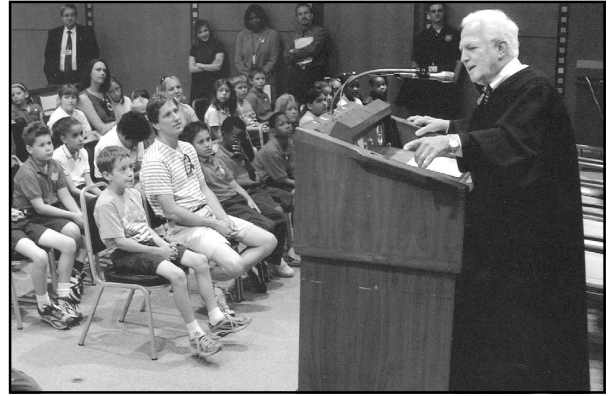


# Supreme Court Law Day Events

One-hundred third-grade students from Bissonet Elementary School participated in a program sponsored by the Louisiana Supreme Court designed to teach the youngsters about the role of the Supreme Court and give them a "behind the scenes" view of the Court's day-to-day operations.

"In recognition of Law Day, May 1<sup>st</sup>, the Louisiana Supreme Court issued a resolution urging all Louisiana state judges to dedicate the month of May 2002 to reaching out to schools to provide students with an opportunity to learn about the law, the role of a judge, and the court system from members of the judiciary. We are kicking-off the 45<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Law Day by opening the courthouse doors of the Louisiana Supreme Court," said Chief Justice Pascal F. Calogero, Jr.

Chief Justice Calogero advised the group on how to prepare themselves for a career as a judge and he discussed the important daily decisions judges make which ultimately effect the lives of all Louisiana citizens. Thereafter, in a program coordinated by the Court's Community Relations Department, the students toured the Louisiana State Law Library housed in the Supreme Court and where they were read "Marshall the Courthouse Mouse;" visited the Clerk of Court's Office to see and hear about the volume and kinds of cases which come to the Supreme Court; sat on the bench as "Supreme Court justices" and tackled decision-making problems concerning the No Vehicles in the Park law in the fictional town of Beautifica; and were informed about the serious nature of courthouse protection and safety by the Chief of Court Security for the Louisiana Supreme Court.



Chief Justice Pascal F. Calogero, Jr. speaks to students from Bissonet Plaza Elementary School during the Supreme Court's Law Day 2002 program. Photo by The Times-Picayune

## Dear Supreme Court...

### Letters of Thanks from Bissonet Students

"I was excited when the Chief Justice spoke to us about his job." -Jessica

"I think it might be very cool to become a lawyer, or Chief Justice, so I will really think about becoming one." -Tonisha

"I can't pick my favorite place that I went because I enjoyed all of them." -Alex

Jakita Tan Katherine Eaddy Timothy



Students taking the bench by Timothy



On the Supreme Court steps by Evan

"I do like the library. There's big books there. How do ya'll read those books? They're huge!" -Doug

"I had a great time at the Supreme Court. Chief Justice Pascal Calogero was very funny. I almost fainted when I saw Chief Justice Pascal Calogero Jr." -Prince

"My favorite part was when I got to go through the metal detector. The security part of the Supreme Court was great." -Troy

"Friday was the best day of my life because of you." -Ashley



## C O R N E R

C O L L I N S



Hugh M. Collins, Ph.D.  
Judicial Administrator

“Extra, extra read all about it” the Louisiana Supreme Court has just released a number of publications designed to give citizens an overview of the volume and variety of work being done by state courts.

The *2001 Annual Report of the Judicial Council of the Louisiana Supreme Court* provides a snapshot of the progress of programs and projects undertaken by the Court in 2001. Additionally, it features 2001 updates from offices, committees and agencies including: the Clerk of Court’s Office, the Judicial College, the Attorney Disciplinary Board, the Judiciary Commission and the Louisiana State Law Library. Statewide court activity statistics along with court rosters and contact numbers are also provided making the *Annual Report* a valuable resource of court information.

The 2000-2001 edition of *Justice At Work—The State of Performance in Louisiana* focuses on court improvement efforts by Louisiana courts. It highlights the strategies being pursued by courts to improve their performance based on their respective strategic plans — District Courts, Courts of Appeal and the Supreme Court—and details the data gathering methods used for measuring performance.

