

TELEPHONE & DATA SYSTEMS INC /DE/

Form SC 13D/A

May 05, 2009

Table of Contents

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington, D.C. 20549

SCHEDULE 13D

Under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934

Amendment No. 17

Telephone and Data Systems, Inc.

(Name of Issuer)

Special Common Stock

(Title of Class and Securities)

879433860

(CUSIP Number of Class of Securities)

O. Mason Hawkins

Chairman of the Board and C.E.O.

and

Andrew R. McCarroll

Vice President & General Counsel

Southeastern Asset Management, Inc.

6410 Poplar Avenue; Suite 900

Memphis, TN 38119

(901) 761-2474

(Name, Address and Telephone Number of Person Authorized to
Receive Notices and Communications)

May 5, 2009

(Date of Event which Requires

Filing of this Statement)

If the filing person has previously filed a statement on Schedule 13G to report the acquisition which is the subject of this Schedule 13D, and is filing this Schedule because of Sections 240.13d-1(e), 240.13d-1(f), or 240.13d-1(g), check the following box: o

Table of Contents

CUSIP No. 879433860 13D

NAMES OF REPORTING PERSONS

1

Southeastern Asset Management, Inc. I.D. No. 62-0951781

CHECK THE APPROPRIATE BOX IF A MEMBER OF A GROUP:

2

- (a) ☐
- (b) ☐

SEC USE ONLY

3

SOURCE OF FUNDS

4

OO: Funds of investment advisory clients

CHECK BOX IF DISCLOSURE OF LEGAL PROCEEDINGS IS REQUIRED PURSUANT TO ITEMS 2(d) OR 2(e)

5

☐

CITIZENSHIP OR PLACE OF ORGANIZATION

6

Tennessee

SOLE VOTING POWER

7

NUMBER OF (Discretionary Accounts)
7,384,858 shares

SHARES SHARED OR NO VOTING POWER

BENEFICIALLY 8

OWNED BY 5,666,200 shares (Shared)
1,725,837 shares (None)

EACH	SOLE DISPOSITIVE POWER
REPORTING	9
	(Discretionary Accounts)
PERSON	9,104,695 shares

WITH	SHARED OR NO DISPOSITIVE POWER
	10
	5,666,200 shares (Shared)
	6,000 shares (None)

11 AGGREGATE AMOUNT BENEFICIALLY OWNED BY EACH REPORTING PERSON

14,776,895 shares

12 CHECK BOX IF THE AGGREGATE AMOUNT IN ROW 11 EXCLUDES CERTAIN SHARES

☐

13 PERCENT OF CLASS REPRESENTED BY AMOUNT IN ROW 11

27.3%

14 TYPE OF REPORTING PERSON

IA

Note: All shares identified above are shares of the Issuer's class of Special Common Stock, and the percentage in Row 13 above relates to such class of Special Common Stock.

Table of Contents

CUSIP No. 879433860 13D

NAMES OF REPORTING PERSONS

1
Longleaf Partners Fund I.D. No. 63-6147721

CHECK THE APPROPRIATE BOX IF A MEMBER OF A GROUP:

2
(a) ☐
(b) ☐

SEC USE ONLY

3

SOURCE OF FUNDS

4
OO: Funds of investment company shareholders

**CHECK BOX IF DISCLOSURE OF LEGAL PROCEEDINGS IS REQUIRED PURSUANT TO
ITEMS 2(d) OR 2(e)**

5
☐

CITIZENSHIP OR PLACE OF ORGANIZATION

6
Massachusetts

SOLE VOTING POWER

7

NUMBER OF None

SHARED VOTING POWER

SHARES
BENEFICIALLY OWNED BY **8**

5,666,200 shares

SOLE DISPOSITIVE POWER

EACH
REPORTING **9**

PERSON None

WITH SHARED DISPOSITIVE POWER

10

5,666,200 shares

AGGREGATE AMOUNT BENEFICIALLY OWNED BY EACH REPORTING PERSON

11

5,666,200 shares

CHECK BOX IF THE AGGREGATE AMOUNT IN ROW 11 EXCLUDES CERTAIN SHARES

12

☐

PERCENT OF CLASS REPRESENTED BY AMOUNT IN ROW 11

13

10.5%

TYPE OF REPORTING PERSON

14

IV

Note: All shares identified above are shares of the Issuer's class of Special Common Stock, and the percentage in Row 13 above relates to such class of Special Common Stock.

