As China and its companies become more important internationally, the legislative reach of Chinese law and the jurisdictional reach of Chinese courts become increasingly important. Similarly, the growing presence of Chinese companies and businesses overseas means that cases outside China often have a potential overlap with cases inside China in relation to evidence, enforcement, and the possibility of competing litigation. Recent cases in the United Kingdom, Australia, Hong Kong and China raise the problem of the overlapping jurisdictional reach of the courts in cross-border disputes and show that the choice of forum and governing law by the disputing parties is not necessarily sufficient to resolve the issue of jurisdiction. While these jurisdictional conflicts are certainly not new in an international sense, the role played by China, as a relatively new entrant into this area, and the approach taken by the Chinese courts, raises interesting issues in the areas of comparative private international law, Chinese law and policy, and international business law. This paper looks at questions relating to overlapping jurisdiction and the issues that may arise in resolving the resulting disputes.

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