

United States v. White

Decided Jul 24, 2018

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

D.C. No. 2:15-cr-00144-KJD-PAL-1
MEMORANDUM* Appeal from the United States
District Court for the District of Nevada
Kent J. Dawson, District Judge, Presiding Argued
and Submitted July 11, 2018 San Francisco,
California Before: TASHIMA, GRABER, and
HURWITZ, Circuit Judges.

* This disposition is not appropriate for
publication and is not precedent except as
provided by Ninth Circuit Rule 36-3. -----
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Don Eugene White appeals his conviction and
sentence for possession of a firearm as a convicted
felon in violation of [18 U.S.C. §§ 922\(g\)\(1\)](#) and
[924\(a\)\(2\)](#). We affirm the conviction but vacate the
sentence and remand for resentencing.

1. The district court did not err in denying White's
suppression motion. "[T]he Fourth Amendment
requires only reasonable suspicion in the context
2 of *2 investigative traffic stops." *United States v.*
Lopez-Soto, [205 F.3d 1101, 1105](#) (9th Cir. 2000).
Police officers had reasonable suspicion to detain
White's vehicle because a record check performed
before the stop revealed a parole or probation
violation warrant associated with the car.
2. The warrantless search of the vehicle was also
reasonable. "If a car is readily mobile and
probable cause exists to believe it contains
contraband, the Fourth Amendment . . . permits
police to search the vehicle without more." *See*
Pennsylvania v. Labron, [518 U.S. 938, 940](#) (1996)
(per curiam). The smell of marijuana emanating
from the vehicle provided probable cause. *See*
United States v. Kerr, [876 F.2d 1440, 1445](#) (9th

Cir. 1989) ("[T]he presence of the odor of
contraband may itself be sufficient to establish
probable cause."); *see also United States v.*
Guzman-Padilla, [573 F.3d 865, 886](#) n.5 (9th Cir.
2009) ("It is undisputed that probable cause to
conduct a full-scale search arose at the latest when
the agents encountered the smell of unburned
marijuana emanating from the vehicle."); *United*
States v. Garcia-Rodriguez, [558 F.2d 956, 964](#)
(9th Cir. 1977) ("The detection of marijuana odor
emanating from a vehicle has been held sufficient
in such situations to give rise to probable cause to
search."). White argues that there was no probable
cause because Nevada had legalized medical
marijuana at the time of the search, *see Nev. Rev.*
Stat. § 453A.200, and he had a medical marijuana
card. But, White never explained this to the
investigating officers, and possession of
3 nonmedical marijuana was then *3 still a state
crime.

3. The district court did not abuse its discretion in
denying White's repeated motions to substitute
counsel for a second time and second counsel's
motions to withdraw. *See United States v. Prime*,
[431 F.3d 1147, 1154](#) (9th Cir. 2005) (noting
standard of review). To evaluate whether a district
court abused its discretion in denying a motion to
substitute counsel, "we consider three factors: (1)
the adequacy of the district court's inquiry; (2)
the extent of the conflict between the defendant and
counsel; and (3) the timeliness of defendant's
motion." *United States v. Reyes-Bosque*, [596 F.3d](#)
[1017, 1033](#) (9th Cir. 2010).

The district court held multiple hearings and
questioned both White and his counsel extensively
about their purported disagreements. *See Daniels*
v. Woodford, [428 F.3d 1181, 1200](#) (9th Cir. 2005).

The court did not abuse its discretion in denying the motions, as the record does not compel the conclusion that there was "a significant breakdown in communication that substantially interfered with the attorney-client relationship." *United States v. Adelzo-Gonzalez*, 268 F.3d 772, 779 (9th Cir. 2001). Indeed, many of White's initial complaints about second counsel were resolved by the court. And, White's final requests for substitution were made less than a month before trial, after the court had already granted several trial continuances. "It is within the trial judge's discretion to deny a motion to substitute made during or on the eve of trial if the substitution would require a continuance." *4 *United States v. McClendon*, 782 F.2d 785, 789 (9th Cir. 1986).

4. The district court applied a sentencing enhancement under U.S.S.G. § 2K2.1(a)(2), determining that White had two prior convictions for "crimes of violence" because he had been convicted of: (1) conspiracy to commit robbery, *Nev. Rev. Stat. §§ 199.480 & 200.380*; (2) robbery with a deadly weapon, *id.* §§ 193.165 & 200.380;

and (3) assault with a deadly weapon, *id.* § 200.471. Subsequent to White's sentencing, we held that robbery under *Nev. Rev. Stat. § 200.380* is not a crime of violence under § 2K2.1(a)(2). *United States v. Edling*, No. 16-10457, 2018 WL 3387366, at *3-5 (9th Cir. July 12, 2018), *as amended*. We therefore vacate White's sentence and remand for resentencing in light of *Edling*. See, e.g., *United States v. Cooper*, No. 16-10413, 2018 WL 3322239, at *1-2 (9th Cir. July 6, 2018) (unpublished) (holding that robbery with a deadly weapon in violation of *Nev. Rev. Stat. §§ 193.165 and 200.380* does not qualify as a "violent felony" under the Armed Career Criminal Act); *United States v. Bell*, No. 16-10416, 2018 WL 3195673, at *1 (9th Cir. June 29, 2018) (unpublished) (vacating and remanding in light of *Edling* when the district court had found that Bell's conviction for robbery with a deadly weapon in violation of *Nev. Rev. Stat. §§ 193.165 and 200.380* qualified as a "crime of violence" under the Guidelines).

CONVICTION AFFIRMED, SENTENCE VACATED, and REMANDED.
