

# Happy 15th Birthday, SoloSez

*A May 2011 discussion on SoloSez, the email listserv for general practice, solo and small firm lawyers*

Yes, it's been fifteen years.

jennifer j. rose ABA member since 1973 Editor-in-Chief, GP|Solo

Happy birthday Sezzers! I'm glad I found this list!

Naomi C. Fujimoto, Hawaii

Hmm, how many sezzers who joined in the first year are still here?

Probably I'll embarrass myself by omitting someone obvious, but:

You, me, CJ, Kodner, Dorner. Miscreants all. - James S. Tyre< California

I lost early email records, since I was a slow learner about backing up, so I can't trace when I joined. I think it was sometime in 97-99.

I do recall firing up my first website here in Japan around 1998. At that time, White & Case Japan was a footnote, so to speak, on a page of its NYC site. They had made the mistake of asking the Ministry of Justice, I later found, and it was no surprise that they were refused since they and other large US firms were regarded as "the enemy" by the local bar. As a solo, I wasn't. <g>

Norm Solberg, Japan

I was here in the first year briefly, for about 3 months, before the e-mail volume got too high. I was in law school at the time and had to drop off (I was working and it got to be too much at the time to follow Solosez, school, and work). However, I rejoined again in 1998. I remember, the first mention of Solosez in the ABA Journal was in the Summer of 96. I think I joined at the second mention of it in the Journal. I was not very active that first year though, one of the reasons I dropped off.

In the meantime, Happy Birthday to Solosez! What a fun ride it has been these past 15 years. Many thanks to all who have made it work.

Frank J. Kautz, II, Massachusetts

Wow, 15 years, and I am still here.

Saundra M. Gumerove, New York

Wow.

To the others at the list who were there back at the beginning, it's been a great privilege and pleasure to know and work with you, even the ones I've never met face to face. A special thanks and place in all our hearts is due to COTE.

Peace

Jim Moriarty, Iowa

I recall first learning of Solosez in 1996 from a GP|Solo mailing of a small publication. I think jen was the editor and Deb Owens was the moderator here. I recently came across a copy of it and its bright teal color. Back then there were a couple of hundred of us. Thank you to our founding visionary Bruce Dorner and bless jen who keeps the train on track.

Deb

Deborah G. Matthews, Virginia

I suppose I would have to join the list of miscreants, albeit under several different email addresses. I joined in 1996. Before that I was on counsel.com and some yahoo groups and similar endeavors.

Darrell G. Stewart, Texas

Dear jennifer,

Since you are in MX, are we going to have a "Quinceanera<<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Quincea%C3%B1era>>" for SoloSez? By the way, IMHO Quinceañerías parties<<http://nursing322sp10.files.wordpress.com/2010/03/quinceanera1.jpg?w=300&h=200>>

are atrocious <[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v6\\_1O\\_HBS18](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v6_1O_HBS18)>. But that's just me.  
Ignacio Pinto-Leon, Texas

Not sure exactly when I joined; I find I still have emails from January of 1997, so I might have missed 1996 by a few days. There was also Charles Whisonant, Marty Paskind and Mike Riddle. sigh.

Lisa Runquist, California

Me, I jones sometime in the summer of 96, IIRC I had sat for bar exam and was waiting for results.

What ever happened to Commodore Chris (Chris Menard? was it?)

Ronald Jones, Florida

I first joined up in 1997. Dropped off a couple of times when I worked for the state, but in the end, like a bad apple, I always return.

Kurt Valentine, Missouri

Probably ran off with Jimmy Buffett.

C.J. Stevens, Montana

I first posted on Solosez as an anonymous big firm law guy back in 1997. Did I make the first year cut?

Neal A. Kennedy, Texas

Found it. My first Solosez post (below) wasn't until June 1997, so I didn't make it under the wire the first year.

I am still a miscreant though, right?

Neal A. Kennedy

Of course you are!

James S. Tyre

Has COTE been here the whole time then? Hovering ethereally like a Norn, with her scissors poised?

Larry Frost, Minnesota

Shouldn't we be having a company picnic to celebrate?

Tom Crane, Texas

Yes. But when I first started here she was a family law attorney in Iowa.

Kurt Valentine

James Tyre had already identified her as a Creature of the Ether by the time I joined.

Neal A. Kennedy

Scuse me, but that's just silly wrong.

jennifer rose has been here the whole time. COTE, however, came into being on 18 March, 1997. There is a difference. (Most assuredly, I did not create jennifer rose. Most assuredly, I did create COTE.)

James S. Tyre

Nothing that is posted on the Interweb can ever truly be erased.

