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CONSTITUTIONAL ISSUES

FIRST AMENDMENT

1ST AMEND - PRESS - FILMING POLICE; HECKLING POLICE

SAN DIEGO APPELLATE DIV: Def observed his friend being arrested. Def criticized the officer and videotaped the arrest. HELD: Both the criticizing and the videotaping are protected by the 1st amendment.

DORSETT P. v. ()

5/24/2024

D. P. / SPEC. CIRC.

PEN -

MISC - ATTY / CLIENT DISAGREEMENT OVER WHAT TO PRESENT

Def atty wishes to introduce penalty phase evid about def being molested as a child. Def objects. HELD: this is an issue where the atty has the final word.

FRAZIER P. v. () CAL

8/5/2024

MOTIONS

SUPP

FARETTA

TIMELINESS - BEFORE PENALTY PHASE - NO CONTINUANCE ASKED FOR Def's FARETTA motion made after guilt verdict, but before Penalty phase, was

UNTIMELY even though def has NOT asking for any continuance.

FRAZIER P. v. () CAL

8/5/2024

APPELLATE ISSUES

MOTIONS

MOTIONS

HARMLESS RETROACTIVE ERROR - SB 567 - UPPER TERM HURDLES

PC 1170(b) re: findings required for UPPER TERM is retroactive to all non-final cases. Appellate Courts must apply the CHAPMAN (beyond reasonable doubt) harmless error standard when deciding whether or not to REMAND for a new

post-1170(b) sentencing.

HARMLESS ERROR

LYNCH P. v. ()

8/1/2024 CAL

SENTENCING

RESTITUTION

GENERALLY - ADDING RESTITUTION AFTER PROBATION COMPLETED

Def was ordered to pay Restitution in an amount to be determined later. Then probation expired. Then the court set the amount. UPHELD. PC 1202.46 gives unlimited time for the court to ascertain the proper amount of Restitution.

McCUNE

P. v. ()

8/8/2024

PLEA BARGAINING

PLEA GENERALLY - ADVISEMENT OF COLLATERAL CONSEQUENCES - SVP

Fact that a conviction would make def POTENTIALLY eligible for later SexVioPredator proceedings is a significant threat to Liberty. Therefore, the def must be ADVISED of this risk before a guilty plea can be accepted.

TELLEZ In Re () CAL

8/26/2024

MOTIONS

CAL

WITHDRAW PLEA / STRIKE PRIOR

ADVISEMENT - COLLATERAL CONSEQUENCES - SVP EXPOSURE

Fact that a conviction would make def POTENTIALLY eligible for later SexVioPredator proceedings is a significant threat to Liberty. Therefore, the def must be ADVISED of this risk before a guilty plea can be accepted.

TELLEZ In Re () CAL

8/26/2024

1385

ENHANCEMENTS - 1385(c) - "WEIGH GREATLY" = REBUTT PRESUMP - NOT

PC 1385(c)'s "great weight" language does NOT create a Rebuttable

Presumption that can only be overcome by evidence of danger to public safety. Nor is it mere surplusage that can be ignored. Great weight means great weight.

WALKER 8/15/2024 CAL P. v. ()

STATUTORY CONSTRUCTION

STATUTORY CONSTRUCTION

RULE - LEGISLATIVE HISTORY - LANGUAGE CHANGES IN COMMITTEE

When legislature took out ABC from a bill and substituted EDF. That is strong evidence of legistrative intent that EDF should NOT be interpreted as being equivalent to ABC.

WALKER CAL P. v. ()

8/15/2024

CONSTITUTIONAL ISSUES

DUE PROCESS / EQUAL PROTECTION

EQUAL PROTECTION - 3051 PC PAROLE - ONE-STRIKE SEX DEFS

At age 24, def sentenced to 100-to-life, plus 86 years for one-strike sex cases. Def seeks PC 3051 remedies on EQUAL PROTECTION grounds. Denied. UPHELD.

WILLIAMS P. v. () CAL

8/29/2024

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DEFENDANT'S STATEMENTS

AMBIG. INVOKE

GENERALLY - MANIPULATIVE DEF - FREQUENT INVOKE / UNINVOKE

Def invoked, and then uninvoked, Miranda so many times that officers were justified in doubting def's sincerity during some invocations.

WILSON

P. v. ()

CAL

ID - PRETRIAL

PHOTO LINEUP - DOUBLE BLIND PROCEDURE

Def's expert opines that photo lineups must be "double-blind" meaning the person conducting the photo lineup must not know which photo is of the suspect. Supreme Ct declines invitation to imposes such a rule.

