

FILED  
SUPREME COURT  
STATE OF WASHINGTON  
6/23/2020 2:12 PM  
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CLERK

No. 98633-9

SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON

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UNEMPLOYMENT LAW PROJECT, et al.

Petitioners,

v.

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

Respondent.

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DECLARATION OF CHELSEA ALTONA

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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, CHELSEA ALTONA, declare that the following statement is true and correct:

1. My name is Chelsea Altona.
2. I am over the age of eighteen (18) and competent to make this declaration.
3. I am a resident of Sumas in Whatcom County, WA.
4. I worked as a self-employed house cleaner for several months and then at Kid's Country Daycare for one month as a teacher.
5. I became unemployed on March 19<sup>th</sup>, 2020.
6. I applied for unemployment benefits on April 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2020, because my employer asked me to wait as they decided whether to re-open for services.
7. I never received any Monetary Determination entitling me to benefits or denying me benefits. In the last week of April, my online account said I was approved, that my claim was pending, and that I worked at a place called A&R Cedar in Hoquiam, WA, but I have never even been to Hoquiam—much less worked there.
8. Other than this, I've never received a notification from ESD.

9. I have taken the following actions to address this issue with ESD: I've called over 200 hundred times. Each time I've called, I've probably stayed on hold for four hours at a time, sitting and waiting for someone to answer the phone. The first time I called, I talked with a lady who told me that it could be up to 4-6 weeks till I heard back from them. She said I had to wait and there was nothing that either of us could do to speed up the process. After four weeks of calling further, I got a hold of another person, and they also told me that there was nothing that I could do and I had to just wait. I've been calling almost every single day and have not received any further answers other than this. I've sent emails about whether I am going to ever receive my unemployment, but I have never received anything back from them.

10. I have been significantly and adversely affected in the following ways due to my not receiving my unemployment benefits: I lost my apartment, because I couldn't pay rent and my landlord gave me a notice to pay or quit before the eviction moratorium was in place. My two children and I had to move in with my parents. My children have grown out of their clothes and I haven't been able to get them new shoes, pants or shirts. I lost my car. The dealership took it back because I couldn't make the payments.

11. On a scale of 1-10 my level of stress is a 10. My fear is a little less because I have family helps out when and where they can. The stress is too much. I haven't been able to sleep and have only slept 10 hours this week. I understand that there are thousands of people going through the same thing that I am, and we all just want help. This is so stressful for everyone involved.

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 11<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2020 in Seattle, Washington.

  
/s/  
\_\_\_\_\_  
CHELSEA ALTONA

**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  
Assistant Attorney General

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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 - 2:12 PM**

**Transmittal Information**

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

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