Finally, in an effort to provide a concise, informative resource on Louisiana drug courts, the Supreme Court Drug Court Office has published a brochure which outlines how drug courts work and the role of Louisiana state courts in the fight against alcohol and drug addiction.

All of the publications are available by contacting the Louisiana Supreme Court Community Relations Department at (504) 599-0319 or e-mail to [vsw@lajao.org](mailto:vsw@lajao.org) or on the Court’s web site at [www.lasc.org](http://www.lasc.org).

## Court Approves Judicial Campaign Oversight Rules & Forms

Chief Justice Pascal F. Calogero, Jr. announced that the Louisiana Supreme Court has approved the Judicial Campaign Oversight Rules proposed by the Louisiana Judicial Campaign Oversight Committee which will govern the operations of the recently established Committee.

The 15-member Oversight Committee, in place for the Fall 2002 judicial elections, is comprised of retired judges, lawyers, and citizens who are neither lawyers or judges. Along with the rules, the Oversight Committee recommended, and the Court approved, “Acknowledgment Regarding Canon 7 of the Louisiana Code of Judicial Conduct” and a complaint form.

According to Chief Justice Calogero, “The purpose of the committee is to serve as a resource for judicial candidates, to assist in educating judges and attorneys running for judicial office about the Code of Judicial Conduct, and to help deter impermissible judicial campaign conduct.”

In furtherance of this purpose, an “Acknowledgment Regarding Canon 7 of the Louisiana Code of Judicial Conduct” has been prepared which judicial candidates may voluntarily sign to certify that they have read, understand and agree to abide by Canon 7, which regulates judicial campaign conduct.

Additionally, a complaint form has been prepared and is available for use by citizens who wish to file complaints concerning alleged judicial campaign misconduct with the Judicial Campaign Oversight Committee.

For more information or a copy of the Judicial Campaign Oversight Rules, Acknowledgment, and Complaint Form visit the Louisiana Supreme Court web site at [www.lasc.org](http://www.lasc.org) or contact the Louisiana Supreme Court Judicial Administrator’s Office at (504) 568-5747.

## Supreme Court to “Ride the Circuit” at Nicholls

As part of its month-long celebration of the law this May, the Louisiana Supreme Court announced that it will hear oral arguments at Nicholls State University (NSU) on Thursday, Sept. 5.

The visit to Nicholls State University is part of an ongoing effort by the court system to strengthen partnerships with educators at every level and to teach students about the day-to-day operations of Louisiana’s courts.

Supreme Court Justice John L. Weimer, a 1976 graduate of Nicholls and a former teacher of Business Law at NSU, said, “Not only is this an outstanding opportunity for the community and for students from the region to learn about our state’s highest court, but it is also an opportunity for the justices to learn about this region of the state.”

Members of the community, particularly high school and college students, are invited to watch the court proceedings in NSU’s Talbot Theater. Seating will be on a first-come, first-served basis.

Traditionally, the Supreme Court celebrates Law Day on May 1 each year. In 2002, the entire month of May was dedicated to reaching out to schools to provide students with an opportunity to learn about the law, the role of a judge and the court system from members of the judiciary.



## Supreme Court Adds Recusal Rule - Part K, Rule XXXVI

**PART K.** Recusal of a Justice of the Supreme Court of Louisiana, or of a Judge of a Court of Appeal, District, Family, Juvenile, Parish, City, Traffic or Municipal Court of the State of Louisiana.

**Rule XXXVI.** If a Justice of the Supreme Court of Louisiana or a Judge of a Court of Appeal, District, Family, Juvenile, Parish, City, Traffic or Municipal Court of the State of Louisiana recuses himself/herself in a proceeding before that justice’s or judge’s court, that justice or judge shall, unless otherwise prohibited by law or applicable Supreme Court Rule, provide in writing the factual basis for recusal within fifteen days of the rendering of the order of recusal. [added June 4, 2002; effective September 1, 2002]



## 22nd JDC is Recognized as Mentor Court

Judges Peter J. Garcia and Elaine Guillot were recently presented with an award in recognition and commendation of the 22<sup>nd</sup> Judicial District Court's "Mentor Court" status.

