LEADING THE WAY FORWARD
Founded in 1951, the American Civil Liberties Union of Pennsylvania is one of the commonwealth's foremost guardians of liberty. We are a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization dedicated to defending and protecting our individual rights and personal freedoms.

Through advocacy, education and litigation, our attorneys, advocates, and volunteers work to preserve and promote civil liberties, including the freedom of speech, the right to vote, reproductive freedom, and equal treatment under the law. We stand in defense of the rights of women, minorities, workers, students, immigrants, and gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender people, as well as others who have seen bias and bigotry threaten the rights afforded to all of us in this country by the Constitution and the Bill of Rights.

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IF THERE'S ONE THING the history of the ACLU teaches us, it’s that sometimes you have to take the extraordinary risk of being ahead of the times.

Very few people were on our side in 1944, when we argued against the detention of Japanese-Americans before the Supreme Court. Few questioned the legitimacy of school-sponsored daily Bible readings in Pennsylvania when they were deemed unconstitutional in Abington School District v. Schempp in 1963. Certainly, in 1970, it seemed a fool’s errand to most when we filed a lawsuit in Minnesota arguing that same-sex couples had a right to marry.

In all of these cases, the ACLU took a principled (and often lonely) stand against the status quo—not because it was popular, but because it was right. Although it sometimes took decades, a majority of Americans eventually came to the same conclusions we initially did in each case.

Today, we’re looking at a radically changed landscape on an issue we’ve been raising for decades: America’s addiction to mass incarceration, and the tremendous evidence of racial bias we’ve found in the failed War on Drugs. We’re challenging the excesses of Pennsylvania’s civil asset forfeiture laws with bipartisan legislation in Harrisburg; we brought about much-needed reforms to the discriminatory hiring practices of the Pittsburgh Bureau of Police in a class action settlement this May; and we continue to monitor and expose the problems with stop-and-frisk policing in Philadelphia.

A window of opportunity has been created by years and years of advocacy as people across the political spectrum recognize the need to reform our criminal justice system. Real changes to bail and sentencing laws, police practices, and our indigent defense system are within our reach. The time to act is now.

So—whether you’re a member, a financial supporter, a cooperating attorney, a volunteer, or simply an ally: thank you, thank you, thank you for standing with us at an exciting time for the ACLU. Big things lie ahead.

All my best,

Kim Watterson
President
ACLU of Pennsylvania
In the courtroom, we had several significant victories that helped large numbers of Pennsylvanians. Our historic marriage-equality lawsuit allowed same-sex couples to get married or to have out-of-state marriages recognized in Pennsylvania. This was followed by the U.S. Supreme Court’s ruling this past June, which achieved true marriage equality in our country—something we have only dreamed of for half-a-century. Also, our voter ID lawsuit secured a final victory when the state decided not to appeal our win in the lower court, preserving the right to vote for more than 500,000 voters in Pennsylvania who lack acceptable ID.

Our work on ending the school-to-prison pipeline has helped to shape the conversation on this issue at the national, state, and local levels. Recently, our senior policy advocate, Harold Jordan, helped to organize a White House Summit on improving school discipline policies and practices.

I am proud of our ongoing work to bring needed reforms to Pennsylvania police departments. As part of our 2010 lawsuit over the Philadelphia Police Department’s stop-and-frisk policy, we continue to monitor the city’s progress in ending illegal and racially biased practices, potentially improving the lives of about 400,000 people, most of whom are African-American men. On the other side of the state, our lawsuit in Pittsburgh on behalf of an African-American teacher arrested for recording the police has led to the adoption of a citywide policy that acknowledges the public’s right to videotape police officers—a vital check on police power—and provides for regular meetings in each police zone with members of the community. And, in May, we announced a settlement to fix problems with the Pittsburgh Bureau of Police’s hiring practices that discriminated against African-American candidates.

Our victory in Galarza, which found that local jails could be found liable for honoring Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) detainers, led to a wave of counties changing their policies, according to a March 2015 study by the Sheller Center for Social Justice. Nearly half of county jails in Pennsylvania now decline ICE detainer requests not supported by a judicial warrant.

