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ALUMNI FORUM

Vol. 3, No. 1 Fall, 1977

The Death of the Law — Author featured

The Honorable Lois Forer, author of *The Death of the Law*, opened Golden Gate's Speakers' Forum program for the 1977-78 academic year on October 26. Speaking to an overflow crowd of approximately 200, Judge Forer explored the reasons supporting her conclusion that the law no longer is of moral force in society—that it is obeyed out of fear rather than respect. Judge Forer has served as a Judge of the Court of Common Pleas in Philadelphia for the past six years. Prior to her appointment she practiced law for 32 years.

The author spoke to an attentive audience of students, attorneys and judges. Professor Thomas M. Goetzl, director of the School Law Speakers' Forum, noted that alumni and other members the San Francisco legal community are welcome to attend the Speakers' Forum programs. Last year featured speakers included the Honorable Robert H. Peckham, Chief Judge of the United States District Court for the Northern District of California and Charles Reich, author of *The Greening of America*. The agenda for this year's remaining programs has not been firmly set. However notices of upcoming speakers will be placed in The Recorder.

Advanced Legal Education Program under way for 1978

Golden Gate's Advanced Legal Education Program (ALEP) has scheduled several seminars for the early part of 1978. The first program to be offered on February 28 and March 2 will feature computer law with Susan H. Nycum of Chickering & Gregory in San Francisco and Stephen N. Hollman, General Counsel for Optimum Systems, Inc., leading the sessions.

Admiralty law will be the topic for ALEP's seminars on March 7 and 9. John A. Edginton of Graham & James in San Francisco will be the featured guest at the admiralty law sessions. Mr. Edginton is a Lecturer in Law at Golden Gate.

In late-March two, one-day sessions will be offered covering the subject of civil commitment. Estelle Dooley who heads the San Francisco Public Defender's Mental Health Unit will lead the minars along with Jonathan Chasen, formerly attorney for

A.P.A. (Network Against Psychiatric Assault), now in private practice in Berkeley. Professor Mort P. Cohen will also be involved in the civil commitment program.

Details and enrollment materials will be sent to individual attorneys as soon as they are available.



The Honorable Lois Forer

Law graduates warm to Alaska

The Alaska frontier has proved to be an unexpected magnet for Golden Gate University law graduates. Professor Bernard L. Segal discovered five grads in the Anchorage area this summer when he was there working as a consultant to the state Supreme Court. All of them were former students of Professor Segal.

At an impromptu luncheon plans were announced to form an Alaska chapter of the Law School Alumni Association. Among those present were Tim Stearns who is in private practice and operates a legal clinic; Mike Heeney, an Assistant District Attorney in Anchorage; and the latest arrival in Alaska, John Hanson. Hanson has just been appointed a judge of the Anchorage Traffic. Court. Heeney had made his home in Anchorage before attending Golden Gate Law School.

In addition, Elaine Andrews is a member of the staff of the Judicial Council of the state Supreme Court. She has been working on a number of research projects, including a study of sentencing practices in criminal cases, and another aimed at developing alternative methods for solving disputes without resort to the conventional legal system. Judith Bazely, who most recently had been practicing law in San Francisco, has joined an Anchorage law firm doing extensive civil litigation. Third-year student Eric Safire worked as a clerk in Tim Stearns' legal clinic for three months during the summer.

Professor Segal has been working actively with the Alaskan Supreme Court for the past year under a grant from the Law Enforcement Assistance Administration. In 1975 the Attorney General of Alaska announced that prosecutors would no longer engage in plea bargaining. It was to determine the effect of that policy on the disposition of criminal cases that Professor Segal was called upon to conduct a massive statistical study and interviewing program.

Bruce McClellin

Faculty news



Professor Robert K. Calhoun

Calhoun honored at 1977 graduation ceremonies

By Elizabeth Sisk

After only two years at Golden Gate Law School, Professor Robert K. Calhoun was awarded the John A. Gorfinkel Outstanding Professor Award at the 1977 commencement ceremonies. "It's one of the nicest things that's ever happened to me," said Calhoun about his honor. "I take pride in my teaching. The award meant a lot, particularly coming from the students."

