

IN THE UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS
FOR THE ELEVENTH CIRCUIT

Consolidated Appeal Nos. 15-10295, 15-10313

CARI SEARCY, *et al.*,
Plaintiffs-Appellees,

v.

LUTHER STRANGE, ATTORNEY
GENERAL,
STATE OF ALABAMA, *Defendant-
Appellant*.

JAMES STRAWSER, *et al.*,
Plaintiffs-Appellees,

v.

LUTHER STRANGE, ATTORNEY
GENERAL,
STATE OF ALABAMA, *Defendant-
Appellant*.

Appeals from the U.S. District Court, Southern District of Alabama

***Time-Sensitive Applications for Reconsideration, Clarification,
11th Cir. R. 35-9 En Banc Amicus Briefs, etc. pursuant to
response from Acting Clerk of Court, dated February 06, 2015***

(RULING REQUESTED BEFORE end of day FEB. 9, 2015)

The name, office address, and telephone number of counsel[*]
representing the party for whom the brief is filed:

Gordon Wayne Watts, *Amicus Curiae*

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Official URL's: <http://GordonWatts.com> / <http://GordonWayneWatts.com>

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Class of 2000, double major with honours

AS, United Electronics Institute, Class of 1988, Valedictorian

LAYMAN OF THE LAW:

Gordon W. Watts, PRO SE / PRO PER

[] Mr. Watts, acting as his own counsel, is not a lawyer.*

U.S. COURT OF APPEALS FOR THE ELEVENTH CIRCUIT

**CERTIFICATE OF INTERESTED PERSONS
AND CORPORATE DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**

Searcy, et al v. Strange, Consolidated Appeal Nos: 15-10295, 15-10313

Amicus, Gordon Wayne Watts, pursuant to 11th Cir. R. 26.1-1, hereby certifies that the following is a list of trial judge(s), and all attorneys, persons, associations of persons, firms, partnerships, or corporations that have an interest in the outcome of this case or appeal, including subsidiaries, conglomerates, affiliates and parent corporations, including any publicly held corporation that owns 10% or more of the party's stock, and other identifiable legal entities related to a party those who have an interest in the outcome of this case and/or appeal:

1. Agricola, Jr., Algert Swanson, Attorney for Alabama Probate Judges Association
("APJA") & Gov. Bentley
2. Alabama Probate Judges Association
3. Allen, Wes, Probate Judge, Pike County, Alabama, APJA Treasurer
4. Bentley, Robert J., Governor of Alabama
5. Boyd, Fernambucq, Dunn & Fann, P.C., attorneys for plaintiffs
6. Brasher, Andrew Lynn, Solicitor General
7. Byrne, Jr., David B., Attorney for Governor Robert J. Bentley
8. Davis, James W., Assistant Attorney General
9. English, Bill, Probate Judge, Lee County, Alabama, APJA Vice President
10. Fann, Heather, counsel for Plaintiffs-Appellees
11. Granade, Hon. Callie V. S., United States District Judge
12. Hernandez, Christine Cassie, attorney for plaintiffs

U.S. COURT OF APPEALS FOR THE 11th CIR., CERTIFICATE OF INTERESTED PERSONS AND CORPORATE DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
***Searcy, et al v. Strange*, Consolidated Appeal Nos: 15-10295, 15-10313**

13. Howell, Laura Elizabeth, Assistant Attorney General
14. Humphrey, John E., Plaintiff-Appellee
15. Kennedy, David Graham, attorney for plaintiffs
16. McKeand, Kimberly, plaintiff
17. Minter, Shannon P., counsel for Plaintiffs-Appellees
18. Mitchell, Terry, Probate Judge, Coosa County, Alabama, APJA President Emeritus
19. National Center for Lesbian Rights, attorneys for Plaintiffs-Appellees
20. Norris, Greg, Probate Judge, Monroe County, Alabama, APJA President
21. Paluzzi, John Earl, Probate Judge, Pickens County, Alabama, APJA Secretary
22. Reinert, Jeff, Clerk of the Court, U.S. Dist. Court, S.D. of Alabama
23. Ryals, Joseph Lenn, Attorney for Alabama Probate Judges Association
24. Searcy, Cari D., plaintiff
25. Stoll, Christopher F., counsel for Plaintiffs-Appellees
26. Strawser, James N., Plaintiff-Appellee.
27. Strange, Luther, Attorney General
28. Watts, Gordon Wayne, Amicus Curiae

