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Appellate Court of Illinois,
Second District.
In re MARRIAGE OF Deborah L. HALL, Petitioner-Appellant,
and
Paul Hall, Respondent-Appellee.
No. 2-08-1210.
Aug. 25, 2010.

Background: Former wife filed petition that was characterized as one seeking to modify or reform judgment of divorce, alleging that former husband's two pension plans had been omitted from the marital settlement agreement, as incorporated into dissolution judgment, due to a mutual mistake of fact and requesting that the marital settlement agreement be reformed to allow for an equal division of the pension plans as of the date of the entry of the judgment. The Circuit Court, Lake County, [Jane D. Waller](#), J., denied petition. After her motion to reconsider was denied, former wife appealed.


Holdings: The Appellate Court, [Hutchinson](#), J., held that:

- (1) trial court was not required to identify grounds on which to vacate dissolution judgment in order to merely enforce rather than reform or modify marital settlement agreement, and
- (2) marital settlement agreement was drafted with intent to afford former wife equal shares of former husband's two pension accounts despite their omission from the agreement.

Reversed and remanded.

[McLaren](#), J., issued concurring opinion.

West Headnotes

[1] Divorce 134 892(2)

134 Divorce

134V Spousal Support, Allowances, and Disposition of Property


134V(D) Allocation of Property and Liabilities; Equitable Distribution

134V(D)9 Proceedings for Division or Assignment

134k882 Judgment or Decree

134k892 Opening and Vacating

134k892(2) k. Grounds in general. [Most Cited Cases](#)

Divorce 134 965

134 Divorce

134V Spousal Support, Allowances, and Disposition of Property


134V(E) Settlement Agreements and Stipulations

134k962 Actions and Proceedings in General

134k965 k. Jurisdiction and venue.

[Most Cited Cases](#)

Former wife was seeking to enforce, rather than reform or modify, marital settlement agreement as it related to parties' rights and obligations with respect to former husband's retirement plans, which were clearly laid out in marital settlement agreement as incorporated into judgment of dissolution, and thus, trial court had jurisdiction to enforce marital settlement agreement without first identifying grounds on which to vacate dissolution judgment, as is otherwise required under civil procedure code governing relief from judgments; although former wife labeled her filing a "petition to modify or reform judgment," the substance of petition was to enforce. S.H.A. [735 ILCS 5/2-1401](#); [750 ILCS 5/510\(b\)](#).

[2] Divorce 134 893(3)

134 Divorce

134V Spousal Support, Allowances, and Disposition of Property

[134V\(D\)](#) Allocation of Property and Liabilities; Equitable Distribution

[134V\(D\)9](#) Proceedings for Division or Assignment

[134k882](#) Judgment or Decree

[134k893](#) Modification

[134k893\(3\)](#) k. Grounds in general. [Most Cited Cases](#)

Divorce 134 **964**

[134](#) Divorce

[134V](#) Spousal Support, Allowances, and Disposition of Property

[134V\(E\)](#) Settlement Agreements and Stipulations

[134k962](#) Actions and Proceedings in General

[134k964](#) k. Time for proceedings.

[Most Cited Cases](#)

After 30 days, provisions in a marital settlement agreement that constitute property distribution are generally not modifiable or revocable, and, therefore, a trial court has jurisdiction to modify property distribution only if circumstances exist to reopen a judgment as in other civil cases. S.H.A. [750 ILCS 5/510\(b\)](#).

[3] Divorce 134 **893(3)**

[134](#) Divorce

[134V](#) Spousal Support, Allowances, and Disposition of Property

[134V\(D\)](#) Allocation of Property and Liabilities; Equitable Distribution

[134V\(D\)9](#) Proceedings for Division or Assignment

[134k882](#) Judgment or Decree

[134k893](#) Modification

[134k893\(3\)](#) k. Grounds in general. [Most Cited Cases](#)

Whether a trial court has jurisdiction to modify a property distribution provision of dissolution judgment, pursuant to section of Marriage and Dissolution of Marriage Act governing revocation or modification of property dispositions, should be con-

strued within the confines of section of civil procedure code governing relief from judgments. S.H.A. [735 ILCS 5/2-1401](#); [750 ILCS 5/510\(b\)](#).

[4] Divorce 134 **1052**

[134](#) Divorce

[134V](#) Spousal Support, Allowances, and Disposition of Property

[134V\(F\)](#) Enforcement of Judgment or Decree in General

[134k1052](#) k. Jurisdiction. [Most Cited](#)

[Cases](#)

A trial court retains indefinite jurisdiction to enforce the terms of a dissolution judgment.

