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EVIDENCE

EXPERT

GENERALLY - OPINIONS RE: DEF'S STATE OF KNOWLEDGE

DIAZ v. U.S.: HELD: a properly qualified expert could NOT opine that def KNEW there were drugs in his car. But, he COULD opine that generally, mostly, drug cartels do NOT trust their drugs to unknowing mules to drive across the border. Case interprets Fed Rule of Evid 704(b)

DIAZ

U.S. Supreme

6/20/2024

U.S.

STATUTORY CONSTRUCTION

STATUTORY CONSTRUCTION

RULE - PLAIN LANGUAGE - "OTHERWISE" - LIMITS TO

FISCHER v. U.S.: When statute says conduct ABCD&E is prohibited and then adds people who "OTHERWISE" impede official proceedings. OTHERWISE is not unlimited. The prohibited conduct must of the same type and nature as ABCD&E.

FISCHER

U.S. Supreme

6/28/2024

dc NEW TRIAL MOTIONS

U.S.

SENTENCING

MISC - SENTENCING

CRUEL AND UNUSUAL - PUNISHING HOMELESSNESS

GRANTS PASS v. JOHNSON: Prosecuting HOMELESS people for trespass when they camp on city sidewalks is NOT cruel and unusual punishment. Poverty may be involuntary, but choosing where to "camp" is voluntary. Political Officials, not courts, must solve homeless problem.

GRANTS PASS

U.S. Supreme

6/28/2024

U.S.

NEW TRIAL - ATTY INCOMPETENCE

PREJUDICE - NEED FOR

THORNELL v. JONES: Supreme Ct slaps down the 9th circuit for its failure to find that the alleged def atty errors and omission were HARMLESS ERROR under the STRICKLAND standard. No new law. -- this was Habeas Petition in a D.P. case.

JONES

U.S. Supreme

5/30/2024

dc NEW TRIAL MOTIONS

U.S.

cd MOTIONS

DOUBLE JEOPARDY

ACQUITTAL BY FINDING OF NGI

For Double Jeopardy purposes, an NGI verdict is an Acquittal. Def cannot be retried

McELRATH

U.S. Supreme

2/21/2024

NEW TRIAL - MISC

MISC GROUNDS - INCONSISTENT VERDICTS

McELRATH v. GEORGIA: Jury returns inconsistent verdicts, including an Acquittal on court 3. HELD: Inconsistency can NOT be used to strike or vacate ACQUITTALS. It stands and Double Jeopardy prevents any retrial on Count 3.

McELRATH

U.S.

U.S.

U.S. Supreme

2/21/2024

U.S.

U.S.

EVIDENCE

CONSTITUTIONAL ISSUES

MISC CONSTITUTIONAL ISSUES

BEAR ARMS, RIGHT TO - TEMPORARY RESTRAINING ORDERS

U.S. v. RAHIMI: Upholds federal statute that denied Def's right to possess a GUN during the time his was under a RESTRAINING ORDER for Domestic Violence.

RAHIMI

U.S. Supreme

6/21/2024

EXPERT

HEARSAY - EXPERT OPINING SOMEONE ELSE'S REPORT IS ACCURATE

SMITH v. ARIZONA: When an expert says my opinion is X, based in part on facts A,B, and C and it is my opinion that A,B, and C are true, then the court should SUSTAIN the HEARSAY objection re: A, B, and C.

SMITH U.S. Supreme

6/21/2024

SENTENCING

RESTITUTION

GENERALLY - INTEREST ON UNPAID RESTITUTION - 1202.4 PC

ORANGE APPELLATE DIV: GOV 1465.9 did away with lots of fees, finds, and costs, BUT, it did not do away with the imposition of INTEREST on unpaid RESTITUTION per PC 1202.4.

FOSTER

P. v. ()

SUPP

4/26/2024

INSTRUCTIONS/ELEMENTS

MISDEMEANORS AND INFRACTIONS

TRAFFIC - LONG PRIVATE DRIVEWAY IS NOT PUBLIC HIGHWAY

SAN FRANCISCO APPELLATE DIV: The long private, gated, driveway to a private club is NOT a public highway under VC 12500. Therefore, def's Reckless Driving conviction is REVERSED.

