

FEDERAL LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS ASSOCIATION

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*Representing Members From:*

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Army - CID

Defense Criminal Investigative Service

Naval Criminal Investigative Service

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Police

EDUCATION - OIG

ENERGY

National Nuclear Security Administration

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ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

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FEDERAL DEPOSIT INSURANCE CORPORATION

OIG

FEDERAL HOUSING FINANCE AGENCY – OIG

FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM

Federal Reserve Board

Federal Reserve Police

FEDERAL LAW ENFORCEMENT TRAINING CENTER

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New Jersey Appeals the District Courts Ruling in Favor of FLEOA, NJFOP in LEOSA Lawsuit

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| FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE | July 5, 2022 |

**WASHINGTON, DC –** Today, Larry Cosme, National President of the Federal Law Enforcement Officers Association (FLEOA) – the nation’s largest non-partisan, non-for-profit professional association representing more than 31,000 federal law enforcement officers and agents across 65 federal agencies – released the following statement announcing the State of New Jersey’s decision to appeal the District Court’s ruling in favor of FLEOA and the New Jersey State Lodge of the Fraternal Order of Police in our ongoing lawsuit over the state’s preemption of the Law Enforcement Officers Safety Act (LEOSA):

**“The State of New Jersey is appealing the District Court’s ruling in favor of FLEOA and the New Jersey State Lodge of the Fraternal Order of Police (NJ FOP) in our ongoing lawsuit over the state’s preemption of the Law Enforcement Officers Safety Act (LEOSA). The state has consistently sought to undermine the rights of qualified law enforcement. We were prepared for the state to challenge this decision and will continue fighting for the LEOSA rights of our members,”** FLEOA President Cosme said.

**“Federal LEOSA law explicitly creates a limited concealed carry waiver for qualified law enforcement *‘notwithstanding any other provision of law of any State.’* The District Court’s ruling was rooted in this text of the statute as well as the history of the legislation. In our system of federalism, when the federal government has spoken on an issue, it is not the place of a state to circumvent and undermine federal law. New Jersey’s consistent disregard for our constitutional process is shocking,”** Cosme said.

**“It is disappointing that the State continues to disregard the public safety benefits of LEOSA. The U.S. Congress passed LEOSA to provide additional safety and security to the American public by ensuring a qualified current or retired law enforcement officer is prepared to respond to public threats when necessary LEOSA creates a force multiplier in communities at a time when violent crime is at an all-time high and on the rise nationwide. Yet while law enforcement officers are seeking to enhance their responsiveness, New Jersey is fighting to take their weapons away,”** Robert W. Fox, NJ FOP President, continued.

**“Given the State’s consistent refusal to work with FLEOA and the NJ FOP on LEOSA, it is not surprising they are seeking to overturn the District Court’s decision in our favor. But our case is strong. The District Court’s opinion was based on the text of the law, its history, and the facts of New Jersey’s actions. We are optimistic we will succeed in the appellate court and the State of New Jersey will once again be told it must come into compliance with federal law,”** Cosme and Fox concluded.

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