

Preside or Lead?

The Attributes and Actions of Effective Regulators

36. Federal-State Jurisdiction I: Pick Your Metaphor

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Cats and dogs, gridlock, peaceful coexistence, parallel play, lamb lying with lion, hand in glove. Those are some metaphors for federal–state jurisdictional relations, in ascending order of effectiveness. The next five essays sort through our jurisdictional experiences, seeking to explain successes and failures. This first essay sets the context. Our regulated industries are multistate industries serving both local and multistate markets. Simultaneous federal and state roles are unavoidable. Each is necessary to the other’s success. Why does this interdependence produce so much irritability? Understanding the reasons will assist improvement.

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