No counsel for any party authored this brief in whole or part, nor did anyone make any monetary contribution intended to subsidise/fund

U.S. COURT OF APPEALS FOR THE 11th CIR., CERTIFICATE OF INTERESTED PERSONS AND CORPORATE DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
Searcy, et al v. Strange, Consolidated Appeal Nos: 15-10295, 15-10313

preparation/submission of this brief. I, Gordon Wayne Watts, alone, both wrote & funded it. *Amicus*, Gordon Wayne Watts, is an individual, not a corporation, and accordingly does not does not issue any stock and does not have any parent corporations or any publicly held corporations that own 10 percent or more of stock of that nonexistent parent corporation.

/s/ *Gordon Wayne Watts* Date: Sat. 07 Feb. 2015

Gordon Wayne Watts
821 ALICIA RD
LAKELAND, FL 33801-2113

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In Re: Gordon Wayne Watts (as next friend of Theresa Marie 'Terri ' Schiavo), No. SC03-2420 (Fla. Feb.23, 2003).....1

In Re: Jeb Bush, Governor of Florida, et al. v. Michael Schiavo, Guardian: Theresa Schiavo, No. SC04-925 (Fla. Oct.21, 2004).....1

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Statement of the Case/Facts

Pursuant to the letter of Acting Clerk of Court, Amy C. Nerenberg, dated **Feb. 06, 2015**, I am replying as requested or otherwise permitted. Although I'm not a lawyer, several years ago, I nearly won in court as Next Friend of Theresa "Terri" Schiavo —*single-handedly*, doing even better than a sitting governor —or Terri's own blood family—combined:

- *In Re: Gordon Wayne Watts (as next friend of Theresa Marie 'Terri' Schiavo)*, No. SC03-2420 (Fla. Feb.23, 2003), denied 4-3 on rehearing. (Watts got 42.7% of his panel)
<http://www.floridasupremecourt.org/clerk/dispositions/2005/2/03-2420reh.pdf>
- *In Re: Jeb Bush, Governor of Florida, et al. v. Michael Schiavo, Guardian: Theresa Schiavo*, No. SC04-925 (Fla. Oct.21, 2004), denied 7-0 on rehearing. (Bush got 0.0% of his panel before the same court)
<http://www.floridasupremecourt.org/clerk/dispositions/2004/10/04-925reh.pdf>
- *Schiavo ex rel. Schindler v. Schiavo ex rel. Schiavo*, 403 F.3d 1223, 2005 WL 648897 (11th Cir. Mar.23, 2005), denied 2-1 on appeal. (Terri Schiavo's own blood family only got 33.3% of their panel on the Federal Appeals level)
<http://media.ca11.uscourts.gov/opinions/pub/files/200511556.pdf>

So, when I saw plaintiffs & defendants omit key arguments in recent Gay Marriage cases, I felt an obligation to be a 'Friend of the Court.' I submitted a timely *amicus* in *Brenner/Grimsley* (14-14061/14-14066), two other consolidated cases; my amended brief (correcting key omissions) is the last merit's brief on docket. I timely filed a brief in *Strawser*, by right & with consent of the parties, but was only able to obtain consent from one party in *Searcy*. Those briefs were filed by overnight FedEx and received in This Court and signed for by an 'F.Boyd' at 12:39PM on **Wednesday, 04 February 2015**, several hours before This Court

suspended proceedings in all 4 cases. Subsequently, This Court issued an order denying as 'moot' my motion for leave to file an *amicus*. Also, because a good number of people were confused about the Order of This Court that same day, I called and spoke with Joseph Caruso, the clerk assigned to handle these cases, and inquired re the stay on proceedings: Did the court stay all proceedings, including the injunction of the court below, or merely its own review, I asked? Mr. Caruso reported to me that, after checking with a supervisor, both concluded that This Court stayed all proceedings including the injunction below, pending SCOTUS ruling on *DeBoer, et al., v. Snyder, et al.*, 14-571, *cert. accepted*. However, subsequent inquiry by the court below returned different replies, thus leaving me in confusion as to the state of affairs. After careful consideration, I felt that the counsel of many were correct: The proper way to get clarification on This Court's order was to ask This Court. The instant motions are submitted for this reason.

