

A Quadranscentennial Anniversary for Solosez

Happy 25th birthday to Solosez!

In the spring of 1996, the ABA Standing Committee on Solo & Small Firms created Solosez, which was adopted by the General Practice, Solo & Small Firm Section, now known as the Solo, Small Firm and General Practice Division after the committee met its end. It's been called The Firm and The Collective, and, like Baker & McKenzie's empire, the sun never sets on Solosez.

Solosez has seen BarWatch, Mr. Bill, Victor Hahahahahah Gold, the Law Guy, and an epic's worth of characters. Births, marriages, divorces, adoptions, deaths, bar admissions, first trials, and arguments to SCOTUS. Five U.S. presidents. The appointment of seven SCOTUS justices. 25 ABA presidents. 9/11, Katrina, Hurricanes Sandy and Harvey, California wildfires, swine flu, and COVID-19.

When Solosez was new, so were Windows 95 and the Palm Pilot. AOL, Compuserve, Netscape, and Prodigy. When was the last time you heard someone utter "World Wide Web?"

We've come a long way in those 25 years.

And here's to 25 more years of Solosez!

jennifer j. rose, Mexico

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Eudora was great for managing receipt of Solozez emails. I can't even remember the now-defunct brand of the computer I used back in 1996, but at least it had a Pentium chip and 2 MB of RAM.

Bert Krages, Oregon

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Bravo!

Class of '97 here, just after Sasha Golden & just before The Law Guy (we know who you are!) and Andrea Goldman.

Someone out there is still searching for the body of Bubba Leroy of Dimebox.

Cheers!

Patricia M. Joyce, Rhode Island

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Is there any way to figure out when one joined? The oldest Solosez post I have saved in Thunderbird dates from 2004, but I think I actually joined some years before that.

Michael A. Koenecke, Texas

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Bravo and congrats indeed. The first time I joined was around 2002-03; was then and is now a great community. Here's to the next 25 years!

Amy A. Breyer, California

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Not really, and for a number of reasons. People change their email addresses, unsubscribing from the old address, and that creates a new start date. A little over a decade ago, to weed out old, defunct addresses, the ABA started asking subscribers to reconfirm (or renew) their subscriptions on some anniversary date of their subscription. That creates a new start date.

For the longest time, Henry Reckler held the record as the subscriber with the longest unchanged address. But he went and unsubscribed or reconfirmed or something, losing the title.

The three subscribers with the oldest join dates, going back to 2004, now are:

John Mitchell

Laurie Axinn Gienapp

Wendell Finner

All three use Gmail for Solosez.

jennifer j. rose

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woo hoo! that answers my question... 2004 it is!

Happy Anniversary, Solosez (and where's the cake?)

Laurie Axinn Gienapp, Massachusetts

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I, too, found some posts going back to 2004.. but think that perhaps I joined a year or two earlier.

Laurie Axinn Gienapp,

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Ah well. Back in those days, it had not occurred to me to get my own domain, so my address was "mkoenecke@alum.haverford.edu" for some time.

First mention (of many) of "Solosez" in my personal journal was in 2007.

Michael A. Koenecke

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And I think COTE was 18 then.....

I joined around 2010. Maybe 2007. I've used this address since 2010, though.

Greg Zbylut, California

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Gienapplaw@AOL.COM was a subscriber back in June 2001. But you may have joined earlier than that. It's just that June 2001 is the oldest subscriber roster I still have.

Just looking at those email addresses was definitely a walk down the dark abysses of memory:

bwk1156@AOL.COM	Barry Kaufman
Lmsolomonesq@AOL.COM	Lisa Solomon
pas1220@AOL.COM	Patricia A. Sokolich
Sbleiweiss@AOL.COM	(No Name Available)
SubscriptonEmail@AOL.COM	David J. Leffler
Vschnidrig@AOL.COM	Veronica Schnidrig
curtis.drew@AZBAR.ORG	Curtis Drew
sderamus@BELLSOUTH.NET	Sterling DeRamus
vklevy@BELLSOUTH.NET	Vicki Levy