LYTKOWSKI

P. v. ()

SUPP

6/11/2024

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ab CONSTITUTIONAL ISSUES

RETROACTIVE

BENEFIT TO DEF - BIFURCATION OF GANG ENHANCEMENTS

AB 333 mandated BIFURCATION of gang allegations in 2021. HELD: ESTRADA presumption of retroactivity does NOT apply. AB 333 is silent re: retroactivity. Therefore: Bifurcation provisions of AB 333 are NOT retroactive.

BURGOS P. v. () CAL

6/3/2024

cd MOTIONS

EVIDENCE

BAIL / OR

BAI HRG - USE OF HEARSAY

At bail hearing, trial rules of evidence do not apply. Court may consider hearsay and read reports. But, court must find the evidence to be reliable.

HARRIS In Re () CAL

6/27/2024

eb D. P. / SPEC. CIRC.

PEN -

MITIGATION - LINGERING DOUBT EVID - PENALTY-ONLY RETRIAL

1st penalty jury hung. At 2nd penalty phase, def sought to re-cross DDA expert re: DNA for purpose of LINGERING DOUBT. (def did NOT seek to call their own expert.) (DDA did not introduce DNA during penalty re-trial) Trial court denied request. UPHELD.

NADEY

P. v. ()

6/17/2024

CAL

CAL

352 / RELEVANCE

DEFENSE EXPERT RECEIVED DNA SAMPLES FOR RETESTING

Fact that DNA samples were sent to Def expert for possible retesting is relevant and admissible regardless of whether the samples were, in fact, retested.

NADEY P. v. () CAL

6/17/2024

bd OTHER TRIAL ISSUES

JUROR/VERDICT ISSUES

JUROR TALK ABOUT JURY SERVICE GENERALLY - NOT ABOUT CASE

JUROR #1 wrote two poems about jury service. They were NOT about the case. They were shared with the other jurors during deliberations. NO MISCONDUCT.

NADEY P. v. ()

6/17/2024

de SENTENCING

6:

CTS/GOOD TIME

CTS - MULTIPLE CASES - 2900.5 PC

Def closes 5 open cases with a single plea bargain and sentencing in which CONCURRENT TIME was imposed. HELD: Per PC 2900.5, court calculates a single CTS amount and applies it to ALL the cases. (DCA's in conflict)

COFER P. v. ()

6/28/2024

cc GRAND JURY / PRELIMS

PRELIMS / 995

PRELIM - INTERPRETERS - CO-DEF'S SHOULD NOT SHARE

Co-def's are entitled to their own individual INTERPRETERS during Prelim. In this case, the error is NOT harmless -- the outcome MIGHT have been different. 995 motion to dismiss should be granted.

MOLINA def v. SUP CT 6:

6/28/2024

HARMLESS ERROR

HARMLESS ERROR - INTERPRETER - MAKING DEF SHARE W/CO-DEF

APPELLATE ISSUES

Co-def's are entitled to their own individual INTERPRETERS during Prelim. In this case, the error is NOT harmless -- the outcome MIGHT have been different. 995 motion to dismiss should be granted.

MOLINA def v. SUP CT 6:

6/28/2024

dd PETITIONS TO RESENTENCE

PETITIONS TO

1172.75 PC - 667.5 PRIORS - FULL RESENTENCE - POST PROP 36 DENIAL

At a PC 1172.75 resentencing, the court MAY NOT readdress def's 3-strike sentence under Prop 36. Def had a Prop 36 review in 2012 is def was found to be too dangerous. 1172.75 cannot amend Prop 36.

WILLIAMS P. v. SUP CT 6:

6/24/2024

dd PETITIONS TO RESENTENCE

PETITIONS TO

1172.75 PC - 667.5 PRIORS - IMPOSED, BUT STAYED

In 2018, def's one-year 667.5(b) priors were "imposed and stayed". HELD: def is entitled to full resentencing under PC 1172.75.

MAYBERRY P. v. () 5:

6/4/2024

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MOTIONS

DISCRIMINATORY PROSECUTION

CRJA - DOES DISCRIMINATION DUE TO CULTURE APPLY?

Def is from Pakistan. Question: If def is treated differently because of stereotypical assumptions about his CULTURE, would that violate CRJA? Question not answered, but opinion implies that it would.