[5] Appeal and Error 30 **893(1)**

[30](#) Appeal and Error

[30XVI](#) Review

[30XVI\(F\)](#) Trial De Novo

[30k892](#) Trial De Novo

[30k893](#) Cases Triable in Appellate

Court

[30k893\(1\)](#) k. In general. [Most Cited](#)

[Cases](#)

Whether a trial court has jurisdiction is a question of law, subject to de novo review.

[6] Divorce 134 **925**

[134](#) Divorce

[134V](#) Spousal Support, Allowances, and Disposition of Property

[134V\(E\)](#) Settlement Agreements and Stipulations

[134k916](#) Construction and Operation

[134k925](#) k. Pensions and retirement

benefits. [Most Cited Cases](#)

Despite omission of former husband's two pension accounts from marital settlement agreement, the true intent of parties was to not only include them but equally divide them between the parties as part of equitable distribution upon divorce, and the agreement and dissolution judgment were in turn subject to enforcement consistent with such inter-

pretation; marital settlement agreement clearly provided that parties intended for former wife to receive “fifty percent (50%) of the account balance of each of [former husband's] retirement plans” valued at the date the judgment was entered.

[7] Divorce 134 ¶918

134 Divorce

134V Spousal Support, Allowances, and Disposition of Property

134V(E) Settlement Agreements and Stipulations

134k916 Construction and Operation

134k918 k. Contract principles; intent of parties. [Most Cited Cases](#)

Rules of contract construction are applicable to the interpretation of provisions in a marital settlement agreement, and the primary objective is to effectuate the intent of the parties.

[8] Divorce 134 ¶918

134 Divorce

134V Spousal Support, Allowances, and Disposition of Property

134V(E) Settlement Agreements and Stipulations

134k916 Construction and Operation

134k918 k. Contract principles; intent of parties. [Most Cited Cases](#)

When the terms of a marital settlement agreement are unambiguous, the intent of the parties is determined solely from the language of the agreement.

[9] Divorce 134 ¶1266(7)

134 Divorce

134V Spousal Support, Allowances, and Disposition of Property

134V(I) Appeal

134k1259 Review

134k1266 De Novo Review

134k1266(7) k. Settlement agreements and stipulations. [Most Cited Cases](#)

Whether a marital settlement agreement reflected the actual intent of the parties is a question of law that is reviewed de novo.

*523 Howard Bernstein, [Rebecca J. Whitcombe](#), Schwartz, Wolf & Bernstein LLP, Buffalo Grove, for Deborah L. Hall.

[Lynda J. Khan](#), Valparaiso, IN, for Paul Hall.

*524 Justice [HUTCHINSON](#) delivered the opinion of the court:

**1 Petitioner, Deborah L. Hall, appeals an order from the Lake County circuit court denying her petition to modify or reform judgment pursuant to sections 2-1401 and 13-206 of the Code of Civil Procedure (the Code) ([735 ILCS 5/2-1401](#); 13-206 (West 2008)). Petitioner raises three issues on appeal: (1) whether the trial court erred by requiring her to show grounds for vacating the trial court's judgment of dissolution of marriage as a prerequisite to allowing reformation of the marital settlement agreement incorporated into the judgment; (2) whether a 10-year limitations period applies, pursuant to section 13-206 of the Code, to allow petitioner to reform the parties' marital settlement agreement, based on a mutual mistake of fact; and alternatively (3) whether the language of the parties' marital settlement agreement can be construed to require all of the retirement assets of respondent, Paul Hall, including his pension funds, to be divided equally between the parties. For the reasons set forth below, we reverse and remand.

The record reflects that petitioner and respondent were married on May 31, 1975. Two children were born of the marriage, both of whom have now reached majority. On August 31, 2004, the trial court entered a judgment of dissolution of marriage. The judgment incorporated a marital settlement agreement, which was entered into by the parties on the same day.