In the wake of our settlement in Briggs v. Norristown, our lawsuit challenging an ordinance that forced landlords to evict their tenants when the police were called to the property too often, we helped win passage of a Pennsylvania law to prevent municipalities from enforcing similar ordinances. Thousands of people, including many victims of domestic violence, who need police protection are now able to call 911 without fear of losing their homes.

Lawsuits and lobbying are not our only tool for expanding the rights of Pennsylvanians. We have a robust public education program to provide information about your rights. The latest initiative is our Your Body, Your Rights website (www.ybyr.org), which lets teens know about their rights to consent to and receive confidential health care, with a special focus on sensitive services like reproductive and mental health care.

Through these and other advocacy efforts, we have had an impact on millions of people in Pennsylvania last year. We are not resting on our laurels, however. Even as I write this, we are developing plans to meet new challenges that lie ahead, with all of the tools in our toolbox, whether it be litigation, advocacy, or communications. I hope we can count on you to continue to partner with us as we defend and expand the rights of all Pennsylvanians.

Reginald T. Shuford, Esq.
Executive Director
THE ACLU HAS PLAYED a leading role in the movement for marriage equality, filing the first marriage lawsuit in 1970 and culminating with *Obergefell v. Hodges*, which made the freedom to marry the law of the land this past June.

Although Pennsylvanians celebrated their right to marry a year earlier after a federal judge overturned the commonwealth’s Defense of Marriage Act in May 2014, Pennsylvania still lacks a statewide anti-discrimination law to protect its LGBT residents. Same-sex couples can now can now legally wed in Pennsylvania, but they can still be fired from their jobs or denied housing for being gay in most parts of the state.

The ACLU of Pennsylvania has been involved in the fight to pass an anti-discrimination law for well over a decade and plays a major role in leading the charge to pass an anti-discrimination law in the commonwealth. The ACLU of Pennsylvania and our allies, American Unity Fund, Equality PA, Gill Action, Human Rights Campaign, recently launched Pennsylvania Competes, a new campaign specifically aimed at bringing in voices of the business community to campaign for the need for an LGBT anti-discrimination law in Pennsylvania.

Today in Pennsylvania, gay and transgender people can be fired, evicted and turned away from a business simply because of who they are and who they love.

78% of Pennsylvanians support updating the state anti-discrimination law to include sexual orientation and gender identity and expression.

73% of Pennsylvanians mistakenly believe it is already illegal to fire someone or refuse to hire them because they are gay or transgender.
As progress has been made toward full equality for LGBT people, opponents are increasingly trying to use religious objections to refuse to provide services to them. Religious exemptions are also being used to further the anti-choice agenda, such as pharmacists using religious grounds to refuse to fill birth control prescriptions.

Religious freedom in America means that we all have a right to our religious beliefs, but we don’t have the right to use our religion to discriminate against and impose those beliefs on others who do not share them. Nationally and in Pennsylvania, the ACLU is continuing to push back against attempts to use religion to discriminate.
POLICE OFFICERS WIELD enormous power in our society, and the ACLU has long stood as a check on that power. We continue to monitor the Philadelphia Police Department as part of a 2011 settlement to fix the problems with its stop-and-frisk practices. Officers often stopped pedestrians without “reasonable suspicion” that the person was involved in criminal activity, and disproportionately stopped African-American men. In our February 2015 report to the court, we noted a lack of progress on reducing both the reason for stops and on racial disparities and have put the city on notice that if its new reporting systems do not produce better results soon, we will ask the court to take additional steps to compel compliance with the consent decree.

This past May, we reached a settlement in our 2012 lawsuit, Foster v. City of Pittsburgh, which sought to correct a pattern of racial discrimination in Pittsburgh Bureau of Police’s hiring practices. Following a year of mediation, the city of Pittsburgh agreed to provide for both a process to reform the hiring system and payments to class members who attempted to obtain jobs with the BOP.

James Foster, lead plaintiff in the ACLU-PA lawsuit challenging the discriminatory hiring practices of the Pittsburgh Bureau of Police, recently began his training at the Pittsburgh Police Academy. Prior to the lawsuit, his application was rejected multiple times.

... by working to end racial discrimination by the police
Philadelphia police monitoring a protest in 2014.

