

12th Annual Tennessee Tree Day from sports page 2

21st for planting that weekend. Every year this event involves thousands of participants who plant trees at their homes, farms, businesses, neighborhoods and other locations of their choosing. Since 2007, more than 150,000 volunteers have planted over 1,100,000 native trees across Tennessee through this initiative, fulfilling Tennessee Environmental Council's mission to help people and communities improve our environment for all. Tennessee Tree Day is made possible by support from numerous partners and sponsors, including Atmos Energy, National Wildlife Federation (NWF), Arbor Day Foundation, UT Extension, Ten-

"This year we are placing an emphasis on communities hit hardest by Hurricane Helene in 2024 and Winter Storm Fern earlier this year," says Jeffrey Barrie, CEO of Tennessee Environmental Council. "We are making it as convenient as possible for residents to participate and plant a variety of native trees at their homes and farms, especially in areas hit hardest by these devastating weather events," says Barrie.

nessee Department of Agriculture—Division of Forestry, Tractor Supply Company Foundation, TVA, LKQ Foundation, Nissan, Sharing Change, Ancient Nutrition, Memorial Foundation, and numerous others. Visit the event website for more information and to reserve trees: tectn.org/TennesseeTreeDay.

Yamaha Pro Takahiro Omori earns his first Major League Fishing (MLF) Bass Pro Tour victory

From the Outdoor Wire

ANDERSON, S.C. — Takahiro Omori delivered a breakthrough performance at Lake Hartwell, securing his first career Major League Fishing (MLF) Bass Pro Tour victory and the ninth tour-level win of his professional career. The Yamaha Pro earned \$125,000 for the win, marking his first tour triumph since 2018 after 57 Bass Pro Tour events.

The angler admitted he didn't anticipate being able to contend at Hartwell while staying within his power-fishing wheelhouse, much less earning his long-awaited first Bass Pro Tour win. Despite those expectations, Omori committed fully to his strengths. The Tokyo, Japan, native spent all four days fishing shallow in the Tugaloo River, targeting cover in the backs of creeks. While much of the field relied on forward-facing sonar offshore, Omori never activated the technology.



Takahiro Omori shows off his first career MLF Pro Tour Victory trophy after a breakthrough performance. (Photo/Courtesy: MLF)

That approach produced consistent results throughout the event. Omori opened the tournament in second place, won the Qualifying

Round to advance directly to Championship Sunday, and closed with 36 pounds, 6 ounces on 12 scorable bass to edge Jacob

Walker by 2 pounds, 10 ounces. "I felt I could catch more fish just fishing shallow," he said. "With this group, I expected it to be close. I know they are going to catch fish, so it was a lot of stress."

As conditions improved throughout the week, Omori's shallow-water pattern continued to build momentum. He posted 47 pounds, 7 ounces on the opening day of qualifying and followed with 40 pounds, 12 ounces on Day 2 to secure the Qualifying Round win by a 9-ounce margin. Championship Sunday brought

cold temperatures and gusting winds that limited offshore productivity and kept the leaderboard compressed. Omori capitalized during the middle periods, became the only angler to surpass 10 pounds in Period 2, and took the lead midway through the final frame. A late largemouth extended his advantage, and no challenger was able to respond.

After officials confirmed the victory, Omori acknowledged the significance of earning his first Bass Pro Tour win by competing entirely on his terms. "I know that technology is important and efficient," Omori said. "It's harder and harder to just make a Top 10. So, this win means a lot."

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Do You Know This About Black History?

Black History Profile: Judge William Henry Hastie of TN

William Henry Hastie was born in 1904 in Knoxville, TN. He graduated from Amherst College with honors in 1925 and earned his law degree at Harvard in 1930 and his Doctor of Jurisprudence degree at Harvard in 1933. He served as a federal district judge for the Virgin Islands from 1937 to 1939. After he served as Dean of Howard Law School for one year, the Roosevelt Administration brought him into the War Department as a civilian aid. Judge Hastie resigned after two years to protest the slowness and evasiveness of the department in terminating its policy of segregation in the armed forces. In the presidential election of 1948, he campaigned energetically for President Harry Truman. After the election of Truman, Hastie was appointed judge of the United States Circuit, in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Source: International Library of Negro Life and History.

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