At the time of the dissolution, respondent was employed by Kraft Foods as chief global food safety

officer, and he had worked there for more than 15 years. While employed at Kraft Foods, respondent had acquired a vested interest in two retirement plans, a thrift plan and a pension plan. Prior to his employment at Kraft Foods, respondent was employed for approximately seven years at Anheuser-Busch, where he acquired a vested interest in two retirement plans, a deferred income stock purchase and savings plan and a pension plan. On the date of the judgment of dissolution of marriage, all of respondent's employment at both Kraft Foods and Anheuser-Busch was during his marriage to petitioner, and respondent acknowledged that his entire interest in the Anheuser-Busch deferred compensation plan and pension plan, as well as his interest in the Kraft Foods thrift plan and pension plan up to that point, had accrued during the marriage and were marital assets. Petitioner was not employed outside the home for approximately 20 years and did not have a college education or any formal training in any trade or profession. Petitioner also had no retirement assets of her own.

The parties appeared in court on August 31, 2004, for trial. The trial court conducted a pretrial conference with both parties' attorneys and a child representative. Following the conference, the parties entered into a marital settlement agreement for the division of nonretirement marital assets, which totaled \$890,825.44. Petitioner was awarded \$455,421.44, which amounted to approximately one-half of the marital assets, plus \$10,000 as a result of a charge of dissipation against respondent. Respondent was awarded the remaining \$423,404.

****2** Article XVIII of the marital settlement agreement addressed the division of respondent's retirement plans. The article provided, in relevant part:

“18.1 [Respondent] is a plan participant in the Anheuser-Busch Deferred Income Stock Purchase and Savings Plan, and is also a plan participant in a second retirement plan referred to as the Kraft Foods Thrift Plan. With respect to the Anheuser-Busch Deferred ***525** Income Stock Purchase and Savings Plan, the parties agree to

enter into a Qualified Domestic Relations Order [(QDRO)] providing for the distribution of fifty percent (50%) of the account balance to [petitioner], as alternate payee, as of the date of entry of this [judgment of dissolution of marriage]. With respect to the Kraft Foods Thrift Plan, the parties agree to enter into a [QDRO] providing for the distribution of fifty percent (50%) of the account balance to [petitioner], as alternate payee, as of the date of entry of this [judgment of dissolution of marriage].

* * *

18.4 It is the intention of this [article] that [petitioner] is to receive fifty percent (50%) of the account balance of each of [respondent's] retirement plans valued as of the date of the entry of this [judgment of dissolution of marriage].”

Petitioner subsequently noticed that she had not received benefits from either of respondent's pension plans, and her attorney advised respondent's attorney that petitioner had not received distribution of the pension benefits. Petitioner then filed her petition to modify or reform the dissolution judgment, alleging that respondent's two pension plans had been omitted from the marital settlement agreement due to a mutual mistake of fact and requesting that the marital settlement agreement be reformed to allow for an equal division of the pension plans as of the date of the entry of the judgment.

After the trial court denied respondent's motion to dismiss petitioner's petition, a trial was conducted on September 9, 2008, and October 2, 2008. Respondent testified at trial that the omission of his pension plans was intentional, the parties never agreed to include the pension plans in their settlement, and he never would have agreed to a settlement that included the pension plans as part of the division of assets. Petitioner testified that she never would have agreed to a settlement that did not include the pension plans as part of the division. On October 3, 2008, the trial court denied petitioner's petition. In reaching its determination, the trial

court concluded that, before it could reach the issue of whether the pension plans were omitted from the marital settlement agreement as a result of a mutual mistake, the petition to modify or reform the judgment must first establish a basis to vacate the judgment pursuant to section 2-1401 of the Code. According to the trial court, because petitioner filed her petition more than two years after the judgment was entered, she could prevail on a section 2-1401 petition only if she established that the defect in the judgment was a result of duress, disability, or fraudulent concealment. The trial court concluded that, because petitioner failed to establish that the defect was a result of duress, disability, or fraud, it was unable to vacate the judgment pursuant to section 2-1401. The trial court further found that, even though it was not required to reach the issue of mutual mistake, the evidence was insufficient to establish that the omission of respondent's pension plans was the result of a mutual mistake. Petitioner timely appealed after her motion to reconsider was denied.

****3** The first issue raised on appeal is whether the trial court erred in requiring petitioner to establish that the judgment of dissolution of marriage must be vacated pursuant to section 2-1401 of the Code as a prerequisite to including respondent's pension plans in the judgment. Petitioner argues that the trial court erred in requiring her to establish that the pension plans were omitted from the marital settlement agreement as a result of disability, duress, or fraudulent concealment, because her petition sought to reform the marital settlement*526 agreement to reflect the parties' true intent, not to modify or revoke the dissolution judgment. Therefore, according to petitioner, the court may reform a written marital settlement agreement 10 years from the date the judgment was entered. Respondent counters that the trial court must vacate or reopen the judgment of dissolution pursuant to section 2-1401 before it can modify the marital settlement agreement, because that agreement was incorporated into the judgment. According to respondent, because the judgment of dissolution was entered into more than

two years ago, section 2-1401 required petitioner to establish that any mistake in the marital settlement agreement resulted from disability, duress, or fraudulent concealment.

