

The Cato Institute celebrated its 40th anniversary on the first weekend of May with Sponsors, friends of the Institute, and intellectual leaders in the liberty movement from around the world. The entire event took place at Cato's headquarters in Washington, D.C. On Saturday night, 700 people attended the Institute's 40 Years of Advancing Liberty party, taking up five of the Institute's eight floors.

prospects for liberty seemed grim: communism controlled half the world, stagflation and the Vietnam War were underway, and there was little public knowledge of libertarian ideas. The panel discussion is available online as a Cato Daily Podcast.

Since those early days when Cato's staff fit into a living room, Cato has grown into an influential think tank whose research and commentary engage millions of people. And despite continued challenges to liberty, the world has

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The weekend opened Friday morning with a panel discussion on the history of the Cato Institute. Executive Vice President David Boaz reminisced about the early days of the Institute. (When Cato moved to Washington, D.C., he recalled, the staff operated out of a small one-bedroom apartment on Capitol Hill while waiting for their new building to be ready.) At the time,

seen incredible progress as libertarian ideas have become more mainstream throughout the world.

The weekend featured a wide variety of panels and speakers, including Pulitzer Prize winners George F. Will and Dave Barry, Sen. Rand Paul (R-KY), political satirist P. J. O'Rourke, Director of the Office of Management and Budget

Mick Mulvaney, author Charles Murray, and many others. Speakers discussed not only what Cato has managed to accomplish in its 40 years, but also how to confront new threats and challenges to the future of liberty. Highlights from some of those discussions are on the following pages.

Throughout the weekend, speakers emphasized the unique role that Cato has played in laying the intellectual groundwork for the advancement of libertarian ideas. At the beginning of his



speech (which is featured in the Summer 2017 *Cato's Letter*), George Will deemed Cato the “crown jewel” of the free-market intellectual movement that began organizing in the 1960s. As Cato’s chairman of the board of directors Bob Levy declared, “Without Cato, there would be no wholly consistent voice on behalf of individual liberty and limited government.”

“Connoisseurs of football want to go to Lambeau Field in Green Bay; connoisseurs of college basketball want to go to the Palestra in Philadelphia; connoisseurs of baseball want to go to the corner of Clark and Addison in Chicago to Wrigley Field; and **connoisseurs of liberty** want to go to the corner of Massachusetts and 10th in Washington, D.C.”

— *George F. Will*

CATO40

The Cato Institute's 40th Anniversary Celebration, May 5–7, included two and a half days of speeches and panel discussions from leading thinkers on the past and future of liberty. Seven hundred people attended Saturday night's 40 Years of Advancing Liberty party. The party sprawled over five of the Institute's eight floors, each decorated in a different theme—beginning with the San Francisco cioppino on the lowest level and ending with the rooftop bar in the Ken & Frayda Levy Liberty Garden. **See more pictures on page 18.**





On Cato's Website

Read more about the Cato Institute's 40 years of advancing liberty, including

- A timeline of Cato events from 1977 to now
- A special online forum of essays on the future of liberty from Deirdre McCloskey, Leszek Balcerowicz, Tyler Cowen, and more
- Videos of Cato scholars on television
- A special 40th anniversary video

www.cato.org/Cato40