



ALLIANCEBERNSTEIN®

FORM ADV PART 2A

INVESTMENT ADVISER DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
DECEMBER 15, 2017

AllianceBernstein L.P.

- + AB Custom Alternative Solutions LLC
- + AB Private Credit Investors LLC
- + AllianceBernstein Holding L.P.
- + AllianceBernstein Corporation
- + AllianceBernstein Global Derivatives Corporation
- + Sanford C. Bernstein & Co., LLC
- + W.P. Stewart & Co., LLC
- + W.P. Stewart Asset Management Ltd.

1345 Avenue of the Americas, New York, NY 10105, United States of America
+1 (212) 969 1000 | AllianceBernstein.com

This brochure provides information about the qualifications and business practices of AllianceBernstein L.P., its publicly traded affiliate AllianceBernstein Holding L.P., its general partner AllianceBernstein Corporation and its affiliated registered advisers. The term "registered" refers to our legal status and does not imply a particular level of training. If you have any questions about the contents of this brochure, please contact us at 212.969.6221 or kyle.digangi@alliancebernstein.com. The information in this brochure has not been approved or verified by the United States Securities and Exchange Commission ("SEC") or by any state securities authority. Additional information about the foregoing entities also is available on the SEC's website at www.adviserinfo.sec.gov.

December 2017

Dear Client,

We are pleased to provide you with our Investment Adviser Brochure ("Brochure"), which is also known as Part 2A of our firm's SEC Form ADV. It contains important information about our business practices as well as a description of potential conflicts of interest relating to our advisory business which could affect your account with us. This Brochure applies to the investment activities of AllianceBernstein L.P. and its various investment adviser affiliates and subsidiaries. For purposes of this Brochure, we collectively refer to these entities as "AB."

We are providing you with this material in accordance with Rule 204-3 of the Investment Advisers Act of 1940, which requires a registered investment adviser to provide a written disclosure statement upon entering into an advisory relationship. Future updates to this Brochure may be obtained by written request to AllianceBernstein L.P., Attn: Chief Compliance Officer, 1345 Avenue of the Americas, New York, New York, 10105.

This Brochure is intended for clients whose accounts are serviced (directly or indirectly) by AB. Clients of our Bernstein Private Wealth Management Services ("Bernstein Private Wealth Services") are also encouraged to review the supplemental literature about our private client services.

Thank you for choosing AB. If you have any questions about the information in this statement, please contact your AB client service representative.

Respectfully yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mark R. Manley', written in a cursive style.

Mark R. Manley
Chief Compliance Officer
Deputy General Counsel
AllianceBernstein L.P.

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SUMMARY OF MATERIAL CHANGES (ADV ITEM 2)

A summary of the material changes to this brochure since its last annual update on March 31, 2017 can be found in Appendix B.

A. AB'S INVESTMENT ADVISORY BUSINESS (ADV ITEM 4)

INTRODUCTION

AllianceBernstein L.P. ("AB") is a research-driven investment adviser that is global in scope and client-centered in its approach.

We believe research excellence is the key to better outcomes, so we have built research capabilities with exceptional breadth, depth and focus on innovation. In addition to creating a variety of investment services, we have developed separate service organizations to meet the distinct needs of private clients, mutual fund investors and the many types of institutional clients we serve in markets around the world.

HISTORY OF AB

AB traces its origins back more than 50 years.

One of our predecessor firms, Sanford C. Bernstein & Co., Inc., was founded in 1967 as an investment manager and broker-dealer for private clients. The other, Alliance Capital Management Corporation, was registered as an investment adviser in 1971 after the asset management department of Donaldson, Lufkin & Jenrette, Inc., merged with the investment advisory business of Moody's Investor Services, Inc.

In October 2000, Alliance Capital acquired Sanford C. Bernstein. Alliance Capital's expertise in growth equity and corporate fixed-income investing complemented Bernstein's expertise in value equity and tax-exempt fixed-income management. In 2006, Alliance Capital Management L.P. changed its name to AllianceBernstein L.P. In 2015, AllianceBernstein became known as "AB" and revealed its new logo.

OWNERSHIP OF AB

In 1988, AB (then called Alliance Capital) conducted an initial public offering as a master limited partnership. The name of the publicly traded limited partnership is now AllianceBernstein Holding L.P., and the name of our general partner is AllianceBernstein Corporation. The publicly traded partnership units are listed on the New York Stock Exchange under the symbol "AB."

AB's majority shareholder is AXA, one of the world's largest financial services companies. AXA acquired its controlling interest in AB in 1990 through its acquisition of The Equitable Life Assurance Society of the United States, which had acquired AB in 1985.

Including certain general partnership interests, AXA, through certain of its subsidiaries had an approximate 62.2% economic interest in AB as of December 31, 2016. As of that date, approximately 35.6% of the firm was owned by the public through AllianceBernstein Holding L.P.

ASSETS UNDER MANAGEMENT

As of December 31, 2016, client assets under AB's management totaled approximately \$480 billion. Of this amount, approximately \$456 billion in assets were managed for discretionary portfolios and approximately \$24 billion were managed on a non-discretionary basis.

OUR APPROACH TO INVESTING

The foundation of AB's approach to investing is our high-quality, in-depth research. We believe that our global team of research professionals allows us to achieve investment success for our clients.

Our global team of research professionals, whose disciplines include economic, fundamental equity, fixed income and quantitative research gives us a competitive advantage in achieving investment success for our clients. Within these research disciplines, we also have experts focused on multi-asset, wealth management and alternative investment strategies.

In conducting security analysis, we utilize a broad spectrum of information, including without limitation financial publications, third-party research materials, annual reports, prospectuses, regulatory filings, company press releases, corporate rating services, inspections of corporate activities and meetings with management of various companies.

Our analysts create proprietary research to support our portfolio managers, who also may conduct their own research. Our portfolio managers then employ a range of strategies to implement the research-based advice we give to clients concerning their portfolios. The vast majority of AB's strategies involve our discretionary management of client portfolios.

Our chief investment strategies and services include:

- + **Fixed Income**, which offer actively managed multi-sector and single-sector fixed income strategies across the risk/return spectrum in every major market globally including taxable and tax-exempt securities.
- + **Passive Management**, which includes both index and enhanced index strategies.
- + **Value Equities**, an actively managed investment approach which generally targets stocks that are out of favor and considered undervalued.
- + **Growth Equities**, an actively managed investment style which generally targets stocks with under-appreciated growth potential.
- + **Multi Asset**, which draws on deep capital-markets expertise and a full range of risk/return sources as building blocks, combining research insights to create thoughtful, long-term investment solutions tailored to the needs of each client.
- + **Asset Allocation Services**, where we offer strategies specifically-tailored for our clients, such as customized target-date fund retirement services for defined contribution plan sponsors and our Dynamic Asset Allocation service, which is designed to mitigate the effects of extreme market volatility on a portfolio in order to deliver more consistent returns.
- + **Alternative Investments**, which offer strategies distinct from our flagship long-only services. These services generally are only available to clients who meet certain legal requirements, and include proprietary real estate equity and debt funds and hedge funds of funds, amongst others. Hedge funds that AB manages employ multi-asset, multi-sector, and long/short strategies, among others. Those hedge funds are available through our Alternative Investment Strategies platform.

- + **Select US Equities**, which utilizes bottom-up fundamental analysis to identify equity investment opportunities. It is available in long-only and long-short formats, and is not constrained by market capitalization, style, or sector.
- + **Concentrated Growth Equities**, which utilizes an appraisal methodology to identify large- and mid-capitalization companies with attractive long-term earnings growth, and invests in a relatively small number of stocks.
- + **Global Core Equities**, which seeks long-term growth of capital by investing in a portfolio of equity securities of issuers from markets around the world, including issuers in developed countries as well as emerging market countries. The Portfolio does not seek to have an investment bias towards any investment style, economic sector, country or company size.
- + **Real Estate Services**, which include actively managed investments in the shares of real estate investment trusts as well as investments in actual real estate assets and mortgages related to those assets.
- + **Middle Market Lending**, which includes primary-issue middle market credit opportunities that are directly sourced and privately negotiated. Middle Market Lending emphasizes secured lending by focusing on first lien, unitranche and second lien loans, while considering mezzanine, structured preferred stock and non-control equity co-investment opportunities. Middle Market Lending is guided by a valuation-based investment philosophy and it follows a disciplined investment process.

These strategies are available in different forms and vehicles, including separately managed accounts, mutual funds or public funds registered in jurisdictions outside of the United States. However, some strategies are offered through private investment vehicles that are available only to investors who meet certain legal criteria.

Certain strategies are made available through delivery of investment models to clients and/or institutional advisors ("Model Clients") who may offer substantially similar services to their clients. These investment recommendations may be provided to multiple Model Clients at a similar time, but the client's implementation of the recommendations made in the model will generally be made at some point after they have been implemented by AB's discretionary accounts. The delay in model implementation for Model Clients may result in AB discretionary and other non-discretionary accounts obtaining better execution for their transactions than the accounts of Model Clients. Further, the fees paid by Model Clients will generally increase to the extent such clients require customization from AB's standard investment models.

Our investment services can focus on a single investment approach—such as Growth Equities, Value Equities, or Fixed Income high yield investing—or a blend of those approaches. The objectives and restrictions within individual strategies normally are driven by market capitalization (e.g., large-, mid- and small-cap equities), term (e.g., long-, intermediate- and short-duration debt securities), geographic location criteria (e.g., US, international, global and emerging markets), and client guidelines. In late 2011, AB committed to adopt and implement the U.N. Principles for Responsible Investment in its active investment strategies.

As noted in Section E, our strategies and services may invest in derivatives when the relevant investment guidelines allow. In 2013, AB registered with the U.S. Commodity Futures Trading Commission as a Commodity Pool Operator and Commodity Trading Advisor to comply with changes in certain Commission regulations.

The research created by our investment analysts is not offered for sale or distribution to the public. We may provide some non-discretionary clients with access to some of this research information and access to these research professionals. Compensation for this information is included as part of the non-discretionary advisory fee. Additionally, our investment teams may use external research professionals within certain investment disciplines to augment AB's internal investment decision making process.

Certain discretionary clients, who are themselves investment managers, may be granted access to our research analysts and other investment professionals and may attend analyst and other meetings where investments are discussed. Any information divulged will be general, rather than client-specific. When appropriate, these clients are deemed associated persons of AB and subject to our Code of Business Conduct and Ethics.

The current Portfolio Manager of the AB Concentrated Growth Fund (currently an incubated fund), also services as a research analyst for our affiliated broker-dealer, Bernstein LLC.

For each of these arrangements, we assess how the information may be used within the client's own investment process. We take steps to ensure that sharing such information doesn't create any negative impact to our discretionary clients (e.g., front-running trades). Specifically, we have implemented procedures to resolve material potential conflicts in favor of AB's discretionary clients. These include delaying the release of information to these clients and barring their access to sources of other information.

BERNSTEIN PRIVATE WEALTH SERVICES

Our Bernstein Private Wealth Services comprise investment services to high-net-worth individuals, trusts and estates, charitable foundations, partnerships, private and family corporations, and other entities traditionally considered to be "private clients."

Bernstein Private Wealth Services offers a complete range of investment services which are designed to preserve and grow wealth. Through this unit, AB may customize a private client portfolio that suits any type of investment goal, income needs, tax situation or tolerance for risk.

While it tailors advice to the unique circumstances of our private clients, Bernstein Private Wealth Services uses a number of the centrally managed strategies identified above as the building blocks for portfolio diversification. These strategies are designed to provide clients with exposure to equities, bonds, real estate investment trusts, short-duration investing, and/or alternative investments such as hedge funds.

A number of these services are available as separately managed accounts, with certain minimum investment requirements. Others are available through the Sanford C. Bernstein Fund, Inc. and AB funds, offered by prospectus, or hedge funds and other private investment vehicles, which are only available to clients who meet certain legal requirements. Supplemental literature about these services—including Bernstein's Investment Management Services and Policies booklet—is available through Bernstein Private Wealth Services' financial advisors.

Actively managed portfolios are at the core of Bernstein's investment philosophy and remain its recommended approach in most cases. However, passively managed investments, including exchange traded funds, are also available to Bernstein clients who wish to invest in them. Bernstein believes that an actively managed portfolio can be best suited to achieve investment outperformance over time, despite the higher fees paid for actively managed services. Nevertheless, passive investments may outperform actively managed investments at certain times.

The diversified portfolio created for each client of Bernstein Private Wealth Services is intended to maximize after-tax investment returns, in light of the client's individual investment goals, income requirements, risk tolerance, tax situation and other relevant factors.

Most of the private clients serviced by our firm's Bernstein Private Wealth Services invest through an all-inclusive fee program partially serviced by our wholly-owned broker-dealer subsidiary, Sanford C. Bernstein & Co., LLC ("Bernstein LLC"). Under the terms of this program, AB provides investment management and ancillary services to clients, while Bernstein LLC provides order execution for equity securities, custody and related services. Participants individually appoint AB and Bernstein, LLC, to perform their respective services.

RETAIL MANAGED ACCOUNT PROGRAMS

We offer separately managed account programs (also known as "wrap fee" or "SMA" programs) to individual investors through platforms sponsored by intermediaries. There are several different forms of SMA programs and several differences between how AB manages SMA accounts compared to other discretionary accounts. Unlike most of our client relationships, SMA clients do not pay a fee directly to AB and have limited direct contact with AB investment professionals. SMA clients generally maintain asset levels far below the minimum account sizes for our Private Client and Institutional services.

AB is often selected as a SMA manager by the client with the assistance of the program sponsor. The sponsor typically is a broker-dealer that has its own relationship with the client. The selection of AB to manage the individual SMA is generally based upon the compatibility of our investment philosophy with the client's investment objectives and level of risk tolerance. In a typical SMA program, AB develops the overall portfolio strategy and implements it in each client portfolio. Implementation generally is done through the automated systems supplied by AB, but automated systems may also be supplied by the intermediary sponsoring the SMA program. With the exception of certain fixed income trades, all portfolio transactions normally are executed through the intermediary. Please see Section I for more information about the selection of brokers for SMA clients and the associated fees and expenses.

Some program sponsors offer a SMA program in which AB provides a model portfolio of stocks, bonds, or a combination of both, chosen to achieve a specific objective for the SMA sponsor and its client. The model is communicated to the intermediary sponsoring the SMA program, and the intermediary is responsible for executing securities trades to establish and maintain the portfolio according to our model.

AB monitors, evaluates, and adjusts investments in response to changing economic conditions or the shifting value of portfolio holdings. Changes to a SMA model portfolio are based on AB's investment research and the experience and judgment of the investment team responsible for the model. We communicate portfolio

adjustments to the appropriate intermediary at times that are both scheduled and unscheduled. The sponsoring intermediary determines what trades to enter for each individual client, and when, as a result of changes in the model. In contrast, trades for discretionary accounts opened directly with AB are handled by our trading professionals and may be executed before model updates are communicated to the sponsoring intermediaries.

Clients may terminate AB as their manager in a SMA program at any time. Termination procedures and information regarding the refund of prepaid fees for each program are described in the SMA sponsor's brochure.

CLIENT INVESTMENT GUIDELINES

Each investment service or strategy offered by AB is defined by its own portfolio construction parameters and investment guidelines developed by the firm. These guidelines are described in various marketing and other materials provided to clients, as well as in direct discussions with clients.

Further, each investment advisory contract between AB and a client details the manner in which we are required to manage that client's portfolio, including the selected strategy, legal and regulatory restrictions, and client-specific guidelines and restrictions.

Certain clients have additional guidelines or restrictions imposed on their portfolios by law or regulations. This includes the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 ("ERISA"), the Investment Company Act of 1940, the Internal Revenue Code, or other local or state laws. Clients with separately managed accounts may impose additional investment guidelines and restrictions on our discretion. These can include guidelines designed to reduce risk (such as not permitting leverage), single stock or sector restrictions, or socially-responsible restrictions (such as no investments in a company domiciled in a rogue country). The client is required to inform us in writing of these guidelines and restrictions, and only written guidelines (or modifications) are acceptable.

Clients with separately managed accounts who wish to restrict certain issuers from their portfolios generally are required to provide AB with a specific list of proscribed issuers, which are then coded in the relevant portfolio management or trading system. Clients are responsible for updating this list of restricted names. If a client seeks to have industry-related restrictions, we may use pre-defined issuer lists generated by third parties.

As an investment advisor to SMA programs, AB accommodates reasonable restrictions imposed by the client on the management of the account, subject to the limitations and considerations set forth above. In order to effectively and efficiently manage certain industry-related restrictions, AB may use pre-defined issuer lists generated by third parties, if available. AB may also use a list of proscribed issuers that is provided by the client.

Prior to opening an account that can accept client-specific restrictions, personnel (including portfolio management and legal staff) review a client's proposed investment guidelines. Once guidelines are finalized and approved, they are recorded in our trade compliance systems.

We decline to accept investment guidelines submitted by clients that we determine, in our judgment, to be unduly restrictive in light of portfolio objectives. Clients that subscribe to an AB service and then impose limitations or restrictions on the investment strategy or

process should understand that their investment returns will differ from other clients in that service, in some cases materially. AB declines to enter into an investment advisory relationship with any prospective client whose investment objectives may be considered incompatible with AB's basic investment philosophy or strategies, or where the prospective client seeks to impose unduly restrictive investment guidelines on AB.

Proposed guidelines for new commingled vehicle accounts are reviewed by these personnel as well; those guidelines will apply to the vehicle's portfolio, and normally cannot be influenced by investor-specific guidelines.

B. FEES AND COMPENSATION (ADV ITEM 5)

AB is generally compensated on the basis of fees calculated as a percentage of a client's assets under management. In certain instances, however, AB may be compensated under performance-based fee arrangements in compliance with SEC Rule 205-3 under the Investment Advisers Act of 1940. Compensation for employee benefit plans is subject to applicable regulations and opinions of the Department of Labor under ERISA. AB may also, on occasion, be compensated through fixed-fee arrangements.

INSTITUTIONAL FEE ARRANGEMENTS

Fees that are calculated as a percentage of assets under management are generally charged quarterly based upon the amount of assets under management at the beginning or the end of the quarter, or the average over the quarter or preceding quarter, as agreed with the client. In the event a client terminates its advisory contract with AB during a quarterly period, the fee for that period is prorated based on the number of days or months during the period in which AB performed services. The client is also entitled to a pro rata refund of the portion of the quarterly fee, when paid in advance, for the remaining balance of the quarter.

The minimum account sizes for most institutional accounts are set forth in Section D.

Institutional fees may be modified in certain circumstances including where an account exceeds a certain market value or is expected to grow rapidly; where a relationship already exists with a client; or where the client retains AB to provide services with respect to several investment mandates. AB's standard fee rates are set forth in Section P. However, the fees charged to clients may be negotiated in certain circumstances depending on a number of factors including, but not limited to: the type of client; the complexity of the client's situation; the composition of the client's account; the potential for additional account deposits; the nature, longevity and size of the overall client relationship; the total amount of assets under management for the client; and other business considerations.

In a number of institutional strategies, clients have the option of having their management fees billed to them on a quarterly basis, or having such fees deducted quarterly from their account.

In addition to the fee schedules in Appendix A, there may be specialized investment strategies with individualized fee arrangements in place as well as historical fee schedules with longstanding clients that may differ from those applicable to new client relationships.

AB has various performance-based fee arrangements available for interested clients. The most common performance-based fee

arrangement includes a reduced asset-based fee, which is billed quarterly, and an annual performance-based fee, which is calculated as a percentage of the account's outperformance relative to an agreed upon performance benchmark over a specified period of time. Performance-based fees are negotiated in advance with the client.

PRIVATE CLIENT FEE ARRANGEMENTS

Our Bernstein Private Wealth Services is the sponsor of an all-inclusive fee program which is partially serviced by our wholly-owned broker-dealer subsidiary, Bernstein LLC. This fee generally is deducted from our client accounts at Bernstein LLC on a quarterly basis.

SMA PROGRAM FEES

The SMA programs described above generally provide for an all-inclusive fee, which covers investment management, trade execution, reports of activity, asset allocation, custodial services and the recommendation and monitoring of investment managers.

As an investment adviser to SMA programs, we receive as compensation a portion of the total managed account program fee paid to the sponsor by the client. This typically ranges from 0.25% to 0.90% annually, depending upon the program sponsor, type of account (i.e., equity, balanced or fixed income), the level of support services provided by AB or sponsor, and the size of the client's assets in the specific program.

OTHER FEE ARRANGEMENTS

AB also offers the following investment products and advisory services for which special fee arrangements apply:

If assets in a client's account are invested in a registered investment company managed by AB, such assets are subject to the management fee associated with the investment company. That fee may also include charges for administration and accounting services charged to the registered investment company. Therefore, the investor in a registered investment company may incur a higher total management fee if the investment company's fee rate exceeds the rate the client would otherwise pay for the management of its assets.

Some institutional and private clients of AB invest a portion of their discretionary account's assets in shares issued by a registered investment company. When that occurs, the client is not charged both an advisory fee on the discretionary assets and a management fee associated with the investment company. Assets invested in a registered investment company for which AB serves as adviser are excluded from the client's assets upon which their advisory fee is calculated. Clients are also credited for shareholder servicing fees associated with the investment company(ies). Clients may pay other costs and expenses.

The investment advisory fees charged to the registered investment companies for which AB serves as adviser are disclosed in the prospectuses of such investment companies although in some cases fee waivers may be in effect.

We also serve as an investment adviser to various funds, trusts and products which have a variety of fee structures. The fee structures for those pooled vehicles are set forth in the relevant offering and subscription documents.

PORTFOLIO MANAGER COMPENSATION

The Adviser's compensation program for portfolio managers is designed to align with clients' interests, emphasizing each portfolio manager's ability to generate long-term investment success for the Adviser's clients, including the Funds. The Adviser also strives to ensure that compensation is competitive and effective in attracting and retaining the highest caliber employees.

Portfolio managers receive a base salary, incentive compensation and contributions to AB's 401(k) plan. The incentive portion of total compensation is determined by quantitative and qualitative factors. In some cases, portfolio managers to certain of our alternative products may receive a portion of the performance fees earned on the alternative products they manage.

C. PERFORMANCE FEES AND SIDE-BY-SIDE MANAGEMENT (ADV ITEM 6)

POTENTIAL CONFLICTS FROM ADVISING DIFFERENT CLIENTS

AB provides investment management advice to a variety of different clients including mutual funds sponsored by ourselves and our affiliates, special portfolios on a sub-advisory basis, institutional accounts, ERISA accounts, private investment funds (such as hedge funds and private equity funds), and high-net-worth individuals.