Citing the 22<sup>nd</sup> Judicial District's drug court's low recidivism rates, the compassion and commitment of its staff and the quality of its treatment and educational programs, the National Drug Court Institute, which is sponsored by the U.S. Justice Department, recently named the program one of 33 "mentor courts" throughout the nation.

"They will become the educational and training grounds for other practitioners of drug courts and for those interested in starting up or improving their current drug courts," said Arlandis Rush, manager of the mentor court program.

Rush, who visits dozens of courts throughout the nation every year, said the local program stands out particularly for the commitment displayed by its two judges, Judge Garcia and Judge Guillot, probation officers, therapists, vocational trainers and case managers.

Judges Garcia and Guillot volunteer their free time to the drug court, which includes weekly 7:30 a.m. meetings followed by hours-long court sessions, during which the judges get a chance to see participants, reward their progress or sanction them for stepping out of line.

The success of the 22<sup>nd</sup> Judicial District Court is that it is a treatment model of drug court. An alternative to incarceration, this drug court's goal is to keep defendants from committing more crimes by helping them beat their addiction to drugs and alcohol.



22<sup>nd</sup> JDC Judges Peter Garcia (at podium) and Elaine Guillot (r) receive the Mentor Court Award from Arlandis Rush, Project Manager for The National Association of Drug Court Professionals (NADCP) Mentor Court Network.

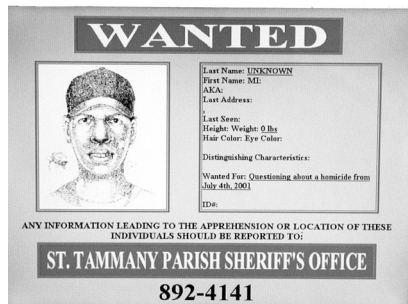
## Hi-Tech Kiosks Help Track Criminals

The 21<sup>st</sup> century's answer to post office "wanted posters" is the electronic kiosk, one of which is now located in the St. Tammany Parish courthouse. The electronic kiosk displays pictures of missing people and people at-large.

"The Locator," as the kiosks are called, flashes a picture alongside information about the person, including his or her name, last known address, scars or tattoos and their alleged crime if they are wanted by the police.

The kiosks are paid for by advertisers whose names appear on the shell of the kiosk and flash regularly on the screen. St. Tammany is the second jurisdiction to use the system which was first installed in Pensacola in May.

According to Danny Bourgeois, a partner in Locator Systems, 15 people were arrested within two months after they were seen on the Pensacola kiosks.



The stand-alone kiosk (l) rotates pictures of felons wanted by authorities. The screen (above) lists details of the infraction and identifying marks to assist in apprehending the wanted persons.

## CYBER COURTS

**Best Interests -  
The E-Magazine  
for Children's Advocates**  
[www.childadvocacy.com](http://www.childadvocacy.com)

**Law School  
Admissions Council**  
[www.lsac.org](http://www.lsac.org)

**Southern Poverty Law Center**  
[www.splcenter.org](http://www.splcenter.org)

**The American Society  
of International Law**  
[www.asil.org](http://www.asil.org)

**Student Press Law Center**  
[www.splc.org](http://www.splc.org)



## A Trip Back Through Time, 1855-1955

It's Summertime. Time to take a break and to get a change of scenery. *Focus On* is a good place to start. Sit back, relax and enjoy as *Focus On* travels across the beautiful state of Louisiana to visit an interesting group of district courthouses. Some are rich in history. Some are beautiful in design. Some are grand in scale. Others are simple or small. They are all halls of justice and there are 65 in all. On this "trip" *Focus On* will visit a group of courthouses built between 1855-1955.



### Rapides Parish Courthouse - 1939

Its first courthouse was built in 1820 though little is known about it because federal troops burned down almost the entire town of Alexandria in 1864 and most of the parish records were lost. The present courthouse was constructed in 1939 with various alterations and additions completed in 1976.



## Homer

### Claiborne Parish Courthouse - 1860

In 1849, Homer was chosen as the parish seat and the first courthouse was in such poor condition that lawyers and their clients had to camp out in the neighboring woods. The current courthouse was built in 1860.

## Jonesboro

### Jackson Parish Courthouse - 1938

A small log cabin was constructed to serve as the first courthouse in the town of Vernon. When the seat of justice was transferred to Jonesboro, a courthouse was constructed, but 30 years later it was completely destroyed due to a mysterious explosion. The current courthouse was completed in 1938 and has a jail on the top floor.

