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## Introduction: Conflict of Laws

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# CONFLICT OF LAWS SYMPOSIUM

## INTRODUCTION

The assumption of jurisdiction over foreign corporations by courts sitting in states having other than direct and substantial contact with the corporate body has been a fertile ground for debate during the past several years. That states may exercise jurisdiction to the "outer limits of the Due Process clause" is now rarely questioned, though the wisdom of such an expansive approach is often doubted.

The purpose of this symposium is to explore the ramifications of a decision rendered by the Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals in which the "outer limits" are re-examined and perhaps redefined in one class of cases. The case text is reprinted immediately following this introduction for ease of reference.

Although professors Leflar, Sedler and Felix travel somewhat different routes in the examination of this decision to deny forum-seeking plaintiffs the shelter of the federal district court, all seem to concur with the result. Whether the analysis be grounded on practical federalism or choice of laws, the denial of a forum in this instance appears inescapable. Yet, as the reader will note, the result is far from automatic when the underpinnings are clearly studied.

