

Dolan Co.
Form S-3
January 25, 2013
Table of Contents

As filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on January 25, 2013

Registration No. 333-

UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington, D.C. 20549

Form S-3

REGISTRATION STATEMENT

UNDER

THE SECURITIES ACT OF 1933

The Dolan Company

(Exact Name of Registrant as Specified in Its Charter)

Delaware
(State or Other Jurisdiction)

of Incorporation or Organization)

222 South Ninth Street, Suite 2300

43-2004527
(I.R.S. Employer

Identification No.)

Edgar Filing: Dolan Co. - Form S-3

Minneapolis, Minnesota 55402

(612) 317-9420

(Address, Including Zip Code, and Telephone Number, Including Area Code, of Registrant's Principal Executive Offices)

James P. Dolan

Chairman, President and Chief Executive Officer

The Dolan Company

222 South Ninth Street, Suite 2300

Minneapolis, Minnesota 55402

(612) 317-9420

(Name, Address, Including Zip Code, and Telephone Number, Including Area Code, of Agent for Service)

Copy To:

W. Morgan Burns

Faegre Baker Daniels LLP

2200 Wells Fargo Center

90 South Seventh Street

Minneapolis, Minnesota 55402

(612) 766-7000

Approximate date of commencement of proposed sale to the public: From time to time after the effective date of this registration statement.

If the only securities being registered on this form are being offered pursuant to dividend or interest reinvestment plans, please check the following box.

If any of the securities being registered on this form are to be offered on a delayed or continuous basis pursuant to Rule 415 under the Securities Act of 1933, other than securities offered only in connection with dividend or interest reinvestment plans, check the following box.

Edgar Filing: Dolan Co. - Form S-3

If this form is filed to register additional securities for an offering pursuant to Rule 462(b) under the Securities Act, please check the following box and list the Securities Act registration statement number of the earlier effective registration statement for the same offering. "

Table of Contents

If this form is a post-effective amendment filed pursuant to Rule 462(c) under the Securities Act, check the following box and list the Securities Act registration statement number of the earlier effective registration statement for the same offering. "

If this form is a registration statement pursuant to General Instruction I.D. or a post-effective amendment thereto that shall become effective upon filing with the Commission pursuant to Rule 462(e) under the Securities Act, check the following box. "

If this form is a post-effective amendment to a registration statement filed pursuant to General Instruction I.D. filed to register additional securities or additional classes of securities pursuant to Rule 413(b) under the Securities Act, check the following box. "

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 the definitions of large accelerated filer, accelerated filer and smaller reporting company in Rule 12b-2 of the Exchange Act. (Check one):

Large accelerated filer " Accelerated filer x
 Non-accelerated filer " (Do not check if a smaller reporting company) Smaller reporting company "

CALCULATION OF REGISTRATION FEE

Title of Each Class of Securities to be Registered	Amount to be Registered(1)(2)	Proposed	Proposed	Amount of Registration Fee(5)
		Maximum Aggregate Price per Security(2)(3)	Maximum Aggregate Offering Price(2)(4)	
Common Stock, \$0.001 par value per share(6)				
Preferred Stock, \$0.001 par value per share				
Debt Securities				
Warrants				
Total	\$200,000,000		\$200,000,000	\$2,197(7)

(1) The registrant is registering under this registration statement an indeterminate number of shares of common stock and preferred stock, an indeterminate principal amount of debt securities and an indeterminate number of warrants to purchase common stock, preferred stock and/or debt securities as the registrant may sell from time to time, which together will have an aggregate initial offering price not to exceed \$200,000,000. If any debt securities are issued at an original issue discount, then the offering price of such debt securities shall be in such greater principal amount at maturity as shall result in an aggregate offering price not to exceed \$200,000,000, less the aggregate dollar amount of all securities the registrant has previously issued under this registration statement. Any securities registered under this registration statement may be sold separately or together with other securities registered under this registration statement. The proposed maximum offering price per class of securities will be determined, from time to time, by the registrant in connection with the issuance by the registrant of the securities registered hereunder. The securities registered hereunder may be issued directly or upon conversion or exchange for preferred or debt securities that provide for conversion or exchange or upon exercise of warrants. The securities registered hereunder also include such additional indeterminate number of shares of common stock and preferred stock and amount of debt securities as may be issued upon such conversion, exchange or exercise to the extent no separate consideration is received for any such securities. In addition, pursuant to Rule 416 under the Securities Act, the shares being registered hereunder includes such additional indeterminate number of shares of common stock and preferred stock as may be issuable with respect to the shares being registered hereunder as a result of stock splits, stock dividends or similar transactions.

Edgar Filing: Dolan Co. - Form S-3

- (2) The registrant has not specified the amount to be registered, the proposed maximum aggregate offering price per security, or the proposed maximum aggregate offering price as to each security pursuant to General Instruction II.D of Form S-3 under the Securities Act.
- (3) The registrant will determine the proposed maximum aggregate offering price per class of securities from time to time in connection with the registrant's issuance of the securities registered under this registration statement.
- (4) Estimated solely for the purpose of calculating the registration fee pursuant to Rule 457(o) under the Securities Act.
- (5) Calculated pursuant to Rule 457(o) under the Securities Act of 1933.
- (6) This registration statement also includes an indeterminate number of rights to purchase shares of series A junior participating preferred stock issuable under the registrant's Stockholder Rights Plan. These rights accompany shares of the registrant's common stock.

Table of Contents

- (7) Pursuant to Rule 415(a)(6) under the Securities Act, this registration statement includes the \$183,900,000 of unsold securities registered pursuant to the Registration Statement on Form S-3 initially filed with the SEC on December 18, 2009, and made effective on January 27, 2010 (File No. 333-163861) (the "2010 S-3"). The Registrant paid a registration fee of \$10,261 in connection with the registration of such unsold securities on the 2010 S-3, which fee continues to be applied to such securities. Accordingly, the amount of the registration fee to be paid is \$2,197, based on the proposed maximum offering price of the additional \$16,100,000 of securities registered on this registration statement.

The Registrant hereby amends this Registration Statement on such date or dates as may be necessary to delay its effective date until the Registrant shall file a further amendment which specifically states that this Registration Statement shall thereafter become effective in accordance with Section 8(a) of the Securities Act of 1933 or until this Registration Statement shall become effective on such date as the Commission, acting pursuant to said Section 8(a), may determine.

Table of Contents

The information contained in this prospectus is not complete and may be changed. We may not sell these securities until the registration statement filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission is effective. This prospectus is not an offer to sell these securities, and it is not soliciting an offer to buy these securities, in any state or jurisdiction where the offer or sale is not permitted.

SUBJECT TO COMPLETION, DATED JANUARY 25, 2013

PROSPECTUS

\$200,000,000

Common Stock

Preferred Stock

Debt Securities

Warrants

We may offer and sell from time to time common stock, preferred stock, debt securities or warrants, either together or separately. The total aggregate offering price for these securities will not exceed \$200,000,000.

This prospectus describes the general terms of these securities and the general manner in which we will offer them. Each time that we offer and sell securities using this prospectus, we will provide a supplement to this prospectus that contains specific information about the securities and their terms and the manner in which we will offer them for sale. The supplement also may add or update information contained in this prospectus. You should carefully read this prospectus, any post-effective amendment and any supplement to this prospectus, as well as any documents we have incorporated into this prospectus by reference, before you invest in any of these securities.

We may offer and sell these securities through underwriters, dealers or agents, or directly to purchasers. We will provide the names of any such agents and underwriters used in connection with the sale of any of these securities, as well as any fees, commissions or discounts we may pay to such agents and/or underwriters in connection with the sale of these securities, in the applicable prospectus supplement.

Our common stock is listed on the New York Stock Exchange under the symbol **DM**. Any common stock we sell under this prospectus, as it may be supplemented, will be listed on the New York Stock Exchange, subject to official notice of issuance.

Investing in our securities involves a number of risks. See Risk Factors on page 2.

Neither the Securities and Exchange Commission nor any state securities commission has approved or disapproved of these securities or passed upon the adequacy or accuracy of this prospectus. Any representation to the contrary is a criminal offense.

