

No. 19-

IN THE
Supreme Court of the United States

MARGARITA MORA,

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

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APPENDIX A

IN THE UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS
FOR THE FIFTH CIRCUIT

No. 18-50672
Summary Calendar

United States Court of Appeals
Fifth Circuit

FILED
August 16, 2019

Lyle W. Cayce
Clerk

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

Plaintiff–Appellee,

v.

MARGARITA MORA,

Defendant–Appellant.

Appeal from the United States District Court
for the Western District of Texas
USDC No. 7:18-CR-16-2

Before JONES, OWEN, and OLDHAM, Circuit Judges.

PER CURIAM:*

Margarita Mora appeals her guilty-plea conviction for possession with the intent to distribute five grams or more of methamphetamine, in violation of 21 U.S.C. § 841(a)(1), (b)(1)(B)(viii). Mora’s punishment range was enhanced based on her 2009 conviction for conspiring to manufacture methamphetamine. Mora contends that the district court violated her due process rights and Federal Rule of Criminal Procedure 11 by failing to properly

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 R. 47.5, the court has determined that this opinion should not be published and is not precedent except under the limited circumstances set forth in 5TH CIR.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

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admonish her regarding the nature of her charge and her mandatory minimum punishment. To the extent that Mora is attempting to characterize her Rule 11 claim as a due process challenge, her argument is misplaced because Rule 11 is designed to ensure “that a guilty plea is knowing and voluntary.” *United States v. Reyes*, 300 F.3d 555, 558 (5th Cir. 2002).

As Mora concedes, her arguments on appeal are subject to plain error review because she did not raise them in her district court proceedings. See *United States v. Vonn*, 535 U.S. 55, 58-59 (2002). Under the plain error standard, Mora “must demonstrate that the district court committed an error that was clear or obvious and that affected [her] substantial rights and that the error has a serious effect on the fairness, integrity, or public reputation of judicial proceedings.” *United States v. Broussard*, 669 F.3d 537, 546 (5th Cir. 2012) (internal quotation marks omitted) (quoting *United States v. Thompson*, 454 F.3d 459, 464 (5th Cir. 2006)). To show that the error affected her substantial rights, Mora “must demonstrate ‘a reasonable probability that, but for the error, [s]he would not have entered the plea.’” *Id.* (quoting *United States v. Dominguez Benitez*, 542 U.S. 74, 83 (2004)).

Mora has failed to show error, plain or otherwise, with respect to the district court’s admonishment regarding the nature of her charge. See FED. R. CRIM. P. 11(b)(1)(G). At the arraignment hearing, Mora’s indictment was read aloud twice; after each reading, Mora was asked whether she understood the charge, and both times she confirmed that she did. As we have held, “in cases involving simple charges, a reading of the indictment, followed by an opportunity given the defendant to ask questions about it, will usually suffice to inform the defendant of the nature of the charge.” *United States v. Cuevas-Andrade*, 232 F.3d 440, 444 (5th Cir. 2000) (internal quotation marks omitted) (quoting *United States v. Dayton*, 604 F.2d 931, 938 (5th Cir. 1979) (en banc)).

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Furthermore, contrary to Mora's contention, an enhancement based on the fact of a prior conviction is not an element of the offense to which a defendant must plead. *See Alleyne v. United States*, 570 U.S. 99, 103, 111 n.1 (2013); *Almendarez-Torres v. United States*, 523 U.S. 224, 226-27 (1998).

Additionally, Mora has failed to show plain error with respect to the district court's admonishment regarding her mandatory minimum prison term. *See* FED. R. CRIM. P. 11(b)(1)(I). Mora asserts that the magistrate judge confused her by discussing both her unenhanced and enhanced punishment ranges and failed to make clear that her minimum prison sentence would in fact be 10 years. Even if we assumed *arguendo* that the district court clearly erred in this regard, Mora has failed to show that any such error affected her substantial rights. *See Broussard*, 669 F.3d at 546. In her initial brief, Mora failed even to assert, much less to establish, that there is a reasonable probability that she would not have entered her guilty plea but for the alleged Rule 11 error. *See id.* We will not consider Mora's assertion of such an argument for the first time in her reply brief. *See Yohey v. Collins*, 985 F.2d 222, 225 (5th Cir. 1993).

Finally, there is no merit to Mora's contention that the reasonable probability showing is unnecessary because the alleged Rule 11 error inherently affected her substantial rights. *See Dominguez Benitez*, 542 U.S. at 83; *Broussard*, 669 F.3d at 546. In light of this binding caselaw, Mora's reliance on a conflicting non-precedential unpublished decision is misplaced. *See* 5TH CIR. R. 47.5.4.

