# UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington, D.C. 20549

### FORM 8-K

CURRENT REPORT
PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15(d)
OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934

Date of Report (Date of Earliest Event Reported): March 21, 2014

**Commission File Number 1-10948** 

## OFFICE DEPOT, INC.

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Delaware (State or other jurisdiction of incorporation or organization) 59-2663954 (I.R.S. Employer Identification No.)

6600 North Military Trail, Boca Raton, Florida (Address of principal executive offices)

33496 (Zip Code)

(561) 438-4800 (Registrant's telephone number, including area code)

Former name or former address, if changed since last report: N/A

Check the appropriate box below if the Form 8-K filing is intended to simultaneously satisfy the filing obligation of the registrant under any of the following provisions:	
	Written communications pursuant to Rule 425 under the Securities Act (17 CFR 230.425)
	Soliciting material pursuant to Rule 14a-12 under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14a-12)
	Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 14d-2(b) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14d-2(b))
7	Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 13e-4(c) under the Eychange Act (17 CFR 240 13e-4(c))

## Item 5.02. Departure of Directors or Certain Officers; Election of Directors; Appointment of Certain Officers; Compensatory Arrangements of Certain Officers.

On March 21, 2014, Office Depot, Inc. (the "Company") entered into a Retention Agreement (the "Agreement") with Deborah O'Connor, the Company's former co-Chief Financial Officer and co-Chief Accounting Officer and current Senior Vice President, Integration, effective as of January 1, 2014. Under the terms of the Agreement, Ms. O'Connor is eligible to earn a retention payment of \$150,000 (the "Retention Payment"), if she remains actively employed with the Company until June 30, 2014 (the "Retention Period"). The Retention Payment will be payable to Ms. O'Connor in a single lump sum payment within thirty (30) days after the end of the Retention Period.

If prior to the end of the Retention Period, Ms. O'Connor's employment is terminated (i) by the Company as a result of a termination for Cause (as defined in the Change in Control Agreement between Ms. O'Connor and OfficeMax, dated as of December 11, 2008 (the "Change in Control Agreement")), or (ii) by Ms. O'Connor without Good Reason (as defined in the Agreement), the Retention Payment will be immediately forfeited. If Ms. O'Connor's employment is involuntarily terminated prior to the end of the Retention Period by the Company for any reason other than Cause, or if Ms. O'Connor terminates employment prior to the end of the Retention Period for Good Reason, any such termination will result in an immediate vesting of the Retention Payment. Such Retention Payment will be payable to Ms. O'Connor in addition to any severance benefits that may be payable to her pursuant to the terms as set forth in her Change in Control Agreement.

The foregoing description of the Agreement is qualified in its entirety by reference to the actual Agreement, which is attached hereto as Exhibit 10.1 and is incorporated herein by reference.

#### Item 9.01 Financial Statements and Exhibits.

(d) Exhibits.

Exhibit 10.1 Retention Agreement between the Company and Ms. O'Connor dated March 21, 2014.

#### **SIGNATURE**

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

Dated: March 24, 2014

OFFICE DEPOT, INC.

By: <u>/s/ Elisa D. Garcia</u> C.

Elisa D. Garcia C. Executive Vice President, Chief Legal Officer and Corporate Secretary EXHIBIT INDEX

Exhibit Number Description

Exhibit 10.1 Retention Agreement between the Company and Ms. O'Connor dated March 21, 2014.

#### OFFICE DEPOT, INC. RETENTION AGREEMENT

This Retention Agreement (hereinafter, the "Agreement"), by and between Office Depot, Inc. (the "Company") and Deborah O'Connor ("Executive"), is entered into as of the date signed by Executive and is effective January 1, 2014 (the "Effective Date"). Both the Company and Executive are hereinafter individually referred to as a "Party" and jointly referred to as "Parties" in this Agreement.

WHEREAS, Executive currently serves as the Senior Vice President of Integration for the Company; and

WHEREAS, Executive has a Change in Control Agreement dated December 11, 2008 (the "Change in Control Agreement"), which provides for severance benefits in the event of Executive's separation from employment with the Company before or after a change in control of the Company; and

WHEREAS, Executive has a Retention Bonus Agreement dated May 1, 2103 and a Retention Bonus Agreement dated July 24, 2013;

WHEREAS, Company has determined that it is in the best interests of the Company and its shareholders to assure that the Company will continue to have the dedication of Executive and therefore desires to provide Executive with a cash payment if Executive remains employed by the Company for a specified period of time; and

WHEREAS, any benefits Executive may become entitled to under this Agreement shall be in addition to any severance benefits Executive may become entitled to pursuant to the Change in Control Agreement; and

WHEREAS, the Company and Executive have determined it is in their mutual best interests to enter into this Agreement.

NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of the mutual agreements and provisions contained herein, and intending to be legally bound hereby, the Parties hereto agree as follows:

#### 1. RETENTION PERIOD

Unless earlier terminated as hereinafter provided, this Agreement shall commence on the Effective Date hereof and shall end on June 30, 2014 (the "Retention Period"). This Agreement shall not be considered an employment agreement and in no way guarantees Executive the right to continue in the employment of the Company or its affiliates. Executive's employment is considered employment at will, subject to Executive's right to receive payments and benefits upon certain separations from employment as provided below.

#### 2. DEFINITIONS

For purposes of this Agreement, the following terms shall have the meanings specified below:

- 2.1 "Agreement" shall mean this Retention Agreement.
- 2.2 "Board" or "Board of Directors" shall mean the Board of Directors of the Company.
- 2.3 "Cause" means the occurrence of any one of the following:
- (a) the continued failure of the Executive to perform substantially the Executive's duties with the Company or one of its affiliates (other than any such failure resulting from incapacity due to physical or mental illness), after a written demand for substantial performance is delivered to the Executive by the Board or the Chief Executive Officer of the Company which specifically identifies the manner in which the Board or Chief Executive Officer believes that the Executive has not substantially performed the Executive's duties and providing the Executive with thirty (30) days to cure, or
  - (b) the engaging by the Executive in illegal conduct or gross misconduct in violation of the Company's Code of Ethical Behavior.

Any act, or failure to act, based upon authority given pursuant to a resolution duly adopted by the Board or upon the instructions of the Chief Executive Officer or a senior officer of the Company or based upon the advice of counsel for the Company shall be conclusively presumed to be done, or omitted to be done, by the Executive in good faith and in the best interests of the Company. The cessation of employment of the Executive shall not be deemed to be for Cause unless and until there shall have been delivered to the Executive a copy of a resolution duly adopted by the Company's Board of Directors, finding that, in the good faith opinion of the Board, the Executive is guilty of the conduct described in subsection (a) or (b) above, and specifying the particulars thereof in detail.

- 2.4 "Change in Control Agreement" shall mean Executive's Change in Control Agreement dated December 11, 2008.
- 2.5 "Code" shall mean the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended from time to time, and the regulations promulgated thereunder.
- 2.6 "Company" shall mean Office Depot, Inc. or any successor to its business and/or assets.
- 2.7 "Effective Date" shall mean January 1, 2014.
- 2.8 "Executive" shall mean Deborah O'Connor.
- 2.9 "Good Reason" means the occurrence of any one of the following:
- (a) a material diminution in the Executive's authority, duties or responsibilities with the Company;

- (b) a material reduction in the Executive's annual base salary (except for across-the-board salary reductions similarly affecting all executives of the Company) or target annual incentive; or
- (c) the Company requiring Executive to be based anywhere located more than 50 miles from the primary office location at which Executive was based immediately prior to the Effective Date of this Agreement, except for required travel on company business to the extent substantially consistent with Executive's business travel obligations which existed immediately prior to the Effective Date of this Agreement; provided, however, that the Executive will have Good Reason to terminate employment only if (i) the Executive provides notice to the Chief Executive Officer of the Company of the existence of the event or circumstances constituting Good Reason specified in any of the preceding clauses within 90 days of the initial instance of such event or circumstances, and (ii) the Company does not remedy such event or circumstances within 30 days following receipt of such notice.
- 2.10 "Notice of Separation" shall mean a written notice from one Party to the other Party under Section 4.5 specifying the Separation Date and which, if required by this Agreement, sets forth in reasonable detail the facts and circumstances relating to the basis for Executive's separation from employment.
  - 2.11 "Party" or "Parties" shall mean the Company and the Executive individually or collectively, respectively.
  - 2.12 "Release Period" shall be as defined in Section 3.2.
  - 2.13 "Retention Payment" shall be as defined in Section 3.1.
  - 2.14 "Retention Payment Date" shall be as defined in Section 3.1.
  - 2.15 "Retention Period" shall be as defined in Section 1.
- 2.16 "Separation Date" shall mean the date specified in the Notice of Separation (which may be immediate) as the date upon which Executive's employment with the Company is to terminate.

