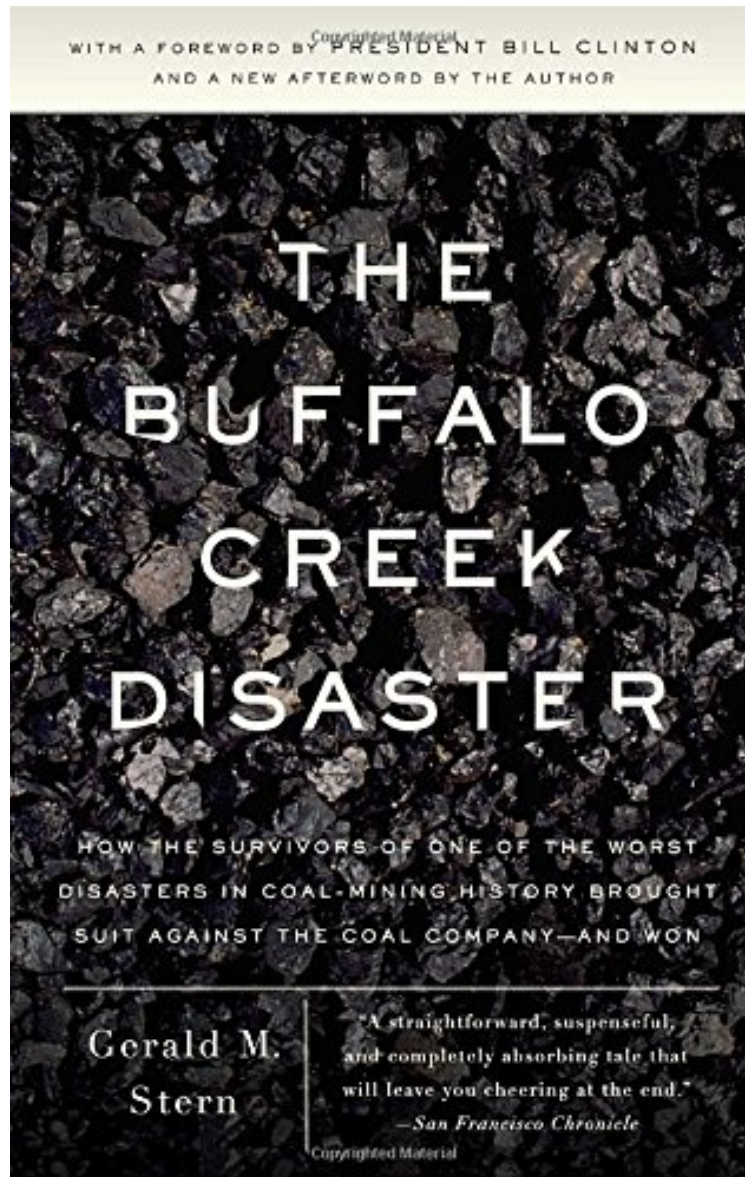


[FREE] The Buffalo Creek Disaster: How the Survivors of One of the Worst Disasters in Coal-Mining History Brought Suit Against the Coal Company- And Won

The Buffalo Creek Disaster: How the Survivors of One of the Worst Disasters in Coal-Mining History Brought Suit Against the Coal Company- And Won

Gerald M. Stern

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0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. It's a good readBy CCBI had to read this as a course requirement, but I think it's an inspiring read for anyone. I still enjoyed it as my professor was ruining it. haha4 of 5 people found the following review helpful. Your first great legal lessonBy ThuggernautThis book is essentially required reading for most first-year law students. Whether your civil procedure professor assigns it in the first or second semester, you won't be able to avoid it. Luckily, it's cheap and mercifully short. The dry and self-righteous narrative (with a special foreward full of fire-and-brimstone against those nasty coal companies from President Clinton) won't entertain you, but it will certainly teach you a great lesson about the legal profession: no matter which party "prevails," the true winners are always the attorneys.This review won't give away all the juicy details, but compare the final sum each plaintiff earned versus the original settlement offer from Pittston. Next, compare that figure to the final jackpot Arnold and Porter raked in when the dust settled. Was it really worth all the time, heartache, depositions, and physical exams for the people affected by the disaster? You be the judge. All we know now is that this book is still lining Gerald Stern's pockets nearly 40 years after dam broke at Buffalo Creek. Welcome to the legal world.1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. The University of Tulsa School of LawBy CustomerI was told to read this for a seminar that the University of Tulsa School of Law put on a few days before my first law school classes of my first semester began. It actually was a very interesting and informative read. There is a lot of emotion in the stories, and you actually start to care about the plaintiffs, all 600 of them. The author is the hero of the story and he does a great job explaining even the most basic law terms so that someone who is unfamiliar can completely understand and learn.

One Saturday morning in February 1972, an impoundment dam owned by the Pittston Coal Company burst, sending a 130 million gallon, 25 foot tidal wave of water, sludge, and debris crashing into southern West Virginia's Buffalo Creek hollow. It was one of the deadliest floods in U.S. history. 125 people were killed instantly, more than 1,000 were injured, and over 4,000 were suddenly homeless. Instead of accepting the small settlements offered by the coal company's insurance offices, a few hundred of the survivors banded together to sue. This is the story of their triumph over incredible odds and corporate irresponsibility, as told by Gerald M. Stern, who as a young lawyer and took on the case and won.

"A straightforward, suspenseful, and completely absorbing tale that will leave you cheering at the end."San Francisco ChronicleJerry Stern's classic work provides readers with tremendous insight into the causes of the disaster. . . . It is powerful, troubling, and uplifting. From the foreword by President Bill ClintonA shocking, timely book. The New York Times Book A fascinating tale of how investigative lawyers work, intermingled with sympathetic portraits of the survivors of the disaster.Chicago TribuneFascinating reading. . . . An inside look at a history-making case.The Boston Globe About the AuthorGerald M. Stern is a Counselmen at Phillips Cohen LLP, a practice is devoted exclusively to representing whistleblowers in qui tam lawsuits. He graduated cum laude from Harvard Law School before beginning his legal career in Washington.