Certain types of clients, investment strategies and fee arrangements may create potential conflicts of interest for AB. For example, our employees or affiliates may have an economic interest in some of the accounts that we manage. We may also recommend to clients securities in which a related person has established an interest independent of AB. Some accounts pay performance fees to AB, and some are allowed to sell securities short that are held long in other client accounts. The beneficial owners of some accounts may have the ability to influence the placement of additional assets with AB. Some investment professionals at AB manage accounts with these potential conflicts on a "side by side" basis with accounts that do not have such characteristics. These investment professionals may have an incentive to favor "conflicted" accounts over other accounts. Variations in performance compensation structures among clients may create an incentive for AB to direct the best investment ideas to, or to allocate or sequence trades in favor of, clients that pay or allocate performance compensation or clients that pay a greater level of performance compensation than other clients.

STEPS TO TREAT CLIENTS FAIRLY

We are conscious of these potential conflicts. When we are providing fiduciary services, the goal of our policies and procedures is to act in good faith and to treat all client accounts in a fair and equitable manner over time, regardless of their strategy, fee arrangements or the influence of their owners or beneficiaries. These policies include those addressing the fair allocation of investment opportunities across client accounts, the best execution of all client transactions, and the voting of proxies, among others.

AB has adopted various written policies to address the fair allocation of investment opportunities for different investment categories (e.g., equities, fixed income, private securities, etc.). Generally, all of the policies utilize the following approach (as applicable) to help ensure that each client receives fair and equitable treatment in the investment process:

- + **Employee and Firm Interests.** Accounts in which our employees or affiliates have a beneficial interest, or in which AB has a conflict of interest, do not receive preferential treatment.
- + **Equal Dissemination.** Investment ideas and/or research analyst recommendations are widely disseminated among all appropriate investment professionals responsible for selecting investments to ensure that the accounts for all portfolio management groups have an equal opportunity to act on the information.
- + **Identifying Accounts for Participation.** The decision of which accounts should participate in an investment opportunity, and in what amount, is based on the type of security or other asset, the present or desired structure of the various portfolios and the nature of the account's goals. Other factors include risk tolerance, tax status, permitted investment techniques, level of un-invested capital, variance to target weight/duration and, for fixed-income accounts, the size of the account and settlement and other practical considerations. As a result, the price limits and percentage of assets under management for an order may vary for different accounts. Portfolio information systems, portfolio reports and quality control reports permit us to consider these factors as appropriate. In all cases, these factors are applied on an objective and consistent basis without regard to any conflict of interest.
- + **Aggregation of Client Interests.** Portfolio managers are required to submit orders for all of the participating accounts for which they are responsible at the same time, subject to certain pre-defined exceptions. Generally, all orders in the same security are aggregated in each trading system to facilitate best execution and to reduce brokerage commissions and/or other costs. However, there are cases when orders cannot be aggregated due to system, legal or operational limitations or restrictions. Additionally, we may not require orders in the same security from different managers to be aggregated where one manager's investment strategy relies on rapid trade execution, provided we believe that disaggregation will not materially impact other client orders.
- + **Priority of Orders.** When the liquidity in a market is not sufficient to fill all client orders, we may give priority to certain orders over others. This prioritization is based solely on objective factors driving the order. Under such circumstances, we aggregate orders by these factors and subject each aggregated order to the trade allocation algorithms discussed below. The factors used, in order of priority, are (1) correction of guideline breaches; (2) avoidance of guideline breaches; (3) investing significant new funding and completing tax strategy implementations; (4) avoidance of tracking error on the service/product level; and (5) portfolio rebalancing and optimization.
- + **Trade Rotation.** Separate aggregated orders with the same priority may be traded using a rotation process that is fair and objective.
- + **Allocation.** Executions for aggregated orders with the same executing broker are combined to determine one average price. The shares are then allocated to participating accounts using automated algorithms designed to achieve a fair, equitable and objective distribution of the shares over time. When investment opportunities are too limited to be fully implemented for all accounts, these algorithms consider various factors, including minimizing custodian fees from multiple executions for a single

account and avoiding small allocations that would be either below minimum sizes for the marketplace or uneconomical in light of fixed settlement costs.

- + **Deviations from the Standard Methodologies.** Under certain circumstances the allocation algorithms may not produce results consistent with the Portfolio manager's requirements. In such a case, an alternative allocation method may be used, which must achieve a fair, equitable and objective distribution of the shares.

As a result of the procedures noted above, it is not unusual to have multiple aggregated orders and differing priorities for the same security at the same time. In such cases, certain client accounts may pay or get a higher or lower price for the same security than orders for other clients. Additionally, our policies address the following special situations:

- + **Initial Public Offerings.** IPOs are only allocated to accounts when the issuer meets the investment objectives of participating accounts. Shares may be first distributed internally by investment service or strategy and then allocated on a pro-rata basis to participating accounts within their respective service or strategy. Due to securities law restrictions or client imposed restrictions, not all accounts can participate in IPOs.
- + **Secondary Offerings.** These shares are allocated using our standard methodologies taking into account situations in which securities are allocated by the issuer or underwriter based on a client's existing holdings.
- + **Long vs. Short Positions.** When our trading desk is handling short sell orders at the same time as long liquidation orders, the desk uses its discretion to execute the orders in a manner that limits the market impact to both.

In addition, when trades for SMA programs are directed to the SMA sponsors, a trade rotation process is implemented between SMA programs and institutional accounts and among the different SMA sponsors. This process could result in accounts receiving different prices for the same security. When an SMA sponsor comes up in the rotation, we generally do not trade for institutional accounts or accounts of other SMA sponsors.

There can be other exceptions to the process described above. For example, when our investment professionals decide to sell a security regardless of tax considerations, both taxable and tax-exempt accounts are eligible for sale simultaneously. In situations where tax gains influence the sale, securities in the tax-exempt accounts may be placed for sale first, as additional time is needed to consider the tax implications for each taxable account. Conversely, when tax losses influence the sale, we may prioritize taxable clients first, as the loss has a specific impact in a given year. In any event, the prioritization process is applied consistently and objectively over time.

In certain circumstances, position limits due to regulatory or other issuer-related facts may preclude us from making all investment opportunities available to all services and products. We may limit the opportunities to those services or products based upon our judgment, after considering all relevant facts.

We also reserve our right to exclude certain investment services from our aggregation and allocation procedures for regulatory considerations or where exclusion is in the best interests of our

clients as a whole. Where we offer a service that invests in securities that are unique (such as our venture capital fund) fair allocation is less of a concern, since our other clients will not be competing for investment opportunities with that service. Similarly, certain traders at our firm process a significant volume of derivatives orders on a non-discretionary basis for AXA and its insurance company subsidiaries. Since these orders are unrelated to any discretionary investment service we offer to clients, they are normally not aggregated with other derivative orders.

D. TYPES OF AB CLIENTS (ADV ITEM 7)

AB offers investment services to clients for a fee through operations in the United States and numerous other countries. We provide investment advice to investment companies, pension and profit sharing plans, banks and thrift institutions, trusts, estates, government agencies, charitable organizations, individuals, corporations and other business entities.

Our investment advisory products and services are offered to clients through three relationship channels—Institutional Services, Private Client Services and Retail Services.

CLIENTS OF INSTITUTIONAL SERVICES

Our institutional client base includes unaffiliated corporate and public employee pension funds, endowment funds, domestic and foreign institutions and governments, including sovereign wealth funds. We also provide investment services to certain of our affiliates (AXA and its subsidiaries), as well as certain sub-advisory relationships with unaffiliated sponsors of various other investment products.

Client relationships of \$25 million or more generally are serviced by Institutional Services. Direct client relationships of less than \$25 million are generally serviced through our Bernstein Private Wealth Services channel, discussed below. Nevertheless, AB has established various minimum account sizes, depending primarily on the particular investment style. AB generally does not require its clients to maintain a minimum investment in order to continue the advisory relationship. However, AB does reserve the right to terminate an account based on its size if the account has decreased due to significant withdrawals.

AB may, in its discretion, accept institutional accounts with assets less than \$25 million where, for example, an additional investment to meet the minimum is expected, a relationship already exists with a client, the relationship is to be handled through an SMA program sponsored by a third-party intermediary. Our services to institutional clients are offered through a wide variety of structures, including separately-managed accounts, sub-advisory relationships, mutual funds, structured products, collective investment trusts, and other investment vehicles.

Under certain circumstances, managed accounts may be formed as a "fund-of-one," which may be organized as domestic or offshore (non-U.S.) companies, limited partnerships, limited liability companies, corporate trusts or other legal entities, as determined appropriate.

CLIENTS OF BERNSTEIN PRIVATE WEALTH SERVICES

As noted above, clients of Bernstein Private Wealth Services may invest through separately managed accounts, mutual funds, hedge funds (including hedge funds available through our Alternative Investment Strategies hedge fund of funds service discussed elsewhere in this brochure) and other investment vehicles suitable for qualified purchasers.

Generally, the minimum amount to open a private client relationship through Bernstein Private Wealth Services is \$1,000,000. The minimum initial investment in Alternative Investment Strategies by otherwise qualified purchasers is \$500,000.

Our private clients are serviced by financial advisors based in various cities. These advisors do not manage account assets, but work with private clients and their tax, legal and other advisors to assist them in determining a suitable asset allocation based on financial need and risk tolerance.

CLIENTS OF RETAIL SERVICES

We provide investment management and related services to a wide variety of individual retail investors, both in the US and internationally, through retail mutual funds sponsored by AB (these funds also have institutional share classes); through mutual fund sub-advisory relationships; through Separately-Managed Account Programs; and via other investment vehicles ("Retail Products and Services").

Our Retail Products and Services are designed to provide disciplined, research-based investments that contribute to a well-diversified investment portfolio. We distribute these products and services through financial intermediaries, including broker-dealers, insurance sales representatives, banks, registered investment advisers and financial planners.

Our Retail Products and Services include open-end and closed-end funds that are either (i) registered as investment companies under the Investment Company Act and generally not offered to non-United States persons, or (ii) not registered under the Investment Company Act and generally not offered to United States persons. They provide a broad range of investment options, including local and global growth equities, value equities, blend strategies and fixed income securities.

As discussed above, our Retail Products and Services also include Separately-Managed Account Programs, which are sponsored by financial intermediaries and generally charge an all-inclusive fee covering investment management, trade execution, asset allocation and custodial and administrative services. We also provide distribution, shareholder servicing, and administrative services for our Retail Products and Services.

Our US Funds, which include retail funds, our variable products series fund (a component of an insurance product) and the retail share classes of the Sanford C. Bernstein Funds (principally Private Client Services products), currently offer 127 different portfolios to US investors.

Our Non-US Funds are distributed internationally by local financial intermediaries to non-US investors in most major international markets by means of distribution agreements.

AllianceBernstein Investments serves as the principal underwriter and distributor of the US Funds. AllianceBernstein Investments employs sales representatives who devote their time exclusively to promoting the sale of US Funds and certain other Retail Products and Services offered by financial intermediaries. AllianceBernstein (Luxembourg) S.A., a Luxembourg management company and one of our wholly-owned subsidiaries, generally serves as the distributor for the Non-US Funds. Bernstein LLC serves as distributor for the private client classes of the Sanford C. Bernstein Funds.

CLIENTS OF SMA PROGRAMS

The minimum initial SMA size is \$100,000, which may be waived from time to time by AB in its sole discretion. In an effort to achieve the target characteristics and security weights established for the portfolio, we require that equity SMA portfolios maintain a minimum balance of \$50,000 and balanced SMA portfolios maintain a minimum balance of \$80,000. We may reimburse certain SMA sponsors for business, marketing and product seminar expenses they incur. Fees for seminar support and similar services are paid out of AB's own resources. Since only investment advisors that agree to reimburse the SMA sponsor for a portion of these fees will be selected to participate in the program, the SMA sponsor may have an incentive to select AB for participation in the program.

E. METHODS OF ANALYSIS, STRATEGIES AND RISK OF LOSS (ADV ITEM 8)

OUR INVESTMENT STRATEGIES

As noted above, our investment analysts create proprietary research to support our portfolio managers, who also can conduct their own research. Our portfolio management professionals then implement our discretionary investment strategies.

Our investment professionals have experience researching and investing in all types of securities and asset classes, including common and preferred stocks, warrants and convertible securities, government and corporate fixed-income securities, commodities, currencies, real estate-related assets and inflation-protected securities. Some of our portfolios invest in "long" trades only, while others engage in both "long" and "short" trades. We also have deep experience analyzing and investing in other financial instruments, including derivatives such as options, futures, forwards, or swap transactions.

Our professionals employ a range of investment strategies to implement the advice we give to clients including: long-term purchases, short-term purchases, trading, short sales, margin transactions, option strategies including writing covered options, uncovered options and spread strategies, and taking advantage of price differentials between two or more securities (arbitrage). Quantitative analytics are utilized in some of our investment activities, to assist in the selection of securities or the management of investment risk.

Investment decisions in the strategies that we manage regularly affect more than one client account. Therefore, it is often necessary for us to acquire or dispose of the same securities for more than one client account at the same time. Our policies are designed to ensure that information relevant to investment decisions is disseminated fairly and investment opportunities are allocated equitably among different client accounts over time. Trades in the same securities for all relevant clients are aggregated whenever appropriate and executed as a "block" by the brokers or counterparties we select. Our policies and procedures also set trade allocation standards appropriate to each investment discipline.

As part of our Alternative Investment Strategies hedge fund of funds platform, and in certain other services, AB invests client assets in services managed by other investment advisers. AB evaluates these third-party advisers prior to investing, to the best of our ability. However, those advisers are not subject to our trade allocation policies or our other compliance policies and procedures. Whenever a third-party investment adviser is responsible for managing assets in a product sponsored by AB, we disclose that to the investors in that product.

THE RISKS OF INVESTING

As with any investment, there is no guarantee that your AB portfolio will achieve its investment objective. You could lose money by investing in our services, and you alone will bear such losses.

The value of your investment in an AB service may be affected by one or more of the following risks, any of which could cause the portfolio's return, the price of the portfolio's shares or the portfolio's yield to fluctuate:

- + **Market Risk.** The value of your portfolio's assets will fluctuate as the stock, commodity or bond market fluctuates. The value of your investments may decline, sometimes rapidly and unpredictably, simply because of economic changes or other events that affect large portions of the market. In addition, the prices of a portfolio's can be highly volatile. Price movements of assets, including commodities, are influenced by, among other things, interest rates, general economic conditions, the condition of financial markets, developments or trends in any particular industry, the financial condition of the issuers of such assets, changing supply and demand relationships, programs and policies of governments, and national and international political and economic events and policies.
- + **Management Risk.** Your portfolio is subject to management risk because it is actively managed by our investment professionals, who may have responsibilities for more than one strategy. We apply our investment techniques and risk analyses in making investment decisions for your portfolio, but there is no guarantee that these techniques and our judgments will produce the intended results.
- + **Quantitative Tools Risk.** Some of our investment techniques incorporate, or rely upon, quantitative models. There is no guarantee that these models will generate accurate forecasts, reduce risks or otherwise produce the intended results. We have adopted a Model Governance Policy, and take steps under that policy to review the accuracy of our model's design and output. We do not consider imperfections in tool output to be errors where we have satisfied the Model Governance Policy's requirements.
- + **Interest Rate Risk.** Changes in interest rates will affect the value of your portfolio's investments in fixed-income securities. When interest rates rise, the value of investments in fixed-income securities tends to fall and this decrease in value may not be offset by higher income from new investments. Interest rate risk is generally greater for fixed-income securities with longer maturities or durations. In certain jurisdictions, investing in cash or assets yielding negative interest rates might be unavoidable without taking significant credit risk.
- + **Credit and Counterparty Risk.** An issuer or guarantor of a fixed-income security, or the counterparty to a derivatives or other contract, may be unable or unwilling to make timely payments of interest or principal, or to otherwise honor its obligations. The issuer or guarantor may default causing a loss of the full principal amount of a security. The degree of risk for a particular security may be reflected in its credit rating. There is the possibility that the credit rating of a fixed-income security may be downgraded after purchase, which may adversely affect the value of the security. Investments in fixed-income securities with lower ratings tend to have a higher probability that an issuer will default or fail to meet its payment obligations.
- + **Allocation Risk.** The allocation of investments among different global asset classes may have a significant effect on your portfolio's value, when one of these asset classes is performing more poorly than others. As both the direct investments and derivative positions will be periodically adjusted to reflect our view of market and economic conditions, there will be transaction costs which may be, over time, significant. In addition, there is a risk that certain asset allocation decisions may not achieve the desired results and, as a result, your portfolio may incur significant losses.
- + **Foreign (Non-US) Risk.** Your portfolio's investments in securities of non-US issuers may involve more risk than those of US issuers. These securities may fluctuate more widely in price and may be less liquid due to adverse market, economic, political, regulatory, or other factors.
- + **Currency Risk.** Fluctuations in currency exchange rates may negatively affect the value of your portfolio's investments or reduce its returns.
- + **Derivatives Risk.** The guidelines for a number of our strategies allow us to use derivatives to create market exposure. Derivatives may be illiquid, difficult to price, and leveraged so that small changes may produce disproportionate losses for your portfolio, and may be subject to counterparty risk to a greater degree than more traditional investments. Because of their complex nature, some derivatives may not perform as intended. As a result, your portfolio may not realize the anticipated benefits from a derivative it holds or it may realize losses. Derivative transactions may create investment leverage, which may increase your portfolio's volatility and may require your portfolio to liquidate portfolio securities when it may not be advantageous to do so. Further, a transaction used to hedge to reduce or eliminate losses associated with your portfolio holding or particular market to which your portfolio has exposure, can also reduce or eliminate gains. Increase volatility in a particular security could vary the degree of correlation between the price movements of the hedging instrument and its underlying security. There can be no assurance that your portfolio's hedging transaction will be effective. Hedging techniques involve costs, which could be significant whether or not the hedging strategy is successful. Hedging transactions, to the extent they are implemented, will not necessarily be completely effective in insulating portfolios from currency or other risks.
- + **Capitalization Risk.** Investments in small- and mid-capitalization companies may be more volatile than investments in large-cap companies. Investments in small-cap companies may have additional risks because these companies have limited product lines, markets or financial resources.
- + **Liquidity Risk.** Liquidity risk exists when particular investments are difficult to purchase or sell, possibly preventing us from selling out of such illiquid securities at an advantageous price, or forcing us to sell such illiquid securities at a disadvantageous price. Derivatives and securities involving substantial market and credit risk also tend to involve greater liquidity risk. Liquidity risk can arise from the need to post unusually large amounts of cash collateral to counterparties of derivatives trades, or if sizeable client redemption activity in commingled vehicles that we manage forces the sale of securities to meet unexpected liquidity requirements.

- + **Investment Company and Exchange Traded Fund Risk.** Some of our strategies allow for investments in investment companies (also known as mutual funds) and exchange traded funds ("ETF"). An investment in an investment company or ETF involves substantially the same risks as investing directly in the underlying securities. An investment company or ETF may not achieve its investment objective or execute its investment strategy effectively, which may adversely affect your portfolio's performance. Your portfolio must pay its pro rata portion of an investment company's or ETF's fees and expenses. Shares of a closed-end investment company or ETF may trade at a premium or discount to the net asset value of its portfolio securities.
- + **Real Estate Related Securities Risk.** Investing in real estate related securities includes, among others, the following risks: possible declines in the value of real estate; risks related to general and local economic conditions, including increases in the rate of inflation; possible lack of availability of mortgage funds; overbuilding; extending vacancies of properties; increases in competition, property taxes and operating expenses; changes in zoning laws; costs resulting from clean-up of, and liability to third parties for damages resulting from environmental problems; casualty or condemnation losses; uninsured damages from floods, earth quakes or other natural disasters; limitations on and variations in rents; and changes in interest rates. Investing in Real Estate Investment Trusts ("REITs") involves certain unique risks in addition to those risks associated with investing in the real estate industry in general. REITs are dependent upon management skills, are not diversified, and are subject to heavy cash flow dependency, default by borrowers and self-liquidation.
- + **Business Continuity and Cybersecurity Risk.** We have adopted a business continuation strategy to maintain critical functions in the event of a partial or total building outage affecting our offices or a technical problem affecting applications, data centers or networks. The recovery strategies are designed to limit the impact on clients from any business interruption or disaster. Nevertheless, our ability to conduct business may be curtailed by a disruption in the infrastructure that supports our operations and the regions in which our offices are located. In addition, our asset management activities may be adversely impacted if certain service providers to AB or our clients fail to perform. In addition, with the increased use of technologies such as the Internet to conduct business, your portfolio could be susceptible to operational, information security and related risks. In general, cyber incidents can result from deliberate attacks or unintentional events. Cyber security failures or breaches by a third party service provider and the issuers of securities in which the portfolio invests, have the ability to cause disruptions and impact business operations, potentially resulting in financial losses, the inability to transact business, and violations of applicable privacy and other laws.
- + **Multiple Portfolio Manager Risk.** Certain clients may employ multiple underlying investment advisers, each of which trades independently of others. There can be no assurance that the use of multiple investment advisers will not effectively result in losses by certain investment advisers offsetting any profits achieved by others. Such offsetting could result in significant reduction

in the client's assets, as incentive fees may be allocable to the investment advisor that recognized profits irrespective of the offsetting losses.

- + **Manager Selection Risk.** For alternatives, multi-asset and other strategies, we sometimes select external managers or sub-advisers. While we perform investment and operational due diligence on these managers during the selection process, there is no guarantee that these managers will achieve their investment objectives.
- + **Participatory Note Risk.** AB may from time to time invest in participatory notes (commonly referred to as "P-Notes") on behalf of clients. P-Notes are a type of derivative instrument that seeks to replicate the returns of investing directly in an issuer. These notes are used to gain exposure to underlying equity securities in foreign markets where direct investments are restricted. In other words, we may use P-Notes to gain access to investments in markets where it is difficult for our clients to acquire local registration for the purchase and sale of local securities. An example of such a market is India. Investing in P-Notes involves multiple risks. The investment risk on a P-Note includes the same risks associated with a direct investment in the shares of the companies the notes seek to replicate and there can be no assurance that the transaction price of P-Notes will equal the underlying value of the companies or securities markets that they seek to replicate due to transaction costs and other expenses. P-Notes are also subject to counterparty risk since the notes constitute general unsecured contractual obligations of the issuing financial institutions and there is a risk that the issuer of the P-Note will default on its obligations under the note. Investing in P-Notes may involve certain regulatory risks, including, but not limited to, the fact that a foreign government may determine to close the P-Note market entirely or restrict access to the market by certain investors.

In addition to performance risk, AB and its employees may have a variety of relationships with the managers we select. Our selection of external managers or sub-advisers is not based upon those relationships. Rather, AB selects managers according to a process that is fair and objective without consideration of those relationships. In certain investment strategies, AB may be given the option to select itself or an external manager as a manager of client assets. In those situations, we may have an incentive to select our self as manager to receive additional management fees. As discussed above, AB selects managers according to a process that is fair and objective without considering additional fees.

Please note that there are many other circumstances not described here that could adversely affect your investment and prevent your portfolio from reaching its objective.

Specifically, clients of Bernstein Private Wealth Services should review the service and risk descriptions set forth in that unit's Investment Management Services and Policies manual. Similarly, investors in the shares of the Sanford C. Bernstein Fund, Inc. or mutual funds sponsored by AB should review the prospectus used to offer those shares.

