News and resources for board certified attorneys and those seeking certification.

“Certification should be the capstone for a lawyer’s professionalism goals.”
Former Florida Supreme Court Justice Harry Lee Anstead.

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AREAS OF CERTIFICATION
2017-2018 Board of Legal Specialization & Education (BLSE)

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850-561-5805 or acolman@floridabar.org
Florida Board Certification Has a New Captain at the Helm!

Steven D. Rubin, of the Law Offices of Steven D. Rubin, Boca Raton, has been appointed Chair of The Florida Bar Board of Legal Specialization and Education (BLSE).

Mr. Rubin has been at the helm before. He has served as Chair of The Florida Bar Real Estate Certification Committee, the Palm Beach County Bar Association Real Estate CLE Committee, and the City of Delray Beach Board of Adjustment. He has also been a Director of the Craig S. Barnard American Inn of Court, and, as he said, “unfortunately,” the president of three residential community associations.

Rubin received his J.D. from the University of Illinois and B.A. from Northwestern University and was admitted to The Florida Bar in 1981. He opened his Boca Raton law firm in 1983, and became Board Certified in Real Estate in 1995. Mr. Rubin is well versed in what it takes for a Florida attorney to become board certified by The Florida Bar.

He is also well prepared to lead Florida’s board certification program, having served as a member of the BLSE since 2012, and as Vice-Chair from 2016 to July 1, 2017, when Florida Bar President, Michael Higer, appointed him Chair.

“I appreciate the opportunity to continue my service to the Bar and to work with some of the Bar’s finest experts and professionals,” said Rubin. “I encourage every qualified attorney who is not certified to take the challenge and apply for certification. The goal of the certification program, as 11th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals Judge Ed Carnes has said, is “to recognize . . . exceptional attorneys, meaning those [attorneys] who stand out from others in all of the ways that make an attorney outstanding.” This year, BLSE will focus on implementing recommendations which have been made to make the certification examination and its grading more uniform across all areas, revising its policies to address recent changes in the practice of law, and improving its communications with the public and attorneys alike about the unique benefits of Florida Bar board certification.”

The BLSE governs the rules and policies for each of Florida’s certification areas, and oversees the committees that implement each area’s standards. Florida currently offers 26 specialty areas for which board certification is available. This is the largest number of state-approved certifications in the nation.

A lawyer who is a member in good standing of The Florida Bar, and who meets Supreme Court prescribed standards, may become board certified. Nearly 5,000 Florida lawyers are board certified. Not all qualified lawyers are certified, but those who are have taken the extra steps to have their competence, education, ethics, and experience objectively assessed. Board Certified lawyers are “Evaluated for Professionalism and Tested for Expertise,” and they are the only lawyers who may represent themselves to the public as Florida Bar Board Certified specialists or experts.

For more information, please visit The Florida Bar website at Floridabar.org/certification or contact the Legal Specialization and Education Department at (850)561-5842.
Tracey Hyde’s practice area covers workers’ compensation defense matters in both State and Federal (Longshore & DBA) areas. Prior to joining the McConnaughhay firm, Tracey was Assistant State Attorney for the 14th Judicial Circuit.

In 2006, Tracey was Board Certified by the Florida Bar in Workers’ Compensation. Her clients include national insurers, state and local governmental agencies, hospitals, restaurants, hotel chains and a school district.

Tracey served on the Workers’ Compensation Certification Committee of The Florida Bar from 2008 to 2014. She chaired the committee from 2011 to 2012. Tracey is a member of the Workers’ Compensation Section, The Bay County Bar Association, and the Maryland and Florida Bars. She served on the BLSE from 2014-2017. Tracey attended Florida State University and received her J.D., with honors in 1993. She currently resides in Panama City with Bill, her husband of 21 years, and 4 rescue dogs.
Juvenile Law, the new specialty now offered in Florida.

Applications are available online at FloridaBar.org/certification.

What Are the Standards for Juvenile Law Certification?

Juvenile Law is the area of law that inherently and directly impacts children. It includes, but is not limited to, dependency, delinquency, and termination of parental rights matters. It does not include adoption matters or matters arising in the context of family law proceedings not consolidated with dependency or termination of parental rights matters.

