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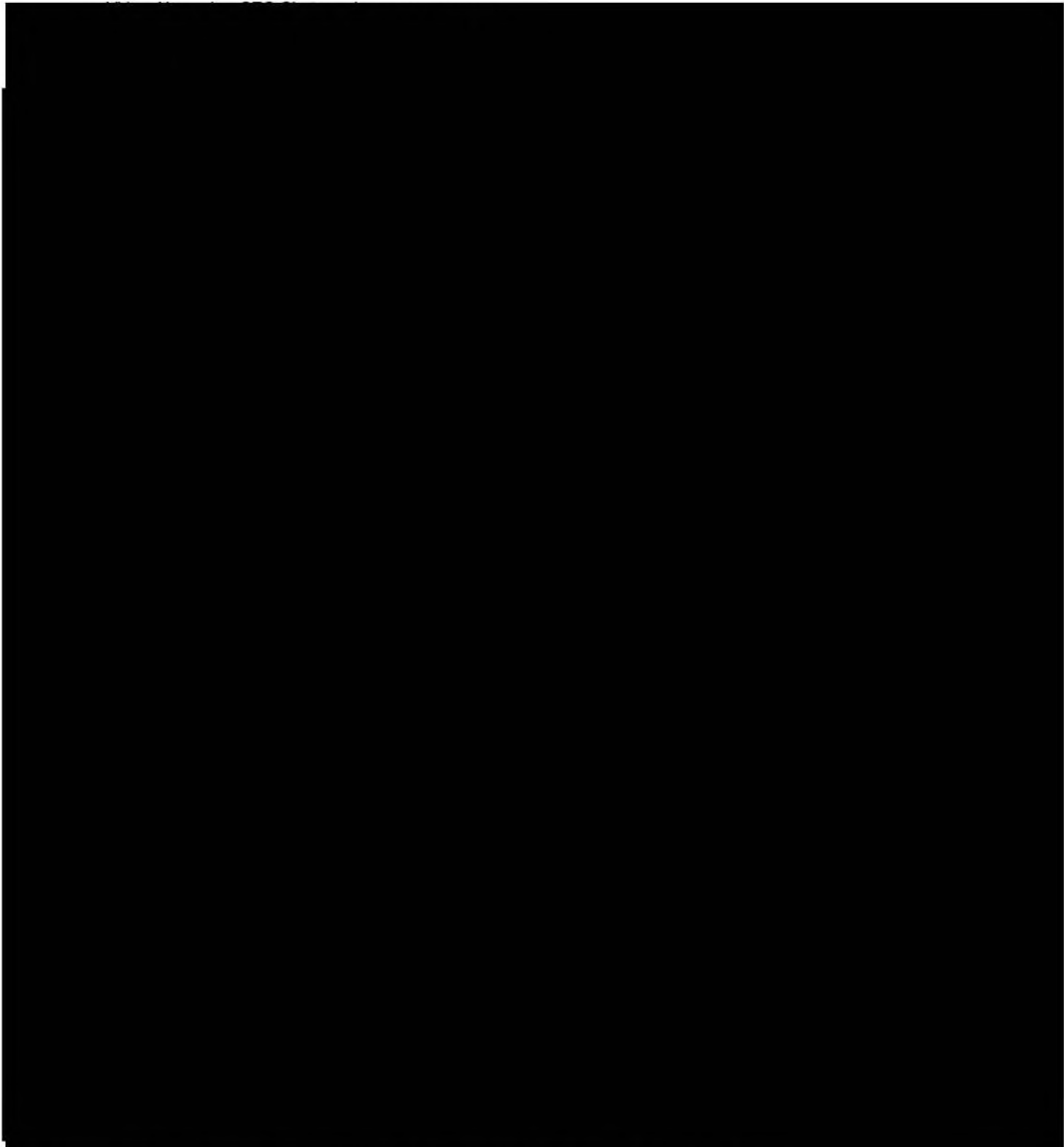
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Published 13 November 2023.