Pittsburgh Mayor Bill Peduto speaks at a press conference announcing the settlement of the Foster case with ACLU-PA.

“It’s hard when you try to do everything right and end up being treated like a criminal.”
— Mahari Bailey, lead plaintiff in the challenge to Philadelphia’s stop-and-frisk practices

4% of people hired by the Pittsburgh Bureau of Police from 2001-2014 were African-American.

26% of Pittsburgh residents are African-American.

Philadelphia police monitoring a protest in 2014.
EFFORTS TO REFORM our broken forfeiture system picked up steam this year, with people across the political spectrum increasingly recognizing the problems with this often overlooked practice. Under Pennsylvania’s current civil asset forfeiture laws, the government can take and keep someone’s property—even if the property owner has never been accused of a crime. Originally designed as a tool against drug kingpins, forfeiture has increasingly been used to take homes, cars, and cash from ordinary Pennsylvanians.

Over the last ten years, Pennsylvania law enforcement has taken over $100 million in private property through civil asset forfeiture. The prosecutors and police who make decisions about when to pursue civil forfeiture are then allowed to keep 100% of the forfeiture profits for their own budgets, meaning they have a direct financial incentive to forfeit as much property as possible.

In June, companion bills to reform the forfeiture system were introduced in both the state House and Senate with bi-partisan support. If passed, the bills would require that property owners be convicted of a crime before their property is forfeited and would end the profit incentive for law enforcement by requiring that proceeds of forfeiture be deposited into a general government fund.

In addition to working with legislators to draft reform bills and publishing a report examining the Philadelphia district attorney’s use of forfeiture (see Guilty Property, below), the ACLU also assembled the Coalition for Forfeiture Reform, with ideologically diverse members including the Commonwealth Foundation, Americans for Tax Reform, the PA Prison Society, and Keystone Progress.

Guilty Property:
How Law Enforcement Takes $1 Million in Cash from Innocent Philadelphians Every Year—and Gets Away with It

THE ACLU-PA RELEASED a report in June 2015, entitled Guilty Property: How Law Enforcement Takes $1 Million in Cash from Innocent Philadelphians Every Year—and Gets Away with It, which documents the impact of Pennsylvania’s unfair civil asset forfeiture laws and the aggressive enforcement of these laws by the Philadelphia District Attorney’s Office.

Key findings of the report:

- Most cash forfeitures in Philadelphia involve less than $200.
- The Philadelphia District Attorney’s Office forfeits over $1 million in cash each year from more than 1,500 people who were not convicted of any crime.
- The practice disproportionately affects African-Americans in low-income neighborhoods.
IN THE LEGISLATURE

... by defending civil liberties in Harrisburg

IF WE WANT THE LAW to uphold and protect civil liberties, we have to go to the place where the law is made. Our legislative department monitors the latest bills introduced and considered at the General Assembly in Harrisburg.

Sometimes that means advocating for legislation that will enhance civil liberties, including reforming the criminal justice system and advancing equality for historically marginalized communities. Sometimes the work in Harrisburg means pushing back against proposals that undermine and further erode civil liberties.

More often than not, the daily work of the ACLU of Pennsylvania at the state capitol doesn’t reach the media or the public consciousness. Thoughtful legislators from both parties contact us for input when they are drafting legislation that they know has civil liberties implications, and we take pride in being available to offer ideas that help them write the best law possible. At other times, legislators simply plow ahead, despite the concerns we’ve raised, and we have to fight back.

The ACLU of Pennsylvania is committed to being a strategic, present, and fierce advocate for civil liberties at the Pennsylvania General Assembly.

Highlights (and Lowlights) from the Pennsylvania General Assembly, 2014-15

ACLU SUPPORTED
• Asset forfeiture reform
• Mandated police training for encounters with people with disabilities and mental health issues (signed into law)
• Immunity from prosecution for people who aid victims of drug overdoses (signed into law)
• Sealing criminal records for minor offenses
• LGBT anti-discrimination

ACLU OPPOSED
• DNA collection at time of arrest rather than post-conviction
• State registry for adult entertainment employees
• Restrictions on speech of people who have been convicted of certain crimes (signed into law but overturned in court; read more on page 11).
... by taking it to the courts

THE ACLU OF PENNSYLVANIA has a robust litigation program, made possible in part by a cadre of volunteer attorneys who donate their time and resources to help protect the civil liberties of Pennsylvanians. (See a list of our volunteer attorneys on page 19.)

