

No. 19-

IN THE
Supreme Court of the United States

JOSE ARMANDO BAZAN,

Petitioner,

v.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

Respondent.

**On Petition for Writ of Certiorari
to the United States Court of Appeals
for the Fifth Circuit**

APPENDIX VOLUME

JAMES SCOTT SULLIVAN
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APPENDIX A

IN THE UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS
FOR THE FIFTH CIRCUIT

No. 18-40724
Summary Calendar

United States Court of Appeals
Fifth Circuit

FILED

July 25, 2019

Lyle W. Cayce
Clerk

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

Plaintiff-Appellee

v.

JOSE ARMANDO BAZAN,

Defendant-Appellant

Appeal from the United States District Court
for the Southern District of Texas
USDC No. 7:15-CR-936-1

Before CLEMENT, ELROD, and OLDHAM, Circuit Judges.

PER CURIAM:*

Jose Armando Bazan pleaded guilty to a single count of possession with intent to distribute cocaine. After application of the safety valve adjustment, he was sentenced below the mandatory minimum sentence to 119 months of imprisonment. For the first time on appeal, Bazan argues that he should have received a mitigating role reduction under U.S.S.G. § 3B1.2 and that his sentence is substantively unreasonable.

* Pursuant to 5TH CIR. R. 47.5, the court has determined that this opinion should not be published and is not precedent except under the limited circumstances set forth in 5TH CIR. R. 47.5.4.

No. 18-40724

Because Bazan did not raise the mitigating role adjustment issue or object on this basis in the district court, our review is limited to plain error. *See United States v. Martinez-Larraga*, 517 F.3d 258, 272 (5th Cir. 2008). The determination whether a defendant was a minimal or minor participant is a factual issue. *United States v. Gomez-Valle*, 828 F.3d 324, 327 (5th Cir. 2016). “Questions of fact capable of resolution by the district court upon proper objection at sentencing can never constitute plain error.” *United States v. Lopez*, 923 F.2d 47, 50 (5th Cir. 1991). Thus, Bazan fails to show that the court plainly erred in failing to award a reduction under § 3B1.2.

Bazan’s substantive reasonableness argument is likewise reviewed for plain error because he did not object in the district court on this basis. *See United States v. Heard*, 709 F.3d 413, 425 (5th Cir. 2013). Bazan’s argument that the district court should have sentenced him even lower below the guidelines range based on his cooperation with the Government and testimony in a drug conspiracy case merely reflects his disagreement with the propriety of his sentence and the district court’s weighing of the 18 U.S.C. § 3553(a) factors. His argument is insufficient to overcome the presumption of reasonableness afforded his below-guidelines sentence. *See United States v. Broussard*, 882 F.3d 104, 108, 113 (5th Cir. 2018); *see also United States v. Cooks*, 589 F.3d 173, 186 (5th Cir. 2009).

Indeed, even without the added hurdle of the plain-error standard, Bazan’s substantive reasonableness argument would still lose. Although Bazan debriefed truthfully with the government, he did not provide substantial assistance in this case; he provided it in the later cocaine-conspiracy case. The district court did not abuse its discretion in rebuffing Bazan’s attempt at a double-dip.

Accordingly, the judgment of the district court is AFFIRMED.

APPENDIX B

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
Southern District of Texas
Holding Session in McAllen

ENTERED

October 01, 2018

David J. Bradley, Clerk

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
V.
JOSE ARMANDO BAZAN

JUDGMENT IN A CRIMINAL CASE

CASE NUMBER: 7:15CR00936-001

USM NUMBER: 91492-379

Carlos Quintana

Defendant's Attorney

See Additional Aliases.

THE DEFENDANT:

pleaded guilty to count(s) 2 on December 2, 2015

pleaded nolo contendere to count(s) _____
which was accepted by the court.

was found guilty on count(s) _____
after a plea of not guilty.

