

# Popular Threads on Solosez

## "WARM REGARDS" AS SALUTATION

In another thread someone wrote: Don't sign message to Solosez -- or for that matter most messages -- "Warm Regards." We can help, we like you, but there are a lot of crusty folks here. <sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub>g.,

Previously, I used "Yours truly" because that's what my boss used. I've understood its best not to use "Sincerely". Some people write "Fondly". So out of curiosity what salutation do you feel is best to use in default signatures and why.

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I generally use 'best regards' as it is friendly without being overly familiar. I have noticed, however, that many of my European clients are much more personal in their correspondence, signing "warmest regards," "best personal regards" or the equivalent in their language. I generally try to follow the tone of the person writing to me.

Just my opinion, but "Fondly" seems like an expression of personal affection rather than a signoff appropriate for business correspondence, even with someone you know fairly well.

Kevin W. Grierson, Virginia

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If you feel comfortable with "warm regards," use it. If some curmudgeon takes offense, who cares?

Adam M. Pizer, New York

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The boss uses "with warm personal regards" which always sounds funny after she's just blasted OC. See my signature block below.

With kindest regards,

Mara T. Ballard, CMA  
Office Manager / Forensic Accountant, South Carolina

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I always dictate my salutation as "Hugs and Kisses" and let the paralegal put in whatever they want.

Bruce E. Wingate, New York

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Way back when, I interned for congressman Kennedy. He used "all the best"

Gene Lee, California

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Just to be a linguistic nit-pick, I thought I'd point out that a salutation goes at the beginning of a writing, while a valediction goes at the end.

See: <<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Valediction>>and  
[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Salutation\\_\(greeting\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Salutation_(greeting))

My two cents - "warm regards" makes me cringe every time I read it. It sounds too close -- but that's just my cold opinion. I prefer "regards" or simply "best."

Brian T. Pedigo, California

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A good, softball question for a Friday!

I don't always use a closing in my emails, but I generally do for clients. When I use one, I just use "Best." I like it. And it's the best!!

But does it really matter?!

If someone doesn't hire me because they didn't like my closing, they probably would've been a nightmare client anyway. I'll let someone else have that nightmare.

If someone gets offended at my closing, they should get a thicker skin.

Andrew Flusche, Virginia

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"\*Hasta la vista, Baby\*."

No, just "best regards."

Ignacio Pinto-Leon, exas

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I think warm regards should be limited to personal letters. Business letters should be more formal. I have never used anything but "sincerely." My criminal defendants getting a letter that says "warm regards" are going to think WTF?

Eric C. Davis, Alabama

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Thank you, thank you, Brian, for picking linguistic nits. You've taken off those of us who're obsessive-compulsive about things like that.

I think that too many of us have fallen into the trap of using hum-drum and worn-out valedictions. We should either say what we really mean, or skip the valediction entirely, just as many of us do in e-mail correspondence. "Warm regards" and its kin make me want to throw up. It's just so insincere.

Your mother wears army boots,

jennifer rose, Mexico

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I've always used "yours truly" because that's the way I was trained.

NOW: with regard to Salutations, and not Valedictions, when writing a letter to someone other than an individual, i.e., cover letter to clerk of court, sheriff's civil service department, legal dept. of bank, or such, anybody else use the salutation:

Gentlepersons:

Which, though it may seem to be a modern 'politically correct' greeting, I actually picked up years ago from local Quakers back in Jersey; they've used that form of address for forever. I like it though; a bit quaint but unlikely to offend anyone, except for those looking for offense, as it were.

Ronald Jones, Florida

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I generally use 'regards' rather than 'sincerely' but occasionally want something slightly warmer but not 'warm' : ).

"Best regards" will be perfect for those letters.

I do like Ben's signature style and still miss MOTH's tag lines but they probably don't use them in business correspondence.

Regards,

Toni Warder, Texas

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I thought the same thing re: salutation vs. closing or valediction. I was taught that in second grade or thereabouts. Oddly, I was also taught that the most formal closing is "Sincerely" or "Sincerely Yours" but I have since learned that most people 10+ years older than I am (I'm 42) were taught NEVER to use "sincerely" in business conversation because it's only for use in personal messages. They tend to use "Very Truly Yours" which, to ME, sounds MUCH more personal than "sincerely." Go figure.

Meg Tebo, Illinois

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I started a similar thread a few months ago about why some people use "Dear" in their salutations to the adversary. I agree with you Jen, that if you don't mean it (and I mean, the dictionary definition of the word, such as

dear = "highly valued \*

precious<<http://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/precious>>

<a \*dear\* friend> —often used in a salutation"), then don't say it.

Totally unconventional and proud of it,

Brian Pedigo

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I don't use a salutation on my business e-mail. Even on letters, unless I'm sincere or otherwise thankful to the person, I treat the bottom as if it's

a formal document with my name and attorney at law with a signature line.

Paula McGill, Georgia

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I use Sincerely though if its a blistering letter perhaps Take a flying one at rolling doughnut would be more appropriate but because I've seen some of my epistles to other lawyers appear as exhibits I restrain my self.