Criminal law, criminal litigation, and evidence are the areas of Calhoun's expertise. He worked for three years in the Alameda County Public Defender's office followed by a year of teaching criminal procedure at Hastings. Calhoun was attracted to criminal law by the "fact it was so people oriented with a lot of real client contact." Additionally he liked the quick resolution of criminal cases. As for his interest in litigation, Calhoun admits, "One of my early cultural heroes was Clarence Darrow."

Calhoun expresses some surprise at finding himself "back in the citadel," having "hated the experience of being a law student." He hypothesizes that his negative experience actually may have inspired his return and his efforts to make law school enjoyable for students. Students at Golden Gate are reaping the benefits of Calhoun's own law school experience. His lively classes consistently are enrolled to their full capacity. Students appreciate Calhoun's wit, careful preparation and teaching skill. "I really like teaching here at Golden Gate and the emphasis this school puts on in-class teaching. I also like the informality. Barriers between students and faculty seem to be lower than in other places," says Calhoun about his academic home.

Calhoun doesn't credit his teaching success to any particular method. He encourages and enjoys the participation of students. "It's more interesting for me to have students involved — after all, what they're learning is to be advocates," notes Calhoun. "For me the dilemma is how much I should coerce participation." The students in his classes seem to have resolved Calhoun's dilemma for him — a quick look into any of his classes usually reveals a field of hands responding to his questions.

A graduate of Yale University Law School, Calhoun came West after clerking for Judge Richard Levet of the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York. Commenting on his westward move, Calhoun remarked, "I'm just ambitious enough that I thought I'd kill myself in New York or Wash-

Associate Dean installed

By Robert Shubow

As many alumni already know — particularly those who had the pleasure of meeting her at one of the recent alumni luncheons — Golden Gate Law School has a new associate dean, Sharon Golub. She replaces Mary Minkus, who left last year to begin private practice in Palo Alto.



Sharon Golub

A graduate of the Law School herself in 1973, Ms. Golub comes to the job already familiar with the history, the atmosphere, and the needs of the institution. Her interest in the growth of Golden Gate "never waned since (her) graduation," says Sharon, and so she is "happy to be able to help the school in an administrative capacity."

Previously, she has worked with the San Francisco Neighborhood Legal Assistance Foundation in their Law Reform Unit. There she helped with the continuing litigation of important health and welfare cases. Most were suits against government agencies in the nature of class actions.

In 1975, Sharon took a position with HEW, in the Office of General Counsel. Working in the San Francisco Regional Attorney's Office, she became involved with public health service cases. Most of her work centered around interpreting regulation and other law and motion matters.

Ms. Golub is enjoying her administrative responsibilities here at the law school. The job "offers a variety of activities," she notes happily, "especially the opportunity for personal contact with students." The range of her participation has been growing rapidly this semester, and in the spring she will take over the school's Judicial Externship Program.

Bulletins

• Any alums holding degrees from Golden Gate College may exchange their degrees to read "University" instead of "College." There is a \$10.00 charge for the exchange. Check with Molly Stolmak in the Dean's office for further information.

• All alums are requested to send a photograph of themselves to the School of Law in care of the Dean's office. The pictures will be put in the individual files for reference by the Law school.

ington. California was symbolic of a better balance of professional and career goals and other life goals." Before enrolling at Yale, Calhoun spent two years in Turkey as a Peace Corps volunteer teaching English as a foreign language.

Calhoun doesn't limit his interests to matters of the law. This summer he spent a month in Hawaii "trying to learn to body surplus he's a student again, "trying to learn to speak Spanish. Calhoun also boasts of his talents as juggler and magician. Finally the 1977 outstanding professor is a sports enthusiast, presently concentrating on tennis.

