

# THE FEDERAL LAW ENFORCEMENT – INFORMER –

A MONTHLY LEGAL RESOURCE AND COMMENTARY FOR LAW  
ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS AND AGENTS

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# Free FLETC Informer Webinar Series Schedule July 2014

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## 1. Law of Video Surveillance

1-hour webinar presented by Bruce-Alan Barnard, FLETC Legal Division

This course will review statutory and case law concerning video surveillance.

### **Date and Time:**

**Tuesday July 29, 2014: 10:30am EDT**

To participate in this webinar: <https://share.dhs.gov/lawofvideosurveillance/>

## 2. United States Supreme Court Wrap-Up: 2013 Term

1-hour webinar presented by Ken Anderson and John Besselman, FLETC Legal Division

This webinar will review nine United States Supreme Court cases decided in the October 2013 Term that affect law enforcement officers. The cases are: *Fernandez v. California*, *U.S. v. Apel*, *U.S. v. Castleman*, *Navarette v. California*, *Wood v. Moss*, *Plumhoff v. Rickard*, *Abramski v. U.S.*, *Riley v. California* and *U.S. v. Wurie*.

### **Dates and Times:**

**Monday July 28, 2014: 10:30 am EDT**

To participate in this webinar: <https://share.dhs.gov/usscwrapup2013term>

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7. Meeting rooms will be open and fully accessible at least one-hour before a scheduled webinar.
8. Training certificates will be provided at the conclusion of each webinar.

# CASE SUMMARIES

## Circuit Courts of Appeal

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Circuit

#### **United States v. Ganas, 2014 U.S. App. LEXIS 11222 (2d Cir. Conn. June 17, 2014)**

Ganas owned an accounting business that provided services to a client who had contracts with the federal government. After receiving a tip the client was involved in criminal activity, federal investigators obtained a warrant to search Ganas' offices for accounting records related to the client. As a result, in November 2003, the investigators made mirror images of Ganas' computers' hard drives. The mirror images included copies of every file on Ganas' computers, including files containing Ganas' personal financial records, which were beyond the scope of the search warrant.

In December 2004, investigators isolated and extracted the computer files that were covered by the search warrant. However, the investigators did not purge or delete Ganas' personal financial records from the mirror images that were not related to their investigation.

In April 2006, investigators obtained a warrant to search the mirror images for Ganas' personal financial records. As a result, investigators discovered evidence that was introduced against Ganas at his trial for income tax evasion.

Ganas was convicted. On appeal, Ganas argued the government violated the *Fourth Amendment* when the investigators seized his personal computer records in November 2003 and then retained them for more than two and one half years before obtaining a warrant to search them in April 2006.

The court agreed, concluding the unauthorized seizure and retention of Ganas' personal financial records was unreasonable. The search warrant issued in 2003 did not authorize the seizure of Ganas' personal financial records. By December 2004, Ganas' personal records had been separated from those relevant to the federal investigation. Nevertheless, the government continued to retain Ganas' personal records until it developed probable cause to search and seize them in April 2006. Without some independent basis for retaining those documents, the court held the government violated Ganas' *Fourth Amendment* rights by retaining his personal financial files for a prolonged period of time and then using them in a future criminal investigation.

Click [HERE](#) for the court's opinion.

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### 3<sup>rd</sup> Circuit

#### **United States v. Stanley, 2014 U.S. App. LEXIS 10833 (3d Cir. Pa. Jan. 7, 2014)**

A police officer investigating the online distribution of child pornography discovered a computer on the Gnutella peer-to-peer network sharing files he believed contained child pornography. The officer determined the computer's Internet protocol (IP) address and the subscriber to whom the computer was assigned (the Neighbor). However, when the officer executed a search warrant, he discovered none of the Neighbor's computers contained child pornography or the Gnutella file sharing software.

When the investigator learned the Neighbor's Internet router was not password-protected, he suspected another person was connecting wirelessly, or mooching, the Neighbor's Internet connection without permission. With the Neighbor's consent, the officer connected a police computer to the Neighbor's router, which allowed the officer to determine the media access control (MAC) address and IP address of any other device that connected to the router.

