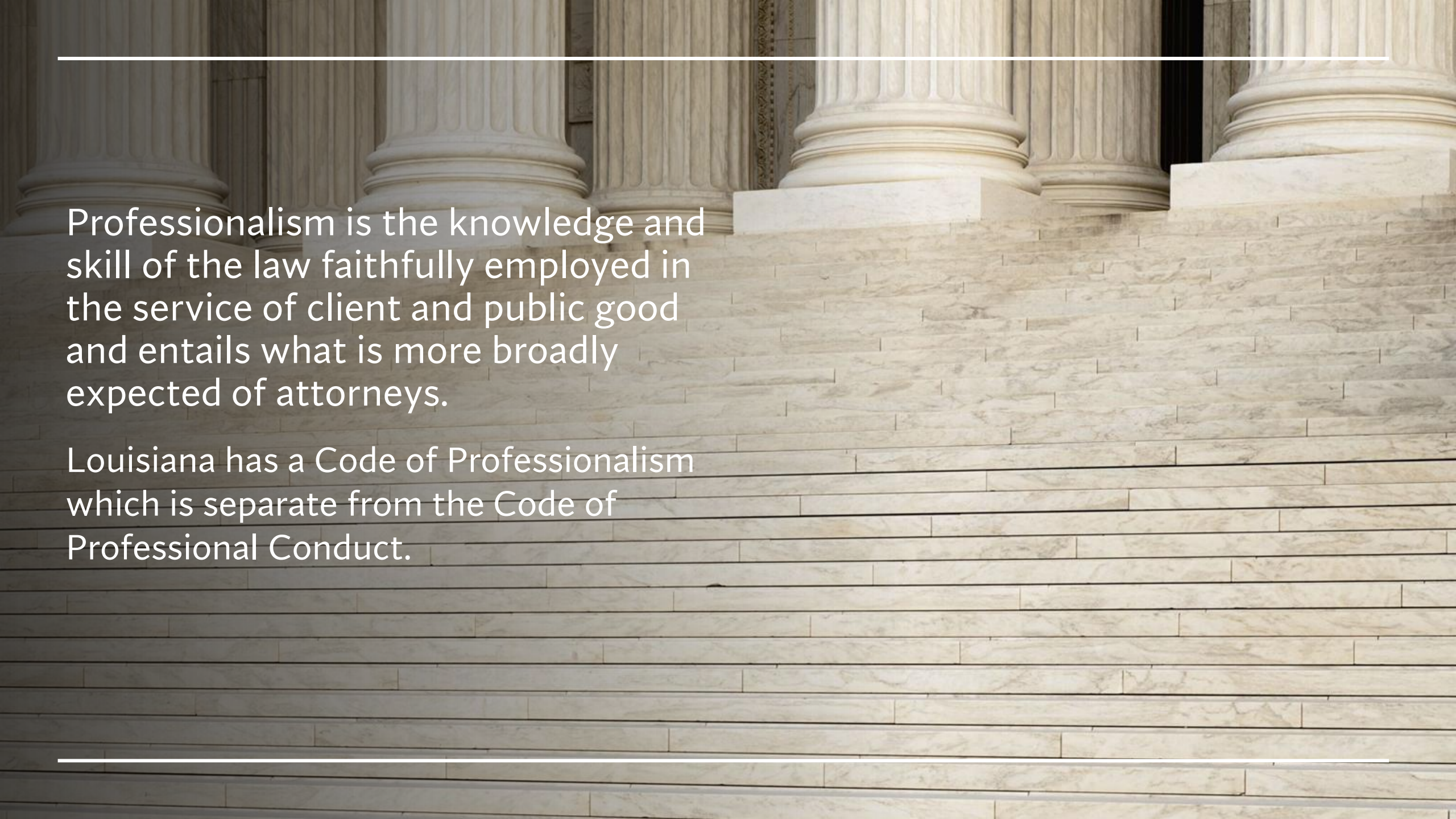

PROFESSIONALISM

A CLE-Luke Williamson

December 5, 2025



Professionalism is the knowledge and skill of the law faithfully employed in the service of client and public good and entails what is more broadly expected of attorneys.

Louisiana has a Code of Professionalism which is separate from the Code of Professional Conduct.

BEING A LAWYER

Means abiding by a code of conduct set forth in the Code of Professionalism.



WARNING

This is not a Normal
Professionalism CLE

The Wit & Wisdom of Ted Lasso



Ted Lasso is the story of an American college football coach hired to coach and English Premier League futbol team.

Ted is known for his lack of ego, his relentless and disarming positivity and his quotable wisdom.





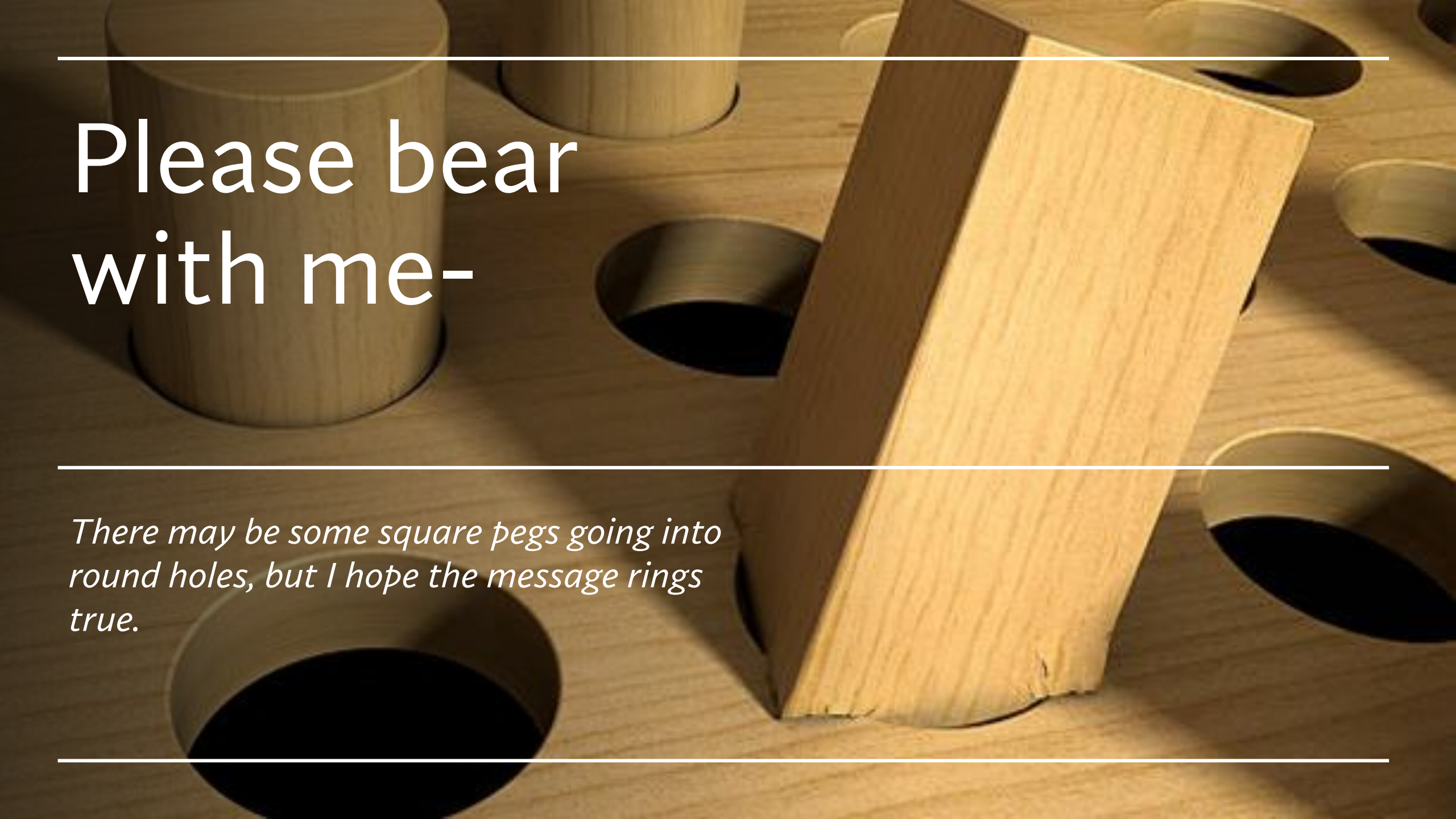
HIS FIRST DAY ON THE JOB

He crookedly hung this sign above his office. We can all learn a lot from Ted Lasso.





