

LINDA J. (BAMFORD) GRABAN

v.

LAUREL M. BAMFORD

Argued May 10, 2017

Decided May 25, 2017

Panel: SAUFLEY, C.J., and ALEXANDER, MEAD, GORMAN, JABAR, HJELM, and HUMPHREY, JJ.

#### MEMORANDUM OF DECISION

Laurel J. Bamford appeals from a judgment of the District Court (Bangor, *Larson, J.*) divorcing the parties and equitably distributing their assets. Specifically, Laurel contests the court's determination that Eddington Auto Sales (EAS), an automobile dealership Laurel established in 1985, had become marital property for equitable distribution purposes. *See* 19-A M.R.S. § 953(1)-(2) (2016).

Contrary to Laurel's contentions, the court did not clearly err in finding that EAS is marital property. *See Spooner v. Spooner*, 2004 ME 69, ¶ 7, 850 A.2d 354. There is ample evidence in the record to support the court's finding that EAS, although originally nonmarital property, became marital property upon Laurel's "objectively manifested intent to transform the property into marital property." *Coppola v. Coppola*, 2007 ME 147, ¶ 17, 938 A.2d 786; *see* 19-A M.R.S. § 953(2). Because the real property from which EAS is operated was found to be an asset of EAS, and because there is ample support for that finding in the record, the court did not err in considering the value of that property when dividing EAS's value between the parties.

The entry is:

Judgment affirmed.

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Bangor, for appellant Laurel M. Bamford

Zachary Brandmeir, Esq. (orally), Bangor, for appellee Linda J. Graban

Bangor District Court docket number FM-2015-436  
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