Table of Contents

CUSIP No. 879433860 13D

1	NAMES OF REPORTING PERSONS
	O. Mason Hawkins I.D. No. XXX-XX-XXXX
2	CHECK THE APPROPRIATE BOX IF A MEMBER OF A GROUP:
	(a) o
	(b) p
3	SEC USE ONLY
4	SOURCE OF FUNDS
	OO: None
5	CHECK BOX IF DISCLOSURE OF LEGAL PROCEEDINGS IS REQUIRED PURSUANT TO ITEMS 2(d) OR 2(e)
	o
6	CITIZENSHIP OR PLACE OF ORGANIZATION
	Citizen of United States
7	SOLE VOTING POWER
	(Discretionary Accounts)
NUMBER OF	None
SHARES BENEFICIALLY OWNED BY	8
	SHARED VOTING POWER
	None
EACH	9
	SOLE DISPOSITIVE POWER

REPORTING

PERSON None

WITH SHARED DISPOSITIVE POWER

10

None

AGGREGATE AMOUNT BENEFICIALLY OWNED BY EACH REPORTING PERSON

11

None (See Item 2)

CHECK BOX IF THE AGGREGATE AMOUNT IN ROW 11 EXCLUDES CERTAIN SHARES

12

☐

PERCENT OF CLASS REPRESENTED BY AMOUNT IN ROW 11

13

0.0%

TYPE OF REPORTING PERSON

14

IN

Note: All shares identified above are shares of the Issuer's class of Special Common Stock, and the percentage in Row 13 above relates to such class of Special Common Stock.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Item 4. Purpose of Transaction

Item 5. Interest in Securities of the Issuer

SIGNATURES

Table of Contents

Item 4. Purpose of Transaction

Item 4 of Southeastern's previously filed Schedule 13D entitled "Purpose of Transaction" is hereby amended and supplemented by adding the following at the end thereof:

In anticipation of next week's Shareholder Forum meeting regarding strategic opportunities currently available to the Issuer (see www.shareholderforum.com/tds), Southeastern would like to be more specific about recommendations it has made to the Issuer's management and/or directors over the last few months regarding opportunities to enhance value for all shareholders. We encourage other shareholders and industry participants to consider these alternatives and share their views, since we believe the company is at a critical juncture and poor decision making can severely damage opportunities to recognize the company's value.

First, Southeastern has recommended that the Issuer sell itself or its wireless assets to a national wireless carrier. Southeastern believes that much greater value can be recognized for shareholders today through a sale than if the company remains independent going forward. Management and the Board disagree. We have not been satisfied with management's responses justifying remaining independent and encourage other shareholders to express their views.

Second, in the absence of the Issuer's willingness to put itself and/or the wireless assets up for sale, Southeastern has recommended that the Issuer simplify its capital structure. Specifically, our most recent recommendation has been that the Issuer combine its common and special common stock into a single class, and spin off US Cellular, as more particularly described on Exhibit A. There are a number of benefits we see in taking these steps, the most important of which is that the separate pieces of this business are less likely to trade at a discount. With greater liquidity in the TDS common and US Cellular shares, and greater transparency regarding the underlying industry exposure, we believe the public share price will move closer to the value of these businesses. In addition, if management and the Board ever agree with our conclusion that a sale is the best strategic option, then the company will be better positioned to accomplish a transaction.

Third, we continue to believe that the Issuer's current stock price represents a significant discount to the value of the underlying assets. Accordingly, we have recommended that management direct its significant cash on hand to share repurchase. This action would not be inconsistent with our prior two recommendations. On the contrary, it would only enhance the value recognition opportunity those two strategic alternatives represent. To assist management in making the share repurchase as productive as possible, Southeastern has recommended that the Issuer conduct a Dutch tender for 20 million shares. To allay management's concerns that sufficient shares might not be tendered, Southeastern has committed, subject to execution of appropriate documentation, to backstop up to 50% of that Dutch tender. While Southeastern believes intrinsic value to be higher than the backstop price, Southeastern would prefer to part with a portion of its position to facilitate management's move to a public-shareholder mindset rather than retain its entire position under a management which disregards public shareholders. As such, we

Table of Contents

support a Dutch tender whether or not we are called on to provide this backstop.

