

UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS FOR THE SECOND CIRCUIT

Michael Maietta v. Christopher Artuz, Superintendent, Greenhaven
Correctional Facility

84 F.3d 100 (2d Cir. 1996) · No. No. 1323, Docket 95-2673 · Decided May 15, 1996

SUMMARY

The Second Circuit affirmed the denial of Michael Maietta's federal habeas corpus petition challenging the use of a post-plea arrest to impose the maximum sentence under an earlier plea agreement. The court held that Maietta's guilty plea to the subsequent Westchester burglary charge precluded him from contesting, for purposes of the earlier sentencing agreement, the identity of the perpetrator and validity of the arrest.

CASE DETAILS

COURT	United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit
WRITING FOR THE COURT	Jon O. Newman, Chief Judge; Irving R. Kaufman Lumbard, Circuit Judge; Amalya L. Kearse, Circuit Judge
JURISDICTION	Federal
DECIDED	May 15, 1996
DOCKET	No. 1323, Docket 95-2673
DISPOSITION	affirmed
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	Petitioner appealed the denial of his federal habeas corpus petition challenging a New York state sentence imposed after he breached a plea agreement by being arrested on an unrelated burglary charge.
PRECEDENTIAL VALUE	Published precedential opinion of the United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit.
PARTIES	Michael Maietta v. Christopher Artuz, Superintendent, Greenhaven Correctional Facility

TOPICS

- federal habeas corpus
- post-conviction relief
- plea bargaining
- criminal procedure
- due process

PRACTICE AREAS

- Federal habeas corpus
- Criminal procedure
- Plea agreements
- Collateral estoppel

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. Whether Maietta's guilty plea and resulting conviction on the Westchester burglary charge precluded him from challenging the validity of the arrest for the limited purpose of determining whether he breached the Bronx plea agreement.
2. Whether the state sentencing court violated due process by failing to conduct a full evidentiary hearing concerning the validity of the Westchester arrest.

HOLDINGS

1. In the circumstances presented, Maietta's guilty plea and resulting conviction on the Westchester charge precluded his challenge to the validity of the arrest for the limited purpose of determining whether he breached the plea agreement governing the Bronx charges.

KEY QUOTATIONS

“Maietta's guilty plea to the Westchester charge precludes a challenge to the validity of his arrest on that charge, at least for the limited purpose of determining his breach of the plea agreement governing the Bronx charges.” (¶ 13)

“His reasons for tendering that plea do not diminish the preclusive effect of the resulting conviction.” (¶ 15)

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

Maietta entered a Bronx County guilty plea that conditioned a four-to-eight-year sentencing range on, among other things, his not being arrested while at liberty awaiting sentencing. A few weeks later, he was arrested for a Westchester burglary based on evidence placing his Jeep at the scene and identifying him as its driver. At Bronx sentencing, he attempted to contest the validity of the Westchester arrest and his identity as the perpetrator, but the court imposed a ten-to-twenty-year sentence. Maietta later pleaded guilty to the Westchester burglary and then challenged the use of that arrest in imposing the Bronx sentence.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

Maietta pleaded guilty in Bronx County Supreme Court to burglary-related charges under an agreement providing for a four-to-eight-year sentence if he was not arrested while awaiting sentencing. After he was arrested in Westchester, the Bronx sentencing court imposed a ten-to-twenty-year sentence. The New York Appellate Division and New York Court of Appeals affirmed or rejected his challenges, and the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York denied habeas relief. The Second Circuit affirmed.

DISPOSITION

affirmed

CASES CITED

- People v. Maietta, 173 A.D.2d 17, 24, 578 N.Y.S.2d 529, 533-34 (1st Dep't 1991)
- Teague v. Lane, 489 U.S. 288 (1989)

- *Ashe v. Swenson*, 397 U.S. 436 (1970)
- *Hernandez-Uribe v. United States*, 515 F.2d 20, 21 (8th Cir. 1975), cert. denied, 423 U.S. 1057 (1976)
- *Pena-Cabanillas v. United States*, 394 F.2d 785, 787 (9th Cir. 1968)
- *United States v. Pelullo*, 14 F.3d 881 (3d Cir. 1994)
- *United States v. Podell*, 572 F.2d 31, 35 (2d Cir. 1978)
- *LaMagna v. United States*, 646 F.2d 775, 778 (2d Cir. 1981), cert. denied, 454 U.S. 898 (1981)
- *Cameron v. Fogarty*, 806 F.2d 380, 386-89 (2d Cir. 1986)
- *Tavarez v. Reno*, 54 F.3d 109, 110 (2d Cir. 1995)

OPINION

NEWMAN, J.