Juvenile Law certification applicants must:

- have been engaged in the practice of law for at least 5 years,
- be members in good standing of any U.S. state or District of Columbia bar association for at least five years preceding application,
- demonstrate substantial involvement in the practice of juvenile law during at least three of the five years immediately preceding the date of application,
- demonstrate broad, substantial, practical experience in juvenile law,
- undergo peer review by attorneys and judges,
- complete 50 credit hours of approved continuing legal education in juvenile law during the three-year period immediately preceding the date of application,
- and a written examination.

Juvenile Law certification applicants who demonstrate substantial involvement in juvenile law for a minimum of 20 years and who otherwise fulfill the standards are exempt from the examination. The exemption is only applicable to those applicants who apply within the first two application filing periods from the effective date of the standards. The 2017 filing period is the last year to apply for the exam waiver.

Why Become Certified?

“In an ever-crowded field of over 100,000 lawyers, the achievement of board certification, the Bar’s highest evaluation of a lawyer’s competence and experience in a particular area of practice, is the premiere way of distinguishing yourself as a specialist in that field,” Eugene Pettis, Haliczer Pettis & Schwamm, Past President of The Florida Bar.

Be among the almost 5,000 Florida lawyers known as Board Certified Specialists. If you’re ready for the challenge, applications for the May 2018 exam in Juvenile Law, must be filed by October 31, 2017. (Please note: the 2017 deadline for 2nd cycle areas was extended to November 30, 2017 due to the hurricanes)

You can find the standards, test specifications, applications, and filing deadlines online at FloridaBar.org/certification, along with a directory of other lawyers who have taken this significant step in their professional careers.
Q&A with Judge Paul L. Huey regarding Florida Bar Certification in Business Litigation

By Hank Jackson

How does becoming Board Certified in Business Litigation benefit practicing lawyers, the bench, and the public? What do you hope to see in the future regarding Board Certification? These are some of the questions Hank Jackson (Vice-Chair of The Florida Bar’s Business Litigation Certification Committee) posed to Circuit Judge Paul L. Huey of the Thirteenth Judicial Circuit (Hillsborough County).

Hank Jackson: Judge, I know that you became Board Certified in Business Litigation before you went on the bench in 2002. As a private practicing attorney, what prompted you to seek Board Certification?

Judge Huey: A few things. I wanted to improve and be a better lawyer – in particular in business litigation. I had started my law career as a transactional lawyer and then decided to transition into business litigation. Also, I thought being Board Certified would help distinguish myself as a practicing lawyer with both clients and other lawyers. Finally, I already was contemplating serving as a judge. I believed it would be an important credential to have before a judicial nomination commission.

HJ: What did you think of the actual process required to become Board Certified in Business Litigation?

Judge Huey: It really helped me focus. I had to come up with a plan to meet the requirements. This included getting enough trial experience, which does not come overnight. It took me several years – I had to be proactive and seek out opportunities to get trial experience. I also had to obtain additional CLE that was specifically focused on business litigation topics. Then, there was taking the written exam that again required me to focus on business litigation subject areas. The whole process was making me a better lawyer.

HJ: After completing the process and while still in private practice, did your impression of Board Certified Business Litigation Attorneys change?

J. Huey: It really confirmed what I was hoping to receive from becoming Board Certified. It improved my stature and provided me a distinction as a lawyer that I did not previously have. Prospective clients began calling me for business litigation cases specifically because I was Board Certified in Business Litigation. I also think it was also very beneficial when my name went before the Judicial Nomination Committee. I really believe it was a material contributing factor in my being nominated and appointed as circuit judge.

HJ: Now that you have been on the bench for 15 years, from a judicial prospective how do you view the benefits or importance of Board Certification?

J. Huey: I appreciate and value what lawyers have had to do to become Board Certified. I know it takes planning, diligence and hard work to accomplish this distinction. Also, because Board Certified lawyers must pass peer review initially and during their recertification, I believe it encourages and leads to more professionalism. I would also point out that an attorney’s Board Certification status and distinction is often raised in attorney’s fees award hearings to justify an hourly rate or overall fee award. I certainly believe the certification is an appropriate factor to be considered when determining rates.

