Stroud Vs. United States

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Court : US Supreme Court

Decided On : Jan-19-1920

Appeal No. : 251 U.S. 380

Appellant : Stroud

Respondent : United States

Judgement :

Stroud v. United States - 251 U.S. 380 (1920) U.S. Supreme Court Stroud v. United States, 251 U.S. 380 (1920)

Stroud v. United States

No. 27

Petition for rehearing

Decided January 19, 1920

251 U.S. 380

THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE UNITED STATES

FOR THE DISTRICT OF KANSAS

Syllabus

Possible error in overruling a challenge for cause in this case was not prejudicial in view of the number of peremptory challenge allowed to, and their use by, the accused and the absence of any indication that the jury was not impartial. The former decision, *ante,* 251 U. S. 15 , reexamined on this point and approved.

Rehearing denied.

Memorandum opinion by direction of the Court, by MR. JUSTICE DAY.

In this proceeding, on November 24, 1919, this Court affirmed the judgment of the United States District Court for the District of Kansas rendered upon a verdict convicting the plaintiff in error of murder in the first degree.

A petition for rehearing has been presented. It has been considered, and we find occasion to notice only so

much thereof as refers to the refusal of the court below to sustain the plaintiff in error's challenge for cause as to the juror Williamson. The other grounds urged have been examined and found to be without merit.

Williamson was called as a juror, and, as we said in our former opinion, was challenged for cause by the plaintiff in error. This challenge was overruled, and the juror was then challenged peremptorily by the accused. The testimony of Williamson made it reasonably certain that, in the event of conviction for murder in the first degree, he would render no other verdict than one which required capital punishment. Granting that this challenge for cause should have been sustained, and that this ruling required the plaintiff in error to use one of his peremptory challenges to remove the juror from the panel, we held that the refusal to sustain the challenge was not prejudicial error, as the record disclosed that the defendant was allowed twenty-two peremptory challenges, when the law allowed but twenty.

In the petition for rehearing, it is alleged that the record discloses that in fact the accused was allowed twenty peremptory challenges and no more, and this allegation is accompanied by an affidavit of counsel giving the names of twenty persons challenged peremptorily by the plaintiff in error, and stating that no other peremptory challenges were allowed to him at the trial. In this statement, the counsel is mistaken. An examination of the original transcript, as also the printed transcript, shows that a juror, H. A. Shearer, was called and examined upon his *voir dire* (printed transcript, p. 79), and later was peremptorily challenged by the plaintiff in error (printed transcript, p. 143) and excused from the panel. H. A. Shearer's name does not appear upon the list of those as to whom peremptory challenges were made and sustained in plaintiff in error's behalf as given in the petition and affidavit for

a rehearing. It does appear in the transcript that plaintiff in error was allowed twenty-one peremptory challenges, and it follows that his right to exercise such challenges was not abridged to his prejudice by the failure to allow the single challenge for cause which, in our opinion, should have been sustained by the trial judge. Furthermore, the record shows that, after the ruling and challenge as to Williamson, the plaintiff in error had other peremptory challenges which he might have used, and the record does not disclose that other than an impartial jury sat on the trial. *See Spies v. Illinois,* 123 U. S. 131 , 123 U. S. 168 , and cases cited.

It follows that the petition for rehearing must be denied.

So ordered.