

The Future of Jurisdiction in the Age of the Global Society and the Gated Community

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The global society and the gated community are two emerging trends that will change law enforcement because they will alter the fundamental concept of territorial jurisdiction. More and more investigations and prosecutions will cross traditional geopolitical borders. In this New World order, efficiency and effectiveness will require the "long arm of the law" to get longer. But at the same time, due regard must be shown for the long-standing and well-intentioned geographic fragmentation of police authority in America, as well as for the close ties to local communities that are essential for police effectiveness and legitimacy. Law enforcement has adapted to similar challenges in the past, but the approaches of yesterday and today may not be as successful in the next millennium. New laws, policies, practices, and strategies will be needed that recognize the global society and avail themselves of new technology, while retaining a local orientation and democratic safeguards. Florida will be affected by both trends because of its geography, economy, and demographics, and Florida law enforcement agencies must be prepared to adapt.