The date of this Prospectus is _____, 2013

Table of Contents**TABLE OF CONTENTS**

	Page
<u>ABOUT THIS PROSPECTUS</u>	1
<u>THE COMPANY</u>	2
<u>RISK FACTORS</u>	2
<u>CAUTIONARY NOTE REGARDING FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS</u>	2
<u>RATIO OF EARNINGS TO FIXED CHARGES AND COMBINED FIXED CHARGES AND PREFERRED STOCK DIVIDENDS TO EARNINGS</u>	4
<u>USE OF PROCEEDS</u>	4
<u>THE SECURITIES WE MAY OFFER</u>	4
<u>DESCRIPTION OF CAPITAL STOCK</u>	5
<u>DESCRIPTION OF DEBT SECURITIES</u>	7
<u>DESCRIPTION OF WARRANTS</u>	13
<u>PLAN OF DISTRIBUTION</u>	15
<u>LEGAL MATTERS</u>	16
<u>EXPERTS</u>	16
<u>WHERE YOU CAN FIND MORE INFORMATION</u>	17
<u>DOCUMENTS INCORPORATED BY REFERENCE</u>	17

ABOUT THIS PROSPECTUS

This prospectus is part of a registration statement that we have filed with the Securities Exchange Commission, or SEC, using a shelf registration process. Under this process, we may sell the securities, or combinations of the securities, from time to time in one or more transactions, up to a total dollar amount of \$200,000,000. In this prospectus, we provide you with a general description of the securities that we may offer for sale. When we offer a type of securities for sale under this prospectus, we will provide a prospectus supplement that will describe in more detail the specific information about the terms of those securities and the manner in which they will be offered for sale. Information that we provide in a prospectus supplement may add to, update or change information we have provided in this prospectus or in the documents we have incorporated in this prospectus by reference. Before buying any securities being offered under this prospectus, you should carefully read this prospectus, all applicable prospectus supplements as well as the information we have incorporated by reference.

You should rely only on the information contained or incorporated by reference in this prospectus or in any supplement to this prospectus. We have not authorized anyone to provide you with different or additional information. If anyone provides you with different or additional information, you should not rely on it. This prospectus is not an offer to sell these securities in any jurisdiction where the offer or sale is not permitted. You should assume that the information appearing or incorporated by reference in this prospectus and any supplement is accurate as of its date only. Our business, financial condition, results of operations and prospects may have changed since that date.

In this prospectus, unless the context requires otherwise, the terms company, we, us and our refer to The Dolan Company and its consolidated subsidiaries.

Table of Contents

THE COMPANY

We are a leading provider of professional services and business information to legal, financial and real estate sectors in the United States. We serve our customers through two complementary operating divisions: our Professional Services Division and our Business Information Division. Our Professional Services Division comprises two reporting segments: mortgage default processing services and litigation support services. Through our subsidiary NDeX we provide mortgage default processing services to six law firm customers related to residential real estate located in Texas, Michigan, Minnesota, Indiana, Georgia, and California, and we provide mortgage default processing services directly to mortgage lenders and loan servicers on residential real estate located in California. Our subsidiaries DiscoverReady and Counsel Press comprise our litigation support services reporting segment. DiscoverReady provides outsourced discovery management and document review services to major United States companies and their counsel. Counsel Press provides appellate services to law firms and attorneys nationwide. Our Business Information Division produces legal publications, business journals, court and commercial media, other highly focused online information products and services, and operates web sites and produces events for targeted professional audiences in 19 geographic markets across the United States. Our information is delivered through a variety of methods, including approximately 60 print publications and 80 web sites. We also operate specialized information services covering legislative and regulatory activities and providing transcription, media monitoring and translation services.

The Dolan Company is a Delaware corporation incorporated in March 2003 under the name DMC II Company to continue operations started in 1992 by our predecessor company, named Dolan Media Company. In July 2003, after our predecessor company spun off its business information and other businesses to us in connection with a restructuring, we resumed operations under the name Dolan Media Company. In 2010, we changed our name from Dolan Media Company to The Dolan Company. Our principal executive offices are located at 222 South Ninth Street, Suite 2300, Minneapolis, Minnesota 55402, and our telephone number is 612-317-9420. We maintain a website at www.thedolancompany.com. The contents of our website do not constitute a part of this prospectus.

RISK FACTORS

Investing in our securities involves a high degree of risk. You should consider carefully the risks incorporated by reference herein that are described under **Risk Factors** in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2011, as well as any applicable prospectus supplement and the reports we file from time to time with the SEC that are incorporated by reference in this prospectus. If any of the events described in such **Risk Factors** section occurs or the risks described in such **Risk Factors** section actually materialize, our business, financial condition, results of operations, cash flow or prospects could be materially adversely affected.

CAUTIONARY NOTE REGARDING FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS

The prospectus and the documents incorporated by reference herein contain forward-looking statements that involve risks and uncertainties. These forward-looking statements are not historical facts, but rather are based on current beliefs, assumptions and expectations. These beliefs, assumptions and expectations can change as a result of many possible events or factors, not all of which are known to us or are within our control. If a change occurs, our business, financial condition, liquidity and results of operations may vary materially from those expressed in our forward-looking statements. You should not place undue reliance on these forward-looking statements, which reflect our view only as of the date of this prospectus. We use words such as *anticipate*, *could*, *expect*, *intend*, *plan*, *goal*, *potential*, *may*, *believe*, *seek*, *estimate*, *negative* of these terms or variations of these words and similar expressions to identify forward-looking statements. Forward-looking statements are subject to various risks and uncertainties that could cause actual results to vary from our forward-looking statements, including those described in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2011, incorporated by reference in this prospectus.

Table of Contents

Although we believe the expectations reflected in the forward-looking statements are reasonable, we cannot guarantee future results, level of activity, performance or achievements. We undertake no obligation to publicly update or revise any forward-looking statements, whether as a result of new information, future events or risks. New information, future events or risks may cause the forward-looking events we discuss in this prospectus not to occur. You should consider any forward-looking statements in light of this explanation, and we caution you about placing undue reliance on forward-looking statements.

Table of Contents**RATIO OF EARNINGS TO FIXED CHARGES****AND COMBINED FIXED CHARGES AND PREFERRED STOCK DIVIDENDS TO EARNINGS**

The following table sets forth our ratio of earnings to fixed charges and ratio of earnings to combined fixed charges and preferred stock dividends for the periods indicated. Earnings include pretax income (loss) from continuing operations before non-controlling interest and income (loss) from equity investees. Fixed charges consist of interest expensed and capitalized, amortization of debt issuance costs, preferred security dividend requirements of our consolidated subsidiaries and that portion of our rental expense that we believe to be a reasonable approximation of the interest. We do not have any shares of preferred stock outstanding and, accordingly, have not paid any preferred stock dividends since 2007.

	2011(1)	Year Ended December 31,			Nine Months Ended September 30,
		2010	2009	2008	2012(2)
Ratio of earnings to fixed charges	6.25x	9.55x	8.90x	3.86x	0.36x
Ratio of earnings to combined fixed charges and preferred stock dividends	6.25x	9.55x	8.90x	3.86x	0.34x

- (1) Earnings for the year ended December 31, 2011, includes non-cash earnings of \$15.1 million consisting of \$16.3 million of fair value adjustments related to reducing the estimated earnouts payable for acquisitions, offset by a \$1.2 million impairment of long lived assets. Had the earnings for the period ended December 31, 2011 not included these amounts, the Ratio of Earnings to Fixed Charges at December 31, 2011, would have been 3.96x.
- (2) The Ratio of Earnings to Fixed Charges for the nine months ended September 30, 2012 were less than 1:1 due to nonrecurring non-cash charges of \$151.6 million related to the impairment of goodwill and long lived assets, offset by \$12.1 million of fair value adjustments related to reducing estimated earnouts payable for acquisitions. Had the earnings for the nine months ended September 30, 2012, been \$126.6 million higher, the Ratio of Earnings to Fixed Charges and Ratio of Earnings to Combined Fixed Charges and Preferred Stock Dividends at September 30, 2012 would have been 1:1.

USE OF PROCEEDS

Unless we otherwise specify in any applicable prospectus supplement, we expect to use the net proceeds from the sale of any securities under this prospectus for general corporate purposes, including for acquisitions, capital expenditures, the repayment of debt and working capital. Our credit facility requires us to apply net proceeds from securities offerings to the repayment of debt outstanding under our credit facility under certain circumstances.

THE SECURITIES WE MAY OFFER

We may sell from time to time, in one or more offerings: common stock, preferred stock, debt securities and/or warrants. The descriptions of the securities contained in this prospectus summarize the material general terms and provisions of the various types of securities that we may offer. We will describe in the applicable prospectus supplement relating to any securities the particular terms of the securities offered by that prospectus supplement. If we so indicate in the applicable prospectus supplement, the terms of the securities may differ from the terms we have summarized below. We will also include in the prospectus supplement information, where applicable, about material United States federal income tax considerations relating to the securities, and the securities exchange or market, if any, on which the securities will be listed.

