



THE DECALOGUE TABLETS

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founded 1934

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Welcome New Members

Behind These Walls...Life Continues

By Decalogue President James B. Goldberg

As a step toward honoring our promise to support Rabbi Binyomin Scheiman and the Hinda Institute, I joined the Rabbi for his visits with Jewish inmates at the Chicago Metropolitan Correctional Center (MCC) and the Cook County Jail facility. On September 23, 2013 we visited approximately 15 inmates at the MCC and the very next day I met the Rabbi at 26th and California to meet with 10 inmates. These visits were very meaningful to me. At the MCC, the inmates gathered in one room and together we celebrated Sukkot by the taking of the four kinds, including a ritual with the Lulav and the Etrog. After that, we discussed with them their time spent in confinement and we shared recent news of events beyond the prison walls. You can't imagine how much our presence and interest lifted the inmates' spirits and how eager they were to keep talking—but we had to leave. The MCC houses an extremely small percentage of Jewish inmates but they really seem to stick together, not unlike how other people who share beliefs or values also gravitate to one another and form groups on "the outside". All of these inmates know and respect Rabbi Scheiman from his regular visits—and their admiration of him was evident.

The Cook County Jail was a somewhat different experience, as we had to walk a total of 5 miles between each of the divisions to meet the different classifications of inmates. The prisoners we visited ranged from those in group custody to the other extreme of inmates in maximum security. Unlike the group setting at the MCC, the Rabbi and I met with each of the inmates individually. As you can imagine, this facility is not an easy place to "do time". It is extremely overcrowded and, in my opinion, there is not a sufficient ratio of guards to inmates to maintain a safe environment. Just to be able to get a half hour of the Rabbi's time is such a blessing for the inmates, and as with the inmates at the MCC, the respect this group expressed for us was quite amazing. Although at times during my visit I thought I might be unsafe, I soon realized that if you make the effort to meet the inmates, they look out for your safety and appreciate your time. It is through the Hinda Institute and individuals like Rabbi Scheiman that such potentially life-altering communications are possible.

Read more about Rabbi Scheiman's work with Jewish prisoners at
<http://jpafil.org/>



President's Column

By James B. Goldberg

As we move into serious Winter weather, I offer our members an update regarding what we have accomplished since our last issue of the Tablets, beginning with our Decalogue CLE Program Series which was launched this year, as in many past years, by Joel Chupack. We continue to be one of the best providers in the State of Illinois. Please continue with your generous donations to our Foundation to support its underwriting of this amazing, always FREE, series and take note of the following programs you may have enjoyed or, regrettably, missed. For upcoming CLE programming, please check our website at www.decaloguesociety.org.

On October 30, I had the honor of introducing Justice Jesse Reyes for his lecture on Mortgage Foreclosures, presented to a full house. On October 28, we sponsored a successful program on "Protecting Religious Rights of Prisoners" presented by Rabbi Binyomin Scheiman of the HINDA Institute, Colleen Connell of ACLU Illinois, and Decalogue Recording Secretary (and civil rights advocate) Jonathan Lubin.



November was also packed with excellent programming. On November 11, we sponsored a panel consisting of representatives from Bar Ilan University of Tel Aviv, J Street and Columbia University who discussed the hot topic of



"Media Messaging in the Gaza War." Loyola School of Law, with the assistance of Arab-American Bar Association President John Breen, graciously hosted the event, and Michael Strom, our immediate past-

president, adroitly moderated the panel discussion of a challenging subject.

On November 17, we joined the Lincolnwood Jewish Congregation in presenting a program dedicated to the memory of Judge Gerald C. Bender about "Protecting the Best Interests of Women and Children in Jewish Divorce 2014/5774". This CLE seminar examined such topics as: Halachic perspectives on divorce and the necessity of the Get.

Our members also took time to socialize during several non-CLE events. On November 18, forty members attend the Bulls game. Surely our cheering section led the Bulls to their victory over the Bobcats. To add the proverbial 'icing', our Society's name was posted on the scoreboard at halftime for all to see.

On September 23, Rabbi Binyomin Scheiman and I visited Jewish inmates at the MCC and on September 24, we visited Jewish inmates at the Cook County Jail. Both experiences were enlightening and also in keeping with our promise to support the HINDA Institute. If you wish to support the Institute's worthwhile work, you may make a donation online at www.chabadandfree.com.

