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[Paranormal](#)
[People](#)
[Places](#)
[Area 51](#)
[Random](#)
[Top 100](#)
[Catalog](#)
[What's New](#)

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...for this word in:

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Page Contents
Book Title/Author
[Help](#)

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[Mothership](#) -> [Area 51](#) -> [Event](#) -> Here

[Our Focus](#)

On this page: [Articles & Dated Documents](#) | [Court Docket Sheets](#)

Groom Lake Hazardous Waste Lawsuit

Former workers and widows of workers claim injuries resulting from illegal hazardous waste practices at Area 51 in the 1970s and 80s. Highly toxic resins were allegedly dumped into open pits and burned, and workers at the base were exposed to the fumes. The most prominent plaintiff is Helen Frost, widow of Robert Frost, who died in 1988. An autopsy of Frost's body revealed high levels of dioxins and other carcinogens which the widow contends were caused by exposure to fumes at the base. In 1996, the lawsuit was dismissed by a Federal judge on the grounds of military's national security privilege. That decision has since been appealed to the Circuit Court of Appeals in San Francisco, and the appeal is pending. [GC 8/96]

Articles & Dated Documents

Below is a partial subset of available articles on this topic. Others can be found in [Area 51 Articles](#).

Articles after 1/1/97 are found in the [User Links](#) section below.

- **11/8/96:** [Court overturns Area 51 ruling. Feds won't be allowed to interview workers*](#), *Las Vegas Sun*.
- **10/16/96:** ["Ex-workers: Judge ignored Area 51 evidence: Pro removal, opening of records sought,"](#) reports the 10/14 Las Vegas Sun, recording the filing of 118-page appeal.

A Las Vegas federal judge is accused of ignoring the law and repeatedly ruling against former Area 51 workers in a lawsuit over alleged unlawful burning of toxic waste at the once-secret military base. The workers charge that U.S. District Judge Philip Pro refused to examine any evidence that would support their allegations and perhaps reveal that the government lied or at least exaggerated its claims of national security.

- **9/16/96:** [Workers Appeal Area 51 Ruling*](#) reports the *Las Vegas Sun*.
- **8/28/96,** *Las Vegas Review-Journal:* ["Appeal Expected on Groom Lake"](#), indicates that the appeal of the Area 51 hazardous waste lawsuit was probably filed in San Francisco.

Former workers at the Air Force Groom Lake base today will appeal the dismissal of a federal lawsuit claiming they were made ill and injured by environmental crimes at the installation.

- **8/7/96,** *London Observer,* [Nightmare in Dreamland.](#) *Hack Journalism from Britain, this time from the otherwise respectable London Observer. See how many errors you can find.*
- **News Article:** *Denver Post,* ["Rocky Flats Grand Jury Sues To Tell All"](#), 8/2/96. Jonathan Turley, the lawyer representing the widows and former workers in the Area 51 hazardous waste lawsuit, is also the lawyer for a grand jury in a similar case at Rocky Flats.
- **News Article:** *Las Vegas Sun,* ["Feds investigating burning of hazardous waste at Area 51,"](#) 8/8/96.
- **News Article:** *Las Vegas Review-Journal,* ["U.S. Investigation into Air Force Base Winds Down,"](#) 8/8/96.
- **News Article :** *Las Vegas Sun,* ["News Briefs - Judgement Awarded,"](#) Turley gets legal fees. 7/25/96
- **Television Transcript:** [KLAS-TV Broadcast.](#) Report on release of documents pertaining to waste lawsuit. 7/18/96.
- **News Article:** *Las Vegas Sun,* ["Judge releases Groom Lake files."](#) Fed documents used in lawsuit made public. By Mary Manning, 7/17/96.
- **Television Transcript:** *60 Minutes,* ["Area 51: Catch 22."](#) Producer, Richard Bonin, correspondent, Leslie Stahl. Report on lawsuit against Air Force. 3/17/96.
- **News Article:** ["Groom Lake Suit Bounced:](#) A federal judge dismisses an action brought by former workers at a classified Air Force facility", by Warren Bates. *Las Vegas Review Journal,* 3/7/96.
- **News Article:** ["Unions Win Representation Elections For Workers At Groom Lake."](#) Company holding a top-secret Defense Department contract cuts deals with three unions allowing elections. *Las Vegas Review Journal,* 2/17/96.
- **News Article:** ["A Secret Air Base Broke the Law on Waste, Lawsuit Alleges; Government Stonewalls"](#). *The Wall Street Journal,* 2/08/96.
- **Government Document:** [Determination Exempting USAF from Conservation Laws.](#) Letter from the President to the Speaker of the House the President of the Senate concerning the [9/29/95 exemption.](#) 1/31/96.
- **News Article:** ["Television Station Loses Bid to Have Material Opened Up"](#), *Las Vegas Review-Journal.* Short article reports the KLAS-TV motion in toxic suit dismissed, 01/23/96.
- **News Article:** ["Groom Lake Secrets Tougher To Keep: Judge Rejects Government Argument To Ease Conditions For Secrecy"](#), *Las Vegas Review-Journal,* 1/23/96.
- **News Article:** *Las Vegas Review-Journal,* ["Groom Lake Secrets Tougher To Keep: Judge Rejects Government Argument To Ease Conditions For Secrecy"](#), 1/13/96.
- **News Article:** ["Groom lake lawyer targets exemption in workers' toxic contaminants lawsuit"](#), *Las Vegas Review-Journal,* 12/13/95.
- **Press Release:** [Prof. Turley responds to presidential exemption,](#) 10/12/95.
- **Government Document:** [Clinton's order exempting Area 51 from environmental reporting,](#) 9/29/95.
- **Editorial Cartoon:** ["Trust US: Groom Lake Is A Safe Place To Work."](#) by Jim Day, *Las Vegas Review-Journal,* 10/6/95. (100k)