The defendant is adjudicated guilty of these offenses:

<u>Title & Section</u>	<u>Nature of Offense</u>	<u>Offense Ended</u>	<u>Count</u>
21 U.S.C. § 841(a)(1), 841(b)(1)(A) and 18 U.S.C. § 2	Possession with intent to distribute 5 kilograms or more, that is, approximately 46.9 kilograms of cocaine.	07/06/2015	2

See Additional Counts of Conviction.

The defendant is sentenced as provided in pages 2 through 6 of this judgment. The sentence is imposed pursuant to the Sentencing Reform Act of 1984.

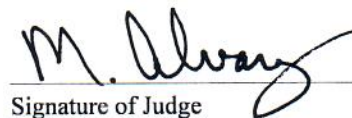
The defendant has been found not guilty on count(s) _____

Count(s) 1 is are dismissed on the motion of the United States.

It is ordered that the defendant must notify the United States attorney for this district within 30 days of any change of name, residence, or mailing address until all fines, restitution, costs, and special assessments imposed by this judgment are fully paid. If ordered to pay restitution, the defendant must notify the court and United States attorney of material changes in economic circumstances.

July 23, 2018

Date of Imposition of Judgment



Signature of Judge

MICAELA ALVAREZ
UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE

Name and Title of Judge

October 1, 2018

Date

DEFENDANT: JOSE ARMANDO BAZAN
CASE NUMBER: 7:15CR00936-001

IMPRISONMENT

The defendant is hereby committed to the custody of the United States Bureau of Prisons to be imprisoned for a total term of 119 months.

The Court orders that the imprisonment term imposed in the instant offense run consecutively with the imprisonment term that was imposed in Criminal Docket Number 7:17CR00691-001. The Court further orders that the imprisonment term imposed in the instant offense run concurrently with the imprisonment term that was imposed in Criminal Docket Number 7:16CR01376-S5-004.

- See Additional Imprisonment Terms.
- The court makes the following recommendations to the Bureau of Prisons:
That the defendant be placed in an institution where he can receive drug and/or alcohol abuse treatment and/or counseling.
- The defendant is remanded to the custody of the United States Marshal.
- The defendant shall surrender to the United States Marshal for this district:
 - at _____ a.m. p.m. on _____.
 - as notified by the United States Marshal.
- The defendant shall surrender for service of sentence at the institution designated by the Bureau of Prisons:
 - before 2 p.m. on _____.
 - as notified by the United States Marshal.
 - as notified by the Probation or Pretrial Services Office.

RETURN

I have executed this judgment as follows:

Defendant delivered on _____ to _____
at _____, with a certified copy of this judgment.

UNITED STATES MARSHAL
By _____
DEPUTY UNITED STATES MARSHAL

DEFENDANT: **JOSE ARMANDO BAZAN**
CASE NUMBER: **7:15CR00936-001**

SUPERVISED RELEASE

Upon release from imprisonment you will be on supervised release for a term of: 3 years.
said Supervised Release Term to run concurrently with the Supervised Release Terms imposed in Criminal Docket Number 7:17CR00691-001 and 7:16CR01376-S5-004.

See Additional Supervised Release Terms.

MANDATORY CONDITIONS

1. You must not commit another federal, state or local crime.
2. You must not unlawfully possess a controlled substance.
3. You must refrain from any unlawful use of a controlled substance. You must submit to one drug test within 15 days of release from imprisonment and at least two periodic drug tests thereafter, as determined by the court.
 - The above drug testing condition is suspended, based on the court's determination that you pose a low risk of future substance abuse. *(check if applicable)*
4. You must make restitution in accordance with 18 U.S.C. §§ 3663 and 3663A or any other statute authorizing a sentence of restitution. *(check if applicable)*
5. You must cooperate in the collection of DNA as directed by the probation officer. *(check if applicable)*
6. You must comply with the requirements of the Sex Offender Registration and Notification Act (34 U.S.C. § 20901, *et seq.*) as directed by the probation officer, the Bureau of Prisons, or any state sex offender registration agency in the location where you reside, work, are a student, or were convicted of a qualifying offense. *(check if applicable)*
7. You must participate in an approved program for domestic violence. *(check if applicable)*

You must comply with the standard conditions that have been adopted by this court as well as with any other conditions on the attached page.