Ted Lasso is full of universal wisdom that applies to everyday life and if you pay attention, to the practice of law. This is my ham fisted attempt to apply the Wisdom of Ted Lasso to the Louisiana Code of Professionalism.



Please bear
with me-

*There may be some square pegs going into
round holes, but I hope the message rings
true.*



Rule No. 1

“MY WORD IS MY BOND”

*THIS IS A FUNDAMENTAL TRAIT OF A
PROFESSIONAL AND SUCCESSFUL
LAWYER!*

In our profession your reputation for truthfulness is your most important part of your *profession*. Ted Lasso would say about liars:



A man with a mustache, wearing a dark blue V-neck sweater over a white collared shirt, is pointing his right index finger directly at the camera. He has a slight, knowing smile. The background is a blurred indoor setting with blue and grey tones.

“Your gonna get the cold shoulder and the silent treatment. That’s a combo. Does it come with a medium drink?”

His therapist, Dr. Sharon
Fieldstone addressed
truthfulness:

*The truth will set you free... but
first it will piss you off!*

Long Term:

*Lying and/or subterfuge is a
lose\lose strategy.*



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Invariably,
this is how
you end up:



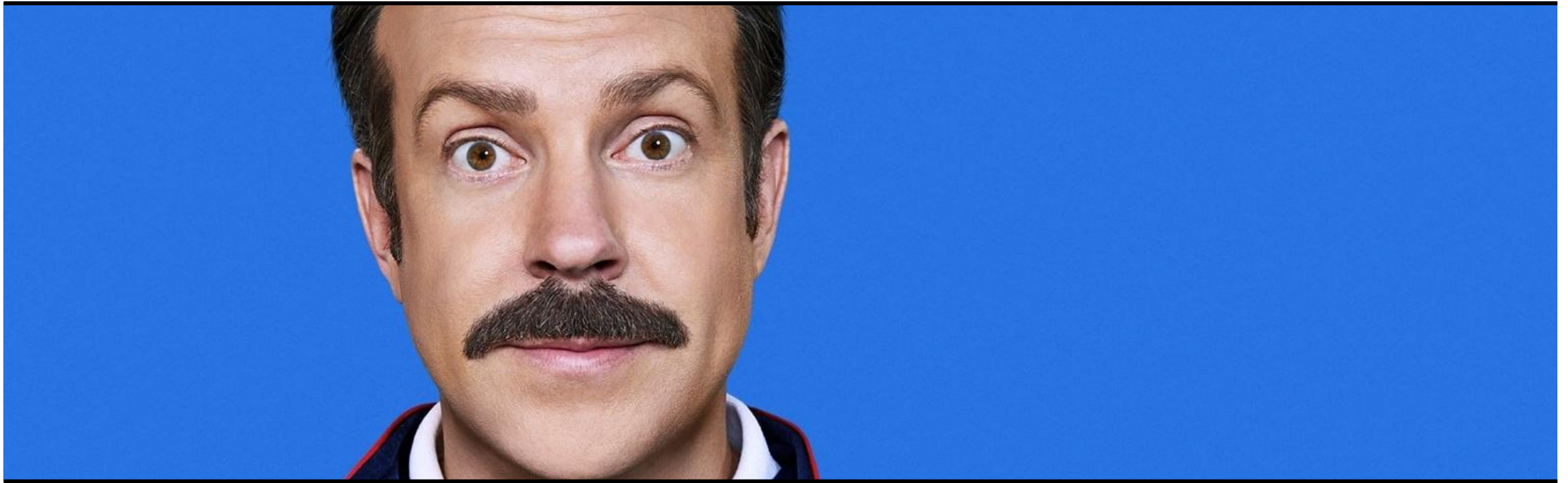
Rule No. 2:

I will conduct myself with honesty, dignity, civility, courtesy and fairness and will not engage in any demeaning or derogatory actions or commentary toward others.





"If God would have wanted
games to end in a tie, she
wouldn't have invented
numbers."



-
-

Winning at all costs, however, will not win you friends with the bar or the court. This job is too hard to make it unnecessarily combative. Fight for your clients-courteously.

The world is infinitely round:



Ted Lasso made it clear that “Hurt people, hurt people.”

You can do this job honorably and with integrity.



Rule No. 3

I will not knowingly make statements of fact of law that are untrue or misleading.

Rule No. 3 Continued

*I will clearly identify for other
counsel changes I have made in
documents submitted to me.*





YOU KNOW WHAT
THE **HAPPIEST ANIMAL** ON
EARTH IS? IT'S A **GOLDFISH**.
YOU KNOW WHY? GOT
A **TEN-SECOND MEMORY**.

WWW.MAGICALQUOTE.COM

THEODORE 'TED' LASSO



If you lose a case, sometimes it is good to be a goldfish and only have a 10 second memory.



However, if you win a case by making untrue statements or misrepresenting the facts, remember that most Louisiana lawyers are not goldfish and they will never forget it.

Rule No. 4

I will be punctual in my communications with clients, other counsel and the court. I will honor scheduled appearances and will cooperate with other counsel in all respects.

