

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

FORM SC 13G/A

Schedule filed to report acquisition of beneficial ownership of 5% or more of a class of equity securities by passive investors and certain institutions [amend]

Filing Date: **2013-01-09**
SEC Accession No. [0001445546-13-000110](#)

(HTML Version on secdatabase.com)

SUBJECT COMPANY

BLACKROCK DEBT STRATEGIES FUND, INC.

CIK: [1051003](#) | IRS No.: [223564108](#) | State of Incorporation: **MD** | Fiscal Year End: **1231**
Type: **SC 13G/A** | Act: **34** | File No.: [005-85201](#) | Film No.: [13520252](#)

Mailing Address

*100 BELLEVUE PARKWAY
WILMINGTON DE 19809*

Business Address

*100 BELLEVUE PARKWAY
WILMINGTON DE 19809
800-441-7762*

FILED BY

FIRST TRUST PORTFOLIOS LP

CIK: [1184765](#) | IRS No.: [000000000](#)
Type: **SC 13G/A**

Mailing Address

*120 EAST LIBERTY DRIVE
SUITE 400
WHEATON IL 60187*

Business Address

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SUITE 400
WHEATON IL 60187
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UNITED STATES*
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
Washington, D.C. 20549

SCHEDULE 13G

Under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934

(Amendment No. 5)*

BlackRock Debt Strategies Fund, Inc.

(Name of Issuer)

Common

(Title of Class of Securities)

09255R103

(CUSIP Number)

December 31, 2012

(Date of Event Which Requires Filing of this Statement)

Check the appropriate box to designate the rule pursuant to which this Schedule is filed:

Rule 13d-1(b)

Rule 13d-1(c)

Rule 13d-1(d)

*The remainder of this cover page shall be filled out for a reporting person's initial filing on this form with respect to the subject class of securities, and for any subsequent amendment containing information which would alter the disclosures provided in a prior cover page.

The information required in the remainder of this cover page shall not be deemed to be "filed" for the purpose of Section 18 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 ("Act") or otherwise subject to the liabilities of

that section of the Act but shall be subject to all other provisions of the Act (however, see the Notes).

- 1 -

CUSIP No. 09255R103

1. Names of Reporting Persons, I.R.S. Identification Nos. of above persons (entities only):

First Trust Portfolios L.P.: 36-3768815

First Trust Advisors L.P.: 36-3788904

The Charger Corporation: 36-3772451

2. Check the Appropriate Box if a Member of a Group (See Instructions)

(a) []

(b) []

3. SEC Use Only

4. Citizenship or Place of Organization of each

Reporting Person: Illinois, U.S.A.

Number of
Shares Bene-
ficially
Owned by Each
Reporting
Person With:

5. Sole Voting Power: 0

6. Shared Voting Power:
Such shares are held by the following entities in the
respective amounts listed:

First Trust Portfolios L.P.: 0

First Trust Advisors L.P.: 0

The Charger Corporation: 0

7. Sole Dispositive Power: 0

8. Shared Dispositive Power:

Such shares are held by the following entities in the respective amounts listed:

First Trust Portfolios L.P.: 17,164,823

First Trust Advisors L.P.: 17,164,823

The Charger Corporation: 17,164,823

9. Aggregate Amount Beneficially Owned by Each Reporting Person: 17,164,823

10. Check if the Aggregate Amount in Row (9) Excludes Certain Shares (See Instructions)

- 2 -

11. Percent of Class Represented by Amount in Row (9): 15.90%

12. Type of Reporting Person (See Instructions)

First Trust Portfolios L.P. - BD

First Trust Advisors L.P. - IA

The Charger Corporation - HC

ITEM 1.

(a) Name of Issuer: BlackRock Debt Strategies Fund, Inc.

(b) Address of issuer's Principal Executive Offices

Attn: Legal Department
100 Bellevue Parkway
Wilmington, DE 19809
USA

ITEM 2.

(a) Name of Person Filing

First Trust Portfolios L.P.
First Trust Advisors L.P.
The Charger Corporation

(b) Address of Principal Business Office or, if none, Residence

First Trust Portfolios L.P.
120 East Liberty Drive, Suite 400
Wheaton, Illinois 60187

First Trust Advisors L.P.
120 East Liberty Drive, Suite 400
Wheaton, Illinois 60187

The Charger Corporation
120 East Liberty Drive, Suite 400
Wheaton, Illinois 60187

(c) Citizenship of each Reporting Person:

Illinois, U.S.A.

(d) Title of Class of Securities

Common Stock

(e) CUSIP Number 09255R103

- 3 -

ITEM 3. If this statement is filed pursuant to Sec. 240.13d-1(b) or 240.13d-2(b) or (c), check whether the person filing is a:

- (a) Broker or dealer registered under section 15 of the Act (15 U.S.C. 78o).
- (b) Bank as defined in section 3(a)(6) of the Act (15 U.S.C. 78c).
- (c) Insurance company as defined in section 3(a)(19) of the Act (15 U.S.C. 78c).
- (d) Investment company registered under section 8 of the Investment Company Act of 1940 (15 U.S.C. 80a-8).

- (e) x An investment adviser in accordance with Sec. 240.13d-1 (b) (1) (ii) (E).
- (f) An employee benefit plan or endowment fund in accordance with Sec. 140.13d-1 (b) (1) (ii) (F).
- (g) x A parent holding company or control person in accordance with Sec. 240.13d-1 (b) (1) (ii) (G).
- (h) A savings associations as defined in Section 3(b) of the Federal Deposit Insurance Act (12 U.S.C. 1813).
- (i) A church plan that is excluded from the definition of an investment company under section 3(c) (14) of the Investment Company Act of 1940 (15 U.S.C. 80a-3).
- (j) Group, in accordance with Sec. 240.13d-1 (b) 1(ii) (J).

