

The Second Half of the Equation⁶⁵

By Ron Brown

If you are someone who is both interested in self-defense and the legal requirements to successfully survive a self-defense encounter, help is on the way.

Marty and Gila Hayes, the driving force behind The Firearms Academy of Seattle, Inc. – where all

types of instruction on both long guns and handguns can be found – have recently started a new venture addressing the second half of the self-defense equation, handgun skills for me being the first half.

Marty, while successfully operating the Firearms Academy for years, has recently completed his J.D., or Juris Doctorate in law. In laymen's terms, he completed his law degree and has recently founded, along with Gila and J. Vincent Shuck, the much-needed Armed Citizen's Legal Defense Network, LLC. This national organization located in Washington's Puget Sound area fills a huge requirement in our society for those of us who are interested in carrying a weapon for self-defense.

It's a great concept! With Marty's extensive police and firearms training experience, and his knowing many of the movers and shakers in the shooting community, adding this legal knowledge component makes this a formidable knowledge center for all aspects of armed defense.

The focus of this Network is to educate its members on the legal aspects of a self-defense encounter and its aftermath. This is done through three DVDs and a very informative monthly newsletter published on the Internet.

The first DVD covers ability, opportunity and jeopardy, the three requirements necessary for any self-defense action to be legally defensible. The second DVD features Massad Ayoob, a nationally recognized expert and Network Board member, who covers what you can reasonably expect from the legal system immediately after the encounter and how to properly interface with responding officers. Ayoob also addresses what you can expect from the legal system during the investigatory phase of the incident. The final DVD covers elements of both the criminal trial and the civil trial if it comes to that. It is a wealth of critical

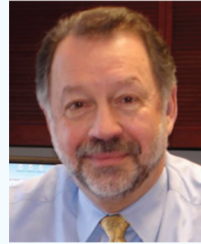
Armed Citizens' LEGAL DEFENSE NETWORK, LLC



Marty Hayes



Gila Hayes



J. Vincent Shuck

information. The online journal is another valuable source of defense information with in-depth articles on weapon selection, concealment alternatives, mental discipline, and a myriad of other related topics. Many articles are written by well-known names

in the self-defense and shooting industry.

I found this to be heavy and very serious stuff. Deciding to shoot someone in a self-defense encounter was the easy part for me to accept. It was the legal aspects of the encounter that scared the hell out of me. It concerned me to the point that I chose not to carry because I wasn't confident in knowing when to shoot and when not to; and the risks of getting it wrong had such huge and far-reaching consequences for both myself and my family. In other words, I was willing to take my chances unarmed in an encounter because I didn't trust the legal system and I didn't trust myself to handle the shooting investigation properly, thereby keeping myself out of jail. I really don't want jail to be one of my life's experiences.

This is a membership organization and legal education is its primary focus, but there are other benefits of membership as well. Legal Defense Network, LLC provides case review, perhaps some financial assistance, access to attorneys who have experience in armed self-defense litigation, a member forum for questions and discussion, member discounts on tuition from affiliated training establishments across the country, an excellent online journal with lots of pertinent information, and more. It also allows an opportunity for you, the armed citizen, to ask questions of Marty and Gila that you always wanted to ask a knowledgeable attorney but never had the means to do so. Remember, this national organization is months old and is gaining momentum daily. Members, attorneys and trainers are joining the ranks every day, which I believe attests to this organization filling a large need within the armed defense community.

Do yourself a favor and check out the many benefits of Marty and Gila's new venture. Information can be found at:

www.armedcitizensnetwork.org