Similarly, the objectives and risks of privately placed pooled vehicles we sponsor are detailed in the offering memoranda and subscription documents related to each of those vehicles, which are listed in AllianceBernstein L.P.'s Form ADV Part 1.

F. DISCIPLINARY INFORMATION (ADV ITEM 9)

All aspects of AB's business are subject to various federal and state laws and regulations, and to laws in various foreign countries. Accordingly, from time to time, regulators contact AB seeking information concerning the firm and its business activities. From time to time, AB may also be a party to civil lawsuits.

Currently, there are no material regulatory enforcement proceedings pending against AB or any of the other registrants covered by this brochure. A summary of past material regulatory proceedings involving AB, all of which have been resolved, is set forth here:

On January 17, 2014, the firm and three employees entered a Stipulation and Consent Agreement with the Florida Office of Financial Regulation to resolve similar allegations that, due to administrative oversight by the firm, certain employees had not been registered with Florida as associated persons of an investment adviser. Under the Consent Agreement, AllianceBernstein L.P. paid administrative fines totaling \$51,675 on behalf of itself and the employees, disposing of the matter.

On March 22, 2013, AllianceBernstein L.P. entered into a Stipulation and Consent Order with the Colorado Division of Securities to resolve an administrative proceeding alleging that AB, in error, approved an employee to act as an investment adviser representative in the state before the Division had issued a license to the employee. The firm agreed to review its relevant controls and to pay a fine to the Division in the amount of \$20,232.36. The Consent Order disposed of the matter.

In 2004, the SEC indicated publicly that it was considering enforcement action in connection with the payment of compensation connected to the distribution of mutual funds, the disclosure of such compensation, and the practice of considering mutual fund sales in the direction of brokerage commissions from fund portfolio transactions. The SEC and the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority issued subpoenas to our firm and others in connection with this matter. We cooperated fully with their inquiry. On June 8, 2005, it was announced that the firm's mutual fund distributor had paid \$4 million to settle the inquiry, without admitting or denying liability, resolving both investigations.

In 2003, regulatory authorities including the SEC and the Office of the New York State Attorney General ("NYAG"), investigated practices in the mutual fund industry identified as "market timing" and "late trading" of mutual fund shares. Our firm was contacted by these regulators and cooperated with their investigation.

On December 18, 2003, the firm reached terms with the SEC to resolve allegations of market timing. The SEC order reflecting the agreement found that the firm maintained relationships with investors who were permitted to engage in market timing trades in certain domestic mutual funds sponsored by the firm in return for or in connection with making investments (which were not actively traded) in other firm products, including hedge funds and mutual funds, for which our firm received advisory fees. Our firm concurrently reached an agreement in principle to resolve the NYAG's inquiry, which was subject to final, definitive documentation. That document, called an Assurance of Discontinuance, was dated September 1, 2004.

Under both the SEC Order and the NYAG agreement, the firm established a \$250 million fund to compensate fund shareholders for the adverse effect of market timing. The Agreement with the NYAG also required a 20% weighted average reduction in fees charged to

US open-end mutual funds sponsored by our firm, for a minimum of five years. The terms of the agreements also required the formation of certain compliance and ethics committees and the election of independent chairman to mutual fund boards. Those undertakings have been honored by the firm. In November 2007, we resolved a similar proceeding brought by the West Virginia Securities Commission that was based on the same allegations contained in the SEC Order.

G. OTHER FINANCIAL INDUSTRY AFFILIATIONS (ADV ITEM 10)

Neither AB nor its executive officers are actively engaged in any business other than providing investment advice. Our controlling shareholder, and our broker-dealer affiliates, are involved in other financial services businesses. Those entities, as well as our investment advisory affiliates, are identified here.

OUR MAJORITY SHAREHOLDER

As noted above, AXA, a société anonyme organized under the laws of France, is the majority owner of AllianceBernstein L.P. through various other AXA subsidiaries and holding companies. AXA is the holding company for an international group of insurance and related financial services companies engaged in the financial protection and wealth management businesses.

AXA's operations are geographically diverse, with major operations in Europe, North America and the Asia/Pacific regions and, to a lesser extent, in other regions including the Middle East, Africa, and Latin America. AXA has five operating business segments: life and savings, property and casualty, international insurance, asset management, and banking. In 2016, AXA (including its subsidiaries and affiliates) was our single largest asset management client.

As controlling shareholder, AXA has the ability to influence AB's business. However, when conducting our investment activities, we allocate investment opportunities to all of our clients in a particular strategy in the same way, including AXA. Further, as a matter of policy and practice, we do not collaborate with AXA on any investment decisions, and we do not involve AXA personnel in any of our research processes. We also are financially independent of AXA.

OUR AFFILIATED BROKERS

AllianceBernstein Investments, Inc. ("ABI")

1345 Avenue of the Americas, New York, NY 10105

ABI is a registered broker-dealer under the Exchange Act and serves as the principal underwriter and distributor of the US registered investment companies sponsored and managed by AB.

Sanford C. Bernstein & Co., LLC ("Bernstein LLC")

1345 Avenue of the Americas, New York, NY 10105

Bernstein LLC is a registered broker-dealer under the Exchange Act and registered investment adviser under the Investment Advisers Act. Bernstein LLC is also registered with the Ontario Securities Commission as an Exempt Market Dealer, Portfolio Manager, Investment Fund Manager and Commodity Trading Manager, and with other Canadian provincial securities commissions. Bernstein LLC regularly provides brokerage, custody and margin services for the clients in Bernstein Private Wealth Services of AB. Bernstein LLC also may provide brokerage services for other clients of AB. Pursuant to the terms of its advisory agreements with its clients, Bernstein LLC may delegate any and

all of its responsibilities under such agreements to AB. Accordingly, the disclosures in this brochure apply equally to AllianceBernstein L.P. and Bernstein LLC (Bernstein LLC also may provide research, which conveys investment advice, directly to its institutional brokerage clients.).

Bernstein LLC is also registered with the Commodity Futures Trading Commission as commodity trading adviser, and a commodity pool operator. Bernstein LLC also serves as the principal underwriter of Sanford C. Bernstein Fund, Inc. and the Sanford C. Bernstein Fund II, Inc. which are investment companies registered under the Investment Company Act. Bernstein LLC has selling agreements with various limited partnerships/hedge funds managed by AB.

Sanford C. Bernstein Limited (“Bernstein Limited”)

50 Berkeley Street, London, W1J 8AJ, UK

Bernstein Limited is a broker-dealer regulated by the United Kingdom's Financial Conduct Authority (“FCA”), and is registered with the Ontario Securities Commission as an International Dealer. Bernstein Limited may provide brokerage services to AB's clients.

Sanford C. Bernstein (Hong Kong) Limited (“Bernstein Hong Kong”)

Suites 3206-11, 32/F, One International Finance Centre, 1 Harbour View Street, Central, Hong Kong

Bernstein Hong Kong is licensed and regulated in Hong Kong by the Securities and Futures Commission. It is incorporated in Hong Kong with limited liability.

Sanford C. Bernstein (Canada) Limited (“Bernstein Canada”)

Brookfield Place, 161 Bay Street, 27th Floor, Toronto, Ontario M5J 2S1, Canada

Bernstein Canada is a Dealer Member regulated by the Ontario Securities Commission (“OSC”) and Investment Industry Regulatory Organization of Canada (“IIROC”).

A number of AB employees are registered representatives of Bernstein LLC, Bernstein Limited, Bernstein Hong Kong, Bernstein Canada or ABI.

OUR AFFILIATED COMMODITY TRADING ADVISOR

AllianceBernstein Global Derivatives Corporation (“ABGDC”)

1345 Avenue of the Americas, New York, NY 10105

ABGDC is an investment adviser registered under the Investment Advisers Act and is registered with the Commodity Futures Trading Commission and the National Futures Association as a commodity trading adviser and commodity pool operator. ABGDC controls the general partner entities of certain hedge funds managed by AB. ABGDC also serves as co-investment manager, commodity trading adviser and commodity pool operator for various collective investment vehicles managed by AB.

All clients and prospective clients of ABGDC are also clients and prospective clients of AllianceBernstein L.P. Any fiduciary duties that ABGDC owes to clients are the same duties that AllianceBernstein L.P. owes to those clients. Accordingly, the disclosures in this brochure apply equally to AllianceBernstein L.P. and ABGDC.

OUR ADVISORY AFFILIATES

Direct and indirect wholly-owned subsidiaries which are related to AB's advisory business include the following:

AB Bernstein Israel Ltd.

Rothschild Boulevard 22, Suite 1119, Tel Aviv, Israel 6688218

AB Israel is formed under the laws of Israel. AB Israel is not registered with the SEC as an investment adviser, but may provide referrals, advice or research to AB for use with AB's U.S. and non-U.S. clients as a “participating affiliate” in accordance with applicable SEC no-action guidance. Certain services may be performed for AB Israel by AB employees who are also employees of AB Israel or through delegation or other arrangements.

As a participating affiliate, AB Israel may perform specific advisory services for AB consistent with the powers, authority and mandates of AB's clients. The employees of AB Israel designated to act for AB are subject to certain AB policies and procedures as well as supervision and periodic monitoring by AB. AB Israel agrees to make available certain of its employees to provide investment advisory services to AB's clients through AB, to keep certain books and records in accordance with the Advisers Act and to submit the designated personnel to requests for information or testimony before SEC representatives.

AB Private Credit Investors LLC

1345 Avenue of the Americas, New York, NY 10105

AB Private Credit Investors LLC is an investment advisor that is primarily focused on providing flexible private debt solutions to middle market companies, targeting the primary issue market and sourcing and structuring investments in a broad spectrum of credit instruments.

AllianceBernstein Investor Services, Inc. (“ABIS”)

8000 IH 10 West, 4th floor, San Antonio, TX 78230

ABIS is a registered transfer agent under the Exchange Act and provides accounting and shareholder servicing assistance to the registered investment companies sponsored and managed by AB.

AllianceBernstein Trust Company, LLC (“ABTC”)

1345 Avenue of the Americas, New York, NY 10105

ABTC is a non-depository trust company chartered under New Hampshire law.

AllianceBernstein Limited (“ABL”)

50 Berkeley Street, London, W1J 8HA, UK

ABL is an investment manager and is regulated by the FCA.

AllianceBernstein (Luxembourg) S.A.

18 rue Eugene Ruppert, L-2453 Luxembourg

AllianceBernstein (Luxembourg) S.A. is a management company (société anonyme) and is the transfer agent and registrar of the AB's Luxembourg-based funds.

AllianceBernstein (Singapore) Limited

30 Cecil Street, Prudential Ltd Tower, Singapore 049712

AllianceBernstein (Singapore) Limited is a holder of a capital markets services license issued by the Monetary Authority of Singapore to conduct regulated activities in fund management.

AllianceBernstein Canada, Inc.

BCE Place, 161 Bay Street-27th Floor, Canada Trust Tower, Toronto, ON, M5J 2S1, Canada

AllianceBernstein Canada, Inc. is registered with the Ontario Securities Commission as a Limited Market Dealer, Investment Counsel and Portfolio Manager.

AllianceBernstein Japan Ltd.

Marunouchi Trust Tower Main 17F, 1-8-3 Marunouchi, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 100-0005, Japan

AllianceBernstein Japan Ltd. is registered with Japan's Financial Services Agency as a Discretionary Investment Advisor.

AllianceBernstein Hong Kong Limited

Suites 3401, 34/F, One International Finance Centre, 1 Harbour View Street, Central, Hong Kong

AllianceBernstein Hong Kong Limited is the Hong Kong representative of AB's Luxembourg-registered family of investment funds, and an investment manager. It is registered with the Securities and Futures Commission for local distribution in Hong Kong.

AllianceBernstein Australia Limited

Level 37, Chifley Tower, 2 Chifley Square Sydney, NSW, 2000, Australia

AllianceBernstein Australia Limited is registered with the Australian Securities & Investments Commission as an investment manager.

AllianceBernstein Administradora de Carteiras (Brasil) Ltda.

Av. Presidente Juscelino, Kubitschek, 1726-20 Andar, Sao Paulo, Brasil 04543-000

AllianceBernstein Administradora de Carteiras (Brasil) Ltda. is a holder of an asset management license issued by the Comissao de Valores Mobiliarios.

AllianceBernstein Asset Management (Korea) Ltd.

84 Taepyungro 1-ga, Jung-gu, Seoul 100-101, Korea

AllianceBernstein Asset Management (Korea) Ltd. is a holder of an asset management, investment advisory and discretionary investment management license issued by the Financial Supervisory Commission to conduct regulated activities in asset management and investment advice.

CPH Capital Fondsmæglerelskab A/S ("CPH Capital")

Lautrupsgade 7 Copenhagen Ø, 2100 Denmark

CPH Capital is a global core equity investment manager that provides global equity strategies for institutional and retail clients.

AB Custom Alternative Solutions LLC

1345 Avenue of the Americas, New York, NY 10105

AB Custom Alternative Solutions LLC is an investment adviser registered with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission. They were acquired by AllianceBernstein L.P. in a September 2016 transaction.

W.P. Stewart & Co., LLC

W.P. Stewart Asset Management Ltd.
1345 Avenue of the Americas, New York, NY 10105

These firms are both investment advisers registered with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission. They were acquired by AllianceBernstein L.P. in a December 2013 transaction.

OTHER RELATED ENTITIES

As noted above, AB serves as investment adviser to a diversified family of open-end and closed-end US registered investment companies, non-US based mutual funds, non-US local market mutual funds and structured products. Information about those funds, their strategies, and their distribution to investors

can be found at www.AllianceBernstein.com. AB may also serve as sub-adviser on client accounts including registered investment companies.

Our Alternative Investment Strategies platform offers clients of Bernstein Private Wealth Services the ability to invest in hedge funds managed by AB and funds advised by other managers. AB personnel select the other hedge fund managers who participate in the Alternative Investment Strategies platform, pursuant to various objective and subjective criteria as disclosed in the relevant offering documents. Some of those managers who satisfy the applicable criteria also may be clients of Bernstein LLC, or may have certain business relationships with AXA or its affiliates.

In addition to hedge funds and mutual funds, AB is investment adviser to a number of private investment partnerships whose shares or units are exempt from registration under the Investment Company Act of 1940, and therefore may only be distributed to investors who meet certain legal qualifications.

Examples of vehicles in this latter category include the following:

AB is the investment adviser to the Alliance Capital Group Trust, the Bernstein Group Trust, Alliance Institutional Fund and the Sanford C. Bernstein Delaware Business Trust. These are pooled investment vehicles through which certain institutions—such as pension, profit sharing, stock bonus and governmental plans—may commingle their assets for investment purposes. These units are privately offered and exempt from registration under the Investment Company Act.

AB is also the investment adviser to Collective Investment Trusts ("CITs") for which AllianceBernstein Trust Company, LLC ("ABTC"), a wholly-owned subsidiary of AB, is the trustee. These CITs are pooled investment vehicles through which the assets of certain types of clients are commingled for investment purposes. These clients include only trusts whose beneficiaries are employee benefit plans governed by ERISA and government-sponsored plans provided that (i) any government-sponsored plan is a plan or trust described in Section 401(a) or 414(d) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, (ii) investment in ABTC's CIT(s) is not prohibited by the governing instrument for such plan, and (iii) such investment is directed by a fiduciary other than ABTC with the power to authorize such investment. The CITs are privately offered and are exempt from registration under the Investment Company Act.

Similarly, AB acts as investment manager and account administrator for certain Insurance Company Separate Accounts. These accounts hold assets for employee benefit plans governed by ERISA.

Bernstein LLC is the settlor and investment manager for certain Canadian trusts. These Canadian trusts are pooled investment vehicles through which certain qualifying Canadian clients may commingle their assets for investment purposes. Bernstein LLC has delegated portfolio management of these pooled fund trusts to AB.

AB is the investment adviser to AllianceBernstein Venture Fund I, L.P. This investment vehicle was created with the objective to achieve long-term capital appreciation through equity and equity-related investments, acquired in private transactions, in early stage growth companies. Interests in this partnership are not registered and are available only to certain qualified investors.

AB also is the sponsor and investment adviser to other privately placed funds that invest, or intend to invest, in various strategies, including: various real estate asset classes; hedge fund strategies;

global energy exploration assets; and global “strategic opportunities” in various asset classes.

In many cases, these vehicles invest in strategies similar to those offered through the Retail Services funds described above. Certain employees of AB have an investment interest in these vehicles and their general partner entities. AB’s policies take steps to avoid or mitigate these potential conflicts. For a list of these and other private investment partnerships, please see AllianceBernstein L.P.’s Form ADV Part 1.

The US Treasury has engaged AB to provide investment management advice concerning assets that the Treasury acquired from banks and other institutions taking part in its Capital Purchase Program (CPP). The Treasury’s CPP program also was authorized by the Emergency Economic Stabilization Act of 2008. AB has adopted certain policies to address potential conflicts relating to its CPP mandate. Restrictions in those policies may limit or prevent AB from purchasing certain smaller capitalization banking securities for client portfolios.

H. CODE OF ETHICS, PERSONAL TRADING, AND CLIENT TRANSACTIONS (ADV ITEM 11)

OUR CODE OF ETHICS

All AB employees are required to follow our Code of Business Conduct and Ethics (the “Code” or “Code of Ethics”).

The Code summarizes the firm’s values, ethical standards, and commitment to address potential conflicts of interest that arise from its activities. Policies and procedures have been designed to implement the principles in the Code, some of which are described in this section.

The Code can be viewed at www.AllianceBernstein.com or a copy may be obtained from AB by writing to the Chief Compliance Officer, 1345 Avenue of the Americas, New York, NY 10105.

EMPLOYEE PERSONAL TRADING

Personal securities transactions by an employee of an investment adviser may raise a potential conflict of interest when that employee owns or trades in a security that is owned or considered for purchase or sale by a client, or recommended for purchase or sale by an employee to a client. AB’s Code of Ethics includes rules that are designed to detect and prevent conflicts of interest when investment professionals and other employees own, buy or sell securities which may be owned by, or bought or sold for clients.

The Code’s rules generally discourage employees from engaging in personal trading in individual securities. Before an employee can engage in a personal securities trade, the Code requires that he or she obtain preclearance from our Compliance Department. Employee investments in AB Mutual Funds are subject to pre-clearance, but investments in other open-ended mutual funds and certain ETFs are exempt from pre-clearance. Securities purchased by employees must be held for at least 60 days. An employee is allowed to conduct up to twenty (20) securities trades each month. The Code requires US employees to maintain accounts at certain designated brokerage firms, and requires that all employee personal accounts be disclosed to the firm.

Subject to reporting and certain controls, we allow our employees to hire discretionary investment advisers to manage their personal accounts.

The Code’s personal trading procedures are administered by the firm’s Legal and Compliance Department. The firm has established a Code

of Ethics Oversight Committee, which is responsible for reviewing exceptions to and violations of the Code, as well as establishing new or amending rules as necessary. The members of that Committee are some of AB’s most senior personnel.

OUTSIDE BUSINESS AFFILIATIONS

Outside business activities of an employee of an investment adviser may raise potential conflicts of interest depending on the employee’s position within AB and AB’s relationship with the activity in question. Outside business activities may also create a potential conflict of interest if they cause an AB employee to choose between that interest and the interests of AB or any client of AB.

AB employees are generally prohibited from serving on the board of directors or trustees or in any other management capacity of any unaffiliated public company. AB employees also may not serve on any board of directors or trustees of a private company without prior written approval from the employee’s supervisor, the Legal and Compliance Department, and Human Capital.

AB’s Code of Ethics does not prohibit non-management directors of AB from serving on the board of directors or trustees of unaffiliated public companies. Such activity is not uncommon in the financial services industry, and such directorships are disclosed in our public SEC filings. We believe that prohibiting such activity could impair our ability to attract qualified non-management directors.

The following non-management directors of AB currently serve on the board of directors of an unaffiliated public company:

Steven G. Elliott	Huntington Bancshares, Inc. & PPL Corp.
Weston Hicks	Alleghany Corp.

From time to time, we may invest on behalf of clients in securities of companies that include one of our non-management directors on the board.

Under our Code of Ethics, employees of AB are permitted to serve on the boards of directors of not-for-profit organizations. These organizations may issue publicly-traded debt obligations to fund projects such as the construction of buildings, dormitories, etc. AB may purchase such securities on behalf of its client accounts.

OUR INTERESTS IN CLIENT TRANSACTIONS

AB does not manage any “proprietary” investment accounts—i.e., accounts that are funded with the firm’s own money and are intended to create profits for the firm. Accordingly, AB in the ordinary course does not compete with clients in the market for securities. Similarly, AB does not use its own money to trade as a counterparty with client accounts.

We do not purchase for clients, or recommend the purchase of, securities issued by AB or its affiliates. We liquidate, as soon as is practical, any positions in public securities issued by AB or its affiliates that become subject to our discretion.

