

September 2022

Paradigm

President's Podium:

A family affair

The cost of freedom

**Attorney touts belief
in the team approach**

**Primerus Foundation
aims to attract strong
broad-based support**

P PRIMERUS

The World's Finest Law Firms

The Primerus Paradigm

September 2022



About Our Cover

The familiar blue and yellow colors of the Ukrainian flag have been a symbol of freedom and democracy since the country declared its independence in 1992. Now, 30 years later, those cherished liberties and freedoms have come under attack from Russian invaders, casting a menacing red pall over a country that longs for democratic rule.

Articles in this publication are intended for informational purposes only and do not convey or constitute legal advice.

Publisher & Editor in Chief: **John C. Buchanan**
Managing Editor: **Chris Dawe**

© 2022 International Society of Primerus Law Firms



President's Podium:

A grand ceremony gave full weight to demands of the legal profession

page 4



What are the warning signs to the loss of our liberties?

page 6



Every lawyer in Primerus shares a commitment to a set of common values known as the Six Pillars:

- Integrity
- Excellent Work Product
- Reasonable Fees
- Continuing Legal Education
- Civility
- Community Service

For a full description of these values, please visit primerus.com.

IN THIS ISSUE

Disjointed world can easily fall prey to disinformation's allure
page 10

Preserve and protect
Atlanta law firm plays key role in upholding the right to vote
page 12

Time-tested
Michigan litigation firm built its solid foundation on trust
page 16

Reaching out
New Primerus Foundation aims to attract broad-based support
page 20

Connectivity
Attorney sports a belief in total team approach
page 22

Case involving an ill-fated prison escape left mark on law student
page 26

Power source
Innovative spirit moves Canadian attorney in a number of directions in Asia over 24 years
page 28

Young E3
Nonprofit organization gives 'kickstart' for young builders
page 30

COMMUNITY SERVICE

Campsite
New Jersey attorney has special place in his heart for the deep South
page 32

Lake Martin, Alabama
page 35

COMMUNITY SERVICE

Connecting with colleagues – and the community at large
page 36

Primerus Member Law Firms
page 41

5 December 2022

Global Day of Service

Every year on December 5th, Primerus staff and members organize a worldwide day of volunteer service to give back to their local communities. This is one of the many ways Primerus firms demonstrate “Good People Who Happen to be Good Layers”.



President's Podium

John C. Buchanan



A grand ceremony gave full weight to demands of the legal profession

In early June, my wife Sheila and I had the good fortune of attending a very special occasion – the investiture of U.S. District Judge Jane M. Beckering, a University of Michigan alumna who earned her law degree from the University of Wisconsin.

Befitting such a ceremony, the event was held at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Museum in Grand Rapids, a city in the western part of Michigan that was home to the 38th president of the United States.

The museum, which opened in 1982, serves as a magnificent shrine to the late president who throughout his political career – as a Congressman, House Minority Leader, and Vice President – was known as a bridge-builder and consummate public servant.

With that backdrop, the investiture served as an opportunity to honor and celebrate one of the newest members of the federal bench, a former trial attorney who began her judicial career as a Court of Appeals judge in Michigan before earning the lifetime

appointment to the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Michigan.

She was deemed worthy of such a position after undergoing a rigorous personal and professional vetting by the Senate Judiciary Committee, which is the gatekeeper for all federal judicial nominees. Its job, quite succinctly, is to ensure that only the finest judicial candidates are brought before the U.S. Senate for a confirmation vote.

She gained Senate approval last December, much to the delight of her parents.

My wife and I.

Needless to say, it was a proud parental moment for the two of us. It came somewhat on the heels of another swearing-in ceremony that we attended in the fall of 2020 when our son, Rob Buchanan, was installed as the president of the State Bar of Michigan.

His role was in a volunteer capacity, a one-year assignment to assist in promoting improvements in the administration of justice and advancement in jurisprudence, improving relations between the legal profession and the public, and promoting the interests of the legal profession in the state.

His task was a tall order, which demanded much of his time over the course of a year as he crisscrossed the state, attending meetings, delivering speeches, developing strategies, and sacrificing plenty for the good of the State Bar.

His sister – and our daughter – will have even greater responsibilities as a federal judge, where she will hear cases in which the stakes are especially high, presiding over matters that infringe upon life, liberty, and property for those who appear before her.

In her role, she will be wise to remember the words of another Michigander, a former chief justice of the state Supreme Court, the late Thomas Brennan.

Brennan, who died in 2018 at the age of 89, was a pragmatist and a wordsmith, a man who liked to wax poetic about the beauty of the law.

“Ours is a profession deeply imbued with the pathos of human life; the laughter, the tears, the conflicts, the hurts, the pain and suffering of physical injuries, and the wrenching of emotional traumas”

**— former Chief Justice of the Michigan Supreme Court,
the late Thomas Brennan**

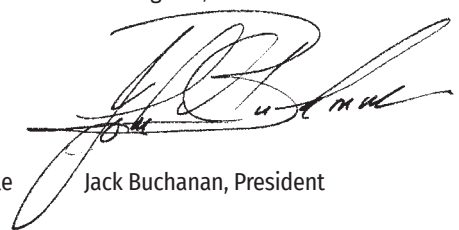
“Ours is a profession deeply imbued with the pathos of human life; the laughter, the tears, the conflicts, the hurts, the pain and suffering of physical injuries, and the wrenching of emotional traumas,” Brennan said in a 2008 speech before a law school audience.

“From the promulgation of Hammurabi’s Code and the Ten Commandments handed down to Moses, to a thousand years of common law decisions, to the inspired words of the American Constitution, the law has been concerned with trying to guide humankind to act according to right reason, to make sense of the often contradictory, puzzling events and forces that buffet people as irresistibly as the hurricanes that swamp our coastal cities,” he said.

And as attorneys, Brennan added, “you are exporting agents of change for the better; men and women in the sacred traditions of our noble profession who will truly make a difference with their lives.”

His message is particularly meaningful today, when we have a golden opportunity to make society better, to lead by example as we search for common ground and a much higher purpose in life.

Best regards,



Jack Buchanan, President



What are the warning signs to the loss of our liberties?

By Tom Kirvan



et freedom ring.

So, what's the origin of that statement?

The enduring metaphor is one of the most memorable lines in the patriotic hymn, "My Country 'Tis of Thee," written by seminary student Samuel F. Smith in 1832. More than a century later, President Franklin D. Roosevelt made it a recurring theme when outlining the nation's objectives during World War II in terms of the "Four Freedoms" – not only freedom of speech and religion, but also freedom from want and fear.

It was given new life by Martin Luther King, Jr. in the summer of 1963 in his "I Have a Dream Speech" that captivated a nation and was one of the defining moments of the civil rights movement.

It now echoes world-wide in the wake of the deadly Russian invasion of Ukraine, a neighboring nation that adopted the tenets of democracy in the 1990s following the collapse of the Soviet Union.

Whether Ukraine, and a host of other countries around the globe, remain free from the grip of totalitarian rule appears destined to be an unanswered question for years to come unless a desire for democratic governance is reasserted.

America's relationship with freedom is complicated, a fact that has mystified historians for more than two centuries and continues to puzzle some of the nation's greatest thinkers to this day.

The most prosperous country in the world was conceived in liberty and dedicated to the proposition that all men

are created equal, yet for nearly a century was heavily dependent on slave labor and its inherent injustices.

Those inequalities are so steeped in American society today that certain segments have ignited debate on the concept of critical race theory, questioning its importance and displaying an unwillingness to acknowledge a country's racist history and how it impacts the present.

Which may partly explain how close the U.S. came to autocratic rule in recent years when a violent attempt to overturn the results of freely-held presidential election threatened the very existence of American democracy and the fundamental principles underlying the rule of law.

The events of January 6, 2021 placed America – and scores of other democratic nations – squarely in the crosshairs of those pushing autocratic agendas, and should serve as a cautionary tale for freedom lovers around the world.

Shelley Inglis, executive director of the University of Dayton Human Rights Center, said as much in a searing essay in *The Conversation* titled, "So you want to be an autocrat? Here's the 10-point checklist."

It's a top 10 list that should send shivers down the spine of every supporter of democratic rule, said Inglis, who spent more than 15 years with the United Nations, advising governments and democracy advocates on how to strengthen the rule of law, human rights, and democratic governance.

"In the old days, autocrats often came to or retained power through military

coups and violent crackdowns," Inglis wrote. "Now the shift from democracy to autocracy is slower and less obvious."

"While control over security forces remains essential in the autocratic playbook, overt strong-arm tactics aren't," said Inglis. "I've learned that today's leaders with authoritarian tendencies aren't just interested in using brute force to rise to power. They are smarter, more resilient, and can adjust their methods to take account of new developments, like modern technologies and a globalized economy."

Here are some of the "newest tactics used by would-be authoritarians," according to Inglis:

- 1. Extend executive power** – "The mainstay of today's authoritarianism is strengthening your power while simultaneously weakening government institutions, such as parliaments and judiciaries, that provide checks and balances."
- 2. Repress dissent and citizen efforts to hold government accountable** – "Restrictions on funding and other bureaucratic limitations silence the ability of the people to hold accountable those in power."
- 3. Capture elite support and, when needed, demonize them too** – "Economic growth and prosperity are critical to retaining elite or oligarchical support for autocratic leaders."

More than a century later, President Franklin D. Roosevelt made it a recurring theme when outlining the nation's objectives during World War II in terms of the "Four Freedoms" – not only freedom of speech and religion, but also freedom from want and fear.

It was given new life by Martin Luther King, Jr. in the summer of 1963 in his "I Have a Dream Speech" that captivated a nation and was one of the defining moments of the civil rights movement.

I HAVE
MARTIN LU
THE MARCH
FOR JOBS
AUGU

4. Appeal to populism and nationalism

– "Most would-be autocratic leaders exploit existing tensions within complex societies in order to solidify their support," most notably in places where "fears of migrants and refugees have fueled resurgent nationalism."

5. Control information at home;

misinform abroad – "While propaganda and state-owned media is not new, control of modern technology and

information has become a key battleground."

6. Cripple the opposition – "Damaging the opposition parties, while not completely destroying them, is now essential. Infiltrating parties, co-opting members, and using pure scare tactics are some possible actions in the autocrat's playbook."

7. Covert election manipulation – "Mostly gone are the days of vote-rigging and vote-buying as a path to power

...new tactics include hampering media access, gerrymandering, changing election and voter eligibility rules, and placing allies on electoral commissions."