- News Article:** "[Area 51 Suffered Effects Of Nearby Nuclear Testing](#)", by Peter W. Merlin, *Aerotech News and Review*, 10/20/95. (See related article.)
- **News Article:** "[Open Groom Hearings, TV Station Urges Judge](#)" *Las Vegas Review-Journal*, 10/4/95.
 - **News Article:** "[Groom Lake Chemicals Can Be Secret: A presidential exemption counters workers who have lawsuits pending against the federal government.](#)" *Las Vegas Review-Journal*, 10/3/95.
 - **News Article:** "[Feds Forced To Act On Groom Lake: The government must either declassify an EPA report about the base or seek a formal exemption.](#)" *Las Vegas Review-Journal*, 9/2/95.
 - **News Article:** "[Groom Lake Rulings Filed.](#)" *Las Vegas Review-Journal*, July 27, 1995. Government seeks dismissal of lawsuit. "Recent incidents" mentioned.
 - **News Article:** "[Government Tries to Stop Groom Attorney.](#)" *Las Vegas Review-Journal*, July 13, 1995.
 - **News Article:** "[Groom Lake Litigation Tests Government's Secrecy Standards.](#)" *Legal Times*, June 26, 1995.
 - **News Article:** "[Attorney In Groom Lake Lawsuit Says He Won't Have To Surrender His Files.](#)" *Las Vegas Review-Journal*, June 21, 1995.
 - **News Editorial:** "[Tossing Out Chaff: Air Force Accountability Not Detectable.](#)" *Las Vegas Review-Journal*, June 19, 1995.
 - **News Article:** "[Attorney: U.S. Trying To Seize Groom Lake Lawsuit Files.](#)" *Las Vegas Review-Journal*, June 17, 1995.
 - **News Article:** "[Groom Lake Plaintiff Succumbs To Cancer.](#)" *Las Vegas Review-Journal*, June 14, 1995.
 - **News Article:** "[Judge Asked To Toss Out Groom Lake Suit.](#)" *Las Vegas Review-Journal*, May 25, 1995.
 - **Press Release:** "['Groom Lake' Attorney Turley Files Motion Against Government's Invocation Of Military And State Secrets Privilege.](#)" George Washington University, March 15, 1995.
 - **News Article:** "Fed Lawyer's Ouster Asked in Groom Suit." Brief on legal maneuver: Turley asks that Gov't atty Sarver be removed from dual representation. *Las Vegas Sun*, Jan. 12, 1995.
 - **News Article:** "[National Security Defense Cut From Groom Lawsuit.](#)" *Las Vegas Review-Journal*, Nov. 11, 1994.
 - **Press Release:** "[GW Law Professor Jonathan Turley Files For Change Of Venue From Nevada To Washington, D.C. In Groom Lake Environmental Crime Case.](#)" George Washington University, Nov. 1, 1994.
 - **News Article:** "[Groom Lake Toxic Burning Alleged.](#)" *Las Vegas Review-Journal*, March 20, 1994.

Court Docket Sheets

Below are docket sheets for the court case, Frost vs. Perry. A docket sheet is an index listing of motions and other documents that have been filed in the case.

Because these documents could not easily be converted into text, they are stored here as .jpg graphic files. Each is 80-140k. The original complaint was filed 8/15/94. The latest date on the sheets below is 3/7/96. (Other docket sheets will be added shortly.)