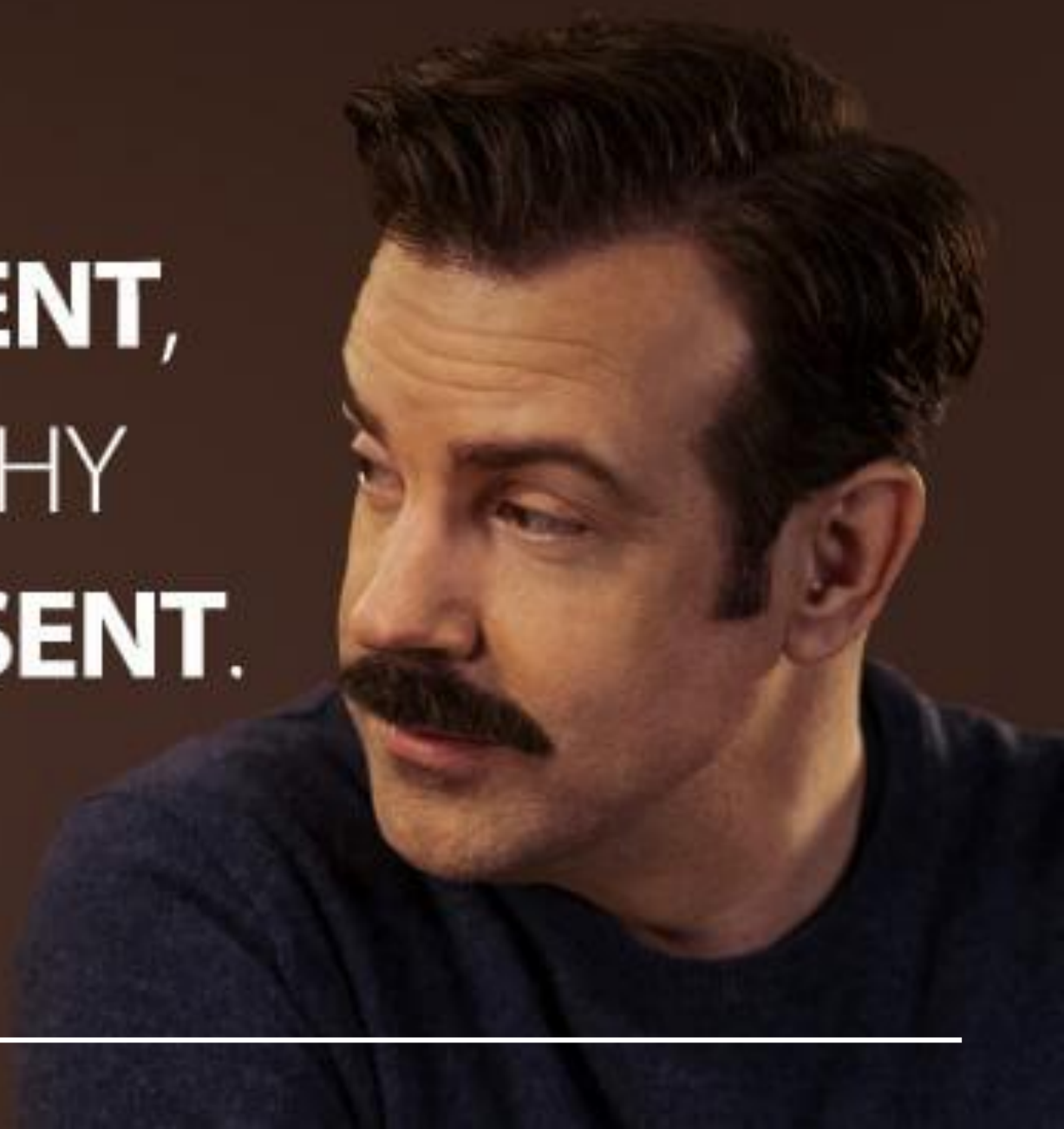




LIVING IN THE MOMENT,
IT'S A **GIFT**. THAT'S WHY
THEY **CALL** IT THE **PRESENT**.

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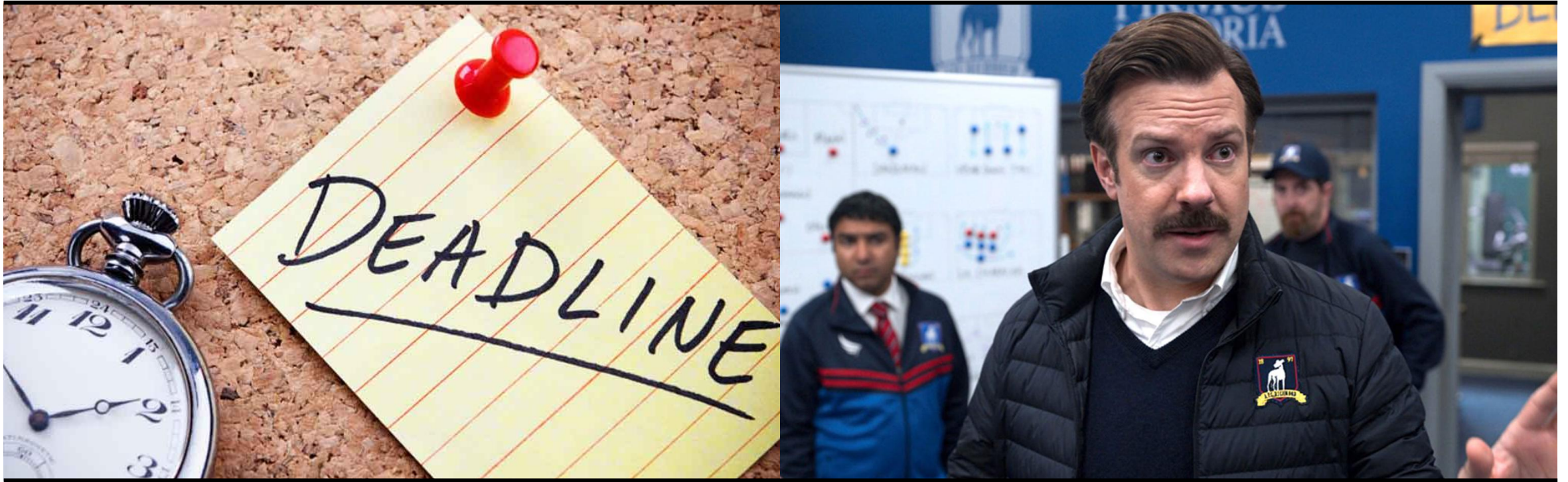
THEODORE 'TED' LASSO





Timeliness

The quickest way to become adverse to a client or the court is not communicating or filing pleadings in a timely manner.



We are all under time pressure. Many of us count our days in 6 minute increments. We have deadlines that can mean the difference between success and failure. Because of these issues it is extremely important to plan, prepare and be punctual.



When I was a defense attorney, briefly, I was haunted by the tick, tick, tick of the crocodile's clock always chasing Captain Hook-me.

As lawyers, we need to remember to take time for our families, for our friends, for our well being. We need to live in the moment, because it is a PRESENT.

Quotes



“Pressure makes
pearls”-Ted Lasso

But time pressure-makes mistakes.

Rule No. 5

I will allow counsel fair opportunity to respond and will grant reasonable requests for extensions of time.





In Season 1, Episode 9 Ted Said:

“I want you to know, I value each of your opinions, even when you’re wrong.”

We can deeply disagree
with opposing counsel.

That does not mean you have to
jam them every time you get a
chance. I assure you, the world is
infinitely round. You jam, you get
jammed.





