

## May WILG President's Message

An amazing renewal happens in nature every spring. And this spring, WILG underwent its own spring transformation.

Washington D.C.'s cherry blossoms welcomed the Board this last April. We held our annual Cherry Blossom Board Meeting at the Capitol Hill Club, a new and diverse venue for our group. After attending to WILG's business, we then crossed the street and met with various members of Congress. We discussed the need to ensure opioid alternatives are available to workers as part of any fix to the opioid crisis. We discussed the need for better laws related to Medicare. We encouraged Congress to consider setting minimum standards for workers' compensation to stop the race to the bottom. Walking out of these meetings, our members noticed a new enthusiasm about workers' compensation.

Following the Board meetings, WILG hosted its first Constitutional Summit, "Checks & Balances: Advancing a Constitutionally Sound Workers' Compensation System." This Summit included two new things for WILG. First, this was our first CLE exclusively on constitutional challenges. Second, it was a new model for our CLE offerings, where participants join round tables for active learnings.

- The Summit started with a panel of scholars, including Prof. Emily Spieler and Prof. Robert Williams.
- Then a panel of attorneys discussed how to mount successful challenges. This panel included WILG members Vince Quatrini, Jinx Dabney, Bob Burke, Geoff Bichler and Thomas Baumann.
- During a working lunch, each of participant at the summit discussed issues in their states ripe for constitutional challenges.
- Following which, all the participants joined working groups to discuss the particulars of how to mount the challenges in their states. Participants were able to ask questions and work together to get ideas for their own challenges. These groups were led by Thomas Bauman, Bob Burke, Jinx Dabney, Catherine Seabeck and Vince Quatrini.

A big thank you to our summit chairs, committee members and moderators, Judd Pierce, Paolo Longo, Charles Davoli, Micheal Gruber, Catherine Seabeck and Vince Quatrini. Also, thank you to Ed Lazarus who moderated the entire summit and guided WILG through our new CLE roundtables.

You will be noticing some new names around WILG. Kaleigh Conley has decided to pursue work with less travel, and we wish her the best in her new pursuits. Executive Director Jennifer Comer is in the process of finalizing an offer

to a new membership director. There was an amazing set of applicants who were excited to join the WILG team, and the new person will bring a new energy to WILG. Many thanks to Dave Pederson, who has been helping us get everything done during the talent search.

WILG hopes spring has been just as renewing for each of you. We know you work very hard standing up for workers and a little refresh can mean so much to your practice. As always, thank you for being part of WILG's work on behalf of those injured at work.