I. Motion for Clarification on *Amicus* status

While this isn't of the greatest importance, it does have legal bearing, so I'll address it first: Since my motion was properly received by This Court before its ruling placing these cases in abeyance (APX-A), and since, in one of them, I obtained consent of both parties (APX-B, C, D), then it seems that I'm not a "Not Party," but rather an *amicus curiae*, is that not correct? (However, even had I not obtained consent from both sides, it's This Court's practice, if the *amicus* is well-written &

in the right spirit, to grant leave, as happened to all amici in *Brenner/Grimsley* save one other *pro se* litigant.)

II. Motion for Clarification of 04 Feb 2015 Order -possibly Reconsideration

* Since The **Feb. 04, 2015** Order of This Court wasn't specific, with clarity, as to what, exactly, was stayed, it's appropriate to move for clarification: Did This Court stay all proceedings herein, including the injunction in the court below? If so, I would respectfully move This Court to clearly state that that is so.

* If, on the other hand, This Court stayed only its review of these cases, but not the injunction, I would respectfully move This Court for clarification as to why this would be legally justified in light of the 4 *Nken* factors, especially prong-1, which justifies a stay pending appeal, as I outline in my 2 merits briefs, docketed in this case on Fri. 06 Feb. 2015. (I add this because it appears that This Court never saw my *amicus* briefs yesterday before it ruled on the stay pending appeal, but I add a never-before-used Equal Protection argument that all but guarantees success on the merits, thus prong-1.) And, I would, concurrently, move This Honourable Court to reconsider its refusal to enter a stay pending appeal, an action which is typically mandatory in State Courts, and not justified absent a life-or-death threat that can only be avoided by denying the stay. (A stay would preserve order; denial of a stay would engender confusion & uncertainty about the future.)

The probate judges who stand to lose if the stay is incorrectly denied have

legal standing to intervene –much more so than myself. (But, my weak, even if non-existent, standing to intervene, at least, makes me more objective, and thus potentially more accurate in my legal assessment: a 'better' friend of the court.)

This Court may *sua sponte* – on its own motion – act with regard to the issuance of a stay pending appeal, as well as re-activation of these cases out of abeyance. Thus, even though my legal standing to move This Court on large matters is tenuous as best, if This Court may act on its own it may even *more-so* entertain my suggestions, and act upon them. Therefore, as a good friend of the court, I shall make a few brief suggestions:

III. *En Banc* matters: Motion for leave to file

Since I appear to have shown I obtained consent of the parties before the case was placed into hibernation, I'm entitled, as of right, to file a *amicus*: Rule 29(a), Fed.R.App.P., and thus qualify for the following: Pursuant to 11th Cir.R.35-9 En Banc Amicus Briefs, I ask the full court for HEARING (not rehearing, but hearing, thus reinstatement from abeyance) and pursuant to 11th Cir.R.35-8, serve 20 copies (plus 2 originals) upon This Court. I therefore request leave of court by filing this motion accompanied by this proposed brief:

Motion Proper:

Pursuant to Rule 35(b), Fed.R.App.P., I move This Honourable Court for HEARING en banc for the following 2 reasons:

(A) the panel decision conflicts with *Lofton v. Secretary of Department of Children & Family Services*, 358 F.3d 804 (11th Cir. 2004), *Baker v. Nelson*, 409 U.S. 810, 93 S. Ct. 37 (1972), and several other holdings, and, as I explain in Arg.IV. in my *amicus* in *Strawser*, filed 06 Feb. 2015, the “doctrinal development” exception does not apply –and consideration by the full court is therefore necessary to secure and maintain uniformity of the court’s decisions; **and:**

