



## *The 'stand your ground' debate*

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By Mike Lafferty

There's much we still don't know about what happened the night 17-year-old [Trayvon Martin](#) was shot to death in Sanford by Neighborhood Watch volunteer George Zimmerman.

We do know that the shooting has focused attention on a groundbreaking law passed by the [Florida Legislature](#) in 2005, a law that extended the no-retreat concept of self-defense from the home into the streets.

To examine the issue from both sides, in the context of Trayvon Martin's death, we solicited two perspectives. One is from Buddy Jacobs, the longtime general counsel for the Florida Prosecuting Attorneys Association — state attorneys — and an early opponent of "stand your ground." The other is from Walter Olson, a frequently published author and blogger with the libertarian-leaning [Cato](#) Institute.

**Read Trayvon shooting doesn't justify a return to 'duty to retreat' [here](#)**