Table of Contents

DESCRIPTION OF CAPITAL STOCK

The following summary describes the material terms of our capital stock and is subject to, and qualified in its entirety by, our amended and restated certificate of incorporation, as amended, and by-laws and by the provisions of Delaware law.

General

We are authorized to issue 70,000,000 shares of common stock, \$.001 par value, and 5,000,000 shares of preferred stock, \$.001 par value. As of January 23, 2013, there were approximately (x) 30,771,036 shares of common stock issued and outstanding (not counting treasury shares) held by approximately 917 holders of record and (y) no shares of preferred stock outstanding. We have designated 5,000 shares of Series A Junior Participating Preferred Stock, as a series of preferred stock, in connection with our adoption of a stockholder rights plan on January 29, 2009. We have also designated 1,600,000 shares of 8.5% Series B Cumulative Preferred Stock, 700,000 of which are, as of the date of the registration statement of which this prospectus forms a part, being offered for sale pursuant to a prospectus supplement dated January 24, 2013 to our prospectus dated January 27, 2010 (File No. 333-163861).

Common Stock

If we offer shares of our common stock for sale under this prospectus, we will provide a prospectus supplement that describes the terms of the offering, including the number of shares offered and the offering price.

Voting Rights. Each holder of common stock is entitled to one vote for each share held on all matters submitted to a vote of the stockholders.

Dividends. Subject to the rights of the holders of any preferred stock, the holders of common stock are entitled to receive ratably such dividends as may be declared by our board of directors out of funds legally available for dividends. We have not historically declared or paid cash dividends on our common stock.

Other Rights. In the event of a liquidation, dissolution or winding up of our company, holders of our common stock are entitled to share ratably in all assets remaining after payment of liabilities and the liquidation preference, if any, of any then-outstanding preferred stock. Holders of our common stock are not entitled to preemptive rights and have no subscription, redemption or conversion privileges. All outstanding shares of common stock are, and all shares of common stock issued by us in an offering under this prospectus and the applicable prospectus supplement will be, fully paid and nonassessable. The rights, preferences and privileges of holders of common stock are subject to, and may be adversely affected by, the rights of the holders of shares of any series of preferred stock which our board of directors may designate and that we may issue in one or more offerings under this prospectus or at other times in the future.

Stockholder Rights Plan. On January 29, 2009, our board adopted a Stockholder Rights Plan, which is designed to protect our stockholders from potentially coercive takeover practices or takeover bids and to prevent an acquirer from gaining control of the company without offering a fair price to our stockholders. The plan is not intended to deter offers that are fair or otherwise in the best interests of our stockholders.

Effective March 17, 2010, we amended the Stockholder Rights Plan to accelerate its expiration date to January 29, 2013, from the previous expiration date of January 29, 2019. We also increased from 15% to 20% the percentage ownership a person or associated or affiliate group must acquire before the rights are exercisable. The plan also was amended to include a qualified offer provision which under certain circumstances would allow stockholders holding more than 10% of the company's outstanding common stock to require the board of directors to hold a special meeting to redeem the rights.

Transfer Agent and Registrar. The transfer agent and registrar for our common stock is Wells Fargo Shareowner Services. Their address is Wells Fargo Shareowner Services, P.O. Box 64854, Saint Paul, Minnesota 55164, and their telephone number is 1-877-840-0492.

Table of Contents

Listing. Our common stock is listed on the New York Stock Exchange under the symbol DM. Any common stock we sell under this prospectus, as it may be supplemented, will be listed on the New York Stock Exchange, subject to official notice of issuance.

Preferred Stock

We are authorized to issue shares of preferred stock in one or more series, with such designations, preferences and relative, participating, option and other special rights, qualifications, limitations or restrictions as determined by our board of directors, without any further vote or action by our stockholders, including dividend rights, conversion rights, voting rights, redemption rights and terms of redemption and liquidation preferences.

Our board may fix the number of shares constituting any series and the designations of these series by adopting a certificate of designations relating to each series. The prospectus supplement relating to each series will specify the terms of the preferred stock, including:

the number of shares we are offering;

the offering price for those shares;

the maximum number of shares in the series and the distinctive designation thereof;

the terms on which dividends will be paid, if any;

the terms on which the shares will be redeemed, if at all;

the liquidation preference, if any;

the terms of any retirement or sinking fund for the purchase or redemption of the shares of the series;

the terms and conditions, if any, on which the shares of the series will be convertible into, or exchangeable for, shares of any other class or classes of capital stock;

the voting rights, if any, on the shares of the series;

any securities exchange or market on which the shares will be listed; and

any other preferences and relative, participating, operation or other special rights or qualifications, limitations or restrictions of the shares.

You should also refer to the applicable certificate of designations for complete information about the terms, preferences and rights related to a particular series of our preferred stock, which we will incorporate as an exhibit to the registration statement of which this prospectus is a part. The prospectus supplement will contain a description of United States federal income tax consequences relating to the preferred stock, to the extent applicable.

Edgar Filing: Dolan Co. - Form S-3

Our issuance of preferred stock may have the effect of delaying or preventing a change in control. Our issuance of preferred stock could decrease the amount of earnings and assets available for distribution to the holders of common stock or could adversely affect the rights and powers, including voting rights, of the holders of common stock. The issuance of preferred stock could have the effect of decreasing the market price of our common stock.

Anti-Takeover Effects of Our Amended and Restated Certificate of Incorporation, as Amended, Our Second Amended and Restated By-Laws and Delaware Law

Authorized but Unissued Shares. The authorized but unissued shares of our common stock and our preferred stock will be available for future issuance without any further vote or action by our stockholders. These additional shares may be utilized for a variety of corporate purposes, including future public offerings to raise

Table of Contents

additional capital, corporate acquisitions and employee benefit plans. The existence of authorized but unissued shares of our common stock and our preferred stock could render more difficult or discourage an attempt to obtain control over us by means of a proxy contest, tender offer, merger or otherwise.

Stockholder Action; Advance Notification of Stockholder Nominations and Proposals. Our amended and restated certificate of incorporation, as amended, and by-laws require that any action required or permitted to be taken by our stockholders must be effected at a duly called annual or special meeting of stockholders and may not be effected by a consent in writing. Our amended and restated certificate of incorporation, as amended, also requires that special meetings of stockholders be called only by our board of directors, our chairman or our president. In addition, our by-laws provide that candidates for director may be nominated and other business brought before an annual meeting only by the board of directors or by a stockholder who gives written notice to us no later than 90 days prior to nor earlier than 150 days prior to the first anniversary of the last annual meeting of stockholders. These provisions may have the effect of deterring hostile takeovers or delaying changes in control of our management, which could depress the market price of our common stock.

Number, Election and Removal of the Board of Directors. As of the date of this prospectus, our board of directors consisted of eight directors. Our amended and restated certificate of incorporation, as amended, authorizes a board of directors consisting of at least five, but no more than eleven, members, with the number of directors to be fixed from time to time by a resolution of the majority of our board of directors (or by a duly adopted amendment to our certificate of incorporation). Any additional directorships resulting from an increase in the number of directors will be distributed among the three classes so that, as nearly as possible, each class shall consist of one-third of the directors. At each annual meeting of stockholders, a class of directors will be elected for a three-year term to succeed the directors of the same class whose terms are then expiring. As a result, a portion of our board of directors will be elected each year. The division of our board of directors into three classes with staggered three-year terms may delay or prevent a change of our management or a change in control. Between stockholders meetings, directors may be removed by our stockholders only for cause and the board of directors may appoint new directors to fill vacancies or newly created directorships. These provisions may deter a stockholder from removing incumbent directors and from simultaneously gaining control of the board of directors by filling the resulting vacancies with its own nominees. Consequently, the existence of these provisions may have the effect of deterring hostile takeovers, which could depress the market price of our common stock.

Delaware Anti-Takeover Law. Our amended and restated certificate of incorporation, as amended, provides that Section 203 of the Delaware General Corporation Law, an anti-takeover law, will apply to us. In general, Section 203 prohibits a publicly held Delaware corporation from engaging in a business combination with an interested stockholder for a period of three years following the date the person became an interested stockholder, unless the business combination or the transaction in which the person became an interested stockholder is approved in a prescribed manner. Generally, a business combination includes a merger, asset or stock sale or other transaction resulting in a financial benefit to the interested stockholder. Generally, an interested stockholder is a person who, together with affiliates and associates, owns or, within three years prior to the determination of interested stockholder status, did own, 15% or more of a corporation's voting stock.