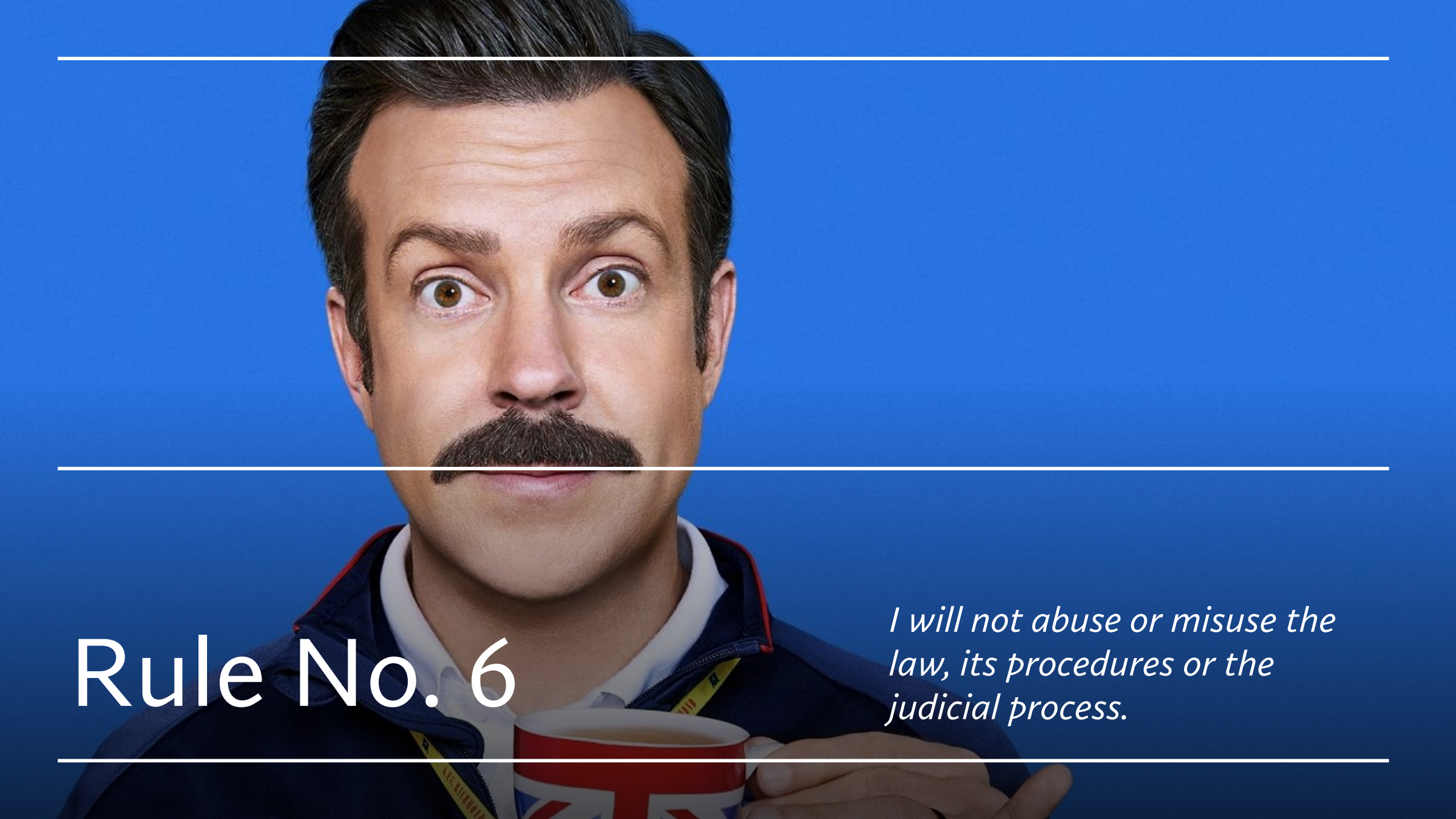
In one episode, Ted said:

“There are two buttons I never like to hit, that is panic and snooze.”

BECAUSE

If you do **not** treat other lawyers **unfairly**, then it is far **LESS** likely that you will have to press the panic button.



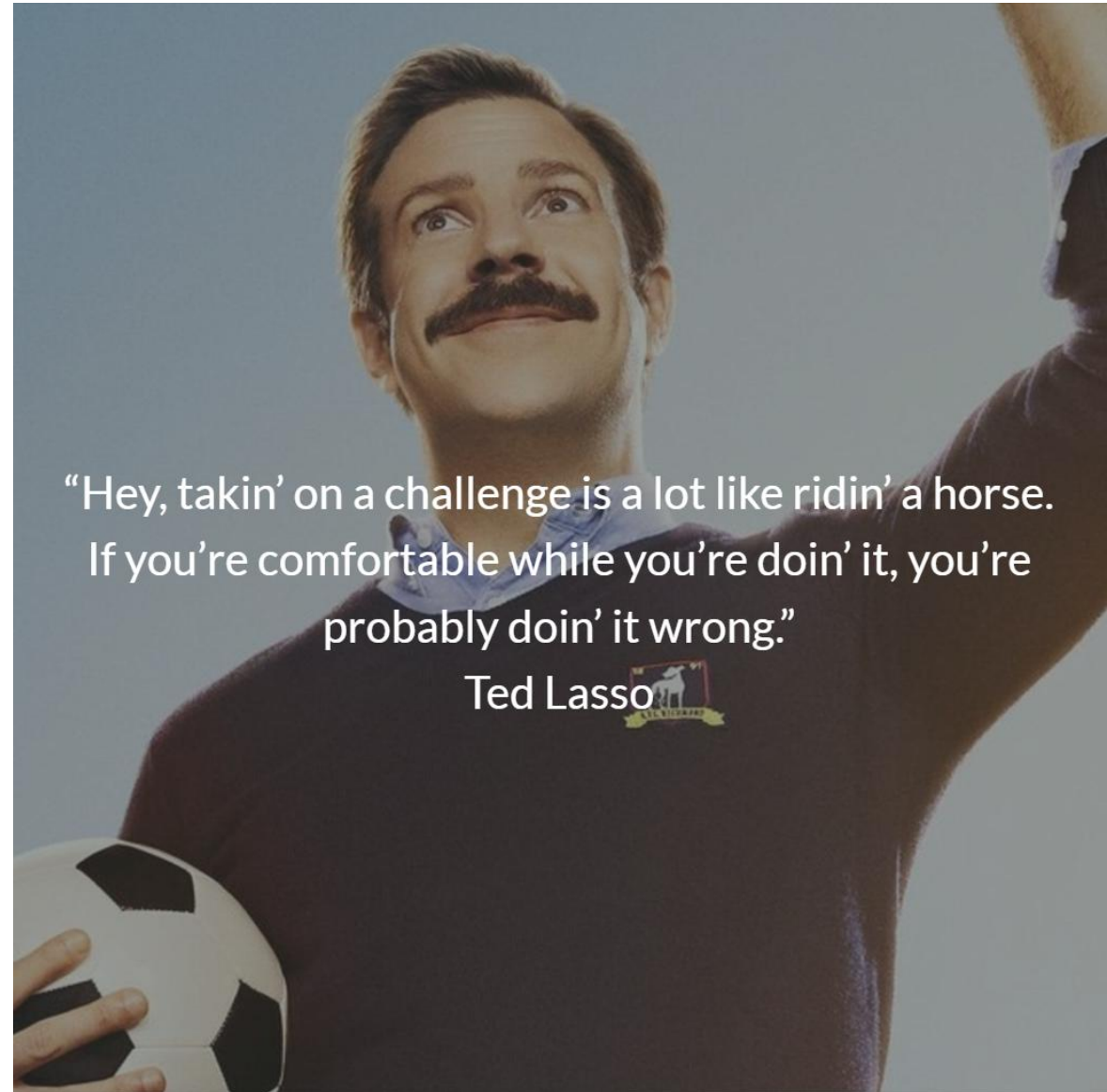


Rule No. 6

I will not abuse or misuse the law, its procedures or the judicial process.

Sometimes this job is extremely hard.
You are fighting relentlessly for a
client.

*That does not mean you abuse the
process. It is a challenge, but you
know what Ted Lasso says about
challenges:*





Rule No. 7

I will cooperate with counsel and the court to reduce the cost of litigation and will not file or oppose pleadings, conduct discovery or utilize any course of conduct for the purpose of undue delay or harassment of any other party.

When I was a young lawyer,
my mentor, Mike McKay,
taught me that cooperation
was the easiest way to make
this profession tolerable

*Mike was right, in the
immortal words of Jamie
Tartt:*



Rule No. 8

I will not engage in personal attacks on other counsel or the court or use the threat of sanctions as a litigation tactic.





This is not how a
professional lawyer goes
to the court house. . . .

