

No. _____

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF THE UNITED STATES

MIGUEL YEPSON-CORTEZ,

Petitioner,

v.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

Respondent.

ON PETITION FOR A WRIT OF CERTIORARI
TO THE UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS FOR THE FIFTH CIRCUIT

APPENDIX

/s/ Kevin Joel Page

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Appendix A Opinion of Fifth Circuit, CA No. 24-10541, *United States v. Yepson-Cortez*, 2025 WL 637431 (5th Cir. Feb. 27, 2025)(unpublished)

Appendix B Judgment and Sentence of the United States District Court
for the Northern District of Texas, entered June 12, 2024.
United States v. Yepson-Cortez, Dist. Court 2:24-CR-004.

APPENDIX A

United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit

No. 24-10541
Summary Calendar

United States Court of Appeals
Fifth Circuit

FILED
February 27, 2025

Lyle W. Cayce
Clerk

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

Plaintiff—Appellee,

versus

MIGUEL YEPSON-CORTEZ,

Defendant—Appellant.

Appeal from the United States District Court
for the Northern District of Texas
USDC No. 2:24-CR-4-1

Before BARKSDALE, HAYNES, and WILSON, *Circuit Judges.*

PER CURIAM:*

Contending his sentence is substantively unreasonable, Miguel Yepson-Cortez challenges his within-Guidelines 34-months' sentence, imposed following his guilty-plea conviction for illegal reentry after removal, in violation of 8 U.S.C. § 1326. His claim lacks merit.

* This opinion is not designated for publication. *See 5TH CIR. R. 47.5.*

No. 24-10541

Although post-*Booker*, the Sentencing Guidelines are advisory only, the district court must avoid significant procedural error, such as improperly calculating the Guidelines sentencing range. *Gall v. United States*, 552 U.S. 38, 46, 51 (2007). If no such procedural error exists, a properly preserved objection to an ultimate sentence is reviewed for substantive reasonableness under an abuse-of-discretion standard. *Id.* at 51; *United States v. Delgado-Martinez*, 564 F.3d 750, 751–53 (5th Cir. 2009). In that respect, for issues preserved in district court, its application of the Guidelines is reviewed *de novo*; its factual findings, only for clear error. *E.g.*, *United States v. Cisneros-Gutierrez*, 517 F.3d 751, 764 (5th Cir. 2008).

Yepson maintains his sentence was substantively unreasonable because the court: should have given more weight to his reasons for entry, including his fear of kidnapping in Mexico and his desire to help his ill father; and made a clear error of judgment in balancing the sentencing factors.

The sentence imposed was presumptively reasonable, and Yepson has not rebutted that presumption. *E.g.*, *United States v. Cooks*, 589 F.3d 173, 186 (5th Cir. 2009) (noting our “court applies a rebuttable presumption of reasonableness to a properly calculated, within-[G]uidelines sentence”). The court properly considered the 18 U.S.C. § 3553(a) sentencing factors, the presentence investigation report (to which Yepson did not object), “the advisory guidelines range, the conduct admitted in the factual resume, . . . and all mitigating and aggravating factors”. *See United States v. Diehl*, 775 F.3d 714, 724 (5th Cir. 2015). Moreover, the court stated it gave Yepson’s motivation for reentry significant mitigating weight. Although he may disagree with how the relevant considerations were balanced by the district court, our court will not independently reweigh the above-referenced 18 U.S.C. § 3553(a) sentencing factors or substitute its judgment for that of the district court. *E.g.*, *United States v. Hernandez*, 876 F.3d 161, 167 (5th Cir. 2017).

No. 24-10541

AFFIRMED.

APPENDIX B

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

NORTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS

Amarillo Division

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

JUDGMENT IN A CRIMINAL CASE

v.

MIGUEL YEPSON-CORTEZ

Case Number: 2:24-CR-004-Z-BR-(1)

U.S. Marshal's No.: 16890-509

Morgan Anne Casey, Assistant U.S. Attorney

Felipe Zavala, Attorney for the Defendant

On March 8, 2024 the defendant, MIGUEL YEPSON-CORTEZ, entered a plea of guilty as to Count One of the Indictment filed on January 25, 2024. Accordingly, the defendant is adjudged guilty of such Count, which involves the following offense:

Title & Section	Nature of Offense	Offense Ended	Count
8 U.S.C. §§ 1326(a) and (b)(1); and 6 U.S.C. §§ 202(3), 202(4), and 557	ILLEGAL RE-ENTRY AFTER DEPORTATION	01/03/2024	One

The defendant is sentenced as provided in pages 2 through 5 of this judgment. The sentence is imposed pursuant to Title 18, United States Code § 3553(a), taking the guidelines issued by the United States Sentencing Commission pursuant to Title 28, United States Code § 994(a)(1), as advisory only.

The defendant shall pay immediately a special assessment of \$100.00 as to Count One of the Indictment filed on January 25, 2024.

The defendant shall notify the United States Attorney for this district within thirty 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.

Sentence imposed June 11, 2024.



MATTHEW J. KACSMARYK
UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE

Signed June 12, 2024.

Judgment in a Criminal Case

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Defendant: MIGUEL YEPSON-CORTEZ

Case Number: 2:24-CR-00004-Z-BR(1)

IMPRISONMENT

The defendant, MIGUEL YEPSON-CORTEZ, is hereby committed to the custody of the Federal Bureau of Prisons (BOP) to be imprisoned for a term of **Thirty Four (34) months as to Count One** of the Indictment filed on January 25, 2024. This sentence shall *run consecutively* to any future sentence which may be imposed in Case No. 6920, 69th District Court, Moore County, Texas; and Case No. 32580, County Court at Law, Moore County, Texas, which are unrelated to the instant offense.