WILSON

P. v. ()

CAL

MOTIONS

MOTIONS

8/5/2024

8/5/2024

MOTIONS

CONTINUANCES

CAUSE - DEF ATTY'S UNPREPAREDNESS - DEF OBJECTS TO CONTINUE

In Death Penalty case, def atty sought a continuance over the def's objection because he was not yet ready for trial. Court finds Good Cause for the continuance. UPHELD.

WILSON

P. v. ()

8/5/2024

DISCRIMINATORY PROSECUTION

CRJA - APPELLATE STAYS WHILE TRIAL CT WORKS ON CRJA CLAIMS

While an appellate ct has discretion to STAY an Appeal while post-conviction CRJA motions are being heard in the trial court, the appellate ct also has discretion to deny such a Stay request. This case: all CRJA issues required evid that was not part of appellate record. Supreme Ct denied the stay.

WILSON

CAL

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6.

P. v. ()

8/5/2024

SEARCH & SEIZURE

CAL

SEARCH & SEIZURE

GOOD FAITH

S/W - EXECUTION - EXCEEDING SCOPE OF WARRANT

Search Warrant on def's phone was for pictures taken at a particular date and time. Technician who executed warrant also extracted pictures that were undated. Officer reviewed undated photos and saw evid of unrelated crime. HELD: Suppressed. Technician's actions were NOT in good faith.

DIMAGGIO

def v. SUP CT

8/30/2024

S/W - EXECUTION

THINGS - CELL PHONES - EXCEEDING SCOPE OF WARRANT

Search Warrant on def's phone was for pictures taken at a particular date and time. Technician who executed warrant also extracted pictures that were undated. Officer reviewed undated photos and saw evid of unrelated crime. HELD: Suppressed. Technician's actions were NOT in good faith.

DIMAGGIO

def v. SUP CT

8/30/2024

6:

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SEARCH & SEIZURE

S/W - EXECUTION

MISC - SCOPE OF WARRANT

The Scope of the search warrant is determined by the WARRANT itself, not the affidavit in support of the warrant.

DIMAGGIO

def v. SUP CT

8/30/2024

PETITIONS TO RESENTENCE

PETITIONS TO

1172.75 PC - 667.5 PRIORS - IMPOSED, THEN STRICKEN

2017: Court "imposed" a one-yr 667.5(b) prior, and then immediately said it was "striking the additional punishment". HELD: the word IMPOSED is magic. Once uttered, def is irrevocably eligible for a PC 1172.75 resentencing.

ESPINO

P. v. ()

8/12/2024

INSTRUCTIONS/ELEMENTS

SENTENCING

MISC - SENTENCING

CRUEL AND UNUSUAL - 60 YEARS - SEX W/ EX - BY DURESS, NOT FORCE

40 yr old w/ no record has dark and twisted sex relationship that started consensually, but that ends up with def committing multiple (daily) Sex by Duress crimes. (no force, no violence). Def sentenced to 60 years. HELD: 60 years is not Cruel and Unusual.

GUENTHER

P. v. ()

8/22/2024

ADULT SEX CRIMES

RAPE - MAYBERRY - INCOMPATIBLE WITH FORCE, DURESS ETC

Def/Victim relationship morphed from Boss/subordinate to mutual romance and sex, to consensual Dominance sex, to have-sex-or-be-fired. HELD: Def is NOT entitled to a MAYBERRY (belief of consent) instruction when charged with Sex by Duress.

GUENTHER

P. v. ()

8/22/2024

6:

Cases added during August 2024 (sorted by Court)

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EVIDENCE

MISC - EVID

LAY OPINION - VICTIM OPINION OF ATTACKERS KNOWLEDGE

Def/Victim relationship morphed from Boss/subordinate to mutual romance and sex, to consensual Dominance Sex, to have-sex-or-be-fired. At the end Victim ordered to pretend she wanted the sex. HELD: Victim's OPINION that def KNEW she was pretending was admissible.

GUENTHER

P. v. ()

8/22/2024

ADULT SEX CRIMES

INSTRUCTIONS/ELEMENTS

DURESS - EMPLOYER / EMPLOYEE RELATIONSHIP

Def/Victim relationship morphed from Boss/subordinate to mutual romance and sex, to Dominance sex, to have-sex-or-be-fired. HELD: In the final stage, def was committing sex by duress (PC 287, 286).

