PUBLICATION UPDATE

Route to:		

Real Estate Transactions: Purchase and Sale of Real Property

Publication 658 Release 37 May 2024

HIGHLIGHTS

Important new real estate cases covered:

- The intestate transfer of purchaser's estate, including his equitable interest in a farm, did not violate the antitransfer clause contained in the contract for deed (installment land contract). See § 2.02[8][m].
- The Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court declined to adopt a rule that precluded recovery of expectation damages by an exclusive buyers' agent where the alleged oral contract was sufficiently specific to alert the buyers that the broker was entitled to receive a commission. See § 25.05[3][c].
- Exclusive commercial listing agreements, although in

- compliance with Connecticut law as to duration, constituted personal service contracts that terminated when the personal performance of the named broker died. See § 25.03[4].
- Under right of first refusal, as condominium tenant was not provided with the purchase price and terms of the sale, tenant was not required to establish that it was ready, willing, and able to perform. See § 27.01[2].
- The Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals, applying Texas law, found that email exchanges did not create an enforceable contract, as the exchanges did not identify the property or constitute an unequivocal offer or acceptance. See § 32.02[2].
- An exchange of emails may satisfy the requirement of a

- "writing" under the statute of frauds in Massachusetts. See § 32.02[2].
- A purported agreement for the sale of realty did not satisfy the statute of frauds, as the property description was insufficient. See § 32.02[3][b].
- A purported agreement for the sale of realty did not satisfy the statute of frauds, as the purchase price identified was contingent on the parties reaching a consensus on the terms of a sellerfinanced loan. See § 32.02[3][c].
- A memorandum agreement confirming a grandmother's contribution to the purchase of a house satisfied Alaska's statute of frauds. See § 32.02[4].

Specific performance of the residential purchase agreement was unavailable because the property was not a part of decedent's estate under Missouri law, as the property had already transferred to respondent upon decedent's death by way of a beneficiary deed (transfer-on-death deed). See § 33.03[2].

Building code violations regulating a firewall did not breach a warranty deed under Michigan law because the City had taken no action to enforce the code at the time the deed was executed, and the violation was not an encumbrance that affected ownership interest in the land. See § 33.04[1][c].

A rescinding party must act with reasonable diligence in seeking rescission so that the parties may be restored to their original position as nearly as possible. See § 39.01[4][b].

Under Oklahoma law, the measure of damages for breach of a real estate contract by a buyer is the difference between the market value of the property and the contract price. See § 39.02[4].

The property disclosure form, in conjunction with the inspection report, put the buyers on notice of the foundation settling issue, such that they could not recover damages under a theory of failure to disclose. See § 40.01.

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Publication 658

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