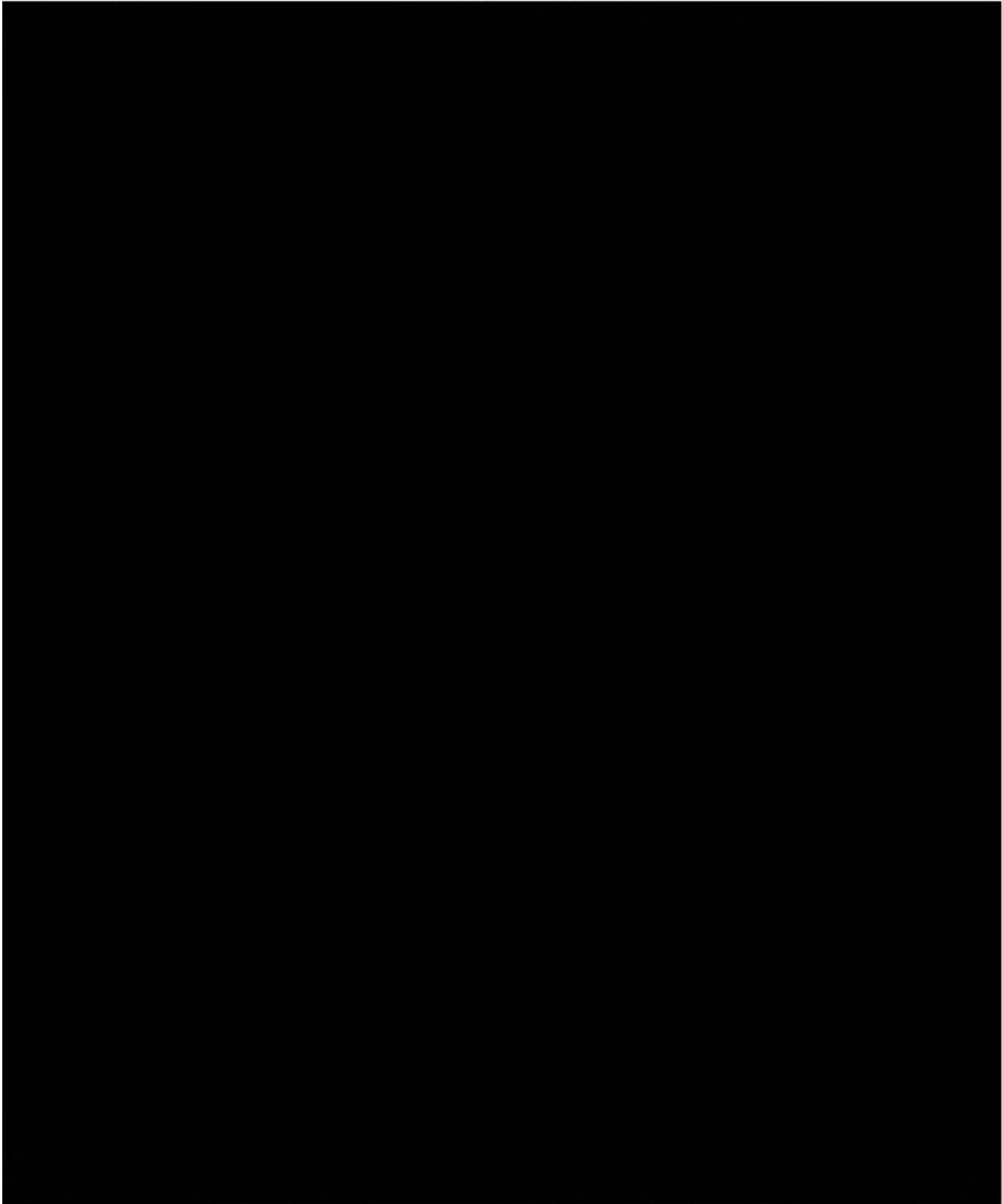


▼ Behind the scenes: 2023 ANU Public Law Conference



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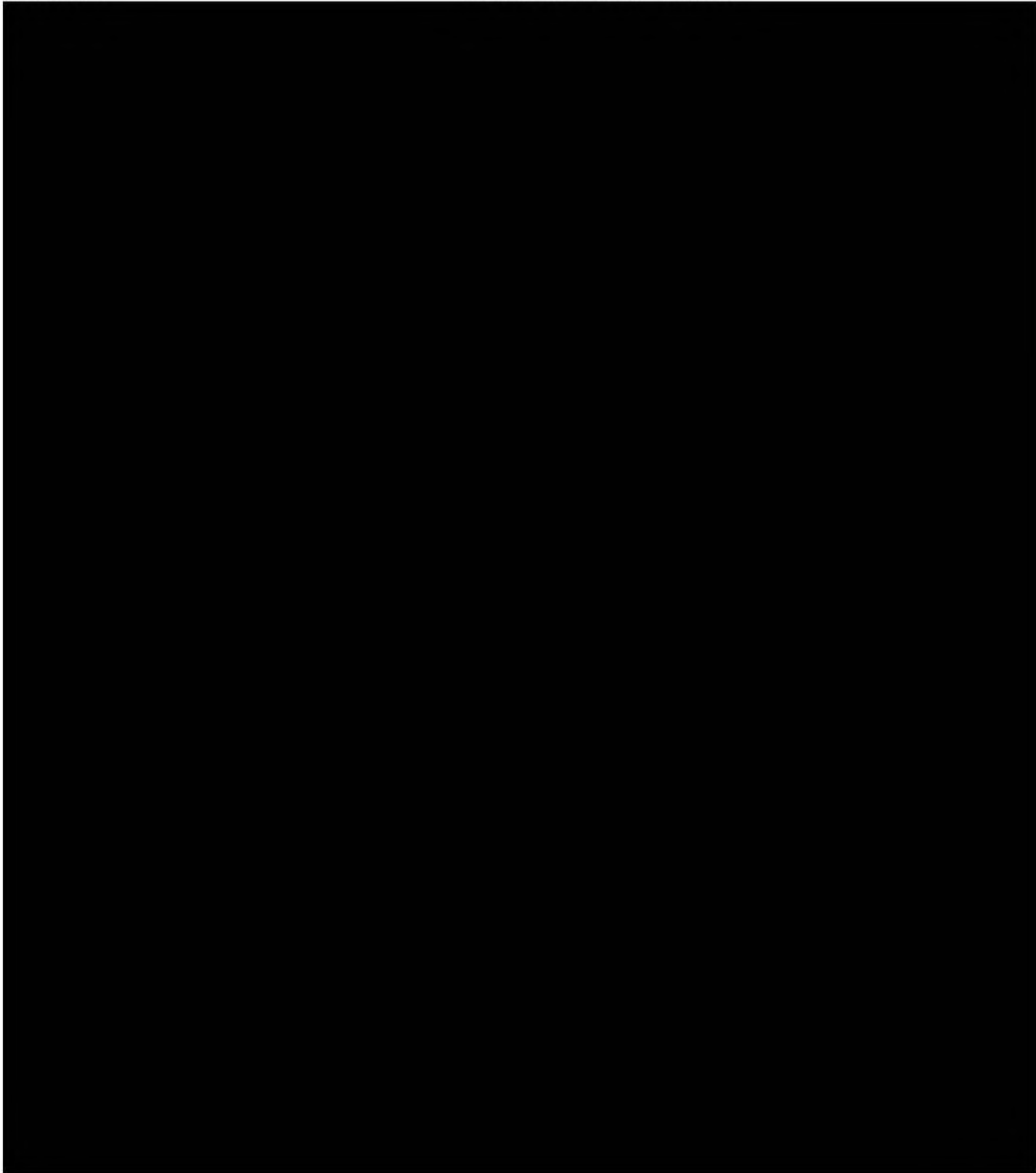
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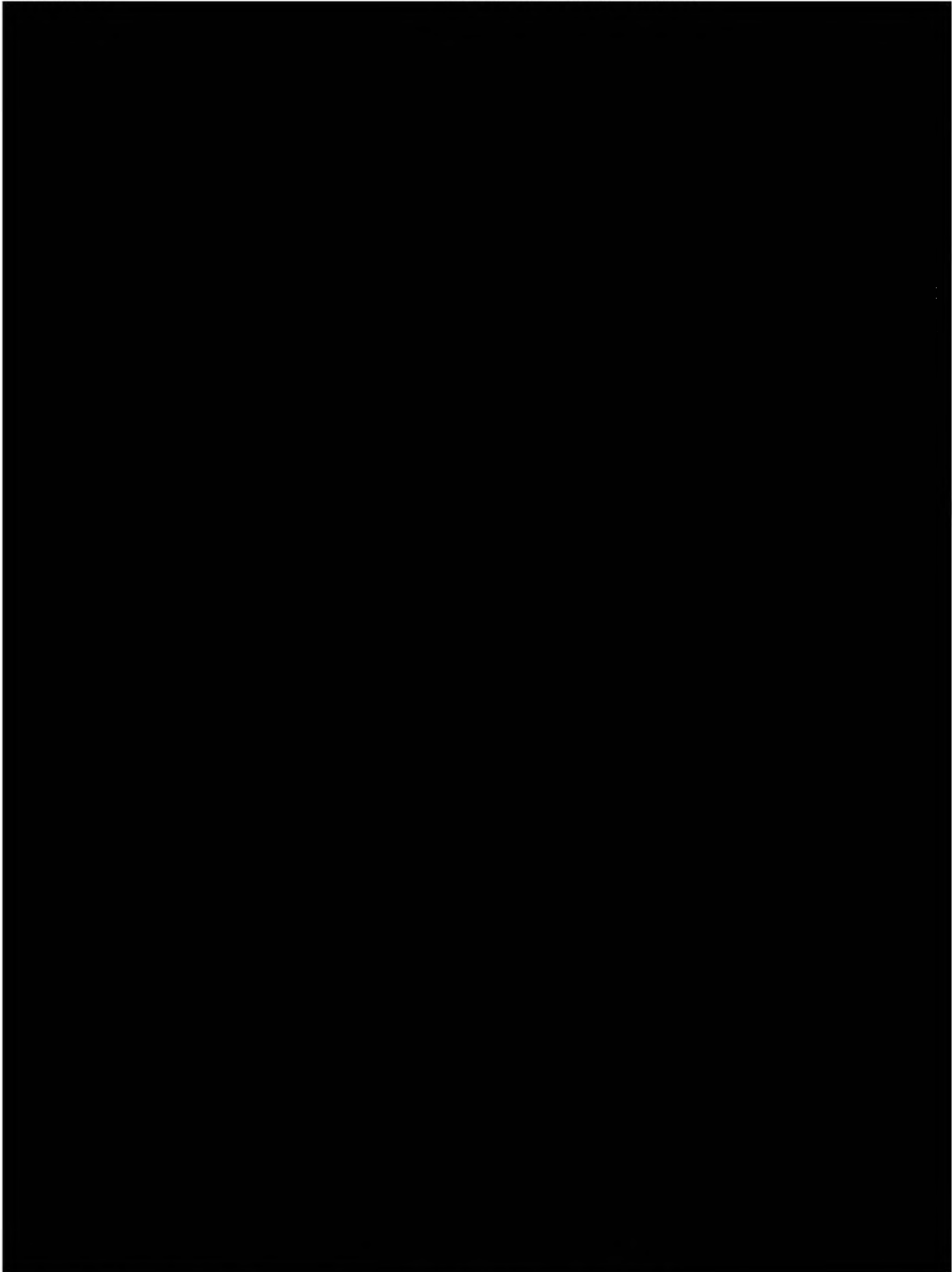