And that suit, really

Ted Lasso said it
best about
personal attacks:

*“I Promise you there is something
worse out there than being sad,
and that’s being alone and being
sad.”*



Rule No. 9

I will support my profession's effort to enforce its disciplinary rules and will not make unfounded allegations of unethical conduct about other counsel



Lawyers make mistakes



*Our disciplinary system is designed
to provide opportunity to earn a
second chance.*



One of Ted's most profound quotes:

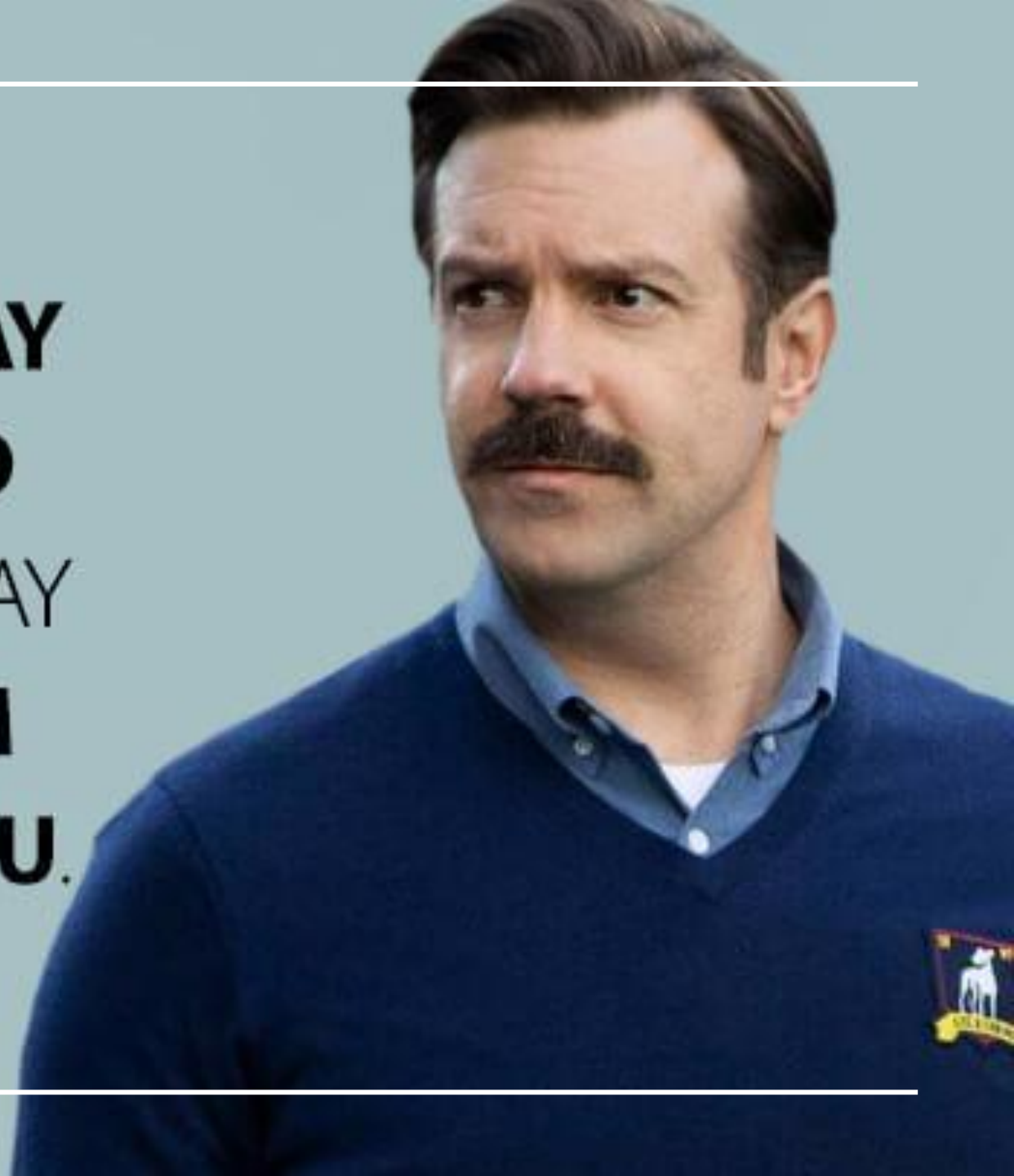
I hope that either all of us or none of us are judged by the actions of our weakest moments, but rather by the strength we show when we are given a second chance.



YOU **KNOW** HOW THEY **SAY**
THAT **YOUTH** IS **WASTED**
ON THE **YOUNG**? WELL, I SAY
DON'T **LET** THE **WISDOM**
OF AGE BE WASTED ON **YOU.**

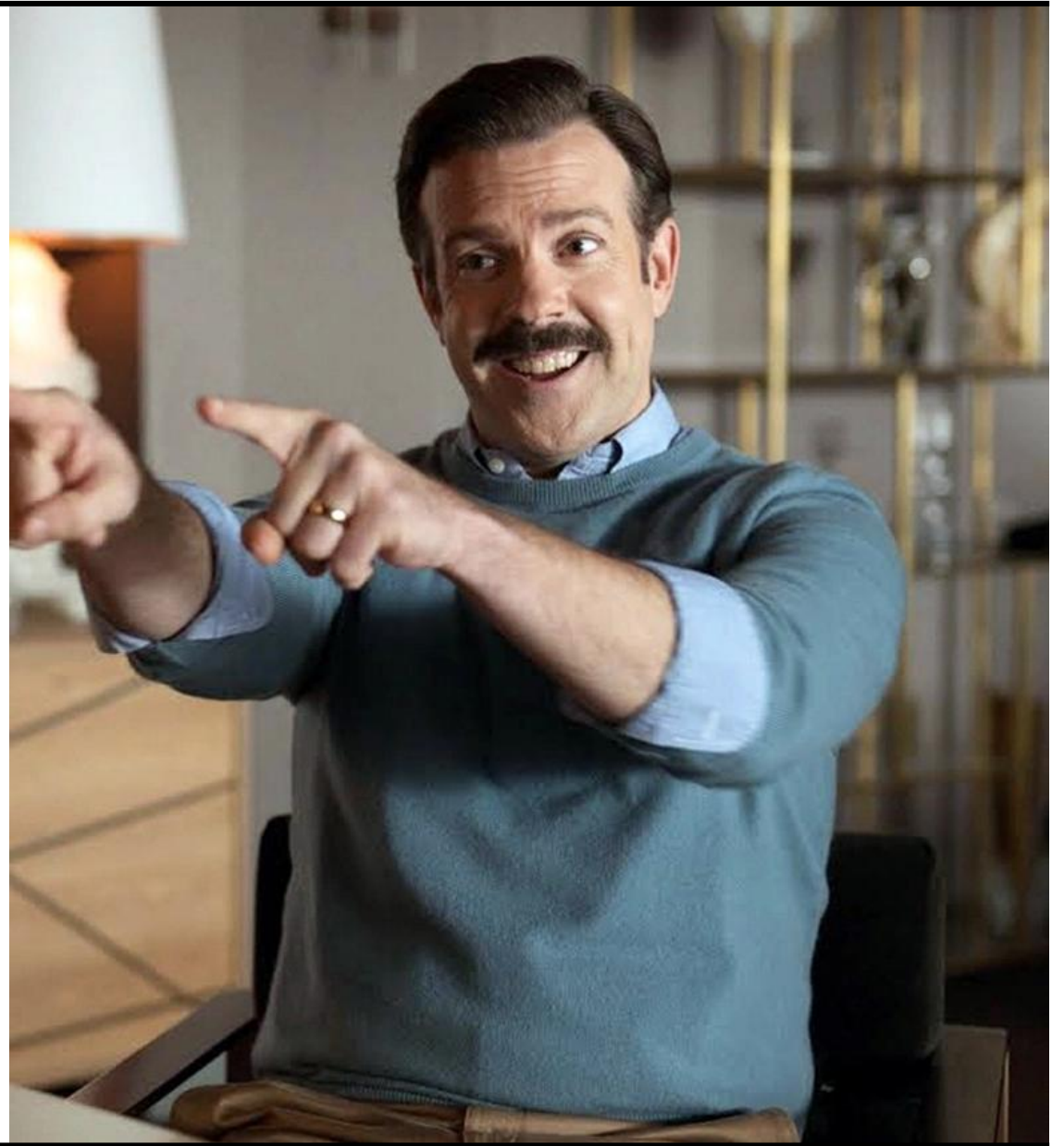
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THEODORE 'TED' LASSO



Rule No. 10

I will work to protect and improve the image of the legal profession in the eyes of the public.





