

UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS FOR THE SIXTH CIRCUIT

United States v. Luther S. Cartwright

429 F.2d 1298 (6th Cir. 1970) · No. No. 19888 · Decided August 6, 1970

SUMMARY

The Sixth Circuit held that the limited retroactivity of its newly adopted insanity-defense standard applied to Luther S. Cartwright because his failure to obtain a direct appeal resulted from counsel's failure to follow his instructions. The court reversed his bank-robbery conviction because the jury instruction did not adequately require consideration of whether mental disease deprived him of substantial capacity to conform his conduct to the requirements of law, and remanded for a new trial.

CASE DETAILS

COURT	United States Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit
WRITING FOR THE COURT	Edwards, Circuit Judge; Phillips, Chief Judge; Brooks, Circuit Judge
JURISDICTION	Federal
DECIDED	August 6, 1970
DOCKET	No. 19888
DISPOSITION	reversed_and_remanded
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	Belated direct appeal from a jury conviction for bank robbery after the district court vacated the appellant's sentence in a 28 U.S.C. § 2255 proceeding and resentenced him to permit a direct appeal.
STANDARD OF REVIEW	The court reviewed the legal sufficiency of the insanity instruction for reversible error and considered whether the limited retroactivity rule announced in United States v. Smith applied.
PRECEDENTIAL VALUE	Published Sixth Circuit opinion; precedential
PARTIES	Luther S. Cartwright v. United States of America

TOPICS

- criminal procedure
- appellate procedure
- post-conviction relief
- state post-conviction relief

PRACTICE AREAS

- criminal law
- criminal procedure
- appellate procedure
- post-conviction relief

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. Whether the limited retroactivity principle announced in *United States v. Smith* applied to Cartwright's belated direct appeal.
2. Whether the original insanity instruction was reversible error because it failed to require the jury to determine whether mental disease deprived Cartwright of substantial capacity to appreciate the criminality or wrongfulness of his conduct or to conform his conduct to the requirements of law.

HOLDINGS

1. The limited retroactivity principle announced in *United States v. Smith* applies where the defendant's appeal is being heard after the district court restored the opportunity for a direct appeal because appointed counsel failed to carry out the defendant's instructions to appeal.
2. The insanity instruction was reversible error because it did not require the jury to determine whether mental disease deprived Cartwright of substantial capacity either to appreciate the criminality or wrongfulness of his conduct or to conform his conduct to the requirements of law.

KEY QUOTATIONS

"A person is not responsible for criminal conduct if at the time of such conduct as a result of mental disease or defect he lacks substantial capacity either to appreciate the criminality [wrongfulness] of his conduct or to conform his conduct to the requirements of the law."

*"The instruction in the instant case did not require the jury to determine whether mental disease had deprived appellant of "substantial capacity * * * to conform his conduct to the requirements of the law" either in those words or in reasonable equivalent thereof."*

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

Cartwright was charged with two bank robberies and with putting a bank teller's life in jeopardy under 18 U.S.C. § 2113(a) and (d). At his 1966 jury trial, he relied principally on insanity, but the court instructed the jury that insanity could exist if mental disease destroyed his capacity to act as a responsible, law-abiding citizen. The jury convicted him, and he received concurrent twenty-year sentences.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

Cartwright was convicted after a jury trial on two bank-robbery counts and one count of putting a bank teller's life in jeopardy, and received concurrent twenty-year sentences. He later moved under 28 U.S.C. § 2255, asserting that appointed counsel had failed to follow his instructions to appeal. After this court ordered an evidentiary hearing, the district court found the appeal-related claim sufficient to vacate the sentence and resentence him, thereby enabling the present direct appeal. The Sixth Circuit reversed the conviction and remanded for a new trial.

DISPOSITION

reversed_and_remanded

REMAND INSTRUCTIONS

The case was remanded to the district court for further proceedings consistent with the opinion, including a new trial employing the insanity standards adopted in *United States v. Smith*.

CASES CITED

- *United States v. Smith*, 404 F.2d 720 (6th Cir. 1968)
- *Cartwright v. United States*, 410 F.2d 122 (6th Cir. 1969)

OPINION

EDWARDS, J.

