USA v. Nguyen

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United States Court of Appeals Fifth Circuit

FILED

IN THE UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS FOR THE FIFTH CIRCUIT

October 5, 2006

Charles R. Fulbruge III Clerk

No. 05-20262 Summary Calendar

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

Plaintiff-Appellee,

versus

TUY VAN NGUYEN,

Defendant-Appellant.

Appeal from the United States District Court for the Southern District of Texas No. 4:04-CR-181-3

Before SMITH, WIENER, and OWEN, Circuit Judges. PER CURIAM:*

Tuy Nguyen appeals the sentences imposed following the entry of his guilty plea to conspiracy to possess with intent to distribute methylenedioxymethamphetamine ("MDMA") (count one), aiding and abetting possession with intent to distribute MDMA (count four), and possession of a firearm in furtherance of a drug trafficking crime (count five). Nguyen was sentenced to concurrent 57-month

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 R. 47.5, the court has determined that this opinion should not be published and is not precedent except under the limited circumstances set forth in 5TH CIR.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

terms of imprisonment as to counts one and four and to a consecutive 60-month term for count five. He was also sentenced to concurrent five-year periods of supervised release for each count. He contends that the sentences are unreasonable because the district court declined to depart downward based on cultural assimilation.

Nguyen does not challenge the calculation of the advisory guideline range. The district court considered the sentencing guidelines, along with the sentencing factors set forth in 18 U.S.C. § 3553(a), and determined that sentences at the low end of the guidelines range were appropriate. Nguyen's sentences within the properly calculated guidelines range are presumptively reasonable, and he has failed to demonstrate that his sentences are unreasonable. <u>See United States v. Alonzo</u>, 435 F.3d 551, 554-55 (5th Cir. 2006). Nothing in the record indicates that the district court based its decision not to depart downwardly on an erroneous belief that it lacked authority to depart. <u>See United States v.</u> Landerman, 167 F.3d 895, 899 (5th Cir. 1999).

AFFIRMED.