8. Play the emergency card – "Some autocratic leaders continue to use traditional strong-arm tactics, like declaring states of emergency, to enable further repression. Since 2001, using the threat of terrorism or



A DREAM
MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.
ON WASHINGTON
AND FREEDOM
AUGUST 28, 1963

organized crime has played well for furthering autocratic rule.”


9. Extend your model and influence –

“Today’s autocratic rulers are not keeping to themselves. Using the international stage and their growing economic prowess, countries like China are spreading their influence through funding initiatives such as the Belt and Road to build infrastructure across Asia to Europe.”

10. Learn and share – “Characterized as ‘autocratic learning’ by scholars, national authorities from Russia, China, Iran, Venezuela, Belarus, Syria and other places are developing and exchanging models for containing threats of social movements and the so-called ‘color revolutions.’”

Inglis acknowledged that “some experts claim the world is at a ‘tipping point’ where decreasing faith in democracy will drive the dominance of autocracy globally.” Those threats became even more real with the

January 6 insurrection at the U.S. Capitol and the ongoing Russian invasion of Ukraine.

“The social movements of today inspire some hope that civil society – a key ingredient for democracy – though under pressure, is fighting the trend,” Inglis wrote. “Nonetheless, strengthening democracy across the globe will prove impossible if even the most established democracies today fall prey to the tactics of would-be autocrats.” 

The background features a blue wireframe grid that forms a 3D landscape with various peaks and valleys. Several glowing blue arcs of light curve across the scene, originating from a bright point on the ground and extending towards the horizon. The overall aesthetic is futuristic and digital.

Disjointed world can easily fall prey to disinformation's allure

By Tom Kirvan

Evidently, it's good to be bad. Several years ago, in an article appearing in the *Harvard Business Review*, author Peer Fiss offered a "Short History of Golden Parachutes."

It was interesting reading, tracing the origin of the corporate practice and how far off the rails it has gone since its launch more than 40 years ago. The lesson that Fiss, a business professor at the University of Southern California, spelled out is that bad behavior and/or poor performance sometimes pays off to the proverbial nth degree in the corporate, political, academic, and sports worlds.

"While executives have come to see parachutes as an expected part of many current pay packages, investors and the public still tend to largely see them as unwarranted and disproportionate payoffs to executives who walk away and leave their firms to pick up the pieces," wrote Fiss.

The parachute payoffs, he said, are just one offshoot of the insidious nature of disinformation, an age-old practice that came into full view during the 2016 U.S. presidential campaign when "false" became "true" thanks to sophisticated online campaigns by a series of bad actors bent on deceiving a gullible public.

It has gained greater traction on right-wing talk radio outlets, where hosts and callers continue to spread false claims of a "stolen" presidential election in 2020, even though all those conspiracy theories have been debunked by the courts and election officials across the country.

Not surprisingly, Russia for years has taken the worldwide lead in spreading disinformation, according to a report published last year in *Business Insider* magazine.

"Russian actors targeted specific geographic regions and swing states to spread propaganda against Democratic nominee Hillary Clinton and sow division among Americans," wrote Meira Gebel in the January 15, 2021 article that outlined the role that various social media giants unwittingly played in the campaign.

"Unsubstantiated rumors, gossip, or claims of grand conspiracy can also count as pieces of disinformation," Gebel wrote.

"While both misinformation and disinformation can deceive audiences, the distinction is that disinformation is intentionally, maliciously deceptive," said Gebel. "Both forms often involve widespread dissemination, whether or not the person sharing is aware of the inaccuracies."

In the article, social scientist Brian Southwell noted that "disinformation is not a 21st century phenomenon." Far from it, he said.

"When you've got a lack of correct information, and an anxious population with a lot at stake, disinformation is going to flourish," said Southwell, director at RTI International, a nonprofit research institute. "When people are anxious and looking for answers, somebody is going to provide those answers and capitalize on it financially or politically."

He said that information should be considered suspicious "if it seems too good to be true" and "if it plays to your own implicit biases" in a way designed to provoke an emotional response.

"Always try to figure out where the information is coming from," Southwell said in the article. "Do you know the original source of the information? Is it listed clearly? Can you clearly tell what organization is responsible for this? I think having people slow down and do a quick search to see if you can find other information sources that might verify that information, that goes a long way."

Disinformation, of course, has been weaponized by the Internet, social media,

and the rise of fringe political groups that suddenly have a worldwide platform. In some quarters it has been termed "the firehouse of falsehoods." How best to make sense of it all?


Reporter Richard Stengel, in a June 9 article appearing in *The New York Times*, offered a "smart starter set of books on disinformation that help explain its history, its techniques, its effects and how to combat it."

Among the selections:

1. **"Active Measures:** The Secret History of Disinformation and Political Warfare," by Thomas Ridd (Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2020);
2. **"The Misinformation Age:** How False Beliefs Spread," by Caitlin O'Connor and James Owen Weatherall (*Yale University Press*, 2018);
3. **"Cheap Speech:** How Disinformation Poisons Our Politics – and How to Cure It," by Richard L. Hasen (*Yale University Press*, 2022);
4. **"The Revenge of Power:** How Autocrats Are Reinventing Politics for the 21st Century," by Moises Naim (*St. Martin's Press*, 2022).

"Disinformation isn't new – it's been around as long as information," Stengel wrote in *The New York Times* article. "But, today, disinformation seems to be everywhere. With the instantaneous and mass distribution of user-friendly content on social media, there are no gatekeepers and no barriers to entry. Anyone can create disinformation, share it, promote it. We're all accomplices. We're all victims."

And the casualties can be widespread, Stengel said.

"The largest funnel of disinformation is domestic – yes, extremist and nationalist groups, but also your Uncle Harry. Especially your Uncle Harry. Disinformation flourishes in times of uncertainty and divisiveness. But disinformation doesn't create divisions – it widens them." 

Preserve and protect

The background of the entire page is a dark blue color. Overlaid on this background are several stylized, white line-art hands. The hands are drawn with simple, continuous lines, giving them a sketchy, hand-drawn appearance. They are positioned in various orientations, with some pointing upwards and others downwards, creating a sense of movement and protection.

Atlanta law firm plays key role in upholding the right to vote

By Tom Kirvan



R

emember the hanging chads? The tiny slivers of paper,

somewhat incredulously, became a focal point of controversy surrounding the 2000 presidential election between George W. Bush and Al Gore, setting the stage for the United States Supreme Court to ultimately decide the outcome of the race for a seat in the Oval Office.

The chads now are just a footnote in the nation's election history, although a whole new crop of voting issues have made legal life exceedingly interesting in recent years for the Elections and Voting Team at Krevolin & Horst, LLC.

The Atlanta-based law firm, which continues to make a name for itself in protecting voters' rights in Georgia, began its election law practice in the run-up to the midterm races of 2018, according to K&H partners Joyce Gist Lewis and Adam Sparks. The move came at a time when voter suppression efforts were gaining steam in states across the nation and a flood of "dark money" was being spent on attack ads in campaigns at every election level.

Over the past four years, K&H has "represented voting rights advocacy groups, Democratic committees, and individual candidates and campaigns in litigation in Georgia's state and federal courts, including in suits seeking relief against systems and practices that restrict lawful voters from casting votes that count," according to Lewis and Sparks.

On its website, the law firm spells out its commitment to "ensuring the sanctity of our elections" despite ongoing efforts to undermine the voting process.

"The right to vote, to cast a ballot as intended, and have that ballot counted as cast, with a meaningful result, will not protect itself," the firm cautioned. "This becomes more difficult as technology and politics collide at ever-increasing speed.

"When voters, communities, associations or organizations voice a concern about election practices, we are prepared to investigate and represent," the K&H firm promised. "Our lawyers work to ensure that data, security, technology, equipment, and oversight informing voter registration, voting practices and elections personnel conform to our civil rights and responsibilities in the spirit of our state and our nation."

Sparks, a Georgia native who earned his master's and law degrees from Columbia University, was at the forefront of the firm's election law practice, successfully taking on a pro bono case before the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit.

"There was no such practice at the firm before that case," said Sparks, a *magna cum laude* graduate of the University of Georgia. "It served as a starting point for building a practice in that area."

The practice's workload increased markedly as the presidential campaign began to heat up during the 2020 primaries, particularly after a decisive Biden victory in the neighboring state of South Carolina in June of that COVID year.

"Our involvement kicked into high gear in February and March of that year, not too long before the pandemic started," said Sparks. "We served as campaign counsel for the 2020 U.S. Senate race in Georgia and then acted as local counsel in the state for the national firms working on behalf of the Biden presidential campaign. By

the summer of 2020, we had added a new dimension to our practice, which continued to grow as the election drew near."

In all, Lewis and Sparks served as Georgia counsel for the Biden campaign and the state's Democratic presidential electors in opposing a dozen lawsuits that sought to exclude millions of votes and to delay the vote certification process. Their ultimate success in defending those suits, which began in late 2020 and continued into 2021, validated a quote from the late civil rights activist John Lewis, a longtime Congressman from Georgia before his death in 2020.

"Your vote is precious, almost sacred," Congressman Lewis once said. "It is the most powerful nonviolent tool we have to create a more perfect union."

Such words continue to inspire Sparks and Lewis, and were at the heart of a *Georgia Law Review* article they wrote in the summer of 2021 titled, "In Defense of the Foundation Stone: Deterring Post-election Abuse of the Legal Process." The article came in the wake of a ruling by a federal judge in Michigan imposing sanctions against attorneys found to have abused the judicial process in order to overturn the results of the 2020 presidential election.

In the article, Lewis and Sparks noted that the pandemic "upended the American way of life and revolutionized the way we vote" for the health and safety of all concerned.

"Record voter turnout in 2020, including among first-time voters and voters of color, was met with unprecedented legal challenges seeking to nullify millions of votes," Lewis and Sparks indicated. "A



Attorney Adam Sparks, a veteran of two federal clerkships, joined Krevolin & Horst in 2016 and co-founded the firm's elections law practice. He and his wife Stefanie, also an attorney, have two young children.

coordinated effort to amplify groundless accusations of voting fraud . . . was advanced in multiple states through scores of lawsuits. Although the cases themselves were dismissed as lacking merit and as failing to state actionable claims, their impact upon public confidence in free and fair elections was palpable and the resources of the courts and defending parties were severely taxed.”

To deter the filing of similar lawsuits in the future, the K&H attorneys said that

there must be a legal price to pay for such actions.