Alumni news

Alumni notes

- Mary E. Lanigar, '54, has retired as a partner in Arthur Young & Co.
- Gordon E. Reynolds, '65, has been named Public Defender of Kitsap County, Washington.
- Stuart Safine, '68, has opened law offices in Concord, Cali-
- Elizabeth L. Emerson, '69, was named recently to be Staff Attorney to the Judicial Council Advisory Committee on Legal
- Robert F. Lee, '69, was elected in April, 1977, to serve as the 1977 President of the Barristers Club of the San Mateo County Bar Association.
- Philip R. Weltin, '69, is a partner in the San Francisco firm of Weltin & Van Dam.
- Arnold Klein, '71, is a Deputy District Attorney in Santa Monica, California, specializing in the prosecution of sexual assault cases.
- Kenneth W. Robinson, '72, is a partner in the firm of Aguilar, Basite, Roggia and Robinson in Sunnyvale, California.
- Kenneth F. Coho, '73, is in private practice in San Rafael, California.
- Diana Richmond, '73, and Stephen L. Rosen, '75, recently announced their association and the opening of their law offices in San Francisco.
- William M. Gwire, '74, was elected to serve as a 1977 director for the Barristers Club of the San Mateo County Bar Association.
- Michael J. Haas, '74, has announced the opening of his new fice in San Francisco.
- Alfonso Fernandez, Mark Hasenkamp, and Minda Stewart, all '75 graduates, are Deputy District Attorneys for Santa Clara County.
- Edward A. Gomez, '75, was appointed recently as a Santa Clara County Deputy Public Defender.
- David M. Grappo, '75, recently opened new law offices in Oakland, California.
- M. Ann Murphy, '75, is staff counsel for Toward Utility Rate Normalization.
- Rene Roberts, '75, has been named Deputy District Attorney for Lassen County, California.
- Darlene Marie Azevedo, '76, recently accepted a position as a deputy in the office of the General Counsel of the State Bar of California.
- Joel Blackman and Mimi Rosenblatt, both '76 graduates, have established a partnershp, Blackman & Rosenblatt, in San Francisco.
- Robert F. Chudada, '76, is associated with Placenti, Cifelli & Sims in Chicago Heights, Illinois.
- Rick D. Higgins, '76, is a partner in the firm of Green & Higgins
- in Salt Lake City, Utah.

 Richard J. Idell, '76, has become an associate of the Carlos Bea firm in San Francisco.
- Anna N. Klay, '76, is a partner in the newly formed firm of Edson & Klay in Eureka, California.
- Alan Lagod, '76, is a deputy public defender in the Santa Clara County Public Defender office.
- Edward O. Lee, '76, recently joined the law offices of Steven Zane Rothschild in San Jose, California.
- John D. Nelson, '76, is practicing in San Francisco.
- William N. Woodson, III, '76, recently moved his law offices to Salinas, California. His offices formerly were in San Rafael, California.
- Marge Holmes, '77, was voted Outstanding Student at the 1977 graduation ceremonies.

Second Annual Alumni Luncheons

The second annual luncheons of the Golden Gate University Law Alumni were held recently in Oakland, San Francisco, Marin County and Palo Alto. Dean Judith G. McKelvey provided an update on law school activities and developments for the alumni groups. The exciting news at the luncheons was the Dean's forecast that Golden Gate would be in its new building by August, 1978.

Earlier this year approximately 40 alums from all over California assembled for Golden Gate's alumni luncheon held on September 27, 1977, in conjunction with the State Bar convention in San Diego.

Student/Alum Program

Through the efforts of Placement Director Wally Allen, the Golden Gate Student/Alum Program has gotten off to an excellent start. The goal of the program is to arrange half-hour meetings or luncheons in which an attorney can discuss his or her legal practice with an interested student or students. Allen stresses that the purpose of the program simply is to impart information and the program is not intended as a job placement program.

Thus far Allen has received approximately 80 responses from alums. Any other alums interested in participating should contact Wally Allen by mail or call him at 391-7800, x285.

Golden Gate Continuing Education offers Legal Assistant Program

In cooperation with Golden Gate University's School of Law, the Center for Continuing Education is offering seminars in Legal Assistant Training. The seminars are designed to develop expertise for legal assistants in specialized areas of the law.

The program for the spring will include the following Saturday seminars for legal assistants: Litigation - February 18; Employment Discrimination - February 25: Personal Injury Litigation -March 18; Civil Discovery - April 1; Community Property -May 6; and Wills & Probate — May 20. For information and enrollment contact: Dorothy Satir, Director, Center for Continuing Education, Golden Gate University, 536 Mission St., San Francisco, CA 94105, (415) 391-7800 x323.

- Bob Kaplan, '77, received the Lani Bader Award for the top grade point average at the 1977 graduation ceremonies.
- Karen Spelke, '77, is a clerk for Justice Wiley Manuel in the California Supreme Court.
- Donald E. Wharton, '77, tied for second place in the I.H. Prinzmetal Competition sponsored by the Beverly Hills Bar Association for his entry titled, "HFH Ltd. v. Superior Court: The Taking Clause is Inapplicable in California to Property Value Diminution Resulting From a Rezoning."