DESCRIPTION OF DEBT SECURITIES

General

The debt securities that we may offer by this prospectus consist of notes, debentures or other evidences of indebtedness. Any debt securities that we offer and sell will be our direct obligations. Debt securities may be issued in one or more series. All debt securities of any one series need not be issued at the same time, and unless otherwise provided, a series of debt securities may be reopened, with the required consent of the holders of outstanding debt securities, for issuance of additional debt securities of that series or to establish additional terms

Table of Contents

of that series of debt securities (with such additional terms applicable only to unissued or additional debt securities of that series). The form of indenture has been filed as an exhibit to the registration statement of which this prospectus is a part and is subject to any amendments or supplements that we may enter into with the trustee(s). The material terms of the indenture are summarized below and we refer you to the indenture for a detailed description of these material terms. Additional or different provisions that are applicable to a particular series of debt securities will, if material, be described in a prospectus supplement relating to the offering of debt securities of that series. These provisions may include, among other things and to the extent applicable, the following:

the title of the debt securities, including, as applicable, whether the debt securities will be issued as senior debt securities, senior subordinated debt securities or subordinated debt securities, any subordination provisions particular to the series of debt securities;

any limit on the aggregate principal amount of the debt securities;

if other than 100% of the aggregate principal amount, the percentage of the aggregate principal amount at which we will sell the debt securities (i.e., original issuance discount);

the date or dates, whether fixed or extendable, on which the principal of the debt securities will be payable;

the rate or rates, which may be fixed or variable, at which the debt securities will bear interest, if any, the date or dates from which any such interest will accrue, the interest payment dates on which we will pay any such interest, the basis upon which interest will be calculated if other than that of a 360-day year consisting of twelve 30-day months, and, in the case of registered securities, the record dates for the determination of holders to whom interest is payable;

the place or places where the principal of and any premium or interest on the debt securities will be payable and where the debt securities may be surrendered for conversion or exchange;

whether we may, at our option, redeem the debt securities, and if so, the price or prices at which, the period or periods within which and the terms and conditions upon which, we may redeem the debt securities, in whole or in part, pursuant to any sinking fund or otherwise;

if other than 100% of the aggregate principal amount thereof, the portion of the principal amount of the debt securities which will be payable upon declaration of acceleration of the maturity date thereof or provable in bankruptcy, or, if applicable, which is convertible or exchangeable;

any obligation we may have to redeem, purchase or repay the debt securities pursuant to any sinking fund or analogous provisions or at the option of a holder of debt securities, and the price or prices at which, the currency in which and the period or periods within which, and the terms and conditions upon which, the debt securities will be redeemed, purchased or repaid, in whole or in part, pursuant to any such obligation, and any provision for the remarketing of the debt securities;

the issuance of debt securities as registered securities or unregistered securities or both, and the rights of the holders of the debt securities to exchange unregistered securities for registered securities, or vice versa, and the circumstances under which any such exchanges, if permitted, may be made;

Edgar Filing: Dolan Co. - Form S-3

the denominations, which may be in United States Dollars or in any foreign currency, in which the debt securities will be issued, if other than denominations of \$1,000 and any integral multiple thereof;

whether the debt securities will be issued in the form of certificated debt securities, and if so, the form of the debt securities (or forms thereof if unregistered and registered securities are issuable in that series), including the legends required by law or as we deem necessary or appropriate, the form of any coupons or temporary global security which may be issued and the forms of any other certificates which may be required under the indenture or which we may require in connection with the offering, sale, delivery or exchange of the debt securities;

Table of Contents

if other than United States Dollars, the currency or currencies in which payments of principal, interest and other amounts payable with respect to the debt securities will be denominated, payable, redeemable or repurchasable, as the case may be;

whether the debt securities may be issuable in tranches;

the obligations, if any, we may have to permit the conversion or exchange of the debt securities into common stock, preferred stock or other capital stock or property, or a combination thereof, and the terms and conditions upon which such conversion or exchange will be effected (including conversion price or exchange ratio), and any limitations on the ownership or transferability of the securities or property into which the debt securities may be converted or exchanged;

if other than the trustee under the indenture, any trustees, authenticating or paying agents, transfer agents or registrars or any other agents with respect to the debt securities;

if the debt securities do not bear interest, the applicable dates required under the indenture for furnishing information to the trustee regarding the holders of the debt securities;

any deletions from, modifications of or additions to (a) the events of default with respect to the debt securities or (b) the right of the trustee or the holders of the debt securities in connection with events of default;

any deletions from, modifications of or additions to the covenants with respect to the debt securities;

if the amount of payments of principal of, and make-whole amount, if any, and interest on the debt securities may be determined with reference to an index, the manner in which such amount will be determined;

whether the debt securities will be issued in whole or in part in the global form of one or more debt securities and, if so, the depositary for such debt securities, the circumstances under which any such debt security may be exchanged for debt securities registered in the name of, and under which any transfer of debt securities may be registered in the name of, any person other than such depositary or its nominee, and any other provisions regarding such debt securities;

whether, under what circumstances and the currency in which, we will pay additional amounts on the debt securities to any holder of the debt securities who is not a United States person in respect of any tax, assessment or governmental charge and, if so, whether we will have the option to redeem such debt securities rather than pay such additional amounts (and the terms of any such option);

whether the debt securities will be secured by any collateral and, if so, a general description of the collateral and the terms of any related security, pledge or other agreements;

the persons to whom any interest on the debt securities will be payable, if other than the registered holders thereof on the regular record date therefor; and

any other material terms or conditions upon which the debt securities will be issued.

Edgar Filing: Dolan Co. - Form S-3

Unless otherwise indicated in the applicable prospectus supplement, we will issue debt securities in fully registered form without coupons and in denominations of \$1,000 and in integral multiples of \$1,000, and interest will be computed on the basis of a 360-day year of twelve 30-day months. If any interest payment date or the maturity date falls on a day that is not a business day, then the payment will be made on the next business day without additional interest and with the same effect as if it were made on the originally scheduled date. Business day means any calendar day that is not a Saturday, Sunday or legal holiday in New York, New York, and on which the trustee and commercial banks are open for business in New York, New York.

Unless otherwise indicated in the applicable prospectus supplement, the trustee will act as paying agent and registrar for the debt securities under the indenture. We may act as paying agent under the indenture.

The prospectus supplement will contain a description of material United States federal income tax consequences relating to the debt securities, to the extent applicable.

Table of Contents

Covenants

The applicable prospectus supplement will describe any covenants, such as restrictive covenants restricting us or any of our subsidiaries from incurring, issuing, assuming or guarantying any indebtedness or restricting us or any of our subsidiaries from paying dividends or acquiring any of our or its capital stock.

Consolidation, Merger and Transfer of Assets

The indenture permits a consolidation or merger between us and another entity and/or the sale, conveyance or lease by us of all or substantially all of our property and assets, provided that:

the resulting or acquiring entity, if other than us, is organized and existing under the laws of a United States jurisdiction and assumes all of our responsibilities and liabilities under the indenture, including the payment of all amounts due on the debt securities and performance of the covenants in the indenture;

immediately after the transaction, and giving effect to the transaction, no event of default under the indenture exists; and

we have delivered to the trustee an officers' certificate stating that the transaction and, if a supplemental indenture is required in connection with the transaction, the supplemental indenture comply with the indenture and that all conditions precedent to the transaction contained in the indenture have been satisfied.

If we consolidate or merge with or into any other entity, or sell or lease all or substantially all of our assets in compliance with the terms and conditions of the indenture, the resulting or acquiring entity will be substituted for us in the indenture and the debt securities with the same effect as if it had been an original party to the indenture and the debt securities. As a result, such successor entity may exercise our rights and powers under the indenture and the debt securities, in our name and, except in the case of a lease, we will be released from all our liabilities and obligations under the indenture and under the debt securities.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, we may transfer all of our property and assets to another entity if, immediately after giving effect to the transfer, such entity is our wholly owned subsidiary. The term "wholly owned subsidiary" means any subsidiary in which we and/or our other wholly owned subsidiaries own all of the outstanding capital stock.

