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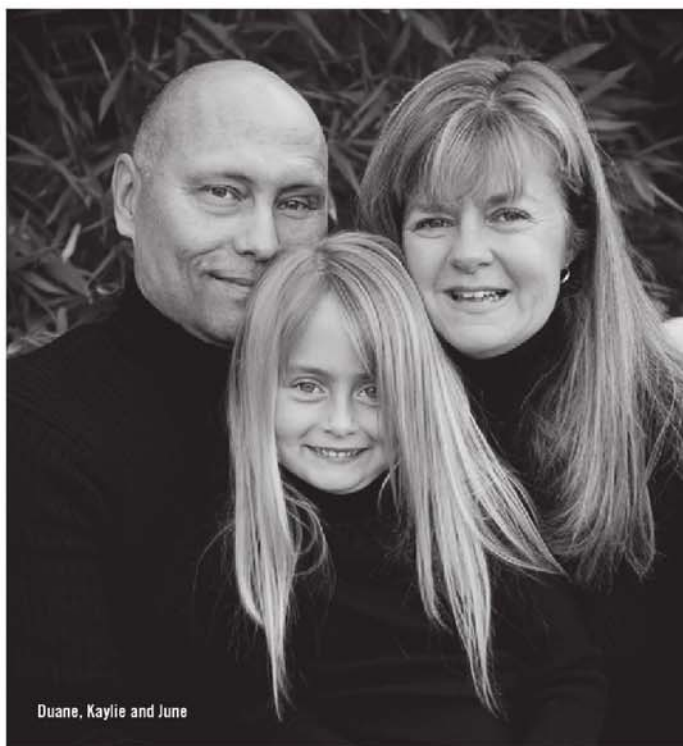
JUNE MCIVOR MAKING A DIFFERENCE

By Heather Hellman

TEN YEARS AGO, ON JULY 10, ONE OF THE GREATEST women's sporting events took place at the Rose Bowl in Pasadena, California. More than 90,000 excited fans came to watch the United States and China square off in the 1999 FIFA Women's World Cup final. Soccer that summer had reached a fever pitch, and the hottest names in sports were Mia Hamm, Julie Foudy, Brandi Chastain and Kristine Lilly. Then President Bill Clinton and his family escalated a frenzied patriotism by attending the match. It was the **BIG TICKET** in sports.

Behind-the-scenes, a relieved June McIvor, Chief Operating Officer & General Counsel of the Organizing Committee, now partner at the law firm Sinsheimer Juhnke Lebens & McIvor in San Luis Obispo, was witnessing what she and her colleagues had planned for more than two years prior to that day. Despite the 100+ degree weather, America and the world were watching as the fairy-tale story unfolded. The dramatic over-time penalty kick finish by Brandi Chastain made headlines all over the world. It was the most dramatic and perfect conclusion to the match and to June McIvor's and her colleagues' efforts.

In hindsight, June was destined for that job. She was the perfect fit, an exemplary professional with extensive legal credentials and a pas-



Duane, Kaylie and June

sion for the game. Her leadership and determination helped pull off one of the biggest challenges in sporting event history – get average Joe America to buy a ticket to a women's soccer match. Yet, such challenges were not completely new to McIvor.

At 10 years of age, June started playing soccer. She loved the game. She played intramurals in junior high and couldn't wait to play in high school. Her gym teacher then dropped a bomb – there was no girls' soccer team at the high school. June soon learned about Title IX, the law of equity in sports teams at educational institutions. When June reached high school, instead of suing under Title IX for a girl's team, she started a club team and began the drive for a varsity team through petitioning, lobbying and writing letters to the press. By her senior year, the school had a varsity team, and June was elected captain.

The Title IX campaign became another stepping stone in the path to becoming an attorney. Initially interested in a career in politics, June earned a degree in political science from Vassar College. She also spent a summer in college as a congressional intern on Capitol Hill in D.C., and then, after graduation, worked on a congressional campaign in Connecticut where the candidate was a bright, ambitious woman who was a state legislator and a lawyer. Although her candidate lost, June saw that a legal education would provide a valuable background for a myriad of career choices. She decided on the University of Virginia Law School (UVa).

While at UVa, June continued to explore politics, mostly in the international realm, serving on the board of the Virginia Journal of International Law and as president of the J.B. Moore International Law Society. However, she also found she enjoyed her corporate and employment law courses. And then, the big firms came recruiting. A stint as a summer associate in the Los Angeles office of Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher, in the days when life as a summer associate was incredibly sweet, provided the means to fulfill her life-long dream to move

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June coaching the Blue Jays

to California. She accepted an offer to join Gibson, Dunn full time after graduation.

While studying for the bar exam, the only place in LA that June could watch the men's 1990 World Cup soccer matches was in a local sports bar that had satellite. Over a beer and a game, a friend mentioned that World Cup was coming to the US in 1994 and that they would need lawyers. A light bulb went off, and June set out to marry her passion for soccer with her legal career. The result is proof of what can come from actively pursuing one's dreams.

By 1992, June was doing pro bono contract work for the 1994 Organizing Committee. Pro bono turned into full-time, with June taking a leave of absence from her firm. She intended to return after the Cup, but was offered the position of General Counsel for the start-up Major League Soccer (MLS). When MLS moved its headquarters to New York, June moved, too, but couldn't resist the opportunity to move back to LA and make history with the 1999 Women's World Cup. Joe America? He and she bought tickets, lots of tickets, selling out major stadiums across the country.

During her tenure with MLS, June met Duane Hall who worked for EDS, a technology consulting firm for MLS. She found out he was from Canada and invited him out to a hockey game. "It was a low-risk ask." They married in 2001, and their daughter Kaylie was born in 2003. June and Duane knew they didn't want to raise Kaylie in L.A. They had visited San Luis Obispo and decided it would be a great community in which to raise a family. June had worked with local attorney John Fricks at Gibson, Dunn, and he told her Sinsheimer, Schiebelhut & Baggett was hiring. In 2003, June joined the firm as a partner leading the business transactions practice. The firm changed its name to Sinsheimer Juhnke Lebens & McIvor in 2006.

June has become a community leader in the five years she has lived here. She is on the Board of Directors for the SLO

Symphony and for the French Hospital Medical Center Foundation, as well as on the Advancement Partners Team of the Community Action Partnership. She is a graduate of Leadership San Luis Obispo Class XIV, a past-Chair of the Chamber of Commerce Ambassador committee, and has served on the Professional Technical Advisory Team for Mission Community Services Corporation. And in a personal full-circle, June is the coach of her daughter's AYSO soccer team.

When asked recently if she missed working in soccer, June replied, "No, I don't. I love working with my current clients. They are building businesses. That's what I did in soccer, and I love being a part of that. I get to be a member of their team, and that's very gratifying. And, I enjoy working with my colleagues. They are terrific people, and their experience in law is outstanding."

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