

Higher One Holdings, Inc.
Form DEF 14A
April 04, 2011

UNITED STATES
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington, D.C. 20549

SCHEDULE 14A

(Rule 14a-101)

INFORMATION REQUIRED IN PROXY STATEMENT

SCHEDULE 14A INFORMATION

Proxy Statement Pursuant to Section 14(a) of

the Securities Exchange Act of 1934

Filed by the Registrant

Filed by a Party other than the Registrant

Check the appropriate box:

- Preliminary Proxy Statement
- Confidential, for Use of the Commission Only (as permitted by Rule 14a-6(e)(2))**
- Definitive Proxy Statement
- Definitive Additional Materials
- Soliciting Material under §240.14a-12

HIGHER ONE HOLDINGS, INC.

(Name of Registrant as Specified In Its Charter)

(Name of Person(s) Filing Proxy Statement, if other than the Registrant)

Payment of Filing Fee (Check the appropriate box):

- No fee required

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- (1) Amount Previously Paid:

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- (3) Filing Party:

(4) Date Filed:

HIGHER ONE HOLDINGS, INC.

25 Science Park

New Haven, Connecticut 06511

NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING OF STOCKHOLDERS

TO BE HELD ON MAY 18, 2011

To the Stockholders of Higher One Holdings, Inc.:

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Annual Meeting of Stockholders (Annual Meeting) of Higher One Holdings, Inc., a Delaware corporation (the Company), will be held on May 18, 2011, at 9:00 a.m. local time at 25 Science Park, New Haven, CT for the following purposes:

1. To elect three directors to hold office until the 2014 meeting of stockholders or until their successors are elected;
2. To ratify the selection, by the Audit Committee of the Board of Directors, of PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP as the independent registered public accounting firm of the Company for its fiscal year ending December 31, 2011;
3. To approve a non-binding advisory proposal on executive compensation;
4. To approve a non-binding advisory proposal on the frequency of future advisory votes on executive compensation;
5. To transact such other business as may properly come before the Annual Meeting or any adjournment or postponement thereof.

The foregoing items of business are more fully described in the Proxy Statement accompanying this Notice. Only stockholders who owned our common stock at the close of business on March 23, 2011 can vote at this meeting or any adjournments that take place.

Our Board of Directors recommends that you vote **FOR** the election of director nominees named in Proposal One of the Proxy Statement; **FOR** the ratification of the appointment of PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP as our independent registered public accounting firm as described in Proposal Two of the Proxy Statement; **FOR** the non-binding advisory proposal on executive compensation described in Proposal Three of the Proxy Statement; and **THREE YEARS** on the non-binding advisory proposal on the frequency of future advisory votes on executive compensation as described in Proposal Four of the Proxy Statement.

For our Annual Meeting, we have elected to use the Internet as our primary means of providing our proxy materials to stockholders. Consequently, most stockholders will not receive paper copies of our proxy materials. We will instead send to these stockholders a Notice of Internet Availability of Proxy Materials with instructions for accessing the proxy materials, including our proxy statement and annual report, and for voting via the Internet. The Notice of Internet Availability of Proxy Materials also provides information on how stockholders may obtain paper copies of our proxy materials free of charge, if they so choose. The electronic delivery of our proxy materials will significantly reduce our printing and mailing costs and the environmental impact of the proxy materials.

The Notice of Internet Availability of Proxy Materials will also provide the date, time and location of the Annual Meeting; the matters to be acted upon at the meeting and the Board of Directors' recommendation with regard to each matter; a toll-free number, an e-mail address and a website where stockholders can request a paper or e-mail copy of the Proxy Statement, our annual report to stockholders and a form of proxy relating to the Annual Meeting; information on how to access the form of proxy; and information on how to attend the meeting and vote in person.

You are cordially invited to attend the Annual Meeting, but whether or not you expect to attend in person, you are urged to mark, date and sign your proxy card and return it by mail or follow the alternative voting procedures described in the Notice of Internet Availability of Proxy Materials or the proxy card.

By Order of the Board of Directors

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Thomas D. Kavanaugh

Corporate Secretary

April 4, 2011

HIGHER ONE HOLDINGS, INC.

25 Science Park

New Haven, Connecticut 06511

PROXY STATEMENT

FOR THE 2011 ANNUAL MEETING OF STOCKHOLDERS

MAY 18, 2011

The Board of Directors of Higher One Holdings, Inc. (the *Company*) is soliciting your proxy to vote at the Annual Meeting of Stockholders to be held on May 18, 2011 at 9:00 a.m., local time, and any adjournment or postponement of that meeting (the *Annual Meeting*). The Annual Meeting will be held at 25 Science Park, New Haven, Connecticut. We intend to mail the Notice of Internet Availability of Proxy Materials on or about April 4, 2011 to stockholders of record as of the March 23, 2011 (the *Record Date*). The only voting securities of the Company are shares of common stock, \$0.001 par value per share (the *common stock*), of which there were 56,439,366 shares outstanding as of the Record Date. We need the holders of a majority in voting power of the shares of common stock issued and outstanding and entitled to vote present in person or represented by proxy to hold the Annual Meeting.

