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THE SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SANTA CRUZ

People of the State of California,)	Case #s: 90201037,
)	90242520 & 90319433
	Plaintiff.)	
)	DECLARATION IN
VS.)	SUPPORT OF
		Ś	PRESERVING CASE
Dishard I Ordalar		,	FOR APPEAL UPON
Richard J. Quigley)	ENTRY OF PLEA OF
)	NOLO CONTENDRE
	Defendant.)	(PC §1237.5)

COMES NOW THE DEFENDANT, pursuant to Penal Code Section 1237.5(a), and declares, under penalty of perjury, as follows:

STATEMENT OF FACTS

On June 20, in Department 10 of the Traffic Division of the Superior Court of California, in and for the County of California, the defendant entered a plea of nolo contendere on three counts of allegedly violating CVC Section 27803(b), and filed this declaration with the court to preserve his right to appeal pursuant to Penal Code §1237.5 (in addition to his right to appeal pursuant to Penal Code §1538.5, which does not require this declaration), on reasonable constitutional, jurisdictional, and other grounds which go to the legality of the proceedings, as follows:

I. GROUNDS FOR APPEAL

A. THE COURT LACKS JURISDICTION

Defendant has notified that court from the beginning that he would not waive any of his constitutionally protected rights, and asserted from the beginning that the court did not have jurisdiction proceed against the defendant against defendant's will and over his objections, in that:

- 1. The defendant did not (and will not) stipulate to a Traffic Referee (as opposed to an elected Judge) assuming jurisdiction over a criminal matter for which a defendant is bound to answer.
- 2. The defendant did not (and will not) waive his right to the filing of a proper verified complaint, by the public prosecutor, as a prerequisite to any court assuming jurisdiction over a criminal action.
- 3. The defendant did not (and will not) enter a plea to a traffic citation, a "Notice to Appear," or any other complaint, that does not substantially conform to Penal Code Sections 950 and 952, as provided in Penal Code §1004.
- 4. The defendant did not (and will not) waive his right to rely on the plain language of the statutes, as interpreted by the higher courts, in his defense.

By its actions 1) the trial court has presumed jurisdiction over the defendant, against the will and over the objection(s) of the defendant, by in essence ruling (without citing authority) that the defendant must either accept the jurisdiction of the court, or move to disqualify the court (170.6 or 170.1), and that no stipulation by the defendant is required as a condition of a Traffic Referee assuming jurisdiction over infraction matters; 2) that the public prosecutor is not required to file a verified complaint against the defendant as a condition of the court assuming jurisdiction in that a "Notice to Appear" filed on a form "approved by

the Judicial Council," "verified" by the citing officer, establishes jurisdiction for the court; 3) that because the complaint (the aforementioned Notice to Appear) is on a form approved by the Judicial Council, demurrer relating to defects in the complaint are not sustainable; and 4) ruled, in essence that the bald assertions of the prosecutor are superior to the plain language of the statutes, and supersede the rulings of the higher courts.

B. THE ALLEGATIONS DO NOT CONSTITUTE A PUBLIC OFFENSE

Defendant has loaded the court up with evidence that violations of CVC §27803 — because they involve "equipment" infractions contained in Division 12 of the Vehicle Code — are correctable equipment violations pursuant to Vehicle Code §40303.5.

The court has ignored the plain language of the statute(s), deferring instead to the unsupported contentions (bordering on neurotic snits) of the prosecutor that they are not.

The record will show that the defendant challenged the prosecutor directly, to come up with something — any authority whatsoever beyond "cause I said so" — that disproves the defendant's contention that Vehicle Code §40303.5 establishes the violations as correctable violations.

The best the prosecutor could do, in response, was read from Division 12, citing statutes having to do with clearance lights and the like, as if the fact that clearance lights are equipment somehow belies helmets belonging in Division 12?

The case file and record of proceedings will show that the defendant has provided a history of evaluation of the statute establishing §27803 as falling within the category of correctable violations, including the plain language of Vehicle Code §40303.5, definitions of helmets

as equipment, transcripts of discussions of the California Judicial Council relating to statute, letters from the current Attorney General, the sitting Chief Justice of the California Supreme Court and others, explaining their understanding that the statutes clearly make helmet tickets correctable violations; but the court ruled, instead, that based on nothing from the prosecutor, that a ruling from the CJC in 1994 which attempted to change the nature of the statute, is adequate authority for the court to ignore the plain language of the statute.

Defendant subsequently provided the court with a copy of an Appellate Court Decision — *California Court Reporters Association v.*California Judicial Council, 39 Cal App 4th 15 — which states in plain language that the CJC is forbidden from causing a statute to be applied in a manner inconsistent with the plain language of the statute, only to once again be ignored.

It is clear that no matter the plain meaning of the statutes, when that meaning does not support the desires of the prosecutor to obtain a conviction of the defendant, the statutes are being ignored — a condition, more than any other, which eliminates any possibility that the defendant can defend his innocence.