HJ: Then of course, you also served on the Business Litigation Certification Committee until just recently. As you now, that Committee is heavily involved in reviewing the applications as well as preparing and grading the written test for Board Certification. What kind of insight or take away did you gain from serving on the Committee?

J. Huey: I learned that it is a serious process. A lot of time and thought goes into the entire process. It made me respect Board Certification even more. Sometimes seeing how things are actually done - like making sausage – makes you feel a little uneasy. But with the Board Certification process, I felt really good about, in fact better about, it after serving on the Committee. It is a process that has a lot of integrity.

HJ: What about the public – do they benefit from Board Certification?

J. Huey: Yes, I think it is more important than ever for the public. We live in a society where marketing and disinformation are constantly barraging the public. How do they know what to trust? I think that the public’s ability to know that an attorney has met all the requirements to become Board Certified is beneficial.

HJ: What would you like see happen in the future regarding Board Certification?

J. Huey: I would encourage attorneys early in their careers to start thinking about how they can become Board Certified – make it part of their overall career objectives and goals. It takes planning and hard work, but it is worth it.
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FLORIDA BOARD CERTIFIED
Benefiting Their Communities.....

Freed-to-Run: 6 Marathons in 6 Days - Blazing a Path to Justice

Board Certified Lawyer, Michael Freed wanted to make an impact! Gunster business litigator Michael Freed believes in community involvement and is an advocate & Pro Bono attorney for the Jacksonville Area Legal Aid (JALA).

Mike wanted to Celebrate Pro Bono and bring awareness to the huge unmet need for legal services for the low-income community and for funding the legal aid organizations that work to fill this “justice gap.” In a monumental effort to raise funds for JALA, Mike ran from Tallahassee to Jacksonville – 6 Marathons in 6 Days. Starting at the Florida Supreme Courthouse in Tallahassee, Mike will “Blaze a Path to Justice” across Florida, ending with an event titled “The Finish Line – Celebrating Pro Bono Attorneys throughout the 4th Circuit” at the Duval County Courthouse on Friday, June 2, 2017. Each day at 7:30 AM, Mike began at another courthouse on his 6-marathons-in-6-days quest as follows:

- Sunday, May 28th – Florida Supreme Courthouse, Tallahassee
- Monday, May 29th – Jefferson County Courthouse, Monticello
- Tuesday, May 30th – Madison County Courthouse, Madison
- Wednesday, May 31st – Suwanee County Courthouse, Live Oak
- Thursday, June 1st – Columbia County Courthouse, Lake City
- Friday, June 2nd – Baker County Courthouse, Macclenny (finishing at the Duval County Courthouse, Jacksonville, FL)

For over 90 years Gunster has been a forward-thinking law firm with its fingers on the pulse of Florida’s business climate. The Jacksonville office of Gunster has been a key player in the community supporting many worthwhile nonprofits including JALA. As Michael Freed says “Gunster and its lawyers are proud of their support of JALA. By helping JALA we are able to fulfill many of our core missions: improving justice, serving our community, providing for the less fortunate, and engaging others around these purposes.”

“We are fortunate to have the support of Gunster and are grateful for the access to justice they have provided for our low-income neighbors.” Jacksonville Area Legal Aid.
IN THE NEWS

David B. Rothman, Rothman & Associates, P.A., received the “President’s Award of Excellence” from The Florida Bar Foundation. B.C.S. Criminal Trial.

Elizabeth Schwarz, Elizabeth F. Schwartz, P.A., was honored by the Greater Miami Jewish Federation with its 2017 Stanley C. Myers President’s Leadership Award. B.C.S. Adoption Law.

Mark R. Osherow, Of Counsel, Osherow, PLLC, was appointed Chair of the Professionalism Committee for the South Palm Beach County Bar Association. B.C.S. Business Litigation.

Mr. Cuello, Law Office of Alex Cuello, P.A., Miami, was named Pro Bono Attorney of the Year by the Florida Department of Elder Affairs, Office of Public and Professional Guardians, and the Foundation for Indigent Guardianship, Inc.


Lisa D. Taylor of Inglesino, Webster, Wyciskala & Taylor, LLC, Parsippany, New Jersey, has been elected Chair of the Health Law Section of the New Jersey State Bar. B.C.S. Health Law.

