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CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA  
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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, ) Case No. CR 04-00860 DDP  
 )  
Plaintiff, ) ORDER DENYING GOVERNMENT'S MOTION  
 ) FOR RECONSIDERATION  
v. ) [Motion filed on 03/30/05]  
ALBERT LAMONT HECTOR, )  
 )  
Defendant. )

This matter is before the Court on the government's motion for reconsideration of the order granting the defendant's second motion for reconsideration. After reviewing the papers submitted by the parties and hearing oral argument, the Court denies the government's motion and adopts the following order.

**I. Background**

On July 9, 2004, Albert Lamont Hector was charged with possession with intent to distribute cocaine base (21 U.S.C. § 846), possession of a firearm in furtherance of drug trafficking (18 U.S.C. § 924(c)), and being a felon in possession of a firearm and ammunition (18 U.S.C. § 922(g)(1)).

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1 On September 27, 2004, the defendant filed a motion to  
2 suppress the evidence obtained on June 2, 2004, when agents from  
3 the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms and officers from the  
4 Los Angeles Police Department arrested the defendant and searched  
5 his apartment. During the search, the defendant was presented with  
6 a "Search Warrant Notice of Service" ("Notice of Service"). The  
7 Notice of Service did not indicate which items the officers and  
8 agents were authorized to seize, or state the address of the  
9 premises to be searched.<sup>1</sup> The government acknowledged during prior  
10 oral argument on the defendant's second motion for reconsideration  
11 that the "Notice of Service" is not a warrant. After the defendant  
12 was booked, he apparently received a property receipt indicating  
13 the items seized by the officers. The government conceded during  
14 prior oral argument that at no time before, during, or immediately  
15 after the search did the officers serve a search warrant on the  
16 defendant. It appears that the defendant was first provided with  
17 the search warrant as part of the government's discovery  
18 obligations.

19  
20 \_\_\_\_\_  
21 <sup>1</sup> The Notice of Service stated:

22 To whom it may concern:

23 1. These premises have been searched by the peace  
24 officers of the Los Angeles Police Department  
25 pursuant to a search warrant issued on 5/28/04 by  
26 the Honorable Judge Jacob Adajian, Judge of the  
27 Superior Court, Los Angeles Judicial District.

28 2. The search was conducted on 6/2/04. A list of  
the property seized pursuant to the search warrant  
is provided on the attached Los Angeles Police  
Department receipt for property taken into custody.

3. If you wish further information, you may  
contact: Officer Fletcher at 213-473-4804.

1 In his motion to suppress evidence, the defendant argued that  
2 the Notice of Service was inadequate under Federal Rule of Criminal  
3 Procedure 41(f) ("Rule 41") and the Fourth Amendment. The argument  
4 regarding Rule 41 was premised on the contention that the  
5 investigation had been "federal in character." On October 18,  
6 2004, after determining that the investigation had not been federal  
7 in character and that Rule 41 did not apply, the Court denied the  
8 defendant's motion to suppress. The Court granted the defendant  
9 leave to submit supplemental briefing, which was filed with the  
10 Court on October 22, 2004.

11 On November 1, 2004, the defendant filed a motion for  
12 reconsideration of the order denying the motion to suppress  
13 evidence. The Court denied this motion on December 1, 2004.

14 On December 21, 2004, a jury convicted the defendant on all  
15 three counts of the indictment.<sup>2</sup>

16 On December 27, 2004, the defendant filed a second motion for  
17 reconsideration of the order denying the motion to suppress  
18 evidence. In his reply brief to that motion, the defendant cited  
19 the recent ruling in United States v. Martinez-Garcia, 397 F.3d  
20 1205 (9th Cir. 2005), a decision that postdated the defendant's  
21 convictions. In Martinez-Garcia, the Ninth Circuit stated that the  
22 failure of state officers to serve a warrant at any time before,  
23 during, or immediately after a search of a home may be  
24 presumptively unreasonable. Id. at 1212 n.3. This was the first  
25 time that the Ninth Circuit had clearly applied the notice

26 \_\_\_\_\_  
27 <sup>2</sup> The Court subsequently granted the defendant's motion for  
28 acquittal on Count II of the indictment, which charged the  
defendant with possession of a firearm in furtherance of drug  
trafficking, a violation of 18 U.S.C. § 924(c).

