

**UNITED STATES
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
Washington, D.C. 20549**

FORM S-8
REGISTRATION STATEMENT UNDER
THE SECURITIES ACT OF 1933

ACUITY BRANDS, INC.
(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Delaware

(State or other jurisdiction of
incorporation or organization)

58-2632672

(I.R.S. Employer
Identification Number)

**1170 Peachtree Street, N.E., Suite 2400,
Atlanta, Georgia 30309-7676**
(Address, including zip code, of principal executive offices)

Acuity Brands, Inc. 2011 Nonemployee Director Deferred Compensation Plan
(Full title of plan)

Richard K. Reece
Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer
Acuity Brands, Inc.
1170 Peachtree Street, N.E., Suite 2400
Atlanta, Georgia 30309
(404) 853-1400

Copies to:
Keith M. Townsend
King & Spalding LLP
1180 Peachtree Street, N.E.
Atlanta, Georgia 30309
(404) 572-4600

(Name, address, including zip code, and telephone number, including area code, of agent for service)

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is a large accelerated filer, an accelerated filer, a non-accelerated filer, or a smaller reporting company. See definition of "large accelerated filer", "accelerated filer" and "smaller reporting company" in Rule 12b-2 of the Exchange Act.

Large Accelerated Filer Accelerated Filer Non-accelerated Filer Smaller Reporting Company

(Do not check if a smaller reporting company)

CALCULATION OF REGISTRATION FEE

Title of Securities to be Registered	Amount to be Registered	Proposed Maximum Offering Price Per Share	Proposed Maximum Aggregate Offering Price	Amount of Registration Fee
Common Stock, par value \$0.01 per share	213,920	\$57.60 ⁽¹⁾	\$12,321,792 ⁽¹⁾	\$1,412.08
Deferred Compensation Obligations ⁽²⁾	\$6,000,000	100%	\$6,000,000	\$687.60

- (1) Estimated solely for the purpose of computing the registration fee pursuant to Rule 457(h) on the basis of the average of the high and low sales prices per share (\$57.60 per share) of Common Stock of Acuity Brands, Inc. as reported on the New York Stock Exchange on January 23, 2012.
- (2) The Deferred Compensation Obligations are unsecured obligations of Acuity Brands, Inc. to pay deferred compensation to directors of the Registrant who participate in the Acuity Brands, Inc. 2011 Nonemployee Director Deferred Compensation Plan in accordance with its terms.
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EXPLANATORY NOTE

Acuity Brands, Inc. (“Acuity,” the “Registrant” or the “Company”) has previously filed a registration statement on Form S-8 on November 2, 2006 (File No. 333-138384) and a post effective amendment to such registration statement on September 27, 2007 (File No. 333-138384) (together with the registration statement, the “Prior Registration Statement”) to register under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended (the “Securities Act”) (i) an aggregate of 300,000 shares of the Company’s common stock, par value \$0.01 per share (the “Common Stock”), issuable pursuant to the Company’s 2006 Nonemployee Director Deferred Compensation Plan (the “Prior Plan”) and (ii) \$4,000,000 of deferred compensation obligations under the Prior Plan. The Company is filing this registration statement on Form S-8 (the “Registration Statement”) pursuant to and in accordance with General Instruction E of Form S-8 to register (x) an additional 213,920 shares of Common Stock to be issued to non-employee directors of the Company pursuant to the Acuity Brands, Inc. 2011 Non-Employee Directors Deferred Compensation Plan (the “Plan”) and (y) an additional \$6,000,000 of Deferred Compensation Obligations payable under the Plan. The Plan replaces the Prior Plan.

PART I

INFORMATION REQUIRED IN THE SECTION 10(a) PROSPECTUS

The document(s) containing the information specified in Part I of Form S-8 will be sent or given to directors of the Registrant as specified by Rule 428(b)(1) of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended (the “Securities Act”). In accordance with the instructions of Part I of Form S-8, such documents will not be filed with the Securities Exchange Commission (the “Commission”) either as part of this Registration Statement or as prospectuses or prospectus supplements pursuant to Rule 424 of the Securities Act. These documents and the documents incorporated by reference in this Registration Statement pursuant to Item 3 of Part II of this Registration Statement, taken together, constitute a prospectus that meets the requirements of Section 10(a) of the Securities Act.