Peter Quinter, GrayRobinson, organized a Port of Miami Tour as part of ABA Section of International Law 2017 Fall Conference. B.C.S. International Law.
FAVORITE facebook PAGE POST

Were you... Evaluated for Professionalism and Tested for Expertise? Congratulations!

You are Board Certified by the Florida Bar!

It's the weekend! Even Board Certified attorneys need a break sometimes. See you at the finish!

It's Friday! Get out there and find a path!

What it feels like...

...when you break the certification barrier!

Follow us on Facebook

Florida Board Certification

Celebrating International Women's Day

The sculpture, titled "The Fauconnier Girl," was made by Kristen Vidal and photographed by Federica Valdigna. Currently on view at 66 Broadway, New York.

It's Friday! Take some time to get out there and explore this weekend! No telling what you might see.... Have a great weekend!
Get your Certification CLE

Upcoming CLE Events

Nov. 2 – Nov. 30

For more information and to register online visit: FloridaBar.org/cle

Annual Ethics Update 2017 Course # 2571
November 02, 2017 - Orlando, Rosen Centre Hotel - Live & Webcast

Bankruptcy Law & Practice: View from the Bench Course # 2492
November 02 - Tampa - Stetson University College of Law

Health Care Regulatory & Compliance Issues Course # 2573
November 03 - Fort Lauderdale - Renaissance Cruise Port Hotel - Live & Webcast

Practice Before DOAH Course # 2730
November 03 - Tallahassee

RPPTL Section Probate Law Seminar Course # 2574
November 03 - Fort Lauderdale - Riverside Hotel (Tentative) Live & Webcast

Labor & Employment Law Section Audio Webcast Series Course # 2575
November 07 - Audio Webcast
December 05 - Audio Webcast

Labor & Employment Law Section Audio Webcast #1 Course # 2576
November 07 - Audio Webcast

Entertainment, Arts & Sports Law Audio Webcast #2 Course # 2561
November 14 - Audio Webcast

Navigating a Foreclosure Title Commitment Course # 2580
November 16 - Audio Webcast

Agriculture Law Update 2017 Course # 2581
November 17 - Gainesville

Practice Tips in Domestic Violence Litigation: How to Effectively Represent Clients in Domestic Violence Cases Course # 2292
November 17 - Tampa - Marriott Waterside - Live & Webcast

Evaluating Your Appeal Course # 2718
November 21 - Audio Webcast

Video Webcast: Expert Witnesses in Construction Cases Course # 2549
November 20 - Audio Webcast

Estate & Trust Planning/Asset Protection Course # 2583
November 30 - Orlando - Hyatt Regency International Airport - Live & Webcast

Mechanics of Board Certification Course # 2734
November 30 - Audio Webcast
86 Years Young and Still Certified!

There is no age waiver in the certification program – not that Florida lawyer Donald Spero needed one. A prolific writer, Mr. Spero has authored over 40 articles and more than one book, all while practicing as a mediator with the Florida Mediation Group. He received Board Certification in Labor and Employment Law in 2001. To maintain his certification, Mr. Spero obtained 75 hours of CLE credit in Labor and Employment Law. That didn’t slow him down as he was recertified in 2016.

Born in 1931, he attended the University of Michigan Law School. He received his JD in 1962 and practiced in Chicago for 33 years. In 1995, Mr. Spero came to Florida and passed the Florida Bar Exam. He was 64. When his article “When Must a Dispute be Submitted to Arbitration? Who Makes the Call?” appeared in The Florida Bar Journal’s February 2014 issue, he was 83.

“I enjoy writing,” Spero explained. “I love the law.” By keeping active in his field, he learns new law all the time. He remarked that he admires Justice Ginsburg, and the vigorous schedule she keeps. “She’s very impressive,” he quipped, “but she’s also two years younger than me.”

Mr. Spero says that Board Certification has been a “distinction” that has been nice to have, and he doesn’t plan to give it up. “When I recertify in 2021, I will be 90 years old.”

Donald Spero has been married to Patricia for 53 years. They live in North Palm Beach where Mr. Spero continues to practice, write, arbitrate labor and employment matters, and work on his 2021 recertification application.

Congratulations to the winners of the 2017 award for Excellence in the Promotion of Board Certification

GrayRobinson is a full-service corporate Florida law firm with 300 attorneys and consultants throughout 13 locations across the State of Florida.