“As a self-regulating profession, lawyers and courts have both the tools and the duty to hold litigants and their counsel accountable for unethical and unfounded attacks on votes after they have been cast,” wrote Sparks and Lewis. “Rule 11 sanctions, statutory remedies, and other consequences must be employed when litigants baselessly challenge election results, or the courts will find themselves regularly enlisted in efforts to confer false

legitimacy on misinformation campaigns. Firm, fair accountability in the present is crucial to deter those who would use litigation to poison the democratic well in the future.”

The post-election legal challenges, said Sparks, are just “one more problematic weed to be rooted out of the garden.”

Lewis, a *magna cum laude* alumna of Wake Forest University who earned her law degree from Georgia State University,



Attorney Joyce Gist Lewis began her legal career in 1999 and was on the “short-list” of nominees in 2018 for an opening on the Georgia Court of Appeals. She and her husband Jim, also a lawyer, have two children.


agrees, calling nationwide efforts to reduce access to absentee balloting and to limit and restrict voter registration “a step back” in American society.

Lewis, who joined K&H in 2018 with a practice focused on complex commercial litigation, gradually became involved in the election battleground scene.

“The first work I really did in the election law area was on behalf of Stacey Abrams in early 2019 after she became

the target of an investigation into her 2018 gubernatorial campaign,” Lewis said, noting that the case against the voting rights activist has twice made its way to the Georgia Court of Appeals. “I’ve found my work in the election area to be rewarding and interesting, since it touches upon a number of constitutional law and First Amendment issues.”

Like Sparks, Lewis said she has had a longtime interest in politics and is gratified to work with colleagues dedicated to fulfilling a worthwhile mission.

“We have an incredibly talented team here who believe in the importance of the fundamental right to vote, and how crucial it is in our democracy,” Lewis said. “We all feel a true sense of responsibility to make sure that our elections are free and fair, and that no artificial barriers are erected in their way.” 



Time-tested

Michigan litigation firm built its solid foundation on trust

By Tom Kirvan

He grew up in an era when a handshake meant something, where it could seal a friendship or an agreement that would stand the test of time.

Fortunately, in the world of Grand Rapids attorney Lee Silver it still does as one of the founding partners of Silver & Van Essen, P.C., a commercial litigation firm created 22 years ago.

Silver and his longtime partner, Doug Van Essen, became fast friends while working at the Clary Nantz law firm

in Grand Rapids in the mid-1980s and remained in close touch even after going their separate ways when the future of the firm became in doubt.

“We always stayed in touch, getting together for lunch practically every week,” said Silver. “We developed a real bond over all those years of working together and we remained good friends even after we no longer worked together.”

So much so that years later when the two decided to form their own commercial litigation boutique firm to “fill a void” in the local legal community, Silver and Van Essen were more than comfortable by just shaking hands on the deal.

“We have never had any type of written partnership agreement or contract,” said Silver. “There is a strong element of trust in our relationship, as friends and as law partners.”

Such trust, Silver admitted, is the exception rather than the rule in business partnerships, particularly in a profession that can pride itself on hammering out lengthy contractual agreements.

“We like to see our firm as different, and our partnership arrangement is very indicative of that,” said Silver.

The firm now counts four lawyers, including the two founding partners, in its legal ranks. The reputation of the firm’s lawyers and the success of the firm over the past two decades has made it an attractive merger target for much larger firms, including those casting a national profile.

“We’ve been courted a lot, fielding overtures from many larger firms over the years,” said Silver. “Some of the



Lee Silver has earned a reputation as one of the finest commercial litigators in Michigan.

proposals have been interesting, but we like practicing with each other and have been able to carve out a great niche in our market. When we formed the firm, we had a business plan to keep it small and to run it tight. We didn't want to be burdened with a lot of unnecessary overhead or to be consumed by administrative responsibilities that would take away time from what we do best, which is practicing law and helping our clients achieve their objectives. Quite simply, we love what we do and we love how we do it."

Silver grew up in northwest Indiana in the town of Munster, a bedroom community 30 miles south of Chicago. It was there, as the older of two sons, Silver developed an early interest in the law.

"We used to watch 'Perry Mason' with my parents after dinner each night, which

sparked my interest in becoming a trial lawyer," Silver said. "I can only imagine how many legal careers were started by that television show."

His mother, June, was a housewife, while his father, Milton, served as controller for a Chicago company that manufactured barstools and chairs.

"It was a company owned by my uncle and my dad spent the last 20 years of his career there, making the commute to work in Chicago each day," said Silver. "Montgomery Ward and Sears were its biggest customers."

While in high school, Silver and his cousin worked one summer at the company's manufacturing plant in Morristown, Tennessee in the northeast region of the Volunteer State.

"Let's just say that it was a culturally different place, where the people we

worked with drank moonshine and attended cockfights as part of their way of life," Silver recalled. "We had our horizons broadened."

As a high school student, Silver was a two-time state champion in debate, earning a scholarship to the University of Redlands, a college in southern California that was building a dynasty in the oratorical program.

"They had a powerhouse debate program there thanks largely to coach Bill Southworth," Silver said. "He became legendary as a debate coach and recruited some of the best debaters from around the country to be part of the Redlands program. We would compete against the likes of Harvard, Dartmouth, and other elite schools."

After graduating with honors from Redlands, Silver took his academic talents to Indiana University School of Law, where he placed first in the moot court competition and was part of the school's National Moot Court Team.

Between his second and third year of law school, Silver clerked at Clary Nantz, enjoying the summer experience there with a full-service law firm.

"While I wanted to spend the summer in West Michigan, I had zero intention of returning to Grand Rapids once I graduated law school," Silver said. "At that time in the early '80s, Grand Rapids had a reputation as a sleepy, conservative, boring town which didn't really appeal to me."

His perspective changed, however, when he was offered a job with the firm upon graduation.

"I fell in love with the people at the firm, so when they offered me a job upon graduation, I jumped at it, and I've been in Grand Rapids ever since," he said with a smile. "It's funny how your plans can quickly change."

After becoming a partner in the firm, Silver decided to leave to join Buchanan & Bos, bringing his commercial litigation skillset to a firm that specialized in personal injury cases.

"Jack Buchanan really took me under his wing and mentored me at the firm," Silver said. "Jack was such a fabulous trial lawyer. He was widely regarded as one of the best trial lawyers in Michigan and was a pillar of the West Michigan legal community. I learned so many valuable lessons from him that have benefitted me throughout my career. I was very fortunate to have a mentor and a friend like Jack Buchanan."

Silver's time with the firm coincided with the Buchanan's launch of Primerus, which in its early years focused on forming local networks of small and medium size boutique law firms in various cities in the U.S.

"In its initial stages, it was a very successful referral network on a local level, and then that morphed into a national and international alliance of law firms thanks to Jack's vision and determination to make it grow," said Silver, who currently serves on the Primerus Board of Directors.

Once Silver and Van Essen formed their own firm, they quickly became part of the Primerus team, helping build their book of business through a steady diet of referrals – in and outside the network.

During that time, Silver and his wife of almost 30 years, Julia, were equally busy



At a family wedding in the resort community of Lake Tahoe several years ago, Lee Silver and his wife, Julia, are pictured with their four daughters (l-r), Tiffany, Maddie, Ellen, and Tabitha.

raising their family of four daughters, Tiffany, Tabitha, Ellen, and Maddie. Their two youngest – Ellen and Maddie – developed into talented tennis players, each ranking in the top 100 nationally in their age division.

“It was a special time in our lives, as we travelled around the country watching them compete in USTA tournaments,” recalled Silver. “We had so many fun times and I treasured the opportunity as a dad to help them practice when I came home from work, and to spend quality time with them while we travelled all over to their tournaments.”

Those practice sessions paid off for both daughters, as Ellen earned a scholarship to play at the University of Iowa, while Maddie was recruited to play at Marshall University in West Virginia.

Now, as Silver reflects on a legal career that has been marked with success and currently includes a steady stream of mediation and arbitration work, he takes special pride in the outcome of his one and only criminal defense case.

It revolved around the notorious Dr. Larry Nassar case that caught a number of Michigan State University officials in its web, including former MSU President Lou Anna Simon, whom Silver had represented in a series of civil suits brought by the victims of Nassar’s wrongdoing.

“Former President Simon asked me to represent her when she was facing criminal charges brought by the Michigan Attorney General’s Office in the wake of the sexual abuse scandal,” said Silver. “To me, it was clear from the start that it was a politically-motivated case that had no merit, but she was facing the very real possibility of having to stand trial and all the attendant stress that experience would bring.”

In May 2020, an Eaton County judge ruled that the prosecution did not



The Silvers with their grandson, Henry, one of their seven grandchildren.


present sufficient evidence during the seven-day evidentiary hearing to take the case to trial, a ruling that was affirmed by the Michigan Court of Appeals.

“Needless to say, we were relieved and delighted by the judge’s decision,” Silver said, noting that the case will be one that he will long remember.

“The criminal case against Lou Anna was a very high-profile case that attracted a lot of national media attention and included representing Lou Anna in her testimony before the United States Senate in Washington, D.C. as part of the Senate’s investigation into the Larry Nassar scandal,” Silver noted. “It was an honor to represent Lou Anna and I was extremely

impressed not only with her intellect and everything that she accomplished as the longtime president of Michigan State, but also how she handled the ordeal of the criminal charges with such grace. She was great to work with and I am happy that we were able to get her exonerated and help restore her good name.”

The case also came with another plus, said Silver.

“A minor side benefit to the case is that when I decide to retire, I will do so with an unblemished record as a criminal defense attorney,” he said with a wink. “It’s hard to beat that.” 

Reaching out

New Primerus Foundation aims to attract strong broad-based support

By Tom Kirvan



John C. Buchanan



Joel Collins



Lee Silver

t's a foundation with lofty goals, the kind that will require a dramatic change in the way we approach solving many of society's most vexing problems.

Like climate change, gun control, governmental corruption, racism, economic inequality, and nuclear proliferation just to name a few.

When Primerus founder Jack Buchanan and South Carolina attorney Joel Collins joined forces earlier this year to announce plans for the Primerus Foundation, the two longtime attorneys decided to think big when focusing on what they wanted to accomplish on a national and global scale.

"The push to start this foundation gained steam in February when Russia invaded Ukraine, a neighboring and peace-loving country that has embraced democracy and all of its ideals," said Buchanan. "It served as motivation for us to get this idea off the ground and to start making a difference in very tangible ways."

In announcing the creation of the foundation last spring, Buchanan said the philanthropic effort has been in the talking stages for years.

"Over the years, a number of our members have expressed a desire to start a foundation that would further spread the Six-Pillar message that is at the heart of Primerus," said Buchanan, who has served as president of the Primerus alliance since its founding in 1992. "The

Russian invasion made the need for our foundation even more important to help counter the unjustified acts of tyrants and demagogues around the globe."