In this proxy statement, we refer to Higher One Holdings, Inc. as the *Company*, *Higher One*, *we* or *us* and the Board of Directors as the *Board*. When we refer to the *Company's* fiscal year, we mean the twelve-month period ending December 31 of the stated year.

The *Company's* annual report on Form 10-K for fiscal year 2010, which contains consolidated financial statements for fiscal 2010, is available in the *Investor Relations* section of our website at <http://ir.higherone.com/>. You also may obtain a copy of the *Company's* annual report on Form 10-K for fiscal 2010 without charge, by writing to Investor Relations at the above address.

We are first making this proxy statement and accompanying materials available to stockholders on or about April 5, 2011.

THE PROXY PROCESS AND STOCKHOLDER VOTING

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS ABOUT THIS PROXY MATERIAL AND VOTING

Who can vote at the Annual Meeting?

Only stockholders of record at the close of business on March 23, 2011 will be entitled to vote at the Annual Meeting. At the close of business on the Record Date, there were 56,439,366 shares of common stock issued and outstanding and entitled to vote.

Stockholder of Record: Shares Registered in Your Name

If, on March 23, 2011, your shares were registered directly in your name with Higher One's transfer agent, BNY Mellon Shareholder Services, then you are a stockholder of record. As a stockholder of record, you may vote in person at the Annual Meeting or vote by proxy. Whether or not you plan to attend the Annual Meeting, we urge you to vote by proxy over the telephone, on the Internet, or, if you received a paper copy of the proxy materials, by mail, as instructed below to ensure your vote is counted.

Beneficial Owner: Shares Registered in the Name of a Broker, Bank or Other Agent

If, on March 23, 2011, your shares were held in an account at a brokerage firm, bank, dealer or other similar organization, then you are the beneficial owner of shares held in *street name* and these proxy materials are being forwarded to you by that organization. The organization holding your account is considered the

stockholder of record for purposes of voting at the Annual Meeting. As a beneficial owner, you have the right to direct your broker or other agent on how to vote the shares in your account. You are also invited to attend the Annual Meeting. However, since you are not the stockholder of record, you may not vote your shares in person at the Annual Meeting unless you request and obtain a valid proxy card from your broker or other agent.

What am I being asked to vote on?

You are being asked to vote

FOR:

The election of three Class I directors to hold office until our 2014 Annual Meeting of Stockholders;

The ratification of the selection by the Audit Committee of our Board of PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP as our independent registered public accounting firm for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2011;

The approval of a non-binding advisory proposal on executive compensation; and

THREE YEARS:

For the advisory vote on the frequency of future advisory votes on executive compensation.

In addition, you are entitled to vote on any other matters that are properly brought before the Annual Meeting.

How do I vote?

You may vote by mail or follow any alternative voting procedure described on the proxy card. To use an alternative voting procedure, follow the instructions on each proxy card that you receive or on the Notice of Internet Availability of Proxy Materials.

For Proposal One, you may either vote For the three nominees, Withhold All of the nominees or For All Except any nominee you specify. For Proposals Two and Three, you may either vote For or Against each proposal or Abstain. For Proposal Four, you may vote One Year, Two Year Three Years or Abstain. The procedures for voting are as follows:

Stockholder of Record: Shares Registered in Your Name

If you are a stockholder of record, you may vote in person at the Annual Meeting. Alternatively, you may vote by proxy by using the accompanying proxy card, over the Internet or by telephone. Whether or not you plan to attend the Annual Meeting, we urge you to vote by proxy to ensure your vote is counted. Even if you have submitted a proxy before the Annual Meeting, you may still attend the Annual Meeting and vote in person. In such case, your previously submitted proxy will be disregarded.

To vote in person, come to the Annual Meeting and we will give you a ballot when you arrive.

To vote using the proxy card, simply complete, sign and date the accompanying proxy card and return it promptly in the envelope provided. If you return your signed proxy card to us before the Annual Meeting, we will vote your shares as you direct.

To vote by proxy over the Internet, follow the instructions provided on the proxy card or the Notice of Internet Availability of Proxy Materials.

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To vote by telephone if you request printed copies of the proxy materials by mail, you may vote by proxy by calling the toll free number found on the proxy card.

Beneficial Owner: Shares Registered in the Name of Broker, Bank or Other Agent

If you are a beneficial owner of shares registered in the name of your broker, bank or other agent, you should have received a voting instruction card and voting instructions with these proxy materials from that organization rather than from us. Simply complete and mail the voting instruction card to ensure that your vote is counted. To vote in person at the Annual Meeting, you must obtain a valid proxy from your broker, bank or other agent. Follow the instructions from your broker, bank or other agent included with these proxy materials, or contact your broker, bank or other agent to request a proxy form.

Who counts the votes?

Broadridge Financial Solutions, Inc. (Broadridge) has been engaged as our independent agent to tabulate stockholder votes. Your executed proxy card will be returned directly to Broadridge for tabulation.

What is the quorum requirement?

A quorum of stockholders is necessary to hold a valid meeting. A quorum will be present if the holders of a majority in voting power of the shares of common stock issued and outstanding and entitled to vote are present in person or represented by proxy at the Annual Meeting. On the Record Date, there were 56,439,366 shares outstanding and entitled to vote. Accordingly, 28,219,684 shares must be represented by stockholders present at the Annual Meeting or by proxy to have a quorum.