[1][2][3][4][5] Section 510(b) of the Illinois Marriage and Dissolution of Marriage Act (the Act) provides that “[t]he provisions as to property disposition may not be revoked or modified, unless the court finds the existence of conditions that justify the reopening of a judgment under the laws of this State.” 750 ILCS 5/510(b) (West 2008). In other words, after 30 days, provisions in a marital settlement agreement that constitute property distribution are generally not modifiable or revocable, and, therefore, a trial court has jurisdiction to modify property distribution only if circumstances exist to reopen a judgment as in other civil cases. *In re Marriage of Hubbard*, 215 Ill.App.3d 113, 116, 158 Ill.Dec. 747, 574 N.E.2d 860 (1991). Accordingly, whether a trial court has jurisdiction to modify a property distribution provision pursuant to section 510(b) of the Act should be construed within the confines of section 2-1401 of the Code. *In re Marriage of Miller*, 363 Ill.App.3d 906, 913, 300 Ill.Dec. 684, 845 N.E.2d 105 (2006). Nonetheless, a trial court retains indefinite jurisdiction to enforce the terms of a judgment. *Hubbard*, 215 Ill.App.3d at 116, 158 Ill.Dec. 747, 574 N.E.2d 860. Whether a trial court has jurisdiction is a question of law, subject to *de novo* review. *In re Marriage of Allen*, 343 Ill.App.3d 410, 412, 278 Ill.Dec. 288, 798 N.E.2d 135 (2003).

In *Allen*, the reviewing court addressed whether, more than 30 days after entry of a dissolution judgment, the trial court had jurisdiction to amend a QDRO entered pursuant to the judgment. *Allen*, 343 Ill.App.3d at 412, 278 Ill.Dec. 288, 798 N.E.2d 135. The parties in *Allen* divorced after 18 years of marriage, and the judgment of dissolution provided that the respondent's pension benefits be divided pursuant to a formula provided in the judgment. *Allen*, 343 Ill.App.3d at 411, 278 Ill.Dec. 288, 798 N.E.2d 135. Shortly after the judgment, the trial

court entered a QDRO enforcing the terms of the judgment, but it used a formula for the pension calculation that differed from the one provided in the judgment. After the respondent's retirement, the petitioner applied for benefits under the pension plan, and the pension administrator calculated the respondent's share pursuant to the formula contained in the QDRO rather than the one contained in the judgment. *Allen*, 343 Ill.App.3d at 412, 278 Ill.Dec. 288, 798 N.E.2d 135. When the petitioner discovered the difference between the formulae, she filed a petition to amend the QDRO to reflect the formula contained in the judgment, which the trial court granted. *Allen*, 343 Ill.App.3d at 412, 278 Ill.Dec. 288, 798 N.E.2d 135. On appeal, the respondent argued that the trial court did not have jurisdiction to enter the amended QDRO because modifying the QDRO was the equivalent of modifying the judgment. The reviewing court disagreed and affirmed the trial court's order amending the QDRO. *Allen*, 343 Ill.App.3d at 412, 278 Ill.Dec. 288, 798 N.E.2d 135. The reviewing court held that the trial court had indefinite jurisdiction*527 to enforce the judgment. *Allen*, 343 Ill.App.3d at 412, 278 Ill.Dec. 288, 798 N.E.2d 135. The reviewing court further stated:

**4 “The amendment to the QDRO changed the formula to conform to the judgment. This change did not impose new or different obligations on the parties. * * * The amendment to the QDRO was necessary to enforce the petitioner's rights and obligations with respect to the pension. Since the amended order only enforced the provisions of the judgment, the court had jurisdiction to make the modifications.” *Allen*, 343 Ill.App.3d at 413, 278 Ill.Dec. 288, 798 N.E.2d 135.