Many of our lawsuits make the news, but, for every high-profile case, we help countless others behind the scenes, often with just a phone call or letter.

HIGHLIGHTS

DEATH PENALTY

Amicus Brief Filed in Support of Governor’s Moratorium on the Death Penalty

The ACLU of Pennsylvania filed an amicus brief on behalf of the Philadelphia Bar Association, Pennsylvania NAACP, the Jewish Social Policy Action Network, and Pennsylvanians Against the Death Penalty in support of Gov. Tom Wolf’s moratorium on the death penalty, which he announced soon after taking office. In February 2015, Philadelphia District Attorney Seth Williams filed an emergency petition before the state Supreme Court challenging the governor’s power to impose a moratorium.

Details About Execution Drugs Sought

The ACLU of Pennsylvania, on behalf of four newspapers, asked a federal judge to unseal court records that contain information about the source of the drugs used for lethal injections in Pennsylvania. The source of drugs used for lethal injections has been the subject of controversy recently. Because the FDA-approved version of pentobarbital, one of three drugs used for executions, is not sold to departments of corrections for use in executions, states can only obtain the drug by contracting with a compounding pharmacy to make the drug on special order. Questions have been raised about the quality and reliability of the compounded execution drugs and whether the pharmacies have legally obtained the active ingredients used.

DUE PROCESS

Challenge to Wilkes-Barre’s “One-Strike” Ordinance Filed

In January 2015, the ACLU of Pennsylvania filed a federal lawsuit on behalf of landlords and tenants whose rental properties were seized by the city of Wilkes-Barre under an ordinance that authorizes city officials to evict tenants immediately and prevent landlords from renting a property for six
months if anyone is suspected of illegal activity involving drugs or guns on the premises, including third parties not on the lease. The so-called “one-strike” ordinance allows the city to close rental properties even if the affected landlord and tenants were unaware of the suspected activity.

FREE SPEECH
Charges Dismissed Against Man Who Hung Flag Upside Down
A Blair County Court of Common Pleas judge ruled in May 2015 that Joshua Brubaker’s conduct in hanging an American flag upside down with the letters “A.I.M.” painted on it was political speech protected by the First Amendment and could not be subject to criminal prosecution under Pennsylvania flag insult and flag desecration statutes.

Silencing Act Defeated
The ACLU of Pennsylvania and the Abolitionist Law Center successfully overthrew a law passed last fall that stifled the free speech rights of thousands of individuals and organizations. Under the “Silencing Act,” a district attorney, the state attorney general, or a victim of a personal injury crime could ask a judge to prohibit an offender from engaging in any conduct, including speech, that would cause “a temporary or permanent state of mental anguish” to the victim or otherwise “perpetuate the continuing effect of the crime” on the victim. The ACLU-PA argued that the law, passed in response to a recorded commencement speech given by Mumia Abu-Jamal, stifled public debate on critical issues, such as deficient prison conditions, mandatory life sentences for juveniles, and innocence claims.

FREE SPEECH/POLICE PRACTICES
Pittsburgh Settles with Falsely Arrested African-American Teacher
The city of Pittsburgh reached a settlement with Dennis Henderson, an African-American teacher who was arrested and jailed for 12 hours in June of 2013 after criticizing the speed of a white Pittsburgh police officer driving by and recording the incident on his phone. Under the terms of settlement, the city agrees to adopt a policy that acknowledges the public’s right to video tape police officers, to organize regular meetings in each police zone with members of the community, and to meet with University of Pittsburgh School of Law professor David Harris to discuss recording data on pat-downs of citizens by the police department. Henderson will also receive $52,500 in damages and fees.

