

## Reflections on an Anniversary (Continued)

See <https://www.americanbar.org/groups/gpsolo/resources/solosez/popular-threads-2019/2019-03-threads/> for the beginning of Reflections on an Anniversary

Back in 2000, I was a young mom with a 3 and 10-month old juggling a part-time schedule and toying with the idea of starting a new website that would later become MyShingle. I decided to do some due diligence on existing websites for solo and small firm practice and in my search, stumbled across MyShingle and signed up - largely for research purposes.

But very quickly, I was drawn in by the conversation and support. A month later, I learned of the monthly lunches held in Bethesda - fortuitously, just 5 blocks from my house - and I began attending, meeting solosezzers face to face, first locally and then throughout the country - in Boston and Birmingham, Minneapolis and Iowa and San Francisco and LA and Chicago and New York City and Santa Fe.

In 2001 - right after 9/11, I was part of the first Solosez class that was jointly admitted to the Supreme Court. My husband - who had been working on a contract in Alabama flew in for the occasion - I didn't think it was all that big a deal, but he was so proud. We managed to sneak our daughters - then 5 and 2 into the courtroom where my older daughter sat very quietly and obediently next to Neal Kennedy's daughters. Meanwhile, my younger daughter was in the gallery with my husband and as the swearing in's started, she began to scream. My husband had to haul her out of the courtroom, and all I can remember from that point forward were the loud shrieks of my daughter outside the courtroom. My husband missed the swearing in but when we were finished, I took over childcare and he watched the next case.

In addition to the swearing-in, solosez was a source of multiple other gifts. I wrote the chapter on How Not to Be Lonely in Solo Practice in Flying Solo and a chapter on Cold Calling in the marketing book edited by Jennifer Rose. I met other lawyers who started out as on-line acquaintances and evolved into close personal friends and mentors. Most of all, I will never forget the outpouring of kindness and support from this list after my

husband died. As I've mentioned before, these days, I tend to spend more

time in different communities on Facebook and Slack but the one thing that has always set Solosez apart is the generosity of the lawyers on this list.

Everyone here is genuinely committed to helping colleagues and improving the profession in a way that is markedly absent from other fora where most of the people who offer advice are also out to make a buck.

Since I joined this list, the passage of time has been palpable. My husband is gone and my daughters are grown - my older daughter who was just a kindergartner at the SCOTUS swearing-in is a college grad with a year of teaching under her belt who will be starting a Phd program in theoretical mathematics at Syracuse University (go Orange!) in the fall with full tuition benefits and a \$28k fellowship for her first year. My younger daughter who

shrieked in the SCOTUS hallway is finishing her sophomore year at college - a math major like her sister and working towards a joint BA and Masters education in 4 years and is also president of her sorority. I will turn 55 at the end of next month - the same age or older as so many of the sezzers who were mentors to me when I joined the list. Who knew how fast the time would fly? I just know that when I hit the send button to join solosez, I could have never imagined what it would lead to so much all these years later.

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