The judgment of the district court is AFFIRMED.

APPENDIX B

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
WESTERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS
MIDLAND-ODESSA DIVISION

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

v.

MARGARITA MORA

Case Number: 7:18-CR-00016-DC(2)

USM Number: 17853-280

Defendant.

JUDGMENT IN A CRIMINAL CASE
(For Offenses Committed On or After November 1, 1987)

The defendant, MARGARITA MORA, was represented by Michael James Brown, Esq.


The defendant pled guilty to Count(s) One of the Indictment on April 17, 2018. Accordingly, the defendant is adjudged guilty of such Count(s), involving the following offense(s):

<u>Title & Section</u>	<u>Nature of Offense</u>	<u>Offense Ended</u>	<u>Count</u>
21 U.S.C. § 841(a)(1), 21 U.S.C. § 841(b)(1)(B), 18 U.S.C. § 2, and 21 U.S.C. § 851	Aid and Abet Possession with Intent to Distribute 5 Grams or More of Actual Methamphetamine	12/22/2017	One

As pronounced on August 2, 2018, 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.

It is further ordered that the defendant shall 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.

Signed this 3rd day of August, 2018.



David Counts
United States District Judge

DEFENDANT: MARGARITA MORA
CASE NUMBER: 7:18-CR-00016-DC(2)

IMPRISONMENT

The defendant is hereby committed to the custody of the United States Bureau of Prisons to be imprisoned for a total term of **One Hundred twenty (120) months as to Count One (1)** with credit for time served while in custody for this federal offense pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 3585(b).

The Court makes the following recommendations to the Bureau of Prisons:

That the defendant shall serve this sentence at any facility, not in Bryan.

The defendant shall remain in custody pending service of sentence.

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: MARGARITA MORA
CASE NUMBER: 7:18-CR-00016-DC(2)

SUPERVISED RELEASE

Upon release from imprisonment, the defendant shall be on supervised release for a term of **Eight (8) years**.

While on supervised release, the defendant shall comply with the mandatory, standard and if applicable, the special conditions that have been adopted by this Court, and shall comply with the following additional conditions:

AO 245B (Rev. TXN 10/12) Judgment in a Criminal Case

DEFENDANT: MARGARITA MORA
CASE NUMBER: 7:18-CR-00016-DC(2)

CONDITIONS OF PROBATION AND SUPERVISED RELEASE
(As Amended November 28, 2016)

It is ORDERED that the Conditions of Probation and Supervised Release applicable to each defendant committed to probation or supervised release in any division of the Western District of Texas, are adopted as follows:

Mandatory Conditions:

- [1] The defendant shall not commit another federal, state, or local crime during the term of supervision.
- [2] The defendant shall not unlawfully possess a controlled substance.
- [3] The defendant shall refrain from any unlawful use of a controlled substance. The defendant shall submit to one drug test within 15 days of release on probation or supervised release and at least two periodic drug tests thereafter (as determined by the court), but the condition stated in this paragraph may be ameliorated or suspended by the court if the defendant's presentence report or other reliable sentencing information indicates low risk of future substance abuse by the defendant.
- [4] The defendant shall cooperate in the collection of DNA as instructed by the probation officer, if the collection of such a sample is authorized pursuant to section 3 of the DNA Analysis Backlog Elimination Act of 2000 (42 U.S.C. § 14135a).
- [5] If applicable, the defendant shall comply with the requirements of the Sex Offender Registration and Notification Act (34 U.S.C. § 20901, *et. seq.*) as instructed by the probation officer, the Bureau of Prisons, or any state sex offender registration agency in which the defendant resides, works, is a student, or was convicted of a qualifying offense.
- [6] If convicted of a domestic violence crime as defined in 18 U.S.C. § 3561(b), the defendant shall participate in an approved program for domestic violence.
- [7] If the judgment imposes a fine or restitution, it is a condition of supervision that the defendant pay in accordance with the Schedule of Payments sheet of the judgment.
- [8] The defendant shall pay the assessment imposed in accordance with 18 U.S.C. § 3013.
- [9] The defendant shall notify the court of any material change in the defendant's economic circumstances that might affect the defendant's ability to pay restitution, fines or special assessments.