Modification and Waiver

Under the indenture, some of our rights and obligations and some of the rights of the holders of the debt securities may be modified or amended with the consent of the holders of not less than a majority in aggregate principal amount of the outstanding debt securities affected by the modification or amendment. However, the following modifications and amendments will not be effective against any holder without its consent:

a change in the stated maturity date of any payment of principal or interest;

a reduction in the principal amount of or interest on any debt securities;

an alteration or impairment of any right to convert at the rate or upon the terms provided in the indenture;

a change in the currency in which any payment on the debt securities is payable;

Edgar Filing: Dolan Co. - Form S-3

an impairment of a holder's right to sue us for the enforcement of payments due on the debt securities; or

a reduction in the percentage of outstanding debt securities required to consent to a modification or amendment of the indenture or required to consent to a waiver of compliance with certain provisions of the indenture or certain defaults under the indenture.

Table of Contents

Under the indenture, the holders of not less than a majority in aggregate principal amount of the outstanding debt securities may, on behalf of all holders of the debt securities:

waive compliance by us with certain restrictive provisions of the indenture; and

waive any past default under the indenture in accordance with the applicable provisions of the indenture, except a default in the payment of the principal of or interest on any series of debt securities.

Events of Default

Unless we indicate otherwise in the applicable prospectus supplement, event of default under the indenture will mean, with respect to any series of debt securities, any of the following:

failure to pay interest on any debt security for 30 days after the payment is due;

failure to pay the principal of any debt security when due, either at maturity, upon redemption, by declaration or otherwise;

failure on our part to observe or perform any other covenant or agreement in the indenture that applies to the debt securities for 90 days after we have received written notice of the failure to perform in the manner specified in the indenture; and

certain events of bankruptcy, insolvency or reorganization.

If an event of default occurs and continues, the trustee or the holders of not less than 25% in aggregate principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of such series may declare the entire principal of all the debt securities to be due and payable immediately, except that, if the event of default is caused by certain events in bankruptcy, insolvency or reorganization, the entire principal of all of the debt securities of such series will become due and payable immediately without any act on the part of the trustee or holders of the debt securities. If such a declaration occurs, the holders of a majority of the aggregate principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of such series can, subject to conditions, rescind the declaration. In addition, if there is an event of default under the indenture, it may trigger an event of default under our credit agreement.

The indenture requires us to furnish to the trustee not less often than annually a certificate from our principal executive officer, principal financial officer or principal accounting officer, as the case may be, as to such officer's knowledge of our compliance with all conditions and covenants under the indenture. The trustee may withhold notice to the holders of debt securities of any default, except defaults in the payment of principal of or interest on any debt securities if the trustee in good faith determines that the withholding of notice is in the best interests of the holders. For purposes of this paragraph, default means any event which is, or after notice or lapse of time or both would become, an event of default under the indenture.

The trustee is not obligated to exercise any of its rights or powers under the indenture at the request, order or direction of any holders of debt securities, unless the holders offer the trustee satisfactory security or indemnity. If satisfactory security or indemnity is provided, then, subject to other rights of the trustee, the holders of a majority in aggregate principal amount of the outstanding debt securities may direct the time, method and place of:

conducting any proceeding for any remedy available to the trustee; or

exercising any trust or power conferred upon the trustee.

The holder of a debt security will have the right to begin any proceeding with respect to the indenture or for any remedy only if:

the holder has previously given the trustee written notice of a continuing event of default;

the holders of not less than a majority in aggregate principal amount of the outstanding debt securities have made a written request of, and offered reasonable indemnity to, the trustee to begin such proceeding;

Table of Contents

the trustee has not started such proceeding within 60 days after receiving the request; and

no direction inconsistent with such written request has been given to the trustee under the indenture.

However, the holder of any debt security will have an absolute right to receive payment of principal of and interest on the debt security when due and to institute suit to enforce this payment.

Satisfaction and Discharge; Defeasance

Satisfaction and Discharge of Indenture. Unless otherwise indicated in the applicable prospectus supplement, if at any time,

we have paid the principal of and interest on all the debt securities of any series, except for debt securities which have been destroyed, lost or stolen and which have been replaced or paid in accordance with the indenture, as and when the same shall have become due and payable, or

we have delivered to the trustee for cancellation all debt securities of any series theretofore authenticated, except for debt securities of such series which have been destroyed, lost or stolen and which have been replaced or paid as provided in the indenture, or

all the debt securities of such series not theretofore delivered to the trustee for cancellation have become due and payable, or are by their terms to become due and payable within one year or are to be called for redemption within one year, and we have deposited with the trustee, in trust, sufficient money or government obligations, or a combination thereof, to pay the principal, any interest and any other sums due on the debt securities, on the dates the payments are due or become due under the indenture and the terms of the debt securities,

then the indenture shall cease to be of further effect with respect to the debt securities of such series, except for (a) rights of registration of transfer and exchange, and our right of optional redemption, (b) substitution of mutilated, defaced, destroyed, lost or stolen debt securities, (c) rights of holders to receive payments of principal thereof and interest thereon upon the original stated due dates therefor (but not upon acceleration) and remaining rights of the holders to receive mandatory sinking fund payments, if any, (d) the rights, obligations and immunities of the trustee under the indenture and (e) the rights of the holders of such series of debt securities as beneficiaries thereof with respect to the property so deposited with the trustee payable to all or any of them.

Defeasance and Covenant Defeasance. Unless otherwise indicated in the applicable prospectus supplement, we may elect with respect to any debt securities of any series either:

to defease and be discharged from all of our obligations with respect to such debt securities (defeasance), with certain exceptions described below; or

to be released from our obligations with respect to such debt securities under such covenants as may be specified in the applicable prospectus supplement, and any omission to comply with those obligations will not constitute a default or an event of default with respect to such debt securities (covenant defeasance).

We must comply with the following conditions before the defeasance or covenant defeasance can be effected:

we must irrevocably deposit with the indenture trustee or other qualifying trustee, under the terms of an irrevocable trust agreement in form and substance satisfactory to the trustee, trust funds in trust solely for the benefit of the holders of such debt securities, sufficient money or government obligations or a combination thereof, to pay the principal, any interest and any other sums on the due dates for those payments; and

Table of Contents

we must deliver to the trustee an opinion of counsel to the effect that the holders of such debt securities will not recognize income, gain or loss for federal income tax purposes as a result of defeasance or covenant defeasance, as the case may be, to be effected with respect to such debt securities and will be subject to federal income tax on the same amount, in the same manner and at the same times as would be the case if such defeasance or covenant defeasance, as the case may be, had not occurred.

In connection with defeasance, any irrevocable trust agreement contemplated by the indenture must include, among other things, provision for (a) payment of the principal of and interest on such debt securities, if any, appertaining thereto when due (by redemption, sinking fund payments or otherwise), (b) the payment of the expenses of the trustee incurred or to be incurred in connection with carrying out such trust provisions, (c) rights of registration, transfer, substitution and exchange of such debt securities in accordance with the terms stated in the indenture and (d) continuation of the rights, obligations and immunities of the trustee as against the holders of such debt securities as stated in the indenture.

The accompanying prospectus supplement may further describe any provisions permitting or restricting defeasance or covenant defeasance with respect to the debt securities of a particular series.

Global Securities

Unless otherwise indicated in the applicable prospectus supplement, each debt security offered by this prospectus will be issued in the form of one or more global debt securities representing all or part of that series of debt securities. This means that we will not issue certificates for that series of debt securities to the holders. Instead, a global debt security representing that series will be deposited with, or on behalf of, a securities depository and registered in the name of the depository or a nominee of the depository. Any such depository must be a clearing agency registered under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the Exchange Act). We will describe the specific terms of the depository arrangement with respect to a series of debt securities to be represented by a global security in the applicable prospectus supplement.

Notices

We will give notices to holders of the debt securities by mail at the addresses listed in the security register. In the case of notice in respect of unregistered securities or coupon securities, we may give notice by publication in a newspaper of general circulation in New York, New York.

Governing Law

The indenture and the debt securities will be governed by, and construed in accordance with, the laws of the State of New York, except to the extent the Trust Indenture Act of 1939, as amended, is applicable.

Regarding the Trustee

From time to time, we may maintain deposit accounts and conduct other banking transactions with the trustee to be appointed under the indenture or its affiliates in the ordinary course of business.

DESCRIPTION OF WARRANTS

We may offer to sell warrants from time to time. If we do so, we will describe the specific terms of the warrants in a prospectus supplement. In particular, we may issue warrants for the purchase of common stock, preferred stock and/or debt securities in one or more series. We may also issue warrants independently or together with other securities and the warrants may be attached to or separate from those securities.