#### 3. RETENTION PAYMENT

3.1 In General. In consideration of Executive's agreement to continue employment with the Company during the Retention Period, Executive is eligible to earn a retention payment of one hundred and fifty thousand dollars (\$150,000.00) ("Retention Payment"), if Executive remains actively employed until the last day of the Retention Period. The Retention Payment shall be payable to Executive in a single lump sum payment of one hundred and fifty thousand dollars (\$150,000.00) and shall vest on June 30, 2014 (the "Retention Payment Date"); provided that, Executive remains actively employed until the Retention Payment Date. The Retention Payment shall be paid to Executive within thirty (30) days after the Retention Payment Date. If prior to the Retention Payment Date, Executive's employment is terminated: (i) by the Company

as a result of a termination for Cause, or (ii) by Executive without Good Reason, the Retention Payment which has not yet vested shall be immediately forfeited. Upon Executive's receipt of the full Retention Payment under this Agreement, the Company shall have no further obligation to Executive with respect to the subject matter under this Agreement. This Agreement shall terminate upon the forfeiture of the Retention Payment as provided above or upon the payment of the Retention Payment within 30 days following the expiration of the Retention Period.

- 3.2 Retention Payment Upon Involuntary Termination By Company Without Cause or Termination By Executive for Good Reason. If Executive's employment is involuntarily terminated prior to June 30, 2014 by the Company for any reason other than Cause, or if Executive terminates employment prior to June 30, 2014 for Good Reason, such termination shall result in an immediate vesting of the Retention Payment. Such Retention Payment shall be payable to Executive in addition to any severance benefits that may be payable to Executive pursuant to the Change in Control Agreement upon separation from employment. Any amounts due under this Section 3.2 by Company are contingent upon Executive executing the Company's customary release and covenant-not-to-sue agreement in favor of the Company, its officers, directors, employees, agents, parent corporation or subsidiaries, affiliates or divisions, its successors, assigns, beneficiaries, servants, legal representatives, insures and heirs. The Company shall provide the proposed release to Executive not later than seven (7) days following Executive's Separation Date. Executive must (i) execute and return the release to the Employer within the period specified in the release (which will not be more than 45 days after the Employer delivers the release to Executive) and (ii) not revoke the release within any seven-day revocation period that applies to Executive under the Age Discrimination in Employment Act of 1967, as amended; the total period of time described in (i) and (ii) above is the "Release Period." If Executive has not executed and delivered the release to the Company, and the release has not become irrevocable, as specified above, before the end of the Release Period, the Company's obligations under this Section 3.2 will terminate. Otherwise, the Company will make payment of the amount payable under this Section 3.2 to Executive within fifteen (15) days after the expiration of the Release Period. Notwithstanding the above, if the timing of Executive's execution of the release
- 3.3 Section 409A. To the extent applicable, this Agreement shall at all times be operated in accordance with the requirements of Code Section 409A, including any applicable exceptions. The Company shall have authority to take action, or refrain from taking any action, with respect to the payments and benefits under this Agreement that is reasonably necessary to comply with Code Section 409A. If, at the time of Executive's separation from service (within the meaning of Code Section 409A), (i) Executive is a specified employee (within the meaning of Code Section 409A and using the identification methodology selected by the Company from time to time) and (ii) the Company shall make a good faith determination that an amount payable hereunder constitutes nonqualified deferred compensation (within the meaning of Code Section 409A) the payment of which is required to be delayed pursuant to the six-month delay rule set forth in Code Section 409A in order to avoid taxes or penalties under Code Section 409A, then the Company shall not pay such amount on the otherwise scheduled payment date but shall instead accumulate such amount and pay it, without interest, on the first business day after such six-month period. Any payment under Section 3.2 shall be triggered only by a "separation from service" within the meaning of Code Section 409A. For the sake of clarity, all amounts (to the extent not forfeited as provided in Section 3.1 above), shall be paid upon the earlier of separation from service (subject to the six-month delay, if applicable) or the Retention Payment Date, as provided in Sections 3.1 and 3.2 above.

