

WILG Presidents Message

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The best part of WILG is you. You are the leaders in your state on workers' comp issues. You are using your influence to protect workers in your state legislatures. You fight hard for workers who otherwise would have difficulties navigating the workers' comp system. You are the reason WILG exists. Thank you for being a valued member

As I write this I am in surprisingly sunny Michigan, where I am speaking at the Michigan Association for Justice workers' comp CLE. Here, like so many other places around the country, attorneys are dealing with ever-increasing reforms making their client's injury recovery more and more difficult. A couple of their members explained, it is only by joining together can they come up with strategies to combat the changing requirements proving their client's cases. Giving our members the opportunity to collaborate with a broader swath of workers' comp attorneys across the country is essential to WILG's mission.

It is for this reason, WILG will be traveling the country. February and March are packed with wonderful conferences and networking events from Atlanta to Maui and many places between. Each of these events give our members the opportunity to connect with our best resource – our members. Here is our lineup and some highlights already planned:

- [WILG Board Meeting in Maui, Hawaii](#) – February 3, 2018 – Board members are meeting in tropical Maui to get an update from WILG and plan the coming year.
- [Southeast Regional in Atlanta, Georgia](#) – February 25-26, 2018 – Join us in Atlanta as we enjoy some Southern Hospitality. WILG will be kicking off its new commitment to providing you practice management ideas at this conference. I'm excited to hear the presentation on opioids and marijuana, two of the biggest trends WILG sees popping up around the country.
- [Northwest Regional in Whitefish, Montana](#) – March 8-10, 2018 – Morning CLEs, great skiing (or even snow shoeing) in the afternoon and great fellowship in the evening will greet you at this beautiful rustic resort. I'm looking forward to hearing the presentations on the AMA Guides to Causation, including a medical doctor's perspective.
- [Longshore Conference in New Orleans, Louisiana](#) – March 16-17, 2018 – Going on its ninth consecutive year, WILG's Longshore Section is hosting its conference immediately following Loyola's Annual Longshore Conference, an industry-wide CLE. This is the perfect time to discuss all the trends raised at the ALC and learn tricks for helping your Longshore & DBA clients. Plus the food and culture in New Orleans really can't be beat. The highlight of this conference is always the case review, where we discuss theories on how Longshore law is continuing to evolve.
- [WILG Dinner at the ABA & CWCL](#) – March 2, WILG will be hosting a dinner for WILG Members and potential members in Nashville.
- [WILG's 1st Constitutional Summit & Lobby Day in Washington, D.C.](#) – April 17-18, 2018 – This cutting-edge event will include discussions by constitutional scholars, a panel of WILG members who are successfully using constitutional challenges to improve workers' access to benefits and finally working groups giving you the resources to actually mount these challenges in your state. This is exciting because at the recent IAABC (an organization for state workers' comp regulators) there was a discussion about these challenges, and they recognized WILG making these a meaningful counterweight to reform issues hurting workers. If you would like to do

even more, join WILG Board Members in advocating for workers' on Capitol Hill during WILG's lobby day on April 17.

These conferences are the best place to network with your fellow workers' comp attorneys and learn cutting edge information. For example, WILG's research director, Elliott Scheurer, was recently discussing the impact of the tax reform on workers' compensation (particularly misclassification of workers). This kind of analysis is what WILG strives to bring into each of your practices, so you can anticipate these trends and protect your clients better. Come be a part of these exciting discussions.

My guess is one of WILG's great members is the reason you are involved. I know it was for me. Bill Hochberg sent me to my first WILG event my first year in practice. Then Steve Birnbaum kept inviting me to speak. Is there someone you can invite to one of these great events? The more workers' advocates involved with WILG the more benefits we will be able to offer to all of you. As an incentive, WILG offers a 'Join & Attend' special rate. Please feel free to pass along this message to a potential member.

I look forward to seeing everyone over the next few months. Keep on standing up for workers.