Table of Contents

We will evidence each series of warrants by warrant certificates that we will issue under a separate agreement. We will enter into the warrant agreement with a warrant agent. We will indicate the name and address of the warrant agent in the applicable prospectus supplement relating to a particular series of warrants.

We will describe in the applicable prospectus supplement the terms of the series of warrants, including:

the offering price and aggregate number of warrants offered;

the currency for which the warrants may be purchased;

if applicable, the designation and terms of the securities with which the warrants are issued and the number of warrants issued with each such security or each principal amount of such security;

if applicable, the date on and after which the warrants and the related securities will be separately transferable;

in the case of warrants to purchase debt securities, the principal amount of debt securities purchasable upon exercise of one warrant and the price at, and currency in which, this principal amount of debt securities may be purchased upon such exercise;

in the case of warrants to purchase common stock or preferred stock, the number of shares of common stock or preferred stock, as the case may be, purchasable upon the exercise of one warrant and the price at which these shares may be purchased upon such exercise;

the effect of any merger, consolidation, sale or other disposition of our business on the warrant agreement and the warrants;

the terms of any rights to redeem or call the warrants;

any provisions for changes to or adjustments in the exercise price or number of securities issuable upon exercise of the warrants;

the dates on which the right to exercise the warrants will commence and expire;

the manner in which the warrant agreement and warrants may be modified;

certain United States federal income tax consequences of holding or exercising the warrants;

the terms of the securities issuable upon exercise of the warrants; and

any other specific material terms, preferences, rights or limitations of or restrictions on the warrants.

Edgar Filing: Dolan Co. - Form S-3

You may exercise the warrants by delivering the warrant certificate representing the warrants to be exercised together with other requested information, and paying the required amount to the warrant agent in immediately available funds, as provided in the applicable prospectus supplement. We will set forth in the applicable prospectus supplement the information that the holder of the warrant will be required to deliver to the warrant agent.

Upon receipt of the required payment and the warrant certificate properly completed and duly executed at the office of the warrant agent or any other office indicated in the applicable prospectus supplement, we will issue and deliver the securities purchasable upon such exercise. If you exercise fewer than all of the warrants represented by the warrant certificate, then we will issue you a new warrant certificate for the remaining amount of warrants.

You will not have any of the rights of the holders of the securities purchasable upon the exercise of warrants until you exercise them. Accordingly, you will not be entitled to, among other things, vote or receive dividend payments or similar distributions on the securities you can purchase upon exercise of the warrants.

Table of Contents

The information provided above is only a summary of the terms under which we may offer warrants for sale. Accordingly, please carefully review the applicable warrant agreement for more information about the specific terms and conditions of these warrants before investing in us. In addition, please carefully review the information provided in the applicable prospectus supplement, which contains additional information that is important for you to consider in evaluating an investment in our securities.

PLAN OF DISTRIBUTION

We may sell the securities covered by this prospectus from time to time at market prices prevailing at the time of sale, at prices related to such prevailing market prices at the time of sale, at negotiated prices or at fixed prices, which may change from time to time. We may sell the securities directly to one or more purchasers; through agents; to dealers; through underwriters, brokers or dealers; or through a combination of any of these sales methods. We reserve the right to accept or reject, in whole or in part, any proposed purchase of securities, whether the purchase is to be made directly or through agents.

Each time that we use this prospectus to sell our securities, we will also provide a prospectus supplement that contains the specific terms of the offering, including:

the name or names of the underwriters, dealers or agents, if any, and the types and amounts of securities underwritten or purchased by each of them;

the public offering price of the securities and the proceeds we will receive from the sale;

any over-allotment options under which underwriters may purchase additional securities from us;

any agency fees or underwriting discounts or other items constituting agents' or underwriters' compensation;

any discounts, commissions or concessions allowed or reallocated or paid to dealers; and

any securities exchange or market on which the securities may be listed.

Only underwriters that we have named in the prospectus supplement will be underwriters of the securities offered by that prospectus supplement. This prospectus may not be used to consummate a sale of securities unless it is accompanied by a prospectus supplement.

If underwriters are used in the sale on a firm commitment basis, they will acquire the securities for their own account and may resell the securities from time to time in one or more transactions at a fixed public offering price or at varying prices determined at the time of sale. The obligations of the underwriters to purchase the securities will be subject to the conditions set forth in the applicable underwriting agreement. We may offer the securities to the public through underwriting syndicates represented by managing underwriters or by underwriters without a syndicate. Subject to certain conditions, the underwriters will be obligated to purchase all of the securities offered by the prospectus supplement, other than securities covered by any over-allotment option. Any public offering price and any discounts or concessions allowed or reallocated or paid to dealers may change from time to time. We may use underwriters with whom we have a material relationship. We will describe in the prospectus supplement, naming the underwriter, the nature of any such relationship.

We may sell securities directly or through agents we designate from time to time. We will name any agent involved in the offering and sale of securities and we will describe any commissions we will pay the agent in the prospectus supplement. Unless the prospectus supplement states otherwise, our agent will act on a best-efforts basis for the period of its appointment.

We may authorize agents or underwriters to solicit offers by certain types of institutional investors to purchase securities from us at the public offering price set forth in the prospectus supplement pursuant to delayed

Table of Contents

delivery contracts providing for payment and delivery on a specified date in the future. We will describe the conditions to these contracts and the commissions we must pay for solicitation of these contracts in the prospectus supplement.

We may provide agents and underwriters with indemnification against civil liabilities, including liabilities under the Securities Act, or contribution with respect to payments that the agents or underwriters may make with respect to these liabilities. Agents and underwriters may engage in transactions with, or perform services for, us in the ordinary course of business.

All securities we may offer, other than common stock, will be new issues of securities with no established trading market. Any underwriters may make a market in these securities, but will not be obligated to do so and may discontinue any market making at any time without notice. We cannot guarantee the liquidity of the trading markets for any securities.

Any underwriter may engage in over-allotment, stabilizing transactions, short-covering transactions and penalty bids in accordance with Regulation M under the Exchange Act. Over-allotment involves sales in excess of the offering size, which create a short position. Stabilizing transactions permit bids to purchase the underlying security so long as the stabilizing bids do not exceed a specified maximum price. Syndicate-covering or other short-covering transactions involve purchases of the securities, either through exercise of the over-allotment option or in the open market after the distribution is completed, to cover short positions. Penalty bids permit the underwriters to reclaim a selling concession from a dealer when the securities originally sold by the dealer are purchased in a stabilizing or covering transaction to cover short positions. Those activities may cause the price of the securities to be higher than it would otherwise be. If commenced, the underwriters may discontinue any of the activities at any time.

Under the securities laws of some states, to the extent applicable, the securities may be sold in such states only through registered or licensed brokers or dealers. In addition, in some states the securities may not be sold unless such securities have been registered or qualified for sale in such state or an exemption from registration or qualification is available and is complied with.

LEGAL MATTERS

The validity of the issuance of the securities that are covered by this prospectus will be passed upon for us by Faegre Baker Daniels LLP, Minneapolis, Minnesota. Further, to the extent that we use any underwriters or agents in connection with any offering of the securities, we expect that the counsel for such underwriters and/or agents will pass upon the validity of the securities as well.

EXPERTS

The consolidated financial statements and the effectiveness of internal control over financial reporting of The Dolan Company and its consolidated subsidiaries incorporated by reference in this prospectus and registration statement have been audited by McGladrey LLP (formerly McGladrey & Pullen, LLP), an independent registered public accounting firm, as stated in their reports incorporated by reference herein, and are included in reliance upon such reports and upon the authority of such firm as experts in accounting and auditing.

The consolidated financial statements of The Detroit Legal News Publishing, LLC as of December 31, 2011 and 2010 and for the years then ended incorporated by reference in this prospectus and registration statement have been audited by Baker Tilly Virchow Krause, LLP, an independent registered public accounting firm, as stated in their reports incorporated by reference herein, and are included in reliance upon such reports and upon the authority of such firm as experts in accounting and auditing.

Table of Contents

WHERE YOU CAN FIND MORE INFORMATION

We are subject to the informational requirements of the Exchange Act. Accordingly, we file reports, proxy statements, and other information with the SEC. Through our website at www.thedolancompany.com, you may access, free of charge, our filings, as soon as reasonably practical after we electronically file them with or furnish them to the SEC. Information contained in our website is not incorporated by reference in, and should not be considered a part of, this prospectus. You may read and copy any materials that we file with the SEC at the SEC's Public Reference Room at 100 F Street, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20549. You may obtain information on the operation of the Public Reference Room by calling the SEC at 1-800-SEC-0330. The SEC also maintains an Internet site that contains reports, proxy and information statements, and other materials that are filed through the SEC's Electronic Data Gathering, Analysis, and Retrieval system. This website can be accessed at www.sec.gov.

