

FILED

August 21, 2007

IN THE UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS
FOR THE FIFTH CIRCUIT

Charles R. Fulbruge III
Clerk

No. 06-41283
Conference Calendar

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Plaintiff-Appellee

v.

JUAN GONZALEZ-GONZALEZ, true name Juan Alberto Cabrera-Gonzalez

Defendant-Appellant

Appeal from the United States District Court
for the Southern District of Texas
USDC No. 5:05-CR-2520-ALL

Before HIGGINBOTHAM, SMITH, and CLEMENT, Circuit Judges.

PER CURIAM:*

Juan Gonzalez-Gonzalez (Gonzalez) appeals his guilty-plea conviction and 46-month sentence for unlawful reentry following deportation, in violation of 8 U.S.C. § 1326. Gonzalez argues that his sentence is contrary to United States v. Booker, 543 U.S. 220 (2005), and unreasonable as a matter of law. He contends that this court's post-Booker decisions have effectively reinstated the mandatory guideline scheme condemned by Booker.

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 R. 47.5, the court has determined that this opinion should not be published and is not precedent except under the limited circumstances set forth in 5TH CIR.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

Gonzalez concedes that this argument is foreclosed by circuit precedent, but he raises it to preserve it in light of the Supreme Court's grant of certiorari in *Rita v. United States*, 127 S. Ct. 551 (2006), and *Claiborne v. United States*, 127 S. Ct. 551 (2006). However, *Rita* now has been decided, and the Supreme Court has affirmed that a "court of appeals may apply a presumption of reasonableness to a district court sentence that reflects a proper application of the Sentencing Guidelines." *Rita v. United States*, 127 S. Ct. 2456, 2462-69 (2007)(quote at 2462). Furthermore, the Supreme Court has vacated the underlying *Claiborne* decision as moot due to the death of the petitioner. *Claiborne v. United States*, 127 S. Ct. 2245 (2007), vacating as moot 439 F.3d 479 (8th Cir. 2006). In light of these decisions, Gonzalez's argument remains foreclosed.

Gonzalez also argues that § 1326(b)'s treatment of prior felony and aggravated felony convictions as sentencing factors rather than elements of the offense that must be found by a jury is unconstitutional in light of *Apprendi v. New Jersey*, 530 U.S. 466 (2000). This argument is foreclosed by *Almendarez-Torres v. United States*, 523 U.S. 224, 235 (1998). Although Gonzalez contends that *Almendarez-Torres* was incorrectly decided and that a majority of the Supreme Court would overrule *Almendarez-Torres* in light of *Apprendi*, we have repeatedly rejected such arguments on the basis that *Almendarez-Torres* remains binding. See *United States v. Garza-Lopez*, 410 F.3d 268, 276 (5th Cir. 2005); see also *Rangel-Reyes v. United States*, 126 S. Ct. 2873 (2006); *United States v. Pineda-Arellano*, 2007 U.S. App. LEXIS 16925 (5th Cir. July 17, 2007). Gonzalez properly concedes that his argument is foreclosed in light of *Almendarez-Torres* and circuit precedent, but he raises it here to preserve it for further review.

The judgment of the district court is AFFIRMED.