1 requirement of the Fourth Amendment's Warrant Clause to state  
2 officers. The panel did not set an absolute notice requirement but  
3 rather balanced the privacy concerns of the public and the need to  
4 give notice with the sometimes competing need for flexibility that  
5 permits the police to perform their public safety duties  
6 effectively. Id. at 1211. In the absence of any such safety and  
7 practicality concerns, the Ninth Circuit indicated that failure to  
8 serve a warrant is "presumptively unreasonable." Id. at 1212 n.3.

9 In an order filed on March 23, 2005, this Court applied  
10 Martinez-Garcia to the search at issue and found that there had  
11 been no showing that it was impracticable or imprudent for the  
12 officers to serve the warrant on the defendant during or  
13 immediately after the search. The Court held that the failure of  
14 the officers to serve the search warrant was unreasonable and  
15 violated the Fourth Amendment. It found that the evidence obtained  
16 during the June 2, 2004 search of the defendant's apartment should  
17 have been suppressed.

18 The government now brings this motion for reconsideration of  
19 the March 23, 2005 order. In its motion, the government makes  
20 three arguments. First, it argues that the search was reasonable  
21 under the totality of the circumstances despite the failure of the  
22 officers to present the defendant with the warrant. Second, the  
23 government argues that the evidence should not be suppressed  
24 because the officers, in not presenting the warrant, acted pursuant  
25 to a good faith reliance on the guidelines contained in the County  
26 of Los Angeles's Search Warrant Manual and prior state court  
27 rulings. Finally, the government for the first time presents  
28 evidence that, at the time of the search, the defendant was on

1 probation and subject to warrantless searches of his person and  
2 property.

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4 **II. Discussion**

5 **A. Motion for Reconsideration**

6 While the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure do not contain a  
7 provision specifically allowing motions for reconsideration,  
8 numerous circuit courts have held that motions for reconsideration  
9 may be filed in criminal cases. See United States v. Martin, 226  
10 F.3d 1042, 1047 n.7 (9th Cir. 2000) (post-judgment motion for  
11 reconsideration may be filed in a criminal case and governed by  
12 Fed. R. Civ. P. 59(e)); United States v. Fiorelli, 337 F.3d 282,  
13 286 (3d Cir. 2003) (motion for reconsideration allowed in criminal  
14 case and governed by Fed. R. Civ. P. 59(e) or Fed. R. Civ. P.  
15 60(b)); United States v. Clark, 984 F.2d 31, 33-34 (2d Cir. 1993)  
16 (motion for reconsideration filed in criminal case within 10 days  
17 of subject order is treated under Fed. R. Civ. P. 59(e)).

18 The purpose of a motion under Rule 59(e) is to "correct  
19 manifest errors of law or fact or to present newly discovered  
20 evidence." Harsco Corp. v. Zlotnicki, 779 F.2d 906, 909 (3d Cir.  
21 1985). See also 389 Orange Street Partners v. Arnold, 179 F.3d  
22 656, 665 (9th Cir. 1999) (relief under Rule 59(e) "should not be  
23 granted . . . unless the district court is presented with newly  
24 discovered evidence, committed clear error, or if there is an  
25 intervening change in the controlling law). A motion for  
26 reconsideration is not to be used as a means to reargue a case or  
27 to ask a court to rethink a decision it has made. It is not a  
28 substitute for an appeal. See, e.g., Waye v. First Citizen's

1 Nat'l. Bank, 846 F.Supp. 310, 314 (M.D. Pa. 1994). These civil  
2 procedure precepts also govern a motion for reconsideration made in  
3 a criminal case. United States v. Lee, 82 F.Supp.2d 389, 390 n.  
4 4 (E.D. Pa. 2000); United States v. Palm Beach Cruises, S.A., 204  
5 B.R. 634, 639 n.1 (S.D. Fla. 1996).

6 B. Reasonableness of the Search Absent Service of the  
7 Warrant

8 The government first argues that the June 2, 2004 search of  
9 the defendant's residence was reasonable under the totality of  
10 circumstances. This argument was already addressed in the Court's  
11 previous order. However, because the notice requirement issue was  
12 clearly raised for the first time in the defendant's reply to that  
13 motion, the Court revisits this issue here to address the  
14 government's argument.

