Specific Personal Jurisdiction under *International Shoe* and its Progeny

Civil Procedure—Gómez-Arostegui Fall 2026

Employ a three-part test to assess whether a defendant has sufficient contacts with the forum state to be subject to specific personal jurisdiction:

> (1) The non-resident defendant must purposefully direct his activities or consummate some transaction with the forum or resident thereof; or perform some act by which he purposefully avails himself of the privilege of conducting activities in the forum, thereby invoking the benefits and protections of its laws;
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> (2) the claim must be one which arises out of or relates to the defendant's forum-related activities; and
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> (3) the exercise of jurisdiction must comport with fair play and substantial justice, *i.e.*, it must be reasonable. The factors to consider and balance include:
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> > (a) the burden on the defendant;
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> > (b) the forum state's interest in the dispute;
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> > (c) the importance of the chosen forum to the plaintiff's interest in obtaining relief;
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> > (d) the most efficient forum for judicial resolution of the dispute; and
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> > (e) the shared interest of the several States in furthering fundamental substantive social policies.

The plaintiff has the burden of proving the first two prongs. If she does, the burden shifts to the defendant to set forth a compelling case that the exercise of jurisdiction would not be reasonable.