RELIGIOUS FREEDOM
Lawsuit Filed After Transit System Refuses to Sell Ad Space to Atheist Group
The ACLU of Pennsylvania filed a federal lawsuit in April 2015 against the County of Lackawanna Transit System (COLTS) over its refusal to allow a local atheist group, the Northeastern Pennsylvania (NEPA) Freethought Society, to advertise on its buses. Since 2012, the NEPA Freethought Society has tried unsuccessfully to run various ads, which simply say “atheists” along with the group’s name and/or website. After one rejected attempt, the group was told that the proposed “atheists” ad would “offend or alienate” some of COLTS’ riders, causing COLTS to lose money.

For more information about these or other cases, please visit www.aclupa.org/courts.
ALTHOUGH THE ACLU is most often associated with bringing lawsuits, we also work to educate people online and in person about their rights and to provide them with tools to advocate for themselves and their communities. We also work to raise awareness of civil liberties issues with decision makers and the public at large.

Launch of Your Body, Your Rights Campaign

This spring, the ACLU of Pennsylvania’s Duvall Reproductive Rights Project launched an exciting new campaign, Your Body, Your Rights, geared at teens across Pennsylvania. The campaign educates young people about their rights to consent to and receive confidential health care, with a special focus on sensitive services like reproductive and mental health care. Research shows that teens—especially girls—are much less likely to seek reproductive health care if their parents are notified, putting their well-being in jeopardy. Your Body, Your Rights aims to make sure teens understand their rights so they don’t forego getting critical health services because of concerns about confidentiality.

The campaign includes a teen-friendly website (www.ybyr.org), a presence on four social media platforms and partnerships with community-based organizations and health care providers that serve young people. During the first two months of the campaign, more than 1,500 people accessed our online information about teens’ health care rights.

Allegheny County Jail Ends Contract with Substandard Health Care Provider

The ACLU of Pennsylvania advocated extensively with Allegheny County Jail administrators and the county executive’s office for reforms in the jail health care system, which influenced the county’s decision to terminate its contract with Corizon Health this spring. The ACLU received numerous reports, from prisoners, jail health care staff, and even outside providers about the substandard, unconstitutional level of health care in the jail. A report by Allegheny County Controller Chelsa Wagner corroborated the problems we discovered. We will continue to advocate for adequate medical care for people incarcerated in the Allegheny County Jail as the new medical services provider, Allegheny Health Network, starts this fall.
IN FEBRUARY OF 2015, we released an updated version of our report, Beyond Zero Tolerance: Discipline and Policing in Pennsylvania Public Schools. The new version presented updated research findings on the causes of discipline disparities, new federal policy statements, and a discussion of recent developments in school policing. Major additions include a Q&A on school discipline and policing, a discussion of recent developments in the federal policy arena as well as an examination of Philadelphia’s new diversion program, which provides an alternative to student arrest.

Over 2,000 print copies of the report were distributed, with another 3,500+ copies downloaded. It’s been used by activists, education professionals, advocacy organizations, and policy makers as a tool for advocating for fairer policies for Pennsylvania’s youth.

We are also focused on reducing the number of students who end up in the criminal justice system. Pennsylvania has the ninth highest rate in the country for student referrals by schools to law enforcement. Referral rates are especially high for students with disabilities and for black and Latino students. We are promoting policies that reduce unnecessary arrests and citations of students and encourage alternative approaches to problem solving such as diversion and restorative justice.
Leading the Way Forward: 2014-15 HONOR ROLL OF DONORS

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“I support the ACLU because I believe everyone deserves to be treated equally. All ACLU issues are important, but fighting for the right to vote for minority people and eliminating discrimination against LGBT individuals are particularly important to me personally.”

— Clyde B. Jones, Ill

“We support the ACLU because we have seen firsthand how this organization stands up for civil liberties and gets results.”

— Terri and Munir Chavla

A little civil libertarian gets a balloon at the Pittsburgh Chapter’s annual summer picnic.

ACLU supporters Jake Goodman, Roslyn Litman, and Rob Slick at the Pittsburgh Chapter’s annual meeting.

