CIVIL

Pre-Trial Decision

57. **Law of the Case**

Under the doctrine of the law of the case, issues addressed by this Court in a previous appeal in the same case are binding on the trial court and the parties in subsequent proceedings on remand. **In re Marriage of Pfeifer**, 1998 MT 228, ¶ 22, 291 Mont. 23, 965 P.2d 895. In other words, once we have rendered a decision on a particular issue between the same parties in a case, that issue cannot be relitigated in a subsequent appeal. Pfeifer, ¶ 22. A district court exceeds its jurisdiction on remand by ignoring the law of the case. Pfeifer, ¶ 9. The law of the case doctrine applies only to principles or rules of law necessary to our decision in the previous appeal. Pfeifer, ¶ 22. We review a district court's conclusions of law to determine whether they are correct. Pfeifer, ¶ 9.