

Legal Word Of The Day: Mediate Datum

This Latin term means an intermediate fact whose existence implies the existence of ultimate facts. As Judge Learned Hand described, a mediate datum is "...a fact, from whose existence may be rationally inferred the existence of one of the facts upon whose combined occurrence the law raises the duty, or the right. The Evergreens v. Nunan, 141 F.2d 927, 928 (2d Cir. 1944).

A Liquid Solution to a Concrete Problem

When waste water is treated, left behind are biosolids. The Environmental Protection Agency requires these biosolids to be used or disposed of in a way that is responsible to both human health and the environment. Currently, 50 to 70% of those biosolids are used in agriculture to boost soil quality and fertilize crops. But, much biosolids remain unused and 7 to 8 million tons are shipped to landfills annually.

As the biosolids decompose, many greenhouse

gases are released into the environment. A research team in Melbourne thinks they have a solution for unused biosolids. They have experimented by mixing the biosolids with soil to make a hybrid brick. And although the bricks are weaker than traditional bricks, they meet industry requirements and use less energy to produce because organic materials in the biosolids burn in the brick furnace.

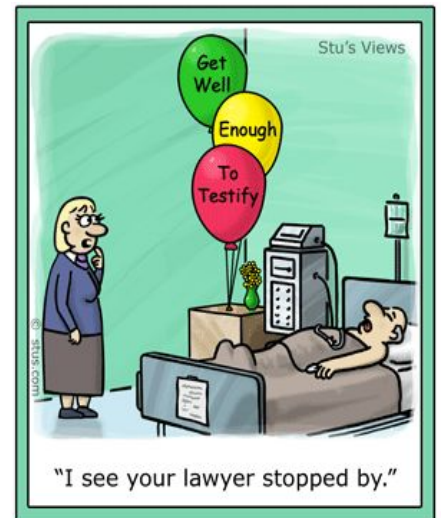
This can result in energy savings of up to 50% when compared to the traditional brick making process. Furthermore, the use of biosolids could reduce the amount of soil excavated to make bricks, which is both energy intensive and environmentally destructive.



A Lawyer Joke

An engineer vacationing on the Riviera met an old lawyer friend and asked him what he was doing there. The lawyer replied, "Remember that lousy real estate

I bought? Well, it caught fire, so here I am with the fire insurance proceeds. What are you doing here?" The engineer replied, "Remember that lousy real estate I had in Mississippi? Well, the river overflowed, and here I am with the flood insurance proceeds." The lawyer looked puzzled. "Gee," he asked, "how did you start the flood?"



Quote about Lawyers

"Lawyers' knowledge and problem-solving ability can surely make a strong contribution to the wide-ranging packs of skills that are needed to promote development, advance democracy and uphold the rule of law worldwide." - Christopher Colford on Global Development