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Attorney fought cancer, looks to help others now

BY **JORDYN REILAND**
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Jennifer Dolan's roots as an advocate started young.

She grew up working at her father's law firm in Wisconsin as a law clerk and paralegal.

After heading west to begin her legal career in California, Dolan became the executive director of a nonprofit in San Diego which aimed at helping first-generation immigrants gain educational opportunities.

"I was kind of always somewhat of an advocate," Dolan said.

In 2011, when Dolan was 43, she discovered her next cause to champion after she was diagnosed with Stage 2 invasive ductal carcinoma — a form of breast cancer.

By that time, Dolan had moved with her family to the Chicago area, where she worked part-time for a personal-injury firm in the north suburbs.

"It was a good place to work, because the wife of somebody I worked with had just gone through breast cancer so they were supportive of what I was doing," she said. "It was just really

helpful to have this inside knowledge."

As Dolan went through surgery, chemotherapy and radiation, she stopped working for a while. She recalled missing the excitement and energy of working, being around other people, and most of all, making a difference.

Now six years later, Dolan is in remission. She plans to continue helping others who may be facing similar obstacles she did.

Since 2015, Dolan has served as director of marketing for Salvi, Schostok & Pritchard P.C.

At a time where Dolan may have needed an advocate, she continued to be one for others.

"It seems as if everybody knows someone who has been affected by cancer. Despite cancer's prevalence, a lot of questions remain," she said.

Dolan got involved in the Licorice Project, a local nonprofit that serves as a community for newly diagnosed patients, survivors and their families and friends, through a neighbor whose sister had been diagnosed with breast cancer six weeks after her own diagnosis.

She said she wants to share

what she learned with others in hopes of making treatment a better experience.

"So many people are diagnosed with cancer everywhere you go, and I just want to be able to talk to as many people and provide them with any advice to make it easier as they are going through it," she said.

The American Cancer Society estimates that this year about 252,710 new cases of invasive breast cancer will be diagnosed in women. Currently, the average risk of a woman in the U.S. developing breast cancer sometime in her life is about 12 percent.

Dolan said in speaking with clients, her past experiences have helped her better understand where people are coming from and what they might be going through.

"I was fortunate because I had fantastic care. I knew who to go to and who to talk to. In a lot of cases there's a failure to diagnose or a misdiagnosis," she said.

"I felt very lucky that I was able to get really good treatment because I could lean on people."

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