

MICHELLE NORDWALL

v.

ALAN NORDWALL JR.

Argued October 14, 2011  
Decided November 3, 2011

Panel: SAUFLEY, C.J., and ALEXANDER, LEVY, SILVER, MEAD,  
GORMAN, and JABAR, JJ.

#### MEMORANDUM OF DECISION

Alan Nordwall Jr. appeals from a divorce judgment of the District Court (West Bath, *Tucker, J.*). Alan contends that the trial court (1) abused its discretion by admitting irrelevant evidence regarding the finances of a corporation in which each party was a shareholder, (2) improperly adopted Michelle's proposed divorce judgment verbatim, and (3) made factual findings about the parties' financial capabilities that were unsupported by the evidence.

None of these arguments have merit. The court properly admitted evidence regarding the finances of the corporation because each party's ownership interest in the corporation was relevant to the disposition of marital property. *See* 19-A M.R.S. § 953(1) (2010). The court's adoption of Michelle's proposed divorce judgment was not an abuse of discretion because most of the terms of the judgment were undisputed by the parties and the court made additional findings of fact that establish that the court carefully reviewed the evidence and applied its independent judgment. *See Jarvis v. Jarvis*, 2003 ME 53, ¶¶ 14-15, 832 A.2d 775. Finally, the court's factual findings regarding the parties' comparative financial capabilities are supported by evidence in the record. *See id.* ¶ 18.

Although we decline to impose sanctions as requested by Michelle, we remand this case to the District Court to determine the amount of attorney fees and costs incurred on appeal to be awarded to her.

The entry is:

Judgment affirmed; remanded for determination of attorney fees and costs on appeal to be awarded to Michelle Nordwall.

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**On the briefs:**

Jon A. Languet, Esq., Languet Law, LLC, Topsham, for appellant Alan Nordwall, Jr.

Michael Dubois, Esq., Lewiston, for appellee Michelle Nordwall

**At oral argument:**

Jon A. Languet, Esq., for appellant Alan Nordwall Jr.

Michael Dubois, Esq., for appellee Michelle Nordwall