

Beckwith George Nicholas III  
 Form 4  
 July 17, 2009

**FORM 4**

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

OMB APPROVAL

OMB Number: 3235-0287  
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Check this box if no longer subject to Section 16. Form 4 or Form 5 obligations may continue. See Instruction 1(b).

**STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP OF SECURITIES**

Filed pursuant to Section 16(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, Section 17(a) of the Public Utility Holding Company Act of 1935 or Section 30(h) of the Investment Company Act of 1940

(Print or Type Responses)

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person \*  
 Beckwith George Nicholas III

2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol  
 BLACKROCK PREFERRED INCOME STRATEGIES FUND, INC. [PSY]

5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer

(Check all applicable)

Director  10% Owner  
 Officer (give title below)  Other (specify below)

(Last) (First) (Middle)

3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year)  
 07/15/2009

40 EAST 52ND STREET  
 (Street)

4. If Amendment, Date Original Filed(Month/Day/Year)

6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing(Check Applicable Line)  
 Form filed by One Reporting Person  
 Form filed by More than One Reporting Person

NEW YORK, NY 10022  
 (City) (State) (Zip)

**Table I - Non-Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned**

| 1. Title of Security (Instr. 3) | 2. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year) | 2A. Deemed Execution Date, if any (Month/Day/Year) | 3. Transaction Code (Instr. 8) | 4. Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4 and 5) | 5. Amount of Securities Beneficially Owned Following Reported Transaction(s) (Instr. 3 and 4) | 6. Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 4) | 7. Nature of Ownership (Instr. 4) |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|---|---|--|-----------------------------------|
|                                 |                                      |  |                                | (A) or (D)  | Price   |  |                                   |
|                                 |                                      |  |                                | Code  | V   | Amount   |                                   |

Reminder: Report on a separate line for each class of securities beneficially owned directly or indirectly.

**Persons who respond to the collection of information contained in this form are not required to respond unless the form displays a currently valid OMB control number.**

SEC 1474 (9-02)

**Table II - Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned (e.g., puts, calls, warrants, options, convertible securities)**

| 1. Title of Derivative | 2. Conversion | 3. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year) | 3A. Deemed Execution Date, if | 4. Transaction | 5. Number of Derivative | 6. Date Exercisable and Expiration Date | 7. Title and Amount of Underlying Securities |
|------------------------|---------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------|-------------------------|---|--|
|------------------------|---------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------|-------------------------|---|--|

## Edgar Filing: Beckwith George Nicholas III - Form 4

| Security<br>(Instr. 3)               | or Exercise<br>Price of<br>Derivative<br>Security | any<br>(Month/Day/Year) | Code<br>(Instr. 8) | Securities<br>Acquired (A) or<br>Disposed of (D)<br>(Instr. 3, 4, and<br>5) | (Month/Day/Year) | (Instr. 3 and 4) |                     |                    |                 |                               |
|--------------------------------------|---|-------------------------|--------------------|---|------------------|------------------|---------------------|--------------------|-----------------|-------------------------------|
|                                      |   |                         | Code               | V   | (A)              | (D)              | Date<br>Exercisable | Expiration<br>Date | Title           | Amount<br>Number of<br>Shares |
| Performance<br>Rights <sup>(1)</sup> | <u>(2)</u>  | 07/15/2009              | A                  |   | 498.794          |                  | <u>(3)</u>          | <u>(3)</u>         | Common<br>Stock | 498.794                       |

## Reporting Owners

| Reporting Owner Name / Address  | Relationships |           |         |       |
|---|---------------|-----------|---------|-------|
|   | Director      | 10% Owner | Officer | Other |
| Beckwith George Nicholas III<br>40 EAST 52ND STREET<br>NEW YORK, NY 10022 |               | X         |         |       |

## Signatures

/s/ Aaron Wasserman as  
Attorney-in-Fact

07/17/2009

        Signature of Reporting Person

        Date

## Explanation of Responses:

\* If the form is filed by more than one reporting person, see Instruction 4(b)(v).

\*\* Intentional misstatements or omissions of facts constitute Federal Criminal Violations. See 18 U.S.C. 1001 and 15 U.S.C. 78ff(a).

(1) The Performance Rights were accrued under the BlackRock Deferred Compensation Plan.

(2) One Performance Right is convertible into the cash value of one share of BlackRock Preferred Income Strategies Fund, Inc.

(3) The Performance Rights are to be settled 100% in cash at the deferral period chosen by the reporting person.

Note: File three copies of this Form, one of which must be manually signed. If space is insufficient, see Instruction 6 for procedure.

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