15 The government argues that "as a practical matter, defendant  
16 received notice that fulfilled the purposes of the Fourth  
17 Amendment," and that this rendered the execution of the search  
18 reasonable. (Govt's Mot. at 8.) In support of this position, the  
19 government asserts that the officers explained to the defendant  
20 that they were conducting the search pursuant to a valid search  
21 warrant, presented him with the Notice of Service, and informed him  
22 that they were looking for evidence of drug trafficking. The  
23 government's position appears to be that so long as the executing  
24 officers are in possession of a valid warrant and they give the  
25 suspect verbal notice of this fact and the warrant's limitations,  
26 then the government need not serve the defendant with the warrant  
27 even in the absence of practicality or safety concerns. The Ninth  
28 Circuit expressly rejected this position in Ramirez v. Butte-Silver

1 Bow County, 298 F.3d 1022 (9th Cir. 2002). In that case, the court  
2 held that an officer's verbal description of the items sought  
3 pursuant to the warrant failed to cure a flaw in the warrant. Id.  
4 at 1026-27. The panel cited United States v. Gantt for the  
5 proposition that "[c]itizens deserve the opportunity to calmly  
6 argue that agents are overstepping their authority or even  
7 targeting the wrong residence." 194 F.3d 987, 991 (9th Cir. 1999).  
8 This type of exchange "is impossible if citizens must rely on  
9 officers' verbal representations of the scope of their authority.  
10 To stand a real chance of policing the officers' conduct,  
11 individuals must be able to read and point to the language of a  
12 proper warrant." Ramirez, 298 F.3d at 1027.

13 The defendant never received the warrant before, during, or  
14 immediately after the search. Absent service of the warrant, he  
15 had no adequate notice of the legal authority that authorized the  
16 search. He had no adequate notice of the subject residence and the  
17 items searched for. It appears that the defendant was first  
18 provided with the warrant as part of the government's discovery  
19 obligations, long after the completion of the search. Although the  
20 government had the authority to search the defendant's home  
21 pursuant to a valid search warrant, it was still required to comply  
22 with the notice requirement of the Fourth Amendment. Martinez-  
23 Garcia, 397 F.3d 1205, 1210-11. "It is the government's duty to  
24 serve the search warrant on the suspect, and the warrant must  
25 contain, either on its face or by attachment, a sufficiently  
26 particular description of what is to be seized." United States v.  
27 McGrew, 122 F.3d 847, 850 (9th Cir. 1997).

28 ///

1 The Warrant Clause serves two important purposes. First,  
2 "[i]t requires that any determination of probable cause be reviewed  
3 by a neutral and detached member of the judiciary before the  
4 warrant issues." Id. It is undisputed that the warrant obtained  
5 by officers authorizing the search of the defendant's residence was  
6 valid in this respect. But the Supreme Court has long held that  
7 the purpose of the warrant requirement is not merely the prevention  
8 of general searches. Groh v. Ramirez, 540 U.S. 551, 561 (2004). A  
9 warrant also "assures the individual whose property is searched or  
10 seized of the lawful authority of the executing officer, his need  
11 to search, and the limits of his power to search." United States  
12 v. Chadgick, 433 U.S. 1, 9 (1977) (abrogated on other grounds,  
13 California v. Acevedo, 500 U.S. 565 (1991)); see also Groh, 540  
14 U.S. at 561-62. Notice of the legal authority authorizing the  
15 search and the limits of the executing officer's powers is part and  
16 parcel of the warrant requirement. "[A] major function of the  
17 warrant is to provide the property owner with sufficient  
18 information to reassure him of the entry's legality." Michigan v.  
19 Tyler, 436 U.S. 499, 508 (1978). As the Ninth Circuit explained in  
20 McGrew, officers are required to include affidavits with warrants  
21 "not only in order to limit officers' discretion in conducting the  
22 search, but also in order to 'inform the person subject to the  
23 search what items the officers executing the warrant can seize.'"  
24 122 F.3d at 850 (quoting United States v. Hayes, 794 F.2d 1348,  
25 1355 (9th Cir.1986)) (emphasis in McGrew). It is this purpose that  
26 was not fulfilled by the officers' failure to serve the warrant on  
27 the defendant.

