

**SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK, APPELLATE DIVISION,
FIRST DEPARTMENT**

People v. Ablakatov

2021 N.Y. Slip Op. 03285 (App. Div. 2021) · No. Appeal No. 13900; Case No. 2014-1187; Ind. No. 5756/12 ·
Decided May 25, 2021

SUMMARY

The Appellate Division, First Department unanimously affirmed the defendant's convictions for two counts of second-degree robbery and concurrent five-year sentences. The court rejected challenges to the weight of the evidence, the physical-injury element, jury credibility determinations, and the trial court's Sandoval ruling.

OPINION

PER CURIAM.

People v Ablakatov (2021 NY Slip Op 03285) People v Ablakatov 2021 NY Slip Op 03285
Decided on May 25, 2021 Appellate Division, First Department Published by New York State
Law Reporting Bureau pursuant to Judiciary Law § 431. This opinion is uncorrected and subject
to revision before publication in the Official Reports. Decided and Entered: May 25, 2021 Before:
Renwick, J.P., Webber, González, Scarpulla, JJ. Ind No. 5756/12 5756/12 Appeal No. 13900 Case
No. 2014-1187 [*1]The People of the State of New York, Respondent, vAlo L. Ablakatov,
Defendant-Appellant.

Caprice R. Jenerson, Office of the Appellate Defender, New York (Margaret E. Knight of
counsel), for appellant. Cyrus R. Vance, Jr., District Attorney, New York (Sheila L. Bautista of
counsel), for respondent. Judgment, Supreme Court, New York County (Maxwell Wiley, J.),
rendered July 31, 2013, as amended December 6, 2017 and March 7, 2018, convicting defendant,
after a jury trial, of two counts of robbery in the second degree, and sentencing him to concurrent
terms of five years, unanimously affirmed.

The verdict was not against the weight of the evidence (see *People v Danielson*, 9 NY3d 342, 348-
349 [2007]). Defendant's arguments concerning the physical injury element of one of his robbery
convictions are unavailing (see generally *People v Chiddick*, 8 NY3d 445, 447 [2007]). There is
no basis for disturbing the jury's credibility determinations regarding the victim's account of his
painful injuries to his rib area and hand (see *People v Guidice*, 83 NY2d 630, 636 [1994]).

Furthermore, the victim's testimony was corroborated by other evidence. Defendant preserved a
Sandoval claim only to the extent that the court's ruling differed from the compromise ruling

expressly requested by defense counsel.

The court's Sandoval ruling balanced the appropriate factors and was a provident exercise of discretion (see *People v Hayes*, 97 NY2d 203 [2002]; *People v Walker*, 83 NY2d 455, 458-459 [1994]). We decline to review the unpreserved portion of defendant's Sandoval claim in the interest of justice.

As an alternative holding, we find it unavailing. The court was never alerted to the fact that defendant's felony conviction was pending on appeal. In any event, there was no risk that the ruling would violate defendant's right against self-incrimination (see *People v Cantave*, 21 NY3d 374, 381 [2013]), because the court precluded cross-examination about the underlying facts and only permitted the prosecutor to ask if defendant had been convicted of a felony. THIS CONSTITUTES THE DECISION AND ORDER OF THE SUPREME COURT, APPELLATE DIVISION, FIRST DEPARTMENT.

ENTERED: May 25, 2021