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U.S. 1ST CIRCUIT COURT OF APPEALS

ADMINISTRATIVE LAW, ERISA, HEALTH LAW, LABOR & EMPLOYMENT
LAW

Candelaria v. Johnson & Johnson, No. 13-1564

The district court's dismissal of plaintiff's claims under the Employee Retirement Income Security Act (ERISA) alleging that defendants arbitrarily and capriciously terminated his disability benefits is affirmed, where, given the substantial record evidence supporting the defendants' determination, the decision to terminate plaintiff's benefits did not constitute an abuse of discretion and was neither arbitrary nor capricious.

BANKING LAW, CONTRACTS, PROPERTY LAW & REAL ESTATE

Grapentine v. Pawtucket Credit Union, No. 13-1897

Dismissal of plaintiff's complaint alleging that defendant's foreclosure of her property pursuant to the parties' mortgage agreement, which was authorized by a state statute, violated her due process rights, is affirmed, where: 1) there is no federal jurisdiction; and thus, 2) the district court properly dismissed plaintiff's complaint for lack of jurisdiction.

CRIMINAL LAW & PROCEDURE, SENTENCING

US v. Merritt, No. 12-2111

Defendant's conviction and sentence for possession of crack cocaine with intent to distribute are affirmed, where: 1) the court below did not abuse its discretion in refusing to allow defendant to withdraw his guilty plea following the scandal involving a state chemist who deliberately contaminated certain samples and her certification of others without chemical testing; and 2) defendant's sentence is substantively reasonable.