ITEM 4. Ownership

Provide the following information regarding the aggregate number and percentage of the class of securities of the issuer identified in Item 1.

- (a) Amount beneficially owned: 17,164,823
- (b) Percent of class: 15.90%
- (c) Number of shares as to which the person has:
 - (i) Sole power to vote or to direct the vote: 0
 - (ii) Shared power to vote or to direct the vote: 0
 - (iii) Sole power to dispose or to direct the disposition of: 0
 - (iv) Shared power to dispose or to direct the disposition of: 17,164,823

- 4 -

Instruction. For computations regarding securities which represent a right to acquire an underlying security see Sec. 204.13d-3(d) (1).

ITEM 5. Ownership of Five Percent or Less of a Class

If this statement is being filed to report the fact that as of the date hereof the reporting person has ceased to be the beneficial owner of more than five percent of the class of securities, check the following [].

Instruction: Dissolution of a group requires a response to this item.

ITEM 6. Ownership of More than Five Percent on Behalf of Another Person

This Schedule 13G filing is jointly filed by The Charger Corporation, First Trust Portfolios L.P. and First Trust Advisors L.P. pursuant to Rule 13d-1(k)(1). The Charger Corporation is the General Partner of both First Trust Portfolios L.P. and First Trust Advisors L.P. First Trust Portfolios L.P. acts as sponsor of certain unit investment trusts which hold shares of the issuer. The total number of shares of the issuer held by these unit investment trusts is set forth in Row (8) above with respect to First Trust Portfolios L.P. No individual unit investment trust sponsored by First Trust Portfolios L.P. holds more than 3% of any registered investment company issuer's shares. First Trust Advisors L.P., an affiliate of First Trust Portfolios L.P., acts as portfolio supervisor of the unit investment trusts sponsored by First Trust Portfolios L.P., certain of which hold shares of the issuer. Neither First Trust Portfolios L.P., First Trust Advisors L.P. nor The Charger Corporation have the power to vote the shares of the issuer held by these unit investment trusts sponsored by First Trust Portfolios L.P. These shares are voted by the trustee of such unit investment trusts so as to insure that the shares are voted as closely as possible in the same manner and in the same general proportion as are the shares held by owners other than such unit investment trusts. The difference, if any, between the aggregate amount of shares beneficially owned by each reporting person, as set forth in Row (9) above, and the number of shares of the issuer held by the unit investment trusts sponsored by First Trust Portfolios L.P. represents shares of the issuer which are either held in other registered investment companies, pooled investment vehicles and/or separately managed accounts for which First Trust Advisors L.P. serves as investment advisor and/or investment sub-advisor. Each of First Trust Portfolios L.P., First Trust Advisors L.P. and The Charger Corporation disclaims beneficial ownership of the shares of the issuer identified in this filing.

ITEM 7. Identification and Classification of the Subsidiary Which Acquired the Security Being Reported on By the Parent Holding Company

See Item 6.

ITEM 8. Identification and Classification of Members of the Group

Not Applicable.

ITEM 9. Notice of Dissolution of Group

Not Applicable.

ITEM 10. Certification

By signing below I certify that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, the securities referred to above were acquired and are held in the ordinary course of business and were not acquired and are not held for the purpose of or with the effect of changing or influencing the control of the issuer of the securities and were not acquired and are not held in connection with or as a participant in any transaction having that purpose or effect.

SIGNATURE

After reasonable inquiry and to the best of my knowledge and belief, I certify that the information set forth in this statement is true, complete and correct.

FIRST TRUST PORTFOLIOS L.P.,
FIRST TRUST ADVISORS L.P. and
THE CHARGER CORPORATION
Date: January 9, 2013

By: /s/ Mark R. Bradley

Mark R. Bradley
Chief Financial Officer and
Chief Operating Officer of
First Trust Portfolios L.P. and
First Trust Advisors L.P., and
Chief Financial Officer and
Treasurer of The Charger Corporation

EXHIBIT 99.1 - JOINT FILING AGREEMENT

The undersigned hereby agree that they are filing this statement jointly pursuant to Rule 13d-1(k)(1). Each of them is responsible for the timely filing of such Schedule 13G and any amendments thereto, and for the completeness and accuracy of the information concerning such person contained therein; but none of them is responsible for the completeness or accuracy of the information concerning the other persons making the filing, unless such person knows or has reason to believe that such information is inaccurate.

In accordance with Rule 13d-1(k)(1) promulgated under the Securities and Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, the undersigned hereby agree to the joint filing with each other on behalf of each of them of such a statement on Schedule 13G and any amendments thereto with respect to the equity securities (as defined in Rule 13d-1(i)) of the issuer, beneficially owned by each of them. This Joint Filing Agreement shall be included as an exhibit to such Schedule 13G and any amendments thereto.

Date: January 9, 2013

First Trust Portfolios L.P.,
First Trust Advisors L.P. and
The Charger Corporation

By: /s/ Mark R. Bradley

Name: Mark R. Bradley
Title: Chief Financial Officer and
Chief Operating Officer of
First Trust Portfolios L.P. and
First Trust Advisors L.P., and
Chief Financial Officer and
Treasurer of The Charger
Corporation