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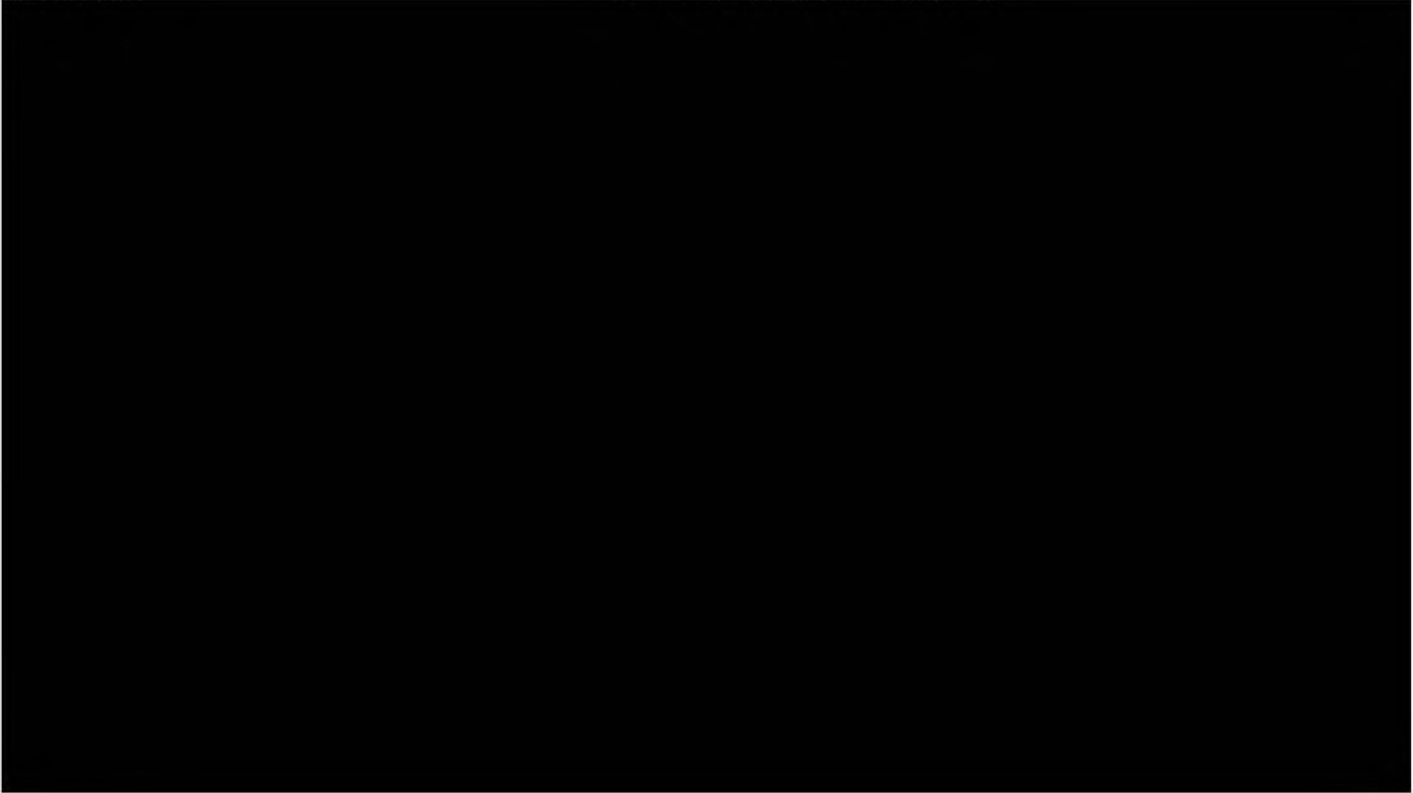
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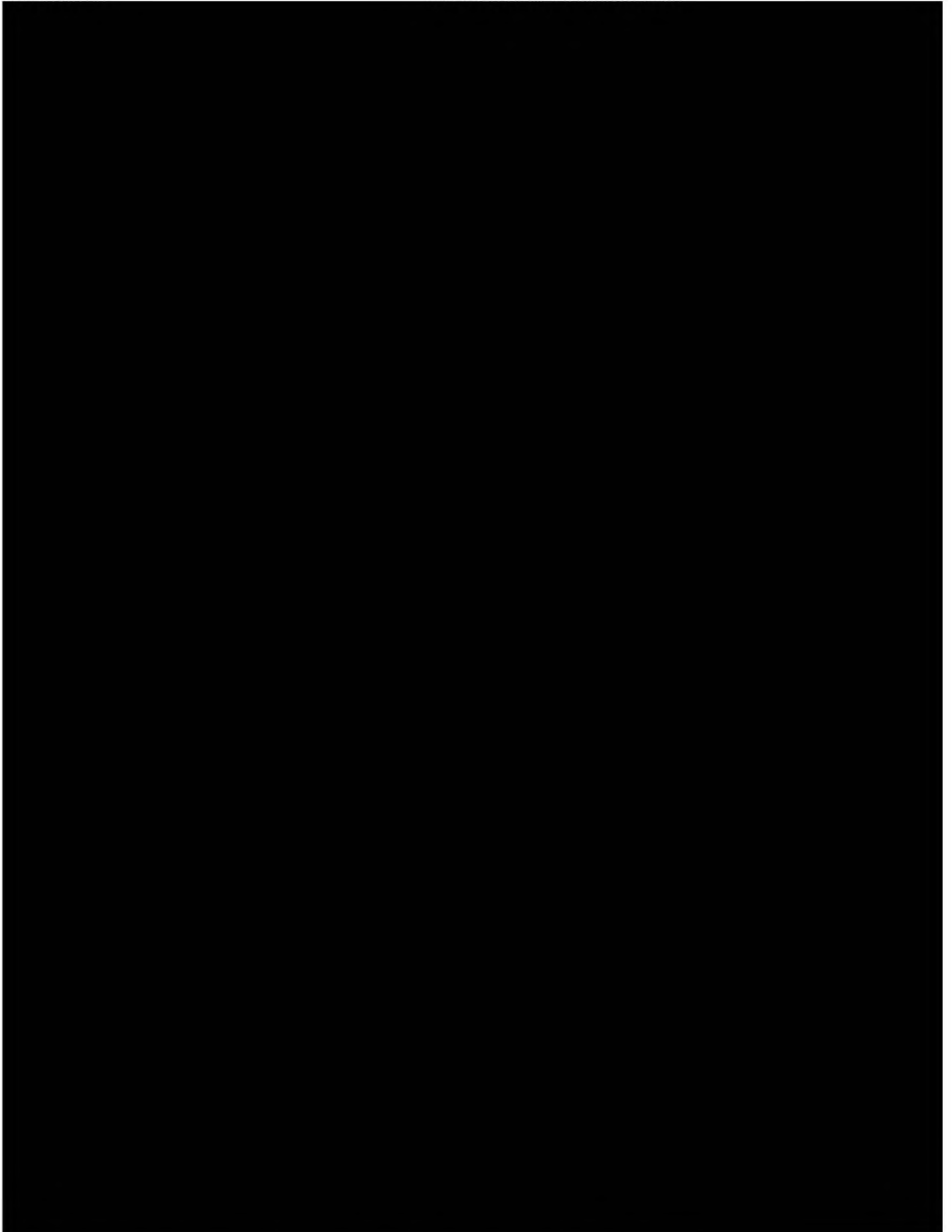