STANDARD CONDITIONS OF SUPERVISION

See Special Conditions of Supervision.

As part of your supervised release, you must comply with the following standard conditions of supervision. These conditions are imposed because they establish the basic expectations for your behavior while on supervision and identify the minimum tools needed by probation officers to keep informed, report to the court about, and bring about improvements in your conduct and condition.

1. You must report to the probation office in the federal judicial district where you are authorized to reside within 72 hours of your release from imprisonment, unless the probation officer instructs you to report to a different probation office or within a different time frame.
2. After initially reporting to the probation office, you will receive instructions from the court or the probation officer about how and when you must report to the probation officer, and you must report to the probation officer as instructed.
3. You must not knowingly leave the federal judicial district where you are authorized to reside without first getting permission from the court or the probation officer.
4. You must answer truthfully the questions asked by your probation officer.
5. You must live at a place approved by the probation officer. If you plan to change where you live or anything about your living arrangements (such as the people you live with), you must notify the probation officer at least 10 days before the change. If notifying the probation officer in advance is not possible due to unanticipated circumstances, you must notify the probation officer within 72 hours of becoming aware of a change or expected change.
6. You must allow the probation officer to visit you at any time at your home or elsewhere, and you must permit the probation officer to take any items prohibited by the conditions of your supervision that he or she observes in plain view.
7. You must work full time (at least 30 hours per week) at a lawful type of employment, unless the probation officer excuses you from doing so. If you do not have full-time employment, you must try to find full-time employment, unless the probation officer excuses you from doing so. If you plan to change where you work or anything about your work (such as your position or your job responsibilities), you must notify the probation officer at least 10 days before the change. If notifying the probation officer at least 10 days in advance is not possible due to unanticipated circumstances, you must notify the probation officer within 72 hours of becoming aware of a change or expected change.
8. You must not communicate or interact with someone you know is engaged in criminal activity. If you know someone has been convicted of a felony, you must not knowingly communicate or interact with that person without first getting the permission of the probation officer.
9. If you are arrested or questioned by a law enforcement officer, you must notify the probation officer within 72 hours.
10. You must not own, possess, or have access to a firearm, ammunition, destructive device, or dangerous weapon (i.e., anything that was designed, or was modified for, the specific purpose of causing bodily injury or death to another person such as nunchakus or tasers).
11. You must not act or make any agreement with a law enforcement agency to act as a confidential human source or informant without first getting the permission of the court.
12. If the probation officer determines that you pose a risk to another person (including an organization), the probation officer may require you to notify the person about the risk and you must comply with that instruction. The probation officer may contact the person and confirm that you have notified the person about the risk.
13. You must follow the instructions of the probation officer related to the conditions of supervision.

DEFENDANT: **JOSE ARMANDO BAZAN**
CASE NUMBER: **7:15CR00936-001**

SPECIAL CONDITIONS OF SUPERVISION

You must participate in an inpatient or outpatient substance-abuse treatment program and follow the rules and regulations of that program. The probation officer will supervise your participation in the program, including the provider, location, modality, duration, and intensity. You must pay the costs of the program, if financially able.

You must participate in an inpatient or outpatient alcohol-abuse treatment program and follow the rules and regulations of that program. The probation officer will supervise your participation in the program, including the provider, location, modality, duration, and intensity. You must pay the costs of the program if financially able.

You may not possess any controlled substances without a valid prescription. If you do have a valid prescription, you must follow the instructions on the prescription.

You must submit to substance-abuse testing to determine if you have used a prohibited substance, and you must pay the costs of the testing if financially able. You may not attempt to obstruct or tamper with the testing methods.

You may not use or possess alcohol.

You may not knowingly purchase, possess, distribute, administer, or otherwise use any psychoactive substances, including synthetic marijuana or bath salts, that impair a person's physical or mental functioning, whether or not intended for human consumption, except as with the prior approval of the probation officer.

See Additional Special Conditions of Supervision.