Your shares will be counted towards the quorum only if you submit a valid proxy vote or vote at the Annual Meeting. Abstentions and broker non-votes will be counted towards the quorum requirement. If there is no quorum, either the chairperson of the Annual Meeting or a majority in voting power of the stockholders entitled to vote at the Annual Meeting, present in person or represented by proxy, may adjourn the Annual Meeting to another time or place.

How are votes counted?

Broadridge will separately count For, Withhold All or For All Except votes with respect to Proposal One, For and Against votes, abstentions and broker non-votes with respect to Proposals Two and Three and One Year, Two Years, Three Years, abstentions and broker non-votes for Proposal Four. For Proposal One, directors will be elected by a plurality of the votes cast, which means that the three nominees receiving the highest number of For votes will be elected. Proposal Four will also be determined by a plurality of the votes cast. To be approved, Proposals Two through Four require the affirmative vote of the holders of a majority in voting power of the shares of common stock which are present in person or by proxy and entitled to vote on the proposal. If stockholders abstain from voting, including brokers holding their clients shares of record who cause abstentions to be recorded, these shares will be considered present and entitled to vote at the Annual Meeting and will be counted towards determining whether or not a quorum is present. Abstentions will have no effect with regard to Proposals One and Four, because approval of a percentage of shares present or outstanding is not required for this proposal, and with regard to Proposals Two and Three, will have the same effect as an Against vote.

Brokers who hold shares for the accounts of their clients may vote such shares either as directed by their clients or in the absence of such direction, in their own discretion if permitted by the stock exchange or other organization of which they are members. Members of the New York Stock Exchange are permitted to vote their clients proxies in their own discretion as to certain routine proposals, such as the ratification of the appointment of PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP as our independent registered public accounting firm for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2011. If a broker votes shares that are not voted by its clients for or against a routine proposal, those shares are considered present and entitled to vote at the Annual Meeting. Those shares will be counted towards determining whether or not a quorum is present. Those shares will also be taken into account in determining the outcome of all of the proposals. However, where a proposal is not routine, a broker who has received no instructions from its client generally does not have discretion to vote its clients uninstructed shares on that proposal. When a broker indicates on a proxy that it does not have discretionary authority to vote certain

shares on a particular proposal, the missing votes are referred to as broker non-votes. Those shares would be considered present for purpose of determining whether or not a quorum is present, but would not be considered entitled to vote on the proposal. Those shares would not be taken into account in determining the outcome of the non-routine proposal. Proposals One, Three and Four are considered non-routine proposals.

Because brokers cannot vote uninstructed shares on behalf of their customers for non-routine matters, it is important that stockholders vote their shares.

How many votes do I have?

On each matter to be voted upon, you have one vote for each share of common stock you own as of March 23, 2011.

Why did I receive a one-page notice in the mail regarding the Internet availability of proxy materials instead of a full set of proxy materials?

Pursuant to rules adopted by the SEC, we have elected to provide access to our proxy materials over the Internet. Accordingly, we are sending a Notice of Internet Availability of Proxy Materials to our stockholders. All stockholders will have the ability to access the proxy materials on the website referred to in the Notice of Internet Availability of Proxy Materials or request to receive a printed set of the proxy materials. Instructions on how to access the proxy materials over the Internet or to request a printed copy may be found in the Notice of Internet Availability of Proxy Materials. In addition, stockholders may request to receive proxy materials in printed form by mail or electronically by email on an ongoing basis. We encourage stockholders to take advantage of the availability of the proxy materials on the Internet to help reduce the environmental impact of the Annual Meeting.

How do I vote via Internet or telephone?

You may vote by proxy via the Internet by following the instructions provided on the proxy card or the Notice of Internet Availability of Proxy Materials. If you request printed copies of the proxy materials by mail, you may vote by proxy by calling the toll free number found on the proxy card. Please be aware that if you vote over the Internet, you may incur costs such as telephone and Internet access charges for which you will be responsible. The Internet and telephone voting facilities for eligible stockholders of record will close at 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time on May 17, 2011. The giving of such a telephonic or Internet proxy will not affect your right to vote in person should you decide to attend the Annual Meeting.

The telephone and Internet voting procedures are designed to authenticate stockholders' identities, to allow stockholders to give their voting instructions and to confirm that stockholders' instructions have been recorded properly.

What if I return a proxy card but do not make specific choices?

If we receive a signed and dated proxy card and the proxy card does not specify how your shares are to be voted, your shares will be voted For Proposals One through Three and for Three Years on Proposal Four. If any other matter is properly presented at the Annual Meeting, your proxy (one of the individuals named on your proxy card) will vote your shares using his or her best judgment.

Who is paying for this proxy solicitation?

We will pay for the entire cost of soliciting proxies. In addition to these mailed proxy materials, our directors, officers and employees may also solicit proxies in person, by telephone or by other means of communication. Directors, officers and employees will not be paid any additional compensation for soliciting proxies. We may also reimburse brokerage firms, banks and other agents for the cost of forwarding proxy materials to beneficial owners.

What does it mean if I receive more than one set of materials?

If you receive more than one set of materials, your shares are registered in more than one name or are registered in different accounts. In order to vote all the shares you own, you must either sign and return all of the proxy cards or follow the instructions for any alternative voting procedure on each of the proxy cards or Notice of Internet Availability of Proxy Materials you receive.