John Davidson, Pennsylvania

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Look folks, there's a certain amount of social hypocrisy expected of each of us. When the wife/girlfriend/sig other asks if "this dress makes my butt look big" and you mutter something about a whale wearing spandex bike shorts, you BETTER reply when she says, What Did You Say; I said, honey, Well, I think it makes you look as good as Jessica Simpson wearing Daisy Duke Shorts, and how's your hearing?

There's just some social conventions expected from each of us; If we're talking about sincerity, why say "Thank you your honor" after they've just ruled against you.

Just play nice, use dear and thank you and please and you're welcome. Insincerity is the grease that society skids on.

Ronald Jones

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How about just

Peace, out.  
??

Meg Tebo

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I agree that, to me at least, "Yours Truly" seems \*more\* personal than "Sincerely/Sincerely Yours"

I can absolutely rail at you for two scathing pages, and as long as I really mean it, I am being sincere, so I think that "Sincerely" is appropriate.

On the other hand, I've been using "Yours Truly" also, due to the influence of a lawyer that I worked for while I was in law school, who signed everything "Yours Truly"

Phillip Laurin

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I use "warm regards" only for good friends or when I'm thanking someone for doing something very, very nice. I also reserve "best regards" for friendly letters or e-mails where I really mean it. I use "sincerely" most often because I always am sincere in business letters. I don't like using a signature phrase that I don't mean.

My \$.02.

(Now paranoid and over-analyzing all of my closings),

Deena Beard, New Mexico

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I like "cordially."

It's polite, yet devoid of any familiarity. I like keep my steely cold outer shell in place, lest OC sense my soft, pudding-like innards.

No offence to anyone, but "warm regards" sound weird, like we're talking about hot cross buns or something.

Tracy Conlon, Massachusetts

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Well now, isn't that funny. I just baked some hot cross buns this morning.

I always appreciate a good grammar lesson.

Now, and forevermore, Yours truly . . . but on this list it is just plain

Laura L. MacMurchie, Washington

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Of course it's proper!

Then again, I like to kick OC in the shins right after a motion hearing.

Keeps 'em on their toes and it's a lot of fun.

Tracy M Conlon

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Don't you all know that "warm regards" is code for you're going to Hell (or Miami).

James S. Tyre, California

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I like "Fondly" because it starts with an "F"

Michael.Vacchio

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I just switched to "Respectfully".

Because honestly, I do TRY to be respectful in my letters even when I am the most annoyed, dumb-founded, or furious at OC and I am hoping that this closing will help convey that. Plus I get a kick out of blistering letters then end "Yours truly" or anything else overly

cordial.

Amy Kleinpeter, California

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I had an OC include my lack of a closing as part of his commentary in one of an endless chain of letters describing why I am rude, unprofessional, unethical lying scum. "Your complete failure to even attempt professionalism and courtesy is noted by your lack of a salutatory phrase blah blah blah".

He was right to note it though -- I had been very restrained in my letter to him but I could not bring myself to write "Truly yours" at the bottom, I just couldn't.

On the other hand, I always finish a letter with "Your professionalism and courtesy in this matter are much appreciated." (Positive thinking, folks, positive thinking). I have had OC yell at me for that as well.

In closing, I get yelled at a lot. Maybe this is more me and less my closing phrases.

Amy Kleinpeter

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I remember sending a "forcefully" worded meet and confer letter to my opposing counsel around Christmas last year. I told him I would be filing an ex parte motion to compel. I concluded, "Wishing you all the best for the holidays".

I plan to send him a Christmas card every year.

Gene Lee

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I think it says more about your opposing counsels. They're playing "hide the ball" by focusing on alleged deficits in your etiquette instead of discussing the issue.

I once had an OP take me to task for "not maintaining a professional office" since I practice from home and my contact address on the bar website is my home address (they don't allow PO Boxes on the bar website, but that's a whole other story). It went like this:

OP: You don't even have a real office. You practice out of your residence.

Me: Yep.

Him: That's unprofessional.

Me: Where in the Rules does it say I have to have an office separate from my home.

Him: It's just ridiculous that I should even have to deal with you. Does your client know you don't have a real office?

Me: Yep.

Him: Just proves how stupid she is.

Me: That's about 10th time you've insulted me or my client in the past ten days. Do you have any actual legal strategy, or do you expect us both to just roll over and cry because we're girls and you're a bully?

Him: Harumph....@#\$\$%^&\*

(Hangs up.)

BTW.... I later turned the case over to a more seasoned litigator when the OP insisted on going to trial on something he should have settled. Last I heard, the court had not only complemented the quality of our filings (I am a wrytur, after all) but the jerk OP had been reprimanded several times by the court for continuing his bullying, missing-the-point ways. Client tells me she's now expecting it to settle soon, and probably for close to everything we asked for.

