

Sea-Tac Wage and Hour Class Action Lawsuits

Legal Alert
February 26, 2016

Garvey Schubert Barer Legal Update, February 26, 2016.

Fourteen lawsuits were filed last week against employers at the Seattle-Tacoma International Airport for paying less than the \$15 minimum wage approved by Sea-Tac voters in 2013. Defendants include baggage handling firms, rental car agencies, food-service establishments and logistics firms. These lawsuits have been filed by defendants represented by Attorney Duncan Turner of Badgley Mullins Turner and seek class action status. The lawsuits currently cover about 40 plaintiffs, although Mr. Turner estimates this could grow to 1,500 plaintiffs and that total back-pay sought could be \$14 to \$21 million.

Alaska Airlines and three other plaintiffs had filed a lawsuit arguing that the Sea-Tac minimum wage should not apply to the airport. The State Supreme Court ruled against them in August, 2015, and in December, 2015 rejected a request to review the case.

If you have any questions about these lawsuits, would like to review a copy of one of the complaints, or would like to discuss applicable wage & hour issues, please feel free to contact [David H. Smith](mailto:dsmith@gsblaw.com) at dsmith@gsblaw.com or 206.816.1392.