GUENTHER

P. v. ()

8/22/2024

MOTIONS

6:

DISCRIMINATORY PROSECUTION

CRJA - DDA CROSS OF DEF - IMPLICATIONS OF QUESTIONS

DDA questions designed to connect def to a particular Black neighborhood with a notorious gang problem (while relevant and not 352) can, perhaps, nevertheless, violate CRJA. DCA finds def made Prima Facie CRJA claim and REMANDS for a full hearing

HOWARD

P. v. ()

8/27/2024

DISCRIMINATORY PROSECUTION

CRJA - IMPLICIT OR IMPLIED BIAS IS ENOUGH

While the record fails to show the DDA acted with express bias or animus, it "does not necessarily mean that the prosecutor's conduct was free of implicit or implied bias." DCA finds def made Prima Facie CRJA claim and REMANDS for a full hearing.

HOWARD

P. v. ()

8/27/2024

PETITIONS TO RESENTENCE

6:

6:

MOTIONS

cd MOTIONS

DISCRIMINATORY PROSECUTION

CRJA - EFFECTIVE DATE - CASES TRIED BEFORE

Def wishes to make CRJA claim against his 1997 murder conviction. PC 745(j) lays out phasing plan for when old cases can be raised. Def must wait until 2026.

VIGIL

P. v. ()

8/28/2024

PETITIONS TO

1172.6 PC - SUMMARY DENIALS - SPEC CIRC / INTENT TO KILL FINDINGS

2005: def convicted of felony 187 with Spec Circ - Kidnapping. Spec Circ required finding that def had intent to kill. HELD: Def NOT eligible for 1172.6 resentencing. 2005 jury did not make finding that def specifically aided the 187 (and not just the kidnap) --- DCA's are split

LOPEZ

5:

8/27/2024

4:3

SEARCH & SEIZURE

AUTOS / CONTAINERS

DETAIN - AUTO - ASKING DRIVER TO EXIT CAR

During traffic stop, the officer DOES NOT NEED a reason or justification to ask the driver to exit the vehicle.

RAMIREZ

P. v. ()

4.3

8/20/2024

ATTORNEY /JUDGE DUTIES & ETHICS

ATTY DUTIES & ETHICS

CONTEMPT - ACCUSING COURT OF BAD FAITH

DCA chastises the DDA who wrote appellate brief for saying the trial court "fabricated" a legal basis to grant the defense motion. (DDA was appellant). "Fabricated" comes awful close to an allegation of bad faith which would be a severe no-no.

RAMIREZ

P. v. ()

8/20/2024

4:3

4:1

PETITIONS TO RESENTENCE

PETITIONS TO

1172.75 PC - 667.5 PRIORS - PRIOR BASED ON SEX CRIME AND NON SEX

1990: Def sent to prison for a sex crime and a non-sex crime (concurrent time). In 1998, def was given 26-to-life, plus a one-yr 667.5(b) prior for 1990 conviction - the 667.5(b) allegation only named the non-sex crime. HELD: Def gets 1172.75 resentencing. The allegation controls.

GREEN

P. v. ()

8/21/2024

4:1

INSTRUCTIONS/ELEMENTS

EVID - 1101(b) EV - USING CHARGED ACTS TO 1101(B) EACH OTHER

Trial ct tinkered with CALCRIM 375 (re: 1101(b) evidence) in such a way that as to some counts, it DID lower the People's burden of proof. -- The instruction permitted jury to use counts 2 and 3 as 1101(b) evidence, and said 2 and 3 could be proved by preponderance.

HOLLIDAY & ESQUEDA

GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS

P. v. ()

8/22/2024

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SENTENCING

PETITIONS TO RESENTENCE

PETITIONS TO

1172.75 PC - 667.5 PRIORS - FULL RESENTENCE - UPPER TERMS

HELD: at a PC 1172.75 resentencing, previously imposed UPPER terms can be re-imposed w/out the findings currently required due to 1172.75(d)(4).

BRANNON-THOMPSON

P. v. ()

3.

CTS/GOOD TIME

CTS - IS NOT APPLIED AGAINST LENGTH OF PROBATION

Def placed on two years felony probation with a jail term of 228 days, CTS 228. Def asserts those 228 days apply against the length of probation. HELD: the def

is wrong. DAUTERMAN

P. v. ()

8/23/2024

CONSTITUTIONAL ISSUES

8/22/2024

SENTENCING

PROBATION

LENGTH - UNAFFECTED BY AMOUNT OF CTS

Def placed on two years felony probation with a jail term of 228 days, CTS 228. Def asserts those 228 days apply against the length of probation. HELD: the def is wrong.

