

prosecution it always determines that criminal charges will be filed. This is frankly the point where a legal defense starts to get really expensive but the policy will pay for representation in the critical early hours of a case.

Marty Hayes has found a different way. After founding and operating the successful Firearms Academy of Seattle, twenty years as a professional firearms instructor and thirty years of law enforcement association, he went to law school. Upon graduation he added up the instruction he received on self-defense. It totaled about ninety minutes.³ In addition, few lawyers are familiar with the human dynamics of gunfights, ballistics or wound analysis. He realized that an individual in a self-defense case requires a supporting organization. The ACLU descends on civil rights violations, and labor unions back up members in trouble. Self-defense shooters needed something similar; the Armed Citizens' Legal Defense Network LLC was the result.⁴

The purpose of the Armed Citizens' Legal Defense Network (ACLDN) is to provide legal support to deserving members. One cannot expect the network to rally in support of a crime, or to take care of any baggage brought into the network. The ACLDN is for persons who plan ahead. Each member is provided with three educational DVDs. These DVDs provide the member with training to stay out of trouble. If the worst thing happens the DVDs demonstrate that the member did his "due diligence" in learning the rules. In the aftermath of a self-defense shooting police, prosecutors and jury members will argue if the citizen's actions were reasonable. The DVDs demonstrate a reasonable basis for the citizen's acts. Members will also get discounts on training programs, books and DVDs.

Members have access to a section of the ACLDN's web site where they can locate attorneys in their area. This re-

source also allows them to locate attorneys in other areas in advance of trips. The name and number of a knowledgeable attorney in a strange place can be comforting if the worst thing happens.

The ACLDN is supplemented by the Armed Citizens' Legal Defense Foundation. The Foundation is a non-profit, tax-exempt organization for the purpose of channeling financial assistance to members who need assistance with legal fees. Twenty percent of membership fees go to the foundation to support members who have had anything from the very worst legal result to the worst thing that could

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happen. There is no guarantee that the Foundation will financially support a defense. The Foundation also provides analysis and advice to legal counsel on possible defenses. A science has grown up around gunfight analysis involving vision, perception, reaction times, human dynamics, physical and mental reactions, memory, training and expectations and more.⁵ There have been innumerable cases involving a furtive movement which a police officer interpreted as a threat. After the shooting investigation often found no weapon on the deceased. The new science has demonstrated how innocent motions, in a decidedly not innocent context, can appear to be a threat, and thus explain, if not entirely excuse, the shooting. In other cases a police officer has fired back at an assailant, only to have the autopsy find a bullet in the assailant's

back. The new science has demonstrated that an assailant can turn while the officer is pulling his trigger and the bullet is on its way before his mind can perceive the danger is over and cancel the order to the trigger finger. This science has been driven by lawsuits over police shootings but is invaluable to civilians who have acted in self-defense. The new science is available to ACLDN members through the Foundation in the legal aftermath of self-defense. The Foundation is backed by the expertise of Massad Ayoob, John Farnam, Tom Givens and Jim Cirillo Jr.⁶ The NRA, Second Amendment Foundation, and Gun Owners of America provide legal referrals and financial support. However their focus is on cases which will advance the general cause of gun rights. The ACLDN focus is on the interests of the individual member. It does not lobby, it does not march, it simply supports its members. It does so with the support of other members. This is a good reason to join. No one will support us, but us.

Citizens fortify themselves against attack with guns and pepper spray. They can fortify themselves against the secondary legal attack with one call to the Armed Citizens' Legal Defense Network. It is available at PO Box 400, Onalaska, Washington 98570 (360) 978-5200 or www.armedcitizensnetwork.org ■

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This information is for legal information purposes and does not constitute legal advice. For specific questions you should consult a qualified attorney.

1. Lockton Risk Services, PO Box 410679, Kansas City, Missouri 64141 or (877) NRA-3006.

2. CHL Protection Plan, 12801 Midway Rd, Dallas, Texas 75244.

3. In my experience, this seems high.

4. www.armedcitizensnetwork.org

5. See the Force Science Institute web page www.forcesciencenews.com and Calibre Press at www.calibrepress.com.

6. Jim Cirillo Sr. encouraged the Network and Foundation before his untimely death. I had the pleasure of meeting his son Jim Cirillo Jr. at a course given in the Kansas City area.