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CRIMINAL LAW & PROCEDURE

US v. Robinson, No. 12-2336

Defendant's convictions on multiple drug trafficking crimes are affirmed, where: 1) defendant was not deprived of his Sixth Amendment right to counsel; 2) although the district judge's Faretta warnings could have been more explicit, she did not err when she allowed defendant to represent himself at trial; and 3) the district judge did not err in refusing defendant's requests for continuances.

CLASS ACTIONS, CONSUMER PROTECTION LAW, CONTRACTS, INJURY & TORT LAW, INSURANCE LAW

Feingold v. John Hancock Life Insurance Co., No. 13-2151

Dismissal of a putative class action for damages arising from defendant-insurer's adherence to contractual terms requiring that defendant be given notice of the death of its insureds before death benefits are paid out to beneficiaries is affirmed, where: 1) plaintiff fails to state a claim based on the alleged regulatory agreement between defendant and several states that was entered into to resolve disputes related to state governments' ongoing audit of defendant's handling of unclaimed property; and 2) plaintiff's other arguments are waived and do not give rise to a claim under Illinois law.

PROPERTY LAW & REAL ESTATE, BANKING LAW, CONTRACTS

Mills v. US Bank NA, No. 13-1907

Dismissal of plaintiff's suit challenging defendant-bank's foreclosure of her home is affirmed, where: 1) because legal title to the mortgage remained vested in MERS and not in the noteholder, the intermediary transfers of the note in no way undermined the subsequent assignment of the mortgage from MERS to defendant-bank; 2) the assignment of plaintiff mortgage from MERS to defendant-bank did not run afoul of Massachusetts law; 3) plaintiff's remaining arguments fail; and 4) the district court did not err in refusing to grant leave to amend.