In Memoriam -

- Charles H. Pool, Jr., '25, San Francisco, California.
- Thomas T. Jordan, '48, Sacramento, California.
- Holly Bauman, '77, San Francisco, California.

Issues forum

The California attorney and professional liability insurance

By Ronald E. Mallen

The subject of professional liability insurance for legal malpractice is a topic which is, and certainly should be, of great concern to the California lawyer. The reason for the concern is the proverbial problem of supply and demand. Legal malpractice insurance continues to be a diminishing commodity in California. Whereas four years ago there were as many as six significant insurance markets in California, today there are only two. The primary source of insurance is the Travelers Insurance Company which has been writing under a contract with the State Bar on a five-year commitment. That commitment expires in early 1979. The other significant carrier in California has been American Bankers which has recently reached underwriting capacity although its underwriters are now proceeding to place coverage with a different source.

The decline in available markets points to the problem: few insurers wish to cover the professional liability of attorneys. The reasons for the situation are complex and cannot be adequately treated without long dissertation about factors responsible for the medical malpractice crisis, the general litigiousness of society, the over-abundance of lawyers, and a multitude of other sociological factors. The reality is that in 1979 the Travelers may no longer be a viable or actual market for lawyers to obtain legal malpractice

The California State Bar is aware of this impending crisis facing our profession. Steps were taken in 1977 which resulted in AB 209, otherwise known as the Knox Bill (sponsored by Assemblyman Knox) which proposed a form of mandatory insurance patterned after the client security fund. In order to stay out of the "insurance" business the program was not denoted as insurance but as the "Attorneys Professional Responsibility Fund." Insurance was made mandatory for all lawyers except those publicly employed and those who performed legal services only for their employers.

Unfortunately the approach taken by the sponsors of the proposal was impolitic in that the bill was put into the legislative hopper before it was submitted to the State Bar and when it was

Arbitration Clinic established

A new clinic program has been set up in conjunction with the American Arbitration Association. It has been successful this fall and will continue in the spring semester. The clinic is a comprehensive and intensive experience with all phases of arbitration from the point of view of the neutral (mediator or arbitrator).

Each student in the program administers pending cases, attends hearings, and works closely with arbitrators, preparing awards for some cases. Each participant chooses to concentrate in one arbitration area — accident/injury, commercial/construction, labor/management, or community disputes — but receives exposure to all areas generally.

The program, open to second and third year students, consists of a number of seminars, led by William Allender, Director of the AAA regional office in San Francisco, as well as the clinical apponent. The AAA offices are conveniently located only a few cks away at 690 Market Street. With the burgeoning of interest in arbitration among lawyers, this program is an important training ground, and it is hoped that it will become a permanent part of the law school's curriculum.

a fait accompli. Two lines of criticism developed. The first was philosophical in nature, that no one should be forced to carry insurance and that we did not need big brother, the State Bar, dictating what we should do. The second line of attack was very critical analysis about the provisions of the bill. Some of the criticisms pointed to disastrous problems in the manner of effecting coverage. The bill proposed solely "occurrence" coverage, meaning that it would afford protection for the lawyers only for acts and omissions which occurred after the State Bar proposal went into effect. This meant that lawyers who have had the "claims made" coverage or who had no insurance at any time in their career would be uninsured as to any such act or omission before the State Bar program went into effect even though a claim was made during the pendency of the program. Another significant problem was that the attorney was given protection only for claims made by "clients" (including beneficiaries of a will). But, this did not include a claim by an adversary in litigation, an investor, or someone with whom the attorney did not have any kind of contractual or beneficial relation. The practical effect was that the State Bar proposal thereby did not provide protection for approximately 20 to 25 percent of the claims which are currently being defended by malpractice insurers. Other problems concerned the sufficiency of the limits, how the limits would be handled in firms, as well as a catalog of details which required serious ansideration.

Numerous debates followed and the mounting criticisms began to reach Assemblyman Knox, sponsor. Finally, yielding to the criticisms pertaining to the *form* of the proposal, Knox withdrew AB 209 despite the fact the State Bar Board of Governors had recently endorsed the concept.