1. [Docket sheet #1](#), the cover sheet listing parties and their lawyers.
2. [Docket sheet #2](#), starting 8/15/94, Document #1
3. [Docket sheet #3](#), starting 11/3/94, #13a
4. [Docket sheet #4](#), starting 2/9/95, #25
5. [Docket sheet #5](#), starting 3/24/95, #38
6. [Docket sheet #6](#), starting 4/13/95, #48
7. [Docket sheet #7](#), starting 6/6/95, #62
8. [Docket sheet #8](#), starting 6/19/95, #73
9. [Docket sheet #9](#), starting 7/5/95, #85
10. [Docket sheet #10](#), starting 7/18/95, #98
11. [Docket sheet #11](#), starting 7/25/95, #112
12. [Docket sheet #12](#), starting 7/31/95, #127
13. [Docket sheet #13](#), starting 9/1/95, #142
14. [Docket sheet #14](#), starting 10/4/95, #155
15. [Docket sheet #15](#), starting 11/2/95, #170

16. [Docket sheet #16](#), starting 11/21/95, #182
17. [Docket sheet #17](#), starting 1/10/96, #195
18. [Docket sheet #18](#), starting 2/29/96, #206
Judgment dismisses case, 3/6/96.
Missing document #217 at bottom, an OPPOSITION.
19. [Docket sheet #19](#), starting 4/8/96, #218
Missing notations for #234 at bottom.
20. [Docket sheet #20](#), starting 6/27/96, #235
Redacted versions of sealed documents are released.
21. [Docket sheet #21](#), starting 8/8/96, #248
22. [Docket sheet #22](#), starting 8/29/96, #260
23. [Docket sheet #23](#), starting 9/24/96, #267A
24. *Current as of 10/9/96*

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Past Events

Past events, earliest first. Dates are in form Year.Month.Day

- **1997.07.02: [CNN details Government Stonewall on Area 51 Hazardous Waste](#)** - CNN reestablishes publicity surrounding Area 51 hazardous waste lawsuit (50k) - Supportive - By David Mattingly - Event: 7/2/97 - Published: 7/2/97 - Source: [CNN](#) (News Service) <7/8/97 [#3](#)>

General Links

- [Briefs filed in haz. waste lawsuit appeal](#)+ - Article in Las Vegas Review-Journal, 1/15/97 <1/18/97 [#1](#)>
- [Former Area 51 workers to file](#) - Short article in 1/15/97 Las Vegas Sun <1/18/97 [#2](#)>
- [*Washington Post article on Groom lawsuit](#)+ (30 lines) - Message - Published: 7/22/97 - Source: Area 51 (Mailing List) [Posted by Glenn Campbell, Las Vegas] <7/22/97 [#4](#)>
- [Area 51 saga heads to federal court](#)+ (20 lines) - Article reference - Published: 12/3/97 - Source: Las Vegas Sun (Newspaper) <12/4/97 [#5](#)>
- [Lawsuit Appeal... and Barbra Streisand?!?](#)+ (27 lines) - Article reference - Published: 12/6/97 - Source: Las Vegas Review-Journal (Newspaper) <12/6/97 [#6](#)>
- [The November 5, 1997 Court Hearing](#) - Las Vegas Sun coverage of the appeal hearing (14 para) - News article - By Las Vegas Sun - Published: 11/6/97 - Source: Las Vegas Sun (Newspaper) <12/6/97 [#7](#)>
- [Frost vs. Perry reaches 9th Circuit \[report\]](#) (80 lines) - Message - Published: 12/6/97 - Source: Area 51 (Mailing List) [Posted by Andromeda.net- Anderson, Jared] <12/6/97 [#8](#)>
- [Area 51 Lawsuit Appeal Rejected](#)+ (32 lines) - Article reference - Published: 1/9/98 - Source: Las Vegas Review-Journal (AP) (Newspaper) <1/12/98 [#9](#)>
- [National Law Journal on A51 lawsuit dismissal](#)+ (33 lines) - Article reprint - Published: 1/26/98 - Source: National Law Journal (Mailing List) <2/11/98 [#10](#)>
- [*Transcript of 9th Circuit Decision](#) - The official transcript of the appeals court decision regarding the lawsuit (30 pages) - Government document - Official - Source: National Law Journal <2/13/98 [#11](#)>
"The government may use the state secrets privilege to withhold a broad range of information.... Once the privilege is properly invoked and the court is satisfied as to the danger of divulging state secrets, the privilege is absolute."
- [Area 51 lawsuit appealed to Supreme Court \[news\]](#)+ (52 lines) - Message - Published: 8/4/98 - Source: Ufomind (Mailing List) [Posted by Glenn Campbell, Las Vegas] <8/4/98 [#12](#)>
- [Lockheed Workers Win Toxic Waste Law Suit](#)+ (11 lines) - Message - Published: 8/9/98 - Source: Ufomind (Mailing List) [Posted by Dave Bethke] <8/9/98 [#13](#)>
- [Supreme Court rejects Groom Lake appeal](#)+ (26 lines) - Message - Published: 11/3/98 - Source: Ufomind (Mailing List) [Posted by Glenn Campbell, Las Vegas] <11/3/98 [#14](#)>
- [Stealth Crash in Kosovo: Area 51 Secret Gets Out](#)+ (22 lines) - Message - Published: 4/2 - Source: Ufomind (Mailing List) [Posted by Vernon J. Brechin] <4/2 [#15](#)>

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