

California Post-Conviction Relief for Immigrants

2002 Update

Detailed Table of Contents

CHAPTER ONE:

INTRODUCTION AND OVERVIEW

§ 1.4 IV. Overview of Relief Available Under California Law 1

CHAPTER THREE:

EVALUATING THE CHANCES OF OBTAINING POST-CONVICTION RELIEF FOR IMMIGRATION PURPOSES

II. A Triage Guide to Post-Conviction Cases

C. The Timing of the Case

§ 3.31 4. There Is Still Time To Reopen the Immigration
Case if Criminal Convictions Are Eliminated..... 3

CHAPTER FIVE:

DEVELOPING A STRATEGY

III. Recognizing Possible Adverse Consequences of Obtaining
Post-Conviction Relief

§ 5.17 A. Adverse Criminal Consequences 5

CHAPTER SIX: VEHICLES FOR VACATING A CONVICTION

§ 6.12	III. Motion To Withdraw Guilty Plea Under Penal Code § 1018	7
[NEW] § 6.12A	IIIA. Motion to Withdraw Guilty Plea - Federal	7
§ 6.13	IV. Direct Appeal From Conviction	8
	V. Writ of Habeas Corpus	
§ 6.22	A. General Requirements For Issuance Of The Writ.....	8
§ 6.23	B. Federal Habeas Corpus – Generally.....	9
	C. The Petition Must Be Timely Filed	
	1. Federal Habeas Corpus	
§ 6.28	b. Statutory Tolling.....	10
§ 6.29	c. Equitable Tolling	11
§ 6.32	D. The Requirement Of Custody	11
§ 6.37	E. Procedure.....	12
§ 6.39	VI. Petition For Writ Of Error <i>Coram Nobis</i>	12
§ 6.47	VII. Statutory Motion To Vacate Based On Judge’s Failure To Provide § 1016.5 Warning Of Possible Adverse Immigration Consequences.....	13

CHAPTER SEVEN: GROUNDS FOR VACATING THE CONVICTION

§ 7.1	I. Geography of the Field.....	17
	II. Violations of the Right To Counsel	
	A. Denial of Counsel	
§ 7.4	2. Invalid Waiver of Right to Counsel	17
	B. Ineffective Assistance of Counsel	
§ 7.8	2. Failure to Conduct Competent Investigation of the Facts	18
§ 7.10	4. Failure to Advise the Defendant of the Element and Defenses	
	D. Conflict of Interest	
§ 7.29	3. Conflict Between Defendant and Counsel	18
[NEW] § 7.29A	4. The Trial Court's Duty to Inquire	

	as to a Conflict	19
§ 7.30	III. Invalid Guilty Pleas	19
§ 7.31	A. Ineffective Waiver of Jury Trial.....	20
§ 7.41	I. Failure to Disclose Plea Agreement on the Record	21
§ 7.44	L. Failure to Advise the Noncitizen Defendant of the Right to Contact the Consulate	21
	IV. Violations Of The Right to An Interpreter	
§ 7.47	B. Grounds for Invalidating Conviction for Violation of the Right to an Interpreter.....	21
	V. Other Grounds For Vacating Guilty Pleas	
§ 7.49	A. Jurisdictional Defects	23
§ 7.51	C. Prosecution Withholding of Exculpatory Evidence	23

CHAPTER EIGHT:

VACATING OR REDUCING THE SENTENCE

	I. Introduction	
§ 8.1	A. Definition Of “Sentence Imposed”	25
	II. Obtaining An Effective Order Vacating Or Reducing A Sentence	
§ 8.21	C. Obtaining an Order Modifying the Original Sentence	26
	IV. Procedural Vehicles For Vacating Or Reducing The Sentence	
§ 8.26	C. Non-Statutory Motion to Vacate Sentence	27
	V. Grounds To Vacate The Sentence	
§ 8.34	B. Substantive Constitutional Guarantees	28
§ 8.35	C. Due Process Rights in the Sentencing Hearing	29

CHAPTER NINE:

MOTIONS TO REDUCE THE LEVEL OF THE OFFENSE

	II. Immigration Consequences of Reducing The Level Of The Offense	
§ 9.3	A. The Most Recent Sentence Determines the Immigration Consequences of the Conviction	32
§ 9.4	B. The Felony/Misdemeanor Distinction in Immigration Law	33
§ 9.5	1. Possible Future Changes in BIA Policy	34

§ 9.6	2. Some Crimes of Violence Are Aggravated Felonies Only if the Conviction Is a Felony	34
§ 9.7	3. Some Other Convictions Are Aggravated Felonies Only if the Conviction Is a Felony	37
	a. State First-Offense Controlled Substances	
§ 9.8- § 9.10	(1). State First-Offense Controlled Substances Possession Convictions	38
§§ 9.11- 9.16	b. The Level of California Controlled Substances Offenses.....	43
	III. Post-Conviction Reduction Of Felony To Misdemeanor	
	A. Motion to Reduce a Conviction from a Felony to a Misdemeanor Under Penal Code	
§ 9.48	9. Review of Grant or Denial of Motion to Reduce	43

CHAPTER TEN: EXPUNGEMENTS

§ 10.2	II. The Immigration Effect of Expungements.....	45
	VII. Other Forms Of Rehabilitative Relief	
§ 10.31	D. Executive Pardons	49

CHAPTER ELEVEN: PRACTICAL CONSIDERATIONS

	V. Getting the Client Released from Immigration Custody	
§§ 11.15, 11.16	A. Immigration Holds and Detainers; Bonds in Immigration Court.....	51
§§ 11.17, 11.18	C. Mandatory INS Detention	51
	VI. Obtaining Post-Conviction Relief	
§ 11.20	A. The Post-Conviction Action is not Rendered Moot by the Client's Deportation	53
	VII. Exposure for Illegal Re-Entry	
§ 11.23	A. The Elements of the Offense of Illegal Re-Entry.....	54
§ 11.24	B. Defending an Illegal Re-Entry Prosecution.....	54

