

SUPREME COURT OF THE UNITED STATES

United States v. Johnson

United States v. Johnson, 457 U.S. 537 (1982) · No. No. 80-1608 · Decided June 21, 1982

SUMMARY

The Supreme Court considered whether the Fourth Amendment rule announced in *Payton v. New York*, prohibiting warrantless and nonconsensual entry into a suspect's home for a routine felony arrest, applied to an arrest occurring before *Payton* was decided. The Court held that *Payton* applied to cases still pending on direct review when *Payton* was announced, rejecting the Government's arguments for nonretroactive application based on *United States v. Peltier*.

CASE DETAILS

COURT	Supreme Court of the United States
WRITING FOR THE COURT	Justice Blackmun; Chief Justice Burger; Justice Brennan; Justice White; Justice Marshall; Justice Powell; Justice Rehnquist; Justice Stevens; Justice O'Connor
JURISDICTION	Federal
DECIDED	June 21, 1982
DOCKET	No. 80-1608
DISPOSITION	affirmed
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	The United States sought Supreme Court review of the Ninth Circuit's reversal of Johnson's criminal conviction after the court applied <i>Payton v. New York</i> retroactively to Johnson's pre- <i>Payton</i> warrantless home arrest.
STANDARD OF REVIEW	De novo review of the legal question concerning the retroactive application of a constitutional rule.
PRECEDENTIAL VALUE	binding
PARTIES	United States v. Raymond Eugene Johnson

TOPICS

- fourth amendment
- criminal procedure
- appellate procedure
- appellate jurisdiction

PRACTICE AREAS

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. Whether the Fourth Amendment rule announced in *Payton v. New York* applies retroactively to convictions that were not final when *Payton* was decided.
2. Whether a new Supreme Court decision construing the Fourth Amendment must be applied to all convictions pending on direct review when the decision was rendered.

HOLDINGS

1. Subject to the Court's stated exceptions, a Supreme Court decision construing the Fourth Amendment applies retroactively to all convictions that were not yet final when the decision was rendered.
2. The decision is limited to Fourth Amendment decisions and cases pending on direct review; it does not decide the retroactive reach of Fourth Amendment rules on collateral attack or the retroactivity of decisions construing other constitutional provisions.

KEY QUOTATIONS

"We therefore hold that, subject to the exceptions stated below, a decision of this Court construing the Fourth Amendment is to be applied retroactively to all convictions that were not yet final at the time the decision was rendered." (562)

*"Respondent's case was pending on direct appeal when *Payton v. New York* was decided. Because the Court of Appeals correctly held that the rule in *Payton* should apply to respondent's case, its judgment is affirmed."* (563)

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

Secret Service agents suspected Johnson and a codefendant of attempting to negotiate a misdelivered Treasury check. Without an arrest warrant, the agents went to Johnson's Los Angeles home, used fictitious names to induce him to open the door, entered while displaying weapons, searched the premises, advised Johnson of his rights, and questioned him. Johnson made oral and written admissions, which the district court admitted; the jury convicted him of aiding and abetting obstruction of correspondence.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

The Central District of California admitted Johnson's oral and written statements and a jury convicted him of aiding and abetting obstruction of correspondence. The Ninth Circuit initially affirmed, but while rehearing was pending the Supreme Court decided *Payton v. New York*. The Ninth Circuit withdrew its prior decision, reversed the conviction, and held that *Payton* applied retroactively. The Supreme Court granted certiorari and affirmed.

DISPOSITION

affirmed

CASES CITED

- Payton v. New York, 445 U.S. 573 (1980)
- United States v. Peltier, 422 U.S. 531 (1975)
- Linkletter v. Walker, 381 U.S. 618 (1965)
- Stovall v. Denno, 388 U.S. 293 (1967)
- Johnson v. New Jersey, 384 U.S. 719 (1966)
- Desist v. United States, 394 U.S. 244 (1969)
- Mackey v. United States, 401 U.S. 667 (1971)
- Great Northern R. Co. v. Sunburst Oil & Refining Co., 287 U.S. 358 (1932)
- Robinson v. Neil, 409 U.S. 505 (1973)
- Mapp v. Ohio, 367 U.S. 643 (1961)
- United States v. Schooner Peggy, 1 Cranch 103 (1801)
- Almeida-Sanchez v. United States, 413 U.S. 266 (1973)
- Williams v. United States, 401 U.S. 646 (1971)
- Chevron Oil Co. v. Huson, 404 U.S. 97 (1971)
- United States v. Prescott, 581 F.2d 1343 (9th Cir. 1978)
- United States v. Blake, 632 F.2d 731 (9th Cir. 1980)

CITED IN

- United States v. Johnson, United States v. Johnson, 457 U.S. 537 (1982)
- United States v. Johnson, United States v. Johnson, 457 U.S. 537 (1982)
- United States v. Johnson, United States v. Johnson, 457 U.S. 537, 550-51, 102 S. Ct. 2579, 2587-88, 73 L. Ed. 2d 202 (1982)
- United States v. Johnson, United States v. Johnson, 457 U.S. 537, 550 n. 12, 551, 102 S. Ct. 2579, 2587 n. 12, 2588, 73 L. Ed. 2d 202 (1982)
- United States v. Johnson, United States v. Johnson, 457 U.S. 537, 102 S. Ct. 2579 (1982)
- United States v. Johnson, United States v. Johnson, 457 U.S. 537 (1982)
- United States v. Johnson, United States v. Johnson, 457 U.S. 537, 543 (1982)
- United States v. Johnson, United States v. Johnson, 457 U.S. 537 (1982)
- United States v. Johnson, United States v. Johnson, 457 U.S. 537, 551 (1982)
- United States v. Johnson, United States v. Johnson, 457 U.S. 537, 542-43 & n.8 (1982)