SINGH P. v. ()

6/27/2024

DEFENDANT'S STATEMENTS

MIRANDA

5:

5:

4:2

IMPLIED WAIVER - HEAD NODS

Head Nods are a sufficient indication that def understood, and waived, Miranda.

SINGH P. v. ()

6/27/2024

MISC ODDS & ENDS

APPELLATE ISSUES

5:

4:3

DEFENDANT'S STATEMENTS

MIRANDA

ADVISEMENT - IMPERFECT FOREIGN LANGUAGE TRANSLATION

Miranda advisement Translated into Language X on-the-fly. Official X miranda card not used. (everything recorded). HELD: translation was close enough. Full record shows def knew he could refuse to talk and he voluntarily chose to talk.

SINGH

P. v. ()

6/27/2024

ODDS & ENDS

CERTIFICATE OF REHABILITATION - 4852.1 PC

Def requests Certif of Rehabilitation: Following are NOT relevant factors: Seriousness of Crime; Impact on Victims; def got favorable plea bargain. The relevant factors are def's POST-RELEASE conduct.

ROUNDS P. v. ()

6/5/2024

PETITIONS TO RESENTENCE

PETITIONS TO

MISC - CORRECTING CTS ERRORS AFTER CASE IS FINAL

A dispute over CTS long after def's case is FINAL cannot be addressed on Appeal or by motion to resentence. It can only be addressed by a HABEAS petition, and the only remedy would be a CTS adjustment. The Habeas remedy would NOT be a full resentencing

BOYD

P. v. ()

6/27/2024

WRITS

HABEAS - CTS DISPUTE - WRIT IS APPROPRIATE

A dispute over CTS long after def's case is FINAL cannot be addressed on Appeal or by motion to resentence. It can only be addressed by a HABEAS petition, and the only remedy would be a CTS adjustment. The Habeas remedy would NOT be a full resentencing.

BOYD

P. v. ()

6/27/2024

4:2

SENTENCING

CTS/GOOD TIME

CTS DISPUTES AFTER CASE IS FINAL

A dispute over CTS long after def's case is FINAL cannot be addressed on Appeal or by motion to resentence. It can only be addressed by a HABEAS petition, and the only remedy would be a CTS adjustment. The Habeas remedy would NOT be a full resentencing

BOYD

P. v. ()

6/27/2024

4:2

4:1

INSTRUCTIONS/ELEMENTS

GBI - 12022.7 PC - BASE CRIME - ATTEMPT VOL.

HELD: GBI enhancement under PC 12022.7 can be applied to an ATTEMPT Voluntary Manslaughter charge

ACKERMAN

ENHANCEMENTS

P. v. ()

4:1

MOTIONS

6/24/2024

INSTRUCTIONS/ELEMENTS

LESSER

GENERALLY - EVID BASIS

Def's note to teller said "Give me \$5,000. Don't play." Def said nothing. Teller testified she gave def the money due to fear. HELD: insufficient evidence to support giving LESSER of Grand Theft.

GEFRERER

P. v. ()

6/6/2024

1385

ENHANCEMENTS - 1385(c) - DEF DANGEROUSNESS

The "dangerousness" evaluation in deciding to strike an enhancement under PC 1385(c) is not current dangerousness, it is def's danger to community if and when he is released in the future. This case: even if enhancement struck, def STILL has a 50-to-life sentence to serve.

GONZALEZ

P. v. ()

6/27/2024

4:1

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MOTIONS

1385

ENHANCEMENTS - 1385(c) - DEF DANGEROUSNESS

The "dangerousness" evaluation in deciding to strike an enhancement under PC 1385(c) is not current dangerousness, it is def's danger to community if and when he is released in the future. This case: even if enhancement struck, def STILL can never get out unless a future Parole Bd finds him UNdangerous.

GONZALEZ

P. v. ()

4:1

SENTENCING

MISC - SENTENCING

LESSERS - CT MAY DISMISS GREATER AND SENTENCE ON LESSER

Due to enhancements, the LESSER offense had a longer max sentence than the GREATER offense. (DDA charged and proved both). HELD: Court has discretion to dismiss the Greater and sentence def on the Lesser.