However, AB may participate or have an interest in client transactions several other ways, which are described below. In the following situations, we attempt to make all portfolio management decisions in our clients’ best interests:

- + **Affiliated Brokers.** Bernstein LLC, Bernstein Limited, Bernstein Hong Kong and Bernstein Canada (collectively, "Bernstein") effect securities transactions as agents for clients of AB for which the clients may pay commissions. These commissions may be at "execution-only" rates or higher full-service rates. AB will only use affiliated brokers in circumstances where AB has received permission to send trades to the affiliated broker and has determined that it can provide similar or better execution than an unaffiliated broker. Use of these affiliated brokers is subject to our obligation to seek best execution as described further in Section I and only done with the prior authorization of the client.
- + **Agency Cross Trades.** An agency cross transaction occurs when securities are traded by one of our client accounts through Bernstein, and a client of Bernstein is on the other side of that transaction. Our affiliated brokers execute such agency cross transactions only when our client has provided written authorization. This authorization can be terminated at any time by written notice. There can be benefits to our clients from the use of agency cross trades. There are also potential conflicts of interest, as Bernstein LLC receives commissions from both sides of the trade. We notify clients annually of the total number of agency cross transactions undertaken for their accounts over the previous year, the amount of commissions paid on the cross-transactions and the total commission paid by the clients on the other side of the transactions.
- + **Cross Trades.** With the exceptions noted elsewhere in this section, it is our general policy not to engage in buying or selling of securities from one managed account to another (typically referred to as a "cross trade"). The vast majority of trades made for AB's client accounts are executed through the open market. We may engage in cross trading under limited circumstances, but we only do so when we can ensure that the transaction is fair to all parties. Under such circumstances, we will receive no transaction-based compensation from the trade and we only proceed when we reasonably believe that best execution can be achieved. In certain situations, specific consent for each such transaction may be required from both sides. Where a registered investment company is involved, we execute transactions in accordance with the provisions of Rule 17a-7 under the Investment Company Act. We do not enter into cross transactions involving one or more ERISA accounts unless written consent of the plan fiduciary is received, and then only in accordance with applicable law and our written policies.
- + **Currency Trading.** AB normally executes currency transactions on an active basis through our trading desk, except where market restrictions in some emerging currencies exist and execution for trade settlement is arranged by the custodian directly. When actively managing trades across numerous accounts, we may (through instructions to counterparties or on our own) net client purchases and client sales in the same currency to reduce our clients' transaction costs.
- + **Initial Account Funding.** We may purchase and sell securities for accounts funded with our own assets, which also is known as "seed capital." These accounts are intended to establish a performance history for a new or potential product or service. AB may earn a profit on its seed capital investments. In addition, we buy and sell short term cash instruments for our own account. Our transactions are aggregated with client orders and are subject to our procedures regarding fair access to investment opportunities.
- + **Partnership Interests in Certain Funds.** Certain wholly owned subsidiaries of AB serve as the general partner of for many of our privately placed funds that we manage. Such general partners may have small, or no, investment in these funds. In addition, AB may invest as an investor in certain of these funds, either with "seed capital" or on the same terms as other investors. Employees and their family members, and directors of AB may also invest in the funds. In addition, AB, as investment adviser to these funds, receives a management fee from such funds.
- + **Firm and Employee Investments.** As noted elsewhere in this Brochure, AB employees may invest in services managed by the firm. In addition, the firm itself may invest in its services through deferred compensation plans sponsored for the benefit of employees. These investments pose a risk that employees with influence over investment decisions will favor the portfolios in which they have a personal interest. However, we believe that our Code of Ethics, trade allocation and inside information policies manage these risks. We also believe that employee investments in AB services align the interests of our firm (and our employees) with those of our clients.
- + **Error Correction Trades.** From time to time, AB and Bernstein are required to take positions in an error account within the scope of their ordinary business activities. Potential conflicts relating to the correction of errors are discussed in more detail below.
- + **Institutional Research Services.** Bernstein may make institutional investment recommendations to their broker-dealer clients that differ from those implemented by AB's investment management professionals. In addition, Bernstein's institutional brokerage clients often have investment philosophies that differ significantly from those of AB. Accordingly, Bernstein's institutional investment recommendations and securities transactions on behalf of institutional brokerage clients may differ from the actions taken by AB for client accounts.
- + **Credit Balances.** Bernstein LLC pays interest on its brokerage clients' cash balances at a monthly rate based on the average of the 90-day and 180-day Treasury bill rates. Bernstein LLC holds clients' net cash balances in special reserve bank accounts for the exclusive benefit of customers. The reserve account held for the benefit of other clients (not subject to ERISA) may invest in Treasury bills of maturity greater than 180 days. Any spread between its investment of clients' cash balances (other than those subject to ERISA) and the interest it pays to clients on such balances is kept by Bernstein LLC. This creates an incentive to maintain or increase cash balances in non-ERISA accounts.

OUR APPROACH TO OTHER POTENTIAL CONFLICTS

Various parts of this brochure discuss potential conflicts of interest that arise from our asset management business model. We disclose these conflicts due to the fiduciary relationship we have with our investment advisory clients.

When acting as a fiduciary, AB owes its investment advisory clients a duty of loyalty. This includes the duty to address, or at minimum disclose, conflicts of interest that may exist between different clients; between the firm and clients; or between our employees and our

clients. Where potential conflicts arise from our fiduciary activities, we take steps to mitigate, or at least disclose, them. Where our activities do not involve fiduciary obligations—such as the level of client servicing we offer through each client channel—we reserve the right to act in accord with our business judgment.

Conflicts arising from fiduciary activities that we cannot avoid (or choose not to avoid) are mitigated through written policies that we believe protect the interests of our clients as a whole. In these cases—which include issues such as personal trading and client entertainment, discussed above—regulators have generally prescribed detailed rules or principles for investment firms to follow. By complying with these rules, using robust compliance practices, we believe that we handle these conflicts appropriately.

Some potential conflicts are outside the scope of compliance monitoring. Identifying these conflicts requires careful and continuing consideration of the interaction of different products, business lines, operational processes and incentive structures. These interactions are not static; changes in the firm's activities can lead to new potential conflicts. Potential conflicts may also arise from new products or services, operational changes, new reporting lines and market developments.

To assist in this area, AB has appointed a Conflicts Committee, which is chaired by the firm's Conflicts Officer. The Committee is comprised of compliance directors, firm counsel and experienced business leaders, who review areas of change and assess the adequacy of controls. The work of the Conflicts Committee is overseen by the Code of Ethics Oversight Committee.

While we do not believe that there are any conflicts that pose material risks to our clients' interests, the following potential conflicts are inherent in our structure and activities:

+ **Acting for More Than One Client.** We operate most services for multiple clients and certain issuers may be investment opportunities for more than one service at any one time. Various investment decisions we make may benefit certain clients to the disadvantage of others. This may impact your account in various ways:

+ As noted in Section C, we generally combine all orders for the same security with the same instructions into one aggregate order. As a result, your account might invest or disinvest over a longer period of time and over a larger number of transactions than might have been the case had we operated just your account. Additionally, a larger order may result in higher execution costs (for example, if we determined that we need a broker to act as a principal to facilitate the order). Our priority is to ensure that our systems of order aggregation and trade allocation are fair among different clients' accounts.

+ Different services could have inconsistent views of the same security. That could result in certain services owning a security while others may have sold the security short (or similarly, one service is significantly over-weighted versus a benchmark while another is significantly under-weighted). Actions taken by us that benefit the accounts of one service, such as proxy and bondholder voting, may have a negative impact on the accounts in the other service. We have established procedures that require investment professionals to act independently for the benefit of

the clients in their own service. See Section N for more information about our Proxy and Governance Voting Policy.

+ We may make investments at different priorities in the capital structure of the same issuer. As discussed above, actions taken by us that benefit the accounts of one service (such as equity holders) may have a negative impact on the accounts in the other service (such as debt holders). These actions include both proxy voting and, when applicable, participation in bankruptcy or reorganization committees. We have established procedures that require investment professionals to act independently for the benefit of the clients in their own service. See Section N for more information about our Proxy and Governance Voting Policy.

+ Different services could be trading with competing instructions. We may be purchasing a security for certain clients at the same time that we may be selling it for others. In these situations, executing either order may have a negative impact on the other. Additionally, we may be selling a security owned by certain clients while establishing a short position for others. In these situations, market regulations generally prohibit us from aggregating the orders; therefore, as a result, certain accounts may be executed before others. In both of these cases, we have established procedures to rotate the competing orders in a way that would be fair and equitable to all accounts over time.

+ Legal, risk management or regulatory limits may preclude your account from participating in an investment opportunity. A portfolio manager may be restricted from entering orders in a security if accounts of AB, in aggregate, have reached certain ownership levels set by local regulations or our investment risk team. Please refer to Limitations On Ownership And Trading Of Securities For Client Accounts in Section M.

+ **Active Management.** As a firm, we endeavor to create and implement active management investment strategies that we think can exceed the performance of corresponding indices and benchmarks (and passively managed strategies and investments based on them) and can command higher fees than would typically apply in the case of passively managed strategies or investments, which generally track or mirror the composition of corresponding indices or benchmarks. This presents a potential conflict because the availability of higher fees could affect our objectivity when designing or evaluating actively managed strategies or in recommending them to clients. We believe that our policies and practices are designed to help ensure that we act prudently in the design and evaluation of actively managed strategies and in recommending them to clients, although passive investments may outperform actively managed ones at certain times.

+ **Allocation of Investment Opportunities.** Our policies generally require the pro rata distribution of investment opportunities across the appropriate accounts. Sometimes, however, investment opportunities are in short supply and there are not enough securities available to create a meaningful holding in every account for which the security might be a suitable investment. In these cases, our policies allow us to allocate available securities among accounts with investment objectives most closely aligned to the investment's attributes. For example, we may choose to allocate a small cap initial public offering among investors in our small cap service, even though the stock might also be suitable for other portfolios with a broader range of holdings.

+ **Capacity.** To avoid compromising the investment performance of our existing clients we may decide to close a particular investment product to new investors by removing it from the list of services we offer. We might do this while leaving capacity for existing customers to add to their existing investments. We might also reserve capacity for new ventures or services that we intend to launch.

+ **Employee Investments.** There is a potential conflict of interest when an employee owns or trades in a security that is owned or considered for purchase or sale by a client, or recommended for purchase or sale by an employee to a client. The Code of Ethics includes policies that are designed to detect and prevent conflicts of interest when investment professionals and other employees own, buy or sell securities which may be owned by, or bought or sold for clients.

As noted previously, we encourage our employees to invest in the services we offer to clients, including portfolios that are offered through pooled vehicles. In some cases, employees may invest at a discounted advisory fee or no fee. These investments pose a risk that employees with influence over investment decisions will favor the portfolios in which they have a personal interest. It also poses a risk that certain employees will personally buy or sell interests in those vehicles based upon material nonpublic information concerning those vehicles. We believe that our trade allocation and inside information policies manage these risks. In addition, employee investments and withdrawals from our portfolios are bound by the same rules applicable to all investors, and some rules applicable to employee withdrawals can be more restrictive.

+ **Errors.** We correct trading errors affecting client accounts in a fair and timely manner. If correction of an error has resulted in a loss, we may decide to make the client whole as a result of the error. Ultimately, however, it is AB that decides whether an incident is an error that requires compensation. In some cases, an element of subjective judgement is required to determine whether an error has taken place, whether it requires compensation and how to calculate the loss involved, if any. Also, in certain circumstances, correcting an error may require the firm to take ownership of securities in its own error account. The disposition of those securities may create a gain in the firm's error account. To manage potential conflicts concerning errors, we have implemented a written Error Resolution policy and have created an Error Review Committee that is chaired by risk management personnel, among other steps.

+ **Fees.** We have a large client base, and the fee arrangements with our clients vary widely. The fact that our revenues are represented by the fees we charge our clients means that we cannot be considered to be acting as your fiduciary when negotiating fees. For instance, performance compensation may create an incentive to make riskier or more speculative investments. Additionally, our Bernstein Financial Advisors and other distribution personnel may receive commission payments for certain services that could provide an incentive to recommend investment products based on the compensation received, rather than the client's needs. For example, the higher fees Bernstein earns on equity services compared to fixed income services, or on actively managed services compared to passive services, resulting in higher

commissions earned by Bernstein advisers, may induce them to recommend the higher fee services.

+ **Gifts and Entertainment.** Our employees who acquire products and services that are used in our investment activities should not be unduly influenced by the receipt of gifts, meals or entertainment from the sellers of such products or services. Similarly, our employees should not attempt to unduly influence clients or potential clients with these or other inducements, such as charitable or political contributions. In order to help identify and manage these potential conflicts of interest, we have adopted a Policy and Procedures for Giving and Receiving Gifts and Entertainment (the "Gifts Policy") under our Code of Ethics. Among other things, the Gifts Policy generally prohibits the exchange of cash gifts, limits the value of non-cash business gifts to \$100, and sets basic limits on the value of business entertainment that our employees can provide or accept. Department manager approval is required for activities above those limits. However, the Gifts Policy prohibits trading personnel from accepting any forms of gifts or entertainment from any brokers or other service providers doing business with the firm. Trading personnel may receive incremental business meals with compliance approval. Certain forms of business entertainment are also prohibited for all employees. We also comply with the relevant local rules, laws and regulations related to gifts and entertainment in other jurisdictions in which we operate.

+ **Guideline Interpretation.** As noted earlier, investment decisions in our chief strategies regularly affect more than one client account. Often, the investment decision could affect hundreds or even thousands of accounts, many of which may have submitted written investment guidelines to us. To address the risk of us interpreting guidelines unreasonably to favor or allow decisions that investment personnel already have made, we rely on other personnel (including those in compliance, legal and risk management functions) to determine the ultimate meaning of guidelines. The investigation and correction of errors is the responsibility of risk managers with input from compliance personnel, who are independent of any investment team.

+ **Investing in New Services.** When AB creates a new service for our clients, we often make an initial investment with the firm's capital or present the investment opportunity to our clients who choose to make the investment. However, there are situations where the initial investment opportunity is appropriate for our mutual fund managers or where the firm has discretion of client assets. When these investment opportunities present themselves in our mutual funds, the firm relies on the mutual fund independent directors to review and approve the arrangements. When these investment opportunities present themselves elsewhere, the opportunity is reviewed and approved by the firm's New Products and Initiatives (NPI) Committee that is independent of the investment teams.

+ **Investments in the Same Issuer or Related Issuer.** Our separate portfolio management teams may make separate investments in the capital structure of the same issuer or closely related issuers. It is possible that one of our services or portfolios could take action as controlling owners of a capital structure that could adversely affect our clients who are invested in other parts of the same issuer or certain related assets. Where such situations occur

in the ordinary course of our investment process, we will take steps to separate the decision-making of the relevant investment teams, and allow them to take action in the best interests of the portfolios under their management.

- + **Relationships with Influential Clients.** Our single largest asset management client is AXA (including its subsidiaries and affiliates), which is also our firm's controlling shareholder. In addition, certain clients serviced by Institutional Services and Bernstein Private Wealth Services could be perceived to have the ability to influence AB's business conduct due to the amount of assets they control or their public reputations. Nevertheless, when conducting our investment activities, we treat all clients in a strategy in the same way, as reflected in our policies. Further, as a matter of policy and practice, we do not collaborate with AXA on any investment decisions, and do not involve AXA personnel in any of our investment processes. We also are financially independent of AXA.
- + **Proxy Voting.** As an investment adviser that exercises proxy voting authority over client securities, AB has a fiduciary duty to vote proxies in a timely manner and make voting decisions that are in our clients' best interests. We recognize that there may be potential conflicts of interest when we vote a proxy on behalf of clients. We have adopted a detailed policy statement that addresses and describes the steps we take to mitigate conflicts when voting proxies. Please see Section N for a description of the steps we take to mitigate conflicts when voting proxies on behalf of clients.
- + **Securities Valuation.** Typically, our fees are based upon the value of our clients' portfolios. AB has the authority to determine the value of securities that are difficult to price and, in such cases, may have an incentive to select the highest potential price for those securities, even when a lower price may be more reasonable. To mitigate that potential conflict, our policies require our pricing personnel to follow specific steps when calculating the fair value of a security. Those personnel are overseen by our Valuation Committee, the members of which are all in control functions. No portfolio managers, sales or corporate finance staff members are responsible for valuation decisions.
- + **Selecting Execution Brokers.** AB and its employees have a variety of relationships with the financial services firms that execute our client trades. For example, many of those firms distribute shares of AB's sponsored mutual funds or other services to their customers. And at any given time, those firms or their affiliates can themselves be asset management clients of AB or institutional clients of Bernstein. Our portfolio managers may take a position in the securities issued by those firms as investments for client portfolios, which may be significant. One of the brokers we may use, Sanford C. Bernstein & Co., is our wholly owned subsidiary. Our selection of trading vendors is not based upon those relationships. Rather, AB has a duty to select brokers, dealers and other trading venues that provide best execution for our clients. Please refer to the following Section I on "How We Select Brokers."

I. BROKERAGE PRACTICES (ADV ITEM 12)

HOW WE EXECUTE TRANSACTIONS

We rely upon brokers, dealers and other trading intermediaries to execute our client securities transactions. Other than those who pay an all-inclusive fee, clients pay the transaction charges associated with the execution of their trades. The brokers, dealers and other vendors that we utilize for trade execution are selected by AB's trading personnel, using the standards described below.

HOW WE SELECT BROKERS

In the previous section we discussed AB's conflicts of interest when selecting brokers. However, as a discretionary investment adviser, AB has a duty to select brokers, dealers and other trading venues that provide best execution for our clients.

Generally speaking, the duty of best execution requires an investment adviser to seek to execute securities transactions for clients in such a manner that the client's total cost or proceeds in each transaction is the most favorable under the circumstances, taking into account all relevant factors. The lowest possible commission, while very important, is not the only consideration.

We seek best execution in all portfolio trading activities for all investment disciplines and products, regardless of whether commissions are charged. This applies to trading in any instrument, security or contract including equities, bonds, and forward or derivative contracts.

Our standards and procedures governing best execution are set forth in several written policies. Generally, to achieve best execution, we consider the following factors, without limitation, in selecting brokers and intermediaries: (1) Execution capability; (2) Order size and market depth; (3) Ability and willingness to commit capital; (4) Availability of competing markets and liquidity; (5) Trading characteristics of the security; (6) Availability of accurate information comparing markets; (7) Quantity and quality of research received from the broker dealer; (8) Financial responsibility of the broker-dealer; (9) Confidentiality; (10) Reputation and integrity; (11) Responsiveness; (12) Recordkeeping; (13) Available technology; and (14) Ability to address current market conditions. AB regularly evaluates the execution, performance and risk profile of the broker-dealers it uses.

Our policy strictly prohibits the direct or indirect use of client account transactions to compensate any broker, dealer, intermediary or other agent for the promotion or sale of AB mutual funds, services or other products.

Our affiliated broker-dealers, especially Bernstein LLC, may be used to effect transactions for client accounts. However, where required by Section 11(a)(1)(H) of the Exchange Act and/or Department of Labor Prohibited Transaction Exemption 86-128, AB seeks prior authorization for the use of an affiliated broker. Similarly, when transacting securities with affiliated broker-dealers for registered investment companies, AB complies with Rule 17e-1 under the Investment Company Act.

AB's trading professionals are responsible for continuously monitoring and evaluating the performance and execution capabilities of brokers that transact orders for our client accounts to ensure consistent quality executions. This information is reported to the firm's Brokerage Allocation Committee and Best Execution Committee, which oversee broker-selection issues. In addition, we periodically review

our transaction costs in light of current market circumstances using internal tools and analysis as well as statistical analysis and other relevant information from external vendors.

SERVICES WE RECEIVE FROM BROKERS

While AB selects brokers primarily on the basis of their execution capabilities, the direction of transactions to such brokers may also be based on the quality and amount of research services they provide to us and indirectly to our clients. These client commission arrangements and commission sharing arrangements (formerly known as soft commissions) are designed to supplement our own internal research and investment strategy capabilities.

In accordance with SEC guidance, we regularly consider whether a given service provides lawful and appropriate assistance to the investment management process and ensure the cost of the service bears a reasonable relationship to the value of the research or service. We comply with the relevant rules of the United Kingdom's Financial Conduct Authority when paying for services in the UK and the SEC rules when paying for services in the United States.

For investment services or strategies managed in the European Union (EU), AB will absorb the cost of research in compliance with local regulations. AB's decision to absorb the cost of research for such investment services or strategies will apply to all clients invested in those services or strategies and will not be limited to a specific group of clients based on region or country. For investment services or strategies managed outside the EU, clients will continue to contribute to the payment of research either through their brokerage commissions or through a portion of their management fee as negotiated with AB.

The research services we acquire through client commission arrangements include, without limitation: (1) a wide variety of written reports on individual companies and industries, general economic conditions, and other matters relevant to our investment analyses; (2) direct access to research analysts throughout the financial community; (3) mathematical models; (4) access to expert matching networks; and (5) proxy voting research services. We may acquire market data services using commission credits generated by our New York equity trading desk, consistent with United States laws and regulations and SEC guidance.

These services may require the use of computer systems whose software components may be provided to AB. In situations where the systems can be used for both research and non-research purposes, we make an appropriate allocation and only permit brokers to pay the portion of the system that is used for research purposes. Research services furnished by brokers that we deal with are used to carry out our investment management responsibilities with respect to various client accounts over which we exercise investment discretion. Under Section 28(e), AB is not required to use eligible research services in managing those accounts which generated the commissions used to acquire it. Accordingly, such services may sometimes be utilized in connection with accounts that may not have paid any or all commission to the relevant brokers. Similarly, although some clients do not generate commissions which result in research being provided—such as AB's Managed Accounts offered to retail investors—they may still benefit from the research provided in connection with other transactions placed for other clients.

Client commission arrangements benefit AB because we do not have to produce or pay for the research and services we obtain through

them. While our policy is to seek best execution, we may select a broker for a portion of our trades which charges higher transaction costs if we determine in good faith that the cost is reasonable in relation to the value of the brokerage and research services provided.

Despite these potential conflicts, we believe that we are able to negotiate costs on client transactions that are competitive and consistent with our policy to seek best execution. In addition, we do not enter into agreements or understandings with any brokers regarding the placement of securities transactions because of the research services they provide. However, we do have an internal procedure for allocating transactions, in a manner consistent with our execution policy, to brokers that we have identified as providing superior executions and research services of particular benefit to clients. AB's Brokerage Allocation Committee has the principal oversight responsibility for periodically reviewing and evaluating the commission allocation process.

SMA programs do not generate commissions and therefore do not contribute toward payment for research services. However, as noted above, such clients may benefit from research services paid for with other clients' commissions.

We accommodate special requests on broker selection, although AB reserves the right to reject or limit certain instructions. Clients must also be aware of the consequences of specific instructions on restricting broker selection. Trades for these clients may be segregated from the aggregated clients' order and would no longer receive the advantages that may result from aggregating orders. Normally, such trades are placed after the aggregated order and these clients may be disadvantaged by the market impact of trading for other portfolios.

Other clients permit us to use such brokers, but prohibit us from using commissions generated by their accounts to acquire research services from so-called "third-party" research providers—i.e., independent research firms that agree to receive payment from the brokers we use for trade execution. However, commissions from these client accounts in most cases still will be used to acquire research generated internally by brokers (also called "proprietary" research). These clients also still participate in aggregated orders with clients who have not made such a request and could therefore realize the price and execution benefits of the aggregated order and the liquidity provided by the use of broker capital. Clients in both of these categories generally do not experience lower transaction costs than other clients.

AB does not use commissions of clients domiciled in certain countries to acquire "third-party" research where the regulations in such jurisdictions make it unlawful or impractical.

CLIENT DIRECTED TRADING

Some clients ask us to participate in their Directed Trading Programs (also called "commission recapture" programs), in which they direct us to execute their trades with certain brokers. In these cases, we retain our usual discretion in selecting broker-dealers and negotiating commissions for the client's account, subject to the specific directions. We accept these instructions subject to specific limits that we have established. We believe that our ability to obtain best execution would be impaired above such limits. Market conditions and modifications to AB's trading practices may cause us to vary the limits from time to time. In such cases, we may follow the instructions but may not obtain best execution on all directed transactions.

Clients who participate in such programs are advised to consider whether the commissions, execution, clearance and settlement capabilities provided by their selected broker-dealer will be comparable to those obtainable by AB from other broker-dealers. Transactions for clients making such a direction are generally not aggregated for purposes of execution with orders for the same securities for other accounts that we manage. Such clients may therefore forfeit the advantages that can result from aggregated orders (which may be executed prior to directed trades), such as negotiated commission rates associated with alternative trading approaches and the liquidity provided by the use of broker capital.

We generally execute directed trades after trades have been executed for non-directed accounts. As a result, the account may receive a price and execution that is less favorable than that obtained for non-directed accounts, particularly in volatile markets. We may also execute trades in securities with market makers in those securities. Even if the client's selected broker-dealer is a market maker in such securities, we may be unable to obtain best execution as a result of each respective brokerage arrangement. Any client direction agreement must be in writing. Clients are encouraged to specify the level of commissions or target they desire, but may not exceed limits imposed by each investment discipline. In the absence of a specific direction or target, we set targets and limits and inform the client in writing.

