

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
WESTERN DISTRICT OF KENTUCKY
AT LOUISVILLE

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

PLAINTIFF

v.

CRIMINAL ACTION NO. 3:98CR-67-S

LUIS SALGADO
WILFREDO JAMBU

DEFENDANTS

COURT'S INSTRUCTIONS TO THE JURY

Members of the Jury:

It is now my duty to instruct you on the rules of law that you must follow and apply in deciding this case. When I have finished you will go to the jury room and begin your deliberations.

It will be your duty to decide whether the United States has proved beyond a reasonable doubt the specific facts necessary to find each of the defendants guilty of either of the crimes charged in the indictment.

You must make your decision only on the basis of the testimony and other evidence presented here during the trial; and you must not be influenced in any way by either sympathy or prejudice for or against the defendants or the United States.

You must also follow the law as I explain it to you whether you agree with that law or not; and you must follow all of my instructions as a whole. You may not single out, or disregard, any of the Court's instructions on the law.

The indictment or formal charge against any defendant is not evidence of guilt. Indeed, any defendant is presumed by the law to be innocent. The law does not require a defendant to prove innocence or produce any evidence at all. This means that a defendant has no obligation to testify. Therefore, if a defendant does not testify during a trial, you may not draw any inference or suggestion of guilt from that fact, nor may you consider this in any way in reaching your verdicts. The United States has the burden of proving a defendant guilty beyond a reasonable doubt, and if it fails to do so you must find the defendant not guilty.

While the United States' burden of proof is a strict or heavy burden, it is not necessary that a defendant's guilt be proved beyond all possible doubt. It is only required that the United States' proof exclude any "reasonable doubt" concerning a defendant's guilt.

A "reasonable doubt" is a real doubt, based upon reason and common sense after careful and impartial consideration of all the evidence in the case.

Proof beyond a reasonable doubt, therefore, is proof of such a convincing character that you would be willing to rely and act upon it without hesitation in the most important of your own affairs.

You must consider only the evidence that I have admitted in the case. The term "evidence" includes the testimony of the witnesses and the exhibits admitted in the record. Remember that anything the lawyers say is not evidence in the case. It is your own recollection and interpretation of the evidence that controls. What the lawyers say is not binding upon you.

In considering the evidence you may make deductions and reach conclusions which reason and common sense lead you to make; and you should not be concerned about whether the evidence is direct or circumstantial. "Direct evidence" is the testimony of one who asserts actual knowledge of a fact, such as an eye witness. "Circumstantial evidence" is proof of a chain of facts and circumstances indicating that the defendant is either guilty or not guilty. The law makes no distinction between the weight you may give to either direct or circumstantial evidence.

Now, in saying that you must consider the evidence, I do not mean that you must accept all of the evidence as true or accurate. You should decide whether you believe what each witness had to say, and how important that testimony was. In making that decision you may believe or disbelieve any witness, in whole or in part. Also, the number of witnesses testifying concerning any particular dispute is not controlling.

In deciding how much of a witness' testimony to believe, I suggest that you ask yourself a few questions: Did the witness impress you as one who was telling the truth? Did the witness have any particular reason not to tell the truth or a personal interest in the outcome of the case? Did the witness have a good memory? Did the witness have the opportunity and ability to observe accurately the things he or she testified about? Did the witness appear to understand the questions clearly and answer them directly?

You should also ask yourself whether there was evidence tending to prove that the witness testified falsely concerning some important fact; or, whether there was evidence that at some other time the witness said or did something, or failed to say or do something, which was different from the testimony he or she gave before you during the trial.

However, a simple mistake by a witness does not necessarily mean that the witness was not telling the truth as he or she remembers it, because people naturally tend to forget some things or remember other things inaccurately. So, if a witness has made a misstatement, you need to consider whether that was simply an innocent lapse of memory or an intentional falsehood.

When knowledge of a technical subject matter might be helpful to the jury, a person having special training or experience in that technical field - - one who is called an expert witness - - is permitted to state an opinion concerning those technical matters.

Merely because an expert witness has expressed an opinion, however, does not mean that you must accept that opinion. The same as with any other witness, it is up to you to decide whether to rely upon it.

The testimony of some witnesses must be considered with more caution than the testimony of other witnesses.

For example, a witness who hopes to gain more favorable treatment in his or her own case, may have a reason to make a false statement because of a desire to strike a favorable bargain with the United States.

So, while such a witness may be entirely truthful when testifying, you should consider that testimony with more caution than the testimony of other witnesses.

And, of course, the fact that a witness or a codefendant has pled guilty to the crimes charged in the indictment is not evidence of the guilt of any other person.

In this case, as you know, the indictment charges two separate offenses called “counts.” I will not read it to you at length because you will be given a copy of the indictment for study during your deliberations.

COUNT 1

Count 1 of the indictment accuses each defendant of conspiracy to commit the crime of possession with intent to distribute cocaine.

Title 21, United States Code, Section 846 makes it a separate federal crime or offense for anyone to conspire or agree with someone else to do something which, if actually carried out, would be a violation of Section 841(a)(1). Section 841(a)(1) makes it a crime for anyone to knowingly possess cocaine with intent to distribute it.

Under the law, a "conspiracy" is an agreement or a kind of "partnership in criminal purposes" in which each member becomes the agent or partner of every other member.

