

APPENDIX

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

FILED

UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS
FOR THE NINTH CIRCUIT

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,
Plaintiff-Appellee,
v.
WASFI ADEL ABBASSI, AKA Abbassi
Wasfi Adel,
Defendant-Appellant.

No. 18-50338
D.C. No.
5:17-cr-00101-PSG-1

MEMORANDUM*

Appeal from the United States District Court
for the Central District of California
Philip S. Gutierrez, District Judge, Presiding

Argued and Submitted December 9, 2019
Pasadena, California

Before: BEA, COLLINS, and BRESS, Circuit Judges.

Wasfi Abbassi appeals from his guilty plea to three counts related to drug trafficking, in violation of 21 U.S.C. § 841(a)(1), (b)(1)(C) and 18 U.S.C. § 924(c)(1)(A)(i). He appeals the denial of his motion to suppress evidence and challenges certain conditions of supervised release included in his sentence. For the following reasons, we affirm the conviction and the denial of the motion to

* This disposition is not appropriate for publication and is not precedent except as provided by Ninth Circuit Rule 36-3.

suppress evidence, but we vacate the sentence as it relates to special condition of supervised release 2 and remand to the district court with instructions to modify that condition of supervised release.

1. Abbassi was not unreasonably detained by Officer Rollings in violation of the Fourth Amendment, and the circumstances of the detention did not amount to an arrest. Officers approaching a vehicle to arrest one or more occupants inside the car may briefly detain other, unknown occupants and may conduct a frisk of such persons. *United States v. Vaughan*, 718 F.2d 332, 335 (9th Cir. 1983). This sort of brief “detention does not automatically become an arrest when officers draw their guns [or] use handcuffs.” *Gallegos v. City of Los Angeles*, 308 F.3d 987, 991 (9th Cir. 2002) (citations omitted). Under the circumstances here, the officers’ choices to draw their weapons while executing the felony arrest warrants for Justice, who was seated in the passenger seat of Abbassi’s car, and to use handcuffs on Abbassi while conducting a frisk for weapons immediately after, were “reasonable response[s] to legitimate safety concerns on the part of the investigating officers” that did not transform the detention into an arrest. *Washington v. Lambert*, 98 F.3d 1181, 1186 (9th Cir. 1996) (emphasis omitted).

2. Officer Rollings was not required to read Abbassi his *Miranda* rights before asking him if he “had anything illegal on his person,” as he began the frisk for weapons. When officers have the authority necessary to conduct a brief stop,

they may question the detained individual about matters “beyond the initial purpose of the stop,” even without particularized suspicion regarding the subject matter of the questioning, so long as the questioning “does not prolong the stop.” *United States v. Mendez*, 476 F.3d 1077, 1080 (9th Cir. 2007). The officer’s question, whether Abbassi had “anything illegal on his person,” and Abbassi’s response, a “little bit of coke,” happened within the first fifteen seconds that Officer Rollings had Abbassi out of the car and in handcuffs and before the officer completed the frisk. This question did not prolong the stop.

Further, when Officer Rollings asked Abbassi whether he had anything illegal on his person, Abbassi was not “in custody” such that *Miranda* warnings were required. *See Oregon v. Mathiason*, 429 U.S. 492, 495 (1977) (per curiam). Abbassi had been detained only briefly by Officer Rollings in the course of the execution of the warrants to arrest Justice, and, despite the officer’s use of handcuffs, a *Miranda* warning was not required when, as here, the defendant was not placed in custody. *United States v. Bautista*, 684 F.2d 1286, 1292 (9th Cir. 1982) (“Handcuffing a suspect does not necessarily dictate a finding of custody. . . . Strong but reasonable measures to insure the safety of the officer or the public can be taken without necessarily compelling a finding that the suspect was in custody.”) (quotations omitted).

3. The warrant to search Abbassi’s residence was valid and based on

probable cause. Whether the warrant correctly identified possession of marijuana for the purpose of sales as a misdemeanor under California law is irrelevant. Under the Fourth Amendment, a warrant may be issued to search a location where “there is a fair probability that contraband or evidence of a *crime* will be found” *Illinois v. Gates*, 462 U.S. 213, 238 (1983) (emphasis added).