On October 31, I had the pleasure of sitting on the stage of the Arie Crown Theatre as a representative of our Organization at the bar students' admission ceremony while Jonathan Lubin and Helen Bloch volunteered for the more active work of signing up new attorney members at the Decalogue table in the Theatre Lobby. Mazel Tov to all new attorneys! To top off the season's feel-good events, Gerald Shur and Leisa Braband hosted, with aplomb and zeal and latkes, yet another food, music, entertainment and auction-filled Hanukkah Party on December 4th. What a great tradition! Thanks to all who went out of their way to bring items for auction.



When it comes to our young lawyer members, we have finally gotten the momentum we needed. With the help of Melissa Gold, Matt Rudolph and Gail Schnitzer Eisenberg, we are being inundated with new members and so another Mazel Tov is in order! The enjoyable Student-Lawyer social event held on November 7 at the downtown Side Bar included a large contingent of young lawyers, students and several DSL members. In addition, the Decalogue Society has jump-started its young lawyer/law student mentoring program that aims to create incentives for younger lawyers to join our organization. I am personally in the process of mentoring three young lawyers and I ask you to do the same, although one would be greatly appreciated if that's what your schedule permits.

And now ...I think it is time for a rest, but not before I wish every reader and his and her loved ones a healthy, joyous and prosperous new year, which turns out to be the second new year of 2013 for many but without the heavy focus on repentance.

Attorneys of Faith Build Bridges

By Helen B. Bloch

What do faithful Christian, Hindu, Jewish, Muslim, Sikh, and Taoist attorneys have in common? More than you might think. On April 30, 2014, they will be represented on a CLE panel entitled “Attorneys of Faith- Staying True to One’s Religion While Engaged in the Practice of Law.”

As I watched a recent CNN expose, I was reminded that Christians, Jews, and Muslims are family. They all descended from Abraham, or as our Muslim brethren would say, Ibrahim. While families may have interfamilial disagreements on occasion, they usually come together at times of celebration and tragedy.

In this case, attorneys of faith will come together on April 30, 2014, to educate and help the legal community understand the nuances of various beliefs. Attorneys of faith will share their experiences as to how they have served the legal community even though others may perceive cherished religious obligations as impediments to the practice of law. The panelists will provide insights and tips to the religious practitioner as to how he or she can remain faithful while still advancing her or his legal career. Moreover, the panelists hope to assuage the fear of those in the position to hire an attorney of faith who possibly would be concerned that religious obligations such as adherence to dietary restrictions, religious holidays, or certain garb would negatively impact the work environment.

While outside factors are important, attorneys of faith generally subscribe to the concept of a higher purpose that demands strict adherence to certain doctrine. For instance, a client might want representation on an issue that may comport with the rules of professional conduct but the practitioner’s religion could say otherwise. What should the practitioner do? It isn’t difficult to imagine some examples of potential conflict.

I do not drink alcohol but my law partner wants me to socialize and shmooze the client. How should I handle the situation? How can I be a team player without compromising my adherence to dietary restrictions? Can I be a litigator even though I cannot try a case during the Sabbath or on a specific holiday? Will my client take me seriously if I cover my hair?

As this article goes to print, the panel is still in formation. Three panelists are confirmed including Judge Tom Donnelly, representing the Christian perspective, Rabbi Elisha Prero, representing the Jewish perspective, and Jeff Segal, representing the Taoist perspective. The Muslim and hopefully Hindu and Sikh panelists will be confirmed shortly. Decalogue will be applying for 1.5 hours of professionalism credit.

A vegan, kosher, alcohol-free reception will follow the panel discussion so that the dietary laws represented within the various bar groups will be respected and all attendees may participate equally. Decalogue looks forward to bringing together the following co-sponsoring bar associations again for many more educational opportunities to come: Arab-American, Asian American, Catholic Lawyers Guild, Indian American, Moslem American, and Women’s Bar Association.

Whether or not you adhere to a faith, we hope you will join us on April 30, 2014, to hear answers to the questions raised and learn more about our co-religionist practitioners. It is only with education, discussion and understanding that we may shed our unconscious biases and build bridges among those of different faiths and concepts of practicing such faiths.