We have filed with the SEC a registration statement on Form S-3 under the Securities Act for the securities being offered by us. This prospectus does not contain all of the information in the registration statement and the exhibits and schedules that were filed with the registration statement. For further information with respect to us and our securities, we refer you to the registration statement and the exhibits that were filed with the registration statement. Statements contained or incorporated by reference in this prospectus about the contents of any contract or any other document that is filed as an exhibit to the registration statement are not necessarily complete, and we refer you to the full text of the contract or other document filed as an exhibit to the registration statement. Anyone may obtain the registration statement and its exhibits and schedules from the SEC.

DOCUMENTS INCORPORATED BY REFERENCE

The SEC allows us to incorporate by reference information into this prospectus, which means that we can disclose important information to you by referring you to another document that we filed separately with the SEC. Information in this prospectus updates, and in some cases supersedes, information incorporated by reference from documents we have filed with the SEC prior to the date of this prospectus, while information that we file later with the SEC will automatically update and, in some cases, supersede the information contained or incorporated by reference in this prospectus.

The following documents that we have previously filed with the SEC are incorporated by reference into this prospectus:

our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2011;

our Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q for the quarters ended March 31, 2012, June 30, 2012 and September 30, 2012;

the portions of our Definitive Proxy Statement on Schedule 14A for the 2012 annual meeting of stockholders that are incorporated by reference in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2011;

our Current Reports on Form 8-K filed on May 18, 2012, October 10, 2012, January 22, 2013 and January 25, 2013 (excluding from incorporation Item 2.02 from our Current Report on Form 8-K filed on October 10, 2012).

the description of our common stock contained in our Registration Statement on Form 8-A filed with the SEC on July 17, 2007 and any amendments thereto filed to update the description; and

the description of our preferred stock purchase rights contained in our Registration Statement on Form 8-A/A filed with the SEC on September 16, 2011.

All documents that we file with the SEC pursuant to Sections 13(a), 13(c), 14, or 15(d) of the Exchange Act from the date of this prospectus until the sale of all of the securities covered by this prospectus shall also be

Table of Contents

deemed to be incorporated herein by reference (other than any portions of any such documents that are not deemed filed under the Exchange Act in accordance with the Exchange Act and applicable SEC rules) and will automatically update information in this prospectus.

Copies of these filings are available free of charge on our web site, www.thedolancompany.com. In addition, if you request, either orally or in writing, we will provide you with a copy of any or all documents that are incorporated by reference. These documents will be provided to you free of charge, but will not contain any exhibits, unless those exhibits are specifically incorporated by reference into a document. You should direct any requests for documents to The Dolan Company, Attention: Corporate Secretary, 222 South Ninth Street, Suite 2300, Minneapolis, Minnesota 55402, telephone: (612) 317-9420.

Table of Contents**PART II****INFORMATION NOT REQUIRED IN THE PROSPECTUS****ITEM 14. OTHER EXPENSES OF ISSUANCE AND DISTRIBUTION.**

The following table sets forth the expenses, all of which are to be paid by us, in connection with the registration, issuance and distribution of the securities being registered by this registration statement. Other than the SEC registration fee, which was calculated in accordance with Rule 457(o), all amounts shown are estimates.

SEC registration fee	\$ 12,458
New York Stock Exchange listing fee *	
Transfer agent fees and expenses *	
Trustee fees and expenses *	
Legal fees and expenses *	
Accounting fees and expenses *	
Printing expenses *	
Miscellaneous expenses *	
Total *	

* These fees are not presently known and cannot be estimated at this time as they are based upon the amount and type of security being offered as well as the number of offerings.

ITEM 15. INDEMNIFICATION OF DIRECTORS AND OFFICERS.

Section 145 of the Delaware General Corporation Law provides that a corporation may indemnify directors and officers as well as other employees and individuals against expenses (including attorneys' fees), judgments, fines and amounts paid in settlement actually and reasonably incurred by such person in connection with any threatened, pending or completed actions, suits or proceedings in which such person is made a party by reason of such person being or having been a director, officer, employee or agent to the corporation. The Delaware General Corporation Law provides that Section 145 is not exclusive of other rights to which those seeking indemnification may be entitled under any bylaw, agreement, vote of stockholders or disinterested directors or otherwise. The registrant's amended and restated certificate of incorporation, as amended, provides for indemnification by the registrant of its directors and officers to the fullest extent permitted by the Delaware General Corporation Law. The registrant has entered into indemnification agreements with each of its directors and officers. These agreements require the registrant, among other things, to indemnify such directors or officers against certain liabilities that may arise by reason of their status or service as directors or officers, to advance expenses to them as they are incurred (provided that they undertake to repay the amount advanced if it is ultimately determined that such director or officer is not entitled to indemnification) and to obtain directors' and officers' liability insurance whether or not the registrant would have the power to indemnify such director or officer under the applicable provisions of the registrant's amended and restated certificate of incorporation, as amended, or by-laws.

In addition, the registrant's amended and restated certificate of incorporation, as amended, provides that the personal liability of directors of the registrant is eliminated to the fullest extent permitted by the Delaware General Corporation Law. Section 102(b)(7) of the Delaware General Corporation Law permits a corporation to provide in its certificate of incorporation that a director of the corporation shall not be personally liable to the corporation or its stockholders for monetary damages for breach of his or her fiduciary duty as a director, except for liability (1) for any breach of the director's duty of loyalty to the registrant or its stockholders, (2) for acts or omissions not in good faith or which involve intentional misconduct or a knowing violation of law, (3) for willful or negligent conduct in paying dividends or repurchasing stock out of other than lawfully available funds or (4) for any transaction from which the director derives an improper personal benefit.

The registrant maintains standard policies of insurance under which coverage is provided (a) to its directors and officers against loss rising from claims made by reason of breach of duty or other wrongful act and (b) to the registrant with respect to payments which may be made by the registrant to such officers and directors pursuant to the above indemnification provision or otherwise as a matter of law.

Table of Contents

Insofar as indemnification for liabilities arising under the Securities Act of 1933 may be permitted to directors, officers or persons controlling the registrant pursuant to the foregoing provisions, the registrant has been informed that in the opinion of the Securities and Exchange Commission such indemnification is against public policy as expressed in the Securities Act and is therefore unenforceable.

ITEM 16. EXHIBITS

Exhibit Number	Description
1.1*	Form of underwriting agreement for equity and/or debt.
1.2*	Form of placement agent agreement for equity and/or debt.
3.1	Amended and Restated Articles of Incorporation, as Amended (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 3 of our Current Report on Form 8-K filed with the SEC on January 22, 2013).
3.2	Second Amended and Restated By-Laws, as amended (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 3.2 of our Current Report on Form 8-K filed with the SEC on December 18, 2008).
4.1	Certificate of Designation of Series A Junior Participating Preferred Stock of The Dolan Company (f/k/a Dolan Media Company) (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 3.1 of our Current Report on Form 8-K filed with the SEC on February 3, 2009).
4.2	Specimen stock certificate representing the Registrant's common stock (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 4.1 of our Annual Report on Form 10-K filed with the SEC on March 9, 2012).
4.3	Rights Agreement, dated as of January 29, 2009, by and between The Dolan Company (f/k/a Dolan Media Company) and Mellon Investor Services LLC, as Rights Agent (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 4.1 of our Current Report on Form 8-K filed with the SEC on February 3, 2009).
4.4	Amendment No. 1 to Rights Agreement, dated as of March 17, 2010, by and between The Dolan Company (f/k/a Dolan Media Company) and Mellon Investor Services LLC, as Rights Agent (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 4 of our Current Report on Form 8-K filed with the SEC on March 22, 2010).
4.5	Amendment No. 2 to Rights Agreement, dated as of September 15, 2011, effective as of September 16, 2011, by and between The Dolan Company and Wells Fargo Bank, N.A., as successor Rights Agents (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 4 of our Current Report on Form 8-K filed with the SEC on September 16, 2011).
4.6*	Form of certificate of designations for preferred stock.
4.7	Form of indenture.
4.8*	Form of senior note.
4.9*	Form of subordinated note.
4.10*	Form of warrant agreement.
4.11*	Form of warrant certificates to issued under the warrant agreement.
5	Opinion of Faegre Baker Daniels LLP as to the legality of the securities being registered (including consent).
12	Calculation of ratio of earnings to fixed charges and combined fixed charges and preferred stock dividends to earnings.
23.1	Consent of McGladrey LLP.
23.2	Consent of Baker Tilly Virchow Krause, LLP.
23.3	Consent of Faegre Baker Daniels LLP (included in Exhibit 5).
24	Powers of Attorney.
25+	Statement of Eligibility and Qualification on Form T-1 under the Trust Indenture Act of 1939, as amended, of the Trustee for the Indenture.