Ted said it very succinctly and well:

“Doing the right think is never the wrong thing.”

A golden rule that
I have always
practiced by:

*You might have 150 cases, but
your client probably only has that
one and it is very important to
them. Treat them with the respect
and effort they deserve because
they HIRED YOU!*





Ted had other applicable words of wisdom:

“You two knuckleheads have split our locker room in half. And when it comes to locker rooms, I like em just like my mother’s bathing suits. I only want to see em’ in one piece, you hear?”



Rule No. 11

*I will endeavor to improve our
system of Justice.*

Ted said at the beginning of Season 1 “I do love a locker room, it smells like potential.”

As legal professions, we have a great potential for good.



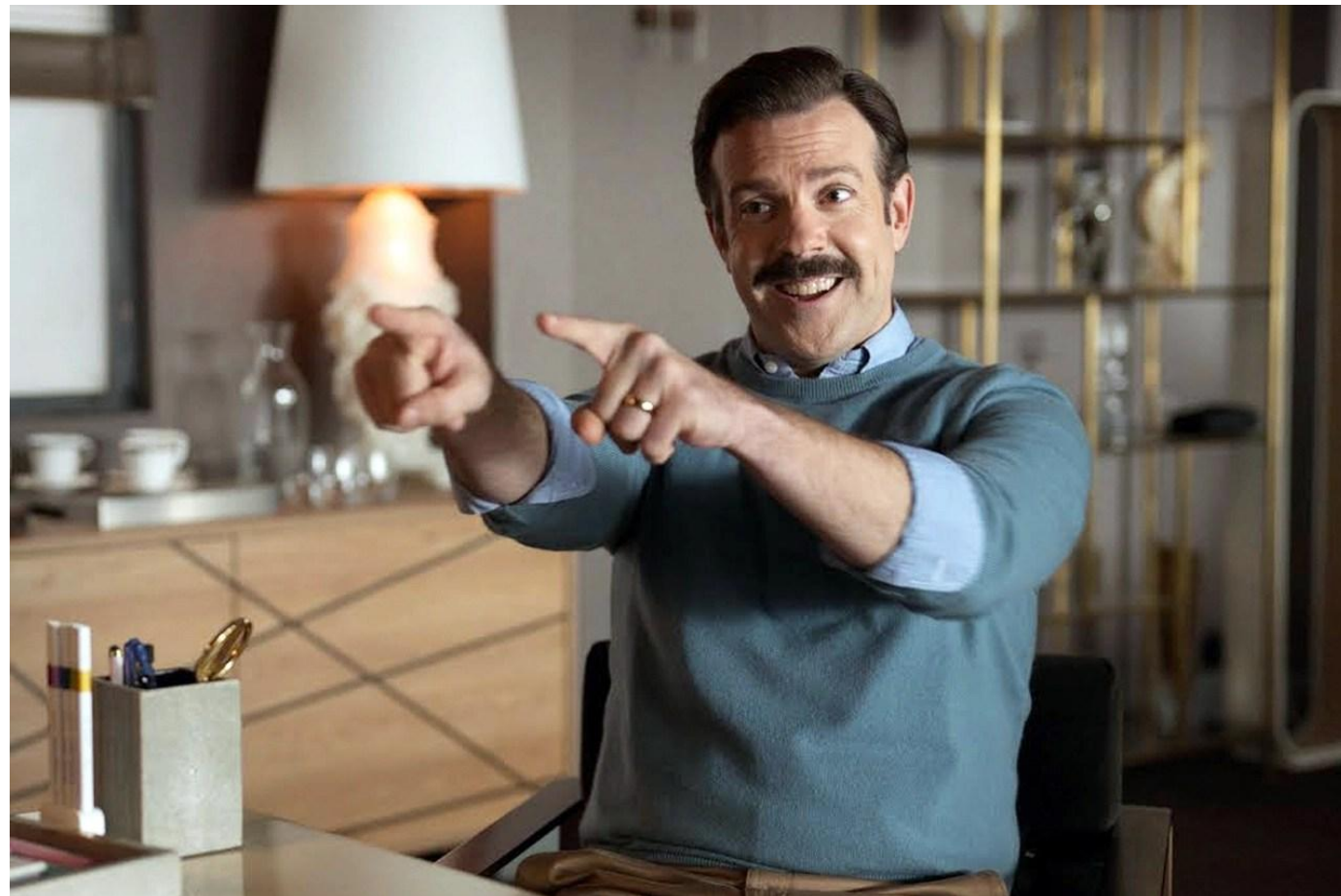
But Like Peter Parker

*With great power, comes great
responsibility. Do good and our profession
will benefit from it.*



Rule No. 12:

I will use technology, including social media, responsibly. My words and actions, no matter how conveyed, should reflect the professionalism expected of me as a lawyer.



Ted addressed social media too

“If the internet has taught us anything, its that sometimes it’s easier to speak our minds anonymously.”



What you post online, reflects the entire profession.

I tell my kids weekly, do not post it, tweet it, email it or Instaface it, unless you want errrrybody to see it.

Rule No. 13:

I will seek opportunities to be of service to the bench and bar and assist those who cannot afford legal help.





We are all teammates
even when we are
adverse to each other.

Regarding Teams Ted said:

“I think you might be so sure that you’re one in a million, that sometimes you forget that out there you’re just one of 11.”

We should endeavor to put the profession’s interest above our own for the good of us all.