(B) the proceeding involves one or more questions of exceptional importance, in which the panel decision (to refuse to uphold 1-man, 1-woman definitions of marriage) conflicts with the authoritative decisions of other U.S. Court of Appeals, specifically, the U.S. 6th Circuit, which just ruled recently in this matter. **I add:** Just because the matter is on docket of the SCOTUS, that does not obviate our duty to address these issues head on: if anything, it makes a decision by This Court even *more* helpful, since the other U.S. CCA's, holding the opposite, reached their decisions for different (read: non-uniform) reasons. Thus, This Court should hear the matter en banc, and stay the ruling, but allow our ruling to be helpful for SCOTUS review and possible consolidation with DeBoer, et al,

(Incidentally, *Amicus* does not know why the various attorneys for Defendant –or other Amici – did not show the tactical *savoir-faire* to petition for rehearing of the 3-judge panel decision, or 'hearing' *en banc*. Had they done so, I would not have needed to ask This Court to consider these matters. And also, it is a mystery to *Amicus* as to why Probate judges did not assert intervention: Fed.R.Civ.P. 24(a) entitles The Probate Judges to 'intervene' as of right, since they can “claim[] an interest relating to the property or transaction that is the subject of the action, and is so situated that disposing of the action may as a practical matter impair or impede the movant’s ability to protect its interest, unless the existing parties adequately represent that interest.”)

IV. CONCLUSION

Since it would seem that my *amicus* brief came in right before This Court decided to place our redresses “on hold” in these 4 Gay Marriage cases (and thus you may have overlooked it), I would respectfully ask This Court to take a look at my *Amicus* brief in *Brenner/Grimsley* (14-14061, 14-14066) as well as my 2 *Amici* in *Searcy/Strawser* (15-10295, 15-10313). Please note that all 3 briefs are similar (i.e., have some 'repeated' or copied/pasted argument), but each brief has some 'unique' argument, as well. In all 4 cases, my *amicus* is the last and most recent merit's brief on docket.

Dated: **Sat., Feb 07, 2015**

Respectfully submitted,

s/ *Gordon Wayne Watts*

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CERTIFICATE OF COMPLIANCE

In accordance with Rule 29, Brief of an Amicus Curiae (c), Contents and Form, Fed.R.App.P., I hereby certify the following:

The instant amicus brief complies with Rule 32: see *infra*.

The cover identifies the party or parties supported and indicate whether the brief supports affirmance or reversal: This brief supports defendant, **LUTHER STRANGE**, regarding his motion for a “State Pending Appeal” –and affirmance of the Alabama Law in question, and on many other points, but supports many elements of the plaintiffs, including (but not limited to) fair and just treatment of all people, including homosexual citizens. In addition, I certify that I complied with the disclosure requirement in the CERTIFICATE OF INTERESTED PERSONS AND CORPORATE DISCLOSURE STATEMENT, *supra*.

In accordance with Rule 32(a)(7), Length., Fed.R.App.P., I hereby certify the following:

Rules 32(a)(7)(A), Page limitation, 32(a)(7)(B) Type-volume limitation, and 32(a)(7)(C)(i) Certificate of compliance [e.g., “A brief submitted under Rules 28.1(e)(2) or 32(a)(7)(B)”] do not apply: **This brief is neither a principal nor reply brief.**

Regarding Rule 32(a)(7)(C)(ii), which states in succinct part that “Use of Form 6 must be regarded as sufficient to meet the requirements of Rules 28.1(e)(3) and 32(a)(7)(C)(i),” I am hereby following this standard to be safe:

Form 6. Certificate of Compliance With Rule 32(a)

Certificate of Compliance With Type-Volume Limitation, Typeface Requirements, and Type Style Requirements

1. This brief complies with the type-volume limitation of Fed. R. App. P. 32(a)(7)(B) because:

*** this brief contains [state the number of] words, excluding the parts of the brief exempted by Fed. R. App. P. 32(a)(7)(B)(iii), or
[[[it contains no more than 14,000 words— 3,773 Words in total, to be exact; Headings, footnotes, and quotations count toward the word and line limitations. The corporate disclosure statement, table of contents, table of citations, statement with respect to oral argument, any addendum containing statutes, rules or regulations, and any certificates of counsel do not count toward the limitation.]]]

