

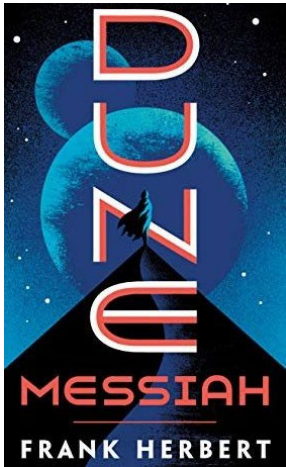


Criminal Defense Law Firm in Massachusetts

Changing Gun Laws

Last year the Supreme Court held that the Second Amendment to the US Constitution protects an individual's right to carry a firearm in public. This landmark decision established a fundamental right to possess a firearm outside the home. A general prohibition against carrying a firearm outside the home is unconstitutional. Massachusetts, like some states, requires a license to carry a firearm outside the home, and a new case (*Commonwealth v. Guardado*) handed down by the Commonwealth's highest court now requires the prosecution to prove beyond a reasonable doubt that a defendant did not have a valid firearms license. This is a big deal because, in 2022, over 6,000 people were charged with carrying a firearm without a license. If a person is convicted of that charge, they have no choice but to spend 18 months in jail. In theory, the *Guardado* case makes it harder for the Commonwealth to win its case. Before this, a defendant was required to come forward with evidence that he or she had a license to possess a firearm. Once the defendant did so, the burden then shifted to the Commonwealth to persuade the jury beyond a reasonable doubt that the license didn't exist. That's not the way things are going to work going forward. Now, the absence of a license is an essential element of the offense of unlawful possession of a firearm, which requires the Commonwealth to prove that the defendant failed to comply with the licensure requirements for possessing a firearm. In plain English, it's probably not enough for a cop to say, "we looked him up in the system and he didn't have a license." I, and lots of other lawyers in Massachusetts, are currently litigating this type of gun case. It will be interesting to see how things pan out.

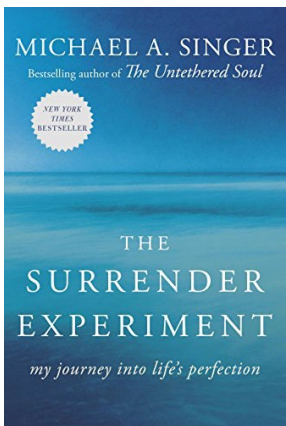
Recommended Reading



[Dune Messiah](#)

By: Frank Herbert

Dune Messiah is book 2 in the 6-book epic saga of adventure, philosophy, mysticism, and love. You've got to go deep on this, but it's totally worth it.



[The Surrender Experiment: My Journey into Life's Perfection](#)

By: Michael Singer

The source of all our suffering is attachment. That's what all the spiritual traditions teach us. We experience suffering because we are attached to either feeling good or a desire to not feel bad. As the Buddha said, the way out of suffering is simply to let go. Easy in concept, difficult in practice. This book is about the author's experience with simply letting go and the extraordinary things that followed.

What I'm Listening To

[Discourses of the Withered](#)

When I do deep work, I need some kind of background music. I can't do something with lyrics because I'll focus on them instead of the task at hand. So, my usual choice is either classical or jazz. But lately when I'm doing deep work I've been listening to drone music.