## Alexandria



## Cameron

### Cameron Parish Courthouse - 1937

Cameron Parish is one of the largest parishes in Louisiana but has the smallest population. The current courthouse was built in 1937 and is one of the most historic courthouses in Louisiana. It was one of the few buildings in town to escape serious damage from Hurricane Audrey. On June 26, 1957 the courthouse sheltered Cameron residents for the disastrous hurricane.



# Rayville

## Richland Parish Courthouse - 1952

The first courthouse, built in 1870 in the parish seat of Rayville was a two room wood frame building. It was later sold to a church organization who rolled it to the bank of the river, floated it ten miles downstream and converted it to a church which remains in use today. The present courthouse is the parish's third and was completed in 1952.



All information and photos were obtained from the *Louisiana Courthouse Directory* by Mark K. Miller and Von D. Hartly. Photography by Rachael Peake.

# St. Joseph



## Tensas Parish Courthouse - 1906

The first courthouse was built in 1843 but was replaced in 1906 with the structure that still stands today. The courthouse was built in a Greek revival style and is widely acclaimed for its architecture.



## Plaquemines Parish Courthouse - 1915

Gone but not forgotten...the Plaquemines Courthouse, built mostly from materials salvaged from its predecessor was completed in 1915, and was sadly destroyed by a fire in 2001. Located in the town of Pointe-a-la-Hache, west to east access to the courthouse was gained by crossing the Mississippi River on a ferry.

# St. Martinville

## St. Martin Parish Courthouse - 1859

The first courthouse was built by slave labor long before the Civil War, while the present courthouse was built in 1859 and has had at least five major additions and renovations. It is now a parish landmark.

# Pointe-a-la-Hache





## 4th Circuit Judges Love & Murray say "Do the Write Thing"

Fourth Circuit Court of Appeal Judges Patricia R. Murray and Terri F. Love, Co-Chairs for the 2002 "Do The Write Thing Challenge" New Orleans Campaign to Stop Violence, hosted a recognition ceremony at the Louisiana Supreme Court honoring 77 New Orleans Public School finalists whose award-winning essays, poems and lyrics answered the question, "What can I do to stop the violence in my life?" The students were chosen as finalists from seventh and eighth grade New Orleans public school students who responded to the 2002 "Do The Write Thing Challenge."

Since its inception eight years ago, the "Do The Write Thing Challenge" has prompted over 30,000 students from cities, such as, Atlanta, Chicago, Detroit, Hartford, Houston, Las Vegas, Los Angeles, Miami, New Orleans, New York, Philadelphia and Washington, D.C., to think about their role in society and to realize that they have a responsibility and the power to change their environment.

"'Do The Write Thing' identifies and rewards promising inner city New Orleans youth who have faced and coped with violent adversity in their lives. By taking time to consider what an individual can do, and then to put their thoughts in written words, each student acknowledges that they can make positive lifetime choices and that these choices can affect not only themselves but their neighborhoods and cities," Judge Murray said.

Judge Love added, "The National Campaign To Stop Violence is a coalition of organizations inspired by the words of these students. The coalition hopes that the words and passion of these students will motivate adults in New Orleans and around the country to respond to the young peoples' personal commitment to seek solutions to violence."

Louisiana State Representative Cedric Richmond, District 101, joined the judges in congratulating the students, giving special recognition to Sheldon Bridges from P.A. Capdeau Junior High School and Keith Nailor from Martin Luther King, Jr. School for Science and Technology, who were selected as the 2001 National finalists; and to Derrell Randolph from Livingston Middle School and Ashley Harrison from Francis



*Fourth Circuit Judges Patricia Murray (l) and Terri Love (r) recognize award-winning students from the Greater New Orleans area including the 2001 National Finalist Keith Nailor.*

W. Gregory Junior High School, who were selected as 2002 National Finalists.

Organizations participating in the National Campaign to Stop Violence include the Council of Great City Schools, the National Association of Secondary School Principals, the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges, the Young Astronaut Council, the National Guard Bureau and the Greater Washington Urban League.