Helen Bloch is the financial secretary of the Decalogue Society of Lawyers. She is chairing this program. Please contact her at hbloch@blochpc.com if you are interested in assisting with the planning for this event.

Ms. Bloch also is the principal of a general practice firm, the Law Offices of Helen Bloch, P.C.

Decalogue Social Action

Our Social Action Committee, chaired by Joanna Benjamin, continues to give our Society a great name through the charitable actions of its members. In late November, a Decalogue group organized by the SAC visited the CJE Senior Life Robineau Residence to help the residents celebrate Hanukkah. Their visit brought cheer to the party guests. Yet another group volunteered on October 29 at the Uptown Cafe where they served dinner to the neighborhood guests and visited with them during the meal. In addition, we have continued our volunteer work at Maot Chitim. For all of these successful efforts, we thank Joanna. These activities are meaningful for the clients of the agencies well as for the Decalogue members who participate in enriching the lives of those less fortunate. If you wish to bring joy to others, please check our website for social action opportunities, and feel free to bring friends and family to share in an unforgettable experience.”

“I’m From Division Street”

by Aviva Miriam Patt

Decalogue members who gathered the afternoon of October 8th were treated to a wonderful talk by Kenneth Green, author of *I’m From Division Street*. “Division Street shaped my life,” Ken told us, before launching into a series of humorous, sometimes poignant, vignettes from his tough childhood in Humboldt Park to his successful legal career in Los Angeles. He suffered “the greatest shanda that could befall a Jewish boy” – getting kicked out of high school - before wheedling his way back in by promising the principal he would attend class and get good grades.

Ken kept his promise and graduated from Roosevelt High, but ranked 186th out of 187, a statistic that didn’t trouble him because he never thought he would go to college. After a stint in the Army serving in Korea, Ken worked at a variety of occupations – house painter, cab driver, selling cash registers – and finally succumbed to his father’s entreaties to become a lawyer.

While still in college, Ken travelled to Los Angeles, the city to which his parents had relocated. Leaving Chicago in a freezing snowstorm to be welcomed by palm trees and 70 degree weather, he recalled “I knew I was never going back.” After completing college and law school in California, Ken turned down an offer from

a prestigious corporate law firm to become a public defender. Devoted to the idea of defending rather than prosecuting people, Ken had confidence in his abilities to deal with his tough clients. “I was a boy from the streets and they couldn’t run a game on me;” and so it was “a perfect fit.” Eventually the “boy who got thrown out of high school” became Chief of the Los Angeles County Public Defender’s office.



Ken Green’s book is filled with anecdotes from his childhood that paint an amusing and revealing picture of life in one of the great - and now long lost - Jewish neighborhoods of Chicago. There are also colorful, sometimes coarse, stories of some of his criminal cases. Overall this memoir is a delightful read, especially for those with their own memories or family histories of Humboldt Park.

Ken Green’s book is available for sale from Amazon.com, or you can visit his website: <http://www.kengreenesq.wordpress.com>.

Chai-Lites

Judge Roger G. Fein was honored with the Illinois Bar Foundation’s Distinguished Service to Law and Society Award at the December 13th IBF Fellows’ breakfast held in conjunction with the ISBA’s Mid-Year Meeting. Chief Judge Evans of the Cook County Circuit Court spoke eloquently and with a sense of humor and insight that comes only from a long-term personal and professional relationship, of Judge Fein’s unwavering commitment to the profession, his strength of character, his strong work ethic and his devotion to advancing justice.

At a Union League Club luncheon on November 14, Decalogue Past President **Jerry Schur** was recognized by the ISBA as a member of the Class of Distinguished Counselors, an honor given to lawyers who have served the profession for 50 years. As if that special recognition is not enough, **Jerry Schur** is also a member of the Interfaith Coalition to restore the Water Fee Exemption for Non-Profits and Religious Organizations in the City of Chicago. Jerry represents the Chicago Loop Synagogue. It seems there is no stopping him!

Joelle M. Shabat passed the Illinois Bar Exam and was sworn in October 31 with a number of her law school colleagues. Decalogue welcomes them all to our Society and looks forward to a long and mutually fulfilling relationship with the new (and mostly young!) Illinois attorneys.

