Not in Kansas Anymore: Transnational Jurisdiction in Cyberspace and Far-off Places

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As technology develops, so do the ways that humans interact with each other when working, playing, socializing, and collaborating. Digital mediums have brought new forums for people to interact and share content with one another without ever meeting in person. Consequently, the anonymity inherent digital proxies, avatars, and pseudonyms conflicts with the traditional legal concepts of jurisdiction, physical presence, and service of process, making it increasingly difficult to seek remedies for injuries sustained during online activities. With Metaverse and decentralized autonomous organizations coming into public focus, these jurisdictional challenges will only become increasingly complex and prevalent. This presentation will first dive into conflicts between virtual worlds and forums and traditional concepts of jurisdiction and presence, and conclude with a discussion of potential solutions for service of process and dispute resolution in the transnational context.