A few weeks later, the officer was alerted that a computer sharing child pornography was mooching the Neighbor's Internet connection. The officer determined the MAC and IP addresses of the mooching computer. The officer went to the Neighbor's house and using free mobile tracking software called MoocherHunter tried to locate the computer that was accessing the Neighbor's router. By using MoocherHunter and a directional antenna, the officer measured the signal strength of the radio waves emitted from the MAC card of the mooching computer. The officer discovered MoocherHunter's readings were strongest when he aimed the antenna at a six-unit apartment complex across the street from the Neighbor. When the officer stood on a public sidewalk in front of the apartment building, MoocherHunter's readings were strongest when the officer aimed the antenna directly at Stanley's apartment. Based on this information, the officer obtained a warrant to search Stanley's apartment. The officer seized Stanley's computer and later recovered numerous images and video files depicting child pornography.

Stanley argued the officer violated the *Fourth Amendment* when he used MoocherHunter to trace Stanley's wireless signal back to the interior of his apartment.

The court disagreed. Stanley intentionally sent a wireless signal from his computer to the Neighbor's router every time he logged on to the Neighbor's Internet connection. Once this occurred, the Neighbor's router relayed data to the Internet service provider (ISP) and back to Stanley's computer without either the Neighbor's or the ISP's knowledge or consent. Under these circumstances, the court found Stanley was, in effect, a virtual trespasser. Consequently, the court held Stanley had no reasonable expectation of privacy in the wireless signal emitted from his computer while he committed this virtual trespass. In addition, the court noted that MoocherHunter revealed only the path of the radio waves that were mooching the Neighbor's Internet connection and not their content.

Click [HERE](#) for the court's opinion.

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## **4<sup>th</sup> Circuit**

### **United States v. Saafir, 2014 U.S. App. LEXIS 10847 (4th Cir. N.C. June 11, 2014)**

A police officer stopped Saafir for speeding and driving a car with excessively tinted windows. During the stop, the officer saw a hip flask commonly used to carry alcohol in the pocket of the driver's side door. After the officer issued Saafir warning tickets and returned his identification documents, the officer asked Saafir for consent to frisk him. Saafir consented, but the frisk revealed nothing. The officer then asked Saafir if he could search Saafir's car, but Saafir refused. After Saafir refused to consent to a search of the car a second time, the officer told Saafir he had probable cause to search the car based on the presence of the hip flask, as a state statute made it a violation for a person to possess an alcoholic beverage other than in the manufacturer's original container. Having declared his authority and intent to search the car, the officer asked Saafir if there was anything he should know about inside the car. Saafir told the officer there "might" be a gun in the car. The officer searched the car and found a gun in the glove compartment. The officer never touched the flask and

there was no evidence Saafir had been drinking. Saafir was convicted of being a felon in possession of a firearm.

The court noted it is well settled that a search or seizure is unreasonable if it is premised on a law enforcement officer's misstatement of his authority. On appeal, the government conceded the presence of the hip flask in the door pocket did not establish probable cause to search Saafir's car. However, it was only after the officer told Saafir that he had probable cause to search the car that Saafir admitted to the presence of the gun in the car. Consequently, the court held the officer's false assertion of his authority to search the car tainted Saafir's incriminating statements as well as the subsequent search of the car. Therefore, Saafir's incriminating statement and the gun discovered in the glove compartment should have been suppressed.

Click [HERE](#) for the court's opinion.

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## **5<sup>th</sup> Circuit**

### **United States v. Boche-Perez, 2014 U.S. App. LEXIS 11309 (5th Cir. Tex. June 17, 2014)**

At approximately 9:10 a.m., Customs and Border Patrol (CBP) agents detained Perez for secondary inspection at the Laredo Port of Entry after an identification check revealed Perez was a suspected narcotics smuggler. At 12:40 p.m., CBP agents found DVDs containing child pornography in Perez's luggage. An agent with Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) arrived, interviewed Perez and received confirmation from an Assistant United States Attorney at 3:22 p.m. that the government would prosecute Perez. The ICE agent arrested Perez and turned him over to a CBP agent so Perez could be processed for admission into the United States. At 4:15 p.m. Perez admitted to the CBP agent that he knew the DVDs in his luggage contained child pornography. Afterward, the CBP agent prepared a written statement containing Perez's admission, which Perez reviewed and signed at 6:00 p.m. At 9:00 p.m., CBP informed ICE that Perez had confessed and was ready for transport to jail. Before transporting Perez, an ICE agent questioned Perez again. Perez admitted to the ICE agent that he possessed more child pornography at his home in Arkansas. The ICE agent booked Perez into jail at 11:40 p.m. Perez spent two nights in jail before he was presented to the magistrate judge.

