



NEVADA LEGAL SERVICES

I N C O R P O R A T E D

Telephonic Ask A Lawyers

- September 2 at 12 pm
- September 3 at 12:30 pm
- September 9 at 12 and 1 pm
- September 10 at 11:30 am
- September 14 at 1:30 pm
- September 16 at 3 pm

THIS MONTH'S NEWS AND UPDATES:

COVER STORY:

UIB AND PUA: A LATE SUMMER UPDATE

SOAR: SSI/SSDI OUT- REACH, ACCESS, AND RE- COVERY

NEW OPPORTUNITY TO AP- PLY FOR THE CHILD STIMU- LUS PAYMENTS

UIB AND PUA: A LATE SUMMER UPDATE

By Alex Cherup

Hundreds of thousands of Nevadans have still not received unemployment benefits from the PUA program authorized by the CARES Act. Over the past month, there have been efforts on a state and federal level to address the problems related to access to benefits. Senate Bill 3 provides improvements, such as more flexibility for the Employment Security Division, to expand “good” cause for those not returning to work to include reasons related to COVID 19 and to waive vacation and severance pay reasons for denying benefits that can be applied retroactively. These provisions are helpful, however the Employment Security Division needs to promulgate rules for implementation. Governor Sisolak has also created a “Strike Force” to try to improve the processing of claims that have been filed.

In June, a lawsuit was filed in District Court in Washoe County, *Amethyst Payne, et al. v. State of Nevada, et al.* A Special Master was appointed by the Court to review compliance with an initial court order and the barriers to receiving benefits. The Special Master’s Report No. 2 was filed on August 19, 2020 and, although an appeal was rejected by the Nevada Supreme Court, the next hearing is scheduled in September to hear contempt motions.

Lastly, additional \$600 per week in PUC benefits ended in July. However, Nevada has applied for the new Lost Wages Assistance Program, a \$300.00 weekly addition to the claimant’s usual calculated benefits that is funded by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). A claimant must receive at least \$100 per week in benefits to be eligible for this program. In Nevada, we are currently awaiting the approval of our state’s application.