OTHER TRADING MATTERS

Principal vs. Agency Transactions. AB's trading personnel are responsible for determining whether to place a trade on behalf of a client account with a broker on a principal or agency basis. Generally, a broker is considered to act as a principal when it transacts in a security with its own capital or for its own account. This decision, made on a trade-by-trade basis, is based on several factors. For example, trades made on a principal basis could lead to a higher execution cost, and therefore are only used when we believe that the extra cost is justified by the added liquidity and speed of execution. The additional commission is correlated to the level of risk taken by the broker on the trade.

The size of an order may also influence a decision to opt for an agency or principal basis. When current market conditions suggest that the size of the order placed may affect the price of the security, trading personnel may ask the broker to take a position (when we are selling) or to sell short (when we are buying) a security. Accounts may pay a premium for this additional risk assumed by the broker. Trading on a principal basis may also be preferable when engaging in a program trade. When trading in a basket of securities, often in relatively small quantities, we may ask a broker to execute the order "across the board," meaning that the broker will buy from us or sell to us the entire block of securities from its own account. Clients benefit from the speed of the execution, as the account would not be subject to market risk during an extended execution period.

Clients that have trading restrictions and/or reporting obligations with respect to principal or agency transactions with particular brokers or dealers are required to notify us in writing of those affiliations and any associated trading restrictions for their accounts.

Algorithmic Trading and Alternative Trading Systems (ATS). AB directs client portfolio transactions to brokers for execution and uses electronic, self-directed algorithmic trading tools to execute on various exchanges and Alternative Trading Systems (commonly referred to as dark pools). In an effort to maximize execution quality, reduce

market impact and transaction costs incurred by clients and increase anonymity of orders, we use non-full service brokerage alternatives. This includes the use of execution-only brokers, algorithmic tools and other electronic order routing products offered by brokers and Alternative Trading Systems. Per share commission rates for these execution services are substantially lower than rates on full service brokerage transactions, including our affiliated broker, Bernstein LLC.

Increasing the use of non-full service alternatives has helped to reduce overall commission costs to clients, even though commission rates are only one component of a best execution analysis. We attempt to utilize these alternatives as much as possible across all equity accounts on a fair and equitable basis, when appropriate and we believe that doing so achieves the best execution for a particular order. Trading through these alternative platforms at certain commission rates also allows us to generate credits that can be used to acquire research services.

Due to the nature of the marketplace, certain securities are more likely to be available in sufficient quantity through non-full service alternatives than others. As a result, depending on the investment service and other factors such as the timing of orders, the percentage of a client's transactions executed through non-full service alternatives will vary. Therefore, certain clients may receive the benefit of these lower transaction costs more often than other clients and thus would experience lower overall transaction costs.

We believe that in order to achieve "best execution" for clients on an overall basis, we continue to require services offered by full service brokers that are not offered by non-full service alternatives. Although commission rates paid to full service broker-dealers are substantially higher than non-full service alternatives, we believe that the fees are reasonable in relation to the value of the brokerage and research services provided.

Brokerage Selection—Managed Account Programs. With regard to a particular trade, we may conclude that an SMA program account may be materially disadvantaged by effecting that transaction through the SMA sponsor or the broker-dealer designated by the SMA sponsor. AB may therefore place the order on an aggregated basis with institutional or mutual fund accounts; in which case, the SMA client would be responsible to pay the additional transaction charge.

Holdings in Securities Exchanges. Client accounts may hold positions in the securities of exchanges or companies that operate or have significant investments in market centers. These holdings bear no influence on our decisions to direct orders to brokers, exchanges or markets centers.

Liquidity Rebates. Bernstein LLC or unaffiliated brokers may earn liquidity rebates when placing orders in certain Market Centers while trading on behalf of AB.

Brokers are chosen based on our policy of seeking best execution, which is determined by several quantitative and qualitative factors. It is against AB's policy to take into consideration the broker's potential to earn ECN liquidity rebates when deciding whether to choose a particular full service broker.

Foreign Exchange Transactions. AB normally executes currency transactions on an active basis through our currency trading desk, except where market restrictions in some emerging currencies exist and execution for trade settlement is arranged by the custodian directly. In addition, certain of our asset-management clients direct their currency trades to their custodian banks for execution

via standing instructions, and in such cases as well as in the case of restricted emerging currencies, AB does not know the precise execution time of the foreign exchange trade and cannot influence the exchange rates applied to these trades.

Whenever our institutional client portfolios engage in foreign exchange transactions, or we are otherwise authorized by a client mandate to utilize certain types of derivative instruments, AB may use the services of an unaffiliated intermediary as an information depository for purposes of delivering to counterparties client information and constituent and other documentation as may be required by counterparties in connection with such foreign exchange or derivatives transactions.

J. REVIEW OF ACCOUNTS (ADV ITEM 13)

REGULAR ACCOUNT REVIEWS

AB regularly reviews and evaluates accounts for compliance with each client's investment objectives, policies and restrictions. We also periodically review portfolios for deviations from our target portfolio construction criteria for the service, including asset diversification and performance. For accounts handled through Bernstein Private Wealth Services, we review for adherence to the directed asset allocation and product mix. For SMA programs, AB reviews and evaluates model strategies to ensure compliance with the strategy's investment objectives, policies and restrictions.

As noted above, AB uses systems to assist with guideline compliance. Compliance personnel and others at the firm review the coding in our guideline compliance systems as appropriate. These compliance systems generate alerts to indicate potential guideline breaches on a daily basis. The alerts are reviewed and resolved by the Client Guideline Management group, the Portfolio Management Group and our compliance personnel. Our portfolio managers, compliance officers and legal counsel are involved in reviewing these alerts as needed.

In all cases, portfolios are reviewed when significant cash or securities are added to or withdrawn from the account or when AB is advised of a change in circumstances that warrants a change in management of the account. Other events that may trigger a review include asset allocation imbalances or significant model or investment strategy changes. Various tools and quality control reports are used to identify these triggers.

We also have several risk committees that provide independent oversight of investment management processes (although not necessarily of individual client portfolios). Committee functions include calibrating portfolio and functional risks, ensuring adherence to investment policies, reviewing portfolios against benchmarks, reviewing quantitative models, aggregating firm-wide holdings and reviewing performance dispersion among managers.

REPORTS TO CLIENTS

Depending on their preference, clients serviced through Institutional Services and/or Bernstein Private Wealth Services receive, on a monthly or quarterly basis, portfolio appraisal reports and summaries, purchase and sales reports, performance reviews and transaction summaries. Upon request, confirmations of each trade can be sent to clients or their custodian banks on a trade-by-trade, monthly, quarterly or semi-annual basis. Confirmations are in some instances sent through the automated system of the Depository Trust Company to a

client or its custodian bank after each execution of a transaction in the account. SMA clients receive reports from the program sponsor firms.

At the client's request, a cumulative monthly statement can also be provided that shows the commissions per share paid by the account on all transactions since the beginning of the calendar year. It also lists the names of the executing brokers and whether they were selected by AB or the client.

Pursuant to Section 11(a)(1)(H) of the Exchange Act and/or Prohibited Transaction Exemption 86-128 ("PTE 86-128") under ERISA, reports are furnished to clients regarding securities transactions with Bernstein LLC and pursuant to PTE 86-128 with respect to Bernstein. In addition, special reports may be developed which are tailored to meet specific client requirements. AB encourages frequent review with its clients, particularly early in the relationship. Formal performance reviews are generally held or offered on a quarterly basis.

We also respond to special requests of clients for ad hoc reports related to activity in their account including, for example, proxy voting.

K. CLIENT REFERRALS AND OTHER COMPENSATION (ADV ITEM 14)

SOLICITOR AGREEMENTS

Persons introducing new client accounts to AB (including Bernstein Private Wealth Services) may receive a portion of the advisory fee generated by the account for a period which varies on a case-by-case basis. In addition, we may compensate a solicitor for introducing a direct investor in an investment company or other pooled vehicle managed by AB. Such compensation amounts to a portion of the management fee that we earn from the investment company or pooled vehicle, in compliance with legal requirements. These fees are not paid by clients.

Employees of AXA Advisors, an affiliate of AXA Financial, who refer clients to our Bernstein Private Wealth Services, are paid a portion of our management fee under an existing solicitor arrangement. In 2013, AB entered into a solicitor arrangement with McMorgan & Co., under which the latter will be paid a portion of our management fee for successfully referring clients with Taft-Hartley retirement plans. Both arrangements comply with the relevant provisions of the Investment Advisers Act of 1940.

PAYMENTS TO VENDORS AND CONSULTANTS

AB purchases data, research, conference attendance and other services or products from vendors or institutional asset management consultants. On occasion, our Institutional Services unit purchases such services from institutional asset management consultants who conduct searches and recommend money managers to prospective clients. The sale of such products and services may be profitable to consultants, which may indirectly reduce the cost of the consulting services to prospective institutional clients. In order to mitigate potential conflicts for the consultants, we do not purchase such services and products unless we have determined in good faith that they provide AB with industry data and/or proper assistance in marketing our services and that the cost is reasonable in light of the data or services being provided.

AB's *Statement of Policy and Procedures Regarding Consultant Conflicts of Interest* addresses conflicts that can arise as a result of the

referral services consultants provide to separate account clients as well as in circumstances where consultants evaluate and recommend mutual funds for prospective client investments.

Listed below are the costs of the products and services that the Institutional Investment Management unit purchased from institutional asset management consultants in 2015:

Name of Consultant	Cost of 2016 Purchases
Callan Associates	\$59,000
Hymans Robertson LLP (UK)	\$432
Lonsec Research Pty Ltd (AU)	\$25,208
Mercer Investing Consulting	\$159,500
Mercer Ltd. (UK)	\$35,000
Morningstar (Australia)	\$9,503
Segal Rogers Casey	\$38,000

AB also purchases data and publications from firms that analyze or review the mutual funds we sponsor such as Lipper and Morningstar. In addition, AB may provide or sell aggregated trade data to vendors. Any trade data provided will be general, rather than client-specific.

EMPLOYEE REFERRALS

Our employees are eligible to earn an account referral bonus for referring a potential client to AB. Senior management determines whether an employee's involvement was significant enough to warrant this bonus. Certain employees may not be eligible for an Account Referral Bonus due to a conflict of interest or other reasons as determined by senior management. In particular, portfolio managers and research analysts are not eligible to receive payments based on solicitation efforts from companies they cover.

L. CUSTODY (ADV ITEM 15)

AllianceBernstein L.P. does not take actual custody of client assets. Rather, our client assets are custodied at trust banks and broker-dealers, including our affiliated broker-dealer, Bernstein LLC.

Our clients receive statements concerning their portfolios from both AB and their custodians. We encourage clients to compare the statements received from their custodians with the statements they receive from AB.

M. INVESTMENT DISCRETION (ADV ITEM 16)

INVESTMENT DISCRETION

AB provides both discretionary and non-discretionary investment advisory services. The vast majority of our clients grant discretion, which allows us to manage portfolios and make investment decisions without client consultation regarding the securities and other assets that are bought and sold for the account. In such accounts, we do not require client approval for the total amount of the securities and other assets to be bought and sold, the choice of executing brokers or the price and commission rates for such transactions.

All clients, with the exception of certain SMA clients, are required to enter into a written investment advisory agreement with us (or an affiliate) prior to the establishment of an advisory relationship.

In some instances, clients may seek to limit or restrict our discretionary authority by imposing investment guidelines or restrictions on their account. Please refer to Section A for a discussion of our approach to reviewing, accepting and managing accounts that impose investment guidelines or restrictions.

In non-discretionary relationships, we make periodic investment recommendations to clients about the securities that should be bought or sold and the total amount of such transactions. Clients may ask AB to place orders for the purchase or sale of the securities being recommended, either through executing brokers of our choice or according to the client's request. Orders placed by AB are aggregated with those discretionary clients in the same security, based on standard procedures.

We do not, however, delay trading for discretionary client orders while a non-discretionary client considers an investment recommendation. In addition, non-discretionary clients will not share in the allocation of those trades that were completed before they approved an order. In cases where the non-discretionary client places its own orders without our involvement, procedures are adopted to ensure it is fair to both the discretionary and non-discretionary clients.

LIMITATIONS ON OWNERSHIP AND TRADING OF SECURITIES FOR CLIENT ACCOUNTS

From time to time, we may invest on behalf of our clients in securities subject to various ownership limitations such as charter provisions, shareholder rights plans (commonly known as "poison pills") and regulatory restrictions on ownership. AB takes precautions to comply with any ownership limitations applicable to any specific security as failure to monitor such levels could lead to adverse regulatory action or dilution of client holdings. In addition, we have adopted procedures that restrict further purchases of equity securities when the aggregate holdings of all client accounts and the client accounts of its related persons reaches 16.5% of the shares outstanding (except in cases where a lower limit is required by law, regulation or specific issuer restrictions). When these limits are reached, we determine if there are any risk management or other concerns that preclude further purchases. If not, the security is re-opened for purchase.

Additional transactions in the securities of a publicly traded company may also be prevented by our business activities or those of a related party (such as AXA or entities under AXA's control). For example, if AB or a related party took a significant interest in a publicly traded company, we could be prevented from buying or selling that security for clients during periods in which such a transaction might otherwise be desirable.

From time to time, Bernstein LLC, our affiliated broker-dealer, may be involved in public offerings of equity securities. Accounts subject to the requirements of the Investment Company Act of 1940 may be subject to limitations in participation when Bernstein LLC is acting as an underwriter for the offering. Accounts subject to ERISA may be prohibited from participating when Bernstein LLC is receiving compensation as a manager or co-manager on an offering, and may be subject to limitations in participation in other situations.

CLAIMS ON BEHALF OF CLIENTS

Our investment discretion authority does not give AB power of attorney to initiate legal proceedings on behalf of the client accounts we manage. Accordingly, we do not initiate lawsuits or pursue litigation on behalf of our clients in the U.S. or internationally. This includes lawsuits for damage claims they may have with respect to securities transacted in their AB accounts. Further, AB does not make decisions on a client's behalf in legal proceedings or provide advice on whether to engage or participate in legal proceedings.

AB does not submit securities class action settlement claims or opt-in to class actions on behalf of all advisory clients. The service is available under specific terms to clients of Bernstein Private Wealth Services who custody assets at Bernstein LLC and to certain client accounts that also receive administration services from AB. These services are provided on a best efforts basis. However, AB will only file class action proof of claims for those clients when the information required to file has been provided within the past 10 years. Although AB maintains the vast majority of this information electronically, AB is not required to keep records for more than 10 years according to local regulations and customs.

Pursuant to our investment discretion, we file claims for bankruptcy trust proceeds on behalf of existing clients whose account holdings appear to create eligible claims. We identify these bankruptcy proceedings and file such claims based upon our reasonable best efforts. Clients who require higher levels of bankruptcy claim services are encouraged to obtain them from their account custodians or outside counsel.

N. VOTING CLIENT SECURITIES (ADV ITEM 17)

INTRODUCTION

As an investment adviser, we have a fiduciary duty to make investment decisions that are in our clients' best interests by maximizing the value of their shares. Proxy voting is an integral part of this process, through which we support strong corporate governance structures, shareholder rights, and transparency.

Our Proxy Voting and Governance Policy ("Proxy Voting and Governance Policy" or "Policy") outlines our policies for proxy voting and includes a wide range of issues that often appear on proxies. It applies to all of AB's investment management subsidiaries and investment services groups investing on behalf of clients globally. The Policy is intended for use by those involved in the proxy voting decision-making process and those responsible for the administration of proxy voting ("Proxy Managers"), in order to ensure that our proxy voting policies and procedures are implemented consistently. Copies of the Policy, our voting records, as noted below in "Voting Transparency", and other related documents can be found on our Internet site (www.AllianceBernstein.com).

We have an obligation to vote proxies in a timely manner and we apply the principles in this policy to our proxy decisions. We believe a company's environmental, social and governance ("ESG") practices may have a significant effect on the value of the company, and we take these factors into consideration when voting.

We sometimes manage accounts where proxy voting is directed by clients or newly-acquired subsidiary companies. In these cases, voting decisions may deviate from the Proxy Voting and Governance Policy.

RESEARCH UNDERPINS DECISION MAKING

As a research-driven firm, we approach our proxy voting responsibilities with the same commitment to rigorous research and engagement that we apply to all of our investment activities. The different investment philosophies utilized by our investment teams may occasionally result in different conclusions being drawn regarding certain proposals and, in turn, may result in the Proxy Manager making different voting decisions on the same proposal. Nevertheless, the Proxy Manager votes proxies with the goal of maximizing the value of the securities in client portfolios.

In addition to our firm-wide proxy voting policies, we have a Proxy Voting and Governance Committee ("Proxy Voting and Governance Committee" or "Committee"), which provides oversight and includes senior investment professionals from Equities, Legal personnel and Operations personnel. It is the responsibility of the Committee to evaluate and maintain proxy voting procedures and guidelines, to evaluate proposals and issues not covered by these guidelines, to consider changes in policy, and to review this Policy no less frequently than annually. In addition, the Committee meets at least three times annually and as necessary to address special situations.

ENGAGEMENT

In evaluating proxy issues and determining our votes, we welcome and seek out the points of view of various parties. Internally, the Proxy Manager may consult the Proxy Voting and Governance Committee, Chief Investment Officers, and/or Research Analysts across our equities platforms, and Portfolio Managers in whose managed accounts a stock is held. Externally, we may engage with companies in advance of their Annual General Meeting, and throughout the year. We believe engagement provides the opportunity to share our philosophy, our corporate governance values, and more importantly, affect positive change. Also, these meetings often are joint efforts between the investment professionals, who are best positioned to comment on company-specific details, and the Proxy Manager(s), who offer a more holistic view of governance practices and relevant trends. In addition, we engage with shareholder proposal proponents and other stakeholders to understand different viewpoints and objectives.

PROXY VOTING GUIDELINES

Our proxy voting guidelines are both principles-based and rules-based. We adhere to a core set of principles that are described in the Policy. We assess each proxy proposal in light of these principles. Our proxy voting "litmus test" is what we view as most likely to maximize long-term shareholder value. We believe that authority and accountability for setting and executing corporate policies, goals and compensation generally should rest with the board of directors and senior management. In return, we support strong investor rights that allow shareholders to hold directors and management accountable if they fail to act in the best interests of shareholders.

Our proxy voting guidelines pertaining to specific issues are set forth in the Policy and include guidelines relating to board and director proposals, compensation proposals, capital changes and anti-takeover proposals, auditor proposals, shareholder rights and governance proposals, and environmental, social and disclosure proposals. We generally vote proposals in accordance with these guidelines but, consistent with our "principles-based" approach to proxy voting, we may deviate from the guidelines if warranted by the specific facts

and circumstances of the situation (i.e., if, under the circumstances, we believe that deviating from our stated policy is necessary to help maximize long-term shareholder value). In situations where our policy is case-by-case, the Policy often provides criteria that will guide our decision. In situations where our policy on a particular issue is case-by-case and the vote cannot be clearly decided by an application of our stated policy, a member of the Committee or his/her designee will make the voting decision in accordance with the basic principle of our policy to vote proxies with the intention of maximizing the value of the securities in our client accounts. Where appropriate, the views of investment professionals are considered. In addition, these guidelines are not intended to address all issues that may appear on all proxy ballots. Proposals not specifically addressed by these guidelines, whether submitted by management or shareholders, will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis, always keeping in mind our fiduciary duty to make voting decisions that, by maximizing long-term shareholder value, are in our clients' best interests. Lastly, we may choose to abstain on certain case-by-case items involving strategic decisions for positions held in purely passive portfolios as the cost of making an affirmative decision (time, resources, etc.) outweighs the effect of such an election on the value of the investment.

CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

We recognize that there may be a potential material conflict of interest when we vote a proxy solicited by an issuer whose retirement plan we manage, or we administer, who distributes AB-sponsored mutual funds, or with whom we or an employee has another business or personal relationship that may affect how we vote on the issuer's proxy. Similarly, we may have a potential material conflict of interest when deciding how to vote on a proposal sponsored or supported by a shareholder group that is a client. In order to avoid any perceived or actual conflict of interest, we have established procedures for use when we encounter a potential conflict to ensure that our voting decisions are based on our clients' best interests and are not the product of a conflict. These procedures include compiling a list of companies and organizations whose proxies may pose potential conflicts of interest (e.g., if such company is our client) and reviewing our proposed votes for these companies and organizations in light of the Policy and ISS's recommendations. If our proposed vote is contrary to, or not contemplated in, the Policy, is consistent with a client's position and is contrary to ISS's recommendation, we refer the proposed vote to our Independent Compliance Officer for his determination.

In addition, the Committee takes reasonable steps to verify that ISS continues to be independent, including an annual review of ISS's conflict management procedures. When reviewing these conflict management procedures, we consider, among other things, whether ISS (i) has the capacity and competency to adequately analyze proxy issues; and (ii) can offer research in an impartial manner and in the best interests of our clients.

RESEARCH SERVICES

We subscribe to the corporate governance and proxy research services of Institutional Shareholder Services ("ISS"). All our investment professionals can access these materials via the Proxy Manager and/or the Committee.

CONFIDENTIAL VOTING

AB supports confidentiality before the actual vote has been cast. Employees are prohibited from revealing how we intend to vote except to (i) members of the Committee; (ii) Portfolio Managers who hold the security in their managed accounts; (iii) the Research Analyst(s) who cover(s) the security; (iv) clients, upon request, for the securities held in their portfolios; and (v) clients who do not hold the security or for whom AB does not have proxy voting authority, but who provide AB with a signed Non-Disclosure Agreement.

VOTING TRANSPARENCY

We publish our voting records on our Internet site (www.AllianceBernstein.com) quarterly, 30 days after the end of the previous quarter. Many clients have requested that we provide them with periodic reports on how we voted their proxies. Clients may obtain information about how we voted proxies on their behalf by contacting their Advisor. Alternatively, clients may make a written request to the Chief Compliance Officer.

RECORDKEEPING

All of the records referenced in our Policy are kept in an easily accessible place for at least the length of time required by local regulation and custom, and, if such local regulation requires that records are kept for less than five years from the end of the fiscal year during which the last entry was made on such record, we follow the U.S. rule of five years. We maintain the vast majority of these records electronically. We keep paper records, if any, in one of our offices for at least two years.

LOANED SECURITIES

Many of our clients have entered into securities lending arrangements with agent lenders to generate additional revenue. We will not be able to vote securities that are on loan under these types of arrangements. However, under rare circumstances, for voting issues that may have a significant impact on the investment, we may request that clients or custodians recall securities that are on loan if we determine that the benefit of voting outweighs the costs and lost revenue to the client or fund and the administrative burden of retrieving the securities.

FURTHER INFORMATION AVAILABLE

Clients may obtain a copy of our Proxy Voting and Governance Policy and information about how we voted with respect to their securities by writing to:

AllianceBernstein L.P.