Collins, who will serve as president of the Primerus Foundation, is a longtime student of history and has the academic chops to fully understand the root of the world's problems. An adjunct professor at the University of South Carolina, Collins teaches a course on the United States Constitution, a document that serves as the backbone to the American system of justice.

His wisdom will play a vital role in shaping the look of the foundation, as will that of Grand Rapids attorney Lee Silver, the third member of its board of directors, according to Buchanan.


Silver and Buchanan recently met over lunch for a brainstorming session on how best to make an impact with the foundation and how to attract broad-based fund-raising support.

"We came up with the idea of creating a PAC (Political Action Committee) that would provide financial support to political candidates of both parties who share our vision at the foundation and are aligned on issues like banning the use of nuclear weapons, the need to address climate change, and enacting legislation to ban assault weapons," said Silver. "This would be a non-partisan effort to reach across the political aisle to effectuate meaningful change on some of the critical issues of the day."

The proposed Primerus PAC would help supply campaign funding for the candidates so that they would not be beholden to such groups as the National Rifle Association and other special interest lobbyists.

"We will be working to identify candidates who are articulate, charismatic, and principled when it comes to the need to address these issues that demand action," said Silver. "We are hoping to attract the kind of candidates who have the nation's best interests at heart and who are fiduciaries for all citizens, first and foremost, and are willing to break down political barriers that are blocking legislative progress."

The key, said Silver, will be to attract the kind of financial support that can generate and sustain momentum.

"We need to reach famous business leaders, celebrities, athletes, and other influential people who have spoken publicly about the need to address these critical issues and who are trying to bring about positive change," Silver indicated. "It's a tall order to reach people like that and to get them to buy in to our plan, but we have to get that kind of support if we're going to fulfill our mission." 



Connectivity

Attorney sports a belief in total team approach

By Tom Kirvan

With the majesty of Mt. Rainier looming in the background, a six-person team of outrigger canoe paddlers that includes attorney Matt Menzer rips through the waters of Lake Washington on a sun-splashed day. *Photo by Matthew Taufa'asau*

W

hether in his law practice or out on the open

water in an outrigger canoe, Seattle attorney Matt Menzer preaches the value of teamwork and the kind of synergy it invariably creates.

“There is nothing quite like the feeling of being part of a team where everyone is invested in its success and takes pride in the work they produce,” said Menzer, who founded the Menzer Law Firm in Seattle 20 years ago to represent those who have suffered serious personal injury, medical malpractice, or the death of a loved one. “There is a special sense of satisfaction to see the kind of results that can be achieved through teamwork.”

Patty Ackley, who became a client of the Menzer Law Firm in 2016 after her husband Kirk was diagnosed with lung cancer, has felt part of her attorney’s team since she first spoke with Menzer six years ago.

“We immediately meshed,” said Ackley, a resident of the small town of Ephrata in Eastern Washington. “He’s been like a brother to me. He is a most amazing man – and attorney.”

Their legal relationship – and now enduring friendship – arose from tragic circumstances, a misdiagnosis of a lung nodule discovered during a physical exam at a local medical center in 2010. Six years later after her husband’s medical condition had sharply worsened, a biopsy indicated that the cause of his health

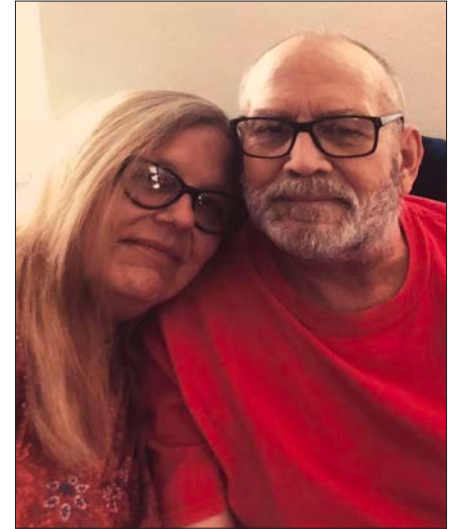
troubles was Stage 4 lung cancer that had already spread to his brain.

“By that time, the clock was already ticking on my husband’s life,” Ackley said while fighting back tears.

Ackley’s daughter, Erika, then swung into action, contacting Menzer’s office after reading about his reputation for care, compassion, and for delivering legal results.

“She told me, ‘Mom, this is the attorney for us. I can’t say enough good things about him,’” Ackley related. “She was absolutely right about that. He was so cool and calm during the deposition process, and offered the kind of guidance we needed when times were really tough and Kirk’s situation was deteriorating.”

The case settled in 2017, shortly before the trial was to begin. The settlement amount, according to Menzer, is confidential but in addition to a fair dollar amount that allows the Ackleys to live comfortably, the defendant medical group



The photo of Patty and Kirk Ackley was the last one taken of them before he died two weeks later in 2020. By the time the photo was snapped, “He had lost the ability to say the words he was thinking and had written a note to say ‘I love you,’” Patty said of her beloved husband.

agreed to provide all necessary cancer care and related therapies and home care for the remainder of Kirk’s life.



Matt Menzer’s legal team at Menzer Law includes JohnDavid Toren (right) and Brady Douglas (left), both 2014 alums of the University of Washington School of Law. The firm has been part of the Primerus alliance since 2016.

“With Patty’s tremendous love and care, and the support of the extended family (which includes four devoted adult daughters and six grandchildren), Kirk – by sheer grit and determination – beat the odds multiple times and lived another 3 years. He passed away in September of 2020 at the age of 66,” Menzer wrote in an e-mail.

For Ackley, her relationship with Menzer will always be of the bittersweet variety.

“My husband should be here with me now and I should have never met Matt Menzer,” Ackley said. “However, that is not our story and because of Matt, I can live my life and not be a burden to our kids.”

Menzer, who grew up in the San Fernando Valley of Southern California, is the youngest of four children. His parents, Alene and Cal, migrated to the West Coast from a small town in Iowa where his grandfather owned a women’s clothing store. Upon the family’s move to California, Menzer’s father started his own women’s apparel shop, while his mother worked for the state in its unemployment insurance agency after the couple divorced.

The family situation, according to Menzer, was complicated by his older brother Mark’s health condition.

“He suffered from a little-known disease called Prader-Willi syndrome, a genetic disorder that can cause intellectual impairment and various behavioral problems, including an almost insatiable appetite,” said Menzer of his brother, who died of the disease in his late 20s. “His situation was a difficult part of our family’s history. My father became instrumental in efforts to heighten awareness of the disorder and to help

secure funding for group homes. My father was a man with strong Midwestern values who thought of others first.”

That sense of compassion undoubtedly was a character trait inherited by Menzer, who excelled academically in high school and was encouraged by an English teacher there to consider pursuing an Ivy League education.

“He helped me understand that there were scholarships available at all the Ivy League schools and that I likely would be able to obtain them,” Menzer related.

He did at Brown University, long regarded as one of the premier liberal arts and research institutions in the country.

“I thought I had a shot at continuing to play football at Brown,” said Menzer, who was an award-winning offensive lineman and linebacker in high school despite his slight size and build. “I quickly realized at Brown that playing college football was beyond my skillset, so I opted to play rugby instead.”

He was a four-year member for Brown’s rugby squad, serving as co-captain his senior season.

“It was a great experience, as we had the opportunity to travel all around New England and to compete against some of the best teams on the East Coast,” said Menzer, who discovered a passion for the bruising sport despite suffering a broken nose in one of the conference clashes. “Even though you don’t play with pads, rugby is actually a safer sport than football because of the way helmets are used as weapons.”

As part of his scholarship grant, Menzer was required to participate in a work-study program at Brown, which began somewhat innocently enough in the dorm kitchen where he was assigned clean-up

duty, scrubbing the huge pots used to make oatmeal and spaghetti.

“I eventually gave up my scrub brush for the opportunity to work at an environmental law group (the Conservation Law Foundation of New England), where I experienced the power of a small group of people working hard for a common cause,” Menzer said. “It really whet my appetite for that kind of work, where you felt like you were making a difference in people’s lives.”

Following college, Menzer moved to the San Francisco Bay Area, working as a paralegal for a personal injury firm where one of the partners encouraged him to attend law school, which he did at the University of California–Berkeley. It would be a decision that proved rich with real-world experiences for Menzer (see related story). It also would lead to clerkships for federal judges in New York and Hawaii, where he would meet his legal mentor, Phil Lowenthal, with whom he worked on civil and criminal litigation matters for two years before returning to the mainland.

“Phil is an outstanding trial attorney who has taught me much over the course of my career,” said Menzer. “We have collaborated on many cases here and in Hawaii over the years, and that relationship now includes working with his son (Jacob).”

Upon moving to Seattle in 1992, Menzer worked for four years as an associate with one of the city’s largest litigation firms before becoming a partner at another area firm from 1996 to 2002. It was then, one year after the nation was rocked by the tragic events of 9/11, that Menzer took the

proverbial leap of faith to open his own firm specializing in personal injury and medical malpractice cases.

“It was just me and my legal assistant in sub-leased office space those first few years,” Menzer recalled of the early days. “It took until 2005 before I brought on an associate, and JohnDavid Toren now has been with me for the past seven years, while Brady Douglas, a classmate of JohnDavid’s at the University of Washington School of Law, joined the firm two years ago. When I opened the firm, I wanted to be selective in the cases



Jessica Pearson and her husband Michael. The couple now lives in Alabama, where the warm climate is more conducive to Jessica’s medical condition.

I handled and to have the opportunity to help clients who need a strong advocate on their behalf”

One such medical malpractice case was filed in May 2021 and involved Jessica Pearson, a resident of Yakima County in Eastern Washington.

In 2018, at the age of 36, Pearson was diagnosed in the emergency room with pneumonia, spent the night at the hospital, and then was discharged with a prescription for antibiotics. Over the next two weeks, “I kept getting sicker and sicker,” Pearson said during a recent phone interview.

“Eventually, I was admitted to a hospital in Seattle with a serious lung infection,” she said. “They had to insert a chest tube and remove a rib in order to deal with the infection. It was a horrible experience.”

It also left her in a permanently disabled state, unable to work and to enjoy the many leisure time activities – hiking, biking, hunting, and fishing – that “had been such a big part of our lives,” said Pearson, who now resides in her native Alabama with her husband Michael.

“This is not the life I expected to have,” said Pearson. “It’s difficult to get around. It’s sometimes very hard to breathe.”

