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Criminal Law & Procedure, Sentencing

US v. Adorno-Molina, 13-1065

Conviction and sentence of defendant on drug trafficking conspiracy and money laundering charges related to her involvement in a wide-ranging drug trafficking organization (DTO) is affirmed, where: 1) the record contains ample circumstantial evidence to demonstrate that defendant knew she was assisting the DTO through her actions in procuring vehicles; 2) the money laundering charge stands because the government only needed to prove that the laundered funds were gross revenues of the DTO, which plaintiff concedes; 3) the district court did not err in giving a willful blindness instruction; and 4) the district court's calculation of the amount of laundered funds attributed to defendant for purposes of sentencing was a "reasonable estimate" and, therefore, there was no plain error.

Civil Procedure, Injury & Tort Law

Ira Green, Inc. v. Military Sales & Service Co., 14-1178

In this commercial dispute between two business rivals in which plaintiff charged the defendant with tortious interference and defamation, the jury returned a take-nothing verdict and the district court denied plaintiff's post-trial motions and awarded costs to defendant. Judgment in favor of defendant is affirmed, where, though plaintiff requested a jury poll (Federal Rules of Procedure 48(c)) and did not receive one, a party who requests a jury poll must act reasonably to preserve its rights and, in the circumstances of this case, plaintiff did not do so.

Labor & Employment Law

EEOC v. Kohl's Department Stores, Inc., 14-1268

In this case, plaintiff Equal Employment Opportunity Commission asserts that defendant department store refused to provide a former employee with reasonable accommodations in violation of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), and that, by failing to comply with the ADA, defendant constructively discharged its employee. Summary judgment in favor of defendant on both claims is affirmed, where defendant offered its former employee multiple opportunities to discuss reasonable accommodations, and so the facts, even when read in plaintiff's favor, substantiate neither a claim for ADA discrimination nor a claim for constructive discharge.