



Word of the Day Friday, February 26, 2010

mulct \MULKT\ , *noun*;

1. A fine or penalty.

transitive verb:

- 1. To punish for an offense or misdemeanor by imposing a fine or demanding a forfeiture.
- 2. To obtain by fraud or deception.
- 3. To defraud; to swindle.

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Quotes:

Officials repaid such loans by **mulcting** the public in a variety of legal and extra-legal ways.

-- *William H. McNeill, A World History*

The fact that major corporations don't have to pay their own way, and instead are able to enlist legislators to **mulct** common citizens -- and businesses with more modest Washington connections -- deforms the entire political system.

-- *Doug Bandow, "The Bipartisan Scandal of U.S. Corporate Welfare",*

State lawmakers and state courts . . . [have] ditched old common law rules so as to charge deep-pocket defendants with harms that were once considered other people's fault, thus making it thinkable to **mulct** automakers for the costs of drunk drivers' crashes

-- *Walter Olson, "Firing Squad", Reason, May 1999*

Origin:

Mulct comes from Latin *multa*, "a fine."

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