The concept of AB 209 is far from dead. The State Bar has now set up a board to formulate a successor proposal to AB 209. The urgency for some type of malpractice insurance market still exists. The insurance industry has shown no interest in writing the substantial number of California lawyers who will require coverage in 1979. The State Bar study may well result in a revised and more comprehensive proposal than AB 209. Although the Board is not committed to a specific proposal it is committed to dealing with very real potential of an insurance crisis for California lawyers. This time, the approach taken is one more in accord with the careful study and drafting required. Hopefully, the resolution, whatever that may be, will come in time.

Editor's Note -

The author is a partner with the San Francisco — Los Angeles firm of Long & Levit. He is Vice-Chairman of the ABA Section of Insurance, Negligence and Compensation Law, Professional, Officers & Directors' Liability Law and a member of the ABA Section of Litigation, Committee on Professional Liability, Attorney Malpractice. He also serves on the Attorney Malpractice Committee of the International Association of Insurance Counsel as well as the Professional Liability Committee of the Defense Research Institute.

His publications include: Legal Malpractice, West Publ. g (1977); "The Misguiding Hand of Counsel—Reflections on 'Criminal Malpractice'," 21 U.C.L.A. L.Rev. 1191 (1974); and "A Statute of Limitations for Lawyers—Panacea or Pandora's Box," 52 Cal.St. B.J. 22 (1977), to name a few. Mr. Mallen has also lectured extensively on the subject of legal malpractice.

Student news

Jolden Gate infiltrates the Supreme Court

By Elizabeth Sisk

This summer three third year students from Golden Gate served as judicial externs in the California Supreme Court. Bob Pickus and Landra Rosenthal were two of the three externs in the office of Chief Justice Rose Bird while Mary Gerber was one of Justice Wiley Manuel's three externs. What follows are excerpts from an interview with the three students in which they discussed procedures in the Court, their work at the Court, and their reactions to the experience.

As a judicial extern, what were your duties at the Court?

BOB — "Landra and I had essentially the same job. At the Supreme Court, the petitions for hearings that come in from parties who have lost at the court of appeal asking that their case be heard by the Supreme Court or that the lower court be reversed or whatever, are initially dished out to various people to write memos."

LANDRA — "I would just like to point out that all criminal petitions go to the staff of the Chief Justice and actually they go to a particular part of that staff which is called the Central Staff. And all civil petitions are divided equally among the other six justices."

BOB — "Specifically what we'd do was take the petition for hearing which tells the Court what was wrong in the petitioner's view with the decision below and why the Court should hear this case, and we would summarize the case and arguments and make recommendation in the form of a memo. The memo is generally

proved by someone else on the staff. Once it's approved and printed up it would go to the justices to review before conference and then the conference takes place every Wednesday and they vote on whether or not they're going to grant hearings."

LANDRA — "And essentially what they're meeting on in conference is to simply vote yes or no whether or not a petition should be granted."

MARY — "Or they can decide to hold it over if one of the justices wants to examine the point a little more thoroughly before deciding."

LANDRA—"Our recommendation essentially was whether or not there was any real question presented in the petition."

BOB — "See, one thing that I think is important to understand is that, at least in my opinion, there are no specific guidelines as to what it is that you're looking for as to what it is that determines whether the Court will grant a petition or not. I think as a practical matter, I generally looked to try to decide whether the court of



Mary Gerber and Landra Rosenthal (right)

appeal had been right or wrong but that doesn't necessarily carry the day. The Court may have reasons for taking or not taking a case where they feel the court of appeal was right and they have reasons for taking or not taking a case where they feel the court of appeal was wrong. In 99% of the cases it's purely discretionary. So you try to develop a kind of a feeling for what the

Court is looking for and in particular what the justice you work for is looking for. But it's always somewhat hazy."

LANDRA — "And it was also, I think, more difficult this summer than it has been for externs in the past simply because the Chief Justice was newly appointed and had never been a judge before and no one really knew or perhaps even knows now what her judicial philosophy is. So you didn't, for example, if you got a search and seizure case,



Bob Pickus

know how she feels about search and seizure — whether she wants to expand the rights of criminal defendants or whether she wants to contract them."