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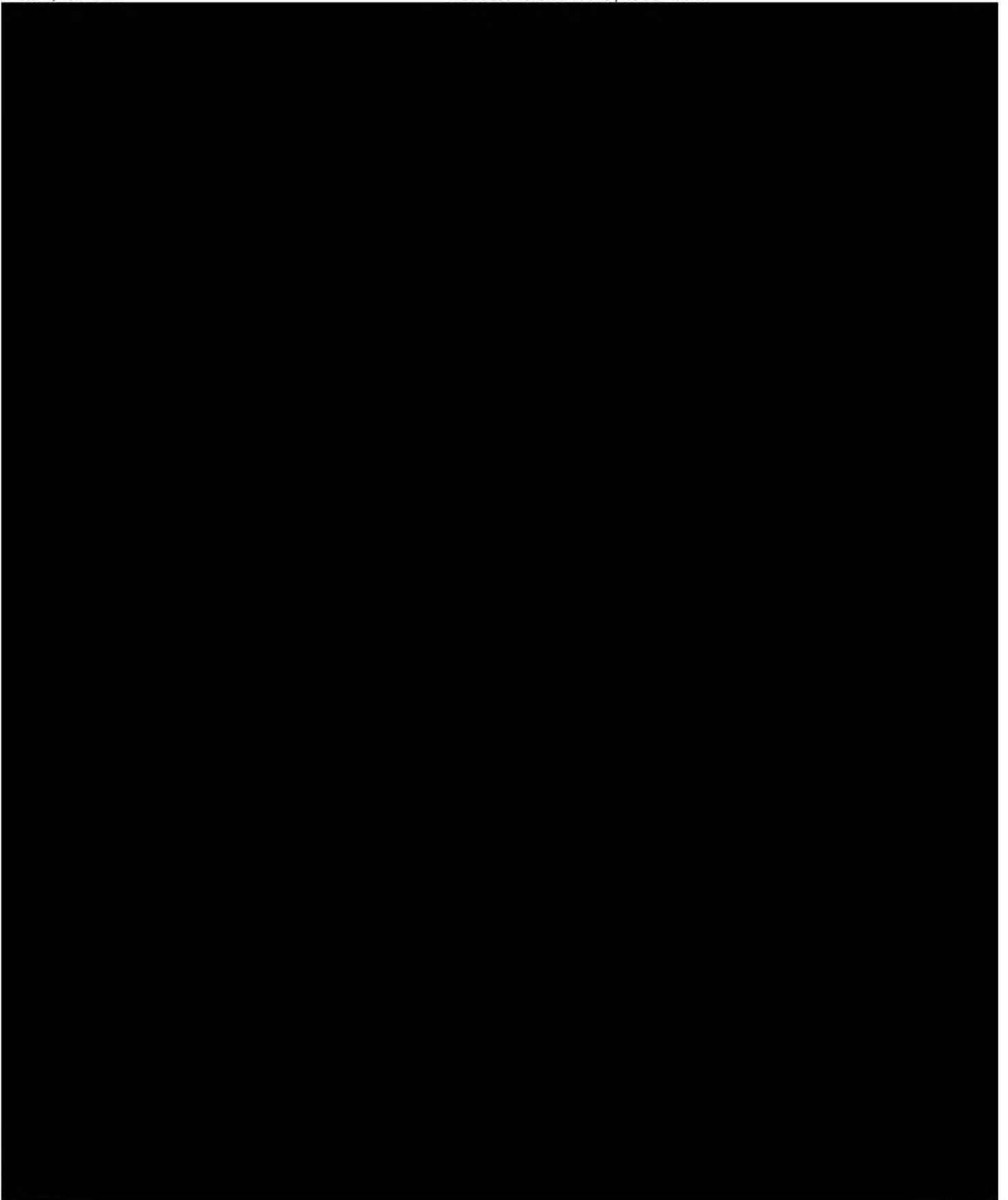
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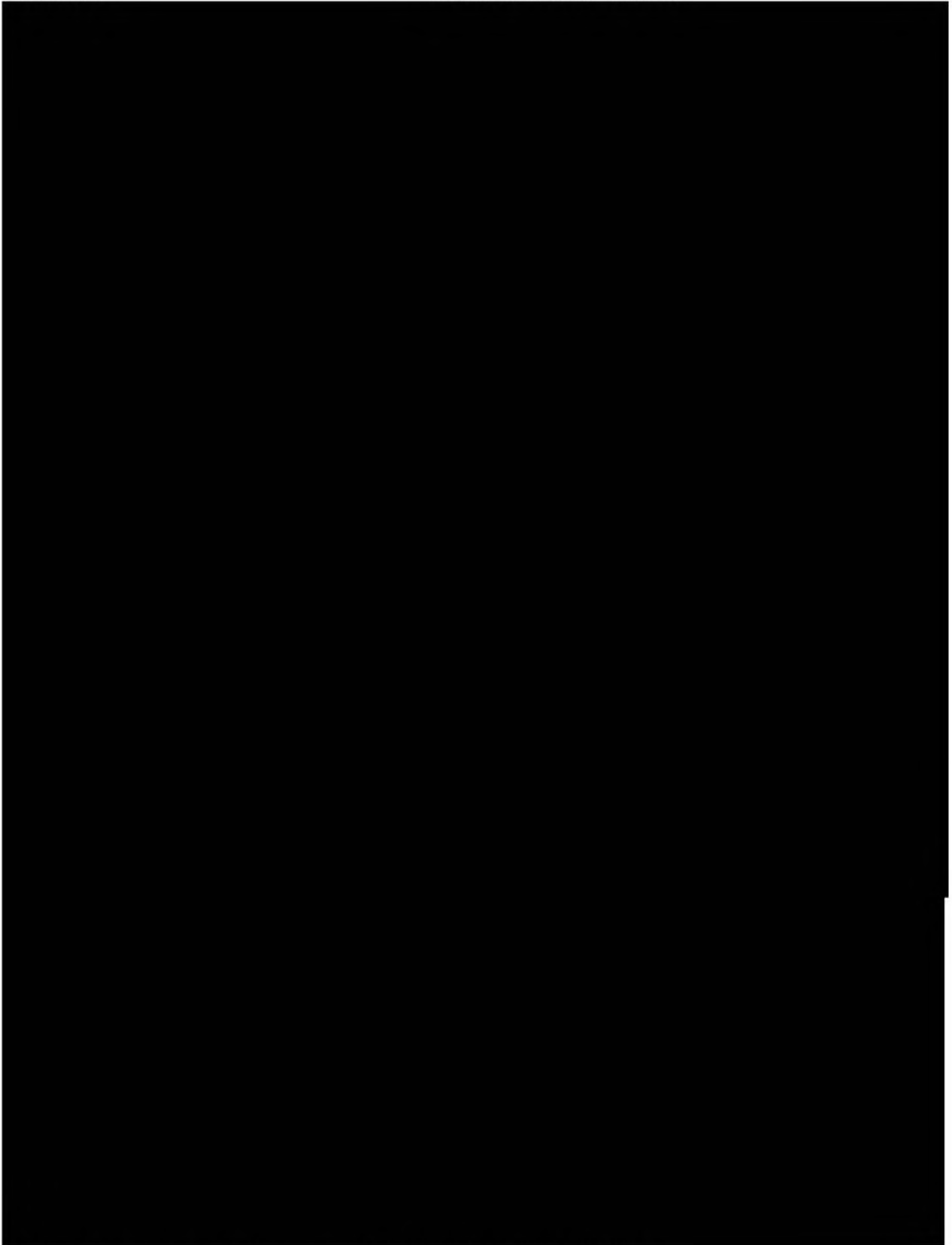
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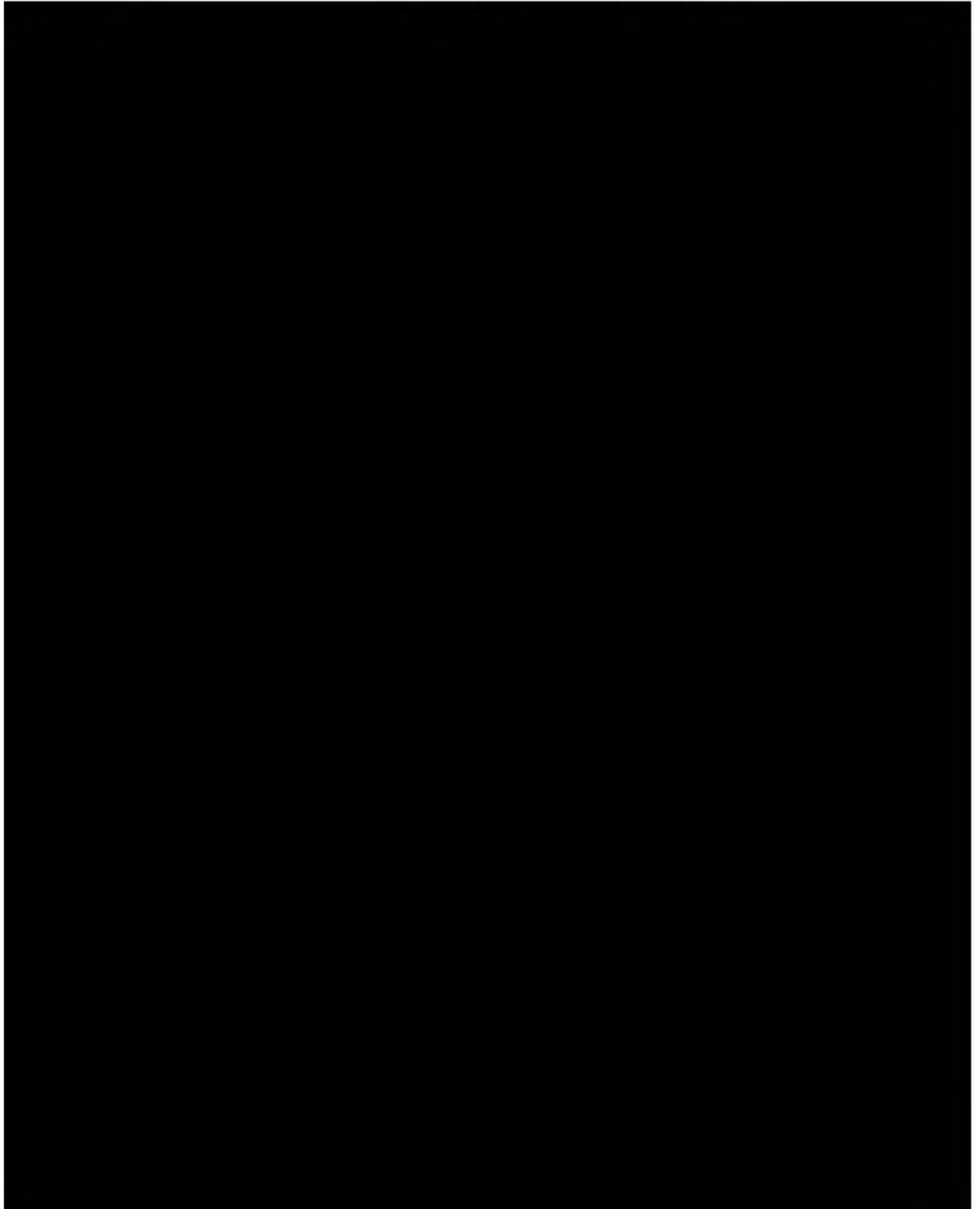