84 F.3d 100 Michael MAIETTA, Petitioner-Appellant, v. Christopher ARTUZ, Superintendent, Greenhaven Correctional Facility, Respondent-Appellee. No. 1323, Docket 95-2673. United States Court of Appeals, Second Circuit. Argued Feb. 22, 1996. Decided May 15, 1996. Steven C. Krane, New York City (Pamela B. Silverman, Proskauer Rose Goetz & Mendelsohn, New York City, on the brief), for petitioner-appellant.

Lisa I. Cuevas, Asst. Dist. Atty., New York City (Robert T. Johnson, Dist. Atty., Joseph N. Ferdenzi, Allen H. Saperstein, Asst. Dist. Attys., New York City, on the brief), for respondent-appellee. Before: NEWMAN, Chief Judge, LUMBARD and KEARSE, Circuit Judges. JON O. NEWMAN, Chief Judge: 1 The issue on this appeal concerns the preclusive effect of a guilty plea in the context of successive criminal prosecutions.

The precise issue is whether a guilty plea forecloses a challenge to the validity of an arrest under circumstances where not being arrested is a condition of a plea agreement governing sentencing on an unrelated charge.

The issue arises on an appeal by Michael Maietta from the September 5, 1995, judgment of the District Court for the Southern District of New York (Lawrence M. McKenna, Judge) denying his petition for a writ of habeas corpus to challenge a state court sentence.

Because the guilty plea eliminates any issue of the validity of the arrest, at least for purposes of demonstrating Maietta's breach of the plea agreement, we affirm. Background 2 Maietta pled guilty in Bronx County Supreme Court to four counts of burglary-related crimes.

The plea agreement provided that Maietta's sentence would be within a range of four to eight years, provided that he met certain conditions including not being arrested while at liberty awaiting sentencing. The state court trial judge warned Maietta that, if he did not satisfy the conditions of the agreement, he would receive the maximum sentence. When defense counsel pointed out that, on a prior occasion, Maietta had been arrested, apparently without foundation,

and released within a few days, the trial judge responded that "[i]f he gets arrested and the case is dismissed within three days of the arrest," the Court would not find the no-arrest condition violated.

The Court later stated to Maietta, "I am warning you..., you get arrested again, not convicted but arrested again, you face significant time in jail." 3 Only a few weeks after entering the plea, Maietta was arrested for a burglary in Westchester.

The arrest was based on evidence that Maietta's Jeep was observed parked in front of a residence in Yonkers, which the Jeep passenger then attempted to burglarize. A police officer on the scene later identified Maietta as the driver of the vehicle. 4 At sentencing on the Bronx charge, Maietta sought to offer evidence that he had not been the driver of the Jeep in Westchester.

His evidence consisted of a signed but unsworn statement by Anthony Salveggi that he, not Maietta, was the driver, and three statements from alibi witnesses. The sentencing judge declined to consider the evidence and proceeded to impose a sentence of ten to twenty years imprisonment.

The sentencing judge stated: 5 I made it extremely clear that if the defendant was rearrested, rearrested I emphasize, not convicted, not indicted, not pursuant to a subsequent hearing, but rearrested period, that I was going to enhance his sentence and give him the maximum sentence allowed under the law.... 6 7 * * * 8... [I]n this case, not only was the defendant arrested but he was subsequently indicted so that there is an additional filter for the quality of the arrest, and not only was he arrested and not only was he indicted, but he was arrested and indicted for things that he does professionally, burglary.

9 In the Appellate Division, Maietta argued that the Bronx sentencing judge should have imposed the four-to-eight-year sentence, or at least conducted an evidentiary hearing to determine whether the Westchester arrest was valid.

The Appellate Division affirmed the sentence because, among other reasons, an evidentiary hearing would be duplicative of the forthcoming Westchester criminal proceedings. *People v. Maietta*, 173 A.D.2d 17, 24, 578 N.Y.S.2d 529, 533-34 (1st Dept.1991). 10 Maietta subsequently pled guilty to the Westchester charge. At the plea allocution, he explicitly admitted that he was the person who had committed the Westchester burglary.

He now asserts that he pled guilty only because he had lost faith in the criminal justice system, he did not wish to risk receiving a longer sentence after a trial, and he understood that he would serve his Westchester sentence concurrently with his Bronx sentence. 11 In the New York Court of Appeals, Maietta argued that the Bronx sentencing court had deprived him of due process by failing to hold an evidentiary hearing to establish the validity of the Westchester arrest.