Funding for the "Do The Write Thing Challenge" has been provided by the Kuwait-America Foundation in appreciation for the United States' leadership in the Gulf War, and the United States Department of Justice's Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention.

For more information about the 2002 "Do The Write Thing Challenge" New Orleans Campaign to Stop Violence, contact Judge Patricia R. Murray at (504) 592-0945 or Judge Terri F. Love at (504) 592-0921.

## Justice Bernette J. Johnson Speaks with Top Teens of America



Louisiana Supreme Court Justice Bernette J. Johnson was invited to speak to the Monroe (La.) chapter of Top Teens of America, a group sponsored by the Top Ladies of Distinction, which recognize achievement among high school students in the areas of scholarship, volunteerism, community service and healthy decision-making. The 50-member group made their journey to the seat of the state's judiciary in late May.



# State Law Day Ceremonies focus on "Assuring Equal Justice For All"

Law Day ceremonies held in courtrooms across the state focused on the Law Day 2002 theme, "Assuring Equal Justice For All." Law Day, May 1, is an opportunity for all to celebrate and enjoy their freedoms. In recognition of Law Day 2002, the Louisiana Supreme Court passed a Resolution "to urge and request judges of the State of Louisiana to dedicate the month of May 2002 to reaching out to schools to provide students with the opportunity to learn about the law, the role of the judge and the court system from members of the judiciary. Included below are some of those outreach efforts.

## Louisiana Supreme Court



One-hundred third-grade students from Bissonet Plaza Elementary School visited the Supreme Court and took part in the Court's Law Day activities, which included stops at the Law Library, Clerk of Court's Office, Court Security Office and participation in a mock trial in the courtroom (above).

## Hammond City Court



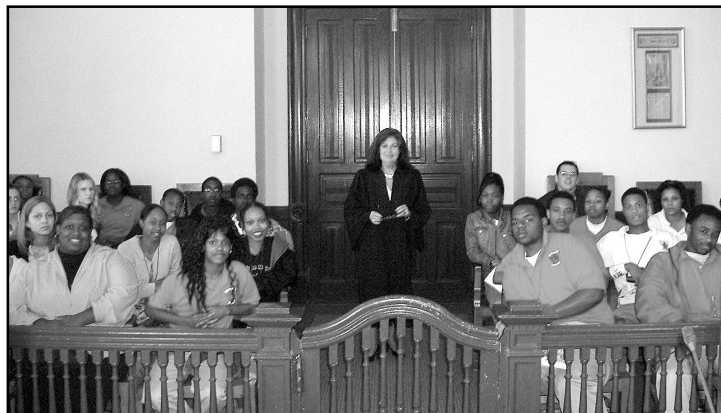
The City Court of Hammond celebrated Law Day by honoring community-based, volunteer, and governmental state agencies that provide services to children and the community. Twenty-two agencies were recognized during the celebration which was also attended by the "Just Say No" students from Martha Vinyard Elementary School. **Judge Grace Bennett Gasaway** (r) presents a certificate of appreciation to **Jennifer Thomas** (l), Director of the Children's Advocacy Center.

## Caddo Parish Juvenile Court



**Caddo Parish Juvenile Court Judge Paul Young** answered student's questions on juvenile delinquency, domestic violence and child abuse at a Law Day event sponsored by the Shreveport Bar Auxiliary and part of The Young People's Law School. The forum was taped by a local television station and aired later in the week at area high schools and aired as part of Channel One's morning programming.

## Second City Court



**Second City Court Judge Mary "KK" Norman** hosted students from West Jefferson High School as part of Law Day activities at the courthouse. Students spent the morning with Judge Norman, observed court proceedings, and visited the Clerk of Court and Constable's Offices.

## I've Been Framed in Court

In an effort to soften the bland walls, cold columns, hard benches and jury box that make the courtroom an imposing environment, **4th Judicial District Court Judge Alvin Sharp** has kicked-off the "I've Been Framed" campaign to fill the walls of his courtroom with the artwork of local youth, senior citizens and amateur artists of all ages.

"We want to send out the signal the courthouse belongs to everybody," Judge Sharp said. "Quite often in talking with people in the community, they tend to ask questions about the negative. This will bring out the positive view of the courtroom."

Judge Sharp is looking for the best efforts of at least 25 artworks from amateur artists to frame and hang in the courtroom. The works would be considered on loan to the courthouse after they are chosen.