Meg Tebo

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I'm with you. I use "sincerely" because I am sincere even if I may not be cordial and do not belong to the person to whom the letter is addressed (as in not "very truly yours"). If I do not wish the person the best, then I at least sincerely do not wish the person the best

Naomi C. Fujimoto, Hawaii

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FWIW, I'm with you. I hate "warm regards" - makes my skin crawl. But that's just me...

Laura McFarland-Taylor

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I think Kanye West wrote warm regards in an apology to Taylor Swift after he interrupted her award acceptance speech. Tell your kids that there is quiz on facebook called, "When will Kanye interrupt you?" Very funny. Adults can take quiz too;-)

Royce Brent Bishop, Florida

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George H. W. Bush, famous for his kindly, short handwritten messages, also uses "All the best" and has done so for decades.

Speaking as one who used to work for the company that was famous for saccharine and Equal(r) (aspartame), among other items, the problem with "Warm Regards" is that it is cloyingly sweet.

That's just not appropriate in professional communications. One problem with solo practice is that it is hard to learn these things on one's own. For a wonderfully skeptical essay on false sentimentality, look up Lionel Trilling's "Sincerity and Authenticity."

Acceptable terms for business use over the years have included, starting with what I have been taught is most formal, Very truly yours, Yours very truly, Sincerely yours, Yours sincerely, Cordially, Best regards. I am sure I am leaving some out.

I use, well, take a look.

Norm

Norman R. Solberg, Japan

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My experience with Europeans and Asians is that there's a hierarchy of regards:

"Regards" is the lowest

"Kind Regards" is next

"Warm Regards" is next

"Best regards" is the highest, unless you REALLY know and like somebody, in which case it's "Best personal regards" (as good as it gets).

You're always free to "up" somebody if you want to convey a friendly tone, unless, of course, the contents of your message are inherently unfriendly (pay us or we'll sue you're a...), which case it's appropriate to go backwards to "Regards".

L.J.Daley

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Warm regards kinda sounds like leftovers, but if you are comfortable with it, it's fine.

For routine letters, I use Very truly yours. Why? Because that's what I learned in High School Typing Class and I'm not about to give any more thought to changing my closing salutation. Especially since the insurance claim reps usually just throw the letter in a file (or have it scanned) anyway.

Best,

Jeena R. Belil, New York

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I use "Sincerely yours" for Americans and "With warm regards" for Europeans.

Marion J. Browning-Baker, Germany

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I was just about to say that I switched to "regards" after my Californian co-counsel used it---I want to be hip, too, ya know. And damn, if he didn't send me an email 45 seconds ago with "warm regards".

Does this now mean that I must equal his level of "warmth"?

[warmest] Regards,  
Jimmy Mac

James M. McMullan

Actually, when I really mean it, I use : Best personal and professional regards."

Michael Vacchio

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As long as the warmth of "regards" does not elevate to "spicy"...

Drew Winghart, California

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Yes, but you should start with 'warmer regards' or '72° regards' or similar. When he escalates to "warmest" then switch over to the 'fondly' and 'affectionately' series. Let us know how weird it gets.

Jokingly,

Toni Warder, Texas

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I usually don't use a valediction at all, same with salutations. Both are often disingenuous so I just skip them. If I really want to express some sentiment I'll expand it and make it the last short paragraph of the letter.

Steve O'Donnell, Pennsylvania

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I was advised in my law school clinic to close business correspondence with "Yours, etc.," which I still like a lot, particularly for opposing counsel. It is a traditional way of closing legal correspondence. You'll even find it in Jane Austen.

Cary Winslow

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Thank you all for providing me with some entertainment after a day of dealing with crazy real estate deals and other lawyers and their staff who don't seem to realize that you get more flies with honey and what goes around comes around and all that.

I use Yours Truly, just 'cause I like it. For some reason Regards bugs me so no can do on the Warmest Regards either. I don't generally use anything in more casual emails, but if I like you and feel comfortable enough, I will sign off saying Cheers. I do like the idea of Cordially, though, that one sounds good. I may take it for a spin some time.

So ...

Cheers,

Michele

Michele R.J. Allinotte, Canada

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"Yours," Where did that valediction get its beginning? Why did it start

being used? What does it mean?

I am not "theirs." I am "mine." I am usually not at their service either (unless it is my client). That's what \*yours \*sounds like to me. Like I am theirs.

My wife's,

-Brian Pedigo

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Brian,

I agree.

Sallie Mae's, Wells Fargo's and Citibank's,

Gene Lee

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The valediction isn't "Yours." It's "Yours, etc." I like using it because it drops all the claptrap. It's clearly just a closing, with no real meaning.

Cary Winslow

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How about tradition?

After telling opposing counsel something akin to "to go [blank] themselves," this valedictory closing has a rather delightfully contrapuntal tone, n'est-ce pas?

I beg to remain, Sir,

Your most humble and obedient servant,

Donna Wynne, California

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For me it's usually "best regards" for friendly correspondence and "sincerely" when I'm being more threatening or dealing with opposing counsel or something like that.

Sasha Golden, Massachusetts