

THE PRIMERUS 180

# 180

SPRING 2013

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## Young Lawyers Section



Richard Thayer, Chair

As the Chairperson of the Primerus Young Lawyers Section (YLS), I am honored to have this opportunity to tell you about our group. The YLS was formed in August 2010. Since that time, the YLS has been successful in developing and maintaining a significant and consistent presence among the general membership of Primerus, while making great strides in accomplishing its mission. That mission is to facilitate and offer increased networking opportunities among the young lawyers of Primerus while also assisting its members in becoming true Primerus lawyers – lawyers that emulate the “Six Pillars” of Primerus.

Since its inception, membership in the YLS has increased to more than 190 lawyers. Many of these members will be in attendance at the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual YLS Bootcamp, which is scheduled for May 16-18, 2013, at the Gaylord Opryland Resort & Spa in Nashville, Tennessee. Instructors/presenters for this year’s event are still being finalized. However, some of the most skilled trial practitioners within Primerus have already agreed to provide us with the benefit of their knowledge and experience.

In addition to sponsoring its annual Bootcamp, YLS continues to publish its own quarterly publication, *Stare Decisis*, and sponsors numerous webinars each year that are focused on assisting YLS members in the development of their law practice. If you have not yet considered becoming involved in the YLS, please visit our webpage at [www.primerus.com/young-lawyers-section.htm](http://www.primerus.com/young-lawyers-section.htm). As you can see, there will be numerous opportunities to get involved in the near future.

For more specific information regarding YLS membership, please feel free to email me at [rmthayer@csattorneys.com](mailto:rmthayer@csattorneys.com). In the meantime, I hope you will consider joining us in the “Music City” on May 16-18, 2013 (For more information and/or registration details, please check the Primerus website at [www.primerus.com](http://www.primerus.com)).

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## 2013 Member Firm Locations



### United States

Alabama  
Arkansas  
Arizona  
California  
Colorado  
Connecticut  
District of Columbia  
Florida  
Georgia  
Hawaii  
Iowa  
Illinois  
Indiana  
Kansas  
Kentucky  
Louisiana  
Massachusetts  
Maryland  
Maine  
Michigan  
Minnesota  
Missouri  
Mississippi  
North Carolina  
North Dakota  
Nebraska  
New Jersey  
Nevada  
New York  
Ohio  
Oklahoma  
Oregon  
Pennsylvania  
South Carolina  
Tennessee  
Texas  
Utah  
Virginia  
Washington  
Wisconsin  
West Virginia

### Argentina

Australia  
Austria  
Belgium  
Brazil  
British Virgin Islands  
Canada  
Chile  
China  
Colombia  
Cyprus  
Egypt  
England  
Finland  
France  
Germany  
Greece  
Guatemala  
Hungary  
India  
Israel  
Italy  
Japan  
Luxembourg  
Malta  
Mexico  
Nigeria  
Panama  
Portugal  
Singapore  
South Korea  
Spain  
Switzerland  
Taiwan  
The Netherlands  
Turkey

## Primerus Community Service

*The food bank program is one of many ways Christian & Small shows its commitment to community service, encouraging their employees to be “non-stop advocates for our clients, for our community and for each other,” according to their firm’s vision.*

The checkout clerks at Publix grocery store in Birmingham, Alabama, have seen some strange things in Julie Holderfield’s cart.

Thirty boxes of cereal, 24 cans of Chef Boyardee meals, dozens of boxes of oatmeal, and the list goes on.

“I get some looks,” said Holderfield, a legal assistant at Primerus member firm Christian & Small. “But when I tell them it’s all for a food bank, the employees get very excited about it.”

Holderfield is one of dozens of Christian & Small employees participating in the firm’s effort to fill the shelves at the Community Food Bank of Central Alabama, located in Birmingham. It started last fall as an invitation for employees to contribute one item per week to the food bank and has evolved into an organized, firm-wide program with payroll deductions, couponing and truckloads of donations.

Here’s how it works: Employees pledge any amount per week (pledges currently range from \$5 to \$50) to be withdrawn from their paycheck. The money is deposited into a fund established by the firm. Holderfield and Janna Bearden, both legal assistants at the firm who have developed a skill

in using coupons to realize huge savings on groceries and personal care items, then go shopping with the goal of doubling the money, or better.

So far, Holderfield and Bearden have bought \$2,625.08 worth of products for just \$877.40. They use websites and the Sunday paper for most of their coupons. In the first month,

January, they had to make two trips to the food bank because all the goods wouldn’t fit in the runner’s sport utility vehicle. The first load was 461 pounds and the second was 205 pounds.

“I don’t have a whole lot of money, but I can give my time and effort,” said Holderfield. “I just thought of it as something I can do for someone else. Couponing is a skill that I can use to help people.”

Duncan Y. Manley, a partner at Christian & Small, said the firm plans to continue the program as long as there is interest. “With the economy being what it is, I thought there had to be a lot of people who were turning to food banks for assistance and it occurred to me we could do something to help,” Manley said.

And it is helping, according to Larry Logan, the food bank’s executive director. “If every business in Birmingham did this, we would be in great shape. That’s what



Spent \$45.33, saved \$107.80

it’s all about – trying to get more bang for your buck,” Logan said. “The community working together is such a tremendous asset to us.”

In 2012, the food bank distributed 7.7 million pounds of food to more than 460,000 people.

The food bank program is one of many ways Christian & Small shows its commitment to community service, encouraging their employees to be “non-stop advocates for our clients, for our community and for each other,” according to their firm’s vision. Among the other organizations they support are: three area schools, Cornerstone Schools of Alabama, Holy Family Cristo Rey High School and Restoration Academy; The Literacy Council of Central Alabama and Teach for America. You can read more about Christian & Small’s work in the community at [nonstopadvocates.com](http://nonstopadvocates.com). **P**

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### *Community service is one of the Six Pillars of Primerus.*

Primerus President and Founder John C. Buchanan said if Primerus members would like to unite and work together on a worldwide community service project, Primerus will offer financial and support resources. If your firm has an idea about a project or is interested in participating, please contact Primerus Senior Vice President of Services Chad Sluss at [csluss@primerus.com](mailto:csluss@primerus.com).