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## **Most Recent Summaries**

### **US v. Parker**

September 19, 2017

Evidence, Criminal Law & Procedure

(United States First Circuit) - Affirming the conviction of a felon for possession of ammunition and a firearm because the judge's failure to voir dire jurors individually about their feelings toward race, the admission of evidence of other gun and ammo purchases, and inclusion of instructions relating to willful blindness did not rise to reversible error.

### **Ironshore Specialty Insurance Company v. US**

September 15, 2017

Oil and Gas Law, Civil Procedure, Water Law

(United States First Circuit) - Affirming the dismissal of a insurer's Oil Pollution Act claims against the United States arising from an oil spill cleanup but reversing the dismissal of their general admiralty and maritime negligence claims against the US pursuant to the Suits in Admiralty Act, while affirming the dismissal of all claims against a military contractor because the Oil Pollution Act did not supplant and preempt all claims where the a public vessel is involved and sovereign immunity prevented suit against the agent of the US.

### **US v. Monteiro**

September 15, 2017

Evidence, Criminal Law & Procedure

(United States First Circuit) - Affirming convictions for robbery and drug conspiracy in a case where the defendant's former accomplice was apprehended by DEA agents and flipped to become a government witness because the joinder of drug conspiracy and robbery charges did not violate Federal Rules of Civil Procedure due to the relationship between the criminal acts, evidence was properly admitted, and an erroneous ruling against the defendant was harmless given the overwhelming evidence against him.

### **Lucien v. Spencer**

September 15, 2017

Habeas Corpus, Criminal Law & Procedure

(United States First Circuit) - Affirming the district court's denial of a writ of habeas corpus arising from convictions for first-degree murder, counts of armed robbery, and unlawful possession of a firearm because the admission of a witness's plea agreement was not prejudicial where the court made instruction regarding the inferences that could be drawn from the plea, flaws in jury instruction did not result in an unreasonable application of due process law, and

counsel was not ineffective as a result of several decisions made in the course of the trial relating to strategy.

**US v. Naranjo Rosario**

September 15, 2017

Sentencing, Criminal Law & Procedure, Evidence

(United States First Circuit) - Affirming convictions for drug and gun offenses because the convictions were not the result of error, the admission of testimony by the handler of a narcotics-detecting dog was proper, and the district court did not err in calculating the sentence.