Perez argued his three confessions should have been suppressed because the ICE agent unreasonably delayed his presentment to the magistrate judge. Perez further argued his confessions should have been suppressed because they were involuntary.

*Rule 5 of the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure* requires that "a person making an arrest within the United States must take the defendant without unnecessary delay before a magistrate judge." 18 U.S.C. § 3501(c) further provides that a court may not suppress a confession made during a six-hour safe harbor period solely due to a delay in presentment if the confession was made voluntarily. However, confessions obtained outside the six-hour safe harbor may be excluded if the delay in presentment was unreasonable. In addition, when determining whether a delay was reasonable, the court examines the delay at the time of the confession, not when the defendant actually was presented to the magistrate judge.

Here, the district court found the six-hour safe harbor began at 9:10 a.m., which the government did not contest, and expired at 3:10 p.m. As a result, the court concluded Perez's three confessions occurred outside the six-hour safe harbor.

Nonetheless, the court held the government's delay in not presenting Perez by 4:15 p.m., the time of his oral confession, was reasonable. The court found during this time CBP agents were processing Perez for entry and searching his luggage. Once the DVDs were discovered, the ICE agent was notified. The ICE agent then investigated the alleged crime and notified the AUSA. Finally, the ICE agent had to prepare, review and submit a criminal complaint to the AUSA. After the ICE agent finished, CBP still had to administratively process Perez for immigration purposes before Perez could be transported to the jail.

After Perez's oral confession at 4:15 p.m., the CBP agent drafted a written confession, which Perez reviewed and signed at 6:00 p.m. The court held the government's delay in not presenting Perez by 6:00 p.m. was reasonable while the CBP agent was transferring Perez's oral confession into writing.

Finally, the court did not rule on the delay concerning Perez's 9:00 p.m. confession. The court found the record was not clear and any error in admitting this confession was harmless as Perez did not plead guilty to any of those additional offenses.

The court further held that Perez's confessions were voluntary. First, there was no evidence to show the delay in presentment was designed to obtain a confession from Perez. Second, immediately after waving his *Miranda* rights, Perez admitted to the CBP agent that he knew the DVDs in his luggage contained child pornography and then Perez signed a written statement to that effect.

Click [HERE](#) for the court's opinion.

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## **7<sup>th</sup> Circuit**

### **United States v. Valley, 2014 U.S. App. LEXIS 11808 (7th Cir. Wis. June 18, 2014)**

In September 2010, a police officer using file-sharing software downloaded files containing child pornography from an IP address assigned to Valley's mother, Jenson. In May 2011, a state court judge issued a warrant to search computers, digital storage devices and other related items found at Jenson's house. When police officers arrived at Jenson's house, the officers located Valley in the basement and handcuffed him. Once the house was secured, ten minutes later, the officers removed Valley's handcuffs and allowed him to get dressed. The officers told Valley he was not under arrest and that he could leave at any time. Valley elected to remain at the house where he smoked, drank sodas and used the bathroom during the 5 ½ hours the officers searched the house. During this time, Valley made incriminating statements to the police officers. After discovering child pornography on his computer, the government indicted Valley.

Valley claimed his incriminating statements should have been suppressed because the officers failed to provide him *Miranda* warnings. Valley also argued the search warrant did not establish probable cause that Valley still possessed images of child pornography, as eight months had elapsed since the officer last downloaded child pornography from his computer.

The court held Valley was not entitled to *Miranda* warnings because Valley was not in custody for *Miranda* purposes. First, the officers never drew their guns or threatened Valley. Second, the officers told Valley, after the house was secured, that he was free to leave. Third, the officers allowed Valley to smoke, drink soda, and move around the house without restraints. The court concluded a reasonable person in these circumstances would have felt free to leave.

