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**Judge: Prison company to pay Washington \$4.5M in legal fees**

The private prison company The GEO Group has been ordered to pay the Washington state Attorney General's Office nearly \$4.5 million in legal fees, after the state sued to force the company to pay detainees at its immigration lockup in Tacoma minimum wage for work they perform there. A federal jury ruled in October that detainees held at the Northwest detention center are entitled to minimum wage for cooking, cleaning and other tasks, rather than \$1 per day. The company was ordered to pay former detainees as well as the state more than \$23 million in all. The judgments have been put on hold while GEO appeals, but in the meantime U.S. District Judge Robert Bryan on Tuesday awarded the state nearly \$4.5 million in attorney fees.