On October 27, **Diane Redleaf** received the Angel Award from the KLEO Community Family Life Center for her work on behalf of families and children. The following week she was featured in “Amicus Curious” profile in the [Chicago Daily Law Bulletin](#).

**Special CLE in Honor of
Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s Birthday**

Monday, January 13, 2014
12:00-1:30pm

"Shelby v. Holder and the Voting Rights Act"

Ruth Greenwood, Chicago Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law, will lead a panel discussion analyzing the Supreme Court's decision and the new legal challenges to proving discrimination without the protections of Section 5 of the VRA.

John Marhsall Law School, 315 S Plymouth, Chicago
1.5 hours General MCLE credit.

Register at www.decaloguesociety.org

*Co-sponsored by
Jewish Judges Association and John Marshall Law School*

The Decalogue Tablets

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Please see our online ATM Locator at www.alliantcreditunion.org for a list of ATMs that accept deposits or are surcharge-free. 6 This offer is nontransferable and offered exclusively to members of Decalogue Society of Lawyers who join Alliant. You must open an Alliant savings account to be eligible to receive the complimentary \$5 savings deposit which will be deposited directly into your new Alliant savings account. One complimentary \$5 savings deposit per new member. Member will forfeit the complimentary \$5 savings deposit if account is closed within 90 days of establishing Alliant membership. 7 This contest is nontransferable and offered exclusively to members of Decalogue Society of Lawyers who become members of Alliant between 10/21/2013 and 01/21/2014. No purchase necessary. Void where prohibited. Alliant will provide one automatic entry for the prize drawing after membership is successfully established. Limit one entry per person. 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Winner must be an Alliant member at time of drawing and in good standing. If a winner is not a member in good standing at time of drawing, cannot be contacted or has not claimed the prize within 15 days after initial contact attempt, an alternate winner will be selected by a subsequent random drawing. Selections are final. The winner will be required to sign an affidavit of eligibility and a release which will be provided by Alliant. Acceptance of the prize constitutes authorization to use the winners' photo, other likeness and name in Alliant branch locations, website, promotional materials and newsletters without compensation. To learn who won, send a self-addressed stamped envelope to Alliant's Marketing Department, PO Box 66945, Chicago, IL 60666-0945. You agree to abide by the contest rules, which are subject to change at the sole discretion of Alliant. Prize is nontransferable. Winner is responsible for any tax liability. This contest is subject to all federal, state and local laws and regulations and governed by Illinois law. Contest ends at 11:59pm CT on 01/21/2014. Contest sponsored by Alliant Credit Union, 11545 W. Touhy Ave., Chicago, IL 60666.



Honoring Jewish Heroes

by Justice Robert E. Gordon

Hiram Bingham Is Our Hero

Former U.S. diplomat Hiram Bingham is receiving a U.S. postage stamp in his honor as an unsung rescuer of Jews during the Holocaust. Most of us never heard of Bingham, whose deeds are an interesting piece of evidence of the behavior of the Roosevelt Administration toward the Jews during World War II. It is reported that Bingham entered the U.S. diplomatic service and in 1939 was posted to Marseilles, France, as American Vice Consul. At the time, there was rampant anti-Semitism among officials in the State Department, including Assistant Secretary of State Breckenridge Long, who ordered consuls in Europe not to grant visas to Jews.

In defiance of his bosses in Washington, Bingham granted over 2,500 U.S. visas to Jewish refugees. He also sheltered Jews in his Marseilles home, and obtained forged identity papers to help Jews in their dangerous journeys across Europe. He worked with the French Underground to smuggle Jews out of France into Spain or across the Mediterranean. In 1941, Washington found out and sent Bingham to Argentina where he continued to annoy his superiors by reporting on the movement of Nazi war criminals. Later, he was forced out of the diplomatic service and died penniless in 1988. For over 50 years, the State Department resisted any attempt to honor Bingham, who they felt was an insubordinate member of the U.S. diplomatic service. It was not until Colin Powell became Secretary of State that this country recognized Hiram Bingham as a hero.