C. CONSTITUTIONALITY OF THE STATUTE

The defendant moved the court to rule that the subject statute was unconstitutional, *as applied*. In addition to filing an extensive brief outlining the authorities — both statutory and precedent decisions — supporting his contention, the defendant subpoenaed the many officers who had cited the defendant so that he could demonstrate that none of the officers knew what the statute required.

The prosecutor called for an offer of proof as to the officers' testimony, which the defendant explained was for the purpose of eliciting

testimony that would make the vagueness of the statute, as applied, clear — the statute is a "specific intent" statute, with requirements that are so vague as to leave even the most informed officer to necessarily guess at what constitutes compliance.

The court dismissed the witnesses, ruling that both the *Buhl* and *Bianco* courts had found the statute to be constitutional, and denied the defendant's motion on that ground, released the witnesses without hearing their testimony, and set the matter for trial.

The court ignored the defendant's pleas that both *Buhl* and *Bianco* had ruled on the constitutionality of the statute as written, and not as applied, and were therefore not suitable authority for a finding against the defendant on the issue of a constitutional challenge.

For reasons that will be explained in depth on appeal, the court's denial of the defendant's opportunity to challenge the constitutionality of the statute, in the context of a motion (rather than at trial), effectively denied the defendant the opportunity to argue the issue at all, even on appeal — the testimony of the officers as to their training and understanding of the elements of the statutes was *absolutely essential* to the defendant's ability to challenge the statute on constitutional grounds . . . an absolute right of the defendant.

D. ADMISSIBILITY OF EVIDENCE AT TRIAL

Defendant argued that the *Buhl* court had founded it's decision that the statute is constitutional purely on the basis of the plain language of the statute; and that underpinning their decision was the assertion that the statute did not require either the consumer (the defendant) or an enforcement officer to determine proper helmet fabrication — an opinion they held so strongly that they called even the proposition that it could be otherwise, "absurd."

However, the court overruled the defendant's objection to any reference to proper helmet fabrication on the grounds that it was irrelevant, again without citing any authority that would override the clear language of *Buhl* — save for some oblique reference to the *Bianco* decision, which had absolutely nothing to do with anyone except Steve Bianco himself, the object of the *Bianco* decision.

E. RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

The defendant requested, and the court provided, recording equipment, and all proceedings have been recorded on audio tape. A settled statement will be made from these recordings in preparation for appeal, as soon as the Notice of Appeal has been filed.

ISSUES RIPE FOR APPEAL

WHEREFORE, defendant has entered a plea of "nolo contendre" and, relying on Penal Code §§ 1538.5 and 1237.5, will move to the Appellate Department of the Superior Court, in and for Santa Cruz County, to obtain an authoritative ruling on the following questions:

- 1. Does the Traffic Court and a Traffic Referee have jurisdiction over infraction matters, absent a stipulation by an accused to having the matter heard by a Traffic Referee rather than an elected Judge of the court? And, if a stipulation to having a matter heard by a Commissioner requires a stipulation, what authority exists for a Traffic Referee to rise above a Commissioner with regard to jurisdiction?
- 2. What authority exists that would allow *anyone* but the District Attorney initiate a criminal action against a Citizen? And if so, can such criminal action be based on a complaint verified only by the citing officer?
- 3. Does the fact that a Notice to Appear is filed on a form which is "approved by the Judicial Council," when adopted by the court as a

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"verified complaint," rise above demur on the grounds that it is incomplete and insufficient — particularly if it does not substantially conform to the requirements of Penal Code Sections 950 & 952 (as required by Penal Code §1004), and which is not verified by the public prosecutor?

- 4. When a citation alleging a violation of an equipment violation set forth in Division 12 is issued, and none of the disqualifying conditions of 40610 are alleged on the charging documents (in this case, a Notice to Appear), what authority is there for the court to disregard the plain language of Vehicle Code §40303.5?
- 5. Can the opinion of the Appellate Court as to the constitutionality of a statute as written, be used as authority to deny a constitutional challenge of the statute as applied?
- 6. Did the Buhl court mean what it said when it ruled that "the proposition that the statute would require the consumer or enforcement officer to determine if a helmet is properly fabricated . . . is absurd"; and, is the trial court, any trial court, bound by that decision?
- 7. Is a defendant entitled to the precident rulings of courts of record, superior to the trial court?
- Did the failure of the trial court to entertain a constitutional challenge of the helmet law, on vaguess, as applied, deny the defendant of his constitutional rights to a fair and impartial trial?
- 9. Did the trial court err when it excused witnesses that were essential to the defendant's attempt to show that the law is void for vagueness as applied?
- 10. If the law does not apply, and Appellate and higher court opinions are secondary to the opinions expressed by the prosecuting attorney; by what rules are trials on traffic matters to be conducted?
 - 11. Can a baliff, on duty as a bailiff, driving a prisoner transport

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