

State v. Cleary

Court of Appeals of Washington, Division Three

January 24, 2012, Filed

No. 29274-6-III

Reporter

166 Wn. App. 43; 269 P.3d 367; 2012 Wash. App. LEXIS 93; 2012 WL 205910

THE STATE OF WASHINGTON, *RESPONDENT*, v. MARION SIMONE CLEARY, *APPELLANT*.

NOTICE: PUBLISHED IN PART

Prior History: [***1] Appeal from Grant Superior Court. Docket No: 09-1-00267-6. Judgment or order under review. Date filed: 07/27/2010. Judge signing: Honorable John Michael Antosz.

Case Summary

Procedural Posture

The Grant Superior Court, Washington, convicted defendant of third degree assault of a law enforcement officer and obstructing a law enforcement officer. Defendant appealed.

Overview

Defendant argued that she was entitled to a new trial because there was no affirmative showing that Juror 7 had his civil rights restored and this showing was required by statute, [Wash. Rev. Code § 2.36.070](#). The appellate court found that defendant did not explain how empanelling Juror 7 departed from the constitutional protection of an impartial jury. Under [Wash. Const. art. I, § 22](#) and [U.S. Const. amend. VI](#), no constitutional right was implicated even assuming Juror 7 was unqualified to serve as a juror by [Wash. Rev. Code § 2.36.070](#). The record did not show whether Juror 7 was actually unqualified.

Outcome

The judgment was affirmed.

Counsel: Susan M. Gasch (of Gasch Law Office), for appellant.

D. Angus Lee, Prosecuting Attorney, and Carole L. Highland, Deputy, for respondent.

Judges: AUTHOR: Dennis J. Sweeney, J. WE CONCUR: Stephen M. Brown, J., Laurel H. Siddoway, J.

Opinion by: Dennis J. Sweeney

Opinion

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¶1 SWEENEY, J. — A Grant County jury questionnaire asked jurors if they were under Department of Corrections supervision rather than if they had had their civil rights [*45] restored. Having civil rights restored is a statutory prerequisite to serving on a jury in Washington. The court discovered the problem before the jurors were seated

and began to hear the case. The court invited the parties to inquire further, and both the State and the defendant declined. Neither party objected to the jury selection procedure or to the selection of a juror with a felony conviction. We conclude that there is no constitutional error here that would require us to review a challenge to seating the juror, and we further conclude that any error, even assuming error, was invited. We therefore [***2] affirm the convictions for third degree assault of a law enforcement officer and obstructing a law enforcement officer.

FACTS

¶2 The charges in this case arise out of altercations between Marion Simone Cleary and others at a tavern in Grand Coulee, Washington. Ms. Cleary was a bartender at the tavern. She was cleaning the tavern after it had closed. Ella Hale, a tavern employee, helped her. The women got into an altercation, Ms. Hale called 911, and Officers Sean Cook and Adam Hunt responded. Ms. Cleary kicked Officer Cook when he tried to take her hands from her pockets. The State charged Ms. Cleary with unlawful imprisonment, fourth degree assault, intimidating a public servant, third degree assault of a law enforcement officer, and obstructing a law enforcement officer based on her conduct that night.

¶3 The matter proceeded to jury trial. Each prospective juror filled out a questionnaire that asked if he or she had been convicted of a felony, and if a juror answered “yes,” that juror was then asked if he or she is supervised by the Department of Corrections (DOC). Jurors 4, 7, and 28 responded that they had been convicted of a felony. The State asked the court if it should ask these jurors [***3] whether their civil rights had been restored. The court stated that it would call those jurors into the courtroom individually and ask.

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¶4 The court discussed the matter further with counsel after a recess. The court explained that [RCW 2.36.070](#) provides that felons who have not had their civil rights restored are incompetent to serve as jurors. The court said the county clerk recently changed the juror questionnaire to ask whether the juror was supervised by DOC. The court also advised the parties that Grant County gets the names of all of its potential jurors from the voter rolls. Based on that, the court asked counsel, “Are you both all right with that inquiry? Are you under DOC supervision?” Report of Proceedings (RP) at 14. Both counsel replied, “That’s fine.” RP at 14.

¶5 The court then asked, “Do you still want to bring in those three jurors and ask them that real quickly?” RP at 15. The State responded that “[i]t might be more prudent to do so.” RP at 15. The court [**369] called Juror 4 into the courtroom. The juror told the court that he marked the “yes” box by mistake and that he had not been convicted of a felony. RP at 16-17. After interviewing Juror 4, the court decided, and counsel agreed, [***4] that it was not necessary to interview Jurors 28 and 7:

THE COURT: Counsel, I think we can accept [Juror 28's and Juror 7's] answers on that and we don't need to ask further if they've checked off the box no for under DOC supervision.

