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## solicitation, *n.*

**Pronunciation:** /səˈlɪsɪˈteɪʃən/

**Forms:** α. *Sc.ME*–15 **solistatioun** (15 **solistacioun**), 15–16 **solistation**, 15 **solystatioun**, ...

**Etymology:** < Old French *sol-*, *sollicitation* (modern French *sollicitation* , = Spanish ...

†1. Management, transaction, or pursuit of business, legal affairs, etc. *Obs.*

- 1492 *Acta Dom. Concilii* 250/1 Þe Soume of fiftj merkis..auch to him..for solistatioun of thar errandis þe tyme he wes alderman of þe said toun.
- 1529 in Burnet *Hist. Ref.* I. II. Rec. xxii. (1679) 54 So as ye may be sure to have of him effectual concurrence and advice in the furtherance and sollicitation of your Charges.
- 1642 HARCOURT in *Macmillan's Mag.* XLV. 289, I presume you are now very bussee in the solissitation of my law bussines.
- 1722 in *Westm. Gaz.* (1906) 27 Aug. 2/3 To undertake the Sollicitation and Management of any Affairs which may come before either House.

### 2.

**a.** The action of soliciting, or seeking to obtain by earnest request; entreaty, petition, diligent or importunate asking.

α.

- 1533 J. BELLENDEN tr. Livy *Hist. Rome* (1901) I. I. xv. 82 Numa havand na cognossance of Rome,..was chosin but ony his solistacioun, and maid king.
- 1561 *Reg. Privy Council Scotl.* I. 160 To the effect oure Soverane Lady be nocht molestit with importunite, solistatioun, and requeist.
- 1637–50 J. ROW *Hist. Kirk Scotl.* (Wodrow Soc.) 221 He was upon great moyen and solistation enlarged, but verie shortlie after he departed this life.

β.

- 1533 J. BELLENDEN tr. Livy *Hist. Rome* (1903) II. v. vi. 167 Þai þat war movit be requiest or sollicitatioun of tribunys militare.
- 1588 W. LAMBARDE *Eirenarcha* (new ed.) IV. vii. 514 At the sollicitation and by the meanes of some parties griued.
- 1622 WILLIAMS in *Fortescue P.* (Camden) 173 By the sollicitacion of Sir Edw. Cooke I forbore..to doe any thing herein.
- 1697 N. LUTTRELL *Diary* in *Brief Hist. Relation State Affairs* (1857) IV. 296 Great sollicitation has been used for the two latter to change their sentence from death to transportation.
- 1751 JOHNSON *Rambler* No. 160. ¶2 [Patrons] are sometimes corrupted by Avarice, and sometimes cheated by Credulity, sometimes overpowered by resistless Solicitation.
- 1780 *Mirror* No. 71, After two years solicitation..Antonio gave up all hopes of success.

- 1836 H. TAYLOR *Statesman* xxiii. 167 A spirit of justice, ears shut against private solicitation, ought to be regarded as essential qualifications..for the office of private secretary.
- 1883 *Law Rep.: Chancery Div.* **23** 722 At her solicitation the trustee lent the fund to the husband and it was lost.

**b.** With *a* and pl. An instance of this.

- 1513 W. DUNBAR *Poems* (1998) 60 Be diuers..operatiounes Men makis in court thair solistationes.
- 1596 EARL OF ESSEX in H. Ellis *Orig. Lett. Eng. Hist.* (1846) 3rd Ser. IV. 131 His sollicitacons and guifts, offered to the rebells of Irland.
- 1625 in W. Foster *Eng. Factories India 1624–9* (1909) 59 Our owne petitions, sollicitations, and complaintes.
- 1671 MILTON *Samson Agonistes* 488 Spare that proposal, Father, spare the trouble Of that sollicitation.
- 1769 'JUNIUS' *Stat Nominis Umbra* (1772) I. xxv. 183 Your sollicitations..were renewed under another administration.
- 1836 J. MARTIN *Disc.* iv. 121 Without one solicitation on the part of the conquered, peace is offered.
- 1874 J. R. GREEN *Short Hist. Eng. People* ix. 689 In spite of his master's personal solicitations Churchill remained true to Protestantism.

