

FILED  
SUPREME COURT  
STATE OF WASHINGTON  
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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 JORDAN JOLMA

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THE SHERIDAN LAW FIRM, P.S.

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Seattle, WA 98104  
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Attorneys for Petitioners

I, JORDAN JOLMA, declare that the following statement is true and correct:

1. My name is Jordan Jolma.
2. I am over the age of eighteen (18) and competent to make this declaration.
3. I am a resident of Pasco in Franklin County, WA.
4. I worked at JAG masonry for 3 consecutive seasons as a hod carrier, heavy equipment operator, payroll manager and safety director.
5. I became unemployed when my seasonal work ended in November of 2019.
6. I applied for unemployment benefits on December 1<sup>st</sup>, 2019.
7. I started receiving benefits on December 7<sup>th</sup>, 2019.
8. The Employment Security Department (ESD) told me on May 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2020, that my weekly check is being discontinued without a single explanation as to why. I was sent an overpayment notification amounting to roughly \$22,000.

9. I have tried to address the issue with ESD. I continued to file week to week despite the ESD canceling my benefits and claiming overpayment. When the PEUC arrived, I applied for that so that my benefits would be extended. I received notification that I was approved for the PEUC, but it went into adjudication and it's been there the last seven weeks. I have not received any information about the adjudication other than confirmation of identity verification. I sent fifteen messages directly through my SAW account to ESD, but I didn't receive a response. After my benefits were discontinued, I tried calling every day without getting through to a representative. I would call the office at 7AM when they opened up. The phone never rang, but simply went straight to an operating system that said they were busy and the call volume was high. This week, the office of a District 9 Rep. Mark Schoesler reached out to me and took my information, then called me this morning to see if I have received any payment. No issues have been resolved, despite their concern and assistance.

10. I have been significantly and adversely affected in the following ways due to my not receiving my unemployment benefits: I attempted to apply for food stamps, but they looked at unemployment and determined that I did not qualify because I made too much although I haven't received it. I have two kids under the age of eighteen. I had to go

several days without eating because I had to provide the food for my children. Eventually, I got in touch with a family member who was able to help with food. I'm behind on my phone bill and late fees for two months. My car payments and insurance are behind for two months, which I had to cancel and can no longer drive legally with insurance. Although rent isn't a priority for the time being, but I'm currently racking up the debt. Starting on July 5<sup>th</sup>, I'll have four months worth of back rent due—amounting to over five thousand dollars. Luckily, I've paid far enough ahead on my medical bills that they are not outstanding at the moment, but the future is uncertain.

11. On a scale of 1-10 my level of fear and stress is a 10. I've been diagnosed PTSD, borderline personality disorder, and ADHD. I've tried medication, but it turns me into something very different, so I haven't used it. But when I received the notification that I had an overpayment and was being denied, my stressed increased tenfold. Now, the stress of feeding my two children is incredibly heavy, and the difficulty of having thousands and thousands of dollars to pay back to the state. My mental state changes from moment to moment, and I have no one to turn to and no one to help figure this situation.

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/   
JORDAN JOLMA

**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

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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 - 2:20 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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