

Ascena Retail Group, Inc.
Form 8-K
August 20, 2010

UNITED STATES

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington, D.C. 20549

FORM 8-K

CURRENT REPORT

**Pursuant to Section 13 or 15(d) of
the Securities Exchange Act of 1934**

August 20, 2010

Date of Report (date of earliest event reported)

ASCENA RETAIL GROUP, INC.

(Exact name of Registrant as specified in its charter)

Delaware
(State or other jurisdiction of
incorporation)

30 Dunnigan Drive

Suffern, New York 10901

(Address of principal executive offices, including zip code)

(845) 369-4500

(Registrant's telephone number, including area code)

(Former name or former address, if changed since last report)

0-11736
(Commission File Number)

30-0641353
(IRS Employer
Identification Number)

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Check the appropriate box below if the Form 8-K filing is intended to simultaneously satisfy the filing obligation of the registrant under any of the following provisions:

- ☒ Written communications pursuant to Rule 425 under the Securities Act (17 CFR 230.425)
 - ☐ Soliciting material pursuant to Rule 14a-12 under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14a-12)
 - ☐ Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 14d-2(b) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14d-2(b))
 - ☐ Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 13e-4(c) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.13e-4(c))
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Item 1.01 Entry Into a Material Definitive Agreement.

On August 20, 2010, The Dress Barn, Inc., a Connecticut corporation (*dressbarn*), Ascena Retail Group, Inc., a Delaware corporation and wholly owned subsidiary of *dressbarn* (*Ascena*), and DB Merger Corp., a Connecticut corporation and wholly owned subsidiary of *Ascena* (*MergerCo*), entered into an Agreement and Plan of Reorganization (the *Reorganization Agreement*), that provides for the merger (the *Merger*) of *dressbarn* with *MergerCo*, with *dressbarn* surviving the *Merger* as a wholly owned subsidiary of *Ascena*, and the conversion of each share of common stock, par value \$0.05 per share (*dressbarn* Common Stock), of *dressbarn*, issued and outstanding immediately prior to the effective time of the *Merger*, into one duly issued, fully paid and nonassessable share of common stock, par value \$0.01 per share (*Ascena* Common Stock), of *Ascena*. In addition, each outstanding option to purchase or other right to acquire shares of *dressbarn* Common Stock would automatically convert into an option to purchase or right to acquire, upon the same terms and conditions, an identical number of shares of *Ascena* Common Stock. Pursuant to the *Reorganization Agreement*, immediately following the *Merger*, *dressbarn* would distribute the stock of its subsidiaries, *Maurices Incorporated*, a Delaware corporation (*maurices*), and *Tween Brands, Inc.*, a Delaware corporation, which operates the Justice brand (*Tween Brands*), to *Ascena* (the *Merger* and such distribution, collectively, the *Reorganization*). As a result of the *Reorganization*, *Ascena* would own *dressbarn*, *maurices* and *Tween Brands* as sister subsidiaries.

Upon completion of the *Reorganization*, *Ascena*, a Delaware corporation, would, in effect, replace *dressbarn*, a Connecticut corporation, as the publicly held corporation traded on the NASDAQ Global Select Market under the symbol *ASNA* , and the holders of *dressbarn* Common Stock would hold the same number of shares and same ownership percentage of *Ascena* after the *Reorganization* as they held of *dressbarn* immediately prior to the *Reorganization*.

The directors and executive officers of *Ascena* immediately following the *Reorganization* would be the same individuals who were directors and executive officers, respectively, of *dressbarn* immediately prior to the *Reorganization*.

The boards of directors of *dressbarn*, *Ascena* and *MergerCo* have unanimously approved the *Reorganization Agreement* and the transactions contemplated thereby. The *Reorganization Agreement* is subject to specified conditions, including approval by *dressbarn* 's shareholders at *dressbarn* 's 2010 Annual Meeting of Shareholders (the *Annual Meeting*), which is currently scheduled for December 8, 2010. If approved by *dressbarn* 's shareholders at the *Annual Meeting* and the other conditions set forth in the *Reorganization Agreement* are satisfied, it is currently expected that the *Reorganization* would be completed on or about January 1, 2011.

