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The Role of the Court in Shaping the Relationship of the Individual to the State--Introduction to the Panel

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The Role of the Court in Shaping the Relationship of the Individual to the State
Introduction of the Panel

by Professor Ian Hunter*

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, Professor Tribe began his remarks this morning with reference to a New Yorker cartoon; he has given us our topic for this panel on the role of the court in relation to individual liberties. I thought I might respond to his cartoon with a cartoon I saw last year in Punch, which might be considered the British counterpart of the New Yorker. It was a cartoon of a baseball game between nine clerics and the nine United States Supreme Court Justices. The clerics were in their full fancy dress surplices with collars, and so forth. Bases were loaded with the clerics ahead when the United States Justice who was the catcher spoke to the United States Justice who was the pitcher. He said, “Yes, never mind, they’ve got the score and divinity on their side but we have a better grasp of the rules of practice.”

With that I would like to introduce our two very distinguished panelists, Justice Stanley Mosk from the California Supreme Court who will speak first and Professor Schmeiser of the Faculty of Law of the University of Saskatchewan.

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