GrayRobinson Attorneys at Law provides exceptional legal services to Fortune 500 companies, emerging businesses, lending institutions, local and state agencies, entrepreneurs, developers and individuals across Florida, the nation and the world.
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Enlighten your clients about your achievement!

Board Certified Lawyers are....
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Area Specific Pamphlets are available for ALL 26 board certification areas.

For more information call the LSE Department at: (850) 561-5842

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Don’t wait for the thunder. Call and talk to someone now. You’ve put a lot into your career, don’t let some bad days put an end to it.

Where there is help, there is hope.

FLA Attorney Support Group Meetings Throughout Florida www.fla-lap.org
### Board Certification Calendar  
**Application Filing Periods & Examination Dates**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>First Cycle Filing Period:</th>
<th>July 1 – August 31</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Areas:</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Admiralty and Maritime Law</td>
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<td>Adoption Law</td>
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<td>Appellate Practice</td>
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<td>Aviation Law</td>
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<td>Civil Trial Law</td>
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<td>Condominium &amp; Planned Development</td>
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<td>Education Law</td>
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<td>Elder Law</td>
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<td>Immigration &amp; Nationality Law</td>
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<td>International Law</td>
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<td>Labor &amp; Employment Law</td>
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<td>Marital &amp; Family Law</td>
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<td>Tax Law</td>
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| Second Cycle Filing Period: | September 1 – October 31  
* (Deadline Extended until November 30, 2017 due to 2017 hurricanes.) |
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Area:</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Antitrust &amp; Trade Regulation Law</td>
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<td>Business Litigation</td>
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<td>City, County &amp; Local Government Law</td>
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<td>Construction Law</td>
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<td>Criminal Appellate Law</td>
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<td>Criminal Trial Law</td>
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<td>Health Law</td>
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<td>Intellectual Property Law</td>
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<td>Juvenile Law</td>
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<td>Real Estate Law</td>
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<td>State/Fed. Gov. &amp; Administrative Practice</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wills, Trusts &amp; Estates Law</td>
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<tr>
<td>Workers’ Compensation Law</td>
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There are no alternative dates or make-up exams.

All 2018 exam will be held at the Tampa Hilton Westshore Hotel:

2225 N. Lois Avenue  
Tampa, Florida 33607  
(813) 877-6688

### FIRST CYCLE AREA EXAM DATES

**Thursday, March 8, 2018:**  
Admiralty & Maritime Law  
Adoption Law  
Aviation Law  
Civil Trial Law  
Condominium & Planned Development  
Immigration & Nationality Law  
International Law

**Friday, March 9, 2018:**  
Appellate Practice  
Education Law  
Elder Law  
Labor & Employment Law  
Marital & Family Law  
Tax Law

### SECOND CYCLE AREA EXAM DATES

**Thursday, May 10, 2018:**  
Antitrust & Trade Regulation Law  
Construction Law  
Intellectual Property  
Juvenile Law  
Real Estate Law  
State & Federal Government & Administrative Practice

**Friday, May 11, 2018:**  
Business Litigation  
City, County & Local Government Law  
Criminal Appellate Law  
Criminal Trial Law  
Health Law  
Wills, Trusts & Estates Law  
Workers’ Compensation
## Areas of Board Certification

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Area</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Phone</th>
<th>Email</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Admiralty and Maritime Law</strong></td>
<td>Jason Rawls</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Adoption Law</strong></td>
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</tr>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Appellate Practice</strong></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Aviation Law</strong></td>
<td>Carol Vaught</td>
<td>850/561-5738</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Business Litigation</strong></td>
<td>Laurinda Babers</td>
<td>850/561-5697</td>
<td><a href="mailto:lbabers@floridabar.org">lbabers@floridabar.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>City, County, and Local Government</strong></td>
<td>Allison Amour</td>
<td>850-561-3143</td>
<td><a href="mailto:aarmour@floridabar.org">aarmour@floridabar.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Civil Trial</strong></td>
<td>Amanda Barrett</td>
<td>850/561-5737</td>
<td><a href="mailto:abarrett@floridabar.org">abarrett@floridabar.org</a></td>
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