DAUTERMAN

P. v. ()

3:

8/23/2024

DUE PROCESS / EQUAL PROTECTION

EQUAL PROTECTION - SEX REGISTRATION - JUVI SEX OFFENDERS

New legislation (PC 290.008) treats minors differently re: 290 registration based on if they were sent to DJJ. Equal Protection claim is resolved on "rational basis" standard since a 290 requirement does NOT involve a loss of liberty. (i.e. jail)

I.B.

P. v. ()

8/28/2024

3:

3:

SEARCH & SEIZURE

AUTOS / CONTAINERS

PC TO SEARCH AUTO - MJ - POST PROP 64

During traffic stop, a nervous driver says there is NO MJ in the car. Officer sees small amount of MJ in the car. HELD: This is PC to search car for more MJ **SELLERS** def v. SUP CT

8/22/2024

SEARCH & SEIZURE

AUTOS / CONTAINERS

PC TO SEARCH AUTO - MJ - POST PROP 64

During traffic stop, officer observes small amount of "loose" MJ on seat and floorboard (a useable amount). HELD: this equivalent to MJ being in a "open container". Therefore, illegal, therefore, search of car for more MJ is permissible.

3:

SELLERS

def v. SUP CT

8/22/2024

INSTRUCTIONS/ELEMENTS

3:

SENTENCING

RESTITUTION

CRIMES - HIT-AND-RUN CASES (20002 VC)

Court ordered Restitution in Hit-and-Run. HELD: this is okay, but, the damage must be from the flight, not the impact. Since the jury found V's injuries were aggravated by the delay in treatment due to def's flight, Restitution for the aggravation is appropriate.

MEJIA

P. v. ()

ENHANCEMENTS

GBI - 12022.7 PC - BASE CRIME - HIT-AND-RUN

Def convicted of hit-and-run with a GBI enhancement. HELD: this is okay, but, the GBI must be from the flight, not the impact. Since the jury found V's injuries were aggravated by the delay in treatment due to def's flight, the enhancement stands.

8/30/2024

2:8

P. v. ()

8/30/2024

INSTRUCTIONS/ELEMENTS

2:8

INSTRUCTIONS/ELEMENTS

GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS

ATTEMPT - INDIRECT, CONVOLUTED ACTS - THAT WORK

Just because the def used indirect and convoluted methods to threaten and stalk the victim does not mean he did not violate PC 649.9. If you do the elements of the crime, it matters not how you do them. (this case: def argued he was guilty of only ATTEMPT stalking.)

OBERMUELLER

P. v. ()

8/16/2024

MISC -

MEJIA

STALKING - 646.9 PC - USING INDIRECT METHODS

Just because the def used indirect and convoluted methods to threaten and stalk the victim does not mean he did not violate PC 649.9. If you do the elements of the crime, it matters not how you do them. (this case: def argued he was guilty of only ATTEMPT stalking.)

OBERMUELLER

P. v. ()

8/16/2024

2:8

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OTHER TRIAL ISSUES

WHEELE

CRJA - PREEMPT - 231.7(g) PRESUMPTIVE INVALID REASONS

Racial Minority juror said he did not trust police due bad personal experiences. He also said he could be fair juror. DDA challenge for cause denied. DDA preempt brought PC 231.7 objection. Preempt UPHELD. Court found reasonable person would view preempt unrelated to race.

GONZALES

P. v. ()

8/6/2024

2:3

CONSTITUTIONAL ISSUES

DUE PROCESS / EQUAL PROTECTION

EQUAL PROTECTION - 1170(d)(2) / 3051 - LIFE TERMS FOR MINORS

At age 15, in 2005, def sentenced to 130 years-to-life. 2023: def seeks resentencing under PC 1170(d), which only applies to minors who get LWOP sentence. HELD: Def entitled to 1170(d) remedy under EQUAL PROTECTION. (fact that def also entitled to PC 3051 is not relevant)

