

IN THE UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS
FOR THE FIFTH CIRCUIT

No. 00-40785
Conference Calendar

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

Plaintiff-Appellee,

versus

SAMUEL DUENAS-OCHOA,

Defendant-Appellant.

Appeal from the United States District Court
for the Southern District of Texas
USDC No. B-00-CR-63-1

February 15, 2001

Before SMITH, BARKSDALE, and EMILIO M. GARZA, Circuit Judges.

PER CURIAM:*

Samuel Duenas-Ochoa (Duenas) appeals his conviction and 57-month sentence following his plea of guilty to attempted illegal reentry after deportation in violation of 8 U.S.C. § 1326. Duenas argues that the felony conviction that resulted in his increased sentence under 8 U.S.C. § 1326(b)(2) was an element of the offense that should have been charged in the indictment. He acknowledges that his argument is foreclosed by Almendarez-Torres v. United States, 523 U.S. 224 (1998), but he seeks to preserve the issue for Supreme Court review in light of Apprendi v. New

* Pursuant to 5TH CIR. R. 47.5, the court has determined that this opinion should not be published and is not precedent except under the limited circumstances set forth in 5TH CIR. R. 47.5.4.

Jersey, 120 S. Ct. 2348 (2000). Apprendi did not overrule Almendarez-Torres. See Apprendi, 120 S. Ct. at 2361-62 & n.15; United States v. Dabeit, 231 F.3d 979, 984 (5th Cir. 2000), petition for cert. filed (U.S. Jan. 26, 2001)(No. 00-8299). Duenas's argument is foreclosed. See Almendarez-Torres, 523 U.S. at 235. Accordingly, Duenas's conviction and sentence are AFFIRMED.