Attn: Chief Compliance Officer
1345 Avenue of the Americas
New York, NY 10105

O. FINANCIAL INFORMATION (ADV ITEM 18)

Audited financial statements of AllianceBernstein L.P. and AllianceBernstein Holding L.P. are publicly disclosed annually in connection with the SEC Form 10-K filings by each of those entities.

The Form 10-Ks filed by each entity for the year ended December 31, 2016 are available through our public website at the following address:

http://www.AllianceBernstein.com/abcom/Our_Firm/Investor_Media/reports/reports.htm

We are not presently aware of any financial condition that is reasonably likely to impair our ability to meet contractual commitments to our clients.

P. APPENDIX A—FEE SCHEDULES

ACTIVE US EQUITY MANAGEMENT

US Strategic Value

- + 0.900% on the first \$15 million
- + 0.500% on the next \$35 million
- + 0.400% on the balance

Minimum Account Size: \$50 million

US Diversified Value

- + 0.650% on the first \$25 million
- + 0.500% on the next \$25 million
- + 0.400% on the next \$50 million
- + 0.300% on the next \$100 million
- + 0.250% on the balance

Minimum Account Size: \$50 million

US Growth & Income

- + 0.650% on the first \$25 million
- + 0.500% on the next \$25 million
- + 0.400% on the next \$50 million
- + 0.300% on the next \$100 million
- + 0.250% on the balance

Minimum Account Size: \$50 million

US Small & Mid Cap Value

- + 0.950% on the first \$25 million
- + 0.750% on the next \$25 million
- + 0.650% on the next \$50 million
- + 0.550% on the balance

Minimum Account Size: \$25 million

US Small Cap Value

- + 1.000% on the first \$25 million
- + 0.900% on the next \$25 million
- + 0.750% on the balance

Minimum Account Size: \$25 million

US Large Cap Growth

- + 0.800% on the first \$25 million
- + 0.500% on the next \$25 million
- + 0.400% on the next \$50 million
- + 0.300% on the next \$100 million
- + 0.250% on the balance

Minimum Account Size: \$50 million

Concentrated US Growth

- + 0.800% on the first \$50 million
- + 0.700% on the next \$50 million
- + 0.600% on the balance

Minimum Account Size: \$50 million

US Thematic Research

- + 0.800% on the first \$25 million
- + 0.500% on the next \$25 million
- + 0.400% on the next \$50 million
- + 0.300% on the next \$100 million
- + 0.250% on the balance

Minimum Account Size: \$50 million

US Small & Mid Cap Growth

- + 0.950% on the first \$25 million
- + 0.750% on the next \$25 million
- + 0.650% on the next \$50 million
- + 0.550% on the balance

Minimum Account Size: \$25 million

US Small Cap Growth

- + 1.000% on the first \$50 million
- + 0.850% on the next \$50 million
- + 0.750% on the balance

Minimum Account Size: \$25 million

US Strategic Core Equity

- + 0.450% on the first \$25 million
- + 0.400% on the next \$25 million
- + 0.350% on the next \$50 million
- + 0.300% on the next \$100 million
- + 0.250% on the balance

OR

- + 0.100% plus 20% beta-adjusted net excess return

Minimum Account Size: \$50 million

US Core Opportunities

- + 0.800% on the first \$25 million
- + 0.500% on the next \$25 million
- + 0.400% on the next \$50 million
- + 0.300% on the next \$100 million
- + 0.250% on the balance

Minimum Account Size: \$50 million

Select US Equity

- + 1.000% on the first \$25 million
- + 0.800% on the next \$25 million
- + 0.700% on the balance

Minimum Account Size: \$200 million

Select US Equity Long/Short

- + 1.000% plus 20% of net excess return

Minimum Account Size: \$100 million

US Small & Mid Cap Style Blend

- + 0.950% on the first \$25 million
- + 0.750% on the next \$25 million
- + 0.650% on the next \$50 million
- + 0.600% on the next \$100 million
- + 0.550% on the balance

Minimum Account Size: \$25 million

US Equity Income

- + 0.65% on the first \$25 million
- + 0.50% on the next \$25 million
- + 0.40% on the next \$50 million
- + 0.30% on the next \$100 million
- + 0.25% on the balance

Minimum Account Size: \$50 million

US Growth

- + 0.80% on the first \$25 million
- + 0.50% on the next \$25 million
- + 0.40% on the next \$50 million
- + 0.30% on the next \$100 million
- + 0.25% on the balance

Minimum Account Size: \$50 million

ACTIVE GLOBAL/INTERNATIONAL EQUITY MANAGEMENT

Global/International Strategic Value

- + 0.900% on the first \$25 million
- + 0.700% on the next \$25 million
- + 0.600% on the next \$50 million
- + 0.500% on the balance

Minimum Account Size: \$50 million

Global/International Value

- + 0.800% on the first \$25 million
- + 0.600% on the next \$25 million
- + 0.500% on the next \$50 million
- + 0.400% on the balance

Minimum Account Size: \$50 million

Concentrated Global/International Growth

- + 0.900% on the first \$50 million
- + 0.750% on the next \$50 million
- + 0.650% on the balance

Minimum Account Size: \$50 million

Global Thematic/Sustainable Thematic Research

- + 0.800% on the first \$25 million
- + 0.600% on the next \$25 million
- + 0.500% on the next \$50 million
- + 0.400% on the balance

Minimum Account Size: \$50 million

International Discovery

- + 1.000% on the first \$25 million
- + 0.850% on the next \$25 million
- + 0.750% on the next \$50 million
- + 0.650% on the balance

Minimum Account Size: \$25 million

Global Core Equity

- + 0.800% on the first \$25 million
- + 0.600% on the next \$50 million
- + 0.500% on the balance

Minimum Account Size: \$50 million

Global/International Strategic Core

- + 0.550% on the first \$25 million
- + 0.500% on the next \$25 million
- + 0.450% on the next \$50 million
- + 0.350% upon the balance

OR

- + 0.150% plus 20% beta-adjusted net excess return

Minimum Account Size: \$50 million

Global/International Style Blend

- + 0.800% on the first \$25 million
- + 0.650% on the next \$25 million
- + 0.550% on the next \$50 million
- + 0.450% on the next \$100 million
- + 0.400% on the balance

Minimum Account Size: \$50 million

European Opportunities

- + 0.750% on the first \$25 million
- + 0.600% on the next \$25 million
- + 0.500% on the next \$50 million
- + 0.475% on the next \$100 million
- + 0.450% on the balance

Minimum Account Size: \$50 million

Regional Developed Equity

- + 0.600% on the first \$25 million
- + 0.450% on the next \$25 million
- + 0.350% on the next \$50 million
- + 0.300% on the next \$100 million
- + 0.250% on the balance

Minimum Account Size: \$50 million

Regional Developed Strategic/Concentrated Equity

- + 0.650% on the first \$25 million
- + 0.500% on the next \$25 million
- + 0.400% on the next \$50 million
- + 0.375% on the next \$100 million
- + 0.350% on the balance

Minimum Account Size: \$50 million

Emerging Markets Value

- + 1.150% on the first \$25 million
- + 0.950% on the next \$25 million
- + 0.850% on the balance

Minimum Account Size: \$25 million

Emerging Markets Growth

- + 1.000% on the first \$25 million
- + 0.900% on the next \$25 million
- + 0.750% on the balance

Minimum Account Size: \$25 million

Emerging Markets Strategic Core

- + 1.000% on the first \$25 million
- + 0.900% on the next \$25 million
- + 0.800% on the balance

OR

- + 0.200% plus 20% beta-adjusted net excess return

Minimum Account Size: \$25 million

Emerging Consumer

- + 1.000% on the first \$25 million
- + 0.900% on the next \$25 million
- + 0.800% on the balance

Minimum Account Size: \$25 million

Asia ex Japan Value

- + 0.950% on the first \$25 million
- + 0.850% on the next \$25 million
- + 0.800% on the next \$50 million
- + 0.700% on the balance

Minimum Account Size: \$25 million

Asia Pacific ex Japan Value

- + 0.80% on the first \$25 million
- + 0.70% on the next \$25 million
- + 0.65% on the next \$50 million
- + 0.55% on the balance

Minimum Account Size: \$25 million

Global Diversified Value

- + 0.70% on the first \$25 million
- + 0.55% on the next \$25 million
- + 0.45% on the next \$50 million
- + 0.35% on the balance

Minimum Account Size: \$50 million

Emerging Markets Style Blend

- + 1.00% on the first \$25 million
- + 0.80% on the balance

Minimum Account Size: \$25 million

Global Research Insights

- + 1.00% on the first \$50 million
- + 0.80% on the next \$50 million
- + 0.70% on the balance

Minimum Account Size: \$50 million

ACTIVE US FIXED INCOME MANAGEMENT**US Core/Mortgage**

- + 0.450% on the first \$30 million
- + 0.180% on the balance

Minimum Account Size: \$100 million

US Strategic Core Plus

- + 0.500% on the first \$30 million
- + 0.200% on the balance

Minimum Account Size: \$100 million

US High Yield

- + 0.550% on the first \$50 million
- + 0.350% on the balance

Minimum Account Size: \$100 million

Insurance—Core

- + 0.300% on the first \$20 million
- + 0.200% on the next \$80 million
- + 0.150% on the next \$100 million
- + 0.120% on the next \$100 million
- + 0.100% on the balance

Minimum Account Size: \$100 million

US Government Short Duration

- + 0.300% on the first \$20 million
- + 0.200% on the next \$80 million
- + 0.150% on the next \$150 million
- + 0.125% on the next \$250 million
- + 0.100% on the balance

Minimum Account Size: \$25 million

US Investment Grade Corporates

- + 0.500% on the first \$30 million
- + 0.200% on the balance

Minimum Account Size: \$100 million

Insurance—Core Total Return

- + 0.450% on the first \$30 million
- + 0.180% on the balance

Minimum Account Size: \$100 million

Insurance- Private Placements

- + 0.250% on the first \$200 million
- + 0.230% on the next \$800 million
- + 0.200% on the balance

Minimum Account Size: \$100 million

Money Market

- + 0.100% on the balance

Minimum Account Size: \$100 million

ACTIVE GLOBAL/INTERNATIONAL FIXED INCOME MANAGEMENT**Emerging Market Debt/Emerging Corporate Debt**

- + 0.55% on the first \$50 million
- + 0.35% on the balance

Minimum Account Size: \$100 million

Global Fixed Income/Global Ex-US Fixed Income

- + 0.450% on the first \$30 million
- + 0.230% on the balance

Minimum Account Size: \$100 million

Global Plus/Global Credit Fixed Income

- + 0.500% on the first \$30 million
- + 0.250% on the balance

Minimum Account Size: \$100 million

Global High Yield/Global High Income

- + 0.550% on the first \$50 million
- + 0.350% on the balance

Minimum Account Size: \$100 million

Low Volatility High Yield

- + 0.550% on the first \$50 million
- + 0.350% on the balance

Minimum Account Size: \$100 million

Diversified Yield/Plus

- + 0.400% on the first \$50 million
- + 0.250% on the balance

Minimum Account Size: \$100 million

Global Short Duration

- + 0.300% on the first \$20 million
- + 0.200% on the next \$80 million
- + 0.150% on the next \$150 million
- + 0.125% on the next \$250 million
- + 0.100% on the balance

Minimum Account Size: \$100 million

Canada Core Plus/Advanced/Long Duration

- + 0.500% on the first CAD \$40 million
- + 0.200% on the balance

Minimum Account Size: CAD \$140 million

PASSIVE MANAGEMENT**S&P 500**

- + 0.040% on the first \$300 million
- + 0.030% on the first \$200 million
- + 0.020% on the balance

Minimum Account Size: \$50 million

International/Global Equity Index

- + 0.070% on the first \$300 million
- + 0.050% on the next \$200 million
- + 0.030% on the balance

Minimum Account Size: \$50 million

US Bond Index

- + 0.120% on the first \$50 million
- + 0.100% on the next \$50 million
- + 0.080% on the balance

Minimum Account Size: \$20 million

MULTI-ASSET, STRUCTURED AND ENHANCED INDEX MANAGEMENT**Emerging Markets Multi Asset**

- + 0.850% on the first \$25 million
- + 0.800% on the next \$25 million
- + 0.750% on the balance

Minimum Account Size: \$50 million

Real Asset Strategy

- + 0.750% on the first \$150 million
- + 0.600% on the next \$150 million
- 0.500% on the balance

Minimum Account Size: \$150 million

Dynamic All Market

- + 0.600% on the first \$500 million
- + 0.500% on the balance

Minimum Account Size: \$250 million

Factor Long Only

- + 0.500% on the first \$50 million
- + 0.400% on the next \$50 million
- + 0.300% on the next \$50 million
- + 0.250% on the next \$100 million
- + 0.200% on the balance

Minimum Account Size: \$50 million

Customized Retirement Strategies

- + 0.120% on the first \$100 million
- + 0.090% on the next \$400 million
- + 0.070% on the next \$500 million
- + 0.040% on the next \$1500 million
- + 0.020% on the balance

Minimum Account Size: \$100 million

Q. APPENDIX B—SUMMARY OF MATERIAL CHANGES FOR 2016 (ADV ITEM 2)

On March 31, 2017, AllianceBernstein L.P. and the related investment advisers identified on the cover page ("AB") filed the annual update of their Form ADV Part 2A brochure with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission ("SEC"). Material changes to AB's Part 2A since the last annual update on March 31, 2017 are as follows:

Our section on "Services We Receive from Brokers" was amended to include AB's decision to absorb the cost of research for investment services or strategies managed in the European Union in compliance with local regulations (See Section I—Brokerage Practices)

The summary of risks section was amended to disclose additional risks related to Participatory Notes. (Section E—Methods of Analysis, Strategies and Risk of Loss)

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February 2017

PROXY VOTING AND GOVERNANCE POLICY

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- + Proxy Voting and Governance Committee Members
- + Proxy Voting Guideline Summary
- + Proxy Voting Conflict of Interest Form
- + Statement of Policy Regarding Responsible Investment

1. INTRODUCTION

As an investment adviser, we are shareholder advocates and have a fiduciary duty to make investment decisions that are in our clients' best interests by maximizing the value of their shares. Proxy voting is an integral part of this process, through which we support strong corporate governance structures, shareholder rights, and transparency.

We have an obligation to vote proxies in a timely manner and we apply the principles in this policy to our proxy decisions. We believe a company's environmental, social and governance ("**ESG**") practices may have a significant effect on the value of the company, and we take these factors into consideration when voting. For additional information regarding our ESG policies and practices, please refer to our firm's Statement of Policy Regarding Responsible Investment ("**RI Policy**").

This Proxy Voting and Governance Policy ("**Proxy Voting and Governance Policy**" or "**Policy**"), which outlines our policies for proxy voting and includes a wide range of issues that often appear on proxies, applies to all of AB's investment management subsidiaries and investment services groups investing on behalf of clients globally. It is intended for use by those involved in the proxy voting decision-making process and those responsible for the administration of proxy voting ("**Proxy Managers**"), in order to ensure that our proxy voting policies and procedures are implemented consistently.

We sometimes manage accounts where proxy voting is directed by clients or newly-acquired subsidiary companies. In these cases, voting decisions may deviate from this Policy.

2. RESEARCH UNDERPINS DECISION MAKING

As a research-driven firm, we approach our proxy voting responsibilities with the same commitment to rigorous research and engagement that we apply to all of our investment activities. The different investment philosophies utilized by our investment teams may occasionally result in different conclusions being drawn regarding certain proposals and, in turn, may result in the Proxy Manager making different voting decisions on the same proposal. Nevertheless, the Proxy Manager votes proxies with the goal of maximizing the value of the securities in client portfolios.

In addition to our firm-wide proxy voting policies, we have a Proxy Voting and Governance Committee ("**Proxy Voting and Governance Committee**" or "**Committee**"), which provides oversight and includes senior investment professionals from Equities, Legal personnel and Operations personnel. It is the responsibility of the Committee to evaluate and maintain proxy voting procedures and guidelines, to evaluate proposals and issues not covered by these guidelines, to consider changes in policy, and to review the Policy no less frequently than annually. In addition, the Committee meets at least three times a year and as necessary to address special situations.

RESEARCH SERVICES

We subscribe to the corporate governance and proxy research services of Institutional Shareholder Services Inc. ("**ISS**"). All our investment professionals can access these materials via the Proxy Manager and/or the Committee.

ENGAGEMENT

In evaluating proxy issues and determining our votes, we welcome and seek out the points of view of various parties. Internally, the Proxy Manager may consult the Committee, Chief Investment Officers, Portfolio Managers, and/or Research Analysts across our equities platforms, and Portfolio Managers in who's managed accounts a stock is held. Externally, we may engage with companies in advance of their Annual General Meeting, and throughout the year. We believe engagement provides the opportunity to share our philosophy, our corporate governance values, and more importantly, affect positive change. Also, these meetings often are joint efforts between the investment professionals, who are best positioned to comment on company-specific details, and the Proxy Manager(s), who offer a more holistic view of governance practices and relevant trends. In addition, we engage with shareholder proposal proponents and other stakeholders to understand different viewpoints and objectives.

3. PROXY VOTING GUIDELINES

Our proxy voting guidelines are both principles-based and rules-based. We adhere to a core set of principles that are described in this Policy. We assess each proxy proposal in light of these principles. Our proxy voting "litmus test" will always be what we view as most likely to maximize long-term shareholder value. We believe that authority and accountability for setting and executing corporate policies, goals and compensation generally should rest with the board of directors and senior management. In return, we support strong investor rights that allow shareholders to hold directors and management accountable if they fail to act in the best interests of shareholders.

With this as a backdrop, our proxy voting guidelines pertaining to specific issues are set forth below. We generally vote proposals in accordance with these guidelines but, consistent with our “principles-based” approach to proxy voting, we may deviate from the guidelines if warranted by the specific facts and circumstances of the situation (i.e., if, under the circumstances, we believe that deviating from our stated policy is necessary to help maximize long-term shareholder value). In addition, these guidelines are not intended to address all issues that may appear on all proxy ballots. We will evaluate on a case-by-case basis any proposal not specifically addressed by these guidelines, whether submitted by management or shareholders, always keeping in mind our fiduciary duty to make voting decisions that, by maximizing long-term shareholder value, are in our clients’ best interests.

3.1 BOARD AND DIRECTOR PROPOSALS

1. Board Diversity (SHP)

CASE-BY-CASE

Board diversity is increasingly an important topic. In a number of European countries, legislation requires a quota of female directors. Other European countries have a comply-or-explain policy. We believe boards should develop, as a part of their refreshment and refreshment process, a framework for identifying diverse candidates. We believe diversity is broader than gender and should also take into consideration factors such as business experience, background, ethnicity, tenure and nationality. We evaluate these proposals on a case-by-case basis while examining a board’s current diversity profile and approach, and if there are other general governance concerns.

2. Establish New Board Committees and Elect Board Members with Specific Expertise (SHP) CASE-BY-CASE

We believe that establishing committees should be the prerogative of a well-functioning board of directors. However, we may support shareholder proposals to establish additional board committees to address specific shareholder issues, including ESG issues. We consider on a case-by-case basis proposals that require the addition of a board member with a specific area of expertise.

3. Changes in Board Structure and Amending the Articles of Incorporation

FOR

Companies may propose various provisions with respect to the structure of the board of directors, including changing the manner in which board vacancies are filled, directors are nominated and the number of directors. Such proposals may require amending the charter or by-laws or may otherwise require shareholder approval. When these proposals are not controversial or meant as an anti-takeover device, which is generally the case, we vote in their favor. However, if we believe a proposal is intended as an anti-takeover device and diminishes shareholder rights, we generally vote against.

We may vote against directors for amending by-laws without seeking shareholder approval and/or restricting or diminishing shareholder rights.

4. Classified Boards

AGAINST

A classified board typically is divided into three separate classes. Each class holds office for a term of two or three years. Only a portion of the board can be elected or replaced each year. Because this type of proposal has fundamental anti-takeover implications, we generally oppose the adoption of classified boards unless there is a justifiable financial reason or an adequate sunset provision exists. However, where a classified board already exists, we will not oppose directors who sit on such boards for that reason. We may also vote against directors that fail to implement shareholder approved proposals to declassify boards that we previously supported.

5. Director Liability and Indemnification

CASE-BY-CASE

Some companies argue that increased indemnification and decreased liability for directors are important to ensure the continued availability of competent directors. However, others argue that the risk of such personal liability minimizes the propensity for corruption and recklessness.

We generally support indemnification provisions that are consistent with the local jurisdiction in which the company has been formed. We vote in favor of proposals adopting indemnification for directors with respect to acts conducted in the normal course of business. We also vote in favor of proposals that expand coverage for directors and officers where, despite an unsuccessful legal defense, we believe the director or officer acted in good faith and in the best interests of the company. We oppose indemnification for gross negligence.

6. Disclose CEO Succession Plan (SHP)

FOR

Proposals like these are often suggested by shareholders of companies with long-tenured CEOs and/or high employee turnover rates. Even though some markets might not require the disclosure of a CEO succession plan, we do think it is good business practice and will support these proposals.

7. Election of Directors

FOR

The election of directors is an important vote. We expect directors to represent shareholder interests at the company and maximize shareholder value. We generally vote in favor of the management-proposed slate of directors while considering a number of factors, including local market best practice. We believe companies should have a majority of independent directors and independent key committees. However, we will incorporate local market regulation and corporate governance codes into our decision making. We may support more progressive requirements than those implemented in a local market if we believe more progressive requirements may improve corporate governance practices. We will generally regard a director as independent if the director satisfies the criteria for independence (i) espoused by the primary exchange on which the company's shares are traded, or (ii) set forth in the code we determine to be best practice in the country where the subject company is domiciled and may take into account affiliations, related-party transactions and prior service to the company. We consider the election of directors who are "bundled" on a single slate to be a poor governance practice and vote on a case-by-case basis considering the amount of information available and an assessment of the group's qualifications.

In addition:

- + We believe that directors have a duty to respond to shareholder actions that have received significant shareholder support. We may vote against directors (or withhold votes for directors if plurality voting applies) who fail to act on key issues. We oppose directors who fail to attend at least 75% of board meetings within a given year without a reasonable excuse.
- + We may consider the number of boards on which a director sits and/or their length of service on a particular board.
- + We may abstain or vote against (depending on a company's history of disclosure in this regard) directors of issuers where there is insufficient information about the nominees disclosed in the proxy statement.
- + We may vote against directors for poor compensation, audit or governance practices including the lack of a formal key committee.
- + We may vote against directors for unilateral bylaw amendments that diminish shareholder rights.

We also may consider engaging company management (by phone, in writing and in person), until any issues have been satisfactorily resolved.

a. Controlled Company Exemption

CASE-BY-CASE

In certain markets, a different standard for director independence may be applicable for controlled companies, which are companies where more than 50% of the voting power is held by an individual, group or another company, or as otherwise defined by local market standards. We may take these local standards into consideration when determining the appropriate level of independence required for the board and key committees.

