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Sentencing, Criminal Law & Procedure

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US v. Amaro-Santiago

May 31, 2016

Sentencing, Criminal Law & Procedure

(United States First Circuit) - Sentence and conviction of drug and weapons offenses committed in connection with the Federal Bureau of Investigation's Operation Guard Shack, which targeted corrupt Puerto Rico police officers, are affirmed where: 1) defendant has not shown that the prosecutor's statements require reversal of his convictions; 2) the District Court did not abuse his discretion in denying the motion for a mistrial; 3) defendant has not met his burden of showing that the jury was coerced, and thus has not shown that the District Court's Allen charge constituted plain error; 4) evidence was sufficient to support conviction; and 5) there were no jury instruction errors.

Jenkins v. Bergeron

May 27, 2016

Habeas Corpus, Criminal Law & Procedure

(United States First Circuit) - Denial of petition for a writ of habeas corpus relief from conviction of first degree murder is affirmed where because there is no Supreme Court precedent clearly establishing the proper standard and burdens for assessing whether a criminal defendant has validly waived his right to testify, petitioner is not entitled to habeas relief.