

## APPENDICES

### Appendix A: Order of the court of appeals

*United States v. Mason*, No. 24-4214, ECF Doc. 38 (4th Cir. June 12, 2025)..... 1a

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*United States v. Mason*, No. 3:24-cr-00069-RCY-1, ECF Doc. 27 (E.D. Va.  
Sept. 20, 2023) ..... 7a

FILED: June 12, 2025

UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS  
FOR THE FOURTH CIRCUIT

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No. 24-4214  
(3:23-cr-00078-RCY-1)

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UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

Plaintiff - Appellee,

v.

JOHN EDWARD MASON, III,

Defendant - Appellant.

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O R D E R

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John Mason pled guilty, pursuant to a conditional plea agreement, to possession of a firearm as a felon, in violation of [18 U.S.C. § 922\(g\)\(1\)](#). The district court sentenced Mason to 30 months' imprisonment and three years of supervised release. Mason now appeals, and consistent with his conditional plea agreement, challenges the district court's denial of his motion to dismiss the indictment. Mason asserts that § 922(g)(1) is both facially unconstitutional and unconstitutional as applied to him under the Second Amendment, relying on the Supreme Court's decision in *New York State Rifle & Pistol Ass'n v. Bruen*, [597 U.S. 1](#) (2022).

The Government moves for summary affirmance based on our recent decisions in *United States v. Canada*, [123 F.4th 159, 160-61](#) (4th Cir. 2024), which rejected a facial Second Amendment challenge to § 922(g)(1), and *United States v. Hunt*, [123 F.4th 697, 700](#) (4th Cir. 2024), *petition for cert. filed*, No. 24-6818 (U.S. Mar. 20, 2025), in which we held that as-applied Second Amendment challenges to § 922(g)(1) are generally not viable.\* The Government contends that the only issues Mason presents on appeal are “manifestly unsubstantial” after *Canada* and *Hunt*. See [4th Cir. R. 27\(f\)\(1\)](#). Although Mason concedes that *Canada* and *Hunt* defeat his Second Amendment arguments, he nevertheless opposes summary affirmance.

Because *Canada* and *Hunt* foreclose the only issues that Mason pursues on appeal, we conclude that summary affirmance is proper. We thus grant the Government’s motion for summary affirmance.

Entered at the direction of the panel: Judge Harris, Judge Heytens, and Senior Judge Floyd.

For the Court

/s/ Nwamaka Anowi, Clerk

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\* In *Hunt*, we reaffirmed “that a person who has been convicted of a felony cannot make out a successful as-applied challenge to Section 922(g)(1) unless the felony conviction is pardoned or the law defining the crime of conviction is found unconstitutional or otherwise unlawful.” [123 F.4th at 700](#) (internal quotation marks omitted). Mason does not argue that either circumstance is present here.

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J U D G M E N T

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In accordance with the decision of this court, the judgment of the district court is affirmed.

This judgment shall take effect upon issuance of this court's mandate in accordance with [Fed. R. App. P. 41](#).

/s/ NWAMAKA ANOWI, CLERK

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF VIRGINIA  
Richmond Division

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA	)	
	)	
v.	)	Criminal Case No. 3:23cr78 (RCY)
	)	
JOHN EDWARD MASON, III,	)	
Defendant.	)	
_____	)	

**MEMORANDUM OPINION**

This matter is before the Court on Defendant John Edward Mason, III’s (“the Defendant” or “Mr. Mason”) Motion to Dismiss the Indictment. ECF No. 19. The Defendant seeks dismissal of the indictment charging him with Possession of a Firearm and Ammunition by a Convicted Felon, in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 922(g)(1), based on the Supreme Court’s decision in *N.Y. State Rifle & Pistol Ass’n, Inc. v. Bruen*, 597 U.S. ----, 142 S. Ct. 2111 (2022). *See id.*; Indictment, ECF No. 3. The Defendant brings both facial and as-applied challenges to § 922(g)(1). For the reasons stated below, the Court will deny the Defendant’s motion in full.

**I. BACKGROUND**

Mr. Mason was indicted on June 20, 2023, and charged with one count of Felon in Possession of a Firearm and Ammunition pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 922(g)(1). Indictment, ECF No. 3. Mr. Mason was arraigned on June 29, 2023, and pleaded not guilty. ECF No. 14. At the time of his arrest on the instant charge, Mr. Mason had prior felony convictions for a hit and run resulting in personal injury and malicious wounding. *See* Gov’t’s Resp. 1, ECF No. 22.

Mr. Mason filed the instant Motion to Dismiss the Indictment on July 13, 2023. *See* ECF No. 19. The Government filed its Response in Opposition on July 27, 2023. *See* Gov’t’s Resp. Mr. Mason filed a Reply, ECF No. 24, on August 1, 2023, and filed a Notice of Supplemental Authorities, ECF No. 25, on August 25, 2023.

