

[DO NOT PUBLISH]

In the
United States Court of Appeals
For the Eleventh Circuit

No. 21-13578

Non-Argument Calendar

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

Plaintiff-Appellee,

versus

WILLEMS CALIXTE, JR.,

Defendant-Appellant.

Appeal from the United States District Court
for the Southern District of Florida
D.C. Docket No. 0:20-cr-60153-WPD-1

Before JORDAN, NEWSOM, and LAGOA, Circuit Judges.

PER CURIAM:

Willems Calixte, Jr. appeals his conviction and sentence for possession of a firearm and ammunition as a convicted felon, in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 922(g). On appeal, Calixte challenges the applicability of the Armed Career Criminal Act, 18 U.S.C. § 924(e) (“ACCA”) and the constitutionality of 18 U.S.C. § 922(g). After careful review of the parties’ arguments, we affirm.

I

We review de novo whether a prior state conviction qualifies as a “violent felony” under the ACCA. *See United States v. Howard*, 742 F.3d 1334, 1341 (11th Cir. 2014). However, “we review unpreserved sentencing objections only for plain error.” *United States v. Corbett*, 921 F.3d 1032, 1037 (11th Cir. 2019).

The ACCA requires that any person who violates 18 U.S.C. § 922(g) serve a mandatory minimum sentence of 15 years when he has three prior convictions for violent felonies or serious drug offenses committed on separate occasions. 18 U.S.C. § 924(e)(1). In *Borden v. United States*, the Supreme Court concluded that a criminal offense with a *mens rea* of recklessness cannot qualify as a “violent felony” under the ACCA’s elements clause to enhance a

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defendant's sentence. 593 U.S. 420, 423–24, 429 (2021) (plurality opinion); *id.* at 446 (Thomas, J., concurring).¹

In *Somers v. United States*, we relied on the Florida Supreme Court's determination that state-law aggravated assault requires a *mens rea* of at least knowing conduct and could not be committed recklessly to hold that Florida aggravated assault "categorically qualifies" as a violent felony under the ACCA's elements clause, even after *Borden*. 66 F.4th 890, 896 (11th Cir. 2023). And in *United States v. Fritts*, we held that a conviction under Florida's armed-robbery statute "categorically qualifies" as a violent felony under the ACCA based on the Florida Supreme Court's interpretation that a violent act was required. 841 F.3d 937, 942–43 (11th Cir. 2016).

Under the prior precedent rule, "a prior panel's holding is binding on all subsequent panels unless and until it is overruled or undermined to the point of abrogation by the Supreme Court or this court sitting *en banc*." *United States v. Archer*, 531 F.3d 1347, 1352 (11th Cir. 2008).

Here, as an initial matter, because Calixte failed to challenge the applicability of the ACCA before the district court, we review his current arguments only for plain error. *Corbett*, 921 F.3d at 1037. We find no error, plain or otherwise, because Calixte's

¹ When the Supreme Court decides a case and "no single rationale explaining the result enjoys the assent of five Justices, the holding of the Court may be viewed as that position taken by those Members who concurred in the judgments on the narrowest grounds." *Marks v. United States*, 430 U.S. 188, 193 (1977) (quotation marks omitted).

arguments that his aggravated assault and armed robbery convictions are not violent felonies under the ACCA are foreclosed by our binding precedent. *Somers*, 66 F.4th at 890, 896; *Fritts*, 841 F.3d at 942–43. To the extent that Calixte contends that our precedent was overturned by *Borden*, we disagree; that decision did not overturn or undermine our previous holdings to the point of abrogation. See *Somers*, 66 F.4th at 895–96; *Archer*, 531 F.3d at 1352.²

Accordingly, we affirm in this respect.

II

Under federal law, a person who has been convicted of a crime punishable by more than one year’s imprisonment may not possess a firearm or ammunition that has moved through interstate or foreign commerce. 18 U.S.C. § 922(g)(1). In *United States v. Rozier*, we held that § 922(g)(1)’s prohibition on possession of firearms by felons was a “constitutional avenue to restrict the Second Amendment right of certain classes of people.” 598 F.3d 768, 771 (11th Cir. 2010). We have since held that *Rozier* was not abrogated by *New York State Rifle & Pistol Ass’n, Inc. v. Bruen*, 597 U.S. 1 (2022). *United States v. Dubois*, 94 F.4th 1284, 1293 (11th Cir. 2024). Therefore, Calixte’s argument that § 922(g)(1) violates the Second Amendment in light of *Bruen* is foreclosed by our binding precedent.

² Because at least three of Calixte’s prior felonies were qualifying violent felonies under our binding precedent, we decline to examine whether a Florida armed-kidnapping conviction qualifies as a violent felony.

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Accordingly, we affirm in this respect as well.

AFFIRMED.

**UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS
FOR THE ELEVENTH CIRCUIT**

ELBERT PARR TUTTLE COURT OF APPEALS BUILDING
56 Forsyth Street, N.W.
Atlanta, Georgia 30303

David J. Smith
Clerk of Court

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June 18, 2024

MEMORANDUM TO COUNSEL OR PARTIES

Appeal Number: 21-13578-HH
Case Style: USA v. Willems Calixte, Jr.
District Court Docket No: 0:20-cr-60153-WPD-1

Opinion Issued

Enclosed is a copy of the Court's decision issued today in this case. Judgment has been entered today pursuant to FRAP 36. The Court's mandate will issue at a later date pursuant to FRAP 41(b).

Petitions for Rehearing

The time for filing a petition for panel rehearing is governed by 11th Cir. R. 40-3, and the time for filing a petition for rehearing en banc is governed by 11th Cir. R. 35-2. Except as otherwise provided by FRAP 25(a) for inmate filings, a petition for rehearing is timely only if received in the clerk's office within the time specified in the rules. **A petition for rehearing must include a Certificate of Interested Persons and a copy of the opinion sought to be reheard.** See 11th Cir. R. 35-5(k) and 40-1.

Costs

No costs are taxed.

Bill of Costs

If costs are taxed, please use the most recent version of the Bill of Costs form available on the Court's website at www.call.uscourts.gov. For more information regarding costs, see FRAP 39 and 11th Cir. R. 39-1.

Attorney's Fees

The time to file and required documentation for an application for attorney's fees and any objection to the application are governed by 11th Cir. R. 39-2 and 39-3.

Appointed Counsel

Counsel appointed under the Criminal Justice Act (CJA) must submit a voucher claiming compensation via the eVoucher system no later than 45 days after issuance of the mandate or the filing of a petition for writ of certiorari. Please contact the CJA Team at (404) 335-6167 or

cja_evoucher@call.uscourts.gov for questions regarding CJA vouchers or the eVoucher system.

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OPIN-1 Ntc of Issuance of Opinion