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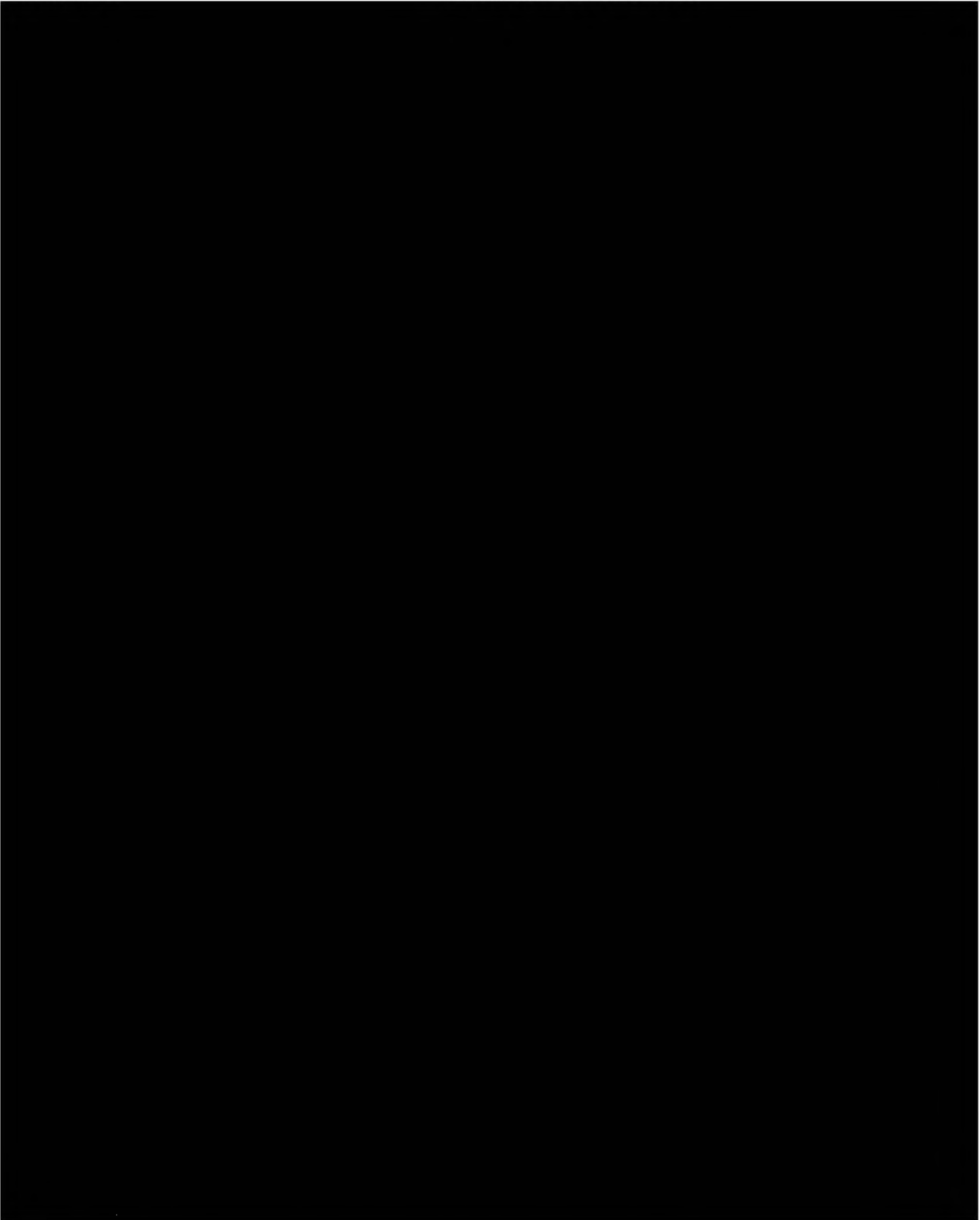
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## Behind the scenes: 2023 ANU Public Law Conference