#### 4. MISCELLANEOUS

- 4.1 <u>Non-Exclusivity of Rights</u>. Nothing in this Agreement shall prevent or limit Executive's continuing or future participation in any plan, practice, policy or program provided by the Company for which Executive may qualify, nor shall anything in this Agreement limit or otherwise affect any rights Executive may have under any contract or agreement with the Company.
- 4.2 Withholding. The Company may deduct and withhold from any amounts payable under this Agreement such federal, state, local, foreign or other taxes as are required to be withheld pursuant to any applicable law or regulation.
- 4.3 <u>Assignment</u>. This Agreement is personal to Executive and, without the prior written consent of the Company, shall not be assignable by Executive otherwise than by will or the laws of descent and distribution, and any assignment in violation of this Agreement shall be void.
- 4.4 <u>Successors</u>; <u>Binding Agreement</u>. In addition to any obligations imposed by law upon any successor to the Company, the Company will require any successor (whether direct or indirect, by purchase, merger, consolidation or otherwise) to all or substantially all of the business and/or assets of the Company, to expressly assume and agree to perform this Agreement, in the same manner and to the same extent that the Company would be required to perform it if no such succession had taken place.
- 4.5 <u>Notices</u>. All notices, requests, demands and other communications required or permitted hereunder shall be in writing and shall be deemed to have been duly given when delivered or seven days after mailing if mailed first class, certified mail, postage prepaid, addressed as follows:

If to the Company: Office Depot, Inc.

c/o EVP, Chief People Officer 6600 North Military Trail Boca Raton, Florida 33496

If to Executive: To Executive's last known address on file with the Company.

Any Party may change the address to which notices, requests, demands and other communications shall be delivered or mailed by giving notice thereof to the other Party in the same manner provided herein.

4.6 Entire Agreement. This Agreement sets forth the entire agreement of the Parties hereto in respect of the subject matter contained herein and, except as otherwise provided herein, supersedes all prior agreements, promises, covenants, arrangements, communications, representations or warranties, whether oral or written, by any officer, employee or representative

of any Party hereto, and any prior agreement of the Parties hereto in respect of the subject matter contained herein is hereby terminated and canceled. No agreements or representations, oral or otherwise, express or implied, with respect to the subject matter hereof have been made by either Party, which are not set forth expressly in this Agreement. None of the Parties shall be liable or bound to any other Party in any manner by any representations and warranties or covenants relating to such subject matter except as specifically set forth herein.

- 4.7 <u>Severability</u>. If any term or provision of this Agreement is invalid, illegal or incapable of being enforced by any applicable law or public policy, all other conditions and provisions of this Agreement shall nonetheless remain in full force and effect so long as the economic and legal substance of the transactions contemplated by this Agreement is not affected in any manner materially adverse to any Party. Upon any such determination that any term or other provision is invalid, illegal or incapable of being enforced, the Parties hereto shall negotiate in good faith to modify this Agreement so as to effect the original intent of the Parties as closely as possible in a mutually acceptable manner in order that the transactions contemplated hereby be consummated as originally contemplated to the fullest extent possible.
- 4.8 Waiver. Failure of either Party to insist, in one or more instances, on performance by the other in strict accordance with the terms and conditions of this Agreement shall not be deemed a waiver or relinquishment of any right granted in this Agreement or the future performance of any such term or condition or of any other term or condition of this Agreement, unless such waiver is contained in a writing signed by the Party making the waiver. No failure or delay by either Party in exercising any right or power hereunder will operate as a waiver thereof, nor will any single or partial exercise of any such right or power, or any abandonment of any steps to enforce such right or power, preclude any other or further exercise thereof or the exercise of any other right or power.
- 4.9 <u>Amendments and Modifications</u>. No provision of this Agreement may be amended, modified, waived or discharged except by a written document signed by Executive and a duly authorized officer of the Company.
- 4.10 <u>Governing Law</u>. The validity and effect of this Agreement shall be governed by and be construed and enforced in accordance with the laws of the State of Florida.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Parties have executed this Agreement on March 21, 2014.

**EXECUTIVE:** 

By: /s/ Deborah O'Connor Deborah O'Connor

EMPLOYER:

By: /s/ Michael Allison
Michael Allison

EVP, Chief People Officer