Avram\_Sacks@CCH.COM Avram Sacks  
sacksa@CCH.COM Avram Sacks  
eric.grimm@CYBERBRIEF.NET Eric Grimm  
debmatthews@EARTHLINK.NET Deb Matthews  
eschaal@EARTHLINK.NET Ernie Schaal  
rfay@EARTHLINK.NET Roberta Fay  
Bill\_Cherbonnier@EMAIL.MSN.COM Bill Cherbonnier  
dzkesq@EROLS.COM David Kaufman  
Ernest\_Schaal@EXCITE.COM Ernest Schaal  
solberg@GAIBEN.COM Norman R. Solberg  
jrose@GIGA.COM Jennifer Rose  
loce@HIS.COM Carolyn Elefant  
atty@HUGHESLAWOFFICE.ZZN.COM Atty Hughes  
rajones@IAG.NET Ronald A. Jones  
wfinner@JACKSONVILLE.NET Wendell Finner  
cmlaw@JPS.NET Craig McLaughlin  
Frank@KAUTZLAW.COM Frank Kautz  
FrankJ@KAUTZLAW.COM Frank Kautz  
rkraft@KRAFTLAW.COM Robert Kraft  
cope@KTIS.NET Penny Umstatted-Cope  
roger@RABLAW.COM Roger Bartlett  
DMatthews@ROBERTEWARDASSOCIATES.COM Deborah Matthews  
bubba\_leroy@ROCKETMAIL.COM Bubba Leroy  
klmiller@RRNET.COM Keith Miller  
lisa@RUNQUIST.COM Lisa Runquist  
sbleiweiss@SHELL-BLEIWEISS.COM Shell Bleiweiss  
alpert@SNOWCREST.NET Anthony Alpert  
curtisdrew@USWEST.NET Curtis Drew  
asimpson@VIACCESS.NET Andrew Simpson

bloomlaw@WORLDNET.ATT.NET      Jeffrey Bloom

pgkesq@WORLDNET.ATT.NET      Paul Kostro

klafehn@WPE.COM      Rodney Klafehn

eaglaw@ZIPLINK.NET      E. Alexandra Golden

jennifer j. rose

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Happy birthday to us.

The earliest record I have is from around 2006. Never changed my email address but the Solosez demons unsubscribed me for no known reason for a day (and no, I wasn't banned).

Here's to another 25 years and more. I love this list.

Fern Summer, New York

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I joined as a law student in 1996 in the pre-jen, Deb Owens days. I think there might have been 200 of us then.

Deb Matthews, Virginia

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Happy Birthday! - and congratulations to COTE who has held Solosez together for these last 25 years!

I must have been one of the earliest to join, because not only was I using Windows 95, I was using a dial-up ISP that would kick you off after 10 minutes - you could hardly get through a morning's or afternoon's worth of posts in that time!

I've learned a lot about unfamiliar areas of law, have received - and hopefully have shared - some wisdom along the way, and have enjoyed the [WC] conversations on all kinds of topics!

And I've met a lot of really good people on and through Solosez - some of whom are no longer with us - and have shared things sometime on- and sometimes off-list that I would not have been comfortable sharing with members of my not always collegial local bar.

One thing, though, that I was never able to share: Being a "dirt law" attorney, I worked with realtors, bankers, surveyors and other professionals who exclusively used MS Word. And, since back in the day, navigating between Word and Word Perfect was sometimes difficult and nearly always challenging, I early on made the exclusive switch to MS Word.

I could never bring myself to share that one with Ross Kodner ...

Rod Klafehn, New York

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Happy Anniversary to Solosez! I am pretty sure I joined in 2009, but back in the 90s I was a member of one of the other original ABA listservs, network-2d, for years, with the likes of Ross, Bob Ambrogi, and a bunch of other tech geeks.

Kevin Grierson, Virginia

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I joined in December (or maybe November) 1996. There were about 100-125 of us then. Deb joined right after me.

David Kaufman, Florida

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It's amazing how many of us on the 2001 list are still here.

Lisa Solomon, New York

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They use Gmail now, but it wasn't around in 1996 or so. Anyone remember when it became available?

I learned @ it thru Solosez & IIRC, one needed an invitation!

Patricia M. Joyce

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Gmail launched in April 2004.

I didn't start to use it for Solosez until August 2004.

jennifer j. rose

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I asked my friend Google. It started in 2004.

Peter Clark

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Thank you, Jennifer and Frank, for opening up a world to me that drastically improved my life as a lawyer! If it weren't for Frank telling me he was on 17 listserves (I didn't know what a listserv was), I would never have:

1. Met lots of people at TechShow and attended some of the best CLEs ever.
2. Presented at the ABA annual meeting (it was a disaster)!
3. Written numerous articles and a chapter in a book
4. Formed friendships across the country and world with many people who I've never even met in person
5. And the most important: Made friends with Massachusetts colleagues who have been meeting monthly for dinner (Frank, Sasha-how many years?) who have provided endless support and friendship and have never once made fun of me for asking stupid questions!

Just Wow!

AndreanGoldman, Massachusetts

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I don't recall if I joined in 1996 or 1997, but I joined as soon as I saw information on it from the ABA. I also don't recall the initial email address, but when the ABA offered one, I was darrell.stewart@abanet.org until that went away. Since then, I have been through quite a few email addresses before setting up a gmail one just for this listserv. Like others, I got my first gmail account by invitation from here and still have it.

Darrell G. Stewart, Texas

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Andrea's ABA presentation was excellent. Who could predict she would be scheduled to follow Arthur Miller? 🙄

Patricia A. Joyce