The Superior Court judge issuing the warrant had “a substantial basis for determining the existence of probable cause.” *Id.* at 239. Abbassi’s only preserved arguments that the warrant was not supported by probable cause are (1) that the warrant application falsely described the search at the Crescent Avenue residence in 2014 as uncovering marijuana and more than \$100,000 cash, and (2) that information about his three prior arrests between 2008-2014 was irrelevant because the arrests were “stale.” He has not shown good cause for why the additional arguments he now raises should be considered for the first time on appeal. *See Fed. R. Crim. P. 12(c)(3); United States v. Guerrero*, 921 F.3d 895, 898 (9th Cir. 2019) (per curiam).

There is no evidence that Detective Hernandez “intentionally or recklessly made false or misleading statements” in the affidavit about the discovery of marijuana and \$100,000 cash at the Crescent Avenue residence in 2014. *See United States v. Martinez-Garcia*, 397 F.3d 1205, 1215 (9th Cir. 2005).

Additionally, any inaccuracy was not material. *See id.* Even excising the statement

that in 2014 marijuana and \$100,000 cash had been found at the residence, the remaining facts in the affidavit were enough to support a probable cause finding.

Similarly, it was proper for the detective to include Abbassi's prior arrest information in her affidavit in support of the warrant, and it was proper for the judge to rely upon it. *See Greenstreet v. Cty. of San Bernardino*, 41 F.3d 1306, 1309 (9th Cir. 1994). But even if the information about those prior arrests was omitted from the warrant application, there still would have been probable cause to search his home.

4. Special condition of supervised release 2 solves the first problem in Abbassi's standard condition 14 that was identified in *United States v. Evans*, 883 F.3d 1154, 1163–64 (9th Cir. 2018), by removing language related to Abbassi's personal history or characteristics. But under *Evans*, left unresolved is the ambiguity whether the only “specific risks” about which the probation officer may require Abbassi to inform “specific persons and organizations” are those that he personally poses to those persons and organizations. *United States v. Brewer*, 770 F. App'x 361, 362 (9th Cir. 2019); *see Evans*, 883 F.3d at 1164. We are bound by *Evans*, and our decision in *Brewer*, although unpublished, applied *Evans* to a special condition worded identically to the one here. Under these circumstances, we direct the district court to remedy the deficiency on remand. *See United States v. Ped*, 943 F.3d 427, 434 (9th Cir. 2019). The district court may do so by

modifying the condition to conform to the standard notification condition in the Central District of California's General Order No. 18-10 (standard condition No. 14), or by modifying the condition to conform with the Sentencing Guidelines' current standard notification condition, U.S.S.G. § 5D1.3(c)(12).

As to standard conditions of supervised release 5, 6, and 14, no additional modification on remand is necessary. Special condition 1 of the written judgment and the oral pronouncement of the sentence were explicit that those conditions do not apply to Abbassi, and the attachment of the full list of standard conditions did not undo that express limitation on which conditions were being incorporated from that list. We see no conflict between the oral and written judgments, but in any event, the "oral pronouncement controls." *United States v. LaCoste*, 821 F.3d 1187, 1190 (9th Cir. 2016).

AFFIRMED in part, VACATED in part, and REMANDED.

United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit

Office of the Clerk
95 Seventh Street
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Information Regarding Judgment and Post-Judgment Proceedings

Judgment

- This Court has filed and entered the attached judgment in your case. Fed. R. App. P. 36. Please note the filed date on the attached decision because all of the dates described below run from that date, not from the date you receive this notice.

Mandate (Fed. R. App. P. 41; 9th Cir. R. 41-1 & -2)

- The mandate will issue 7 days after the expiration of the time for filing a petition for rehearing or 7 days from the denial of a petition for rehearing, unless the Court directs otherwise. To file a motion to stay the mandate, file it electronically via the appellate ECF system or, if you are a pro se litigant or an attorney with an exemption from using appellate ECF, file one original motion on paper.