It is curious to note that Bingham came from an illustrious family. His father was the archaeologist who unearthed the Inca city of Machu Picchu, Peru in 1911. A movie was made of that adventure with a fictional character known as Indiana Jones, and the actor who played Jones was Harrison Ford, who has a Jewish parent.

Paul Wos, Polish Freedom Fighter

On December 2, 2013, Paul Wos passed away. Mr. Wos, along with his entire family, rescued Jewish families in Poland, served in the underground Polish Home Army, and participated in the 1944 Warsaw Ghetto Uprising. He and members of his family were captured by the Germans and became prisoners of the Nazi Flossenburg Concentration Camp where they remained until liberated by the American Army. Paul Wos lived his life by demonstrating that it was everyone's moral obligation to do the right thing. He was awarded the Yad Vashem Medal by the State of Israel. Among those that the Wos family saved were the Melamed family of Chicago and Professor Israel Shahak and his family.

The Decalogue Society of Lawyers salutes the Wos family for their courage and their many generous deeds, and expresses condolences for their loss.

A Salute to Amar'e Stoudemire

New York Knicks power forward Amar'e Stoudemire signed a \$100 million contract to join the Knicks NBA basketball team in 2010. However, due to a chronic knee injury, the 32-year-old player has suffered physical problems that have kept him off the court. Stoudemire, an African American, is proud of his Jewish heritage, which he believes is through his mother. He and his entire family keep kosher and study the Torah.

A Florida native, Stoudemire coached the Canadian Maccabiah team in the recent Maccabiah Games. A frequent visitor to Israel, Stoudemire has applied for Israeli citizenship and purchased an interest in a local professional basketball team, "Hapoel Jerusalem." Found through his Twitter account are phrases such as "Laila Tov" (good night), "Boker Tov" (good morning), "Todah" (thanks), and on Friday afternoon, "Shabbat Shalom."

PLEASE GIVE US YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS!

Unless you specifically asked us to send you a paper copy of the *Tablets*, you are receiving this because we do not have your correct email address. It also means you are missing out on events and social activities (like our sold-out Bulls outing) that are announced by email in between publications of the *Tablets*.

Please email us at decaloguesociety@gmail.com to be added to the email list.

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2014 Calendar of Meetings & Events

Monday, January 6, 12:00-1:00pm

Decalogue Events Committee Meeting
39 S LaSalle, Room 410

Wednesday, January 8, 12:00-1:00pm

Decalogue 80th Anniversary Committee Meeting
39 S LaSalle, Room 410

Thursday, January 9, 12:00-1:00pm

Decalogue Executive Committee Meeting
39 S LaSalle, Room 410

Monday, January 13, 12:00-1:30pm

Special CLE Honoring Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.
“Shelby v. Holder and The Voting Rights Act”
Speaker: Ruth Greenwood,
Chicago Lawyers’ Committee for Civil Rights Under Law,
John Marshall Law School, 315 S Plymouth, Chicago
1.5 hours General MCLE credit
*Co-sponsored by Jewish Judges Association
and John Marshall Law School*

Tuesday, January 14, 11:45am-1:00pm

Chicago Torah Network J-Pro
Legal Professionals Lunch & Learn
“The Jewish Ethics of Being A Lawyer”
Speaker: Rabbi Yonah Reiss, Chicago Rabbinical Council
Neal Gerber Eisenberg, 2 N LaSalle, Suite 170
\$15; 1 hour General MCLE credit \$20
<https://www.projectgenesis.org/donations/payments.php?regID=517>

Wednesday, January 15, 12:30-1:30pm

CLE: Class Certification
Speaker: Erin Kelly, Partner, Sidley & Austin LLP
39 S LaSalle, Room 420
1 hour General MCLE credit

Thursday, January 16, 5:15-6:15pm

Decalogue Social Action Committee Meeting
39 S LaSalle, Room 410

Sunday, January 19, 11:30am-3:00pm

JNF Tu B’Shvat Family Celebration
Chicagoland Jewish High School, 1095 Lake Cook Rd, Deerfield
Co-sponsored by the United States Forest Service
<http://www.jnf.org/about-jnf/events/2014/chicago-tu-bishvat-family.html>

Wednesday, January 22, 12:30-1:30pm

CLE: ERISA
Speaker: Michael Bertolic
39 S LaSalle, Room 420
1 hour General MCLE credit