The *Reorganization Agreement* may be terminated and the transactions contemplated thereby may be abandoned at any time prior to the effective time of the merger by action of the board of directors of *dressbarn* if it should determine that for any reason the completion of the transactions provided for therein would be inadvisable or not in the best interest of *dressbarn* or its shareholders.

The *Reorganization* is intended to be tax-free for *dressbarn* and its shareholders for U.S. federal income tax purposes.

Upon completion of the *Reorganization*, *Ascena* Common Stock would be deemed to be registered under Section 12(b) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, pursuant to Rule 12g-3(a) promulgated thereunder. For purposes of Rule 12g-3(a), *Ascena* would be the successor issuer to *dressbarn*.

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The foregoing description of the Reorganization Agreement is not complete and is qualified in its entirety by reference to the Reorganization Agreement, which is attached hereto as Exhibit 2.1 and is incorporated herein by reference.

Additional Information and Where to Find It

The Dress Barn, Inc. and Ascena Retail Group, Inc. have filed a registration statement that includes a preliminary proxy statement/prospectus and other relevant documents in connection with the proposed Reorganization. DRESSBARN SHAREHOLDERS ARE URGED TO READ CAREFULLY THESE DOCUMENTS AND THE

DEFINITIVE PROXY STATEMENT/PROSPECTUS, WHEN FILED AND MAILED, BECAUSE THEY CONTAIN AND WILL CONTAIN IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT THE PROPOSED REORGANIZATION. Investors may obtain a free copy of the preliminary proxy statement/prospectus and other filings containing information about dressbarn, Ascena and the proposed Reorganization, from the SEC at the SEC's website <http://www.sec.gov>. In addition, copies of the preliminary proxy statement/prospectus and other filings containing information about dressbarn, Ascena and the proposed Reorganization can be obtained without charge by directing a request to The Dress Barn, Inc., 30 Dunnigan Drive, Suffern, NY 10901 Attention: Investor Relations Department (telephone: (845) 369-4600) or accessing them on dressbarn's corporate web site at www.dressbarn.com.

dressbarn, its directors, executive officers, certain other members of management and employees may be deemed to be participants in the solicitation of proxies from the shareholders of dressbarn in favor of the proposed Reorganization. Additional information regarding the interests of potential participants in the proxy solicitation is included in the preliminary proxy statement/prospectus and will be included in the definitive proxy statement/prospectus and other relevant documents that The Dress Barn, Inc. and Ascena Retail Group, Inc. have filed and intend to file with the SEC in connection with the Annual Meeting.

Item 8.01 Other Events.

On August 20, 2010, dressbarn issued a press release relating to the Reorganization. A copy of the press release is attached hereto as Exhibit 99.1 and is incorporated herein by reference.

On August 20, 2010, dressbarn issued an internal announcement to its employees relating to the Reorganization. A copy of the internal announcement is attached hereto as Exhibit 99.2 and is incorporated herein by reference.

Item 9.01 Financial Statements and Exhibits.

(d) Exhibits.

Exhibit No	Description
2.1	Agreement and Plan of Reorganization, dated as of August 20, 2010, among The Dress Barn, Inc., Ascena Retail Group, Inc. and DB Merger Corp.
99.1	Press Release, dated August 20, 2010, issued by The Dress Barn, Inc.
99.2	Internal Announcement to Employees of The Dress Barn, Inc., dated August 20, 2010.

SIGNATURES

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned hereunto duly authorized.

ASCENCA RETAIL GROUP, INC.

Date: August 20, 2010

By: /s/ David R.
Jaffe
Name: David R. Jaffe
Title: President and Chief Executive
Officer