Exchanges in certain jurisdictions do not have a controlled company exemption (or something similar). In such a jurisdiction, if a company has a majority shareholder or group of related majority shareholders with a majority economic interest, we generally will not oppose that company's directors simply because the board does not include a majority of independent members, although we may take local standards into consideration when determining the appropriate level of independence required for the board and key committees. We will, however, consider these directors in a negative light if the company has a history of violating the rights of minority shareholders.

b. Voting for Director Nominees in a Contested Election

CASE-BY-CASE

Votes in a contested election of directors are evaluated on a case-by-case basis with the goal of maximizing shareholder value.

8. Independent Lead Director (SHP)

FOR

We support shareholder proposals that request a company to amend its by-laws to establish an independent lead director, if the position of chairman is non-independent. We view the existence of a strong independent lead director, whose role is robust and includes clearly defined duties and responsibilities, such as the authority to call meetings and approve

agendas, as a good example of the sufficient counter-balancing governance. If a company has such an independent lead director in place, we will generally oppose a proposal to require an independent board chairman, barring any additional board leadership concerns.

9. Limit Term of Directorship (SHP)

CASE-BY-CASE

These proposals seek to limit the term during which a director may serve on a board to a set number of years.

Accounting for local market practice, we generally consider a number of factors, such as overall level of board independence, director qualifications, tenure, board diversity and board effectiveness in representing our interests as shareholders, in assessing whether limiting directorship terms is in shareholders' best interests. Accordingly, we evaluate these items case-by-case.

10. Majority of Independent¹ Directors (SHP)

FOR

Each company's board of directors has a duty to act in the best interest of the company's shareholders at all times. We believe that these interests are best served by having directors who bring objectivity to the company and are free from potential conflicts of interests. Accordingly, we support proposals seeking a majority of independent directors on the board while taking into consideration local market regulation and corporate governance codes.

11. Majority of Independent Directors on Key Committees (SHP)

FOR

In order to ensure that those who evaluate management's performance, recruit directors and set management's compensation are free from conflicts of interests, we believe that the audit², nominating/governance, and compensation committees should be composed of a majority of independent directors while taking into consideration local market regulation, corporate governance codes, and controlled company status.

12. Majority Votes for Directors (SHP)

FOR

We believe that good corporate governance requires shareholders to have a meaningful voice in the affairs of the company. This objective is strengthened if directors are elected by a majority of votes cast at an annual meeting rather than by the plurality method commonly used. With plurality voting a director could be elected by a single affirmative vote even if the rest of the votes were withheld.

We further believe that majority voting provisions will lead to greater director accountability. Therefore, we support shareholder proposals that companies amend their by-laws to provide that director nominees be elected by an affirmative vote of a majority of the votes cast, provided the proposal includes a carve-out to provide for plurality voting in contested elections where the number of nominees exceeds the number of directors to be elected.

13. Removal of Directors Without Cause (SHP)

FOR

Company by-laws sometimes define cause very narrowly, including only conditions of criminal indictment, final adverse adjudication that fiduciary duties were breached or incapacitation, while also providing shareholders with the right to remove directors only upon "cause".

We believe that the circumstances under which shareholders have the right to remove directors should not be limited to those traditionally defined by companies as "cause". We also believe that shareholders should have the right to conduct a vote to remove directors who fail to perform in a manner consistent with their fiduciary duties or representative of shareholders' best interests. And, while we would prefer shareholder proposals that seek to broaden the definition of "cause" to include situations like these, we generally support proposals that would provide shareholders with the right to remove directors without cause.

14. Require Independent Board Chairman (SHP)

CASE-BY-CASE

We believe there can be benefits to an executive chairman and to having the positions of chairman and CEO combined as well as split. When the chair is non-independent the company must have sufficient counter-balancing governance in place, generally through a strong independent lead director. Also, for companies with smaller market capitalizations, separate chairman and CEO positions may not be practical.

¹ For purposes of this Policy, generally, we will consider a director independent if the director satisfies the independence definition set forth in the listing standards of the exchange on which the common stock is listed. However, we may deem local independence classification criteria insufficient.

² Pursuant to the SEC rules, adopted pursuant to the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002, as of October 31, 2004, each U.S. listed issuer must have a fully independent audit committee.

3.2 COMPENSATION PROPOSALS

15. Pro Rata Vesting of Equity Compensation Awards-Change in Control (SHP) CASE-BY-CASE

We examine proposals on the treatment of equity awards in the event of a change in control on a case-by-case basis. If a change in control is accompanied by termination of employment, often referred to as a double-trigger, we generally support accelerated vesting of equity awards. If, however, there is no termination agreement in connection with a change in control, often referred to as a single-trigger, we generally prefer pro rata vesting of outstanding equity awards.

16. Adopt Policies to Prohibit any Death Benefits to Senior Executives (SHP) AGAINST

We view these bundled proposals as too restrictive and conclude that blanket restrictions on any and all such benefits, including the payment of life insurance premiums for senior executives, could put a company at a competitive disadvantage.

17. Advisory Vote to Ratify Directors' Compensation (SHP) FOR

Similar to advisory votes on executive compensation, shareholders may request a non-binding advisory vote to approve compensation given to board members. We generally support this item.

18. Amend Executive Compensation Plan Tied to Performance (Bonus Banking) (SHP) AGAINST

These proposals seek to force a company to amend executive compensation plans such that compensation awards tied to performance are deferred for shareholder specified and extended periods of time. As a result, awards may be adjusted downward if performance goals achieved during the vesting period are not sustained during the added deferral period.

We believe that most companies have adequate vesting schedules and clawbacks in place. Under such circumstances, we will oppose these proposals. However, if a company does not have what we believe to be adequate vesting and/or clawback requirements, we decide these proposals on a case-by-case basis.

19. Approve Remuneration for Directors and Auditors CASE-BY-CASE

We will vote on a case-by-case basis where we are asked to approve remuneration for directors or auditors. We will generally oppose performance-based remuneration for non-executive directors as this may compromise independent oversight. However, where disclosure relating to the details of such remuneration is inadequate or provided without sufficient time for us to consider our vote, we may abstain or vote against, depending on the adequacy of the company's prior disclosures in this regard and the local market practice.

20. Approve Retirement Bonuses for Directors (Japan and South Korea) CASE-BY-CASE

Retirement bonuses are customary in Japan and South Korea. Companies seek approval to give the board authority to grant retirement bonuses for directors and/or auditors and to leave the exact amount of bonuses to the board's discretion. We will analyze such proposals on a case-by-case basis, considering management's commitment to maximizing long-term shareholder value. However, when the details of the retirement bonus are inadequate or undisclosed, we may abstain or vote against.

21. Approve Special Payments to Continuing Directors and Auditors (Japan) CASE-BY-CASE

In conjunction with the abolition of a company's retirement allowance system, we will generally support special payment allowances for continuing directors and auditors if there is no evidence of their independence becoming impaired. However, when the details of the special payments are inadequate or undisclosed, we may abstain or vote against.

22. Disclose Executive and Director Pay (SHP) CASE-BY-CASE

The United States Securities and Exchange Commissions ("SEC") has adopted rules requiring increased and/or enhanced compensation-related and corporate governance-related disclosure in proxy statements and Forms 10-K. Similar steps have been taken by regulators in foreign jurisdictions. We believe the rules enacted by the SEC and various foreign regulators generally ensure more complete and transparent disclosure. Therefore, while we will consider them on a case-by-case basis (analyzing whether there are any relevant disclosure concerns), we generally vote against shareholder proposals seeking additional disclosure of executive and director compensation, including proposals that seek to specify the measurement of performance-based compensation, if the company is subject to SEC rules or similar rules espoused by a regulator in a foreign jurisdiction. Similarly, we generally support proposals seeking additional disclosure of executive and director compensation if the company is not subject to any such rules.

23. Executive and Employee Compensation Plans, Policies and Reports

CASE-BY-CASE

Compensation plans (“**Compensation Plans**”) usually are complex and are a major corporate expense, so we evaluate them carefully and on a case-by-case basis. In all cases, however, we assess each proposed Compensation Plan within the framework of four guiding principles, each of which ensures a company’s Compensation Plan helps to align the long-term interests of management with shareholders:

- + Valid measures of business performance tied to the firm’s strategy and shareholder value creation, which are clearly articulated and incorporate appropriate time periods, should be utilized;
- + Compensation costs should be managed in the same way as any other expense;
- + Compensation should reflect management’s handling, or failure to handle, any recent social, environmental, governance, ethical or legal issue that had a significant adverse financial or reputational effect on the company; and
- + In granting compensatory awards, management should exhibit a history of integrity and decision-making based on logic and well thought out processes.

We may oppose plans which include, and directors who establish, compensation plan provisions deemed to be poor practice such as automatic acceleration of equity, or single-triggered, in the event of a change in control.

Although votes on compensation plans are by nature only broad indications of shareholder views, they do lead to more compensation-related dialogue between management and shareholders and help ensure that management and shareholders meet their common objective: maximizing shareholder value.

In markets where votes on compensation plans are not required for all companies, we will support shareholder proposals asking the board to adopt such a vote on an advisory basis.

Where disclosure relating to the details of Compensation Plans is inadequate or provided without sufficient time for us to consider our vote, we may abstain or vote against, depending on the adequacy of the company’s prior disclosures in this regard. Where appropriate, we may raise the issue with the company directly or take other steps.

24. Limit Executive Pay (SHP)

CASE-BY-CASE

We believe that management and directors, within reason, should be given latitude in determining the mix and types of awards offered to executive officers. We vote against shareholder proposals seeking to limit executive pay if we deem them too restrictive. Depending on our analysis of the specific circumstances, we are generally against requiring a company to adopt a policy prohibiting tax gross up payments to senior executives.

25. Mandatory Holding Periods (SHP)

AGAINST

We generally vote against shareholder proposals asking companies to require a company’s executives to hold stock for a specified period of time after acquiring that stock by exercising company-issued stock options (i.e., precluding “cashless” option exercises), unless we believe implementing a mandatory holding period is necessary to help resolve underlying problems at a company that have hurt, and may continue to hurt, shareholder value. We are generally in favor of reasonable stock ownership guidelines for executives.

26. Performance-Based Stock Option Plans (SHP)

CASE-BY-CASE

These shareholder proposals require a company to adopt a policy that all or a portion of future stock options granted to executives be performance-based. Performance-based options usually take the form of indexed options (where the option sale price is linked to the company’s stock performance versus an industry index), premium priced options (where the strike price is significantly above the market price at the time of the grant) or performance vesting options (where options vest when the company’s stock price exceeds a specific target). Proponents argue that performance-based options provide an incentive for executives to outperform the market as a whole and prevent management from being rewarded for average performance. We believe that management, within reason, should be given latitude in determining the mix and types of awards it offers. However, we recognize the benefit of linking a portion of executive compensation to certain types of performance benchmarks. While we will not support proposals that require all options to be performance-based, we will generally support proposals that require a portion of options granted to senior executives be performance-based. However, because performance-based options can also result in unfavorable tax treatment and the company may already have in place an option plan that sufficiently ties executive stock option plans to the company’s performance, we will consider such proposals on a case-by-case basis.

27. Prohibit Relocation Benefits to Senior Executives (SHP)

AGAINST

We do not consider such perquisites to be problematic pay practices as long as they are properly disclosed. Therefore we will vote against shareholder proposals asking to prohibit relocation benefits.

28. Recovery of Performance-Based Compensation (SHP)

FOR

We generally support shareholder proposals requiring the board to seek recovery of performance-based compensation awards to senior management and directors in the event of a fraud or other reasons that resulted in the detriment to shareholder value and/or company reputation due to gross ethical lapses. In deciding how to vote, we consider the adequacy of existing company clawback policy, if any.

29. Submit Golden Parachutes/Severance Plans to a Shareholder Vote (SHP)

FOR

Golden Parachutes assure key officers of a company lucrative compensation packages if the company is acquired and/or if the new owners terminate such officers. We recognize that offering generous compensation packages that are triggered by a change in control may help attract qualified officers. However, such compensation packages cannot be so excessive that they are unfair to shareholders or make the company unattractive to potential bidders, thereby serving as a constructive anti-takeover mechanism. Accordingly, we support proposals to submit severance plans (including supplemental retirement plans), to a shareholder vote, and we review proposals to ratify or redeem such plans retrospectively on a case-by-case basis.

30. Submit Golden Parachutes/Severance Plans to a Shareholder Vote Prior to Their Being Negotiated by Management (SHP)

CASE-BY-CASE

We believe that in order to attract qualified employees, companies must be free to negotiate compensation packages without shareholder interference. However, shareholders must be given an opportunity to analyze a compensation plan's final, material terms in order to ensure it is within acceptable limits. Accordingly, we evaluate proposals that require submitting severance plans and/or employment contracts for a shareholder vote prior to being negotiated by management on a case-by-case basis.

31. Submit Survivor Benefit Compensation Plan to Shareholder Vote (SHP)

FOR

Survivor benefit compensation plans, or "golden coffins", can require a company to make substantial payments or awards to a senior executive's beneficiaries following the death of the senior executive. The compensation can take the form of unearned salary or bonuses, accelerated vesting or the continuation in force of unvested equity grants, perquisites and other payments or awards. This compensation would not include compensation that the senior executive chooses to defer during his or her lifetime.

We recognize that offering generous compensation packages that are triggered by the passing of senior executives may help attract qualified officers. However, such compensation packages cannot be so excessive that they are unfair to shareholders or make the company unattractive to potential bidders, thereby serving as a constructive anti-takeover mechanism.

3.3 CAPITAL CHANGES AND ANTI-TAKEOVER PROPOSALS

32. Amend Exclusive Forum Bylaw (SHP)

AGAINST

We will generally oppose proposals that ask the board to repeal the company's exclusive forum bylaw. Such bylaws require certain legal action against the company to take place in the state of the company's incorporation. The courts within the state of incorporation are considered best suited to interpret that state's laws.

33. Amend Net Operating Loss ("NOL") Rights Plans

FOR

NOL Rights Plans are established to protect a company's net operating loss carry forwards and tax credits, which can be used to offset future income. We believe this is a reasonable strategy for a company to employ. Accordingly, we will vote in favor of NOL Rights Plans unless we believe the terms of the NOL Rights Plan may provide for a long-term anti-takeover device.

34. Authorize Share Repurchase

FOR

We generally support share repurchase proposals that are part of a well-articulated and well-conceived capital strategy. We assess proposals to give the board unlimited authorization to repurchase shares on a case-by-case basis. Furthermore, we would generally support the use of derivative instruments (e.g., put options and call options) as part of a

share repurchase plan absent a compelling reason to the contrary. Also, absent a specific concern at the company, we will generally support a repurchase plan that could be continued during a takeover period.

35. Blank Check Preferred Stock

AGAINST

Blank check preferred stock proposals authorize the issuance of certain preferred stock at some future point in time and allow the board to establish voting, dividend, conversion and other rights at the time of issuance. While blank check preferred stock can provide a corporation with the flexibility needed to meet changing financial conditions, it also may be used as the vehicle for implementing a “poison pill” defense or some other entrenchment device.

We are concerned that, once this stock has been authorized, shareholders have no further power to determine how or when it will be allocated. Accordingly, we generally oppose this type of proposal.

36. Corporate Restructurings, Merger Proposals and Spin-Offs

CASE-BY-CASE

Proposals requesting shareholder approval of corporate restructurings, merger proposals and spin-offs are determined on a case-by-case basis. In evaluating these proposals and determining our votes, we are singularly focused on meeting our goal of maximizing long-term shareholder value.

37. Elimination of Preemptive Rights

CASE-BY-CASE

Preemptive rights allow the shareholders of the company to buy newly-issued shares before they are offered to the public in order to maintain their percentage ownership. We believe that, because preemptive rights are an important shareholder right, careful scrutiny must be given to management’s attempts to eliminate them. However, because preemptive rights can be prohibitively expensive to widely-held companies, the benefit of such rights will be weighed against the economic effect of maintaining them.

38. Expensing Stock Options (SHP)

FOR

US generally-accepted accounting principles require companies to expense stock options, as do the accounting rules in many other jurisdictions (including those jurisdictions that have adopted IFRS -- international financial reporting standards). If a company is domiciled in a jurisdiction where the accounting rules do not already require the expensing of stock options, we will support shareholder proposals requiring this practice and disclosing information about it.

39. Fair Price Provisions

CASE-BY-CASE

A fair price provision in the company’s charter or by laws is designed to ensure that each shareholder’s securities will be purchased at the same price if the corporation is acquired under a plan not agreed to by the board. In most instances, the provision requires that any tender offer made by a third party must be made to all shareholders at the same price.

Fair pricing provisions attempt to prevent the “two tiered front loaded offer” where the acquirer of a company initially offers a premium for a sufficient percentage of shares of the company to gain control and subsequently makes an offer for the remaining shares at a much lower price. The remaining shareholders have no choice but to accept the offer. The two tiered approach is coercive as it compels a shareholder to sell his or her shares immediately in order to receive the higher price per share. This type of tactic has caused many states to adopt fair price provision statutes to restrict this practice.

We consider fair price provisions on a case-by-case basis. We oppose any provision where there is evidence that management intends to use the provision as an anti-takeover device as well as any provision where the shareholder vote requirement is greater than a majority of disinterested shares (i.e., shares beneficially owned by individuals other than the acquiring party).

40. Increase Authorized Common Stock

CASE-BY-CASE

In general we regard increases in authorized common stock as serving a legitimate corporate purpose when used to: implement a stock split, aid in a recapitalization or acquisition, raise needed capital for the firm, or provide for employee savings plans, stock option plans or executive compensation plans. That said, we may oppose a particular proposed increase if we consider the authorization likely to lower the share price (this would happen, for example, if the firm were proposing to use the proceeds to overpay for an acquisition, to invest in a project unlikely to earn the firm’s cost of capital, or to compensate employees well above market rates). We oppose increases in authorized common stock where there is evidence that the shares are to be used to implement a “poison pill” or another form of anti-takeover device, or if the issuance of new shares would, in our judgment, excessively dilute the value of the outstanding shares upon issuance. In addition, a satisfactory explanation of a company’s intentions—going beyond the standard “general corporate purposes”—must be disclosed in the proxy statement for proposals requesting an increase of greater than 100% of the shares

outstanding. We view the use of derivatives, particularly warrants, as legitimate capital-raising instruments and apply these same principles to their use as we do to the authorization of common stock. Under certain circumstances where we believe it is important for shareholders to have an opportunity to maintain their proportional ownership, we may oppose proposals requesting shareholders approve the issuance of additional shares if those shares do not include preemptive rights.

In Hong Kong, it is common for companies to request board authority to issue new shares up to 20% of outstanding share capital. The authority typically lapses after one year. We may vote against plans that do not prohibit issuing shares at a discount, taking into account whether a company has a history of doing so.

41. Issuance of Equity Without Preemptive Rights

FOR

We are generally in favor of issuances of equity without preemptive rights of up to 30% of a company's outstanding shares unless there is concern that the issuance will be used in a manner that could hurt shareholder value (e.g., issuing the equity at a discount from the current market price or using the equity to help create a "poison pill" mechanism).

42. Issuance of Stock with Unequal Voting Rights

CASE-BY-CASE

Unequal voting rights plans are designed to reduce the voting power of existing shareholders and concentrate a significant amount of voting power in the hands of management. In the majority of instances, they serve as an effective deterrent to takeover attempts. These structures, however, may be beneficial, allowing management to focus on longer-term value creation, which benefits all shareholders. We evaluate these proposals on a case-by-case basis and take into consideration the alignment of management incentives with appropriate performance, metrics, and the effectiveness of the company's strategy.

43. Net Long Position Requirement

FOR

We support proposals that require the ownership level needed to call a special meeting to be based on the net long position of a shareholder or shareholder group. This standard ensures that a significant economic interest accompanies the voting power.

44. Reincorporation

CASE-BY-CASE

There are many valid business reasons a corporation may choose to reincorporate in another jurisdiction. We perform a case-by-case review of such proposals, taking into consideration management's stated reasons for the proposed move.

Careful scrutiny also will be given to proposals that seek approval to reincorporate in countries that serve as tax havens. When evaluating such proposals, we consider factors such as the location of the company's business, the statutory protections available in the country to enforce shareholder rights and the tax consequences of the reincorporation to shareholders.

45. Reincorporation to Another Jurisdiction to Permit Majority Voting or Other Changes in Corporate Governance (SHP)

CASE-BY-CASE

If a shareholder proposes that a company move to a jurisdiction where majority voting (among other shareholder-friendly conditions) is permitted, we will generally oppose the move notwithstanding the fact that we favor majority voting for directors. Our rationale is that the legal costs, taxes, other expenses and other factors, such as business disruption, in almost all cases would be material and outweigh the benefit of majority voting. If, however, we should find that these costs are not material and/or do not outweigh the benefit of majority voting, we may vote in favor of this kind of proposal. We will evaluate similarly proposals that would require reincorporation in another state to accomplish other changes in corporate governance.

46. Stock Splits

FOR

Stock splits are intended to increase the liquidity of a company's common stock by lowering the price, thereby making the stock seem more attractive to small investors. We generally vote in favor of stock split proposals.

47. Submit Company's Shareholder Rights Plan to Shareholder Vote (SHP)

FOR

Most shareholder rights plans (also known as "poison pills") permit the shareholders of a target company involved in a hostile takeover to acquire shares of the target company, the acquiring company, or both, at a substantial discount once a "triggering event" occurs. A triggering event is usually a hostile tender offer or the acquisition by an outside party of a

certain percentage of the target company's stock. Because most plans exclude the hostile bidder from the purchase, the effect in most instances is to dilute the equity interest and the voting rights of the potential acquirer once the plan is triggered. A shareholder rights plan is designed to discourage potential acquirers from acquiring shares to make a bid for the issuer. We believe that measures that impede takeovers or entrench management not only infringe on the rights of shareholders but also may have a detrimental effect on the value of the company.

We support shareholder proposals that seek to require the company to submit a shareholder rights plan to a shareholder vote. We evaluate on a case-by-case basis proposals to implement or eliminate a shareholder rights plan.

48. Transferrable Stock Options

CASE-BY-CASE

In cases where a compensation plan includes a transferable stock option program, we will consider the plan on a case-by-case basis.

These programs allow stock options to be transferred to third parties in exchange for cash or stock. In effect, management becomes insulated from the downside risk of holding a stock option, while the ordinary shareholder remains exposed to downside risk. This insulation may unacceptably remove management's exposure to downside risk, which significantly misaligns management and shareholder interests. Accordingly, we generally vote against these programs if the transfer can be executed without shareholder approval, is available to executive officers or non-employee directors, or we consider the available disclosure relating to the mechanics and structure of the program to be insufficient to determine the costs, benefits and key terms of the program.

3.4 AUDITOR PROPOSALS

49. Appointment of Auditors

FOR

We believe that the company is in the best position to choose its accounting firm, and we generally support management's recommendation.