Can I change my vote after submitting my proxy?

Yes. You can revoke your proxy at any time before the final vote at the Annual Meeting. If you are the record holder of your shares, you may revoke your proxy in any one of three ways:

You may submit another properly completed proxy with a later date.

You may send a written notice that you are revoking your proxy to Higher One Holdings, Inc., 25 Science Park, New Haven, Connecticut 06511, Attention: General Counsel and Secretary.

You may attend the Annual Meeting and vote in person. Simply attending the Annual Meeting will not, by itself, revoke your proxy. If your shares are held by your broker, bank or other agent, you should follow the instructions provided by them.

When are stockholder proposals due for next year's Annual Meeting?

To be considered for inclusion in next year's proxy materials, your proposal must be submitted in writing by December 7, 2011 to Higher One Holdings, Inc., 25 Science Park, New Haven, Connecticut 06511, Attention: General Counsel and Secretary. If you wish to submit a proposal to be voted on at next year's meeting that is not to be included in next year's proxy materials pursuant to the SEC's shareholder proposal procedures or to nominate a director, you must do so between December 7, 2011 and January 6, 2012. You are also advised to review our bylaws, which contain additional requirements about advance notice of stockholder proposals and director nominations.

How can I find out the results of the voting at the Annual Meeting?

Voting results will be announced by the filing of a Current Report on Form 8-K within four business days after the Annual Meeting. If final voting results are unavailable at that time, we will file an amended Current Report on Form 8-K within four business days of the day the final results are available.

PROPOSAL ONE

ELECTION OF DIRECTORS

We currently have nine directors. Our Board has determined all of our directors other than Messrs. Hatton, Volchek and Lasater meet the independence requirements of the New York Stock Exchange and the federal securities laws, although Mr. Gross may not meet certain independence requirements for service on our audit and compensation committees. Mr. Volchek, our chief financial officer, is chairman of the Board. We have appointed Mr. Gross as our lead independent director.

Our Board is divided into three classes, denominated as classes I, II and III. Members of each class hold office for staggered three-year terms. At each annual meeting of stockholders beginning in 2011, successors to the directors in the class whose term expires at that annual meeting are elected for a three-year term. Messrs. Volchek, Gross and Cromwell serve as class I directors with their terms expiring at the Annual Meeting. Messrs. Lasater, Kanji and McFadden serve as class II directors with terms expiring at the annual meeting of stockholders to be held in 2012. Messrs. Hatton, Biddelman and Moran serve as class III directors with terms expiring at the annual meeting of stockholders to be held in 2013.

Shares represented by executed proxies will be voted, if authority to do so is not withheld, for the election of the three nominees named below. In the event that any nominee should be unavailable for election as a result of an unexpected occurrence, such shares will be voted for the election of such substitute nominee as the Board may propose. Each person nominated for election has agreed to serve if elected, and management has no reason to believe that any nominee will be unable to serve. Directors are elected by a plurality of the votes cast at the meeting.

The following table sets forth, for the class I nominees and our other current directors who will continue in office after the Annual Meeting, information with respect to their ages and positions/offices held with the Company:

Name	Age	Title
Dean Hatton	51	President, Chief Executive Officer and Director
Mark Volchek	33	Chairman of the Board of Directors and Chief Financial Officer
Miles Lasater	33	Chief Operations Officer and Director
Paul Biddelman	65	Director
David Cromwell	66	Director
Stewart Gross	51	Director
Shamez Kanji	44	Director
Patrick McFadden	73	Director
Charles Moran	56	Director

Set forth below is certain biographical information for each of these individuals.

Nominees for Election to a Three-Year Term Expiring at the 2014 Annual Meeting of Stockholders

Mark Volchek is one of our founders and has been our chairman and chief financial officer since 2000 and 2002, respectively. From 2000 to 2002, Mr. Volchek was our chief executive officer. Prior to founding Higher One, Mr. Volchek worked at College Pro, where he most recently held the position of general manager. Mr. Volchek is also a director of innRoad, Inc. He is a founding officer of the Yale Entrepreneurial Society, a not-for-profit organization that promotes entrepreneurship among Yale students, faculty and alumni and served on its board from 1999 to 2010. Since 2007, Mr. Volchek has been the chairman of the board of the Tweed New Haven Airport Authority. Other past civic roles have included positions on the New Haven Economic Development Commission and the Regional Growth Partnership strategic planning committee. Mr. Volchek holds a BA and an MA in economics from Yale University. We believe that Mr. Volchek, having served as our chief executive officer and then chief financial officer over the course of the last 10 years, brings institutional knowledge to the Board, especially in regard to our finances, and therefore should serve on our Board.

David Cromwell has been a director of Higher One since 2001. Mr. Cromwell has been an adjunct professor of entrepreneurship at the Yale School of Management since 1996. Prior to that, he worked for 30 years in various positions at JPMorgan & Company in New York and London. From 2000 to 2009, Mr. Cromwell was chairman of the board and co-founder of CE University, Inc., an online provider of continuing education for insurance professionals. He helped found and serves as a faculty advisor to one of our early investors, Sachem Ventures, a student-run venture capital fund at the Yale School of Management. Mr. Cromwell has served as an advisor to numerous venture-backed and growth companies in Connecticut. Mr. Cromwell holds a BA in Economics from Ohio Wesleyan University and an MBA from New York University, Stern School of Business. We believe that Mr. Cromwell should serve on our Board as he brings to it substantial experience as an advisor to high-growth companies such as ours.

