

## President's Message March 2018

The last month has been about connecting attorneys around the country with the best possible resources for helping injured workers. WILG continued its national tour to reach out to workers' compensation attorneys around the country.

This month started for WILG in snowy Whitefish, MT for its Northwest Regional, March 8-10. Northwestern attorneys, largely from Montana and Washington State, nestled into the beautifully rustic The Lodge at White Fish Lake. The mornings were spent listening to great speakers on topics ranging from practical tips on how to deal with AMA Guides to Causation to technology that will improve your office's productivity. We followed up with afternoons playing in the snow and evenings getting to know each other. Thank you to Tod Doran, Tom Murphy, and Stacey Temple-St. John for arranging a top-notch event.

Also this month, WILG hosted a dinner honoring its many College of Workers' Compensation Lawyers inductees in Nashville, TN. Over 55 WILG members celebrated with a cozy dinner at Merchant's Restaurant.

As they have for over a decade, the WILG Longshore Section met up in historic New Orleans, LA. The Longshore Annual Conference allows attorneys to follow up on hot topics discussed at Loyola's industry-wide Annual Longshore/DBA Conference to find ways to improve outcomes for claimants. A highlight of this year was seeing the mix of longtime Longshore stalwarts, often with more than 30 years in the field, mixing with faces new to the practice. As is always the case, the discussion was lively, and everyone flew home with new ideas on how to help injured longshoreman, boat builders, independent contractors and others covered under the LHWCA and its extensions. Art Brewster, Jeff Winter, Greg Anderson, and Lara Merrigan deserve a big thank you for yet again organizing this event.

While WILG's regional events are over until December, we still have a lot going on. WILG will continue working with states still fighting to beat back workers' compensation reform efforts that hurt injured workers. We are also excited to be hosting a national Constitutional Summit looking at constitutional challenges to workers' compensation reforms that violate the 'Grand Bargain.' Please join us for [Checks & Balances: Advancing a Constitutionally Sound Workers' Compensation System](#), April 18, 2018, in Washington D.C. And the day before, on April 17, we welcome all WILG Members to join us for WILG's Spring Board Meeting and Lobby Day, as we discuss national topics on Capitol Hill.

As always, thank you for all your hard work standing up for injured workers. You are the heart and blood of this great organization.

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