

FILED
SUPREME COURT
STATE OF WASHINGTON
6/23/2020 2:18 PM
BY SUSAN L. CARLSON
CLERK

No. 98633-9

SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON

UNEMPLOYMENT LAW PROJECT, et al.

Petitioners,

v.

SUZAN LEVINE, COMMISSIONER FOR THE WASHINGTON STATE EMPLOYMENT
SECURITY DEPARTMENT,

Respondent.

DECLARATION OF KELLI C. EBERT

THE SHERIDAN LAW FIRM, P.S.

John P. Sheridan, WSBA #21473
Mark W. Rose, WSBA #41916
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705 Second Avenue
Seattle, WA 98104
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Attorneys for Petitioners

I, KELLI C. EBERT, declare that the following statement is true and correct:

1. I am over the age of eighteen (18) and competent to make this declaration.
2. I am a resident of Spokane Valley in Spokane County, WA.
3. On March 14, 2020, I was hired to work at Alorica, a telecommunication center. Alorica contracts with other clients and my job was to be a customer service representative with American Express. I was supposed to start training on March 23, 2020 but my employer said they were pushing training off since they learned Governor Inslee was ordering everyone to stay at home. Alorica shut down on March 25, 2020 since they had no way to ensure safe distancing.
4. I never got to start the job at Alorica because of the pandemic and my place of employment shut down.
5. I applied for unemployment benefits on the second or third week of April because I didn't know I was eligible for pandemic benefits until then.
6. I received a Monetary Determination dated April 23, 2020 entitling me to unemployment benefits. I also received a Pandemic

Emergency Unemployment Compensation Determination stating I was eligible for benefits.

7. I filed my claims like I am supposed to and I have been looking for work since I received a Work Search Directive dated June 4, 2020 indicating that I need to do that.

8. I have filed claims since April 4, 2020 and they all say disqualified. I'm continuing to file for benefits.

9. There is no information and no way to file on my Pandemic Unemployment Assistance claim. The portal will not let me file on this claim.

10. I called the Employment Security Department (ESD) on June 6, 2020 and spoke with a representative who gave me the runaround. He said he could not verify who I was and said I just had to wait. He told me to keep trying to get through on the phone to get updates.

11. All in all, I tried to call the ESD over one thousand times. I got through one time when I started calling at 5:30 am and once I got through on a Saturday. These calls are in my phone logs. I have sent about ten SAW portal messages and never gotten a response from anyone.

12. I have been significantly and adversely affected in the following ways due to my not receiving my unemployment benefits:

I am supposed to pay rent and pay for food but have no money to do that. My wife and I are relying on family right now to help us out. It is disheartening to have to ask for help. The family members that we are staying with have small children and have their own responsibilities. I have pets to care for too, one has cancer. It's been very difficult. The stress is getting to me. I was in the hospital for eight hours last week because my immune system is so low right now.

13. Waiting on benefit payments from the ESD is extremely detrimental to my mental, emotional and physical health and the well-being of my family. No one should have to endure a wait this long to get their unemployment benefits.

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of Washington that the foregoing is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

DATED this 14th day of June, 2020 in Spokane Valley, Washington.


KELLI C. EBERT

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I, Tony Dondero, certify under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of Washington and the United States that, on June 23, 2020, I served the document to which this Certificate is attached to the party listed below in the manner shown.

ROBERT FERGUSON

Attorney General

Eric D. Peterson, WSBA #35555
Senior Assistant Attorney General

Leah E. Harris, WSBA #40815
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| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | By Electronic Mail |

Dated this 23rd day of June 2020.

s/Tony Dondero
Tony Dondero,
Legal Assistant

THE SHERIDAN LAW FIRM, P.S.

June 23, 2020 - 2:18 PM

Transmittal Information

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Appellate Court Case Number: 98633-9
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