MENO

P. v. ()

4:1

6/20/2024

INSTRUCTIONS/ELEMENTS

LESSER

DUI / MANSLAUGHTER / DUI W/INJURY

DUI w/ injury -- VC 23153(a) -- is LESSER to Vehicular manslaughter while intoxicated - PC 191.5.

MENO

P. v. ()

6/20/2024

MISC ODDS & ENDS

ODDS & ENDS

COMPASSIONATE RELEASE - PC 1170(e)

COMPASSIONATE RELEASE under PC 1172.2 is not subject to the geographic restrictions of PC 3003(f). Compassionate Release is not parole. Def is released without supervision.

GONZALEZ

4.1

3.

2:7

1:4

P. v. ()

SENTENCING

6/28/2024

MISC ODDS & ENDS

ODDS & FNDS

COMPASSIONATE RELEASE - PC 1170(e)

Def's COMPASSIONATE RELEASE petition under PC 1172.2 cannot be denied because def is BAD guy, or because Def not rehabilitated. Question is: is def dangerous NOTWITHSTANDING his current physical condition.

GONZALEZ

P. v. ()

6/28/2024

DIVERSION

DIVERSION - MENTALLY ILL - 1001.36 PC - SCOPE OF HEARING

DCA remanded for a hrg re: suitability for Mental Health Diversion after trial. HELD: Court may consider all relevant evidence, including evidence that was revealed during trial. (Even tho def "should" have had the hrg before trial.) PC 1001.36

GRAHAM

P. v. ()

6/10/2024

3:

3:

JUVENILE

SENTENCING

SYTF - 875 W&I - USE OF CTS / GOOD TIME

In a juvi committment to a SYTF, the CTS is applied to the MAXIMUM TERM, not the BASELINE TERM. W&I 875(c)(1)(C)

JOSE R.

In Re ()

6/12/2024

DUI'S

INSTRUCTIONS/ELEMENTS

REFUSALS - POST McNEELY

California's implied consent law survives McNEELY. If a DUI arrestee REFUSES to give a breath blood or urine sample for testing, there may be civil and administrative consequences, plus evidentiary consequences in any criminal action.

BOLOURCHI

P. v. ()

6/28/2024

APPELLATE ISSUES

1:4

INSTRUCTIONS/ELEMENTS

GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS

UNANIMITY/DDA ELECTION - LESSERS - CALCRIM 3500 DEFECTIVE

CALCRIM 3500 is defective in that it does NOT explicitly say that UNANIMITY is not only required re: the charged offense, it is ALSO required regarding the LESSER offense. --- HARMLESS in this case. DDA argued that unanimity was need for lesser.

FISH

P. v. ()

6/5/2024

HARMLESS ERROR

HARMLESS ERROR - MISINSTRUCTION - SAVED BY DDA ARGUMENT CALCRIM 3500 is defective in that it does NOT explicitly say that UNANIMITY is not only required re: the charged offense, it is ALSO required regarding the LESSER offense. --- HARMLESS in this case. DDA argued that unanimity was need for lesser

P. v. ()

6/5/2024

1:4

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ed JUVENILE

CRIMES

PC 26 - WRONGFULNESS & ILLEGALITY ARE NOT IDENTICAL

13 yr old takes old, rusted, pocket knife to school. Claims his father told him it was okay. Conviction REVERSED for insufficient evidence that the minor knew what he did was wrong. -- "wrong" and "illegal" are closely related but not identical under PC 26.

K. M.

In Re ()

6/3/2024

V/P'S

LIFER PAROLE, DEF ON

Def convicted of 187. Ultimately, released on lifer parole. Violates. Remanded to CDCR per PC 3000.08(h). REMANDED. 3000.08(h) did not apply to def because 3000.1 does not apply due to newly enacted 3000.01. BUT. 3000.08(f)

& (g) still apply.

REED

1:3

1:2

P. v. ()

6/27/2024

1:3

dd PETITIONS TO RESENTENCE

PETITIONS TO

1172.6 PC - SUMMARY DENIALS - USE OF ENHANCEMENT FINDINGS

Yes, def has a co-def. But the jury found that Def personally used a Gun to inflict GBI. I.e. the jury found that def was the shooter. Therefore, def is NOT eligible for any PC 1172.6 relief. Summary dismissal is appropriate

MORALES

P. v. ()

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6/21/2024