

Good evening, South Texas.

I just received a message from my friends in New Zealand wanting to make sure that I had seen the advo-cat - the West Texas attorney humbled by a Zoom filter in the 394th. (And if you are the only person who hasn't seen it, you might should stop everything and watch it now: <https://twitter.com/JudgeFergusonTX/status/1359202090824966151>. In fact, if you have seen it, go watch it again!)

While this may be the best thing I've seen since last March, one thing particularly impresses me. Note what Mr. Ponton (or his feline avatar) says right before he declares for the record, "I'm here live; I'm not a cat..." Did you hear it? **"I'm ready to go forward with it."**

In what had to be a frustrating, embarrassing, out-of-control moment, this attorney had a job to do for his client, and he was undeterred. As my New Zealand friends would say, "Good on him."

It's the same attitude we all should adapt as we continue to address the implications of the pandemic.

- If you are studying for the Bar Exam in two weeks, keep practicing: **"I'm ready to go forward with it."**
- If you are in the middle of a second semester of hybrid or remote classes, keep preparing: **"I'm ready to go forward with it."**
- If you are doing work on one of our journals, one of our competition teams, or one of our clinical programs, keep up the efforts: **"I'm ready to go forward with it."**
- If you are caring for family members who are affected by the pandemic, or teaching children whose classes are remote, or addressing any of the countless other issues the pandemic has created, keep up the great work: **"I'm ready to go forward with it."**

We can't always control the circumstances. We can't always control the technology. We can't always control the environment. But we can control our reaction and our response: **"I'm ready to go forward with it."**

While the number of cases around the Houston area continues to decrease, **please remain vigilant.**

Off campus, please be prudent. On campus,

1. Continue to wear masks at all times in public spaces.
2. Adhere to social distancing expectations.
3. Follow the directional arrows in the halls. (I mention this because our consulting physician emphasized that this is important to maintain a safe environment, and we've gotten lax recently.)

Keep going forward, South Texas!

Be safe, and all the best,

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