And yet, Pearson admitted that “my situation would have been far worse if I hadn’t met Matt,” who was able to settle the malpractice case in January 2022, ensuring her future financial security.

“Matt is an incredible attorney and an even better person,” Pearson said. “He is someone I could trust, and I have had trust issues in the past. He did everything he promised he would do and more. He and his staff have just been wonderful to us. He has a terrific team.”

In recent years, Menzer also has been part of another team in Seattle, revolving around the sport of outrigger canoe paddling, which traces its roots to Tahiti and Hawaii.

“I first tried it on a January day in Seattle and just loved it,” said Menzer. “It’s a demanding sport that is easy to pick up but very difficult to master. It is all about teamwork, and is a sport where someone of my age (63) can compete with younger guys as well as those in my age bracket.”

Menzer has been an enthusiastic member of the Seattle Outrigger Canoe Club, which recently celebrated his 25th anniversary, numbers 70 members, and regularly practices on Lake Washington, a 22-mile-long body of water on the edge of Seattle.

“We practice year-round in six-person outrigger canoes, constantly pushing ourselves to do better and to go faster,” said Menzer, who has served as vice president of the club for several years. “I’ve made a lot of wonderful friends through the club and have enjoyed the chance to compete in a number of races, including one along the magnificent Napali Coast in Kauai. There is nothing quite like it, particularly how important it is to match strokes as a team. It’s a sport where you don’t necessarily have to be the biggest or the strongest, but if you operate as a team, you have a great chance to succeed. I love that aspect of it.” 

Case involving an ill-fated prison escape left mark on law student

By Tom Kirvan



A California native, Matt Menzer has strong personal and professional ties to both Washington and Hawaii, opening an office in Seattle in 2002 and on the island of Maui in 2019. Menzer has two daughters, 32-year-old Leah and 27-year-old Olivia.

A

s a law student at the University of California-Berkeley, Matt

Menzer played a key research role in one of the most riveting and lengthy criminal cases in the history of the state, a legal drama that began to unfold on August 21, 1971 when Black Panther leader George Jackson and five others – including three prison guards – were killed at San Quentin State Prison during an aborted breakout attempt.

Menzer's involvement in the case began in the summer of 1984, some 13 years after the failed prison escape that left six people dead. As a second-year student at what is now known as Berkeley Law, Menzer was recruited to assist the defense team for Jackson's lawyer, Stephen Bingham, who had been a fugitive for more than a decade after being charged with multiple murder counts for allegedly supplying a gun to Jackson during a prison visit that fateful day in 1971.

"Bingham had been on the run for years after being charged with murder in the case," Menzer indicated. "His reason for fleeing was his belief that he was being framed and that he wouldn't be able to receive a fair trial given the political climate at the time. He always proclaimed his innocence and maintained that he had no role in smuggling the gun to Jackson."

Bingham was accused of hiding a 9-millimeter pistol in a tape recorder and smuggling it to Jackson, who was awaiting trial in the killing of a prison guard in 1970.

According to published reports, Bingham was a "self-described political radical" who was at the prison that day to discuss a civil lawsuit Jackson had filed against the California Department of Corrections. While he was on the run in Europe, Bingham reportedly got married and worked as

a house painter before surrendering to authorities in July 1984.

Bingham was a Yale University grad who, like Menzer, attended law school at Berkeley. His grandfather, Hiram Bingham was an archeologist who helped discover the Inca ruins of Machu Picchu in Peru and later served as the governor of Connecticut.

"He had a very interesting background and was being helped by (former U.S. Attorney General) Ramsey Clark," Menzer said of Bingham. "I initially was a volunteer on his case, providing legal research assistance and doing various go-fer duties to help out. Gradually my role increased as I spent the better part of two years working with his defense team, including a year off from law school."

Officials at the law school initially were reluctant to give Menzer time away from his studies, but softened their stance after his presence on the Bingham defense team grew in scope.

"All in all, it was an incredible experience to be involved in a case of that magnitude and to work alongside some very talented attorneys, including Leonard Weinglass, who was one of the lead lawyers in the Chicago Seven trial," said Menzer, who noted that the defense team at trial was led by prominent Bay Area lawyer Gerry Schwartzbach.

Weinglass, whose long list of legal credits included involvement in the Pentagon Papers and Patty Hearst cases, eventually had to bow out of the Bingham case due to the press of other trial responsibilities, leaving Menzer with added work of his own.

"When he left the defense team, I ended up with all the case files in my studio apartment in Berkeley," Menzer said somewhat incredulously. "By that time, I probably knew what was in the case files better than anyone. The preliminary hearing in the case took four months and was the longest in California history at the time."



In a cutout photo from a fund-raising brochure, a young law student named Matt Menzer (seated at far right) was pictured with attorney Stephen Bingham (front row center) and other members of his legal team. Menzer's first name may have contained a typo in the brochure, but that did not lessen his importance to the eventual success of the team.

Bingham eventually was acquitted of all charges in June 1986, including of conspiring with Jackson and other inmates in the escape plan, according to Menzer. The jury took six days to reach the verdict following a 10-week trial.

"It was a case that contained strong evidence of misconduct by the prison administration and law enforcement authorities who were allegedly trying to control a growing movement to protect the rights of black inmates in the California prison system."

One thing that seemed certain after the case concluded, however, was that Menzer's legal star was rising, even if he thought differently at the time.

Said Menzer: "I liked to joke back then that my legal career had already peaked, but today I know better. The Bingham case was just the beginning of a really rewarding practice – one filled with more great colleagues and exceptional clients that I've had the privilege of representing." 

Power source

Innovative spirit moves Canadian attorney in a number of directions in Asia over 24 years

By Tom Kirvan



In a three-generation gathering prior to her graduation from law school, Caroline is pictured with her mother, grandmother, aunt, and cousin.



A favorite family photo from 2016 of Caroline Berube and her son Thomas in Guangzhou, a sprawling port city north of Hong Kong.



In 2015, Caroline Berube was selected as a Young Global Leader by the World Economic Forum, a coveted honor that recognized her importance in the legal and business fields.

She is a runner, an adventurer, an innovator, and – perhaps most notably – an entrepreneur.

Yet, attorney Caroline Berube is much more than that as a Quebec native who has spent the past 24 years of her legal and business career in Asia where she now is the Managing Partner of HJM Asia Law & Co. LLC, a Primerus firm based in Guangzhou, China and Singapore on the southern tip of the Malay Peninsula.

Current chair of the Primerus Asia Pacific Institute, Berube has a wide-ranging practice representing small-to-medium size enterprises (SMEs), foreign banks, and private equity firms in the Asia Pacific region, splitting her time between the firm's offices in China and Singapore.

"I handle M&A transactions for SMEs and private equity firms expanding in Asia, often in tech or manufacturing sectors," said Berube, who earned her law degree from McGill University in Montreal, which traditionally is ranked as one of the top two universities in Canada. "I have been doing it for nearly 25 years – our clients are a lot more educated given all the information widely available now. We can focus on more complex legal issues and negotiations which are never straight forward in Asia!

"The enforcement and protection of IP is also more developed and our clients are more easily protected if they take appropriate steps, making my life easier," she added.

For her legal success, Berube has been featured in numerous magazines and newspapers, including Bloomberg, The Straits Times, and The Business Times, and is a much-sought-after speaker at international business conferences and as a visiting professor in various law schools. As an arbitrator, Berube has gained acceptance by the Chinese European Arbitration Center as well as by the China International Economic and Trade Arbitration Commission.

Berube, who is fluent in French and English, founded her firm in 2007 and built it on the

foundation that "we understand the Asian legal systems: we are on the ground, have a Western business mindset and are entrepreneurs ourselves," a combination that few international firms possess bringing agility when helping clients expanding in Asia.

"Most of our lawyers are fluent in foreign languages and are able to provide legal services in English, Italian, French, German, Chinese, Tagalog and Malay to a variety of small and medium size foreign companies and private equity firms," the firm boasts on its website.

One of two children, Berube sported a wanderlust from an early age.

"My goal since I was 5 years old was to leave Quebec," said Berube. "I was curious and wanted to explore as many countries as possible. I thought that by doing a law degree at McGill University, where they offered a national program (civil law degree and common law degree), I could work anywhere in the world."

Her mother, a counselor and psychologist, provided an early spark to Berube's career with a timeless bit of advice, telling her to "Dream big, the sky is the limit."

That urge was fed even more by an early mentor, said Berube.

"I am blessed to have had many of them," she said of her list of mentors. "Many inspired me, guided me, and still guide me. One was Marian Tremblay, who instilled in me the hunger and curiosity for Asia. He had been in Asia before and after hearing his tales, I had this urge to explore it and left as soon as I could in 1998 and start a business there."

Berube's father is a mechanical engineer who earned a master of business administration degree.

"He was an entrepreneur all his life with ups and downs," Berube said. "My brother and I learned a lot from his experiences, and what to do and what not to do with our own business. Tough learning experience, but our dad taught us resilience, perseverance, and thinking outside the box."

Her younger brother, Maxime, also sports an engineering background and joined his sister in the Far East nearly two decades ago.

"He moved to China in 2005 after me

begging him for six months, as he had a great job back in Montreal at Galderma. I believed we had complementary skills to start a business, which we did," said Berube.

Her dream of launching a business with her brother has spawned several in fact.


"We had a consulting multi-services/trading firm assisting SMEs expand in Asia – legal, engineering, marketing, and accounting," she indicated. "We did trade missions for the governments coming to China with SMEs to meet Chinese suppliers. We started a tech company for quality control in 2007, which we sold in 2013 to a French competitor. And we started a factory – Komaspac – in 2010. The company has now more than 200 employees, 3 facilities, serves more than 100 clients in 25 countries and records a 30% YoY growth. Maxime runs it now with a great team and I am on the board of directors."

And their sibling bond goes beyond the business sphere.

"We usually spend the summer in Quebec by our respective lake houses," she said. "Our six kids hang out together all summer and we cover each other when one of us has to travel for work during that period. We wanted our kids to experience Canadian culture and speak French, and to do what we did as children growing up. We are very close. I know he has my back and vice versa."

Berube is the mother of three children, ages 19, 16, and 11.

"Beatrice is studying in a university in Canada. After living in Asia all her life, she wanted to experience a taste of Canada with four seasons and lots of outdoors, running and skiing," Berube said of her daughter. "Thomas and Edward are focused on school and sports – they play rugby, soccer, and ice hockey! Everyone loves sports, outdoors, and travel!"

