

# MEET THE AUTHOR

PROFESSOR WILLIAM S. DODGE

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## An interview with Professor Dodge on his Article, *Presumptions Against Extraterritoriality in State Law*

**Q: What inspired you to start writing this piece? How did you first come upon the idea?**

A: I had written another article about the federal presumption against extraterritoriality, but it occurred to me that no one really knew much about state presumptions against extraterritoriality. Your editor in chief Jessica Gillotte, expressed an interest, so I wrote this piece specifically for the UC Davis Law Review.

**Q: What would you say is the main argument of your piece?**

A: States don't need to have presumptions against the extraterritorial application of their law. They can determine questions of geographic scope using ordinary rules of statutory interpretation, and (in contrast to federal law) they have conflict of laws rules to give priority to the laws of other jurisdictions in appropriate cases.

**Q: Did anything surprise you about your findings? Is this what you expected?**

A: I was surprised that only twenty states had presumptions against extraterritoriality and that seventeen had rejected having a state presumption. I was also surprised that states with a presumption don't distinguish between interstate and international cases.

**Q: What has your experience been like working with the UC Davis Law Review?**

A: Working with the UC Davis Law Review has been a joy from start to finish. I've enjoyed working with some of my former students in new roles and meeting students I didn't already know. The student editors have been careful and conscientious, and have saved me from a number of mistakes. I'm really happy with the way the article turned out.

**Q: Favorite place to eat/get coffee in Davis?**

A: Devere's Irish Pub, but I always eat more than I should.

**Q: Could you tell us a little bit about yourself?**

A: I grew up in the Bay Area. I moved away for college and law school, but came back to take my first teaching job at UC Hastings. I came to UC Davis in 2015, but I still live in Oakland with my spouse and two children.

**Q: Any memorable stories from your experience as a law student that may be of interest to King Hall students?**

A: When I wrote my student Note about the new Exon-Florio law on foreign investment, comments on proposed regulation weren't available online. So I had to take the train to Washington, D.C., check out the binder from the Treasury Department, and photocopy 500 pages of comments one page at a time. Students today have it so easy!

**Q: Do you have any advice for students interested in contract or international law related research in preparation for writing a Note/paper?**

A: Think small. Don't try to rewrite a whole area of law. Just find a small question you think is interesting and see what you can learn about it.

**To read the full interview, visit our website:**

[www.lawreview.law.ucdavis.edu](http://www.lawreview.law.ucdavis.edu)

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LAW REVIEW

**Q: How did you first get into international law?**

A: After college, I taught English in China. So I entered law school with an interest in international law, but I didn't really know what that meant. In the spring of my first year, I took a course on International Business Transactions. I found the interaction of different legal systems fascinating, and have been working in this area ever since.

**Q: Favorite band?**

A: I've been listening to Earth, Wind and Fire a lot recently. Something about their music makes me happy.