MARY — "On our staff there were three externs. There were two one year clerks and one senior clerk. Karen Spelke (a Golden Gate graduate) is one of the one year clerks. Manuel came in the first part of the summer fairly often just to say "hello." When he was in town he also reviewed all of our memos before they finally were typed in addition to the senior person first having checked it. He's also a new justice so he was learning what he was doing. In the second part of the summer he began to hold weekly meetings on Friday mornings for his entire staff to give us feedback on what had happened at the Wednesday conference and specifically to tell us what had happened to our cases, to tell us what kind of discussion there had been on certain other cases, to answer any questions we had on a particular case or in general, and that turned out to be a really good thing. . . .

At the end of the summer, in the last memo I wrote, he was interested in the subject matter of it and we had a number of rather long discussions. This was in the course of about a week, we had two or three discussions on the same case that lasted about an hour apiece. We kept going around and around on what he wanted, what my position was, and where the memo should come out." What are your general reactions and impressions of your summer with the Court? Are they what you expected them to be?

BOB — "I think my reactions are pretty much what I expected them to be and my personal feelings are pretty much what they were in the beginning. I would not be interested in working for a court in any capacity because I would much rather be an advocate than a person who has to weigh and evaluate both sides and come down with a decision that can be argued as consonant with precedent and so forth. I think all in all I was impressed by the quality of the people and the Court and this made me feel good. I felt that the people I worked with were extremely competent. . . . I also felt that they had real social and moral ethical concerns that were playing a role in their work. So I found that was very encouraging. I also had the impression that all seven members of the Court are extremely conscientious people. And taking political viewpoints out of it for a second, I think they're all very competent people which, on the basis of this summer, is not an opinion I have about the courts of appeal. . . . As far as the work went I'm not really too much into library work, into doing research and writing which is the bulk of the job, so I got tired of it toward the end of the summer. But I thought it was incredibly valuable experience."

MARY — "I was surprised about a couple of things. That the working conditions were not stellar. That is just the physical law out of the place — it's an old building... without any of the com-

(Continued at page 6)

Faculty update

Dean Judith G. McKelvey is chairing the CEB Real Estate Property Subcommittee. Dean McKelvey recently was appointed to the Western Women's Bank Advisory Board and also is a new member of the Board of Directors of the San Francisco Neighborhood Legal Assistance Foundation. Dean McKelvey additionally serves as Vice-Chairperson of the Law School Education Committee for the State Bar Association. This year Dean McKelvey has served as Issue Editor for "brief/case," a publication of the San Francisco Bar Association.

Professor Thomas M. Goetzl this summer participated in the National Arts Legislation Conference in Washington, D.C. Goetzl primarily was involved in the section of the conference relating to "Residuals for Visual Artists." Professor Goetzl, the only law professor in attendance, was the guest of Congressman Henry A. Waxman of Beverly Hills. Goetzl teaches the course entitled Art and the Law at Golden Gate.

Professor Les A. Minkus will be on leave during the spring semester to take a post as Visiting Professor at Syracuse University Law School. He will teach Securities Law and Professional Responsibility.

Nancy Carol Carter, Director of Library Services, co-chaired the program committee for the Western-Pacific Law Library Chapter meeting in San Francisco on October 21-22, 1977. William E.

Benemann, Golden Gate's new Technical Services Librarian, coordinated the computer applications portion of the program and Reference Librarian Joyce Harmon coordinated a panel on taxation reference materials.

Supreme Court (from page 5)

forts I would have expected in such a prestigious place. They're very, very competent people. I thought our staff was really a fine one. But by the end of the summer you start to realize you're in such a rarified atmosphere. It's on the fourth floor of this closed off place and you really begin to feel out of touch because you never hear the arguments come to life. You're always dealing just with someone's arguments on paper and what's in all of the books. That has its limits.

And there are some things about the Court that you begin to wonder about. For example the fact that your justice feels a certain way about a particular issue means that you research, perhaps write a memo, in a certain way, whereas if it had gone to another justice's staff the recommendation might have been different and you begin to wonder whether that's the best system for airing some important issues. It pretty much leaves an initial determination up to one staff. And if you get one justice that feels very strongly on a particular issue and a case comes up on that issue, that justice can either steer that case to the Court in such a way that cert. is more likely to be granted or basically, a staff can bury it."



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