

## INTRODUCTORY REMARKS

*David B. Sentelle\**

Not too much more than two hundred years ago, our ancestors and forebears adopted a Constitution and a Bill of Rights designed in large part to limit government. Fewer than a dozen and a half times since then has it been necessary in the public view to amend that Constitution, and two of those canceled each other out. Nonetheless, we still have, perhaps, if not the most limited, certainly one of the most limited governments in the world and in history.

It would be foolish, however, to deny that that limited government has been churning against its limits for decades, really going back to the Civil War. Sometimes those limits have come back; sometimes they have not. The question is now raised whether we should amend the Constitution to limit government to what we see as the proper role and size. We have four distinguished panelists who are going to comment on that question.

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\* Hon. David B. Sentelle is currently a Circuit Judge on the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit. Judge Sentelle originally delivered these remarks during Showcase Panel III, entitled *Are Constitutional Changes Necessary to Limit Government?*, at the Federalist Society's 2006 National Lawyers Convention, on Saturday, November 18, 2006, in Washington, D.C.