Stewart Gross has been a director of Higher One since 2008. Mr. Gross is a managing director and member of the investment committee of one of our investors, Lightyear Capital, a private equity firm. Prior to joining Lightyear Capital in 2005, Mr. Gross spent 17 years at Warburg Pincus, where he was a managing director and

member of the executive management group. Mr. Gross is currently a director of Flagstone Reinsurance Holdings Limited, Antares Holdings Limited, Cetera Financial Group and Argus Software, Inc., a trustee of Boys & Girls Harbor and the chairman of Civic Capital Corporation, an affiliate of the NYC Investment Fund. He was previously a trustee of the Mt. Sinai Children's Center Foundation. Mr. Gross holds an AB in Government from Harvard University and an MBA from Columbia Business School. The knowledge and skills Mr. Gross has acquired as an investor in, and director of, public and private companies focused on financial services and financial technology makes him a valuable source with respect to regulatory and other issues specific to such companies, leading us to conclude that he should serve on our Board.

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS RECOMMENDS A VOTE *FOR* THE ELECTION OF EACH NOMINEE NAMED ABOVE.

Directors Continuing in Office until the 2012 Annual Meeting of Stockholders

Miles Lasater is one of our founders and has been our chief operations officer since 2000. Prior to founding Higher One, Mr. Lasater was a member of the invention team at Walker Digital, where he worked on intellectual property for companies such as Priceline and Retail DNA. Mr. Lasater serves on the board of Yale New Haven Hospital. Mr. Lasater has been a board member of the New Haven Port Authority, Chairman of SeeClickFix, a software-as-a-service company that provides a platform for governments and citizens to interact, and a member of Yale University's Advisory Committee on Investor Responsibility. Mr. Lasater has been a founding officer and board member of both the Yale Entrepreneurial Society and the Yale Entrepreneurial Institute since 1999 and 2008, respectively. Both are organizations at Yale University that promote entrepreneurship among Yale students, faculty and alumni. Mr. Lasater holds a BA in computer science from Yale University. Having served as our chief operations officer over the past 10 years, Mr. Lasater is involved with every aspect of our business, including our marketing strategies and operations, and therefore we believe should serve on our Board.

Shamez Kanji has been a director of Higher One since 2003. Since 2000, Mr. Kanji has been a general partner of one of our investors, North Hill Ventures, a venture capital fund. He is currently a director of Metatomix, Inc., Interactions Corporation and the Doug Flutie Jr. Foundation for Autism. From 2004 to 2006, Mr. Kanji served as a director of eCredit, Inc. Mr. Kanji holds a BA in Social Studies from Harvard University and an MBA from Harvard Business School. We believe Mr. Kanji should serve on our Board because of his substantial experience as an investor and director in financial services and financial technology companies such as ours and skill in evaluating financial results.

Patrick McFadden has been a director of Higher One since 2008. From 1987 to 2010, Mr. McFadden was the non-executive chairman and director of UIL Holdings Corporation and the United Illuminating Company, a regional utility company. Mr. McFadden has also been a director of Godspeed Opera in Haddam, Connecticut since 2007 and a director and the vice-chairman of the Yale-New Haven Health Services Corporation since 1984. Previously, Mr. McFadden served as a director of Citizen's Bank of Connecticut in New Haven and the South Central Connecticut Regional Water Authority. Mr. McFadden has also held executive positions at the Bank of New Haven, which was sold to Citizens Bank of Connecticut, the Connecticut National Bank and First National Bank. Mr. McFadden holds a BS in management from the University of Notre Dame and a graduate degree from the Stonier Graduate School of Banking. We believe that Mr. McFadden should serve on our Board due to the experience in executive management, corporate governance and risk management he has acquired through his service as an executive at numerous financial institutions and as the chairman of a public company.

Directors Continuing in Office until the 2013 Annual Meeting of Stockholders

Dean Hatton has been our president, chief executive officer and director since March 2002. From 2001 to 2002, Mr. Hatton was president and chief executive officer of Yclip, Inc., a direct marketing promotion company that was sold to First Data Corporation. From 1999 to 2001, Mr. Hatton was executive vice president and chief operations officer of Carlson Wagonlit Travel, a corporate travel and expense management company, and from

1997 to 1999, he was senior vice president at Citigroup, where he was chief executive officer of Travelers Property Casualty Direct Response. Mr. Hatton is also a director of Higher One, Inc. Mr. Hatton holds a BA in Economics from Franklin and Marshall College and a graduate degree in bank management from the Stonier Graduate School of Banking. As a result of his service as our president and chief executive officer for over 9 years, we believe Mr. Hatton provides the Board with a deep understanding of all aspects of our business, and therefore should serve on our Board.