28 ///



1 C. Officers' Good Faith Reliance on Prior Law

2 Next, the Government argues that the evidence should not be  
3 suppressed because the officers, in not presenting the warrant,  
4 acted pursuant to a good faith reliance on the guidelines contained  
5 in the County of Los Angeles's Search Warrant Manual and prior  
6 state court rulings.<sup>3</sup> Relying on United States v. Leon, 468 U.S.  
7 897 (1984), the government claims that suppression of the evidence  
8 will not serve the primary purpose underlying the exclusionary  
9 rule: deterrence of police misconduct. It reasons that deterrence  
10 of police misconduct will not be served because "it was objectively  
11 reasonable for the officers to rely on the District Attorney's  
12 search warrant manual, which in turn relied on California case law  
13 holding that defendants did not have a right to have search  
14 warrants served on them." (Govt's Mot. at 10.)

15 The exclusionary rule is a judicially-designed remedy aimed at  
16 discouraging unconstitutional (or possibly otherwise illegal)  
17 police misconduct. See Illinois v. Krull, 480 U.S. 340 (1987);  
18 United States v. Williams, 622 F.2d 830, 841-42 (5th Cir. 1980) (en  
19 banc). It functions to suppress evidence obtained directly or  
20 indirectly through illegal police activity. Wong Sun v. United  
21 States, 371 U.S. 471, 485-86 (1963). The good faith reliance

22  
23 <sup>3</sup> The pertinent portion of the Search Warrant Manual reads:  
24 After entry is made, the officer should show the original  
25 search warrant to the occupant and give him a copy of the  
26 warrant. However, there is no requirement that the search  
27 warrant be exhibited to the occupant or that a copy of the  
28 warrant be given to the occupant. (People v. Calabrese (2002)  
101 Cal.App.4th 79, 83-85; Nunes v. Superior Court (1980) 100  
Cal.App.3d 915, 936-937.) There is also no requirement that  
the search warrant be present at the location to be searched.  
People v. Rodriguez-Fernandez (1991) 235 Cal.App.3d 543, 553.  
(County of Los Angeles, Search Warrant Manual (2003); Ex. B in Mot.  
at 23.)

1 exception to the exclusionary rule provides that "evidence is  
2 admissible even if it is obtained as a result of a warrant that is  
3 wanting in probable cause or is technically defective so long as  
4 the authorities have relied in objective good faith on a facially  
5 valid warrant." Leon, 468 U.S. 897(1984); see also Massachusetts  
6 v. Sheppard, 468 U.S. 981 (1984).

7       The Leon good faith reliance exception is inapplicable here  
8 because the parties do not contest the validity of the warrant.  
9 See United States v. Michaelian, 803 F.2d 1042, 1047 (9th Cir.  
10 1986) ("The good-faith exception is applied when a magistrate  
11 erroneously issues a warrant but the officers involved are not  
12 expected to recognize the mistake."). Here, the officers did not  
13 execute a search pursuant to warrant lacking sufficient probable  
14 cause. Rather, they failed to serve a valid warrant on the  
15 defendant at any time before, during, or immediately after the  
16 search. There is no authority that supports the proposition that  
17 an officer is relieved from following a constitutionally mandated  
18 rule merely because he had a good faith belief that his conduct was  
19 constitutional.

20       The Government argues that the contested evidence should not  
21 be suppressed because "the officers were acting in good faith by  
22 relying on a District Attorney's search warrant manual that  
23 expressly states that California police officers do not have to  
24 serve a warrant." (Mot. at 9.) The fact that the officers were  
25 not, and could not have been, aware of the notice requirement is  
26 not sufficient to render the search reasonable. As discussed  
27 above, the Ninth Circuit resolved the issue of whether the notice  
28 requirement applies to the execution of state warrants in Martinez-

1 Garcia. There, the court stated that "it may be presumptively  
2 unreasonable if officers fail entirely to serve a sufficient  
3 warrant at any time before, during or immediately after a search of  
4 a home." Id. at 1212, n.3 (citing United States v. Grubbs, 377  
5 F.3d 1072, 1079 & n.9 (9th Cir. 2004) (holding that officers  
6 violated the Fourth Amendment when they did not serve a sufficient  
7 warrant at any point "before, during or after the search" and  
8 declining to "decide whether the warrant and curative material must  
9 be shown to the persons whose property is being searched prior to  
10 the officers' entry into the home") (emphasis in original); United  
11 States v. McGrew, 122 F.3d 847,849-850 (9th Cir. 1997) (holding  
12 that officers violated the Fourth Amendment when they did not serve  
13 the suspect with a warrant during the search of her home or at any  
14 time thereafter)).