Petition for Panel Rehearing (Fed. R. App. P. 40; 9th Cir. R. 40-1)

Petition for Rehearing En Banc (Fed. R. App. P. 35; 9th Cir. R. 35-1 to -3)

(1) A. Purpose (Panel Rehearing):

- A party should seek panel rehearing only if one or more of the following grounds exist:
 - ▶ A material point of fact or law was overlooked in the decision;
 - ▶ A change in the law occurred after the case was submitted which appears to have been overlooked by the panel; or
 - ▶ An apparent conflict with another decision of the Court was not addressed in the opinion.
- Do not file a petition for panel rehearing merely to reargue the case.

B. Purpose (Rehearing En Banc)

- A party should seek en banc rehearing only if one or more of the following grounds exist:

- ▶ Consideration by the full Court is necessary to secure or maintain uniformity of the Court's decisions; or
- ▶ The proceeding involves a question of exceptional importance; or
- ▶ The opinion directly conflicts with an existing opinion by another court of appeals or the Supreme Court and substantially affects a rule of national application in which there is an overriding need for national uniformity.

(2) Deadlines for Filing:

- A petition for rehearing may be filed within 14 days after entry of judgment. Fed. R. App. P. 40(a)(1).
- If the United States or an agency or officer thereof is a party in a civil case, the time for filing a petition for rehearing is 45 days after entry of judgment. Fed. R. App. P. 40(a)(1).
- If the mandate has issued, the petition for rehearing should be accompanied by a motion to recall the mandate.
- *See* Advisory Note to 9th Cir. R. 40-1 (petitions must be received on the due date).
- An order to publish a previously unpublished memorandum disposition extends the time to file a petition for rehearing to 14 days after the date of the order of publication or, in all civil cases in which the United States or an agency or officer thereof is a party, 45 days after the date of the order of publication. 9th Cir. R. 40-2.

(3) Statement of Counsel

- A petition should contain an introduction stating that, in counsel's judgment, one or more of the situations described in the "purpose" section above exist. The points to be raised must be stated clearly.

(4) Form & Number of Copies (9th Cir. R. 40-1; Fed. R. App. P. 32(c)(2))

- The petition shall not exceed 15 pages unless it complies with the alternative length limitations of 4,200 words or 390 lines of text.
- The petition must be accompanied by a copy of the panel's decision being challenged.
- An answer, when ordered by the Court, shall comply with the same length limitations as the petition.
- If a pro se litigant elects to file a form brief pursuant to Circuit Rule 28-1, a petition for panel rehearing or for rehearing en banc need not comply with Fed. R. App. P. 32.

- The petition or answer must be accompanied by a Certificate of Compliance found at Form 11, available on our website at www.ca9.uscourts.gov under *Forms*.
- You may file a petition electronically via the appellate ECF system. No paper copies are required unless the Court orders otherwise. If you are a pro se litigant or an attorney exempted from using the appellate ECF system, file one original petition on paper. No additional paper copies are required unless the Court orders otherwise.

Bill of Costs (Fed. R. App. P. 39, 9th Cir. R. 39-1)

- The Bill of Costs must be filed within 14 days after entry of judgment.
- See Form 10 for additional information, available on our website at www.ca9.uscourts.gov under *Forms*.

Attorneys Fees

- Ninth Circuit Rule 39-1 describes the content and due dates for attorneys fees applications.
- All relevant forms are available on our website at www.ca9.uscourts.gov under *Forms* or by telephoning (415) 355-7806.

Petition for a Writ of Certiorari

- Please refer to the Rules of the United States Supreme Court at www.supremecourt.gov

Counsel Listing in Published Opinions

- Please check counsel listing on the attached decision.
- If there are any errors in a published opinion, please send a letter **in writing within 10 days** to:
 - ▶ Thomson Reuters; 610 Opperman Drive; PO Box 64526; Eagan, MN 55123 (Attn: Jean Green, Senior Publications Coordinator);
 - ▶ and electronically file a copy of the letter via the appellate ECF system by using “File Correspondence to Court,” or if you are an attorney exempted from using the appellate ECF system, mail the Court one copy of the letter.

**UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS
FOR THE NINTH CIRCUIT**

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