Paul Biddelman has been a director of Higher One since 2002. Mr. Biddelman has been president of Hanseatic Corporation, a private investment company and the manager of our investor, Hanseatic Americas LDC, since 1997, where he has primary investment responsibilities. He is also a director of SystemOne Technologies, Inc. Mr. Biddelman served as a director of Celadon Group, Inc. from 1992 to 2006, Insituform Technologies, Inc. from 1988 to 2005, Six Flags, Inc. from 1992 to 2006, Star Gas LP from 1999 to 2006, ApplyYourself, Inc. from 2001 to 2007, DocuSys, Inc. from 2001 to 2009 and Passlogix, Inc. from 2000 to 2009. Mr. Biddelman is also currently the chairman of the Lehigh University College of Arts & Sciences Dean's Advisory Board. Mr. Biddelman holds a BS from Lehigh University, a JD from Columbia Law School and an MBA from Harvard Business School. We believe that Mr. Biddelman's service on the boards of numerous public companies has provided him with valuable experience and insight into the issues faced by such companies which, together with the deep knowledge of our company derived from his long-standing relationship with us, leads us to believe he should serve on our Board.

Charles Moran has been a director of Higher One since 2009. Mr. Moran is the founder of SkillSoft PLC where since 1998 he has held various positions, including member of the board of directors, president, chief executive officer and, since November 2006, chairman of the board. SkillSoft PLC is a leading software-as-a-service provider of on demand e-learning and performance solutions for global enterprises, government, educational institutions and small-to-medium size businesses. Mr. Moran holds a BS in General Management from Boston College and an MBA from Suffolk University. We believe Mr. Moran is qualified to serve on our Board because of the skills and experience he has gained in his role as chairman and chief executive officer of a leading, formerly publicly traded technology company.

Executive Officers

The following is biographical information for our executive officers not discussed above.

Name	Age	Title
Casey McGuane	36	Chief Service Officer
Robert Reach	54	Chief Sales Officer

Casey McGuane has been our chief service officer since January 2009. From 2005 to 2008, Mr. McGuane was our senior vice president of client operations and, from 2000 to 2005, he was our vice president of client operations. Prior to joining Higher One in 2000, Mr. McGuane was a business manager for SPS, Inc., where he managed sales and operations in his region for commercial contracting projects. Since July 2009, Mr. McGuane has served as a member of the board of the Connecticut Association of Human Services, a not-for-profit organization in Hartford, Connecticut. Mr. McGuane holds a BA in psychology from the University of Rhode Island.

Robert Reach has been our chief sales officer since 2009 and our vice president of sales from 2004 to 2009. From 1985 to 1990, Mr. Reach was the branch manager and national sales manager in the Financial Services Group for CompuServe and, from 1990 to 1995, he was the national sales manager in Lotus Development Corporation's One Source division. He also served as the vice president of sales for Metatec Corporation from 1995 to 1997. Additionally, from 2000 to 2001, Mr. Reach served as director of partner relations for HNC Software, an industry leader in credit card fraud prevention and analytic software. Mr. Reach holds a BA in English from Franklin and Marshall College.

Committees of the Board of Directors

Our Board of directors has established standing committees in connection with the discharge of its responsibilities. These committees include an audit committee, a compensation committee and a nominating and corporate governance committee. The Board will also establish such other committees as it deems appropriate, in accordance with applicable law and regulations and our certificate of incorporation and bylaws.

Audit Committee

The audit committee of our Board, which consists of Messrs. McFadden (chair), Biddelman and Kanji, assists our Board in overseeing the preparation of our financial statements, the independent registered public accounting firm's qualifications and independence, the performance of our internal audit function and independent registered public accounting firm and our compliance with legal and regulatory requirements. Mr. McFadden qualifies as an audit committee financial expert as such term is defined in the regulations under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, or the Exchange Act. All of the members of the audit committee are independent, as determined in accordance with the rules of the New York Stock Exchange and any relevant federal securities laws and regulations. A copy of the audit committee charter is available on the Company's website at <http://ir.higherone.com/>.

Compensation Committee

The compensation committee of our Board consists of Messrs. Biddelman (chair), Cromwell and Kanji. All of the members of the compensation committee are independent, as determined in accordance with the rules of the New York Stock Exchange and any relevant federal securities laws and regulations. A copy of the compensation committee charter is available on the Company's website at <http://ir.higherone.com/>. The compensation committee has overall responsibility for evaluating and approving our executive officer incentive compensation, benefit, severance, equity-based or other compensation plans, policies and programs. The compensation committee reviewed the Compensation Discussion and Analysis and recommended its inclusion in our 10-K and proxy statement.

Nominating and Governance Committee

The nominating and governance committee consists of Messrs. Gross (chair), Cromwell and Moran. All of the members of the nominating and governance committee are independent, as determined in accordance with the rules of the New York Stock Exchange and any relevant federal securities laws and regulations. A copy of the nominating and governance committee charter is available on the Company's website at <http://ir.higherone.com/>.

The nominating and governance committee assists our Board in implementing sound corporate governance principles and practices. Our nominating and governance committee identifies individuals qualified to become board members and recommends to our Board of directors the director nominees for the next annual meeting of shareholders. It also reviews the qualifications and independence of the members of our Board of directors and its various committees on a regular basis and makes any recommendations the committee members may deem appropriate from time to time concerning any recommended changes in the composition of our Board.