Neal A. Kennedy

I originally joined after the article appeared in the ABA Journal sometime aroun '96. Then after I gave birth to my 3rd son in 1998, I took a break. Have been back since 2000-2001. Not a big poster, but am here!!

What a great list.

Evelyn W. Zawatsky, Rhode Island

Not sure when I got here but it was the "toe cleavage" thread that reeled me in.

So don't think I'm being shy, I'm just checkin' out the cleavage!

Jimmy Mac

Jimmy McMullan, Alabama

I joined in 1996 as member no. 200-something-or-other. I bestowed the title "Law Guy" on Neal Kennedy, who was still with BigLaw at the time and needed discretion. Several of our old-timers sadly are no longer with us, and it's a lot noisier than it used to be due to the increased membership. But the spirit of comradeship has never gone away.

I love it here.

Sasha Golden, Massachusetts

I joined after I went solo in Jan 97. So I guess I'm not quite an OG in the solosez hood. But I am confident in my status as a miscreant.

When I joined I felt like such a noob with couple of hundred folks here before me. Until that "Law Guy" showed up and had about a gazillion questions :-)

It sure has gotten noisier in the past couple of years. Makes it harder and harder to keep up or post as often.

Gil Shuga, Arizona

I went solo on Oct. 1, 1996. I think I joined about 6 weeks later but I'm not sure. My first emails that I still have are from Jan 1997. Amazing. (I think there were only about 100-150 of us when I joined.)

David Kaufman, Virginia

Ooooh! I just bought some kickin' 3 inch heels (with toe cleavage! and open-toed!) that would make Gina Bongiovi proud!

Dineen Pashoukos Wasylik, Florida

I, for one, am very happy for you Dineen. Did you buy them to celebrate the 15 year anniversary of Solosez or just needed to tell someone?

Kurt Valentine

Just needed to share with the Solosez community. I've always felt left out of prior shoe coversations, as I am not normally a shoe kind of gal. These new babies, though, are the closest I've ever come to shoes that would make our shoe maven proud. Gotta give Gina her props! Dineen

Dineen Pashoukos Wasylik

Wow! I started the list, suggested having jen moderate, and look what trouble we've created! Damn, it's been fun!!!!

Bruce L. Dorner, New Hampshire

In those fifteen years, Bruce, how many times has jen suspended your posting privileges?

Rogert Bartlett, Texas

I was not there at the beginning because among other things, I knew very little about computers sort of like now. But jen and I were involved with GPSSFS in its then condition and she was a reason to get into it. I lurked for a while and I have been with Solosez from early on with a couple of trial separations. I have admired and respected the list ever since, I only got worked up once when I disagreed with a rule about which I have no memory.

I believe it is the most powerful resource for all solos and small firm lawyers. It should be the mortar which holds the bricks of essential law practice in this country. It is hard to manage as it is so large that some organizational/administrative embellishments might enrich access to materials more directly on point and part of an historical data base. That remains for another generation. I thank all those who serve the list by participating and allowing us to know them better.

Of course jennifer has earned a gold watch and a ticket around the world. She is strong and opinionated in the best way. She is the foundation and Bruce Dorner the most versatile of the lawyers in the Granite State. He is one of the pedestals upon which the whole program emerged from the law practice section. Only solo practitioners would endow members with the diverse skills and flexibility our membership includes.

Dick Howland, Massachusetts

Ive been on the list (with a brief interruption) since circa 1996 or 1997, when I practiced in NJ. That was several e-mail addresses and a couple of crashed computers ago.

In fact, when I joined, there was not a required drink-and-pet introduction. I guess I was grandfathered (grandmothered?) in. (If anybody gives a damn at this late date: coffee; no pets. How's that for a belated introduction?)

The first e-mail I used was a juno address. (Do they still exist?) I still remember a post by a member (whoever it was, are you still out there?) who was having problems with his account and sent a rant to the list about juno. It started Dear Fellow Cheap-ass Juno Users I still laugh at that.

I've met a few of you, but someday I'll make to one of the various lunches in Mass., NJ, or NYC. (And I've always wanted to meet Dick Howland, whose posts are among the most thoughtful I've read on the list. In fact, I was just in your neighborhood last week while out in Amherst.)

Lisa J. Bern, Massachusetts

Yes, many of us remember that Bruce was the founder, What a fine thing you did.

Of course, there is lots of chaff and gossip, but I have gained so much on substantive and practice issues, and I suspect that others would have to say the same. And Bruce's comments are always good. Thanks, Bruce!

Norm Solberg