In order to accommodate the courtroom walls, the final dimension of the paintings, drawings or sketches must fit a 20 by 24 inch, 22 by 28 inch, 24 by 28 inch, 24 by 30 inch, or 36 by 48 inch frame.

The deadline for submitting work for consideration is 5 p.m. July 31, 2002. The work should be submitted to Judge Sharp's office on the fourth floor of the Ouachita Parish Courthouse, 300 St. John Street, in Monroe. For official rules or for more information, contact Judge Sharp's office at (318) 361-2298.



## IPSO FACTO... In With The Old

In January of 2002, Morehouse Parish residents paid homage to their newly refurbished courthouse in Bastrop. After three years of renovations, the courthouse has been restored as closely as possible to its original state as it was built in 1914. Part of the reason for the attention to detail from the beginning is the hope to get the courthouse placed on the National Register of Historic Places. According to 4<sup>th</sup> Judicial District Judge Sharon Ingram Marchman, "It's very beautiful. It's very functional. We will be able to handle criminal and civil matters at the same time which has never been possible in Morehouse Parish before. That will serve the citizens more efficiently."

Recent renovations were also completed in another 4<sup>th</sup> Judicial District courthouse in Ouachita Parish. The \$4.8 million renovation of the fourth floor of the Ouachita Parish Courthouse is already paying off with reduced numbers of pre-trial detainees.

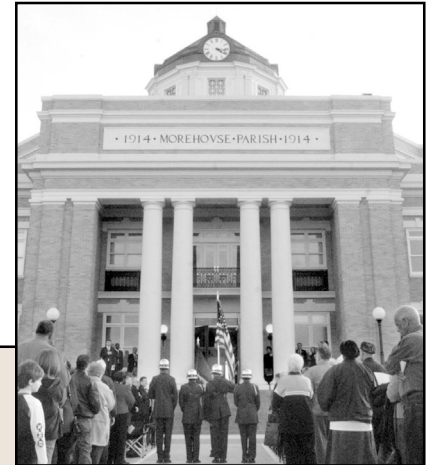
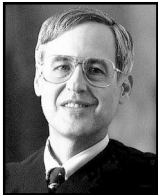


Photo by The Monroe News-Star

### IT'S A FACT:

In Ouachita Parish, Bill Land was the third generation architect who worked on the Ouachita Parish Courthouse. His father Herbert worked on the courthouse when two wings were added in 1969 and his grandfather, H.H. Land was the architect for the original courthouse when it was built in 1926. Father and son architects Herbert and Bill Land worked together on the Morehouse Courthouse renovation project.

# YOUR HONORS



■ 4<sup>th</sup> Circuit Court of Appeal Judge Max N. Tobias, Jr. was recognized and awarded a plaque at the 14th Annual meeting of the National Consortium on Racial and Ethnic Bias

in the Courts for his "leadership, commitment and service" to "ensuring fairness and equality in our nation's courts."

■ 2<sup>nd</sup> Circuit Court of Appeal Judge Harmon Drew, Jr. spoke on professionalism to the Lincoln Parish Bar Association and the Louisiana State Bar Association's Conference on Interdiction. Judge Drew also presented "Introduction to State Criminal Law" at the LSBA's "Law School for Journalists" in Shreveport.

■ Retired Supreme Court Justice Harry T. Lemmon was the commencement speaker at the Loyola University New Orleans School of Law graduation ceremony, the 85th in school history.

■ Clerk of Orleans Parish Civil District Court Dale Atkins was named a recipient of the "Drum Major for Justice Award" of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference.

■ Jefferson Parish Juvenile Court Judge Andrea Price Janzen, Orleans Parish Civil District Court Judges Carolyn Gill-Jefferson and Nadine Ramsey, 12th JDC Judge Kerry L. Spruill, and Orleans Parish Traffic Court Judge Ronald J. Sholes were elected fellows of the Louisiana Bar Foundation.



■ New Orleans Traffic Court Judge Paul Bonin was honored by the Alliance for Good Government at the group's annual Achievement in Good Government dinner.

■ Orleans Parish Criminal District Court Commissioner Joe Giarrusso, Jr. was named to the panel of mediators serving Louisiana by Mediation Arbitration Professional Systems.

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