DEFENDANT: JOSE ARMANDO BAZAN
CASE NUMBER: 7:15CR00936-001

CRIMINAL MONETARY PENALTIES

The defendant must pay the total criminal monetary penalties under the schedule of payments on Sheet 6.

	<u>Assessment</u>	<u>Fine</u>	<u>Restitution</u>
TOTALS	\$100.00		

- See Additional Terms for Criminal Monetary Penalties.
- The determination of restitution is deferred until _____ . *An Amended Judgment in a Criminal Case (AO 245C)* will be entered after such determination.
- The defendant must make restitution (including community restitution) to the following payees in the amount listed below.

If the defendant makes a partial payment, each payee shall receive an approximately proportioned payment, unless specified otherwise in the priority order or percentage payment column below. However, pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 3664(i), all nonfederal payees must be paid before the United States is paid.

<u>Name of Payee</u>	<u>Total Loss*</u>	<u>Restitution Ordered</u>	<u>Priority or Percentage</u>
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- See Additional Restitution Payees.

TOTALS	<u>\$0.00</u>	<u>\$0.00</u>
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- Restitution amount ordered pursuant to plea agreement \$ _____
- The defendant must pay interest on restitution and a fine of more than \$2,500, unless the restitution or fine is paid in full before the fifteenth day after the date of the judgment, pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 3612(f). All of the payment options on Sheet 6 may be subject to penalties for delinquency and default, pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 3612(g).
- The court determined that the defendant does not have the ability to pay interest and it is ordered that:
 - the interest requirement is waived for the fine restitution.
 - the interest requirement for the fine restitution is modified as follows:
- Based on the Government's motion, the Court finds that reasonable efforts to collect the special assessment are not likely to be effective. Therefore, the assessment is hereby remitted.

* Findings for the total amount of losses are required under Chapters 109A, 110, 110A, and 113A of Title 18 for offenses committed on or after September 13, 1994, but before April 23, 1996.

DEFENDANT: JOSE ARMANDO BAZAN
CASE NUMBER: 7:15CR00936-001

SCHEDULE OF PAYMENTS

Having assessed the defendant's ability to pay, payment of the total criminal monetary penalties is due as follows:

- A Lump sum payment of \$100.00 due immediately, balance due
 - not later than _____, or
 - in accordance with C, D, E, or F below; or
- B Payment to begin immediately (may be combined with C, D, or F below); or
- C Payment in equal _____ installments of _____ over a period of _____, to commence _____ days after the date of this judgment; or
- D Payment in equal _____ installments of _____ over a period of _____, to commence _____ days after release from imprisonment to a term of supervision; or
- E Payment during the term of supervised release will commence within _____ days after release from imprisonment. The court will set the payment plan based on an assessment of the defendant's ability to pay at that time; or
- F Special instructions regarding the payment of criminal monetary penalties:
 - Payable to: Clerk, U.S. District Court
 - Attn: Finance
 - P.O. Box 5059
 - McAllen, TX 78502

Unless the court has expressly ordered otherwise, if this judgment imposes imprisonment, payment of criminal monetary penalties is due during imprisonment. All criminal monetary penalties, except those payments made through the Federal Bureau of Prisons' Inmate Financial Responsibility Program, are made to the clerk of the court.

The defendant shall receive credit for all payments previously made toward any criminal monetary penalties imposed.

Joint and Several

Case Number

**Defendant and Co-Defendant Names
(including defendant number)**

Total Amount

**Joint and Several
Amount**

**Corresponding Payee,
if appropriate**

- See Additional Defendants and Co-Defendants Held Joint and Several.
- The defendant shall pay the cost of prosecution.
- The defendant shall pay the following court cost(s):
- The defendant shall forfeit the defendant's interest in the following property to the United States:
- See Additional Forfeited Property.

Payments shall be applied in the following order: (1) assessment, (2) restitution principal, (3) restitution interest, (4) fine principal, (5) fine interest, (6) community restitution, (7) penalties, and (8) costs, including cost of prosecution and court costs.