15 Moreover, in applying the Martinez-Garcia decision, this Court  
16 is obligated to follow the retroactivity principle set out by the  
17 Supreme Court in Griffith v. Kentucky, 479 U.S. 314 (1987). In  
18 Griffith, the Supreme Court resolved the debate about the effect of  
19 judicial decisions establishing constitutional rights and  
20 obligations. It held that

21 failure to apply a newly declared constitutional rule to  
22 criminal cases pending on direct review violates basic norms  
23 of constitutional adjudication.... After we have decided a new  
24 rule in the case selected, the integrity of judicial review  
25 requires that we apply that rule to all similar cases pending  
26 on direct review.  
27 Id. at 322-23.

28 The Supreme Court stated that "a new rule for the conduct of  
criminal prosecutions is to be applied retroactively to all cases,  
state or federal, pending on direct review or not yet final, with  
no exception for cases in which the new rule constitutes a 'clear

1 break' with the past." Id. at 328. The Supreme Court thus held  
2 that the obligation to retroactively apply constitutional decisions  
3 to all pending cases was critical to enforce fidelity to precedent  
4 and prevent judicial decisionmaking from acquiring a legislative  
5 character. See Desist v. United States, 394 U.S. 244, 256-69  
6 (1969) (Harlan, J., dissenting); Mackey v. United States, 401 U.S.  
7 667, 675-702 (1971) (Harlan, J., concurring in part and dissenting  
8 in part); see also Fallon, Meltzer, and Shapiro, Hart and  
9 Wechsler's The Federal Courts and The Federal System, 73-75 (5th  
10 Ed. 2003) (discussing the evolution of the Supreme Court's  
11 retroactivity approach).

12 In light of Griffith, it is immaterial whether the officers  
13 knew that the lack of service rendered the search unreasonable.  
14 The principle announced in Martinez-Garcia, that officers executing  
15 a search of a residence must serve a valid warrant on the occupants  
16 as soon as it is both practical and prudent to do so, applies to  
17 all pending cases, including the instant case.

18 D. Effect of the Defendant's Probation Status

19 Finally, the government argues that the officers' failure to  
20 serve the warrant did not violate the defendant's Fourth Amendment  
21 right to be free from unreasonable search and seizure because the  
22 defendant was subject to warrantless searches as part of the  
23 conditions of his probation. In support, the government presents  
24 evidence that, at the time of the search, the defendant was serving  
25 a three-year probationary sentence and that he had agreed to  
26 "submit person and property to search or seizure at any time of the  
27 day or night by any law enforcement officer or by probation officer  
28 with or without a warrant." (Ex. C to Govt's Mot. at 36.)

1 It is true that probationers "do not enjoy 'the absolute  
2 liberty to which every citizen is entitled.'" Griffin v.  
3 Wisconsin, 483 U.S. 868, 874 (1987) (quoting Morrissey v. Brewer,  
4 408 U.S. 471, 480 (1972)). For example, the Supreme Court has held  
5 that the search of a probationer's house requires no more than a  
6 reasonable suspicion that criminal conduct is occurring, a standard  
7 less than probable cause. United States v. Knights, 534 U.S. 112,  
8 121 (2001). In Knights, the Supreme Court also held that when an  
9 officer has a reasonable suspicion that a probationer subject to a  
10 search condition is engaged in criminal activity, a warrant is not  
11 required to search the probationer's residence because such a  
12 person has a diminished expectation of privacy. Id. Despite this,  
13 probationers still enjoy some amount of Fourth Amendment  
14 protection. See, e.g., Knights, 534 U.S. at 119 (probation  
15 significantly diminishes but does not extinguish individual's  
16 reasonable expectation of privacy); Moreno v. Baca, 400 F.3d 1152,  
17 1157-58 (9th Cir. 2005) (parolee's expectation of privacy is  
18 diminished but not eliminated); Latta v. Fitzharris, 521 F.2d 246,  
19 248-49 (9th Cir. 1975) (en banc) (parole search may be held illegal  
20 and the evidence obtained therefrom suppressed unless it meets the  
21 "reasonableness" standard under the Fourth Amendment).

22 It is clear from Knights that had the officers in this case  
23 known that the defendant was on probation and subject to the search  
24 condition, and had the officers had a reasonable suspicion that he  
25 was engaged in criminal activity, they would have possessed the  
26 authority to conduct a search of his residence without a warrant.  
27 This is not what occurred. It is undisputed that the officers were  
28 unaware of the defendant's probationary status. In fact, the

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1 government never raised the issue of the defendant's probation  
2 status in response to the three rounds of motions dealing with the  
3 warrant issue.