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

1. that the Defendant be allowed to participate in any and all substance abuse treatment and rehabilitation programs, including the Residential Drug Abuse Program, while in the custody of the Federal Bureau of Prisons, if eligible, if consistent with security classification;
2. that the Defendant be allowed to participate in educational and vocational courses, if possible, ESL and diesel mechanics, if eligible, if consistent with security classification; and
3. that the Defendant be allowed to serve his term of incarceration at FCI Big Spring, if possible, if eligible, if consistent with security classification.

The Defendant is remanded to the custody of the United States Marshal.

SUPERVISED RELEASE

Upon release from imprisonment, the defendant shall be placed on supervised release for a term of **Three (3) years** as to Count One of the Indictment filed on January 25, 2024.

While on supervised release, in compliance with the Standard Conditions of supervision adopted by the United States Sentencing Commission at Section 5D1.3(c), the defendant shall:

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.

Judgment in a Criminal Case

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Defendant: MIGUEL YEPSON-CORTEZ

Case Number: 2:24-CR-00004-Z-BR(1)

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 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.
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 he or she observes 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 the job responsibilities), 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.
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.

Also, as set forth in the Notice of Intent to Impose Conditions of Supervised Release signed and dated June 11, 2024, the Defendant shall comply with the below-listed other conditions of supervised release, which are derived from Sections 5D1.3(a), (b), (d), and (e), in relevant part:

1. The defendant shall not commit another federal, state or local offense (see 18 U.S.C. § 3583(d)).
2. The defendant shall not unlawfully possess a controlled substance (see 18 U.S.C. § 3583(d)).

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Defendant: MIGUEL YEPSON-CORTEZ

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3. The defendant who is convicted for a domestic violence crime as defined in 18 U.S.C. § 3561(b) for the first time shall attend a public, private, or private non-profit offender rehabilitation program that has been approved by the court, in consultation with a State Coalition Against Domestic Violence or other appropriate experts, if an approved program is available within a 50-mile radius of the legal residence of the defendant (*see* 18 U.S.C. § 3583(d)).
4. The defendant shall refrain from any unlawful use of a controlled substance and submit to one drug test within 15 days of release on supervised release and at least two periodic drug tests thereafter (as determined by the court) for use of a controlled substance, but the condition stated in this paragraph may be ameliorated or suspended by the court for any individual defendant if the defendant's presentence report or other reliable information indicates a low risk of future substance abuse by the defendant (*see* 18 U.S.C. § 3583(d)).
5. If a fine is imposed and has not been paid upon release to supervised release, the defendant shall adhere to an installment schedule to pay that fine (*see* 18 U.S.C. § 3624(e)).
6. The defendant shall (A) make restitution in accordance with 18 U.S.C. §§ 3663 and 3663A, or any other statute authorizing a sentence of restitution; and (B) pay the assessment imposed in accordance with 18 U.S.C. § 3013. If there is a court-established payment schedule for making restitution or paying the assessment (*see* 18 U.S.C. § 3572(d)), the defendant shall adhere to the schedule.
7. If the defendant is required to register under the Sex Offender Registration and Notification Act, the defendant shall comply with the requirements of that Act (*see* 18 U.S.C. § 3583(d)).
8. The defendant shall submit to the collection of a DNA sample from the defendant at the direction of the United States Probation Office if the collection of such a sample is authorized pursuant to section 3 of the DNA Analysis Backlog Elimination Act of 2000 (34 U.S.C. § 40702).
9. In the event the defendant is not deported upon release from imprisonment or surrendered to a duly authorized immigration official, the defendant must immediately report, continue to report, or surrender to U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement and follow all of their instructions and reporting requirements until any deportation proceedings are completed.
10. As a condition of supervised release, upon completion of (his/her) term of imprisonment, the defendant is to be surrendered to a duly authorized immigration official for deportation in accordance with the established procedures provided by the Immigration and Nationality Act, 8 U.S.C. § 1101 et seq. As a further condition of supervised release, if ordered deported, the defendant shall remain outside the United States unless legally authorized to reenter. In the event the defendant is not deported upon release from imprisonment or surrendered to a duly authorized immigration officer for deportation as described above, or should the defendant ever be within the United States during any portion of the term of supervised release, the defendant shall comply with the standard conditions recommended by the U.S. Sentencing Commission and shall comply with the mandatory and special conditions stated in the Judgment.
11. The defendant shall not illegally reenter the United States if deported or allowed voluntary departure.

Judgment in a Criminal Case

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Defendant: MIGUEL YEPSON-CORTEZ

Case Number: 2:24-CR-00004-Z-BR(1)

12. The defendant shall participate in an outpatient program approved by the probation officer for treatment of narcotic, drug, or alcohol dependency that will include testing for the detection of substance use, abstaining from the use of alcohol and all other intoxicants during and after completion of treatment, and contributing to the costs of services rendered (copayment) at the rate of at least \$40 per month.

FINE/RESTITUTION

The Court does not order a fine or costs of incarceration because the defendant does not have the financial resources or future earning capacity to pay a fine or costs of incarceration.

Restitution is not ordered because it is not applicable.

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 Marshal