The court further held the information in the search warrant affidavit was not stale; therefore, the officers established probable cause Valley possessed child pornography. In the search warrant affidavit, the officer acknowledged the eight-month delay and stated that in “almost every instance” when multiple months separate the discovery of child pornography and the issuance of a warrant, the images remain on the computer even if the computer moves or the Internet access ends. Additionally, the court recognized prior case law in this area has held that investigators looking for digital evidence can assume it remains on the hard drive because modern computers, by default, retain the data.

Click [HERE](#) for the court’s opinion.

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**Hawkins v. Mitchell, 2014 U.S. App. LEXIS 11906 (7th Cir. Ill. June 23, 2014)**

Bumgarner called 911 and reported Hawkins locked her out of his house, but that her keys were still inside the residence. Bumgarner told the 911 operator Hawkins had a history of abusiveness, but the current argument was “verbal only.” When Officer Mitchell arrived, he saw clothing scattered across the yard, and Bumgarner shouting at Hawkins, who was on the front porch. Hawkins then went inside his house and slammed the door. Bumgarner told Mitchell she was not injured, apologized for calling 911, but that she needed her keys so she could leave. Bumgarner told Mitchell that Hawkins had not been violent and had not threatened her. Mitchell knocked on the door and Hawkins opened it, telling Mitchell he did not want to talk to him. Mitchell stuck his foot in the doorway, which prevented Hawkins from closing it, and then Mitchell entered Hawkins’ house. Hawkins repeatedly told Mitchell to get out of his house, but Mitchell refused. When Officer Bowersock arrived, Mitchell motioned him inside Hawkins’ house. In the meantime, Hawkins was on the telephone, speaking with his attorney. Bowersock told Hawkins to get off the phone, or he would be arrested. When Hawkins did not comply, Bowersock told Hawkins he was under arrest. Bowersock and Mitchell then grabbed Hawkins by his wrists and wrestled him to the floor. The state filed charges against Hawkins, but later dismissed them.

Hawkins sued the officers, claiming among other things, the officers violated the *Fourth Amendment* when they entered his house without a warrant, consent or an exigency. The officers argued they were justified in entering Hawkins’ house without a warrant “to prevent imminent serious injury” and to question Hawkins about the “situation.”

First, the court stated the need to question Hawkins amounted to ordinary investigation of possible crime, which did not constitute exigent circumstances.

Second, the court ruled the facts, even as presented by the officers, did not support the conclusion that the entry into Hawkins’ house was necessary to prevent imminent serious injury to anyone. When Mitchell arrived, Bumgarner told him she was not injured and that her argument with Hawkins was verbal. Instead of expressing a need for protection from Hawkins, Bumgarner told Mitchell she wanted to get her keys from inside the house. Even though Mitchell lawfully attempted to initiate a consensual encounter with Hawkins, Mitchell’s non-consensual and warrantless entry into Hawkins’ house was unreasonable. When Mitchell entered the house, there was no evidence that Hawkins posed a threat to anyone, and after Bowersock entered, Hawkins continued to object to the officers’ presence. Even though Hawkins did not comply with Bowersock’s command to get off the phone, Hawkins never threatened the officers. Consequently, the court held because Mitchell and Bowersock did not have a warrant, consent or exigent circumstances, their entry and in-home arrest of Hawkins violated the *Fourth Amendment*.

Click [HERE](#) for the court's opinion.

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## **8<sup>th</sup> Circuit**

### **United States v. Humphrey, 2014 U.S. App. LEXIS 10454 (8th Cir. Mo. June 5, 2014)**

Two police officers were conducting surveillance on Humphrey, who was a suspect in a burglary and homicide. The officers driving separate unmarked police cars followed Humphrey as he drove around town. At one point, Humphrey pulled next to one of the officers and raised his right arm parallel to the ground, pointing it in the direction of the officer. Believing that Humphrey realized he was being followed, the officer decided to discontinue his surveillance. However, when the officer pulled into the parking lot of a strip mall, Humphrey entered the parking lot from a different direction and drove straight at the officer's car, until the vehicles faced each other only a few feet apart. The second officer pulled up behind Humphrey, boxing him in. Both officers activated their lights and sirens and got out of their vehicles with guns drawn. The officers identified themselves and approached Humphrey's car. When Humphrey rolled down his window, one of the officers saw a handgun resting on Humphrey's knee. Knowing Humphrey was a convicted felon, the officers arrested him for unlawful possession of a firearm.