"We also love board games, like family card games, Monopoly, etc. Beatrice made us discover a great new game when we were in Whistler last Christmas: Rumikub. I can see each of us being quite competitive," said Berube, who's tightknit family "used to have a chocolate Labrador named 'Godiva' because I love chocolate." 

Young E3

Nonprofit organization gives 'kickstart' for young builders

By Tom Kirvan



When it comes to inspirational quotes, Caroline

When it comes to inspirational quotes, Caroline

Berube is particularly fond of a gem uttered by one of the all-time hockey greats, Wayne Gretzky, the scoring machine who led the Edmonton Oilers to four Stanley Cup championships en route to becoming the top goal-scorer and point-producer in National Hockey League history.

“You miss 100 percent of the shots you don’t take,” said Gretzky in a pearl of wisdom that has served as a life lesson for those far beyond the world of sports.

“Being Canadian, I love my ice hockey still,” said Berube. “In fact, I played ice hockey intramural in law school at McGill University and my three kids play ice hockey in Asia. Wayne Gretzky has been discussed in our family on numerous occasions.”

Gretzky, also fondly known in hockey circles as “The Great One,” may have helped inspire Berube to take her own shot at being a “difference maker” for young entrepreneurs in the 16 to 25 age bracket.

The Young E3 organization was founded by Berube in 2016, serving as a nonprofit that “aims to assist in developing the entrepreneurial seed in young individuals by investing in their ideas and passion.”

Said Berube: “We mentor and match them with people in similar industries. I believe in entrepreneurship at a young age and nurture this. They explore and control their future – 30 percent of the projects are allocated to young female entrepreneurs.”

All of the organization’s programs “seek to assist bright young individuals to be creative and embark in business endeavors early on in their career by providing them funding through scholarships and a comprehensive mentoring program to offer them the best mentors for their project,” according to Berube.

“In order to achieve our goals, we work on multiple levels, supporting the creative youth through investment of capital; creating a network of mentors from which they can benefit from; and developing a global network on all six continents,” she said.

“We believe in a ‘healthy body, healthy mind’ and therefore encourage well-rounded individuals who perform well in the academic field, but also in sports, arts or culture. We raise funds for our mentees through runs.”

The three Es that “drive us,” said Berube, are “Entrepreneurship, Excellence, and Experiment.” Drawing on “our experience and our relationships with mentors around the world, we have raised funds to invest in entrepreneurial ventures by young and ambitious individuals who embody the different Es,” such as “Effective, Enthusiastic, Empire, Education, Evolve, and Expert.”

Berube’s mother served as her role model in terms of community involvement, giving generously of her time and talents for a host of worthwhile causes.

“She has always been involved in different organizations and on boards – that’s probably why I am also involved,” Berube said. “She is super organized and a super mom – my brother and I were lucky.”

Officials at McGill University undoubtedly must feel the same about Berube.

“I am also involved as a mentor for female students at McGill, I am on the council of the McGill Dobson Centre for Entrepreneurship and also the president of the McGill Alumni in Singapore,” said Berube. “I believe in giving back to my alma mater – law school at McGill was instrumental in shaping my legal mindset and openness.” 

“You miss 100 percent of the shots you don’t take,” said Gretzky in a pearl of wisdom that has served as a life lesson for those far beyond the world of sports.

“Being Canadian, I love my ice hockey still,” said Berube. “In fact, I played ice hockey intramural in law school at McGill University and my three kids play ice hockey in Asia.”

Campsite

New Jersey attorney has special place in his heart for the deep South

By Tom Kirvan



In a favorite photo, Levy is pictured with his wife of three years, Larisa, who emigrated with her family from Ukraine to the U.S. in the early 1990s. Levy is the father of three children, Hal, Dara, and Adam, two of whom hold degrees from Ivy League schools. The youngest, 19-year-old Adam, is a sophomore at the College of Charleston.

For someone who grew up in New York and has deep family ties to the most densely populated area in the U.S., attorney

Peter Levy interestingly enough has a particularly strong connection to Alabama, a southern state that in many respects has little in common with his ancestral home on the East Coast.

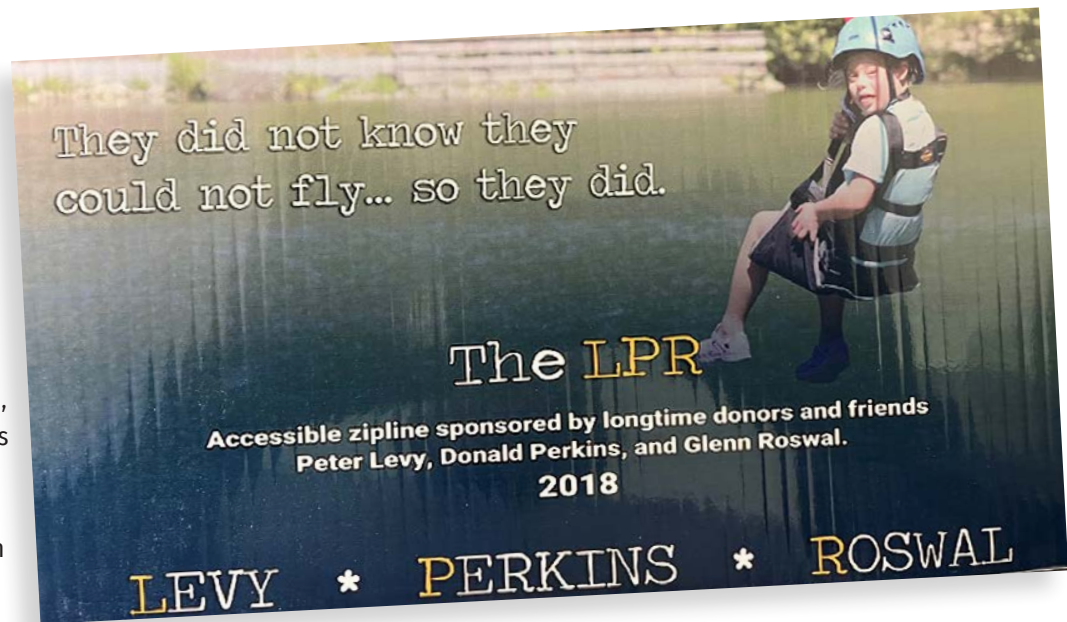
His ties to the Cotton State are sewn in the fabric of an acronym – ASCCA, which stands for Alabama’s Special Camp for Children and Adults.

The year-round 236-acre camp, located on the shores of Lake Martin in east central Alabama (see related story), serves children and adults with mental and/or physical disabilities that range from autism and Asperger’s syndrome to such diseases as Multiple Sclerosis and Muscular Dystrophy, as well as a host of other life-altering disorders that fall in between.

Originally affiliated with the national Easter Seals program, the camp opened in 1976 and over the past 46 years has touched the lives of “tens of thousands of children and adults with disabilities” through an assortment of therapeutic recreational programs and activities, ASCCA officials indicated.

The camp’s mission, according to Levy, is “to help people with disabilities achieve equality, dignity, and maximum independence” in a society that all too often has unknowingly erected barriers to such inclusivity.

Levy’s connection to the camp began through his friendship with Dr. Glenn Roswal, a former Division 1 tennis player and coach who has devoted much of his life’s energy to helping improve the fortunes of the disabled. Levy was a youth



when they first met at a summer camp in the Berkshires of western Massachusetts. Roswal worked there as a camp counselor, eventually becoming involved in the Special Olympics program championed by founder Eunice Kennedy Shriver.

“Glenn invited me to what I thought would be a one-time trip to rural Alabama where this camp for the disabled was located,” Levy recalled. “I never expected to go back.”

But he has – repeatedly, forging a life-long bond with a camp program that is “transformational in nature,” according to Levy.

“It is an extraordinarily unique program that has become a passion of mine,” said Levy. “It’s hard to put into words all the benefits of the camp experience and the impact that it can have on increasing confidence and the level of independence for those participating. It is simply amazing to see the positive response from children and young adults to the activities, and how long-lasting the benefits can be for them.”

He is not the least bit hesitant to call the camp the “most awe-inspiring place” he has ever visited. In fact, it stands alone in that regard, he said.

“Miracles occur there daily,” Levy said frankly. “I kid you not.”

Of particular note, all areas of the camp are wheelchair accessible, opening up a world of possibilities that many have never seen or experienced, said Levy.

“On a day-to-day level, those with disabilities are invisible to most of us,” said Levy. “We don’t think about what their needs are, what their joys and fears are, and what barriers they experience in living a fulfilling life. This camp goes a long way in making sure that the mentally and physically disabled are recognized, valued, and fully appreciated.”

The camp offers more than 25 different activities from which to choose, including horseback riding, hiking, rock climbing, swimming, boating, fishing, music, and arts and crafts to name just a few.

“Each activity area offers a unique experience and allows the camper to succeed on his or her own, as well as in an environment of peer support,” according to the camp website. “Camp ASCCA’s safe, supportive environment encourages the camper to meet new challenges. The major goal at Camp ASCCA is to serve those who can derive maximum benefit from the resident camp experience and provide a healthier, happier, longer, and more productive life for children and adults of all abilities.”

COMMUNITY SERVICE



A youth charity founded by former NFL running back Rodney Hampton, a two-time Pro Bowl player for the New York Giants during his eight seasons with the team in the 1990s, is called Hamp's Camp and counts Peter Levy among its board members.

Attorney Peter Levy is always among friends, like his mentor Dr. Glenn M. Roswal, at Camp ASCCA on Lake Martin in rural Alabama.

Levy and his family have helped make it so, giving the camp program a boost in a variety of ways over the past two decades. Levy's daughter, Dara, spent a summer at the camp as its youngest staff member. The experience had a profound influence on her personally. Dara recently returned to Camp ASCCA to share her professional insight on media issues and fund-raising with the marketing team and as the keynote speaker to the Board of Directors.

Another glowing example was when his son, Adam, in the spirit of his bar mitzvah celebration as a teen, spearheaded a project to build wheelchair accessible picnic tables for the camp.

"I advised him to start at the top when he was trying to drum up support for the project," said Levy.

A letter to the CEO of Home Depot paid handsome dividends in the form of a \$2,500 gift certificate, which helped fund the purchase of enough lumber and related supplies to build six picnic tables.

Those tables were soon accented with umbrellas and later a "tiki bar" outfitted with a Slushee machine that dispenses a variety of soda and ice cream drinks, Levy said proudly.

Not to be outdone, Levy and Roswal teamed up in the building of a climbing tower on the camp's campus. The Roswal-Levy

Climbing Tower is now the world's largest wheelchair-accessible interactive climbing tower for the disabled, and is outfitted with special ramps, harnesses, and pulleys to ensure the safety of all climbers.

