



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **CSS Announces Service Bureau Win with Stephens Inc.**

Little Rock, AR (April 28, 2010) – Comprehensive Software Systems, LLC (CSS) announced today that Stephens Inc., a leading independent investment bank, has selected CSS to provide enterprise software processing services to Stephens through CSS’ new service bureau offering.

The CSS service bureau offering provides mission-critical, enterprise-wide brokerage software system operations for processing of front-, middle- and back-office securities transactions. The system is built around a relational database which manages data on a real-time basis throughout the brokerage platform. The entire system is built on Microsoft technologies thereby eliminating technological obsolescence inherent in legacy systems which are still prevalent in the securities industry.

CSS is hiring approximately 40 employees from Stephens Inc. to staff the service bureau. This team, which has in excess of 500 years experience in brokerage operations as well as system conversions and computer operations, has been involved with designing, building, testing and operating the CSS system since its inception. The service bureau operations will be conducted by CSS Hosted Solutions, LLC, a subsidiary of CSS.

“We have been an in-house user of the CSS enterprise solution for books and recordkeeping since 2007,” stated Curt Bradbury, COO of Stephens Inc., one of the original founders of CSS. “We have been very pleased with our ability to manage, query and review our entire firm’s data from a single database. This creates operating efficiencies throughout the firm as well as better risk management. Additionally, CSS has used this database as the core for developing the most robust private-client wealth manager workstation in the industry. Our financial advisors now have the best tools in the business for managing client data. Importantly, CSS has demonstrated that its suite of solutions has enabled our firm to address the ever-changing and increasing regulatory requirements on a timely basis.”

Commenting on the decision by Stephens Inc. to utilize the CSS service bureau, Mike Landy, President of CSS, stated, “The assistance and commitment of Stephens to the establishment and operation of our service bureau offering is an important testament that we have achieved a strategic inflection point. Our service bureau offering represents a quantum leap in both technology as well as operating and cost efficiency and will rapidly lead to the transformation of the processing capability of the securities industry.”

CSS’s single data source for all users eliminates the need for redundant data, multiple interfaces and data synchronization with disparate legacy systems built on 30-year-old technology. Unlike

legacy-based solutions, CSS's core relational database design promotes efficiency in new product development and implementation of mandated regulatory changes.

The full enterprise suite of functionality is available 24 hours a day to clients on a real-time basis through its unique "Time Independence™" functionality. The enterprise platform is modular, which allows all types and sizes of clients, including institutional, retail and high-velocity trading firms, the ability to subscribe only for the point solutions necessary to run their businesses. The private client wealth manager's workstation includes householding, order-entry, what-if margin analysis, cost basis and performance reporting in a Windows-based view all in real-time fed by the single enterprise-wide relational database at its core. The mutual fund module includes order-entry, break-point calculations, automatic networking direct to the funds and householding. The middle- and back-office Windows-based views from the single data source incorporate exception-based processing resulting in efficiencies that reduce operating costs while improving risk management. The ability to query the system is unmatched in the industry today. The product also offers integrated customer contact management, imaging and work-flow functionality, reducing the need for and costs of ancillary systems.

### **About Comprehensive Software Systems (CSS)**

Comprehensive Software Systems, LLC (CSS) is a client-centric software development company based in Golden, Colorado that provides full-enterprise and point-solution offerings to the financial services industry. The company offers innovative software and services for front- to back-office processing needs. As an alternative to mainframe technology, CSS has the ability to rapidly adapt to market demands, client needs, and regulatory initiatives and offers clients full access to business data in real time - all day, every day. CSS provides both enterprise solutions and stand-alone point products that seamlessly integrate with a firm's existing system. CSS also makes available a service bureau offering through its CSS Hosted Solutions subsidiary in which it operates the CSS enterprise brokerage software systems in a hosted environment, processing securities transactions from back through front office for client firms.

### **About Stephens Inc.**

Founded in 1933, Stephens is a privately-held, independent financial services firm focused on building value for companies, state and local governments, institutions and high-net-worth investors. The firm is headquartered in Little Rock, Arkansas, with offices in leading cities across the country.

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