...

So I just don't see the need to bring them in, unless you want to follow up with anything.

All right. Are you ready to call in the jury, then, Counsel? Is that all right with you?

[DEFENSE COUNSEL]: Yes, your Honor.

THE STATE: Yes, your Honor.

RP at 18-19.

¶6 The jury convicted Ms. Cleary of third degree assault of a law enforcement officer and obstructing a law enforcement officer.

[*47] DISCUSSION

¶7 Ms. Cleary contends for the first time on appeal that she is entitled to a new trial because there is no affirmative showing that Juror 7 had his civil rights restored and this showing is required by statute ([RCW 2.36.070](#)). The State responds that Ms. Cleary fails to show that Juror 7's civil rights have not been restored. And, moreover, Ms. Cleary can and did waive any right to challenge by not challenging the juror for cause when she was given that opportunity.

[1, 2] ¶8 First, absent some manifest constitutional error, an appellant must object to or challenge a ruling in the [***5] trial court to preserve any error for appeal. [RAP 2.5\(a\)](#); [State v. O'Hara, 167 Wn.2d 91, 97-98, 217 P.3d 756 \(2009\)](#). Generally, claims of error not raised at trial will not be reviewed on appeal. [State v. Scott, 110 Wn.2d 682, 685, 757 P.2d 492 \(1988\)](#).

¶9 Ms. Cleary asserts that she is entitled to a new trial because the jury selection process materially departed from the process required by statute. But she did not complain about the process in the trial court, where something could have been done about it.

[3] ¶10 By statute in this state, a person is not competent to serve on a jury if he has been convicted of a felony and has not had his civil rights restored. [RCW 2.36.070\(5\)](#). Here, prospective jurors who had committed felonies were asked not whether their civil rights were restored, but rather whether they were supervised by DOC.

[4] ¶11 Ms. Cleary presumes that the error here is related to the guaranty of an impartial jury. Br. of Appellant at 3-4. And certainly, both the [Sixth Amendment to the United States Constitution](#) and [Washington State Constitution article I, section 22](#) guarantee criminal defendants an impartial jury. [State v. Nemitz, 105 Wn. App. 205, 210, 19 P.3d 480 \(2001\)](#). Ms. Cleary does not explain how [***6] empanelling Juror 7 departed from this constitutional protection.

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[5] ¶12 Federal courts have concluded that a simple showing that a juror is incompetent does not implicate a constitutional right. See [Kohl v. Lehlback, 160 U.S. 293, 16 S. Ct. 304, 40 L. Ed. 432 \(1895\)](#) (concluding that violation of statute prohibiting aliens from serving on juries did not violate the [Fourteenth Amendment's due process clause](#)); [Raub v. Carpenter, 187 U.S. 159, 162-64, 23 S. Ct. 72, 47 L. Ed. 119 \(1902\)](#) (treating a motion for new trial like any other untimely motion when it is based on the defendant's discovery that a juror was a minor and had been convicted of several crimes); [Coleman v. Calderon, 150 F.3d 1105, 1117 \(9th Cir. 1998\)](#) (concluding that a felon serving on a jury in violation of state statute did not violate [Sixth Amendment](#) or the [Fourteenth Amendment due process clause](#)), *rev'd on other grounds*, [525 U.S. 141, 119 S. Ct. 500, 142 L. Ed. 2d 521 \(1998\)](#); [United States v. Uribe, 890 F.2d 554, 562 \(1st Cir. 1999\)](#) (“the statutory violation—allowing a convicted felon to serve—did not implicate the fundamental fairness of the trial or the defendants' constitutional rights”); [United States v. Humphreys, 982 F.2d 254, 261 \(8th Cir. 1992\)](#) [***7] (“The [Sixth Amendment](#) right to an impartial jury does not require an [***370] absolute bar on felon-jurors. ... [T]he guarantee of an impartial jury [protects] against juror bias. A per se rule would be appropriate only if one could reasonably conclude that felons are always biased against one party or another.” (quoting [United States v. Boney, 298 U.S. App. D.C. 149, 158, 977 F.2d 624 \(1992\)](#))); [Boney, 298 U.S. App. D.C. at 158](#) (concluding that “[t]he [Sixth Amendment](#) right to an impartial jury ... does not require an *absolute bar* on felon-jurors” but remanding to determine whether felon-juror was biased because felon-juror falsely answered jury questionnaire). We conclude on this authority that no constitutional right is implicated here, even assuming Juror 7 was unqualified to serve as a juror by [RCW 2.36.070](#). The disqualification criterion here is by statute, not the state or federal constitutions. The assignment of error does not then implicate constitutional rights.