17 Nov 2023 - 6:30 am

For this year's Fraud Awareness Week, we caught up with our Chief Integrity Officer, [Julia Peterburgsky](#), to get the highlights from the ANU Public Law Conference and some tips for understanding fraud.



## Tell us about Fraud Awareness Week?

[International Fraud Awareness Week \(Fraud Week\) 2023](#) runs from 12–18 November.

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Fraud Week is an annual event that was established by the Association of Certified Fraud Examiners (ACFE) in 2000 as a dedicated time to raise awareness about fraud.

It encourages Australian Government officials to proactively take steps to minimise the impact of fraud by promoting anti-fraud awareness and education.

This year I had the privilege of attending the annual Australian National University (ANU) Public Law Conference in Canberra and wanted to share some of my learnings.

## What were your highlights from the conference?

The ANU Public Law Conference is one of Australia's pre-eminent public law conferences, attracting leading public law jurists, commentators, and practitioners.

It examined the most pressing contemporary developments in public law, including federal administrative review, the National Anti-Corruption Commission (NACC) and Robodebt.

This year's theme was 'Integrity and Innovation', and we heard from the NACC's General Counsel, Western Australia's Solicitor-General and various academics on integrity related issues.

## The NACC's first 100 days

The National Anti-Corruption Commission (NACC) is an independent Commonwealth agency.

It detects, investigates and reports on serious or systemic corruption in the Commonwealth public sector. The establishment of the NACC was a game changer in the fight against corruption in Australia.

In 2021, Australia was one of a small group of countries whose ranking in the global corruption perceptions index (CPI) deteriorated – from 7th to 18th place. In 2022 we crept back to 13th place (behind Luxembourg and Hong Kong).

The CPI ranks 180 countries and territories by their perceived levels of public sector corruption, on a scale of 0 (highly corrupt) to 100 (very clean).

The NACC has very broad jurisdiction and powers, although like state corruption watchdogs, its powers may be reduced in future. It can make public statements at any time and conduct public hearings in some circumstances.

In its first 100 days, the NACC:

- received almost 1,400 referrals, including 29 mandatory referrals from agency heads.
- commenced 9 preliminary investigations and 4 investigations.

## Integrity outlook

The NACC's Integrity Outlook report 2022-23 provides an overview of the corruption risks and vulnerabilities identified between July 2020 and June 2023 from finalised investigations under the Law Enforcement Integrity Commissioner Act 2006 and related prosecutions. The issues included in the report highlight the need for agencies to implement targeted work to prevent corruption.

## Supporting whistle-blowers

Whistle-blowers are the most important source of information about wrongdoing, and for that reason it's an offence to take reprisal action against a whistle-blower.

Whistle-blowers need an ecosystem of support, and we all have a role in fostering a psychologically safe environment where public servants feel they can speak up and have confidence they will be supported when they do.

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## Initial learnings from the Robodebt Royal Commission

This panel explored the implications of the Robodebt Royal Commission, which was established in August 2022 to enquire into the establishment, design and implementation of the debt assessment and recovery scheme (commonly known as Robodebt).

Government lawyers reportedly face more political pressure to act unethically than corporate lawyers.

As such, the findings and recommendations of the Robodebt Royal Commission are a timely reminder that for practising lawyers, their professional obligations are paramount.

Whether or not we are practising law, it's important that we all keep our duties as public servants front of mind, as this will go a long way to upholding an integrity culture.