PART II

INFORMATION REQUIRED IN THE REGISTRATION STATEMENT

Item 3. Incorporation of Documents by Reference.

The contents of the Prior Registration Statement are incorporated by reference into this Registration Statement. In addition, the following documents have been previously filed by the Registrant with the Commission and are hereby incorporated by reference into this Registration Statement as of their respective dates:

- (a) The Company’s Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended August 31, 2011;
- (b) The Company’s Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended November 30, 2011;
- (c) The Company’s Current Report on Form 8-K filed with the Commission on October 5, 2011 (excluding Item 2.02); and
- (d) The description of the Company’s Common Stock contained in the Company’s Registration Statement on Form 10/A (File No. 001-16583) dated November 9, 2001, filed under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the “Exchange Act”), including any amendment or report filed for the purpose of updating such description.

In addition, all documents filed by the Registrant pursuant to Sections 13(a), 13(c), 14 or 15(d) of the Exchange Act subsequent to the date of this Registration Statement and prior to the filing of a post-effective amendment to this Registration Statement that indicates that all securities offered hereunder have been sold or that deregisters all such securities then remaining unsold shall be deemed to be incorporated by reference into this Registration Statement and to be a part hereof from the date of the filing of such documents.

Any statement contained in any document incorporated or deemed to be incorporated by reference into this Registration Statement shall be deemed to be modified or superseded for purposes thereof to the extent that a statement contained therein or in any other subsequently filed document that is also incorporated or deemed to be incorporated therein by reference modifies or supersedes such statement. Any such statement so modified or superseded shall not be deemed to constitute a part of this Registration Statement.

Item 8. Exhibits.

Exhibit	Description
5.1*	Opinion of King & Spalding LLP.
10.1	Acuity Brands, Inc. 2011 Non-Employee Director Deferred Compensation Plan, filed as Exhibit A to the Company's Proxy Statement, filed with the Commission on November 21, 2011 and incorporated herein by reference.
23.1*	Consent of Ernst & Young LLP.
23.2*	Consent of King & Spalding LLP (included in Exhibit 5.1).
24.1*	Powers of Attorney (included on signature page).

* Filed herewith

SIGNATURES

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Act of 1933, Acuity Brands, Inc. has duly caused this Registration Statement to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned, thereunto duly authorized, in the City of Atlanta, State of Georgia, on this 30th day of January, 2012.

ACUITY BRANDS, INC.

By: _____ /S/ VERNON J. NAGEL

Vernon J. Nagel
Chairman, President, and Chief Executive Officer

KNOW ALL MEN BY THESE PRESENT, that each person whose signature appears below constitutes and appoints Richard K. Reece and Vernon J. Nagel, and each of them, his or her true and lawful attorneys-in-fact and agents, with full power of substitution and resubstitution, for such persons and in his or her name, place and stead, in any and all capacities, to sign any and all amendments to this Registration Statement, and to file the same with all exhibits thereto and other documents in connection therewith, with the Commission, granting unto said attorneys-in-fact and agents, and each of them, full power and authority to do and to perform each and every act and thing requisite or necessary to be done in and about the premises, as fully and to all intents and purposes as he might or could do in person, hereby ratifying and confirming all that said attorneys-in-fact and agents, and any of them, or their substitutes, may lawfully do or cause to be done by virtue hereof.

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, this Registration Statement has been signed by the following persons in the capacity indicated on the 30th day of January, 2012.