In order to establish a conspiracy offense it is not necessary for the United States to prove that all of the people named in the indictment were members of the scheme, or that those who were members had entered into any formal type of agreement. Also, because the essence of a conspiracy offense is the making of the scheme itself, it is not necessary for the United States to prove that the conspirators actually succeeded in accomplishing their unlawful plan.

What the evidence in the case must show beyond a reasonable doubt is:

First: That two or more persons in some way or manner, came to a mutual understanding to try to accomplish a common and unlawful plan, as charged in the indictment; and

Second: That the defendant knowingly became a member of such conspiracy.

A person may become a member of a conspiracy without full knowledge of all of the details of the unlawful scheme or the names and identities of all of the other alleged conspirators. So, if a defendant has an understanding of the unlawful nature of a plan and knowingly and willfully joins in that plan on one occasion, that is sufficient to convict him for conspiracy even though he had not participated before and even though he played only a minor part.

Of course, mere presence at the scene of a transaction or event, or the mere fact that certain persons may have associated with each other, and may have assembled together and discussed

common aims and interests, does not necessarily establish proof of a conspiracy. Also, a person who has no knowledge of a conspiracy, but who happens to act in a way which advances some purpose of one, does not thereby become a conspirator.

COUNT 2

Count 2 of the indictment accuses each defendant of possession of cocaine with intent to distribute it.

Title 21, United States Code, Section 841(a)(1), makes it a federal crime or offense for anyone to possess a "controlled substance" with intent to distribute it.

Cocaine is a "controlled substance" within the meaning of the law.

The defendant can be found guilty of that offense only if all of the following facts are proved beyond a reasonable doubt:

First: That the defendant knowingly possessed cocaine as charged; and

Second: That he possessed the substance with the intent to distribute it.

To "possess with intent to distribute" simply means to possess with intent to deliver or transfer possession of a controlled substance to another person, with or without any financial interest in the transaction.

The law recognizes several kinds of possession. A person may have actual possession or constructive possession. A person may also have sole possession or joint possession.

A person who has direct physical control of something on or around his person is then in actual possession of it.

A person who is not in actual possession, but who knowingly has both the power and the intention at a given time to exercise dominion and control over something, either alone or together with someone else is in constructive possession of it.

If one person alone has possession of something, possession is sole. If two or more persons share possession, possession is joint.

Whenever the word “possession” has been used in these instructions it includes actual as well as constructive possession, and also sole as well as joint possession.

The guilt of a defendant in a criminal case may be proved without evidence that he personally did every act involved in the commission of the crime charged. The law recognizes that, ordinarily, anything a person can do for himself may also be accomplished through direction of another person as an agent, or by acting together with, or under the direction of, another person or persons in a joint effort.

So, if the acts or conduct of an agent or associate of a defendant is intentionally directed or authorized by that defendant, or if a defendant aids and abets another person by intentionally joining together with that person in the commission of a crime, then the law holds the defendant responsible for the conduct of that other person just as though the defendant had engaged in such conduct himself.

Notice, however, that before any defendant can be held criminally responsible for the conduct of others it is necessary that the defendant associate himself in some way with the crime, and intentionally participate in it. Mere presence at the scene of a crime and even knowledge that a crime is being committed are not sufficient to establish that a defendant either directed or aided and abetted the crime. You must find beyond a reasonable doubt that the defendant was a participant and not merely a knowing spectator.

You will note that the indictment charges that the offenses were committed "on or about" a certain date. The United States does not have to prove with certainty the exact date of the alleged offense. It is sufficient if the United States proves beyond a reasonable doubt that the offense was committed on a date reasonably near the date alleged.

The word "knowingly", as that term has been used from time to time in these instructions, means that the act was done voluntarily and intentionally and not because of mistake or accident.

A separate crime or offense is charged against the defendants in each count of the indictment. Each offense, and the evidence pertaining to it, should be considered separately. Also, the case of each defendant should be considered separately and individually. The fact that you may find one of the defendants guilty of any of the offenses charged should not affect your verdict as to the other defendant.

You are here to determine from the evidence in this case whether each defendant is guilty or not guilty. Each defendant is on trial only for the specific offenses alleged in the indictment.

Also, the question of punishment should never be considered by the jury in any way in deciding the case. If any defendant is convicted, the matter of punishment is for the judge to determine.

Any verdict you reach in the jury room, whether guilty or not guilty, must be unanimous. In other words, to return a verdict you must all agree. Your deliberations will be secret; you will never have to explain your verdict to anyone.

It is your duty as jurors to discuss the case with one another in an effort to reach agreement if you can do so. Each of you must decide the case for yourself, but only after full consideration of the evidence with the other members of the jury. While you are discussing the case do not hesitate to re-examine your own opinion and change your mind if you become convinced that you were wrong. But do not give up your honest beliefs solely because the others think differently or merely to get the case over with.

When you go to the jury room you should first select one of your members to act as your foreperson. The foreperson will preside over your deliberations and will speak for you here in court.

Form of verdicts have been prepared for your convenience.

You will take the verdict forms to the jury room and when you have reached unanimous agreement you will have your foreperson fill in the verdict forms, date and sign them, and then return to the courtroom.