The court's rationale in *Allen* is helpful to the current matter, and we conclude that the trial court had jurisdiction to enforce the marital settlement agreement without first establishing a basis to vacate the dissolution judgment pursuant to section 2-1401 of the Code. Here, petitioner is not seeking to impose new or different obligations on the parties. Rather,

she is attempting to enforce the parties' rights and obligations with respect to respondent's retirement plans, which were clearly laid out in the marital settlement agreement and judgment of dissolution. See *Allen*, 343 Ill.App.3d at 413, 278 Ill.Dec. 288, 798 N.E.2d 135. Further, we recognize that petitioner labeled her filing a “petition to modify or reform judgment” and cited section 2-1401 of the Code. However, a filing's substance, not its title, determines its character, and in this case, the substance of the petition was to enforce the judgment in accordance with the parties' intent and not to impose new or different obligations on the parties. See *Miller*, 363 Ill.App.3d at 911, 300 Ill.Dec. 684, 845 N.E.2d 105, citing *Sarkissian v. Chicago Board of Education*, 201 Ill.2d 95, 102, 267 Ill.Dec. 58, 776 N.E.2d 195 (2002) (“[i]t is a motion's substance, not its title, that determines the motion's character”). Accordingly, because petitioner is seeking to enforce the judgment, the trial court had jurisdiction to enter an order enforcing the terms of the marital settlement agreement without first establishing a basis to vacate the judgment pursuant to section 2-1401. See *Allen*, 343 Ill.App.3d at 413, 278 Ill.Dec. 288, 798 N.E.2d 135.

[6] The next issue on appeal is whether, pursuant to the marital settlement agreement, the true intent of the parties was to equally divide each of respondent's retirement accounts or whether the parties intended to include only the Anheuser-Busch deferred income stock purchase and savings plan and the Kraft Foods thrift plan while omitting the respective pension plans. Petitioner argues that the language of the marital settlement agreement clearly reflects the parties' intent to equally divide all of respondent's retirement plans that accrued during the marriage. We agree.

[7][8][9] Illinois law is clear that rules of contract construction are applicable to the interpretation of provisions in a marital settlement agreement, and the primary objective is to effectuate the intent of the parties. *In re Marriage of Carrier*, 332 Ill.App.3d 654, 658, 265 Ill.Dec. 893, 773 N.E.2d

657 (2002). When the terms of the agreement are unambiguous, the intent of the parties is determined solely from the language of the agreement. *In re Marriage of Wassom*, 352 Ill.App.3d 327, 330-31, 287 Ill.Dec. 448, 815 N.E.2d 1251 (2004). Whether the agreement reflected the actual intent of the parties is a question of law we review *de novo*. *Allen*, 343 Ill.App.3d at 413, 278 Ill.Dec. 288, 798 N.E.2d 135, citing *Gray v. Mundelein College*, 296 Ill.App.3d 795, 803, 231 Ill.Dec. 260, 695 N.E.2d 1379 (1998).

****5** Here, article 18.4 of the marital settlement agreement clearly provides that the ***528** parties intended for petitioner to receive “fifty percent (50%) of the account balance of each of [respondent's] retirement plans” valued at the date the judgment was entered. This language is unambiguous, and we can ascertain the parties' intent solely from that language. See *Wassom*, 352 Ill.App.3d at 331, 287 Ill.Dec. 448, 815 N.E.2d 1251. Accordingly, we hold that the parties intended for petitioner to receive 50% of the account balance of each of respondent's retirement plans, including his Anheuser-Busch and Kraft pension funds.

Moreover, and despite respondent's argument to the contrary, the language contained in article 18.4 does not conflict with article 18.1. As outlined above, article 18.1 provided that respondent would enter into a QDRO giving petitioner 50% of his Anheuser-Busch deferred income stock purchase and savings plan and Kraft Foods thrift plan. This provision outlined the rights and obligations of the parties with respect to those retirement plans and specifically required the parties to enter into a QDRO. However, this provision did not address—much less limit—the rights and obligations of the parties with respect to any other retirement plan, including the pension plans. If the parties intended article 18.1 to provide that petitioner was entitled to 50% of the account balance of only those two specific retirement plans, and was not entitled to an interest in any other retirement plan, then the parties could have added specific language to article 18.1

to reflect that intention. See *Wassom*, 352 Ill.App.3d at 331, 287 Ill.Dec. 448, 815 N.E.2d 1251 (holding that, if the parties intended a provision to limit the husband's health-care-expense obligations to apply only to a child and not to the wife, the marital settlement agreement could have used specific language to express that intent). The parties could have also added language to article 18.4 to provide that it was the parties' intent that petitioner receive 50% of each of respondent's retirement plans “referenced” or “listed” in article 18.1, had they so desired. Accordingly, we conclude that, pursuant to the unambiguous language contained in article 18.4 of the marital settlement agreement, the parties intended for petitioner to receive 50% of “each of [respondent's] retirement plans,” including his Anheuser-Busch and Kraft Foods pension plans.