We must also model and promote those behaviours to our colleagues and team members.

Research suggests that everyone is better off when they feel there is a strong ethical culture in their organisation. When ethics are perceived to be low, there is more depression, stress and anxiety, and less job satisfaction.

While the government's multi-agency taskforce is working with Ministers to prepare the government's response to the Royal Commission, I've formed an internal working group to reflect on the learnings for our agency and formulate recommendations for our leaders to consider.

## Do you have any tips to help us understand fraud?

These 8 Fraudster Personas can help us understand how and where someone might be able to target our programs and functions.



The Reckless

The Reckless acts without care, responsibility or regard to the consequences of their actions by disregarding requirements, procedures, warnings or directions to gain personal benefits.



The Deceiver

The Deceiver makes others believe something that is not true to dishonestly gain personal benefits.



The Impersonator

The Impersonator pretends they are another person or entity to dishonestly gain personal benefits.



The Fabricator

The Fabricator invents or produces something that is false to dishonestly gain personal benefits.

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## The Coercer

The Coercer influences, manipulates or bribes another person to act in a desired way to dishonestly gain personal benefits.



## The Exploiter

The Exploiter uses something for a wrongful purpose to dishonestly gain personal benefits.



## The Concealer

The Concealer hides their actions from being seen or known about to dishonestly gain personal benefits.



## The Organised

The Organised are groups which use a combination of methods in planned, coordinated and sophisticated ways to dishonestly gain benefits.

## What resources do you recommend?

You can learn more about recognising and preventing fraud from the following resources:

- our [Fraud prevention intranet page](#) and [Fraud Control Plan](#)
- [integrity resources](#) from APSC Academy, including toolkits and courses
- [prevention and education resources](#) from the National Anti-Corruption Commission
- [understanding fraud and your obligations](#) by the Commonwealth Fraud Prevention Centre
- the [Integrity training Program](#) in Bunya is designed to help you understand your responsibilities and improve your awareness of integrity risks in the agency and the APS.

## Contact

Integrity team: [integrity@acc.gov.au](mailto:integrity@acc.gov.au)

Fraud Control Officer: [Julie Chandler](#)

Chief Integrity Officer: [Julia Peterburgsky](#)

## More information

[Integrity](#)

[Fraud prevention](#)

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[Public interest disclosures](#)

[Commonwealth Fraud Prevention Centre](#)

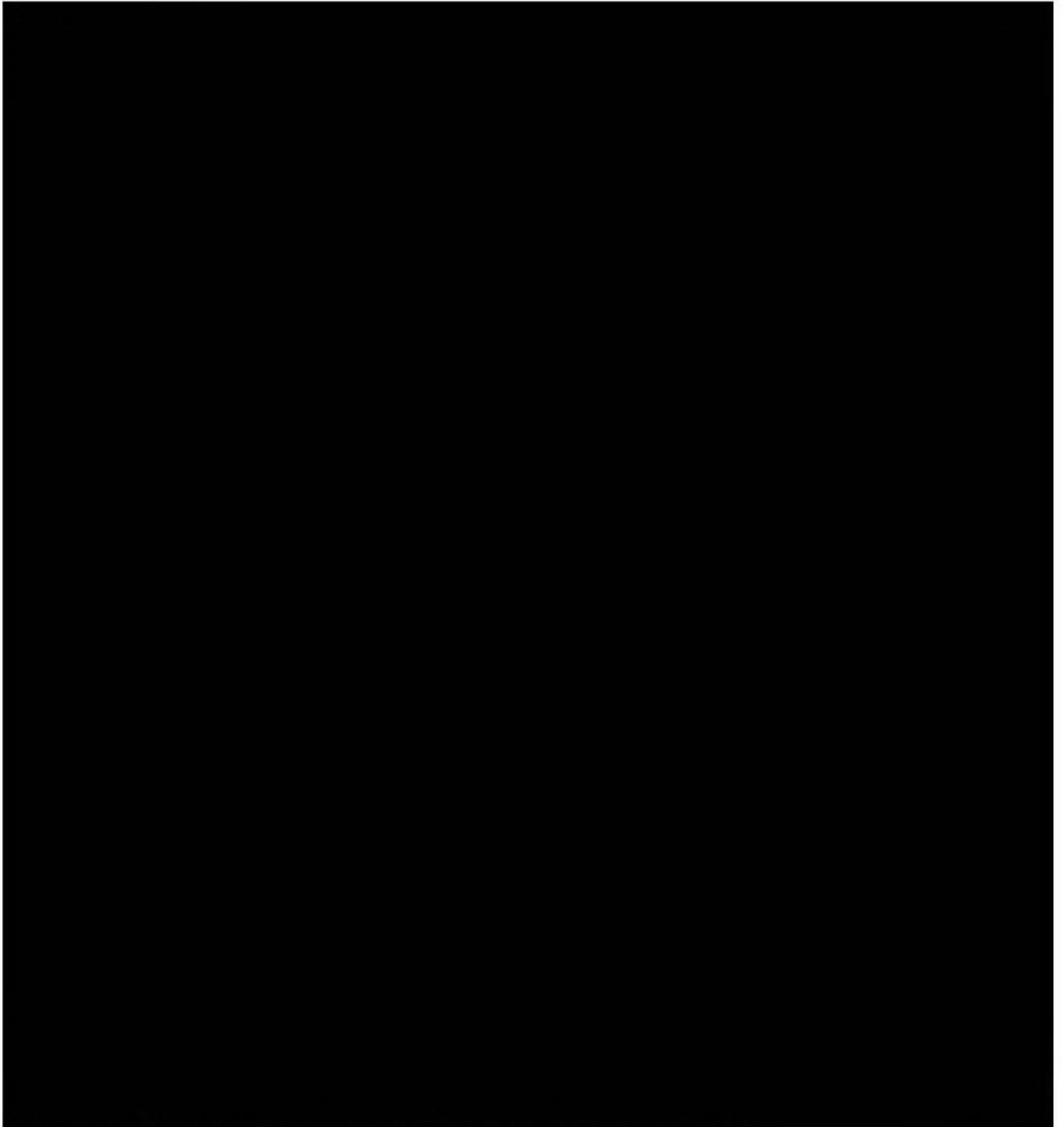
[National Anti-Corruption Commission](#)