The Roswal-Levy friendship also spawned the construction of a tennis pavilion at the camp, as yet another reminder of their commitment to spread goodwill and to inspire generosity.

"Whatever we have given, we get back many times over," Levy said of the sense of joy and satisfaction.

His younger sister, Stacey, undoubtedly would say the same.

"She worked in the home health care field and has been generous in donating various DMEs (Durable Medical Equipment) for the camp's needs," said Levy.

An alumnus of Harvard University, Levy earned his law degree from another Ivy League school, Cornell University in Ithaca, NY. His father, Harold, and his grandfather, George, also were attorneys and served as role models for the former pharmaceutical executive who now is a partner with the Primerus firm of Mandelbaum Barrett P.C. in New Jersey.

"These are the two men I respected and admired most in my lifetime," Levy said of his family forebears.

His 85-year-old mother, Helen, also has been a strong influence throughout

his life and enjoyed a diverse career as an elementary school teacher and entrepreneur before retiring.

Levy also gains inspiration from his best friend – his wife, Larisa, who was born in the Ukraine and was part of the flood of Jewish refugees who fled the former Soviet-bloc country in the 1980s.

"She came to the U.S. at the age of 8 with nothing more than the clothes on her back after initial stays in Austria and Italy," Levy said of his wife, who now is vice president of a large staffing and personnel company. "She is a remarkable person, whose father worked three jobs to help feed his family during their early years in the U.S."

One of those jobs was as a janitor at a small shopping center. Some three decades later, the 81-year-old native of Ukraine is now the owner of that shopping center.

It's another case of a real-life American Dream that Levy has a hand in spreading with his involvement as a longtime board member of Hamp's Camp, a charity founded by former NY Giants running back Rodney Hampton. The nonprofit organization is dedicated to providing athletic training and leadership tools to underprivileged children in Atlanta, Newark, and Houston, three cities where the former NFL star has high school, college, and professional roots.

As a lifelong fan of the New York Giants, a passion that he shared with his late father, Levy is affectionately known by Hampton as "Uncle Peter," a moniker that came about after the two became friends years ago.

"He literally called me up out of the blue asking if I could help him with this charity he wanted to start," Levy recalled. "I first thought it was a joke. But when I eventually realized it wasn't, I was all in. As a New York fan, there was no way I could say no." 📌

Lake Martin, Alabama



It is billed as Alabama's "Freshwater Coast."

But for those who have experienced the beauty of Lake Martin, it is much more than that. Just ask the Lake Martin Tourism Association, which boasts that "we are Alabama's biggest playground" as well.

"Lake Martin is our treasure," says the Lake Martin Tourism Association on its website. "The waters of the lake offer an unrivaled experience with nearly 900 miles of pristine shoreline and more than 40,000 acres of stunning views. Lake Martin is a place where generations come to make memories to last a lifetime. The lake and its parks, marinas, points, and islands have become known throughout the country as one of the finest in the south."

The mammoth reservoir known as Lake Martin was formed by the construction of Martin Dam on the Tallapoosa River, beginning in 1923 and ending three years later. The resulting creation was then the largest man-made body of water in the world. The Alabama Power Co. uses the dam powerhouse to generate hydroelectric power. In 1974, the power company donated the land for what would become Camp

ASCCA, the largest recreational retreat in Alabama for children and adults with disabilities.


The popular Lake Martin resort area is located some 50 miles south-southwest of Montgomery, the capital city of Alabama. Birmingham-Hoover, the state's largest metropolitan area, is located 60 miles to the north, thereby offering residents of those two heavily populated communities easy and affordable access to a natural/manmade wonderland that has captivated visitors for nearly a century.

"Our coast has a community with a thriving downtown filled with independent merchants, restaurants, and events that bring locals and visitors together," says the Lake Martin Tourism Association. "Our coast offers fresh food from local farms served in restaurants owned by people who live here. There is a delightful selection of restaurants on the lake that are simply a boat ride away. There are even more places to choose in the surrounding communities including Alexander City and its quaint downtown."

The lake area also is lined with a spectacular network of hiking trails suited

for all abilities. Among the most notable are the Smith Mountain Fire Tower Trails.

"This is the tallest elevation and most spectacular panoramic view on Lake Martin, complete with a 90-foot lookout tower, picnic area, and educational displays," says the Tourism Association on its website. "The Walker Bynum Smith Mountain Tower Trail is a steep 0.4-mile climb to the base of the tower. The Lakeshore Trail is 2.4 miles. From near the top of the mountain, the Lakeshore Trail makes a steep descent before winding along Lake Martin's undeveloped shores. The David M. Forker Island Hop Trail stretches 1.4 miles to the boat dock. When Lake Martin is lowered to winter pool levels, it is possible to walk another quarter mile, crossing a series of islands inaccessible at full pool. Little Smith Mountain Loop Trail is a 2.6-mile difficult and potentially dangerous trail, but has spectacular views and rock formations. This is also a part of the Piedmont Plateau Birding Trail."

For more information on the offerings of Lake Martin, visit explorelakemartin.com. 

Connecting with colleagues – and the community at large

By Brian Cox



Primerus member attorneys have rolled up their sleeves and pitched in this year

to help feed communities across America, from Colorado Springs to Phoenix and Houston to the nation's capital. They've even donned running shoes to take part in a fund-raising 4-kilometer run/walk in Hamburg, Germany.

As one of the Six Pillars of Primerus, which sees law as fulfilling a fundamental purpose in holding communities together, community service is often on the agenda at most Primerus conferences. Conference attendees take the opportunity to forge lasting bonds with fellow attorneys through volunteer work at a local charity.

"Primerus has a history of volunteering for Boys and Girls Clubs in several cities over the years," says Houston attorney Juli Fournier, who was involved in organizing the Southern Regional Conference in June. "We decided to add to the Primerus legacy by donating snack boxes to several summer camp locations of the Boys and Girls Club of Greater Houston."

The Boys and Girls Club of Greater Houston was started in 1952 and creatively engages, educates, and empowers low-income youth in ways that improve their chances of achieving and sustaining academic success. More than 17,000 under-privileged kids ages 6-17 walk through their doors each year to take part in after-school and summer programs. The Club is a safe haven for many of the kids who commonly live in the midst of chaotic and dangerous neighborhoods. The children are provided

meals, strong role models, homework assistance, organized athletics, character development, and access to the arts.

Lawyers attending the Southern Regional Meeting at the Texas-themed Armadillo Palace in Houston joined together to create two fast moving assembly lines, packing 400 boxes with snacks and drinks before loading several trucks to take them to the Boys and Girls Club center.

"We had set aside two hours to do this and found from the event location they had another group coming in 45 minutes," says Bob Brown of Donato Brown Pool & Moehlmann. "We set the world speed record for stuffing box lunches, and if we had called Guinness Book of World Records in advance, we would probably make the next issue."

The snacks boxes were distributed to three different camp locations around the city.



During the International Summit, members of the Primerus Business Law Institute volunteered at the Capital Area Food Bank to unbox pallets of frozen chicken before manning stations on the motorized conveyor belt to pack emergency and senior food boxes.

COMMUNITY SERVICE

“When we dropped the boxes off, the youngsters hugged and thanked us and later followed up with nice thank you notes,” says Fournier, who is the managing partner at Stephenson Fournier.

Attendees of the Young Lawyers Section Conference held in March in Phoenix aided St. Mary’s Food Bank, which claims the distinction of being the world’s first food bank. The organization was founded in 1967 by John van Hengel, who came up with the idea of creating a place where individuals and companies with excess food could “deposit” it, and those in need could “withdraw” it. Mr. von Hengel went on to found several other food banks across the country, including the Global Food Banking network. He is known as the “father of food banking.”

A few hours volunteering at the food bank, which is one of the largest in the United States, proved rewarding on several

fronts for Jaclyn Gans of the Idaho law firm Elam & Burke.

“While the substantive programming is valuable, the emphasis on networking and connecting with other Primerus attorneys is really what sets this conference apart from others I’ve attended in the past,” she says. “I spent two hours side-by-side with another attorney from Cleveland loading bags of beans at the community service event, and it just so happened that a couple of weeks after the conference, one of his clients needed Idaho counsel.”

Gans says the community service component of the conference is a meaningful way to connect with old friends and to make new contacts. Kathy Baldwin, of Wilke Fleury in California’s state capital of Sacramento, echoed that sentiment.

“I always come away with new friends, new stories, and a better understanding of how to effectively market myself and

my firm,” says Baldwin. “I repeatedly come back to this conference to get to make connections with up-and-coming attorneys in Primerus firms.”

Another food bank clear across the country benefited from the help of attendees at the Primerus Business Institute’s International Summit in April. The Capital Area Food Bank is the largest food bank in the Washington metro area, sourcing and distributing food for more than 45 million meals a year to people in communities across D.C., Maryland and Virginia.

Approximately 40 volunteers assisted with sorting food donations and packing emergency and senior food boxes along a motorized conveyor belt as upbeat and energetic music played. Divided up into teams, the attorneys may even have gotten a little competitive as they worked to most efficiently unbox and unload frozen chicken and then pack boxes



“Team Primerus” – Members worked together in the name of ending hunger. Top Left: Young Lawyers set aside time during the YLS Conference to volunteer at the St. Mary’s Food bank in Phoenix, Arizona. Top Right: During the PDI Convocation in Colorado Springs, Colorado members and their client guests packed weekend food packages for school aged children. Bottom Left: Primerus Business Law Institute members and corporate guests volunteered at the Capital Area Food Bank in Washington D.C.

with food donations in an assembly line fashion.

“It was an incredibly rewarding experience doing our small part to support the important work of the Capital Area Food Bank,” says Ryan Billings of Kohner Mann & Kailas, S.C. in Milwaukee. “Community service is one of Primerus’ Six Pillars for a good reason, and my wife and I were grateful to have the opportunity to serve a truly worthy cause.”

“Our Primerus group had a great time getting to know each other while working together in a new environment and all the while enjoying the satisfaction of delivering meaningful community service,” says John Y. Pearce of the New Orleans firm Gordon Arata Montgomery Barnett.

Mark F. Warzecha, of Widerman Malek Attorneys at Law in Melbourne, Florida, says the camaraderie he experienced at the community service event cannot be duplicated by any digital platform.

“The ability to reconnect with so many of my friends and colleagues from around the world was priceless,” he says.

“It felt a bit like a school trip with your best mates,” says Tina Denso of Brödermann Jahn in Hamburg, Germany. “But this is what Primerus stands for, too – feeling warm and welcomed in a group of many very interesting and experienced people, who happen to be good lawyers.”