“On the occasion of our wedding (after 21 years together), we wanted to honor the important work of the ACLU in advancing the cause of marriage equality for same-gender partners. We are grateful for the ACLU’s work on so many fronts in pursuing a commitment to justice and equality for all.”
— Caroll Blank and Helen Nunn

“The ACLU is strategic and masterful in its use of impact litigation, lobbying and grassroots organization to give voice to those who are most vulnerable, marginalized, and often remain unheard. I am moved by the way the ACLU fights to promote justice for all.”
— Kay Kyungsun Yu

**THE ACLU OF PENNSYLVANIA** is a state and national leader in protecting the rights of students subjected to unfair or discriminatory treatment by school officials and the police. This work was recognized earlier this summer, when Senior Policy Advocate Harold Jordan was invited to help to organize and participate in the White House Rethink School Discipline Summit. School leaders across the country shared best practices used to dismantle the school-to-prison pipeline by fostering safe, supportive, and productive learning environments that keep kids in school and out of the juvenile justice system.
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— Clifton Omar Slater

Deputy Director Barb Feige and former Pittsburgh Chapter Executive Director Marion Damick at the Pittsburgh Chapter’s annual picnic. The chapter surprised Marion with a cake in celebration of her 90th birthday.

“Support the ACLU with both my money and my lawyering because there is no organization anywhere more committed to preserving the American ideal, no organization anywhere more willing to stand up and speak for those who cannot speak for themselves.”
— David J. Millstein

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“Support the ACLU because it is abundantly clear that its work has been a major force in maintaining the civil liberties and civil rights of all of us in ways we experience each and every day. The enviable track record they have accumulated over the years is there for all to see. They have set a high standard for other civil rights organizations to strive toward.”
— Clifton Omar Slater

Deputy Director Barb Feige and former Pittsburgh Chapter Executive Director Marion Damick at the Pittsburgh Chapter’s annual picnic. The chapter surprised Marion with a cake in celebration of her 90th birthday.

“Support the ACLU with both my money and my lawyering because there is no organization anywhere more committed to preserving the American ideal, no organization anywhere more willing to stand up and speak for those who cannot speak for themselves.”
— David J. Millstein

Central Susquehanna Chapter
Walter Brasch, Ph.D., Vice President
Lana Guilden
Rick (Dodie) Lovett
Joe Manzi, Treasurer
Than Mitchell
Bob Pyle
Regina Russell, President
Margie Torres
Arno Vosk
David Young, Secretary

Greater Philadelphia Chapter
Karl Baker
Kathy Black, Vice President
Burton Caine
James Crawford
Ned Diver
William Ewing
Lee Fishman
Nancy Gellman
Gloria Gilman, Vice President
Peter Goldberger, Immediate Past President
Ronda Goldfein
Will Gonzalez

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Jon Pushinsky (l) presents retired State Senator Jim Ferlo with the Marjorie H. Matson Award for Civil Liberties and Civil Rights at the Pittsburgh Chapter’s annual meeting.

ACLU-PA board member Carl Peridier (l) chairs the Philadelphia Chapter’s development committee. Philadelphia Chapter board member Alli Harper (r) founded and runs the chapter’s Young Leaders Outreach Team, a vehicle for involving people under 40 in the organization.
... with thoughtful stewardship

American Civil Liberties Foundation of Pennsylvania

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES AND CHANGE IN NET ASSETS
Fiscal Year April 1, 2014 through March 31, 2015

Support and Revenue
Grants, contributions and fundraising $1,824,105
Contributed services 2,304,093
Attorney’s fees 1,541,887
Interest, investment, and other income 151,384
Total support and revenue 5,821,469

Expenses
Program Services 3,814,271
Management and general 504,406
Fundraising 241,193
Total expenses 4,559,970
Change in net assets 1,261,599
Net assets, beginning of year 395,967
Net assets, end of year $373,045

Institute of Developmental Research (IDR) and/or other related entities (amounts in parentheses)

Financials

American Civil Liberties Foundation of Pennsylvania

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES AND CHANGE IN NET ASSETS
Fiscal Year April 1, 2014 through March 31, 2015

Support and Revenue
Grants, contributions and fundraising $439,820
Contributed services 108,800
Interest and investment income (loss) 30
Total support and revenue 548,650

Expenses
Program Services 358,952
Management and general 177,258
Fundraising 35,360
Total expenses 571,570
Change in net assets (22,922)
Net assets, beginning of year 395,967
Net assets, end of year $373,045

Institute of Developmental Research (IDR) and/or other related entities (amounts in parentheses)

Financials
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