We have no formal policy regarding Board diversity. Our nominating and governance committee and Board of directors may therefore consider a broad range of factors relating to the qualifications and background of nominees, which may include diversity, which is not only limited to race, gender or national origin. Our nominating and governance committee's and Board's priority in selecting board members is identification of persons who will further the interests of our stockholders through his or her established record of professional accomplishment, the ability to contribute positively to the collaborative culture among board members and, the person's strength of character and judgment, professional and personal experiences and expertise relevant to our growth strategy.

The nominating and governance committee reviews the qualifications of any candidate recommended by shareholders of the Company when seeking to fill positions on the Board. As a shareholder, you may recommend a person for consideration as a nominee for director by writing to the nominating and governance committee of the Board, c/o Higher One Holdings, Inc., 25 Science Park, New Haven, Connecticut 06511, Attention: General Counsel and Secretary. Recommendations must include the name and address of the shareholder making the recommendation, a representation setting forth the number of shares of our common stock beneficially owned by the recommending shareholder, a statement from the recommended nominee that expresses his or her intent to serve on the Board if elected, biographical information about the recommended nominee, any other information the stockholder believes would be helpful to the nominating and governance committee in evaluating the recommended nominee and a description of all arrangements or understandings between the recommending shareholder and each nominee and any other person concerning the nomination. The evaluation process for nominees recommended by stockholders is the same as for candidates recommended by any other source.

Board Leadership Structure

The Company is focused on its corporate governance practices and values independent Board oversight as an essential component of strong corporate performance to enhance stockholder value. Our commitment to independent oversight is demonstrated by the fact that a majority of our directors are independent. Mr. Volchek, chief financial officer and a co-founder of the Company, serves as chairman of the Board. The Board believes that this leadership structure is appropriate given that the size of the Board permits regular communication among all of the independent directors, and between the independent directors and the Company's senior management. The Company also has a lead independent director, Mr. Gross, who acts as the principal interface between the Company's independent directors and senior management. Our Board believes that the current Board leadership structure is best for the Company and its stockholders at this time.

Role of the Board of Directors in Risk Oversight

The primary function of our Board is oversight, which includes defining and enforcing standards of accountability that enable senior management to execute their responsibilities fully and in the interests of shareholders. Consistent with that function, the following are the primary responsibilities of the Board: reviewing the Company's strategic plans and objectives, including, among other considerations, the principal risk exposures of the Company; evaluating the performance of the Company and its senior management, which includes (i) overseeing the conduct of the Company's business to evaluate whether it is being effectively managed; and (ii) selecting, regularly evaluating and planning for the succession of the chief executive officer and other members of senior management as the Board deems appropriate, including fixing the compensation of such individuals; providing advice and counsel to the chief executive officer and other senior management of the Company; overseeing compliance by the Company with applicable laws and regulations; monitoring the Company's accounting and financial reporting practices and reviewing the Company's financial and other controls; and overseeing management with a goal of ensuring that the assets of the Company are safeguarded through the maintenance of appropriate accounting, financial and other controls.

The audit committee, which is comprised solely of independent directors, assists the Board in fulfilling its oversight responsibilities relating to (i) the integrity of the Company's financial statements internal control system (including the implementation and effectiveness of internal control over financial reporting); (ii) the performance of the internal audit services function; (iii) the annual independent audit of the Company's financial statements, the engagement of the independent auditors and the evaluation of the independent auditors' qualifications, independence and performance; (iv) the compliance by the Company with legal and regulatory requirements; (v) the implementation and effectiveness of the Company's disclosure controls and procedures; (vi) the evaluation of enterprise risk issues; and (vii) the fulfillment of the other responsibilities set out in the audit committee's charter.

Audit Committee Report

The audit committee has reviewed and discussed the audited financial statements included within the annual report with management. The audit committee has discussed with our independent auditors the matters required to be discussed by the statement on Auditing Standards No. 61 as amended. The audit committee has received the written disclosures and the letter from our independent auditor required by applicable requirements of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board regarding the independent accountant's communications with the audit committee concerning independence, and has discussed with the independent accountant the independent accountant's independence. Based on the foregoing review and discussion, the audit committee recommended to the Board that the audited financial statements be included in our annual report on Form 10-K.

Patrick McFadden

Paul Biddelman

Shamez Kanji

Meetings of the Board of Directors, Board and Committee Member Attendance and Annual Meeting Attendance

Our Board met nine (9) times during the last fiscal year. The audit committee of the Board met six (6) times and the compensation committee of the Board met three (3) times during the last fiscal year. The nominating and corporate governance committee of the Board, having been formed only after the Company's initial public offering on June 17, 2010, held no meetings during the last fiscal year. During 2010, each Board member attended 75% or more of the aggregate of the meetings of the Board and of the committees on which he or she served.

We encourage all of our directors and nominees for director to attend our Annual Meeting of stockholders. This will be our first annual meeting of stockholders as a public company.

Stockholder Communications with the Board of Directors

Should stockholders wish to communicate with the Board or any specified individual directors, such correspondence should be sent to Higher One Holdings, Inc., 25 Science Park, New Haven, Connecticut 06511, Attention: General Counsel and Secretary. The Company's General Counsel and Secretary will forward the communication to the Board members.