<u>Signature</u>	<u>Title</u>
_____ /s/ VERNON J. NAGEL Vernon J. Nagel	Chairman, President, and Chief Executive Officer
_____ /s/ RICHARD K. REECE Richard K. Reece	Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer (Principle Financial and Accounting Officer)
_____ /s/ PETER C. BROWNING Peter C. Browning	Director
_____ /s/ GEORGE C. (JACK) GUYNN George C. (Jack) Guynn	Director
_____ /s/ GORDON D. HARNETT Gordon D. Harnett	Director
_____ /s/ ROBERT F. MCCULLOUGH Robert F. McCullough	Director
_____ /s/ JULIA B. NORTH Julia B. North	Director
_____ /s/ RAY M. ROBINSON Ray M. Robinson	Director
_____ /s/ NORMAN H. WESLEY Norman H. Wesley	Director
_____ /s/ NEIL WILLIAMS Neil Williams	Director

EXHIBIT INDEX

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King & Spalding LLP
1180 Peachtree Street N.E.
Atlanta, Georgia 30309-3521
Phone: 404/ 572-4600
Fax: 404/572-5100
www.kslaw.com

January 30, 2012

Acuity Brands, Inc.
1170 Peachtree Street, NE
Suite 2400
Atlanta, Georgia 30309

Re: Acuity Brands, Inc. Form S-8 Registration Statement

Ladies and Gentlemen:

We have acted as counsel for Acuity Brands, Inc., a Delaware corporation (the "Company"), in connection with the preparation of a Registration Statement on Form S-8 (the "Registration Statement") to be filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission. The Registration Statement relates to (i) \$6,000,000 of obligations of the Company (the "Obligations") to pay deferred compensation pursuant to the terms of the 2011 Acuity Brands, Inc. Nonemployee Director Deferred Compensation Plan (the "Plan"), and (ii) 213,920 shares (the "Shares") of the Company's common stock, par value \$0.01 per share (the "Common Stock"), to be issued pursuant to the Plan.

As such counsel, we have examined and relied upon such records, documents, certificates and other instruments as in our judgment are necessary or appropriate to form the basis for the opinions hereinafter set forth. In all such examinations, we have assumed the genuineness of signatures on original documents and the conformity to such original documents of all copies submitted to us as certified, conformed or photographic copies, and as to certificates of public officials, we have assumed the same to have been properly given and to be accurate.

For purposes of this opinion, we have assumed that the Shares that may be issued pursuant to the Plan will continue to be duly authorized on the dates of such issuance.

The opinions expressed herein are limited in all respects to the federal laws of the United States of America and laws of the State of Delaware, and no opinion is expressed with respect to the laws of any other jurisdiction or any effect which such laws may have on the opinions expressed herein. This opinion is limited to the matters stated herein, and no opinion is implied or may be inferred beyond the matters expressly stated herein.

Based upon the foregoing and subject to the limitations, qualifications and assumptions set forth herein, we are of the opinion that:

- a. The Obligations have been duly authorized;
- b. When issued in accordance with the provisions of the Plan, the Obligations will be valid and binding obligations of the Company, enforceable against the Company in accordance with their terms, subject to bankruptcy, insolvency, reorganization, moratorium and other similar laws relating to or affecting the enforcement of creditors' rights generally, and general equitable principles (regardless of whether enforcement is considered in a proceeding in equity or law);
- c. The Shares are duly authorized; and
- d. When issued pursuant to the Plan, the Shares will be validly issued, fully paid and nonassessable.

This opinion is given as of the date hereof, and we assume no obligation to advise you after the date hereof of facts or circumstances that come to our attention or changes in law that occur which could affect the opinions contained herein. This letter is being rendered solely for the benefit of the Company in connection with the matters addressed herein. This opinion may not be furnished to or relied upon by any person or entity for any purpose without our prior written consent.

We consent to the filing of this opinion as an Exhibit to the Registration Statement to be filed by the Company and to

the references to us in such registration statement.

Very truly yours,

/s/ King & Spalding LLP

Consent of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm

We consent to the incorporation by reference in the Registration Statement on Form S-8 pertaining to the Acuity Brands, Inc. 2011 Nonemployee Director Deferred Compensation Plan of our reports dated October 28, 2011, with respect to the consolidated financial statements and schedule of Acuity Brands, Inc. and the effectiveness of internal control over financial reporting of Acuity Brands, Inc. included in its Annual Report (Form 10-K) for the year ended August 31, 2011, filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission.

/s/ Ernst & Young LLP

Atlanta, Georgia
January 30, 2012