For the foregoing reasons, we reverse the judgment of the Lake County circuit court and remand this matter for further proceedings consistent with this opinion.

Reversed and remanded.

McLAREN, J., concurring. Justice **BOWMAN**, specially concurs:

I concur with the majority that petitioner was seeking to enforce the marital settlement agreement rather than seeking to vacate the dissolution judgment, pursuant to section 2-1401. I also concur with the majority in its ultimate decision to reverse the judgment of the trial court and to remand the cause. However, I disagree with the majority that article 18.4 of the marital settlement agreement is unambiguous.

****6** When interpreting a marital settlement agreement, a court seeks to give effect to the parties' intent. *Allton v. Hintzsche*, 373 Ill.App.3d 708, 711, 312 Ill.Dec. 371, 870 N.E.2d 436 (2007). The language used in the agreement is usually the best indication of the parties' intent. *Allton*, 373 Ill.App.3d at 711, 312 Ill.Dec. 371, 870 N.E.2d 436. When the terms of the agreement are unambiguous, we de-

termine the parties' intent solely from the language of the agreement. *Allton*, 373 Ill.App.3d at 711, 312 Ill.Dec. 371, 870 N.E.2d 436. “An ambiguity exists when an agreement contains language that is susceptible to more than one reasonable interpretation.” *Allton*, 373 Ill.App.3d at 711, 312 Ill.Dec. 371, 870 N.E.2d 436. “ ‘Where the language is ambiguous, parol evidence may be used to decide what the parties intended.’ ” *Allton*, 373 Ill.App.3d at 711, 312 Ill.Dec. 371, 870 N.E.2d 436, quoting *In re Marriage of Michaelson*, 359 Ill.App.3d 706, 714, 295 Ill.Dec. 958, 834 N.E.2d 539 (2005). All the provisions of the agreement should be read as a whole to interpret it and to determine whether an ambiguity exists. *Rich v. Principal Life Insurance Co.*, 226 Ill.2d 359, 371, 314 Ill.Dec. 795, 875 N.E.2d 1082 (2007). An ambiguity is not created simply because the parties disagree on the meaning of any provision. *Rich*, 226 Ill.2d at 371-72, 314 Ill.Dec. 795, 875 N.E.2d 1082.

In this case, I find that article 18.4 of the marital settlement agreement is susceptible to more than one reasonable interpretation and therefore is ambiguous. In determining that an ambiguity exists, I read the marital settlement agreement and article XVIII as a whole. Article XVIII is entitled “Retirement Plans,” and begins in article 18.1 to name two specific plans: the Anheuser-Busch deferred income stock purchase and savings plan and the Kraft Foods thrift plan. The parties agreed to enter into a QDRO to distribute the plans equally. Article 18.2 then states that respondent was to obtain current account statements for “each of these retirement plans.” Article 18.3 then states that respondent was responsible for preparing the QDRO for “each of these retirement plans.” Article 18.4 then provides that it was the parties' intention to divide the “balance of each of [respondent's] retirement plans” equally. Because the agreement already stated in section 18.1 that the two identified plans would be divided equally and the subject of a QDRO, I believe that one could reasonably interpret that articles 18.2, 18.3, and 18.4 referred to other retirement plans. However, because none of

the provisions of article XVIII makes clear that additional retirement plans exist, I believe that one also could reasonably interpret article 18.4 as referring solely to the two plans named in article 18.1. Accordingly, I believe that article 18.4 is ambiguous and that the judgment of the trial court should be reversed and the cause remanded for the trier of fact to determine whether the parties intended for the equal division of the pension plans. Given the fact that the parties had testified that they intended to divide the marital property equally and that the pensions in question were marital property, I would predict that respondent would have a difficult time prevailing, but I do believe that the question is proper for the fact finder.

Ill.App. 2 Dist.,2010.

In re Marriage of Hall

--- N.E.2d ---, 935 N.E.2d 522, 2010 WL 3449261 (Ill.App. 2 Dist.)

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