429 F.2d 1298 UNITED STATES of America, Plaintiff-Appellee, v. Luther S. CARTWRIGHT, Defendant-Appellant. No. 19888. United States Court of Appeals, Sixth Circuit. August 6, 1970. John E. S. Scott, Detroit, Mich. (Court appointed), for appellant. Ralph B. Guy, Jr., Chief Asst. U. S. Atty., Detroit, Mich., James H. Brickley, U. S. Atty., Detroit, Mich., on the brief, for appellee.

Before PHILLIPS, Chief Judge, and EDWARDS and BROOKS, Circuit Judges. EDWARDS, Circuit Judge. 1 This is a belated direct appeal from appellant's conviction for bank robbery. It presents two questions which arise directly from this court's decision in *United States v. Smith*, 404 F.2d 720 (6th Cir. 1968), which adopted the American Law Institute's standards as to the defense of insanity in criminal cases.

This record presents a series of coincidences which appear to us to require vacation of the judgment appealed from and appellant's retrial. 2 Appellant was convicted after jury trial on a three-count indictment charging two offenses of bank robbery and one offense of putting a bank teller's life in jeopardy, in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 2113(a) and (d) (1964).

The trial took place in 1966, with appellant relying principally upon the defense of insanity. He was found guilty and sentenced to 20 years on each of three counts, with concurrent terms. 3 Subsequently appellant, in a motion to vacate judgment under 28 U.S.C. § 2255 (1964), claimed that his court-appointed counsel had failed to follow his instructions in relation to appeal.

This court ordered an evidentiary hearing on this issue, *Cartwright v. United States*, 410 F.2d 122 (6th Cir. 1969). Thereafter the District Court held such a hearing, vacated appellant's sentence and resentenced him, thus giving him the opportunity to take a direct appeal from his original conviction. This is that appeal. 4 The first question is whether or not the limited retroactivity which we indicated we would apply in *Smith* should be applied to this case.

In *Smith* we said, "Retrial will be granted only as to those cases involving such defense which are now on appeal." *United States v. Smith*, supra 404 F.2d at 728. It appears that the District Court found that appellant sought to appeal, but was denied his right to do so only by failure of counsel to carry out his instructions.

We are, in fact, now hearing his direct appeal. Under these circumstances, it seems appropriate for the limited retroactivity principle just quoted to apply to this case. 5 As the second issue appellant now contends that in his original trial the United States District Judge committed reversible error by failing to give the test of mental responsibility adopted subsequently by this court in *United States v. Smith*, supra.

The portion of the charge particularly objected to follows: 6 "[A] defendant may also be insane if he had a mental disease which destroyed his capacity to act as a responsible law-abiding citizen at the time of the commission of the offense." (Emphasis added.) 7 The *Smith* case specifically rejected an instruction which employed language concerning the destruction of the will which we cannot effectively distinguish from that just quoted.

In *Smith* we adopted the following language from the ALI's Model Penal Code: 8 "'A person is not responsible for criminal conduct if at the time of such conduct as a result of mental disease or defect he lacks substantial capacity either to appreciate the criminality [wrongfulness] of his conduct or to conform his conduct to the requirements of the law.' Model Penal Code § 4.01 (Official Draft, 1962)."

United States v. Smith, supra, 404 F.2d at 726. (Emphasis added.) 9 The instruction in the instant case did not require the jury to determine whether mental disease had deprived appellant of "substantial capacity * * * to conform his conduct to the requirements of the law" either in those words or in reasonable equivalent thereof.

For these reasons we feel compelled to reverse this conviction for new trial in which the standards adopted in *United States v. Smith*, supra, will be employed. 10 It would, however, be unjust to the District Judge for us to fail to note that his instruction was devised some two years before the *Smith* case was decided and that in many respects (although as noted above not in all) it anticipated much of what was subsequently decided in *Smith*.

11 The judgment is reversed and the case is remanded to the District Court for further proceedings consistent with this opinion.