Finally, as an owner of this company since 2001, Southeastern has become increasingly frustrated with having to plead with management to act for the benefit of public shareholders. Our 14a-8 shareholder proposal contained in the Issuer's Proxy Statement provides greater detail on the history of Southeastern's recommendations and management's responses. While we bought the company with knowledge that it was family controlled, we trusted management and the Board would act responsibly for all owners. Because the Issuer's management and policies have been focused more on the controlling shareholder than public shareholders, we believe it is important to send a message that the public shareholder voice should be heard. Accordingly, we recommend that company shareholders vote FOR our shareholder proposal to recapitalize the company's equity structure into one class of common stock, with one vote for each share. Because the TDS Voting Trust has announced its intention to vote against this proposal, a shareholder's vote in favor makes it clear that he or she is not satisfied with the direction the controlling shareholder has taken the company.

Item 5. Interest in Securities of the Issuer

Item 5 shall be amended and restated as follows:

(a) The aggregate number and percentage of Securities to which this Schedule 13D relates is 14,776,895 shares of the Special Common Stock of the Issuer, constituting approximately 27.3% of the 54,090,809 shares outstanding.

	Common Shares Held	% of outstanding Common Shares
Voting Authority		
Sole:	7,384,858	13.6%
Shared:	5,666,200*	10.5%
None:	1,725,837	3.2%
Total	14,776,895	27.3%

* Shares owned by Longleaf Partners Fund, a series of Longleaf Partners Funds Trust.

Dispositive Authority

Sole:	9,104,695	16.8%
Shared:	5,666,200*	10.5%
None:	6,000	0.0%
Total	14,776,895	27.3%

* Shares owned by Longleaf Partners Fund, a series of Longleaf Partners Funds Trust.

(b) Southeastern generally has the sole power to dispose of or to direct the disposition of the Securities held for discretionary accounts of its

Table of Contents

investment clients, and may be granted the sole power to vote or direct the vote of such Securities; such powers may be retained by or shared with the respective clients for shared or non-discretionary accounts, for which Southeastern generally makes recommendations with respect thereto. Shares held by any Series of Longleaf Partners Funds Trust are reported in the shared category.

(c) Transactions in the Securities during the last sixty days are attached as Schedule II.

(d) The investment advisory clients of Southeastern have the sole right to receive and, subject to notice, to withdraw the proceeds from the sale of the Securities, and the sole power to direct the receipt of dividends from any of the Securities held for their respective accounts. Such clients may also terminate the investment advisory agreements without penalty upon appropriate notice. Southeastern does not have an economic interest in any of the Securities reported herein.

(e) Not applicable.

SIGNATURES

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.

Dated: May 5, 2009

SOUTHEASTERN ASSET
MANAGEMENT, INC.

By /s/ Andrew R. McCarroll
Andrew R. McCarroll
Vice President & General Counsel

LONGLEAF PARTNERS FUND
By Southeastern Asset Management, Inc.

By /s/ Andrew R. McCarroll
Andrew R. McCarroll
Vice President and General Counsel

O. MASON HAWKINS
(Individually)

/s/ O. Mason Hawkins

Joint Filing Agreement

In accordance with Rule 13d-1(k) under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the persons or entities named below agree to the joint filing on behalf of each of them of this Amendment No. 17 to Schedule 13D with respect to the Securities of the Issuer and further agree that this joint

Table of Contents

filing agreement be included as an exhibit to this Amendment No. 17 to Schedule 13D. In evidence thereof, the undersigned hereby execute this Agreement as of May 5, 2009.

Southeastern Asset Management, Inc.

By: /s/ Andrew R. McCarroll
Andrew R. McCarroll
Vice President and General Counsel

Longleaf Partners Fund
By Southeastern Asset Management, Inc.