2. This brief complies with the typeface requirements of Fed. R. App. P. 32(a)(5) and the type style requirements of Fed. R. App. P. 32(a)(6) because:

*** this brief has been prepared in a proportionally spaced typeface using [state name and version of word processing program: OpenOffice version 3.1.0] in [state font size: 14, and name of type style: Times New Roman],
[[[A proportionally spaced face must include serifs, but sans-serif type may be used in headings and captions. A proportionally spaced face must be 14-point or larger.]]]

I believe, in good faith, that I am also in compliance with Rule 29. Brief of an Amicus Curiae, (d) Length, since I met the Rule 32 requirements above.

s/ *Gordon Wayne Watts* Sat., Feb. 07, 2015

Gordon Wayne Watts, Amicus

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that I am serving a TRUE COPY upon the clerk of the 11th CCA, who, after docketing it, will make it available to all participants who receive EF/CMF notification, and to all others who wish to pay a PACER fee for search/download. Additionally, am serving the parties, below, by email when I am able. I hope to post a TRUE COPY of these filings on my Open Source online docket, for free download, at the following two (2) URL's, as soon as practically possible; however, I am forgoing service by postal mail as a matter of economy.

<http://www.GordonWatts.com/DOCKET-GayMarriageCase.html>

and:

<http://www.GordonWayneWatts.com/DOCKET-GayMarriageCase.html>

/s/ *Gordon Wayne Watts* Sat., 7 Feb. 2015

Gordon Wayne Watts, Amicus

PARTIES:

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**IN THE UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS
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CARI SEARCY, <i>et al.</i> , <i>Plaintiffs-Appellees</i> ,	JAMES STRAWSER, <i>et al.</i> , <i>Plaintiffs-Appellees</i> ,
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LUTHER STRANGE, ATTORNEY GENERAL, STATE OF ALABAMA, <i>Defendant- Appellant</i> .	LUTHER STRANGE, ATTORNEY GENERAL, STATE OF ALABAMA, <i>Defendant- Appellant</i> .

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response from Acting Clerk of Court, dated February 06, 2015*

(RULING REQUESTED BEFORE end of day FEB. 9, 2015)

– APPENDIX –

The name, office address, and telephone number of counsel[*]
representing the party for whom the brief is filed:

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Class of 2000, double major with honours

AS, United Electronics Institute, Class of 1988, Valedictorian

LAYMAN OF THE LAW:

Gordon W. Watts, PRO SE / PRO PER

[] Mr. Watts, acting as his own counsel, is not a lawyer.*

INDEX TO APPENDIX

Instrument

Docket/Tab#

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Certificate of Service

A

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Wed 2/04/2015 12:39 pm

Lakeland, FL US



Delivered

Signed for by: F.BOYD

Atlanta, GA US

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- 2/04/2015 - Wednesday		
12:39 pm	Delivered	Atlanta, GA
7:10 am	On FedEx vehicle for delivery	ATLANTA, GA
7:02 am	At local FedEx facility	ATLANTA, GA
4:52 am	At destination sort facility	ATLANTA, GA
3:03 am	Departed FedEx location	MEMPHIS, TN
- 2/03/2015 - Tuesday		
10:13 pm	Arrived at FedEx location	MEMPHIS, TN
7:43 pm	Left FedEx origin facility	LAKELAND, FL
- 2/02/2015 - Monday		
10:57 pm	Picked up	LAKELAND, FL
10:57 pm	At FedEx origin facility	LAKELAND, FL
10:11 pm	Shipment information sent to FedEx	

B

Subject: RE: (typo) Re: Strawser v Strange 11th Cir.