Humphrey argued the officers did not have reasonable suspicion he was involved in criminal activity; therefore, the firearm was discovered as the result of an unlawful *Terry* stop.

The court disagreed. The officers were investigating Humphrey's possible connection to recent violent crimes. When it appeared that Humphrey realized he was being followed, Humphrey became the pursuer and positioned his car facing the officer's car in the parking lot. In addition to his behavior, the officers knew Humphrey had convictions for violent crimes and firearms offenses. As a result, it was reasonable to believe that Humphrey might assault the first officer, which justified a *Terry* stop.

Click [HERE](#) for the court's opinion.

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### **United States v. \$48,100.00 in United States Currency, 2014 U.S. App. LEXIS 12128 (8th Cir. Neb. June 27, 2014)**

Nelson was driving his parents' recreational vehicle (RV) from Colorado to Wisconsin when he was stopped for a traffic violation in Nebraska. After receiving Nelson's consent to search, the police officer found 2.7 grams of marijuana, a marijuana grinder, several marijuana-themed magazines and a plastic bag containing \$48,100 in currency inside a backpack located in the RV. The officer arrested Nelson for possession of marijuana and seized the currency. The government filed an action seeking forfeiture of the \$48,100, arguing the currency was substantially connected to drug trafficking. Although the government conceded the currency had come from legitimate sources, it nonetheless argued Nelson planned to use the currency to purchase narcotics in an unspecified transaction, which had yet to occur. The government provided no evidence concerning the future drug transaction.

The magistrate judge adopted the government's position, concluding it was more likely than not the \$48,100 was subject to forfeiture as it was substantially connected to a planned, but unconsummated drug transaction. Nelson appealed.

The court agreed with Nelson, holding no affirmative evidence existed to support the government's theory that Nelson planned to obtain a large amount of marijuana to sell in Wisconsin. First, both parties agreed the currency came from legitimate sources. Second, the amount of marijuana seized from the RV was small, consistent with personal use, as was the paraphernalia seized by the officer. Third, the officer testified there were several things missing which he would typically expect to find if Nelson had been planning to purchase and transport a large amount of drugs cross-country to sell. For example, the officer searched Nelson's cell phone, but he did not find any text messages or voice mail recordings referring to a plan to engage in drug trafficking. In addition, Nelson did not have a firearm, the possession of which the officer testified often goes "hand in hand" with drug trafficking. The court concluded the government's theory about a planned drug transaction relied on mere speculation rather than evidence. As a result, the court reversed the magistrate judge's directing the forfeiture of the \$48,100.

Click [HERE](#) for the court's opinion.

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## **10<sup>th</sup> Circuit**

### **Felders v. Malcom, 2014 U.S. App. LEXIS 11627 (10th Cir. Utah June 20, 2014)**

Trooper Bairrett stopped Felders for speeding. During the stop, Bairrett noticed Felders was nervous, and would not maintain eye contact with him. Bairrett also smelled the strong odor of air freshener coming from the car and saw a license plate ring with "Jesus" written on it. Based on these observations, Bairrett suspected Felders was transporting drugs in her car. After issuing Felders a speeding ticket, Bairrett asked to speak to the two passengers in the car. Based on several perceived inconsistencies between the passengers' stories and Felders' story about the details of their trip, Bairrett believed he had reasonable suspicion Felders was transporting drugs. After Felders refused to consent to a search of her car, Bairrett called for a K-9 unit to bring a drug-sniffing dog. When Deputy Malcolm arrived with his K-9, Duke, Bairrett told him about the encounter with Felders and that Bairrett believed there was probable cause to search Felders' car for drugs. Bairrett then ordered the passengers get out of the car, but he did not let them close the car doors. Bairrett's dash camera recorded Malcolm commenting to Bairrett, "Nice of them to leave the door open for you," to which Bairrett responded, "Yeah it was, wasn't it?" When Malcolm began the dog sniff, Duke jumped into Felders' car through the open rear passenger door and alerted on the center console. Malcolm opened the console and found two bags of jerky. After removing the jerky, the officers searched Felders' car for approximately two-hours, but found no drugs.

