

06-571 WATSON V. UNITED STATES

DECISION BELOW: 191 Fed. Appx. 326

LOWER COURT CASE NUMBER: 05-31094

QUESTION PRESENTED:

18 U.S.C. § 924(c)(1)(A) criminalizes the “use” of a firearm during and in relation to a drug trafficking offense and imposes a mandatory consecutive sentence of at least five years’ imprisonment. In *Bailey v. United States*, 516 U.S. 137 (1995), this Court held that “use” of a firearm under § 924(c) means “active employment.” *Id.* at 144. The question presented in this case is:

Whether mere receipt of an unloaded firearm as payment for drugs constitutes “use” of the firearm during and in relation to a drug trafficking offense within the meaning of 18 U.S.C. § 924(c)(1)(A) and this Court’s decision in *Bailey*.

CERT. GRANTED 2/26/2007