4       The government defends the officers' failure to serve the  
5 warrant by arguing that the defendant's lessened Fourth Amendment  
6 protection rendered their unconstitutional conduct harmless. It  
7 contends that, because the defendant acquiesced to be subject to  
8 warrantless search and seizure, he had a significantly diminished  
9 expectation of privacy. However, the Ninth Circuit has rejected  
10 similar post-hoc reasoning in Moreno, 400 F.3d at 1164. The court  
11 in Moreno faced a similar situation in which Los Angeles County  
12 deputy sheriffs stopped and searched the plaintiff while he was  
13 walking on a public street. The officers made the plaintiff empty  
14 his pockets and took him into custody. The plaintiff was  
15 subsequently arrested and charged with possession of cocaine.  
16 Following an acquittal, the plaintiff sued the officers under 42  
17 U.S.C. § 1983 based on an alleged violation of his Fourth Amendment  
18 right to be free from unreasonable search and seizure. He argued  
19 that the officers did not have sufficient cause to detain him, even  
20 though he had told them that he was a parolee. The officers  
21 responded that, despite the alleged lack of reasonable suspicion,  
22 the stop was not unreasonable because, although unknown to them at  
23 the time, they later learned that the plaintiff had an outstanding  
24 bench warrant. In affirming the district court's denial of summary  
25 judgment for the officers, the Ninth Circuit confronted the issue  
26 this Court now faces, namely "the question of whether a search or  
27 seizure can be considered 'reasonable' if the fact that rendered  
28 the search 'reasonable' . . . was unknown to the officer at the

1 time of the intrusion. We hold that it cannot." 400 F.3d at 1164  
2 (footnote omitted).

3 This conclusion accords with longstanding Supreme Court  
4 precedent. "[A]lmost without exception in evaluating alleged  
5 violations of the Fourth Amendment the Court has first undertaken  
6 an objective assessment of an officer's actions in light of the  
7 facts and circumstances then known to him." Scott v. United  
8 States, 436 U.S. 128, 137 (1978); see also Michigan v. DeFillippo,  
9 443 U.S. 31, 37 (1979) (probable cause evaluated in light of "facts  
10 and circumstances within the officer's knowledge"); Ornelas v.  
11 United States, 517 U.S. 690, 696 (1996) (same); Illinois v.  
12 Rodriguez, 497 U.S. 177, 188 (1990) (holding that "factual  
13 determinations bearing upon search and seizure" must be judged  
14 against an "objective standard" based on "facts available to the  
15 officer at the moment"). Similarly, it is well-settled in the  
16 Ninth Circuit that the reasonableness of a search must be evaluated  
17 in light of the executing officer's knowledge at the time. See  
18 United States v. Lockett, 484 F.2d 89 (9th Cir. 1973) (per curiam)  
19 (officer's post-seizure acquisition of knowledge that defendant was  
20 subject to outstanding bench warrant did not retroactively cure  
21 unreasonableness of seizure); United States v. DiCesare, 765 F.2d  
22 890, 899 (9th Cir. 1985) (acquisition of probable cause during  
23 seizure does not cure unreasonableness of seizure), amended by 777  
24 F.2d 543 (9th Cir. 1985).

25 An instructive discussion on this issue is found in People v.  
26 Sanders, 31 Cal.4th 318 (2003). There, the California Supreme  
27 Court held that the reasonableness of a search under the Fourth  
28 Amendment must be evaluated in light of the officers' knowledge at

1 the time of the search. Responding to a domestic disturbance call,  
2 the police officers in Sanders entered the defendants' apartment  
3 and handcuffed its two residents. They then undertook a search  
4 that yielded cocaine. Following the search, the officers called  
5 the police department and learned that one of the defendants was on  
6 parole and subject to search conditions.