Edgar Filing: Dolan Co. - Form S-3

- * To be filed, if applicable, subsequent to the effectiveness of this registration statement as an exhibit to an amendment to the registration statement or pursuant to a current report on Form 8-K that is incorporated by reference herein in connection with the offering of the securities.

- + To be filed in accordance with Section 305(b)(2) of the Trust Indenture Act of 1939, as amended.

II-2

Table of Contents

ITEM 17. UNDERTAKINGS.

(a) The undersigned registrant hereby undertakes:

(1) To file, during any period in which offers or sales are being made, a post-effective amendment to this registration statement:

(i) To include any prospectus required by Section 10(a)(3) of the Securities Act of 1933;

(ii) To reflect in the prospectus any facts or events arising after the effective date of the registration statement (or the most recent post-effective amendment thereof) which, individually or in the aggregate, represent a fundamental change in the information set forth in the registration statement. Notwithstanding the foregoing, any increase or decrease in volume of securities offered (if the total dollar value of securities offered would not exceed that which was registered) and any deviation from the low or high end of the estimated maximum offering range may be reflected in the form of prospectus filed with the SEC pursuant to Rule 424(b) if, in the aggregate, the changes in volume and price represent no more than 20 percent change in the maximum aggregate offering price set forth in the Calculation of Registration Fee table in the effective registration statement;

(iii) To include any material information with respect to the plan of distribution not previously disclosed in the registration statement or any material change to such information in the registration statement;

provided, however, that paragraphs (a)(1)(i), (a)(1)(ii) and (a)(1)(iii) of this section do not apply if the information required to be included in a post-effective amendment by those paragraphs is contained in reports filed with or furnished to the SEC by the registrant pursuant to section 13 or section 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 that are incorporated by reference in the registration statement, or is contained in a form of prospectus filed pursuant to Rule 424(b) that is part of the registration statement.

(2) That, for the purpose of determining any liability under the Securities Act of 1933, each such post-effective amendment shall be deemed to be a new registration statement relating to the securities offered therein, and the offering of such securities at that time shall be deemed to be the initial *bona fide* offering thereof.

(3) To remove from registration by means of a post-effective amendment any of the securities being registered which remain unsold at the termination of the offering.

(4) That, for the purpose of determining liability under the Securities Act of 1933 to any purchaser:

(i) Each prospectus filed by the registrant pursuant to Rule 424(b)(3) shall be deemed to be part of the registration statement as of the date the filed prospectus was deemed part of and included in the registration statement; and

(ii) Each prospectus required to be filed pursuant to Rule 424(b)(2), (b)(5), or (b)(7) as part of a registration statement in reliance on Rule 430B relating to an offering made pursuant to Rule 415(a)(1)(i), (vii), or (x) for the purpose of providing the information required by section 10(a) of the Securities Act of 1933 shall be deemed to be part of and included in the registration statement as of the earlier of the date such form of prospectus is first used after effectiveness or the date of the first contract of sale of securities in the offering described in the prospectus. As provided in Rule 430B, for liability purposes of the issuer and any person that is at that date an underwriter, such date shall be deemed to be a new effective date of the registration statement relating to the securities in the registration statement to which that prospectus relates, and the offering of such securities at that time shall be deemed to be the initial *bona fide* offering thereof. *Provided, however*, that no statement made in a registration statement or prospectus that is part of the registration statement or made in a document incorporated or deemed incorporated by reference into the registration statement or prospectus that is part of the registration statement will, as to a purchaser with a time of contract of sale prior to such effective date, supersede or modify any statement that was made in the registration statement or prospectus that was part of the registration statement or made in any such document immediately prior to such effective date.

Table of Contents

(5) That, for the purpose of determining liability of the registrant under the Securities Act of 1933 to any purchase in the initial distribution of the securities:

The undersigned registrant undertakes that in a primary offering of securities of the undersigned registrant pursuant to this registration statement, regardless of the underwriting method used to sell the securities to the purchaser, if the securities are offered or sold to such purchaser by means of any of the following communications, the undersigned registrant will be a seller to the purchaser and will be considered to offer or sell such securities to such purchaser.

(i) Any preliminary prospectus or prospectus of the undersigned registrant relating to the offering required to be filed pursuant to Rule 424;

(ii) Any free writing prospectus relating to the offering prepared by or on behalf of the undersigned registrant or used or referred to by the undersigned registrant;

(iii) The portion of any other free writing prospectus relating to the offering containing material information about the undersigned registrant or its securities provided by or on behalf of the undersigned registrant; and

(iv) Any other communication that is an offer in the offering made by the undersigned registrant to the purchaser.

(b) The undersigned registrant hereby undertakes that, for purposes of determining any liability under the Securities Act of 1933, each filing of the registrant's annual report pursuant to Section 13(a) or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (and, where applicable, each filing of an employee benefit plan's annual report pursuant to Section 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934) that is incorporated by reference in the registration statement shall be deemed to be a new registration statement relating to the securities offered therein, and the offering of such securities at that time shall be deemed to be the initial *bona fide* offering thereof.

(c) Insofar as indemnification for liabilities arising under the Securities Act of 1933 may be permitted to directors, officers and controlling persons of the registrant pursuant to the foregoing provisions, or otherwise, the registrant has been advised that in the opinion of the Securities and Exchange Commission such indemnification is against public policy as expressed in the Act and is, therefore, unenforceable. In the event that a claim for indemnification against such liabilities (other than the payment by the registrant of expenses incurred or paid by a director, officer or controlling person of the registrant in the successful defense of any action, suit or proceeding) is asserted by such director, officer or controlling person in connection with the securities being registered, the registrant will, unless in the opinion of its counsel the matter has been settled by controlling precedent, submit to a court of appropriate jurisdiction the question whether such indemnification by it is against public policy as expressed in the Act and will be governed by the final adjudication of such issue.

(d) The undersigned registrant hereby undertakes to file an application for the purpose of determining the eligibility of the trustee to act under subsection (a) of Section 310 of the Trust Indenture Act in accordance with the rules and regulations prescribed by the SEC under Section 305(b)(2) of the Act.

Table of Contents**SIGNATURES**

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Act of 1933, the Registrant certifies that it has reasonable grounds to believe that it meets all of the requirements for filing on Form S-3 and has duly caused this Registration Statement to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned, thereunto duly authorized, in the City of Minneapolis, and State of Minnesota on the 25th day of January, 2013.

THE DOLAN COMPANY

/s/ JAMES P. DOLAN

James P. Dolan

Chairman, Chief Executive Officer and President

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Act of 1933, this Registration Statement has been signed by the following persons in the capacities and on the dates indicated.

Signature	Title	Date
/s/ JAMES P. DOLAN	Chairman, Chief Executive Officer, President and Director	January 25, 2013
James P. Dolan	(Principal Executive Officer)	
/s/ VICKI J. DUNCOMB	Vice President and Chief Financial Officer	January 25, 2013
Vicki J. Duncomb	(Principal Financial Officer and Principal Accounting Officer)	
*	Director	January 25, 2013
John C. Bergstrom		
*	Director	January 25, 2013
Anton J. Christianson		
*	Director	January 25, 2013
Bill L. Fairfield		
*	Director	January 25, 2013
Arthur F. Kingsbury		
*	Director	January 25, 2013
Lauren Rich Fine		
*	Director	January 25, 2013
George Rossi		

*

Director

January 25, 2013

Gary H. Stern

*By: /s/ JAMES P. DOLAN
James P. Dolan

as Attorney-in-Fact

II-5

Table of Contents

EXHIBIT INDEX

Exhibit Number	Description
4.7	Form of Indenture.
5	Opinion of Faegre Baker Daniels LLP as to the legality of the securities being registered.
12	Calculation of ratio of earnings to fixed charges and combined fixed charges and preferred stock dividends to earnings.
23.1	Consent of McGladrey LLP.
23.2	Consent of Baker Tilly Virchow Krause, LLP.
24	Powers of Attorney.