

# Happy Birthday by RGT (*The Times*)

Website: [www.francisbennion.com](http://www.francisbennion.com)

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For full version of abbreviations click 'Abbreviations' on FB's website.

## Happy Birthday Francis Bennion, 89

The barrister and writer Francis Bennion is a self-styled "defender of the rule of law" and has spelt it out in Latin "*defensor legum auctoritatis*" on his website.

He thinks people should wake up and give thanks for the rule of law every day. He is a tireless writer to *The Times* and has had more than 150 of his letters published. He will not be celebrating his birthday at all, but says: "I am just so very grateful to have had such a long life and to still have all my mental faculties." RGT<sup>1</sup>

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**Note:** Following publication of this birthday message FB wrote to *The Times* pointing out the spelling error in the original statement:

## Latin for 'Defender of the Rule of Law' by Francis Bennion

I am grateful to *The Times* for the kind birthday greetings (2 January 2012). Before anyone else does, may I hastily point out that my description as self-appointed defender of the Rule of Law should be *defensor* (not *defessor*) *legum auctoritatis*. The phrase was kindly Latinized for me by the University of Oxford Public Orator, Professor Jasper Griffin. I would not like him to think I had transgressed.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> The above was published by *The Times* on FB's 89<sup>th</sup> birthday 2 January 2012.

<sup>2</sup> Published in *The Times* 3 January 2012.