7 In addressing whether the search was lawful because, unknown  
8 to the officers when the search commenced, one of the defendants  
9 was on parole, the court reviewed both federal and California  
10 authorities. The California Supreme Court had previously held that  
11 the reasonableness of a search and seizure must be judged in light  
12 of the facts known to the officers at the time the search was  
13 executed. See, e.g., In re Martinez, 1 Cal.3d 641 (1970); People v.  
14 Robles, 23 Cal.4th 789 (2000); but see In re Tyrell J., 8 Cal.4th  
15 68 (1994). In Sanders, Justice Moreno, writing for the majority,  
16 disavowed the one exception in this line of cases, Tyrell J., which  
17 he stated received a chilly reception from numerous commentators  
18 who believed that the decision misapplied United States Supreme  
19 Court precedent and eroded Fourth Amendment protections. After  
20 reviewing California cases and numerous United States Supreme Court  
21 and Ninth Circuit cases, Justice Moreno concluded that "police  
22 cannot justify an otherwise unlawful search of a residence because,  
23 unbeknownst to the police, a resident of the dwelling was on parole  
24 and subject to a search condition." Id. at 332.

25 Justice Moreno noted that this holding did not contradict the  
26 United States Supreme Court's ruling in Knights that a probationer  
27 or a parolee is subject to a warrantless search by an officer  
28 having reasonable suspicion. In Knights, the Supreme Court based



1 the lessened search standard on the state's special interest in  
2 monitoring the probationer to insure that he does not engage in  
3 criminal conduct. 534 U.S. at 121; see also Moreno, 300 F.3d (at  
4 1162. When the officer is unaware that the suspect is subject to  
5 the search condition, however, "such a search cannot be justified  
6 as a parole search, because the officer is not acting pursuant to  
7 the conditions of parole." Sanders, 31 Cal.4th at 333.

8       The holding in Whren v. United States, 517 U.S. 806 (1996)  
9 does not alter this result. There, the Supreme Court held that the  
10 illegitimate subjective motivation of a police officer will not  
11 invalidate an otherwise constitutional seizure that is "objectively  
12 justifiable" based on facts known to the officer. Id. at 813.  
13 Here, no one claims that the officers acted in bad faith at any  
14 point during the search. Rather, the officers simply failed to  
15 serve the warrant on the defendant, and this failure rendered the  
16 search unreasonable. The fact that the defendant was a probationer  
17 subject to a search condition does not make the search "objectively  
18 justifiable" precisely because the officers had no knowledge of  
19 that fact at the time of the search.

20       The Fourth Amendment requires that officers know and give  
21 notice of the legal basis for their authority to search. Only then  
22 can the individual whose property is searched or seized have full  
23 knowledge "of the lawful authority of the executing officer, his  
24 need to search, and the limits of his power to search." Chadwick,  
25 433 U.S. at 9 (abrogated on other grounds, California v. Acevedo,  
26 500 U.S. 565 (1991)). This is important "not only in order to  
27 limit officers' discretion in conducting the search, but also in  
28 order to 'inform the person subject to the search what items the

1 officers executing the warrant can seize.'" McGrew, 122 F.3d 847,  
2 850 (9th Cir. 1997) (quoting United States v. Hayes, 794 F.2d 1348,  
3 1355 (9th Cir.1986)) (emphasis in McGrew). If the searched  
4 individual is not aware of the basis for the officer's legal  
5 authority, he is unable to effectively monitor the officer's  
6 activities and draw attention to possible abuses. Absent such  
7 notice, for example, a probationer is unable to point out that the  
8 officers are at the wrong residence, or that they are otherwise  
9 exceeding the scope of their authority. See Gantt, 194 F.3d at  
10 991. Accordingly, "[t]he scope of the search must be 'strictly  
11 tied to and justified by' the circumstances which rendered its  
12 initiation permissible." Terry v. Ohio, 392 U.S. 1, 19 (1968)  
13 (quoting Warden v. Hayden, 387 U.S. 294, 310 (1967) (Fortas, J.,  
14 concurring). The legal authority that permitted the officers to  
15 enter the defendant's residence derived from the warrant which they  
16 validly obtained but failed to serve. The officers were unaware  
17 that the defendant was on probation. They cannot now rely on what  
18 they did not know at the time to compensate for their failure to  
19 serve the warrant on the defendant. "[A] search or seizure  
20 [cannot] be considered 'reasonable' if the fact that rendered the

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1 search 'reasonable' . . . was unknown to the officer at the time of  
2 the intrusion." Moreno, 400 F.3d at 1164.

SCANNED

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4 **III. Conclusion**

5 For the foregoing reasons, the Court denies the government's  
6 motion for reconsideration.

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8 IT IS SO ORDERED.

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Dated: 5-2-05

  
DEAN D. PREGERSON  
United States District Judge