Monday, January 27, 12:30-1:30pm

Decalogue Board of Managers Meeting
39 S LaSalle, Room 420

Wednesday, January 29, 11:45am-1:15pm

DePaul University College of Law JLJS
“The Wandering Jewish Lawyer”
Speaker: Ira Piltz
25 E Jackson, Lewis #341
\$36, 1.5 hours General MCLE credit
http://www.law.depaul.edu/centers_institutes/jljs/events.asp/?i=1

Wednesday, February 5, 12:30-1:30pm

CLE: Tax Law Update
Speaker: Lawrence R. Krupp,
Director, Kessler, Orlean, Silver
39 S LaSalle, Room 420
1 hour General MCLE credit

Monday, February 10, 12:00-1:00pm

Decalogue Merit Award Committee Meeting
39 S LaSalle, Room 410

Thursday, February 13, 12:00-1:00pm

Decalogue Executive Committee Meeting
39 S LaSalle, Room 410

Wednesday, February 19, 12:30-1:30pm

Topic: The Impaired Lawyer: When A Colleague Needs Help
Speaker: Robin Belleau
Clinical Director, Illinois Lawyers’ Assistance Program
39 S LaSalle, Room 420
1 hour Professional Responsibility Credit

Monday, February 24, 12:30-1:30pm

Decalogue Board of Managers Meeting
39 S LaSalle, Room 420

Thursday, February 27, 5:30-6:30pm

Reception Honoring our Jewish Appellate Justices
Tabet DiVito & Rothstein LLC
209 S LaSalle, Chicago
\$65 members, \$75 non-members, \$250 sponsors

Tuesday, March 4, 11:45am-1:00pm

Chicago Torah Network J-Pro
Legal Professionals Lunch & Learn
“Comparative Study Between Jewish and Secular Legal Procedures”
Speaker: Rabbi Yonah Reiss, Chicago Rabbinical Council
Neal Gerber Eisenberg, 2 N LaSalle, Suite 170
\$15; 1 hour General MCLE credit \$20
<https://www.projectgenesis.org/donations/payments.php?regID=517>

Welcome New Members!

Wednesday, March 5, 12:30-1:30pm

Topic: Criminal Practice & Procedure Update
Speaker: Judge Shelley Sutker-Dermer
Presiding Judge, Municipal District 2
39 S LaSalle, Room 420
1 hour General MCLE credit

Thursday, March 6, 12:00-1:00pm

Decalogue Executive Committee Meeting
39 S LaSalle, Room 410

Sunday, March 9, 2:00-4:00pm

Decalogue Family Purim Party
watch your email for more details

Saturday March 15, sunset-Sunday, March 16, sunset - PURIM

Monday, March 17, 12:00-1:00pm

Decalogue Board of Managers Meeting
29 S LaSalle, Room 530

Thursday, March 20, 12:30-1:30pm

Jewish and Catholic Approaches to Property & Social Justice
Jenner & Block, 353 N Clark, Chicago
Free CLE

Wednesday, March 26, 12:30-1:30pm

Topic: 2014 Ethics Update
Speaker: Wendy Muchman, ARDC Group Manager
John Marshall Law School, 315 S Plymouth, Chicago
2 hours Professional Responsibility Credit

Wednesday, April 2, 12:30-1:30pm

CLE: TROs and Injunctions
Speaker: Judge Moshe Jacobius
Presiding Judge, Chancery
39 S LaSalle, Room 420
1 hour General MCLE credit

Thursday, April 3, 5:30-7:00pm

"100 Years of Discrimination: Anti-Semitism 1914 to
Islamaphobia 2014"
Panelists & location TBA

SAVE THE DATE!

**80th Anniversary Dinner & Installation
Monday, June 16, 2014**

Kevin Apter
Omobola Babarinsa
Ronald Balfour
Gerald Bekkerman
Danielle Berns
Beckee Birger
Adam Borenstein
Dov Brinblatt
Kevin Conway
Peter Evans
Lauren Fried
Matthew Gold
Daniel Goldstein
Justin Haber
Steven Hart
Alex Hirschorn
Amanda Kolinsky
Rebecca Lederhausen
Eli Lidsky
Isaac Malafsky
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