

No. 93293-0

No. 46062-9-II

COURT OF APPEALS, DIVISION II
OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON

STATE OF WASHINGTON,
Appellant,

vs.

Ascencion Salgado-Mendoza,
Respondent.

Jefferson County Superior Court
Cause No. 13-1-00105-1
The Honorable Judge Keith Harper

Respondent's Supplemental Brief

Jodi R. Backlund
Manek R. Mistry
Skylar T. Brett
Attorneys for Respondent

BACKLUND & MISTRY
P.O. Box 6490
Olympia, WA 98507
(360) 339-4870
backlundmistry@gmail.com

TABLE OF CONTENTS

TABLE OF CONTENTS i

TABLE OF AUTHORITIES ii

SUPPLEMENTAL ISSUE 3

SUPPLEMENTAL FACTS 3

ARGUMENT..... 3

CONCLUSION 4

TABLE OF AUTHORITIES

WASHINGTON STATE CASES

State v. Blazina, 182 Wn.2d 827, 344 P.3d 680 (2015)..... 3, 4

State v. Sinclair, 72102-0-I, 2016 WL 393719 (Wash. Ct. App. Jan. 27, 2016)..... 3

OTHER AUTHORITIES

GR 34 4

SUPPLEMENTAL ISSUE

If the state substantially prevails on appeal and makes a proper request for costs, should the Court of Appeals decline to impose appellate costs because Ascencion Salgado-Mendoza is indigent, as noted in the Order of Indigency?

SUPPLEMENTAL FACTS

At this point in the appellate process, the Court of Appeals has yet to issue a decision terminating review. Neither the state nor the appellant can be characterized as the substantially prevailing party.

Nonetheless, the Court of Appeals has indicated that indigent appellants must object in advance to any cost bill that might eventually be filed by the state, should it substantially prevail. *State v. Sinclair*, 72102-0-I, 2016 WL 393719 (Wash. Ct. App. Jan. 27, 2016).¹

ARGUMENT

Appellate costs are “indisputably” discretionary in nature. *Sinclair*, 72102-0-I, 2016 WL 393719 at * 4. The concerns identified by the Supreme Court in *Blazina* apply with equal force to this court’s discretionary decisions on appellate costs. *State v. Blazina*, 182 Wn.2d 827, 344 P.3d 680 (2015).

¹ Division II’s commissioner has indicated that Division II will follow *Sinclair*.

The trial court found Ascencion Salgado-Mendoza indigent at the beginning and end of the proceedings in superior court. That status is unlikely to change, especially with the addition of the felony conviction(s) at issue here, and considering the sentence given. The *Blazina* court indicated that courts should “seriously question” the ability of a person who meets the GR 34 standard for indigency to pay discretionary legal financial obligations. *Id.* at 839

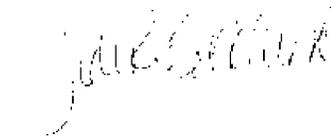
If the state substantially prevails on this appeal, this court should exercise its discretion to deny any appellate costs requested.

CONCLUSION

If the state should substantially prevail on appeal, the Court of Appeals should deny any request for appellate costs.

Respectfully submitted on March 4, 2016.

BACKLUND AND MISTRY



Jodi R. Backlund, WSBA No. 22917
Attorney for the Respondent

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I certify that on today's date:

I mailed a copy of Respondent's Supplemental Brief, postage prepaid, to:

Ascencion Salgado-Mendoza
1627 Carlsborg Rd
Sequim, WA 98382

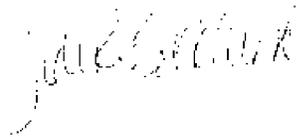
With the permission of the recipient(s), I delivered an electronic version of the brief, using the Court's filing portal, to:

Jefferson County Prosecuting Attorney
prosecutors@co.jefferson.wa.us

I filed the Respondent's Supplemental Brief electronically with the Court of Appeals, Division II, through the Court's online filing system.

I CERTIFY UNDER PENALTY OF PERJURY UNDER THE LAWS OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON THAT THE FOREGOING IS TRUE AND CORRECT.

Signed at Olympia, Washington on March 4, 2016.



Jodi R. Backlund, WSBA No. 22917
Attorney for the Respondent

BACKLUND & MISTRY

March 04, 2016 - 4:20 PM

Transmittal Letter

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Court of Appeals Case Number: 46062-9

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