

**PROTECTING VICTIMS OF
DOMESTIC ABUSE FROM GUN
VIOLENCE: *U.S. V. CASTLEMAN***

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This Article discusses the 2014 United States Supreme Court’s decision in *U.S. v. Castleman*, which confirmed that the presumptive common law meaning of “force” satisfied the definition of a misdemeanor crime of domestic violence, thus barring those persons convicted of a misdemeanor crime of domestic violence from possessing a firearm. The facts and holding in *Castleman* are discussed in Section II. Section III analyzes the legislative history of the 1996 enactment of the Federal Gun Ban, and what is now known as 18 U.S.C. § 922, or the Lautenberg Amendment. This Section also discusses *Johnson v. United States*, which explains the United States Supreme Court’s rationale in declining to read the common law meaning of “force” as “violent felony” provided and defined in the Armed Career Criminal Act. Finally, Section IV presents a social background surrounding domestic violence, and statistics concerning domestic violence and its relationship to firearms and death. This Section

explains why the *Castleman* court appropriately confirmed the broad definition of “force” required in a conviction of a misdemeanor crime of domestic violence and explores the consequences this decision will have on protecting victims of domestic violence from their abuser’s ability to possess a firearm.