#### PUBLICATION UPDATE

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# HANDBOOK ON WEST VIRGINIA CRIMINAL PROCEDURE

Publication 60852 Release 10 November 2021

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Chapter 1—RIGHT TO COUN-SEL

We have never held that prisoners have a constitutional right to counsel when mounting collateral attacks upon their convictions, and we decline to so hold today. Our cases establish that the right to appointed counsel extends to the first appeal of right, and no further. *White v. Ames*, No. 2:19-cv-00121, 2021 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 63796 (S.D. W. Va. Feb. 9, 2021).

Chapter 3—ARREST, EXTRADI-

#### TION AND DETAINER

The Fourth Amendment safeguards inherent in a Terry stop likewise constrain an officer's authority to compel disclosure of someone's identity. A individual's concerns are met by the requirement that a Terry stop must be justified at its inception and reasonably related in scope to the circumstances which justified the initial stop. For example, an officer may not arrest a suspect for failure to identify himself if the request for identification is not reasonably related to the circumstances justifying the stop. Nor may the request impermissibly extend the stop, suggesting an effort to obtain an arrest for failure to identify after a Terry stop yielded insufficient evidence. Wingate v. Fulford, 987 F.3d 299, 302 (4th Cir. 2021).

#### Chapter 5—CONFESSIONS

The use of an involuntary statement or confession by a defendant in a criminal trial is a violation of the Fourteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution and W. Va. Const. art. III, § 10. The State must prove, at least by a preponderance of the evidence, that confessions or statements of an accused which amount to admissions of part or all of an offense were voluntary before such may be admitted into the evidence of a criminal case. Coercive police activity is a necessary predicate to the finding that a confession is not "voluntary" within the meaning of the Due Process Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment, Police coercion includes not only physical abuse or threats directed at a suspect but also forms of psychological coercion. *State ex rel. DeChristopher v. Gau-jot*, 856 S.E.2d 223, 226 (W. Va. 2021).

#### Chapter 6—PRETRIAL IDENTI-FICATION

Due process principles prohibit the admission at trial of an out-of-court identification obtained through procedures so impermissibly suggestive as to give rise to a very substantial likelihood of misidentification. Yet even where unnecessarily suggestive procedures are used, due process does not require exclusion of the evidence if the identification was sufficiently reliable to preclude the substantial likelihood of misidentification. *United States v. Parks*, No. 19-4922, 2021 U.S. App. LEXIS 6983 (4th Cir. Mar. 10, 2021).

#### Chapter 7—ENTRAPMENT

Entrapment is an affirmative defense consisting of two related elements: government inducement of the crime, and a lack of predisposition on the part of the defendant to engage in the criminal conduct. To establish entrapment, a defendant must first demonstrate the government induced him to engage in the criminal activity. Inducement is a term of art: it involves elements of governmental overreaching and conduct sufficiently excessive to implant a criminal design in the mind of an otherwise innocent party. United States v. Davis, 839 F. App'x 796,

796 (4th Cir. 2021).

## Chapter 8—JURISDICTION AND VENUE

Personal jurisdiction over a criminal defendant is established by the presence of the defendant before the court. Personal jurisdiction in a criminal case is still based on physical presence. Physical presence in the United States usually supplies the only necessary prerequisite for personal jurisdiction in a federal criminal prosecution. *United States v. Harris*, 991 F.3d 552, 554 (4th Cir. 2021).

## Chapter 16—INSANITY AND MENTAL COMPETENCY

Where defendant was deemed incompetent to stand trial and Government's motion seeking permission to forcibly medicate defendant was granted, remand was warranted because district court did not acknowledge requirement that it must consider less intrusive means administering defendant medication such as court order backed by contempt sanctions, and court was required to explain why less intrusive means would prove ineffectual. United States v. Chatmon, 718 F.3d 369, 2013 U.S. App. LEXIS 11644 (4th Cir. 2013), writ denied, 832 Fed. Appx. 237, 2021 U.S. App. LEXIS 138 (4th Cir. 2021).

### Chapter 18—INSTRUCTIONS TO THE JURY

An inquiry in the harmless error test is to examine the impact of the error on the jury verdict. In any inquiry into the prejudicial impact of the error, the supreme court of appeals will be guided by whether the record reveals that the error was repeated or singled out for special emphasis in the State's argument. It will scrutinize the record to determine if the error became the subject of a special instruction to the jury, or produced question from the jury. Also of importance is the overall quality of the State's proof. *State v. Costello*, 857 S.E.2d 51, 54 (W. Va. 2021).

## Chapter 22—APPEALS AND COLLATERAL ATTACKS

The appellate standard of review of questions of law and certified by a circuit court is de novo. Similarly, the constitutionality of a statute is a question of law which the Supreme Court of Appeals of West Virginia reviews de novo. The supreme court of appeals evaluates the certified questions with caution, keeping in mind the importance of judicial restraint because a statute is presumed to be constitutional. When the constitutionality of a statute is questioned every reasonable construction of the statute must be resorted to by a court in order to sustain constitutionality, and any doubt must be resolved in favor of the constitutionality of the legislative enactment. State v. Conner, 855 S.E.2d 902, 905 (W. Va. 2021).

#### Chapter 24—JUDICAIL DIS-QUALIFICATION AND DIS-ABILTY

The matter of judicial recusal and disqualification is a matter of discretion reposed solely in the presiding judge and the Chief Justice of the West Virginia Supreme Court of Appeals. *David C. v. Tammy S.*, 855 S.E.2d 885, 886 (W. Va. 2021).

## Chapter 26—CONTEMPT OF COURT

The contempt is civil where the purpose to be served by imposing a sanction for contempt is to compel compliance with a court order by the contemner so as to benefit the party bringing the contempt action by enforcing, protecting, or assuring the right of that party under the order. The appropriate sanction in a civil contempt case is an order that incarcerates a contemner for an indefinite term and that also specifies a reasonable manner in which the contempt may be purged thereby securing the

immediate release of the contemner. or an order requiring the payment of a fine in the nature of compensation or damages to the party aggrieved by the failure of the contemner to comply with the order. The contempt is criminal where the purpose to be served by imposing a sanction for contempt is to punish the contemner for an affront to the dignity or authority of the court, or to preserve or restore order in the court or respect for the court. The appropriate sanction in a criminal contempt case is an order sentencing the contemner to a definite term of imprisonment or an order requiring the contemner to pay a fine in a determined amount. Rector v. Ross, No. 19-1037, 2021 W. Va. LEXIS 312 (June 10, 2021).

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Publication 60852

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