



United States v. Martinez

177 Fed.Appx. 635 (2006) | Cited 0 times | Ninth Circuit | April 17, 2006

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

MEMORANDUM¹

Submitted April 4, 2006² -- Pasadena, California

Before: FARRIS, FERNANDEZ, and THOMAS, Circuit Judges.

Douglas Martinez appeals his sentence for illegal re-entry after he was deported following a prior aggravated felony conviction.³ See 8 U.S.C. § 1326(a), (b)(2).⁴ We affirm.

(1) Martinez first claims that the district court erred when it allowed him to represent himself at sentencing. Of course, Martinez had a right to counsel at sentencing,⁵ and his waiver had to have been knowing and intelligent.⁶ Martinez asserts that his waiver was not properly received because he was not sufficiently informed of the dangers of self-representation. See *United States v. Massey*, 419 F.3d 1008, 1010 (9th Cir. 2005), petition for cert. filed, ___ U.S.L.W. ___ (U.S. Jan. 10, 2006) (No. 05-8633); *Erskine*, 355 F.3d at 1167; cf. *Iowa v. Tovar*, 541 U.S. 77, 81, 124 S.Ct. 1379, 1383, 158 L.Ed. 2d 209 (2004) (the Constitution requires no more than advice regarding nature of charges, nature of punishment, and right to counsel). We disagree. The nature and extent of the required warning was a function of the stage of the proceeding and its complications. See *Patterson v. Illinois*, 487 U.S. 285, 298, 108 S.Ct. 2389, 2397--98, 101 L.Ed. 2d 261 (1988); *Lopez*, 202 F.3d at 1119. Here, because the more complex possible arguments were foreclosed by Martinez's plea agreement, the advice by the district court was sufficient.⁷

(2) Martinez also asserts that the district court erred when it failed to grant him a sentencing continuance. Again, we disagree. All else aside, Martinez must show that some prejudice resulted from the denial. See *United States v. Lopez-Patino*, 391 F.3d 1034, 1038--39 (9th Cir. 2004) (per curiam); *United States v. George*, 85 F.3d 1433, 1439--40 (9th Cir. 1996). He has not done so. He points to nothing more than: (a) a desire to show that he had not possessed a weapon when he committed the California robbery, an irrelevant fact; and (b) a desire to challenge the merits of his California conviction, which he could not do. See *United States v. Gutierrez-Cervantez*, 132 F.3d 460, 462 (9th Cir. 1997). That does not suffice.

(3) Martinez finally argues that his sentence was illegally imposed because the district court treated the Sentencing Guideline calculation as mandatory and did not consider the various statutory



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sentencing factors, as it was required to do. See 18 U.S.C. § 3553(a); *United States v. Booker*, 543 U.S. 220, 259--60, 125 S.Ct. 738, 764--65, 160 L.Ed. 2d 621 (2005); see also *United States v. Knows His Gun*, 438 F.3d 913, 918 (9th Cir. 2006); *United States v. Cantrell*, 433 F.3d 1269, 1280 (9th Cir. 2006); cf. *United States v. Fifield*, 432 F.3d 1056, 1063--66 (9th Cir. 2005). It is unclear from the record in this case whether the district court fully considered the § 3553(a) factors. But no objection was raised at the district court. Thus, plain error review applies. See *United States v. Alferahin*, 433 F.3d 1148, 1154 (9th Cir. 2006). The sentence was reasonable. Even if the district court did err in not making a clear record, and even if the error was plain, we cannot say that Martinez's substantial rights were affected. Nor can we say that either the fairness, or the integrity, or the public repute of the proceeding was affected. *Id.* Simply put, there was very limited information before the district court (Martinez even declined to meet with the probation officer), and the court did discuss what little there was. See *Knows His Gun*, 438 F.3d at 919--20.

AFFIRMED.

1. This disposition is not appropriate for publication and may not be cited to or by the courts of this circuit except as provided by Ninth Circuit Rule 36-3.
2. The panel unanimously finds this case suitable for decision without oral argument. Fed. R. App. P. 34(a)(2).
3. He had been found guilty by plea in California of first degree robbery. See Cal. Penal Code §§ 211, 212.5.
4. The judgment indicates that Martinez was convicted under § 1326(a) and (b)(2). It should not. See *United States v. Rivera-Sanchez*, 222 F.3d 1057, 1061 (9th Cir. 2000). However, the issue has not been raised on appeal.
5. See *United States v. Leonti*, 326 F.3d 1111, 1116--17 (9th Cir. 2003); see also *Gardner v. Florida*, 430 U.S. 349, 358, 97 S.Ct. 1197, 1204--05, 51 L.Ed. 2d 393 (1977).
6. See *Faretta v. California*, 422 U.S. 806, 835, 95 S.Ct. 2525, 2541, 45 L.Ed. 2d 562 (1975); *United States v. Erskine*, 355 F.3d 1161, 1167 (9th Cir. 2004); see also *Lopez v. Thompson*, 202 F.3d 1110, 1117 (9th Cir. 2000) (en banc).
7. Among other things, the district court encouraged Martinez to keep his then counsel, and told him that he might not understand the legal principles, that his education was lacking, that there were dangers and pitfalls to self-representation, and, finally, that he would be at a disadvantage. The court also had the prior counsel remain in the courtroom in case he was needed and wanted.