**c.** The action of soliciting a person of the other sex (cf. SOLICIT *v.* 4b, 4d).

- 1616 SHAKESPEARE *Othello* (1622) IV. ii. 204 If she will returne me my Jewels, I will giue ouer my suite, and repent my vnlawfull sollicitation.
- 1640 T. CAREW *Poems* 52 She Who hath preserv'd her spotlesse chastitie From all sollicitation.
- 1681 T. OTWAY *Souldiers Fortune* III. i. 34 She cannot be free from the insolent sollicitations of such Fellows as you are, Sir.
- 1786 E. INCHBALD *I'll tell you What* III. ii. 54 He had just seen the most beautiful girl his eyes ever beheld, to whom he had given a look of sollicitation.
- 1848 DICKENS *Dombey & Son* liv. 541 From my marriage day, I found myself exposed..to such sollicitation and pursuit..from one mean villain.
- 1887 *Pall Mall Gaz.* 25 July 4/2 No charge of solicitation is to be taken except when the solicitee is prepared to come forward and prosecute.

**d.** *Law.* (See quot. 1835 and SOLICIT *v.* 3.)

- 1835 T. E. TOMLINS *Jacob's Law-dict., Solicitations.* It is an indictable offence to solicit and incite another to commit a felony.

**3.** The exertion or operation of a physically attracting influence or force.

- 1626 BACON *Sylua Sylvarum* §836 By Excitation and Solicitation of the Body Putrified, and the Parts thereof, by the Body Ambient.



- 1833 J. F. W. HERSCHEL *Astronomy* viii. 266 Be it pressure from without or the resultant of many pressures or solicitations of unknown fluids.
- 1837 W. WHEWELL *Hist. Inductive Sci.* II. 85 The 'solicitations of gravity'.
- 1884 *N. Amer. Rev.* Aug. 115 The solicitations of Jupiter's attractive force are as urgent on a swiftly rushing body as on one at rest.

#### 4. The action of some attractive, enticing, or alluring influence.

- 1676 M. HALE *Medit. Lord's Prayer* 153 in *Contempl.: 2nd Pt.*, In these the Objects were innocent, and had in themselves no active solicitation to Evil.
- 1694 J. LOCKE *Ess. Humane Understanding* (new ed.) II. i. 43 Children..are surrounded with a world of new things, which, by a constant solicitation of their Senses, draw the mind constantly to them.
- 1712 J. ARBUTHNOT *John Bull* II. iv. 17 She was..a common mercenary Prostitute, and that without any Solicitation from Nature.
- 1758 JOHNSON *Idler* 7 Oct. 209 Vicious solicitations of appetite, if not checked, will grow more importunate.
- a1820 T. BROWN *Philos. Human Mind* IV. xcvi. 561 The duty that is exercised in resisting the solicitations of evils.
- 1884 J. SULLY *Outl. Psychol.* iv. 99 The power of sustained attention grows with the ability to resist distractions and solicitations.

#### †5. Anxiety; solicitude. *Obs.*

- 1693 J. CLAYTON in *Philos. Trans.* (Royal Soc.) 17 793 If..their Heards are stray'd from their Plantations, without more solicitation they go directly to the Rivers to fetch them home again.
- a1718 W. PENN in *Life in Wks.* I. 135 Whom I ever served with a steady Sollicitation.
- 1725 *Family Dict.* at *Water*, This comes so little..into our Diet..that it is not worth much Sollicitation about it.

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## DERIVATIVES

### **solici'tationism** *n.*

- 1880 W. D. HOWELLS *Undiscov. Country* iii. 52 What I wish now to establish as the central principle of the spiritistic science is the principle of solicitationism.



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