Leslie Higgins Nailed It

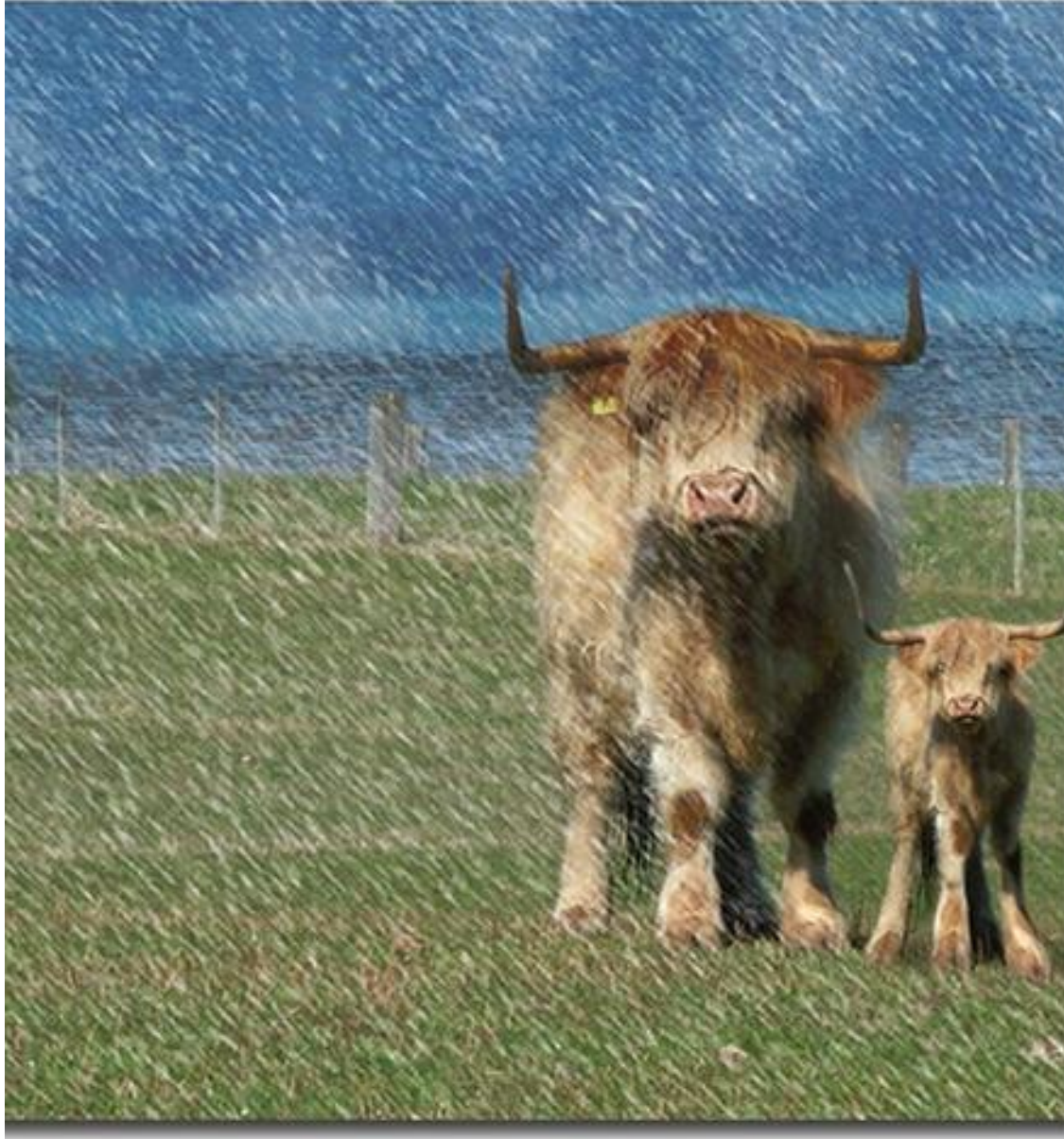
Human beings are never going to be perfect, Roy. The best we can do is keep asking for help and accepting it when we can. And if you keep doing that, you'll always be moving toward better.



Rule No. 14

I will be supportive of new members in the profession.





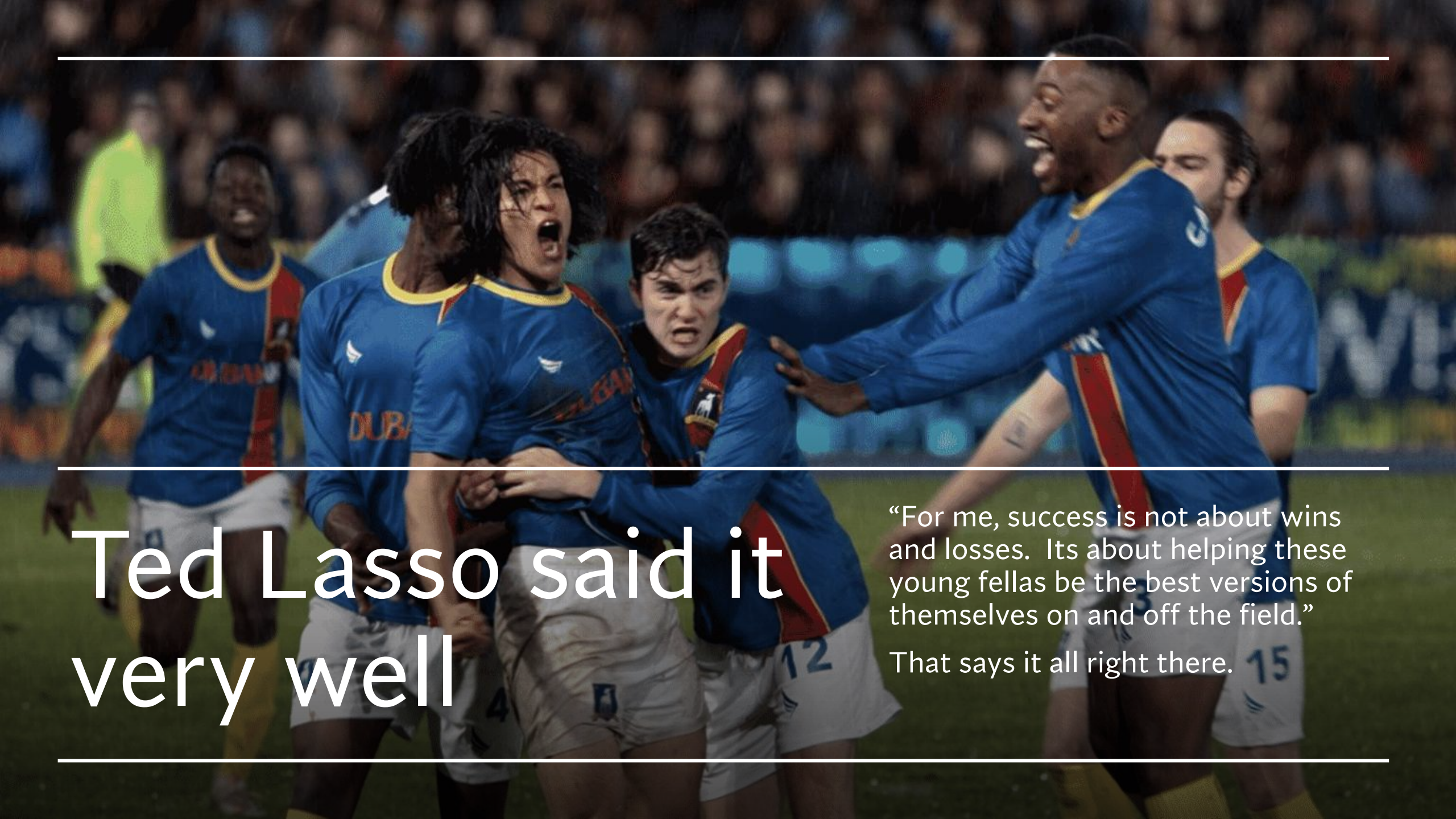
The old bull has a duty to teach a young bull how to do things properly.

The young bull has a duty to listen.

On Mentorship

“A good mentor helps you move on. A great mentor knows you will.” Leslie Higgins





Ted Lasso said it
very well

“For me, success is not about wins and losses. Its about helping these young fellas be the best versions of themselves on and off the field.”

That says it all right there.

Rule No. 15

I will stay informed about changes in the law, communication and technology which affect the practice of law.





When I was first started practicing-faxes came on green rolls of paper and only managing partners had cell phones.



Ted Lasso addressed this too:
“I saw this quote by Walt
Whitman, and it was painted
on a wall. It said ‘Be curious,
not judgmental.’ I like that”

Today, most of us
would say we are
too connected....