Standard Conditions:

- [1] The defendant shall report to the probation office in the federal judicial district where he or she is authorized to reside within 72 hours of release from imprisonment, unless the probation officer instructs the defendant to report to a different probation office or within a different time frame.
- [2] After initially reporting to the probation office, the defendant will receive instructions from the court or the probation officer about how and when to report to the probation officer, and the defendant shall report to the probation officer as instructed.
- [3] The defendant shall not knowingly leave the federal judicial district where he or she is authorized to reside without first getting permission from the court or the probation officer.
- [4] The defendant shall answer truthfully the questions asked by the probation officer.
- [5] The defendant shall live at a place approved by the probation officer. If the defendant plans to change where he or she lives or anything about his or her living arrangements (such as the people the defendant lives with), the defendant shall 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, the defendant shall notify the probation officer within 72 hours of becoming aware of a change or expected change.

DEFENDANT: MARGARITA MORA
CASE NUMBER: 7:18-CR-00016-DC(2)

- [6] The defendant shall allow the probation officer to visit the defendant at any time at his or her home or elsewhere, and the defendant shall permit the probation officer to take any items prohibited by the conditions of the defendant's supervision that are observed in plain view.
- [7] The defendant shall work full time (at least 30 hours per week) at a lawful type of employment, unless the probation officer excuses the defendant from doing so. If the defendant does not have full-time employment, he or she shall try to find full-time employment, unless the probation officer excuses the defendant from doing so. If the defendant plans to change where the defendant works or anything about his or her work (such as the position or job responsibilities), the defendant shall 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, the defendant shall notify the probation officer within 72 hours of becoming aware of a change or expected change.
- [8] The defendant shall not communicate or interact with someone the defendant knows is engaged in criminal activity. If the defendant knows someone has been convicted of a felony, the defendant shall not knowingly communicate or interact with that person without first getting the permission of the probation officer.
- [9] If the defendant is arrested or questioned by a law enforcement officer, the defendant shall notify the probation officer within 72 hours.
- [10] The defendant shall 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] The defendant shall 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 the defendant poses a risk to another person (including an organization), the probation officer may require the defendant to notify the person about the risk and the defendant shall comply with that instruction. The probation officer may contact the person and confirm that the defendant has notified the person about the risk.
- [13] The defendant shall follow the instructions of the probation officer related to the conditions of supervision.
- [14] If the judgment imposes other criminal monetary penalties, it is a condition of supervision that the defendant pay such penalties in accordance with the Schedule of Payments sheet of the judgment.
- [15] If the judgment imposes a fine, special assessment, restitution, or other criminal monetary penalties, it is a condition of supervision that the defendant shall provide the probation officer access to any requested financial information.
- [16] If the judgment imposes a fine, special assessment, restitution, or other criminal monetary penalties, it is a condition of supervision that the defendant shall not incur any new credit charges or open additional lines of credit without the approval of the probation officer, unless the defendant is in compliance with the payment schedule.
- [17] If the defendant is excluded, deported, or removed upon release on probation or supervised release, the term of supervision shall be a non-reporting term of probation or supervised release. The defendant shall not illegally re-enter the United States. If the defendant is released from confinement or not deported, or lawfully re-enters the United States during the term of probation or supervised release, the defendant shall immediately report in person to the nearest U.S. Probation Office.

DEFENDANT: MARGARITA MORA
CASE NUMBER: 7:18-CR-00016-DC(2)

CRIMINAL MONETARY PENALTIES/SCHEDULE

The defendant shall pay the following total criminal monetary penalties in accordance with the schedule of payments set forth. Unless the Court has expressly ordered otherwise, if this judgment imposes imprisonment, payment of criminal monetary penalties is due during imprisonment. Criminal Monetary Penalties, except those payments made through Federal Bureau of Prisons' Inmate Financial Responsibility Program shall be paid through the Clerk, United States District Court, 200 E. Wall St. Room 222, Midland, TX 79701. The defendant shall receive credit for all payments previously made toward any criminal monetary penalties imposed.

	<u>Assessment</u>	<u>Fine</u>	<u>Restitution</u>
TOTALS	\$100.00	\$.00	\$.00

SPECIAL ASSESSMENT

It is ordered that the defendant shall pay to the United States a special assessment of \$100.00. Payment of this sum shall begin immediately.

FINE

The fine is waived because of the defendant's inability to pay.

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 above. However, pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 3664(i), all non-federal victims must be paid before the United States is paid.

If the fine is not paid, the court may sentence the defendant to any sentence which might have been originally imposed. See 18 U.S.C. §3614.

The defendant shall pay interest on any fine or restitution of more than \$2,500.00, unless the fine or restitution is paid in full before the fifteenth day after the date of the judgment, pursuant to 18 U.S.C. §3612(f). All payment options may be subject to penalties for delinquency and default, pursuant to 18 U.S.C. §3612(g).

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

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.