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[6, 7] ¶13 Nor is an error here apparently manifest. We cannot conclude that Juror 7 was unqualified based on this record. It does not show whether Juror 7 was actually unqualified. Although voir dire was not included in this record, it appears that Juror 7 was not challenged [***8] for cause and neither party used a peremptory challenge to strike Juror 7. The trial transcripts also show nothing about Juror 7 other than the jury's verdict being that of Juror 7. We then conclude that this is not manifest constitutional error that we must address here in the first instance.

[8] ¶14 Moreover, any error, even assuming error, was invited here. [In re Pers. Restraint of Call, 144 Wn.2d 315, 328, 28 P.3d 709 \(2001\)](#). The court explained the reasoning behind the jury questionnaire's wording, and counsel for Ms. Cleary responded, "That's fine, your Honor." RP at 14. Soon after the court said that it did not "see the need to bring [Juror 28 and Juror 7] in, unless you want to follow up with anything. All right. Are you ready to call in the jury, then, Counsel? Is that all right with you?" RP at 19. Ms. Cleary's counsel said, "Yes, your Honor." RP at 19. The court asked whether counsel wanted to address the issue with Juror 7, and counsel declined.

¶15 We affirm the convictions.

¶16 The remainder of this opinion has no precedential value. Therefore, it will be filed for public record in accordance with the rules governing unpublished opinions.

STATEMENT OF ADDITIONAL GROUNDS

¶17 Ms. Cleary argues that [***9] she was not represented adequately. To successfully argue that counsel was ineffective, Ms. Cleary must show two things: "(1) defense counsel's representation was deficient, *i.e.*, it fell below an objective standard of reasonableness based on consideration of all the circumstances; and (2) defense counsel's deficient representation prejudiced the defendant, *i.e.*, there is a reasonable probability that, except for counsel's unprofessional errors, the result of the proceeding would have been different." [State v. McFarland, 127 Wn.2d 322, 334-35, 899 P.2d 1251 \(1995\)](#).

¶18 Ms. Cleary argues that her counsel was ineffective for two reasons. First, counsel failed to impeach Officer Hunt and Officer Cook by presenting evidence of their "other abuses." However, extrinsic evidence of specific conduct, other than criminal convictions, cannot be used to attack a witness's credibility. [ER 608\(b\)](#). Counsel here did not then fall below an objective standard of reasonableness by declining to offer inadmissible evidence.

¶19 Second, Ms. Cleary argues her representation was deficient because counsel did not pursue Ms. Cleary's allegations that Officer Hunt beat and wrongfully accused her. We reject the argument [***10] for two reasons. First, we can only consider what is in the trial record to determine whether counsel was effective. [McFarland, 127 Wn.2d at 334](#). The incidents Ms. Cleary complains of, in her statement of additional grounds, were not in the trial record. Second, an ineffective assistance of counsel claim cannot be based upon legitimate trial strategy or tactics. [Id. at 336](#). Accusing a police officer of brutality and dishonesty may have hurt Ms. Cleary's case more than helped it. So this seems to us to be a matter of trial tactics; a matter that is best left to counsel.

¶20 Last, Ms. Cleary argues that it was improper for a juror to be seated because the juror knows Officer Hunt well and also knows Ms. Cleary and Ms. Cleary's children. Ms. Cleary seems to suggest that this juror was biased. A juror may be challenged for an implied bias due to:

- (1) Consanguinity or affinity within the fourth degree to either party.
- (2) Standing in the relation of guardian and ward, attorney and client, master and servant or landlord and tenant, to a party; or being a member of the family of, or a partner in business with, or in the employment for wages, of a party, or being surety or bail in the action called [***11] for trial, or otherwise, for a party.
- (3) Having served as a juror on a previous trial in the same action, or in another action between the same parties for the same cause of action, or in a criminal action by the state against either party, upon substantially the same facts or transaction.
- (4) Interest on the part of the juror in the event of the action, or the principal question involved therein, excepting always, the interest of the juror as a member or citizen of the county or municipal corporation.

[RCW 4.44.180](#). Merely knowing the parties is not enough for a challenge for implied bias. The record reveals nothing about this juror that shows she was biased.

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¶21 We affirm the convictions.

BROWN and SIDDOWAY, JJ., concur.

References

Washington Rules of Court Annotated (LexisNexis ed.) Annotated Revised Code of Washington by LexisNexis