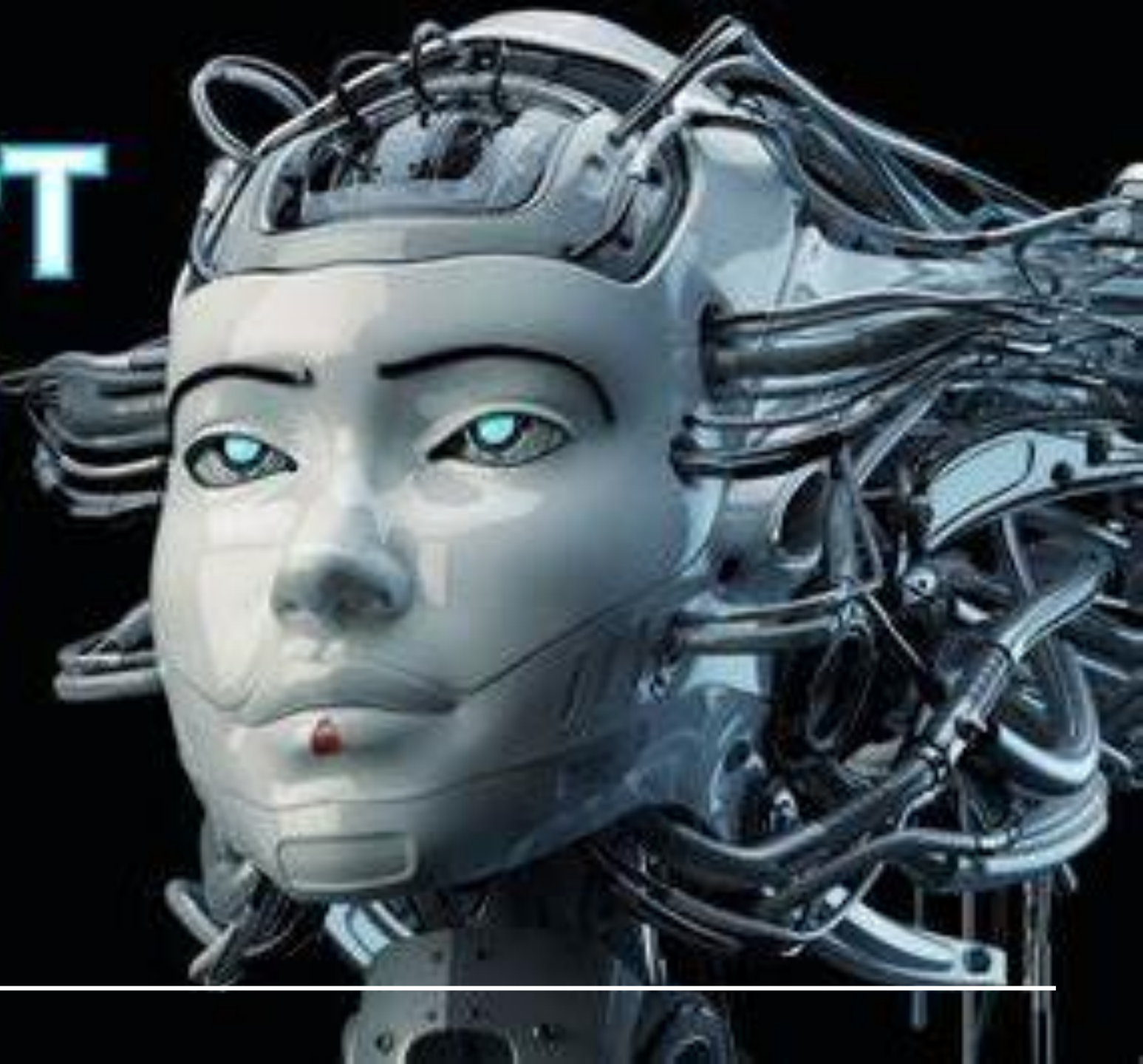
*However, we need to remain
curious and nimble. My firm
incorporated more new technology
following Covid, than we had since
we moved from Word Processors
to Computers... but A.I.....*



ChatGPT

AI

AITOOLZ.AI





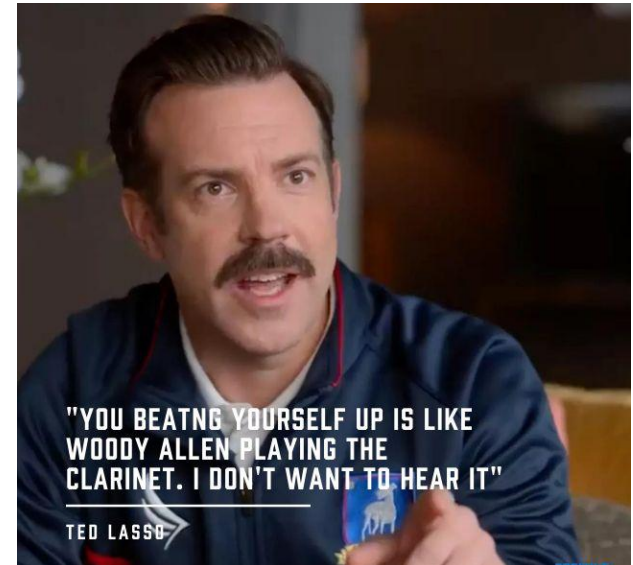
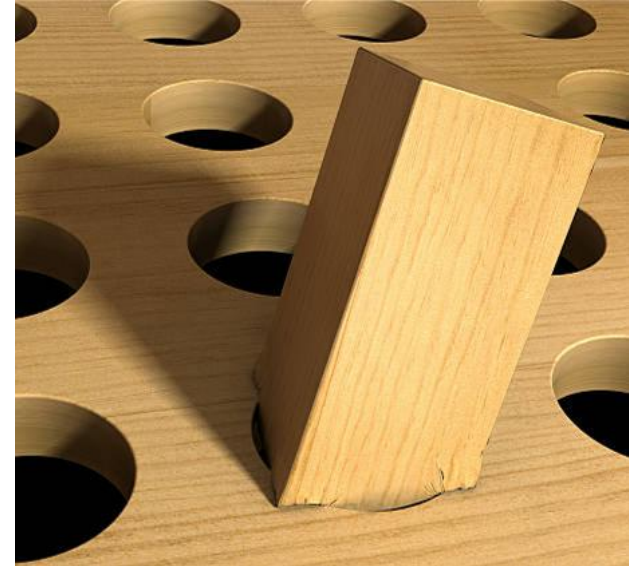
Artificial Intelligence is a GAME CHANGER

Ted Anticipated Gen Z Lawyers & AI

“These guys are more distracted than a bunch of cats playing laser tag.”

My wife says I have put
square pegs in round holes
with these Lassoisms

Ted would like tell me:



All of Ted Lasso's
wisdom does not
directly connect to the
Code of
Professionalism

*“As the man once said,
the harder you work,
the luckier you get”*





“If you care about someone, and get a little love in your heart, there aint nothing you can’t get through together.”

“Ice cream is the best. It’s kinda like seeing Billy Joel perform live. It never disappoints.”

“It’s kinda like back in the ‘80s when “bad” meant “good.”

“We are going to call this drill ‘The Exorcist’ because its all about controlling possession”- Kind of like discovery...





“Its just a group of people who care. Not unlike folks at a hip hop concert whose hands are not in the air.”

“I’ve never met someone who doesn’t eat sugar. Only heard about em, and they all live in a godless place called Santa Monica.”

*When it comes to cats, babys and apologies,
you gotta let them come to you.*



For our family law
practitioners:

*“Boy, I love meeting people’s
moms. It is like reading an
instruction manual as to why
they’re nuts.”*





“I like my water like Kyrie
Erving likes his earth. Flat.”

*“I shouldn’t bring an umbrella
to a brainstorm.”*



On limbo:

*“Great party game, horrible
relationship status.”*

And...my
personal favorite:

*“I feel like we fell out
the lucky tree and hit
every branch on the
way down, ended up in
a pool of cash and Sour
Patch Kids.”*



I believe in the
inherent value of
the legal
profession.

*Ted said, "I believe in hope. I believe in
"Believe."*