The Court of Appeals held that, when a defendant denies post-plea criminal conduct, the sentencing court must conduct an "inquiry" to permit the defendant to show that the arrest is unfounded. However, the Court rejected Maietta's claim that this inquiry must be a full evidentiary hearing.

The Court found that the sentencing judge had inquired sufficiently by noting Maietta's ownership of the crime vehicle, the eyewitness identification, and the grand jury indictment. ¹² The District Court denied Maietta's subsequent habeas corpus petition on the ground that according Maietta a federal constitutional right to challenge the validity of his arrest for purposes of the plea agreement would constitute a "new rule" within the meaning of *Teague v. Lane*, 489 U.S. 288, 109 S. Ct.

1060, 103 L. Ed. 2d 334 (1989). Discussion ¹³ On appeal, Maietta alleges that his due process rights were violated by the state court that sentenced him to the maximum penalty on the Bronx charge because the Westchester arrest was considered to be a violation of the plea agreement governing the Bronx charge. Maietta claims that the Westchester arrest was based on mistaken identity, and that the Bronx sentencing court should have conducted an evidentiary hearing to determine whether the arrest was valid.

We affirm the denial of habeas corpus on the ground that, in the circumstances of this case, Maietta's guilty plea to the Westchester charge precludes his challenge to the validity of his arrest on that charge, at least for the limited purpose of determining his breach of the plea agreement governing the Bronx charges. ¹⁴ Though collateral estoppel has been applied from one criminal proceeding to another for the benefit of the accused, see *Ashe v. Swenson*, 397 U.S. 436, 90 S. Ct.

1189, 25 L. Ed. 2d 469 (1970), whether the doctrine may be applied against the accused has divided the few courts of appeals that have considered the question.¹ The Eighth and Ninth Circuits have held that a prior conviction that necessarily determines a defendant's alienage has collateral estoppel effect on the issue of alienage in a subsequent criminal prosecution.

See *Hernandez-Uribe v. United States*, 515 F.2d 20, 21 (8th Cir.1975), cert. denied, 423 U.S. 1057, 96 S. Ct. 791, 46 L. Ed. 2d 647 (1976); *Pena-Cabanillas v. United States*, 394 F.2d 785, 787 (9th Cir.1968). On the other hand, the Third Circuit has held that the Sixth Amendment's guarantee of a jury trial entitles a defendant to have every fact necessary to a conviction determined by a jury, including a fact determined by a prior jury.

See *United States v. Pelullo*, 14 F.3d 881 (3d Cir.1994). ¹⁵ We need not decide whether a fact necessarily found adversely to a criminal defendant has collateral estoppel effect in a subsequent jury trial of a criminal case, because in the pending case the issue is whether the defendant's conviction precludes his challenge to the validity of an arrest that is used only for purposes of sentencing in a different criminal case.

Maietta's guilty plea to the Westchester charge precludes a challenge to the validity of the arrest because the conviction following the guilty plea constitutes an adverse adjudication of the merits of the only issue that Maietta sought to dispute at his sentencing on the Bronx charge--the identity of the perpetrator of the Westchester crime. His reasons for tendering that plea do not diminish the preclusive effect of the resulting conviction.

16 The judgment of the District Court is affirmed. 1 Application of collateral estoppel from a criminal proceeding to a subsequent civil proceeding is not in doubt. "It is well-settled that a criminal conviction, whether by jury verdict or guilty plea, constitutes estoppel in favor of the United States in a subsequent civil proceeding as to those matters determined by the judgment in the criminal case."

United States v. Podell, 572 F.2d 31, 35 (2d Cir.1978). See also LaMagna v. United States, 646 F.2d 775, 778 (2d Cir.) ("plea of guilty... was an admission of all the elements of a formal criminal charge, and was itself a conviction as conclusive as a jury verdict"), cert. denied, 454 U.S. 898, 102 S. Ct. 399, 70 L. Ed. 2d 214 (1981).

We have also ruled that, even where the requirements for collateral estoppel are not met, common law principles preclude a challenge to the validity of an arrest after a guilty plea, for purposes of a civil suit under 42 U.S.C. § 1983. See Cameron v. Fogarty, 806 F.2d 380, 386-89 (2d Cir.1986); see also Tavarez v. Reno, 54 F.3d 109, 110 (2d Cir.1995) (same as to Bivens lawsuit)