

BOISE, FRIDAY, APRIL 4, 2025 AT 8:50 A.M.

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF IDAHO

MOUNTAIN VALLEY FLOOR MATS,)	
LLC, an Idaho limited liability)	Docket Nos. 50274 & 51537
company,)	
)	
Plaintiff-Appellant,)	
)	
v.)	
)	
LG ELECTRONICS USA, INC.;)	
)	
Defendant-Respondent,)	
)	
and)	
)	
SEARS AUTHORIZED HOMETOWN)	
STORES, LLC, a Delaware limited)	
liability corporation; ZIM TAY, LLC,)	
dba REXBURG SEARS STORE, an)	
Idaho limited liability corporation;)	
NYLE C. FULLMER and SHERRI)	
FAYE FULLMER, dba REXBURG)	
SEARS STORE,)	
)	
Defendants.)	

Appeal from the District Court of the Seventh Judicial District, State of Idaho, Madison County. Steven W. Boyce, District Judge.

Gjording Fouser Hall, PLLC, Boise, for Appellant.

Duke Evett, PLLC, Boise, for Respondent, LG Electronics USA, Inc.

This consolidated appeal involves two appeals stemming from a single case. Mountain Valley Floor Mats, LLC is appealing two district court orders, which awarded costs and attorney fees to defendants LG Electronics USA, Inc. and Sears Authorized Hometown Stores, LLC after they successfully defended against Mountain Valley in a product liability lawsuit. Mountain Valley initiated the lawsuit seeking damages for losses incurred when a fire destroyed its business, which it claimed was caused by a clothes dryer. LG Electronics manufactured the dryer, which was sold

to Mountain Valley by a Sears store operated by Zim Tay, LLC. The complaint alleged claims for statutory liability, strict product liability, negligence, and breach of warranty of merchantability.

After a bench trial, the district court granted discretionary costs to LG Electronics. The court awarded LG Electronics and Sears attorney fees under Idaho Code section 12-120(3), determining that the gravamen of Mountain Valley's product liability claim was a commercial transaction.

On appeal, Mountain Valley argues that the district court abused its discretion in awarding discretionary costs to LG Electronics. Mountain Valley contends that the court erred by not providing detailed findings, incorrectly concluding that the case was exceptional due to its complexity and failing to examine the relevant factors for awarding discretionary costs. In addition, Mountain Valley argues that the court incorrectly awarded attorney fees to LG Electronics and Sears under Idaho Code section 12-120(3), asserting that claims related to product liability and negligence regarding the use and construction of a dryer do not qualify as a commercial transaction. Alternatively, Mountain Valley claims that the court did not properly apportion fees specifically to those claims from a commercial transaction.

After all parties submitted their appellate briefs to this Court, LG Electronics filed a notice to substitute itself in place and stead of Sears.