By /s/ Andrew R. McCarroll
Andrew R. McCarroll
Vice President and General Counsel

O. Mason Hawkins, Individually

/s/ O. Mason Hawkins

Table of Contents

SCHEDULE II

Transaction Type	Date	# of Shares	Price per Share*
Sale	03/09/09	399	\$ 22.21
Sale	03/09/09	4,601	\$ 22.52
Sale	03/09/09	2,000	\$ 22.52
Sale	03/09/09	1,000	\$ 22.52
Sale	03/09/09	678	\$ 22.52
Sale	03/10/09	2,600	\$ 23.20
Sale	03/10/09	7,700	\$ 22.85
Sale	03/10/09	2,400	\$ 23.20
Sale	03/10/09	7,222	\$ 22.85
Sale	03/11/09	13,200	\$ 23.64
Sale	03/11/09	1,372	\$ 23.64
Sale	03/11/09	10,000	\$ 23.68
Sale	03/11/09	6,000	\$ 23.59
Sale	03/11/09	2,100	\$ 23.68
Sale	03/12/09	2,200	\$ 23.50
Sale	03/12/09	12,228	\$ 23.41
Sale	03/12/09	436	\$ 23.50
Sale	03/12/09	2,100	\$ 23.41
Sale	03/13/09	14,200	\$ 23.55
Sale	03/13/09	23,500	\$ 23.55
Sale	03/13/09	15,300	\$ 23.55
Sale	03/13/09	2,500	\$ 23.64
Sale	03/13/09	9,200	\$ 23.64
Sale	03/13/09	9,300	\$ 23.55
Sale	03/13/09	2,064	\$ 23.64
Sale	03/16/09	9,405	\$ 24.06
Sale	03/17/09	8,595	\$ 23.61
Sale	03/20/09	3,000	\$ 23.62
Sale	03/20/09	7,600	\$ 23.62
Sale	03/23/09	19,000	\$ 24.10
Sale	03/23/09	3,200	\$ 24.10
Sale	03/23/09	14,057	\$ 24.10
Sale	03/24/09	2,743	\$ 23.89
Sale	03/24/09	2,000	\$ 23.89
Sale	03/24/09	3,785	\$ 23.89
Sale	03/24/09	2,815	\$ 23.85
Sale	03/24/09	900	\$ 23.85
Sale	03/25/09	1,290	\$ 24.04
Sale	03/25/09	19,810	\$ 23.95
Sale	03/25/09	1,300	\$ 23.95
Sale	03/25/09	2,863	\$ 23.95
Sale	03/26/09	8,237	\$ 23.85
Sale	03/26/09	3,400	\$ 23.85
Sale	03/26/09	3,000	\$ 23.85
Sale	04/06/09	2,810	\$ 25.70

Sale	04/06/09	9,000	\$ 25.71
Sale	04/06/09	13,500	\$ 25.71
Sale	04/07/09	190	\$ 25.32
Sale	04/08/09	400	\$ 25.31
Sale	04/09/09	4,400	\$ 24.53
Sale	04/09/09	5,600	\$ 24.53

Table of Contents

Transaction Type	Date	# of Shares	Price per Share*
Sale	04/09/09	2,000	\$ 24.59
Sale	04/09/09	12,000	\$ 24.60
Sale	04/17/09	3,000	\$ 25.14
Sale	04/17/09	4,000	\$ 25.14
Sale	04/17/09	9,000	\$ 25.14
Sale	04/17/09	2,000	\$ 25.14
Sale	04/17/09	13,000	\$ 25.14
Sale	04/23/09	26,000	\$ 23.23
Sale	04/23/09	1,000	\$ 23.23

Sales in the ordinary course of business on the American Stock Exchange or through Electronic Communication Networks (ECNs). In addition to the above transactions, on March 12, 2009, March 20, 2009, March 24, 2009, April 14, 2009 and April 17, 2009, clients of Southeastern terminating their advisory relationship removed 57,000, 25,000, 92,000, 26,000 and 62,000 shares from Southeastern's discretion.

* Net of
commissions.

Table of Contents

Table of Contents