

FILED
SUPREME COURT
STATE OF WASHINGTON
6/23/2020 2:11 PM
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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 BILLIE ABBIT

THE SHERIDAN LAW FIRM, P.S.

John P. Sheridan, WSBA #21473
Mark W. Rose, WSBA #41916
Andra Kranzler, WSBA # 44098
Justin O. Abbasi, WSBA # 53582
Hoge Building, Suite 1200
705 Second Avenue
Seattle, WA 98104
(206) 381-5949

Attorneys for Petitioners

I, Billie Abbit, 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 Kent in King County, WA.
3. I worked at Famous Dave's Barbecue for seven years as a server.
4. I became unemployed on March 17, 2020.
5. I applied for unemployment benefits on March 17, 2020.
6. I received a Monetary Determination on March 18, 2020, entitling me to benefits.
7. The Employment Security Department (ESD) told me on May 22, 2020, that my weekly check for regular UI benefits is being withheld until my identity could be verified.
8. I provided the identity documentation that ESD requested on the same day as their request. I have called ESD about 20 times since my benefit payments were stopped on May 22, 2020, but I have not been able to get in contact with anyone. I tried to contact ESD through messages on my SAW account as well, but the website is not user friendly so I could not get any messages sent. I have yet to receive any communication from ESD following the halting of my benefit payments.

9. I have been significantly and adversely affected in the following ways due to my not receiving my unemployment benefits: I have not had the income I need to keep up with basic necessities like rent, housing, food, and gas. To cover these necessities, I have been forced to borrow money from my family. On top of those payments, I have not been able to afford to pay my other recurring bills. I was not given enough notice that my benefits were being halted, so many of my automatic bill payments were charged to the account that would normally have my benefits in them. This resulted in my account being overdrawn by more than \$500. Now I am also having to deal with daily \$30 overdraft fees from the bank, which add up very quickly, and just add to the amount that I owe that I cannot afford to pay in the first place.

10. I have never been put in this position before. I am struggling financially and have been forced to borrow money from my daughter and parents just to get by. All of my income right now is money that I have had to borrow, and it is a horrible position to be in. I have an overdrawn bank account that is only being charged more by the day in fees, and I cannot keep up.

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 **17**th day of June, 2020 in Kent, Washington.

Billie Abbit
/s/ Billie Abbit
Billie Abbit

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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- By United States Mail
- By Legal Messenger
- By Facsimile
- By Overnight Fed Ex Delivery
- 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 - 2:11 PM

Transmittal Information

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Appellate Court Case Number: 98633-9
Appellate Court Case Title: Unemployment Law Project et al. v. Suzan Levine

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