Date: 2/1/2015 10:33:01 P.M. Eastern Standard Time

From: SMinter@nclrights.org

To: Gww1210@aol.com

Sent from the Internet ([Details](#))

Thanks, Gordon.

From: Gww1210@aol.com [mailto:Gww1210@aol.com]

Sent: Sunday, February 01, 2015 10:30 PM

To: Shannon Minter

Subject: Re: (typo) Re: Strawser v Strange 11th Cir.

Thank you, Shannon. I will try my best to propose some good ideas that may help your side as well as ours.

Sincerely,

Gordon

In a message dated 2/1/2015 8:50:02 P.M. Eastern Standard Time, SMinter@nclrights.org writes:

Dear Gordon,

On behalf of the Strawser plaintiffs, we consent.

Sincerely,
Shannon

From: Gww1210@aol.com [mailto:Gww1210@aol.com]

Sent: Saturday, January 31, 2015 3:12 PM

To: Gww1210@aol.com; Shannon Minter

C

Subject: RE: Searcy v Strange 14-208
Date: 1/30/2015 3:40:42 P.M. Eastern Standard Time
From: ABrasher@ago.state.al.us
To: Gww1210@aol.com
Sent from the Internet ([Details](#))

We do not object.

Andrew Brasher
Solicitor General
Office of Alabama Attorney General Luther Strange
Direct: 334-353-2609
Fax: 334-242-4891

From: Gww1210@aol.com [mailto:Gww1210@aol.com]
Sent: Friday, January 30, 2015 2:35 PM
To: Brasher, Andrew
Subject: Searcy v Strange 14-208

Andrew L. Brasher
501 Washington Ave.
Montgomery, AL 36103
334-242-7300
Email: abrasher@ago.state.al.us
ATTORNEY TO BE NOTICED

Atty. Brasher, I wish to file an amicus is Searcy v. Strange, 14-0208-CG-M, offering a compromise.

Do you have any objections to that?

Gordon Wayne Watts, *editor-in-chief, The Register*
www.GordonWayneWatts.com / www.GordonWatts.com

D

Subject: RE: (typo) Re: Strawser v Strange 11th Cir.

Date: 2/1/2015 8:50:02 P.M. Eastern Standard Time

From: SMinter@nclrights.org

To: Gww1210@aol.com

Sent from the Internet (Details)

Dear Gordon,

On behalf of the Strawser plaintiffs, we consent.

Sincerely,
Shannon

From: Gww1210@aol.com [mailto:Gww1210@aol.com]

Sent: Saturday, January 31, 2015 3:12 PM

To: Gww1210@aol.com; Shannon Minter

Subject: (typo) Re: Strawser v Strange 11th Cir.

I made a typo - I do favour a ban on Gay Marriage, **but I do not like the 'Gay Adoption' bans, and I believe gay citize** sometimes...

Sorry for the typo: whether or not I get consent from your side, I will fight for the rights of Gays to be able to adopt children

Would you consent to my filing of an amicus?

In a message dated 1/30/2015 9:12:24 P.M. Eastern Standard Time, Gww1210@aol.com writes:

Atty. Minter,

I wish to submit an amicus in *Strawser v Strange*, 15-10313, in the 11th Circuit, where you are lead counsel.

Date & Time

Date

February

S	M
1	2
8	9
15	16
22	23

Current time

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that I am serving a TRUE COPY of this APPENDIX (along with the motion, here) upon the clerk of the 11th CCA, who, after docketing it, will make it available to all participants who receive EF/CMF notification, and to all others who wish to pay a PACER fee for search/download. Additionally, am serving the parties, below, by email when I am able. I hope to post a TRUE COPY of these filings on my Open Source online docket, for free download, at the following two (2) URL's, as soon as practically possible; however, I am forgoing service by postal mail as a matter of economy.

<http://www.GordonWatts.com/DOCKET-GayMarriageCase.html>

and:

<http://www.GordonWayneWatts.com/DOCKET-GayMarriageCase.html>

/s/ *Gordon Wayne Watts* Sat., Feb. 07, 2015

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