Felders sued, claiming Bairrett and Malcolm violated the *Fourth Amendment* by illegally searching her car.

While the district court held neither officer was entitled to qualified immunity, only Deputy Malcolm appealed. Malcolm argued probable cause existed to search Felders' car before the dog sniff. Alternatively, Malcolm argued if he did not have probable cause to search Felder's car, the law did not clearly establish that his actions during the dog sniff violated the *Fourth Amendment*. The Tenth Circuit Court of Appeals disagreed and affirmed the district court holding that Malcolm was not entitled to qualified immunity.

First, the court held Malcolm did not have probable cause to search Felders' car for drugs prior to conducting the dog sniff. The court ruled Malcolm could not reasonably rely on Bairrett's conclusion that probable cause existed to search Felders' car, nor would a reasonable officer in Malcolm's

position believe he had probable cause to search for drugs. The court found, at best, Bairett and Malcolm had reasonable suspicion to conduct a *Terry* stop.

Second, the court held Malcolm did not independently establish probable cause to search Felders' car. Malcolm's argument that inconsistencies in Felders' statements to Bairett were lies, which constituted obstruction of justice under Utah law, was not reasonable.

Third, the court held at the time of the incident, it was clearly established that facilitation of a dog's entry into a car without probable cause violated the *Fourth Amendment*. The court found a reasonable jury could conclude Bairett intentionally caused the car doors to remain open to facilitate Duke's entry and that Duke failed to properly alert before entering Felders' car.

Click [HERE](#) for the court's opinion.

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## **11<sup>th</sup> Circuit**

### **United States v. Davis, 2014 U.S. App. LEXIS 10854 (11th Cir. Fla. June 11, 2014)**

A jury convicted Davis on seven counts of robbery. At trial, the government introduced cell site location information obtained from Davis' cell phone service provider. The cell site location information included a record of Davis' calls and revealed which cell tower carried the calls. The government argued the cell site location information established Davis placed and received cell phone calls near the locations of the robberies around the same time the robberies were committed. The government obtained Davis' cell site location information after obtaining a court order pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 2703(d). To obtain a court order under §2703(d), the government was not required to establish probable cause.

On appeal, Davis claimed the government violated the *Fourth Amendment*, arguing the government was required to obtain a warrant based on probable cause to obtain his cell site location information. The government argued the cell site location information was not covered by the *Fourth Amendment* and was properly obtained under the § 2703(d) court order.

The court held that Davis had a reasonable expectation of privacy in the cell site location information and the government violated the *Fourth Amendment* when it obtained that information without a warrant. However, the court further held the cell site location information did not need to be suppressed because the officers acted in good faith reliance on §2703(d) order. Here, the police officers, prosecutors and judge who issued the order followed the requirements of 18 U.S.C. § 2703 and had no reason to believe it was unconstitutional as written.

Click [HERE](#) for the court's opinion.

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### **United States v. Folk, 2014 U.S. App. LEXIS 10929 (11th Cir. Fla. June 12, 2014)**

Police officers obtained a warrant to search a residence where Folk, a convicted felon, lived with Brandow and her seventeen-year-old son. The warrant authorized the officer to search for illegal prescription drugs, currency, and records relating to drug sales. While executing the warrant, an officer saw a rifle and a shotgun in the master bedroom closet. The officer believed Folk and Brandow slept in that bedroom because he saw photographs of the couple around the room and

several empty pill bottles prescribed to Brandow and Folk. The government indicted Folk for being a felon in possession of a firearm.

Folk claimed the officer violated the *Fourth Amendment* by seizing the rifle and the shotgun, arguing the search warrant did not specifically authorize the officers to seize firearms.

The court disagreed, holding the officers lawfully seized the firearms under the plain view doctrine. First, the firearms were located in a closet where the officers had a lawful right to be to search for the items listed in the warrant. Second, the incriminating nature of the firearms was immediately apparent to the officer because the officer knew Folk was a convicted felon. In addition, the court concluded it was reasonable for the officer to believe the firearms belonged to Folk. The closet was located in the master bedroom that contained photographs of Folk and Brandow as well as prescription bottles with Folks' name on them.

Click [HERE](#) for the court's opinion.

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