## II. LEGAL STANDARD

Federal Rule of Criminal Procedure 12 allows parties to “raise by pretrial motion any defense, objection, or request that the court can determine without a trial on the merits.” Fed. R. Crim. P. 12(b)(1). The Defendant here requests that the Court dismiss the indictment against him. “An indictment may be dismissed if the statute on which the indictment is premised is unconstitutional.” *United States v. Kearney*, 2023 WL 3940106, at \*1 (E.D. Va. June 9, 2023); *see United States v. Brown*, 715 F. Supp. 2d 688, 689 (E.D. Va. 2010); *cf.* Fed. R. Crim. P. 12(b)(3)(B) (permitting a defendant to, before trial, file a motion alleging a “defect in the indictment”).

## III. DISCUSSION

The Defendant argues that the statute upon which his indictment is premised, 18 U.S.C. § 922(g)(1), is unconstitutional on its face and as applied to him because it violates the Second Amendment under *Bruen*’s new text-and-history test.

Section 922(g)(1) reads, in relevant part: “It shall be unlawful for any person . . . who has been convicted in any court of, a crime punishable by imprisonment for a term exceeding one year . . . [to] possess in or affecting commerce, any firearm or ammunition.” 18 U.S.C. § 922(g)(1).

The Defendant argues that *Bruen* “upended Second Amendment doctrine” with its text-and-history test. Mot. Dismiss Indictment 1, ECF No. 19. He argues that “§ 922(g)(1) regulates conduct the Second Amendment protects,” meaning that § 922(g)(1) is “presumptively unconstitutional under *Bruen*’s plain text standard” and that the burden thus shifts to the government to “show[] that § 922(g)(1) is consistent with the Nation’s historical tradition of firearm regulation.” *Id.* at 11, 16; *see also id.* at 6–11.

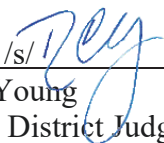
This Court has already carefully considered and rejected the arguments and cases presented in the Defendant’s Motion to Dismiss and Notice of Supplemental Authorities. *See United States*

*v. Lane*, No. 3:23cr62, 2023 WL 5663084 (E.D. Va. Aug. 31, 2023).<sup>1</sup> Other courts in this district have persuasively done the same, with similar outcomes. *See, e.g., United States v. Riley*, 635 F. Supp. 3d 411 (E.D. Va. 2022); *United States v. Finney*, No. 2:23cr13, 2023 WL 2696203 (E.D. Va. Mar. 29, 2023). This Court finds no reason to deviate from this prior analysis and instead adopts in full the § 922(g)(1)-specific reasoning previously set forth in its Memorandum Opinion in *United States v. Lane*.<sup>2</sup>

#### IV. CONCLUSION

For the reasons detailed above, the Defendant’s Motion to Dismiss the Indictment will be denied.

An appropriate Order shall issue.

  
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Roderick C. Young  
United States District Judge

Richmond, Virginia

Date: September 20, 2023

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<sup>1</sup> In *Lane*, this Court held that the Fourth Circuit’s pre-*Bruen* precedents upholding § 922(g)(1)’s constitutionality remain good law and require rejection of any argument that an indictment pursuant to § 922(g)(1) violates the Second Amendment. *See Lane*, 2023 WL 5663084, at \*4–7. Alternatively, this Court held that *Bruen* reaffirmed the Supreme Court’s instruction that “the people” whose conduct the Second Amendment protects includes only “law-abiding citizens” and not felons like the Defendant here. *See id.* at \*8–13.

<sup>2</sup> The Defendant here argues that § 922(g)(1) is unconstitutional both facially and as applied to him. But the Defendant, as did the defendant in *Lane*, makes the same argument for both his facial and his as-applied challenges: § 922(g)(1) facially criminalizes possessing a firearm or ammunition as a felon. And the statute applies to the Defendant because he was a felon possessing a gun or ammunition (in this case, both a firearm and ammunition). Because the Defendant argues both challenges in the same way (and does so by making the same arguments that the defendant made in *Lane*), the Court here can dispose of both challenges by relying on *Lane*’s single and complete *Bruen* analysis. *See Lane*, 2023 WL 5663084, at \*4–13.

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF VIRGINIA  
Richmond Division

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA )

v. )

JOHN EDWARD MASON, III, )  
Defendant. )  
\_\_\_\_\_ )

Criminal Case No. 3:23cr78 (RCY)

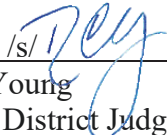
**ORDER**

This matter is before the Court on the Defendant's Motion to Dismiss the Indictment (ECF No. 19). For the reasons stated in the accompanying Memorandum Opinion, the Defendant's Motion to Dismiss the Indictment (ECF No. 19) is DENIED.

The parties are further ORDERED to contact the courtroom deputy of the undersigned to reschedule the trial in this matter. Upon scheduling of the trial, the Court will issue an updated Criminal Scheduling Order.

The Clerk is directed to provide a copy of this Order to all counsel of record.

It is so ORDERED.

  
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/s/ Roderick C. Young  
United States District Judge

Richmond, Virginia  
Date: September 20, 2023