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Jim Koliatsis and Ryan McCain represented KMG Private Wealth Management as they were honored at LPL Financials Summit conference, an event for the highest tier of advisors at LPL Financial throughout the country. They, along with their wives, stayed at the Fairmont in Monte Carlo, Monaco located on the Monaco Grand Prix's famous hairpin turn, and next to the world famous Grand Casino. "It's not just Jim and myself, we have built a team that we can rely on, allowing us to earn recognition and share in these honors with our wives." Ryan added, "There is no better place to show our wives our appreciation than Monte Carlo, Monaco."



**CLIENT SPOTLIGHT:**  
Meet Sophia Koliatsis  
and Kristin McCain



*Our client profile in this issue of the KMG newsletter is Sophia Koliatsis and Kristin McCain.*

## Sophia Koliatsis & Kristin McCain

Many of us grew up hearing the saying: "Behind every great man is a great woman." That same adage could be said about the team at KMG Private Wealth Management.

Clients are familiar with managing partners Jim Koliatsis and Ryan McCain. But we thought it would be fun to get to know the people behind the scenes – Jim's wife, Sophia Koliatsis, and Ryan's wife, Kristin McCain.

### Sophia Koliatsis

Sophia was born in Chicago and raised in Lake Forest. She and Jim have been married for 12 years and have two sons, Georgio, 9, and Yianni, 7. Sophia worked in life insurance management before choosing to become a stay at home mom. These days it's all about the kids. "They keep me very busy," she says. "Every stage of a child's life is a different kind of busy."

Georgio and Yianni study piano, participate in the Boy Scouts, swim and play hockey. "They're busy to the right point," she says. "But education is the number one priority for us. When it comes to sports, they take it one activity at a time."

Sophia and Jim, who are first-generation Greeks, travel with their children to Greece, to visit extended family and retrace their



roots. In addition to attending elementary school, the boys attend Hellenic American Academy twice a week at night, to learn more about the Greek culture.

"We try to instill the importance of diversity, and it's important for our children to know the culture and heritage," Sophia says. "It helps them to communicate with their grandparents. They've been to Greece twice and they love the cafes and the Mediterranean Sea." The family hopes to make a return trip next year.

Sophia spends a considerable amount of time volunteering at Cherokee Elementary School and the Hellenic American Academy. She spent more than 200 hours over four months organizing the school's library; has served as PTO president, she is a classroom parent and classroom photographer, and has helped with various fundraising activities. "It's fun working with the school," she says. "It's another way to give back." Sophia is also the advancement chair and secretary for Pack 48 Boy Scouts.

Sophia Koliatsis and Kristin McCain (cont.)



No one is more appreciative of Sophia's accomplishments than her husband. "As a husband and father of two boys, I know I would not have made it this far both personally and professionally if it weren't for the full support and encouragement of Sophia," says Jim. "She takes care of the whole family and by doing so allows me to focus on work. I attribute the majority of my successful marriage and business growth to her."

For Sophia, the feeling is mutual. "I'm very proud of both Jim and Ryan," she says. "They work well together and are very supportive of each other. They're very logical in their decision making; there's a reason they took the steps they did to start their business."



**Kristin McCain**

Like Sophia, children and volunteering are close to Kristin McCain's heart.

Kristin and Ryan have been married for nine years and have three children – Maddy, 7, Jackson, 5, and Lulu 3. The children are all involved in various activities. In fact, Jackson started playing travel hockey this season.

Kristin, a native of Des Moines, Iowa, has always had a love for communications. In high school, she participated in yearbook and newspaper, as well as being a state-qualifying swimmer. She graduated from Denison University in Granville, Ohio, where she majored in English and Communications. "I ended up in marketing and research," says Kristin. "I worked for two PR agencies downtown and the University of Chicago Press."

These days Kristin is busy at home with the children, and volunteering for various nonprofit organizations including Spirit of 67 Foundation, Women's Board of Northwestern Lake Forest Hospital, Sheridan Elementary School, Gorton Children's Drop-In Center Parent Board President and Lake Forest Collaborative for Environmental Leadership, among others.

The Women's Board of Northwestern Lake Forest Hospital is a worthy cause, Kristin says, because her and Ryan's strong belief in preventative medicine, which the community hospital provides.

Openlands is another organization that Kristin gives of her time. Openlands protects the natural and open spaces of northeastern Illinois and the surrounding region to ensure cleaner air and water, protect natural habitats and wildlife. Kristin recently spearheaded their popular "Story Time with Santa" event and will be co-chairing the organization's new "Cattails & Cocktails" fundraiser in May. "I'm passionate about open land space," she says. "Being from Iowa and living in the suburbs, I know the importance of nature and open space for children. There are many educational benefits to be gained from being outside."

It was from a personal experience that Ryan and Kristin found themselves lending a hand to another nonprofit, Imerman Angels, a Chicago-based organization that provides one-on-one support for cancer survivors and caregivers. Six years ago, Ryan was diagnosed with testicular cancer shortly before his 30th birthday. After three major surgeries and chemotherapy treatment, Ryan is now cancer free.

"Looking back it was a very scary time," says Kristin. "Our marriage was tested early. We had so many questions about what was going to happen. We both have strong faith and didn't allow ourselves to think that it might turn out badly, but it was always a possibility. We were blessed to have strong support from friends, family and colleagues who were amazing. It puts everything in perspective."

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"We've been through our share of ups and downs, and Kristin has been so supportive every step of the way," says Ryan. "She keeps things together, both as a mom and a supportive spouse. I've been able to overcome both personal and professional challenges thanks, in large part, to having Kristin in my corner."

Like Sophia, Kristin has seen the results of Ryan and Jim's hard work. "I have complete respect, and am in awe of how determined and driven they are," she says. "Starting their own company was the best decision possible. They bring different characteristics to the table, but they couldn't do it without each other. They're a nice balance."

Recently, Ryan and Kristin celebrated their ninth anniversary by traveling to Mexico with their good friends, Jim and Sophia, who also happen to be godparents to their youngest child. "We've been friends for more than 15 years," says Kristin. "We've been through a lot together."

"It was wonderful to have opportunity to explore and take time together," Sophia says. "It gave us all time to reflect on the friendship that we've developed. I can't wait to see where it goes from here."