Denso also attended the EMEA Regional Meeting in Hamburg in June, which her firm hosted. It was the first in-person gathering of the section in three years. On the last day of the conference, nearly 20 attendees took part in the HafenCityRun, a 4-kilometer run/walk through the city to raise funds for a charity association that supports people in need in metro Hamburg.

“It was great fun,” says Gearóid McGann of Sweeney McGann in Ireland. “Eckart [Brödermann] himself passed many others

half his age on the way to the finish line. Some of us ran parts of the route and walked other parts. It was very hot and dry, so we had plenty of excuses. It was the perfect ending to an excellent post-COVID get together for the EMEA members.”

In Colorado Springs in May, attendees at the PDI Convocation helped ensure children facing food insecurity had something to eat during weekends off from school by volunteering with Blessings in a Backpack. Participants filled backpacks with nutritional food that students could take home for the weekend. The program, which started with just two schools in 2005, now serves 88,900 students in 1,092 schools across the country. According to its annual report, Blessings in a Backpack’s goal is to provide 4 million hunger-free weekends annually for children by the end of the 2023-24 school year.



What do you do? Primerus Young Lawyers “speed network” to get more familiar with each other’s practice area and expertise.

Young Lawyers bond over throwing sharp objects at targets. One hand or two...step and follow through!


Tom Dargan, at Lewis Johs Avallone Aviles, LLP in New York, describes the PDI Convocation as “enlightening” and “inspirational.”

“I have been practicing law for the defense bar for more than 25 years,” Dargan says. “I have attended numerous conferences in those years and have never

felt the magnitude that I felt at this year’s Convocation.”

Muliha Khan, with Zupkus & Angell, P.C., in Denver, served on the committee that organized the PDI Convocation and says seeing the event come together was “extremely gratifying” and that volunteering for Blessings in

a Backpack was an opportunity to serve the community as well as collaborate with colleagues.

“I’m so glad we dedicated some time to community service,” she says. “The fact that it helped us all bond was the icing on the cake.” 



Runners were (left to right)

Front row: Lena Döpfer (paralegal), Marina Disyak (from Ukraine), Anastasia Klymenko (from Ukraine), Anna Preine-Kosach (Vice President Ukrainian Future Hilfe-Verein e.V.), Eckart Brödermann, Anton and Luis (sons of York Zieren), Natalie Harth (assistant).

Middle row: Gearóid McGann, Pascal Le Dai, Alice Suwareh (assistant), Katharina Niewöhner (trainee), Theresa von Urff, Melanie Juntermanns (assistant), Dominique Grüter.

Back row: Hans-Jürgen Kühl (bookkeeping), Manuel Kayser, Johannes Struck, Christian Denso (husband of Tina Denso), Tina Denso, Kostiantyn Köymenko (from Ukraine), Philipp Hofmann, Hendrik Paule (assistant), York Zieren, and Sebastian Kühn.

Primerus Member Law Firms

Alphabetical by Country/Province/State

Asia Pacific

Australia

Carroll & O’Dea Lawyers

HHG Legal Group

China

HJM Asia Law & Co LLC

Pamir Law Group

Watson & Band

Hong Kong

ONC Lawyers

India

Sarthak Advocates & Solicitors

Indonesia

Leks&Co

Japan

GI&T Law Office

Singapore

HJM Asia Law & Co LLC

Taiwan

Pamir Law Group

Europe, Middle East and Africa

Austria

OBLIN Rechtsanwälte

Cyprus

AMG Mylonas & Associates, LLC

France

Jasper Avocats

Germany

Brödermann Jahn

Greece

Bahas, Gramatidis & Partners

Ireland

Sweeney McGann Solicitors

Italy

FDL Studio legale e tributario

Kenya

Njoroge Regeru & Company

Europe, Middle East and Africa

Netherlands

Russell Advocaten B.V.

Nigeria

Giwa-Osagie & Company

Serbia

ŠunjkaLaw

South Africa

Fluxmans Attorneys Incorporated

Spain

Dr. Frühbeck Abogados S.L.P.

North Legal

Switzerland

Suter Howald Rechtsanwälte

United Kingdom

Marriott Harrison LLP

Primerus Member Law Firms

Alphabetical by Country/Province/State

Latin America and Caribbean

Argentina

Badeni, Cantilo, Carricart & Bilbao

Bahamas

Evans & Co.

Belize

Quijano & Associates

Brazil

Terciotti Andrade Gomes Donato Advogados

British Virgin Islands

Quijano & Associates

Chile

Magliona Abogados

Colombia

Pinilla, González & Prieto Abogados

Costa Rica

Guardia Montes & Asociados

Cuba

Dr. Frühbeck Abogados S.L.P.

Ecuador

Meythaler & Zambrano Abogados

Guatemala

Iurisconsulti Abogados y Notarios

Honduras

Ulloa & Asociados

Mexico

Cacheaux Cavazos & Newton

Panama

Quijano & Associates

Perú

Llona & Bustamante Abogados

Trinidad and Tobago

Martin George & Co.

U.S. Virgin Islands

BoltNagi P.C.

Uruguay

Cikato Lawyers

North America

Canada

Manitoba

PKF Lawyers

Ontario

Mann Lawyers LLP

Quebec

Greenspoon Winikoff S.E.N.C.R.L., LLP

United States

Alabama

Ball, Ball, Matthews & Novak, P.A.

Christian & Small LLP

Alaska

Ashburn & Mason P.C.

Arizona

Burch & Cracchiolo, P.A.

DeConcini McDonald Yetwin & Lacy, P.C.

California

Law Office of Blane A. Smith

Brayton Purcell LLP

Brothers Smith LLP

Coleman & Horowitz, LLP

Demler, Armstrong & Rowland, LLP

Dillingham & Murphy, LLP

Ferris & Britton, A Professional Corporation

Greenberg Glusker

Lynberg & Watkins, APC

Neil, Dymott, Frank, McCabe & Hudson APLC

Wilke Fleury LLP

Colorado

Ogborn Mihm LLP

Timmins LLC

Zupkus & Angell, P.C.

North America

Connecticut

Brody Wilkinson PC

Szilagyi & Daly

Delaware

McCullom D'Emilio Smith Uebler LLC

Florida

Agentis

Bivins & Hemenway, P.A.

Hodkin Stage Ward, PLLC

Mateer Harbert, P.A.

Nicklaus & Associates, P.A.

Ogden Sullivan Stover & Saar, P.A.

Saalfeld Shad, P.A.

Wideman Malek, P.L.

Georgia

Fain, Major & Brennan, P.C.

Krevolin & Horst, LLC

Tate Law Group, LLC

Idaho

Elam & Burke

Illinois

Kozacky Weitzel McGrath, P.C.

Lane & Lane, LLC

Lipe Lyons Murphy Nahrstadt & Pontikis Ltd.

Roberts Perryman

Indiana

Hackman Hulett LLP

Kentucky

Eddins Domine Law Group, PLLC

Fowler Bell PLLC

Louisiana

Degan, Blanchard & Nash, PLC

Gordon Arata Montgomery Barnett

Hargrove, Smelley & Strickland

Herman Herman & Katz, LLC

Primerus Member Law Firms

Alphabetical by Country/Province/State

North America

Maine

The Bennett Law Firm, P.A.

Maryland

Thomas & Libowitz, P.A.

Massachusetts

Hermes, Netburn, O'Connor & Spearing, P.C.

Rudolph Friedmann LLP

Michigan

Bos & Glazier, PLC

Buchanan Firm

Cardelli Lanfear Law

Demorest Law Firm, PLLC

McKeen & Associates, P.C.

Silver & Van Essen, PC

Minnesota

O'Meara, Leer, Wagner & Kohl, P.A.

Mississippi

Young Wells Williams P.A.

Missouri

Foland, Wickens, Roper, Hofer & Crawford, P.C.

Roberts Perryman

Rosenblum Goldenhersh

Montana

Datsopoulos, MacDonald & Lind, P.C.

Nebraska

Engles, Ketcham, Olson & Keith, P.C.

Nevada

Laxalt & Nomura, Ltd.

Richard Harris Law Firm

Sklar Williams PLLC

Winner Booze & Zarcone

North America

New Jersey

Earp Cohn P.C.

Mandelbaum Barrett PC

Thomas Paschos & Associates, P.C.

New Mexico

Hinkle Shanor LLP

New York

Barton LLP

Coughlin & Gerhart, LLP

Ganfer Shore Leeds & Zauderer LLP

Lewis Johs Avallone Aviles, LLP

Nolan Heller Kauffman LLP

North Carolina

Smith Debnam Narron Drake

Saintsing & Myers, LLP

Ohio

Mellino Law Firm, LLC

Schneider Smeltz Spieth Bell LLP

Oklahoma

Fogg Law Firm

The Handley Law Center

Prospective Legal, PLLC

Smiling, Smiling & Burgess

Oregon

Haglund Kelley, LLP

Pennsylvania

Earp Cohn P.C.

Rothman Gordon

Law Offices of Thomas J. Wagner, LLC

Rhode Island

McKenney, Clarkin & Estey, LLP

South Carolina

Collins & Lacy, P.C.

Rosen Hagood

North America

South Dakota

Lynn, Jackson, Shultz & Lebrun, P.C.

Tennessee

Barton PLLC

Cornelius & Collins, LLP

Texas

Donato, Brown, Pool & Moehlmann

Downs & Stanford, P.C.

Moses, Palmer & Howell, L.L.P.

Stephenson Fournier

Thornton, Biechlin, Reynolds & Guerra, L.C.

Virginia

Goodman Allen Donnelly

Wharton Aldhizer & Weaver, PLC

Washington

Beresford Booth PLLC

Johnson Graffe Keay Moniz & Wick, LLP

Menzer Law Firm, PLLC

West Virginia

Hendrickson & Long PLLC

The Masters Law Firm, L.C.

Wisconsin

Kohner, Mann & Kailas, S.C.

Wyoming

Gary L. Shockey, PC

Primerus Member Firms Globally

109

North America Region

18

Latin America &
Caribbean Region

16

Europe, Middle East &
Africa Region

10

Asia Pacific Region



P PRIMERUS

The World's Finest Law Firms

International Society of Primerus Law Firms

452 Ada Drive, Suite 300
Ada, Michigan 49301

Tel: 800.968.2211 (toll-free)
Fax: 616.458.7099
primerus.com

*The International Society of Primerus Law Firms
finds and accepts only the finest independent law
firms and lawyers.*