**TYPE**

General news

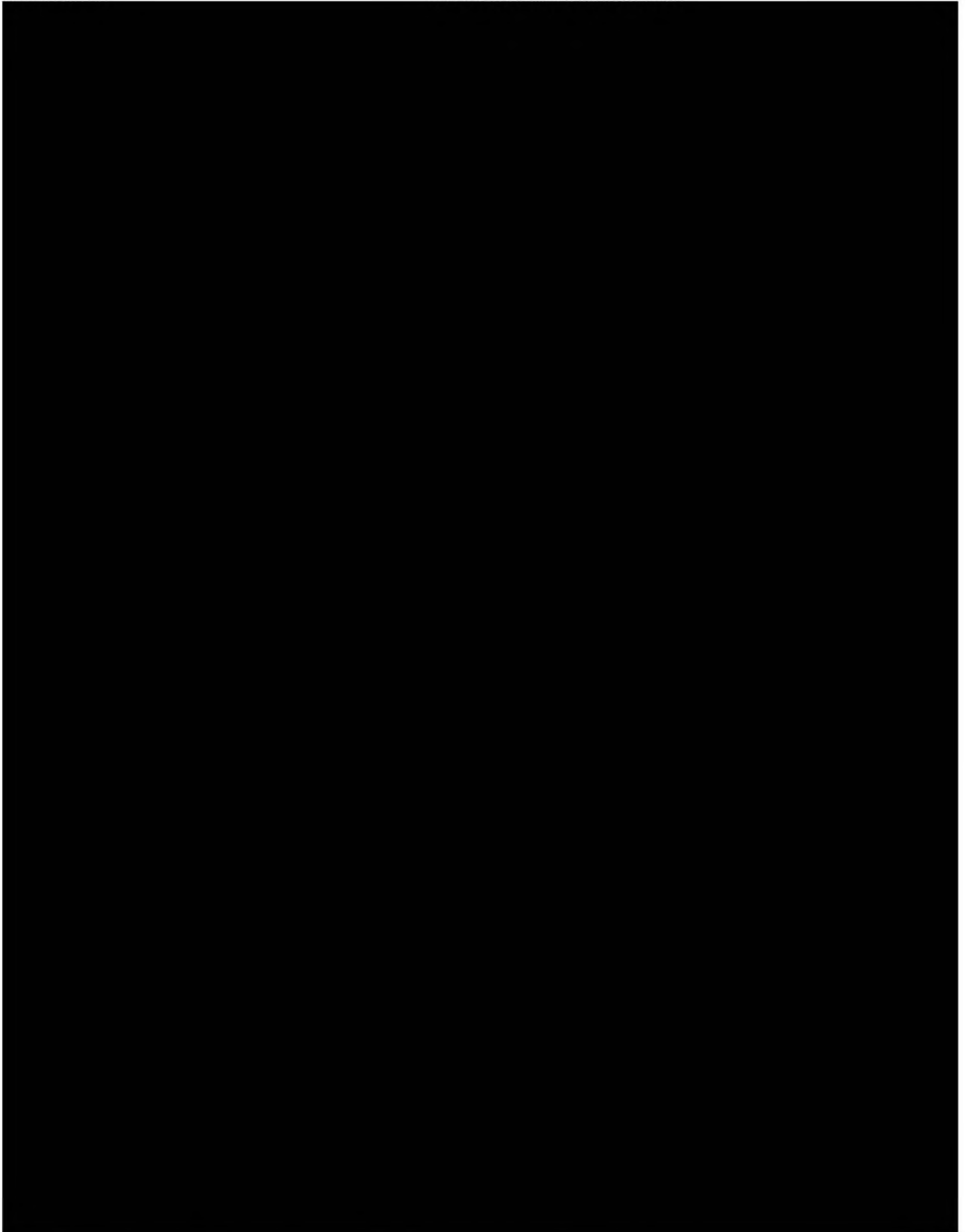
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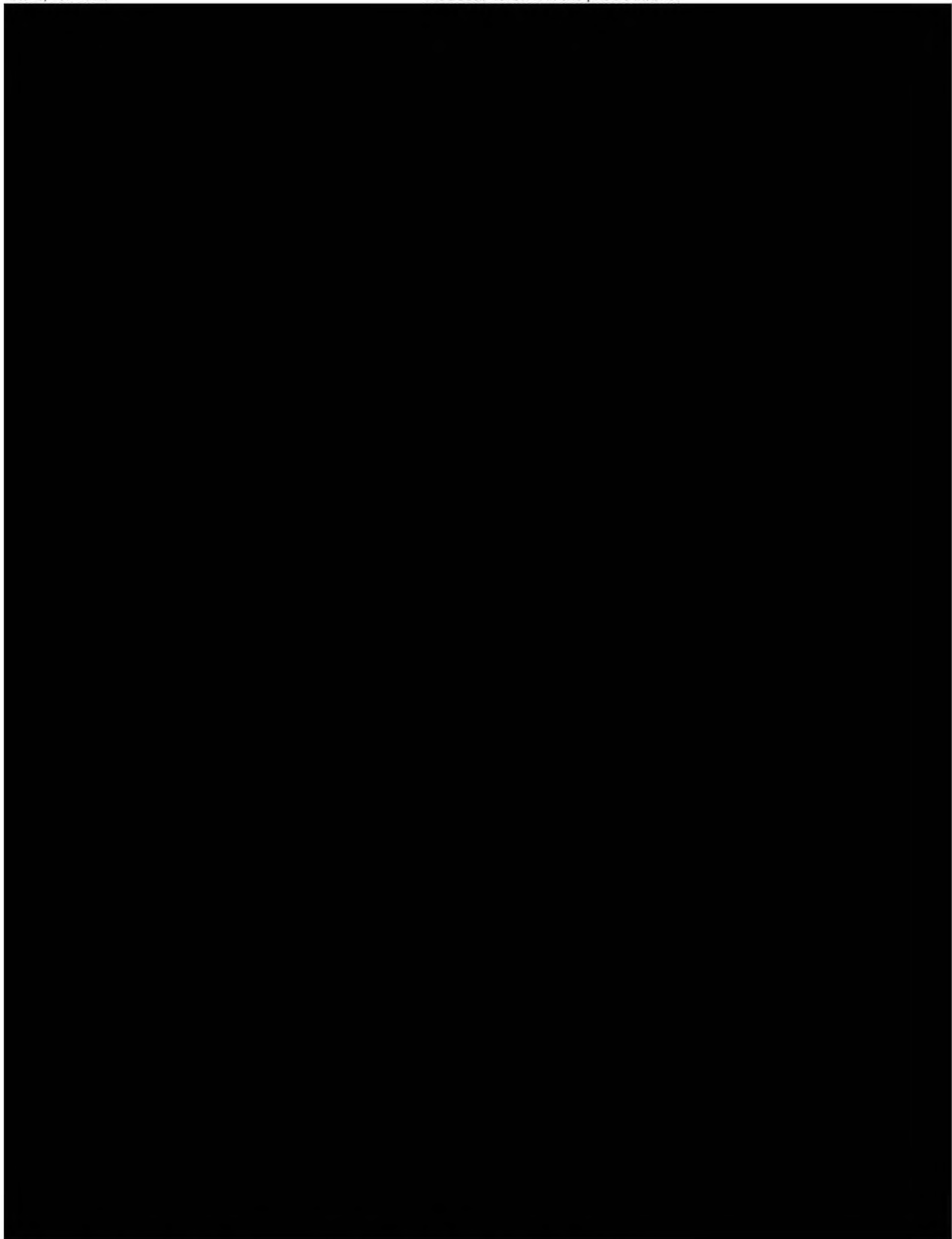




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