SORTO

P. v. ()

8/21/2024

cd

2:3

MOTIONS

PETITIONS TO RESENTENCE

PETITIONS TO

1170(d)(2) PC - DE FACTO LWOP - EQUAL PROTECTION

At age 15, in 2005, def sentenced to 130 years-to-life. 2023: def seeks resentencing under PC 1170(d), which only applies to minors who get LWOP sentence. HELD: Def entitled 1170(d) remedy under EQUAL PROTECTION. (fact that def also entitled to PC 3051 is not relevant)

SORTO

P. v. ()

8/21/2024

2:3

MISC -

EXPUNGEMENT - 1203.4 PC - UNPAID (UNORDERED) RESTITUTION

After completing misd probation, def seeks dismissal under PC 1203.4. DDA objects because restitution not paid. Restitution was never ordered. (issue was reserved at sentencing and never addressed). Court denies 1203.4 relief. REVERSED. No "record" that restitution is appropriate.

DAFFEH

P. v. ()

8/29/2024

bb

1:5

1:5

1:3

EVIDENCE

APPELLATE ISSUES

POST GUILTY PLEA

POST GUILTY PLEA - CERTIF OF PC - NEED FOR

Def pled No Contest. AFTER def was found to have violated probation, def APPEALS on grounds atty incompetent for failure to seek mental health diversion. HELD: Appeal requires Certif of PC, which def does not have. Appeal Dismissed

MOORE

P. v. ()

8/9/2024

1:5

PRIVILEGE

PSYCHOTHERAPIST - WAIVER BY STARTING 1368 PROCESS

Minor is being evaluated for competency to stand trial. Minor objects to ct appt's shrink seeing his psych records. HELD: Ev 1014 privilege is WAIVED by minor putting his mental status at issue. -- Minor's atty was the one that started the competency process.

def v. SUP CT

8/27/2024

JUVENILE

CONSTITUTIONAL ISSUES

MISC CONSTITUTIONAL ISSUES

BEAR ARMS, RIGHT TO - POST-BRUEN - FELONS AND GUNS

Statute prohibiting FELONS from possessing guns survives a 2nd Amendment challenge.

ANDERSON

P. v. ()

MISC - JUVENILE

RECORDS - SEALING OF - 786 W&I

bb

MINOR has three petitions. ONE of which was not eligible for SEALING under W&I 786. Trial Ct refused to seal any of the petitions. REVERSED. The SEALING of each petition should be considered separately.

BRANDON H.

In Re ()

8/5/2024

EVIDENCE

8/22/2024

EVIDENCE

1.3

1:3

EXPERT

GENERALLY - OPINION BASED ON UNSUPPORTED THEORY

Expert opined tool mark on fired cartridge was "unique", and only def's gun could have made it. Expert cited ZERO studies in support of opinion. HELD: trial court should have excluded the opinion as being UNSUPPORTED. Saying "consistent" with def's gun is fine. Excluding all others not fine.

TIDD

P. v. ()

8/29/2024

EXPERT

TOOL MARKS - OVERREACHING BY EXPERT

Expert opined tool mark on fired cartridge was "unique", and only def's gun could have made it. Expert cited ZERO studies in support of opinion. HELD: trial court should have excluded the opinion as being UNSUPPORTED. Saying "consistent" with def's gun is fine. Excluding all others not fine.

P. v. ()

8/29/2024

1:3

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db APPELLATE ISSUES

WRITS

HABEAS - NEW EVIDENCE - EXPOSE SECRET DDA DEALS W/ WITNESS

1987: Def convicted of 187. X testified at prelim he had no immunity deal. (prelim testimony admitted at trial because X took 5th at trial). 2007: def obtains letter, dated pre-prelim, from DDA to X's atty promising X won't be charged. HABEAS summarily denied. REVERSED and remanded for full hearing.

HILL In Re () 8/2/2024 1:2

db APPELLATE ISSUES

8/2/2024

WRITS

HABEAS - NEW EVIDENCE - PROOF OF FALSE TESTIMONY

False evid used against def at prelim, but not trial. HELD: that MAY be grounds for HABEAS relief. Summary denial REVERSED and remanded for full hearing. Issue: was "the conviction obtained" by false evidence.

HILL In Re () 1:2

cd MOTIONS

IMMUNITY

SECRET UNOFFICIAL IMMUNITY - UNDISCLOSED

X takes 5th at trial. DDA declines to give X immunity. X's prelim testimony admitted at trial. -- DDA had SECRET agreement with Def atty to NOT CHARGE X. HELD: this stinks. REMANDED to trial court to further address the problem.

HILL In Re () 8/2/2024 1:2