PROPOSAL TWO

RATIFICATION OF SELECTION OF INDEPENDENT REGISTERED PUBLIC

ACCOUNTING FIRM

The audit committee of our Board has engaged PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP as our independent registered public accounting firm for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2011, and is seeking ratification of such selection by our stockholders at the Annual Meeting. PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP has audited our financial statements since the fiscal year ending December 31, 2000. Representatives of PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP are expected to be present at the Annual Meeting. They will have an opportunity to make a statement if they so desire and will be available to respond to appropriate questions.

Neither our bylaws nor other governing documents or law require stockholder ratification of the selection of PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP as our independent registered public accounting firm. However, the audit committee is submitting the selection of PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP to our stockholders for ratification as a matter of good corporate practice. If our stockholders fail to ratify the selection, the audit committee will reconsider whether or not to retain PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP. Even if the selection is ratified, the audit committee in its discretion may direct the appointment of a different independent registered public accounting firm at any time during the year if they determine that such a change would be in the best interests of the Company and our stockholders.

To be approved, the ratification of the selection of PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP as our independent registered public accounting firm must receive a For vote from the holders of a majority in voting power of the shares of common stock which are present in person or represented by proxy and entitled to vote on the proposal.

Principal Accountant Fees and Services

The following table sets forth the aggregate fees paid or accrued for professional services rendered by PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP for the audit of our annual financial statements for fiscal years 2010 and 2009 and the aggregate fees paid or accrued for audit-related services and all other services rendered by PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP for fiscal years 2010 and 2009 (in thousands of dollars).

	Fiscal Year 2010	Fiscal Year 2009
Audit fees	\$ 1,273	\$ 248
Audit-related fees	18	17
Tax fees	85	53
All other fees	2	
Total	\$ 1,378	\$ 318

The category of Audit fees includes fees for our annual audit, quarterly reviews and services rendered in connection with regulatory filings with the SEC, such as the issuance of comfort letters and consents related to our initial public offering in 2010.

The category of Audit-related fees includes a United States Department of Education compliance audit.

The category of Tax fees includes fees for tax compliance, tax advice and tax planning services.

The category of All other fees includes the licensing of accounting and finance research technology owned by PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP.

All above audit services, audit-related services and tax services were pre-approved by the Audit Committee, which concluded that the provision of such services by PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP was compatible with the maintenance of that firm’s independence in the conduct of its auditing functions. The Audit Committee’s outside auditor independence policy provides for pre-approval of all services performed by the outside auditors.

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS RECOMMENDS A VOTE FOR THE RATIFICATION OF THE SELECTION OF PRICEWATERHOUSECOOPERS LLP AS OUR INDEPENDENT REGISTERED PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2011.

SECURITY OWNERSHIP OF CERTAIN BENEFICIAL OWNERS AND

MANAGEMENT

The following table sets forth information as of March 15, 2011 (unless otherwise indicated) regarding the beneficial ownership of our common stock by:

each person or group who is known by us to beneficially own more than 5% of our outstanding shares of common stock;

each of our named executive officers;

each of our directors and each director nominee; and

all of the executive officers, directors and each director nominee as a group.

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Beneficial ownership for the purposes of the following table is determined in accordance with the rules and regulations of the SEC. These rules generally provide that a person is the beneficial owner of securities if such person has or shares the power to vote or direct the voting of securities, or to dispose or direct the disposition of securities or has the right to acquire such powers within 60 days. The information does not necessarily indicate beneficial ownership for any other purpose, including economic interest. Except as disclosed in the footnotes to this table and subject to applicable community property laws, we believe that each stockholder identified in the table possesses sole voting and investment power over all shares of common stock shown as beneficially owned by the stockholder. For purposes of the calculations in the table below, the number of shares of common stock deemed outstanding includes shares issuable upon exercise of options held by the respective person which may be exercised within 60 days after March 15, 2011. For purposes of calculating each person's percentage ownership, shares of common stock issuable pursuant to stock options exercisable within 60 days after March 15, 2011 are included as outstanding and beneficially owned for that person or group, but are not deemed outstanding for the purposes of computing the percentage ownership of any other person.

Applicable percentage ownership prior to this offering is based on 56,439,366 shares of common stock outstanding on March 15, 2011.

Name and Address of Beneficial Owner(1)	Shares of Common Stock Beneficially Owned as of	
	Number(2)	March 15, 2011
		Percentage
5% Stockholders		
Lightyear Capital	14,000,045(3)	24.8%
Club Circle Partners	3,403,624(4)	6.0%
Capital One Financial Corporation	3,107,029(5)	5.5%
Kevin Jones	2,958,860(6)	5.2%
All 5% stockholders as a group (4 persons)	23,469,558(3)(4)(5)(6)	41.6%
Executive Officers and Directors		
Dean Hatton	1,946,998(7)	3.4%
Mark Volchek	2,594,113(8)	4.6%
Miles Lasater	2,594,113(9)	4.6%
Casey McGuane	478,671(10)	*
Robert Reach	179,912(11)	*
Paul Biddelman	2,813,925(12)	5.0%
David Cromwell	655,382(13)	1.2%
Stewart Gross	14,000,045(3)	24.8%
Shamez Kanji	228,782(14)	*
Patrick McFadden	127,550(15)	*
Charles Moran	206,750(16)	*
All executive officers and directors as a group (11 persons)	25,826,241(3)(7)(8)	42.9