We recognize that there may be inherent conflicts when a company's independent auditors perform substantial non-audit related services for the company. Therefore, in reviewing a proposed auditor, we will consider the amount of fees paid for non-audit related services performed compared to the total audit fees paid by the company to the auditing firm, and whether there are any other reasons for us to question the independence or performance of the firm's auditor such as, for example, tenure. We generally will deem as excessive the non-audit fees paid by a company to its auditor if those fees account for 50% or more of total fees paid. In the UK market, which utilizes a different calculation, we adhere to a non-audit fee cap of 100% of audit fees. Under these circumstances, we generally vote against the auditor and the directors, in particular the members of the company's audit committee. In addition, we generally vote against authorizing the audit committee to set the remuneration of such auditors. We exclude from this analysis non-audit fees related to IPOs, bankruptcy emergence, and spin-offs and other extraordinary events. We may vote against or abstain due to a lack of disclosure of the name of the auditor while taking into account local market practice.

50. Approval of Financial Statements

FOR

In some markets, companies are required to submit their financial statements for shareholder approval. This is generally a routine item and, as such, we will vote for the approval of financial statements unless there are appropriate reasons to vote otherwise. We may vote against if the information is not available in advance of the meeting.

51. Approval of Internal Statutory Auditors

FOR

Some markets (e.g., Japan) require the annual election of internal statutory auditors. Internal statutory auditors have a number of duties, including supervising management, ensuring compliance with the articles of association and reporting to a company's board on certain financial issues. In most cases, the election of internal statutory auditors is a routine item and we will support management's nominee provided that the nominee meets the regulatory requirements for serving as internal statutory auditors. However, we may vote against nominees who are designated independent statutory auditors who serve as executives of a subsidiary or affiliate of the issuer or if there are other reasons to question the independence of the nominees.

52. Limitation of Liability of External Statutory Auditors (Japan)

CASE-BY-CASE

In Japan, companies may limit the liability of external statutory auditors in the event of a shareholder lawsuit through any of three mechanisms: (i) submitting the proposed limits to shareholder vote; (ii) setting limits by modifying the company's articles of incorporation; and (iii) setting limits in contracts with outside directors, outside statutory auditors and external

audit firms (requires a modification to the company's articles of incorporation). A vote by 3% or more of shareholders can nullify a limit set through the second mechanism. The third mechanism has historically been the most prevalent.

We review proposals to set limits on auditor liability on a case-by-case basis, considering whether such a provision is necessary to secure appointment and whether it helps to maximize long-term shareholder value.

53. Separating Auditors and Consultants (SHP)

CASE-BY-CASE

We believe that a company serves its shareholders' interests by avoiding potential conflicts of interest that might interfere with an auditor's independent judgment. SEC rules adopted as a result of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002 attempted to address these concerns by prohibiting certain services by a company's independent auditors and requiring additional disclosure of others services.

We evaluate on a case-by-case basis proposals that go beyond the SEC rules or other local market standards by prohibiting auditors from performing other non-audit services or calling for the board to adopt a policy to ensure auditor independence.

We take into consideration the policies and procedures the company already has in place to ensure auditor independence and non-audit fees as a percentage of total fees paid to the auditor are not excessive.

3.5 SHAREHOLDER ACCESS AND VOTING PROPOSALS

54. A Shareholder's Right to Call Special Meetings (SHP)

FOR

Most state corporation statutes (though not Delaware, where many US issuers are domiciled) allow shareholders to call a special meeting when they want to take action on certain matters that arise between regularly-scheduled annual meetings. This right may apply only if a shareholder, or a group of shareholders, owns a specified percentage, often 10% of the outstanding shares.

We recognize the importance of the right of shareholders to remove poorly-performing directors, respond to takeover offers and take other actions without having to wait for the next annual meeting. However, we also believe it is important to protect companies and shareholders from nuisance proposals. We further believe that striking a balance between these competing interests will maximize shareholder value. We believe that encouraging active share ownership among shareholders generally is beneficial to shareholders and helps maximize shareholder value. Accordingly, we will generally support a proposal to call a special meeting if the proposing shareholder owns, or the proposing shareholders as a group own, 5% or more of the outstanding voting equity of the company.

55. Adopt Cumulative Voting (SHP)

CASE-BY-CASE

Cumulative voting is a method of electing directors that enables each shareholder to multiply the number of his or her shares by the number of directors being considered. A shareholder may then cast the total votes for any one director or a selected group of directors. For example, a holder of 10 shares normally casts 10 votes for each of 12 nominees to the board thus giving the shareholder 120 (10 × 12) votes. Under cumulative voting, the shareholder may cast all 120 votes for a single nominee, 60 for two, 40 for three, or any other combination that the shareholder may choose.

We believe that encouraging activism among shareholders generally is beneficial to shareholders and helps maximize shareholder value. Cumulative voting supports the interests of minority shareholders in contested elections by enabling them to concentrate their votes and dramatically increase their chances of electing a dissident director to a board. Accordingly, we generally will support shareholder proposals to restore or provide for cumulative voting and we generally will oppose management proposals to eliminate cumulative voting. However, we may oppose cumulative voting if a company has in place both proxy access, which allows shareholders to nominate directors to the company's ballot, and majority voting (with a carve-out for plurality voting in situations where there are more nominees than seats), which requires each director to receive the affirmative vote of a majority of votes cast and, we believe, leads to greater director accountability to shareholders.

Also, we support cumulative voting at controlled companies regardless of any other shareholder protections that may be in place.

56. Adopt Cumulative Voting in Dual Shareholder Class Structures (SHP)**FOR**

In dual class structures (such as A&B shares) where the shareholders with a majority economic interest have a minority voting interest, we generally vote in favor of cumulative voting for those shareholders.

57. Early Disclosure of Voting Results (SHP)**AGAINST**

These proposals seek to require a company to disclose votes sooner than is required by the local market. In the US, the SEC requires disclosure in the first periodic report filed after the company's annual meeting which we believe is reasonable. We do not support requests that require disclosure earlier than the time required by the local regulator.

58. Limiting a Shareholder's Right to Call Special Meetings**AGAINST**

Companies contend that limitations on shareholders' rights to call special meetings are needed to prevent minority shareholders from taking control of the company's agenda. However, such limits also have anti-takeover implications because they prevent a shareholder or a group of shareholders who have acquired a significant stake in the company from forcing management to address urgent issues, such as the potential sale of the company. Because most states prohibit shareholders from abusing this right, we see no justifiable reason for management to eliminate this fundamental shareholder right. Accordingly, we generally will vote against such proposals.

In addition, if the board of directors, without shareholder consent, raises the ownership threshold a shareholder must reach before the shareholder can call a special meeting, we will vote against those directors.

59. Permit a Shareholder's Right to Act by Written Consent (SHP)**FOR**

Action by written consent enables a large shareholder or group of shareholders to initiate votes on corporate matters prior to the annual meeting. We believe this is a fundamental shareholder right and, accordingly, will support shareholder proposals seeking to restore this right. However, in cases where a company has a majority shareholder or group of related majority shareholders with majority economic interest, we will oppose proposals seeking to restore this right as there is a potential risk of abuse by the majority shareholder or group of majority shareholders.

60. Proxy Access for Annual Meetings (SHP) (Management)**FOR**

These proposals allow "qualified shareholders" to nominate directors. We generally vote in favor of management and shareholder proposals for proxy access that employ guidelines reflecting the SEC framework for proxy access (adopted by the SEC in 2010, but vacated by the DC Circuit Court of Appeals in 2011), which would have allowed a single shareholder, or group of shareholders, who hold at least 3% of the voting power for at least three years continuously to nominate up to 25% of the current board seats, or two directors, for inclusion in the subject company's annual proxy statement alongside management nominees.

We may vote against proposals that use requirements that are stricter than the SEC's framework including implementation restrictions and against individual board members, or entire boards, who exclude from their ballot properly submitted shareholder proxy access proposals or compete against shareholder proxy access proposals with stricter management proposals on the same ballot. We will generally vote in favor of proposals that seek to amend an existing right to more closely align with the SEC framework.

We will evaluate on a case-by-case basis proposals with less stringent requirements than the vacated SEC framework.

From time to time we may receive requests to join with other shareholders to support a shareholder action. We may, for example, receive requests to join a voting block for purposes of influencing management. If the third parties requesting our participation are not affiliated with us and have no business relationships with us, we will consider the request on a case-by-case basis. However, where the requesting party has a business relationship with us (e.g., the requesting party is a client or a significant service provider), agreeing to such a request may pose a potential conflict of interest. As a fiduciary we have an obligation to vote proxies in the best interest of our clients (without regard to our own interests in generating and maintaining business with our other clients) and given our desire to avoid even the appearance of a conflict, we will generally decline such a request.

61. Reduce Meeting Notification from 21 Days to 14 Days (UK)**FOR**

Companies in the United Kingdom may, with shareholder approval, reduce the notice period for extraordinary general meetings from 21 days to 14 days.

A reduced notice period expedites the process of obtaining shareholder approval of additional financing needs and other important matters. Accordingly, we support these proposals.

62. Shareholder Proponent Engagement Process (SHP)

FOR

We believe that proper corporate governance requires that proposals receiving support from a majority of shareholders be considered and implemented by the company. Accordingly, we support establishing an engagement process between shareholders and management to ensure proponents of majority-supported proposals, have an established means of communicating with management.

63. Supermajority Vote Requirements

AGAINST

A supermajority vote requirement is a charter or by-law requirement that, when implemented, raises the percentage (higher than the customary simple majority) of shareholder votes needed to approve certain proposals, such as mergers, changes of control, or proposals to amend or repeal a portion of the Articles of Incorporation.

In most instances, we oppose these proposals and support shareholder proposals that seek to reinstate the simple majority vote requirement. However we may support supermajority vote requirements at controlled companies as a protection to minority shareholders from unilateral action of the controlling shareholder.

3.6 ENVIRONMENTAL, SOCIAL AND DISCLOSURE PROPOSALS

64. Animal Welfare (SHP)

CASE-BY-CASE

These proposals may include reporting requests or policy adoption on items such as pig gestation crates and animal welfare in the supply chain

For proposals requesting companies to adopt a policy, we will carefully consider existing policies and the company's incorporation of national standards and best practices. In addition, we will evaluate the potential enactment of new regulations, as well as any investment risk related to the specific issue.

We generally support shareholder proposals calling for reports and disclosure while taking into account existing policies and procedures of the company and whether the proposed information is of added benefit to shareholders.

65. Climate Change (SHP)

FOR

Proposals addressing climate change concerns are plentiful and their scope varies. Climate change increasingly receives investor attention as a potentially critical and material risk to the sustainability of a wide range of business-specific activities. These proposals may include emissions standards or reduction targets, quantitative goals, and impact assessments. We generally support these proposals, while taking into account the materiality of the issue and whether the proposed information is of added benefit to shareholders.

For proposals requesting companies to adopt a policy, we will carefully consider existing policies and the company's incorporation of national standards and best practices. In addition, we will evaluate the potential enactment of new regulations, as well as any investment risk related to the specific issue.

We generally support shareholder proposals calling for reports and disclosure while taking into account existing policies and procedures of the company and whether the proposed information is of added benefit to shareholders.

66. Charitable Contributions (SHP) (MGMT)

CASE-BY-CASE

Proposals relating to charitable contributions may be sponsored by either management or shareholders.

Management proposals may ask to approve the amount for charitable contributions.

We generally support shareholder proposals calling for reports and disclosure while taking into account existing policies and procedures of the company and whether the proposed information is of added benefit to shareholders.

67. Environmental Proposals (SHP)

CASE-BY-CASE

These proposals can include reporting and policy adoption requests in a wide variety of areas, including, but not limited to, (nuclear) waste, deforestation, packaging and recycling, renewable energy, toxic material, palm oil and water.

For proposals requesting companies to adopt a policy, we will carefully consider existing policies and the company's incorporation of national standards and best practices. In addition, we will evaluate the potential enactment of new regulations, as well as any investment risk related to the specific issue.

We generally support shareholder proposals calling for reports while taking into account existing policies and procedures of the company and whether the proposed information is of added benefit to shareholders.

68. Genetically Altered or Engineered Food and Pesticides (SHP)

CASE-BY-CASE

These proposals may include reporting requests on pesticides monitoring/use and Genetically Modified Organism (GMO) as well as GMO labeling.

For proposals requesting companies to adopt a policy, we will carefully consider existing policies and the company's incorporation of national standards and best practices. In addition, we will evaluate the potential enactment of new regulations, as well as any investment risk related to the specific issue.

We generally support shareholder proposals calling for reports while taking into account existing policies and procedures of the company and whether the proposed information is of added benefit to shareholders.

69. Health Proposals (SHP)

CASE-BY-CASE

These proposals may include reports on pharmaceutical pricing, antibiotic use in the meat supply, and tobacco products. We generally support shareholder proposals calling for reports while taking into account the current reporting policies of the company and whether the proposed information is of added benefit to shareholders.

For proposals requesting companies to adopt a policy, we will carefully consider existing policies and the company's incorporation of national standards and best practices. In addition, we will evaluate the potential enactment of new regulations, as well as any investment risk related to the specific issue. We generally support shareholder proposals calling for reports and disclosure while taking into account existing policies and procedures of the company and whether the proposed information is of added benefit to shareholders.

70. Human Rights Policies and Reports (SHP)

CASE-BY-CASE

These proposals may include reporting requests on human rights risk assessment, humanitarian engagement and mediation policies, working conditions, adopting policies on supply chain worker fees and expanding existing policies in these areas. We recognize that many companies have complex supply chains which have led to increased awareness of supply chain issues as an investment risk.

For proposals requesting companies to adopt a policy, we will carefully consider existing policies and the company's incorporation of national standards and best practices. In addition, we will evaluate the potential enactment of new regulations, as well as any investment risk related to the specific issue.

We generally support shareholder proposals calling for reports and disclosure while taking into account existing policies and procedures of the company and whether the proposed information is of added benefit to shareholders.

71. Include Sustainability as a Performance Measure (SHP)

CASE-BY-CASE

We believe management and directors should be given latitude in determining appropriate performance measurements. While doing so, consideration should be given to how long-term sustainability issues might affect future company performance. Therefore, we will evaluate on a case-by-case basis proposals requesting companies to consider incorporating specific, measurable, practical goals consisting of sustainability principles and environmental impacts as metrics for incentive compensation and how they are linked with our objectives as long-term shareholders.

72. Lobbying and Political Spending (SHP)

FOR

We generally vote in favor of proposals requesting increased disclosure of political contributions and lobbying expenses, including those paid to trade organizations and political action committees, whether at the federal, state, or local level. These proposals may increase transparency.

73. Other Business**AGAINST**

In certain jurisdictions, these proposals allow management to act on issues that shareholders may raise at the annual meeting. Because it is impossible to know what issues may be raised, we will vote against these proposals.

74. Reimbursement of Shareholder Expenses (SHP)**AGAINST**

These shareholder proposals would require companies to reimburse the expenses of shareholders who submit proposals that receive a majority of votes cast or the cost of proxy contest expenses. We generally vote against these proposals, unless reimbursement occurs only in cases where management fails to implement a majority passed shareholder proposal, in which case we may vote in favor.

75. Sustainability Report (SHP)**FOR**

We generally support shareholder proposals calling for reports and disclosure while taking into account existing policies and procedures of the company and whether the proposed information is of added benefit to shareholders.

76. Work Place: Diversity (SHP)**FOR**

We generally support shareholder proposals calling for reports and disclosure surrounding workplace diversity while taking into account existing policies and procedures of the company and whether the proposed information is of added benefit to shareholders.

We generally support proposals requiring a company to amend its Equal Employment Opportunity policies to prohibit workplace discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender ID.

77. Work Place: Pay Disparity (SHP)**CASE-BY-CASE**

A report on pay disparity compares the total compensation of a company's executive officers with that of the company's lowest paid workers and/or between genders, including statistics and rationale pertaining to changes in the size of the gap, recommended actions, information on whether executive compensation is "excessive", and information on whether greater oversight is needed over certain aspects of the company's compensation policies.

The SEC requires US issuers with fiscal years ending on or after January 1, 2017, to contrast CEO pay with median employee pay. This requirement, however, does not address all of the issues addressed by pay disparity reports. Accordingly, we will continue to evaluate these proposals on a case-by-case basis, taking into account the specific metrics and scope of the information requested and whether the SEC's requirement renders the proposal unnecessary.

4. CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

4.1 INTRODUCTION

As a fiduciary, we always must act in our clients' best interests. We strive to avoid even the appearance of a conflict that may compromise the trust our clients have placed in us, and we insist on strict adherence to fiduciary standards and compliance with all applicable federal and state securities laws. We have adopted a comprehensive Code of Business Conduct and Ethics ("**Code**") to help us meet these obligations. As part of this responsibility and as expressed throughout the Code, we place the interests of our clients first and attempt to avoid any perceived or actual conflicts of interest.

AllianceBernstein L.P. ("**AB**") recognizes that there may be a potential material conflict of interest when we vote a proxy solicited by an issuer that sponsors a retirement plan we manage (or administer), that distributes AB-sponsored mutual funds, or with which AB or one or more of our employees have another business or personal relationship that may affect how we vote on the issuer's proxy. Similarly, we may have a potential material conflict of interest when deciding how to vote on a proposal sponsored or supported by a shareholder group that is a client. In order to avoid any perceived or actual conflict of interest, the procedures set forth below in sections 4.2 through 4.8 have been established for use when we encounter a potential conflict to ensure that our voting decisions are based on our clients' best interests and are not the product of a conflict.

4.2 ADHERENCE TO STATED PROXY VOTING POLICIES

Votes generally are cast in accordance with this policy³. In situations where our policy is case-by-case, this Manual often provides criteria that will guide our decision. In situations where our policy on a particular issue is case-by-case and the vote cannot be clearly decided by an application of our stated policy, a member of the Committee or his/her designee will make the voting decision in accordance with the basic principle of our policy to vote proxies with the intention of maximizing the value of the securities in our client accounts. In these situations, the voting rationale must be documented either on the voting platform of ISS, by retaining relevant emails or another appropriate method. Where appropriate, the views of investment professionals are considered. All votes cast contrary to our stated voting policy on specific issues must be documented. On an annual basis, the Committee will receive a report of all such votes so as to confirm adherence of the policy.

4.3 DISCLOSURE OF CONFLICTS

When considering a proxy proposal, members of the Committee or investment professionals involved in the decision-making process must disclose to the Committee any potential conflict (including personal relationships) of which they are aware and any substantive contact that they have had with any interested outside party (including the issuer or shareholder group sponsoring a proposal) regarding the proposal. Any previously unknown conflict will be recorded on the Potential Conflicts List (discussed below). If a member of the Committee has a conflict of interest, he or she must also remove himself or herself from the decision-making process.

4.4 POTENTIAL CONFLICTS LIST

No less frequently than annually, a list of companies and organizations whose proxies may pose potential conflicts of interest is compiled by the Legal and Compliance Department (the "**Potential Conflicts List**"). The Potential Conflicts List includes:

- + Publicly-traded Clients from the Russell 3000 Index, the Morgan Stanley Capital International ("**MSCI**") Europe Australia Far East Index (MSCI EAFE), the MSCI Canada Index and the MSCI Emerging Markets Index;
- + Publicly-traded companies that distribute AB mutual funds;
- + Bernstein private clients who are directors, officers or 10% shareholders of publicly traded companies;
- + Clients who sponsor, publicly support or have material interest in a proposal upon which we will be eligible to vote;
- + Publicly-traded affiliated companies;
- + Companies where an employee of AB or AXA Financial, Inc., a parent company of AB, has identified an interest;
- + Any other conflict of which a Committee member becomes aware⁴.

We determine our votes for all meetings of companies on the Potential Conflicts List by applying the tests described in Section 4.5 below. We document all instances when the independent compliance officer determines our vote.

³ From time to time a client may request that we vote their proxies consistent with AFL-CIO guidelines or the policy of the National Association of Pension Funds. In those situations, AB reserves the right to depart from those policies if we believe it to be in the client's best interests.

⁴ The Committee must notify the Legal and Compliance Department promptly of any previously unknown conflict.

4.5 DETERMINE EXISTENCE OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

When we encounter a potential conflict of interest, we review our proposed vote using the following analysis to ensure our voting decision does not generate a conflict of interest:

- + If our proposed vote is consistent with our Proxy Voting Policy, no further review is necessary.
- + If our proposed vote is contrary to our Proxy Voting Policy and our client's position on the proposal, no further review is necessary.
- + If our proposed vote is contrary to our Proxy Voting Policy or is not covered herein, is consistent with our client's position, and is also consistent with the views of ISS, no further review is necessary.
- + If our proposed vote is contrary to our Proxy Voting Policy or is not covered herein, is consistent with our client's position and is contrary to the views of ISS, the vote will be presented to an independent compliance officer ("ICO"). The ICO will determine whether the proposed vote is reasonable. If the ICO cannot determine that the proposed vote is reasonable, the ICO may instruct AB to refer the votes back to the client(s) or take other actions as the ICO deems appropriate. The ICO's review will be documented using a Proxy Voting Conflict of Interest Form (a copy of which is attached hereto).

4.6 REVIEW OF THIRD PARTY RESEARCH SERVICE CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

We consider the research of ISS, so the Committee takes reasonable steps to verify that ISS is, in fact, independent based on all of the relevant facts and circumstances. This includes reviewing ISS's conflict management procedures on an annual basis. When reviewing these conflict management procedures, we will consider, among other things, whether ISS (i) has the capacity and competency to adequately analyze proxy issues; and (ii) can offer research in an impartial manner and in the best interests of our clients.

4.7 CONFIDENTIAL VOTING

It is AB's policy to support confidentiality before the actual vote has been cast. Employees are prohibited from revealing how we intend to vote except to (i) members of the Committee; (ii) Portfolio Managers who hold the security in their managed accounts; (iii) the Research Analyst(s) who cover(s) the security; (iv) clients, upon request, for the securities held in their portfolios; and (v) clients who do not hold the security or for whom AB does not have proxy voting authority, but who provide AB with a signed a Non-Disclosure Agreement. Once the votes have been cast, they are made public in accordance with mutual fund proxy vote disclosures required by the SEC, and we generally post all votes to our public website the quarter after the vote has been cast.

We may participate in proxy surveys conducted by shareholder groups or consultants so long as such participation does not compromise our confidential voting policy. Specifically, prior to our required SEC disclosures each year, we may respond to surveys asking about our proxy voting policies, but not any specific votes. After our mutual fund proxy vote disclosures required by the SEC each year have been made public and/or votes have been posted to our public website, we may respond to surveys that cover specific votes in addition to our voting policies.

On occasion, clients for whom we do not have proxy voting authority may ask us for advice on proxy votes that they cast. A member of the Committee or a Proxy Manager may offer such advice subject to an understanding with the client that the advice shall remain confidential.

Any substantive contact regarding proxy issues from the issuer, the issuer's agent or a shareholder group sponsoring a proposal must be reported to the Committee if such contact was material to a decision to vote contrary to this Policy. Routine administrative inquiries from proxy solicitors need not be reported.

4.8 A NOTE REGARDING AB'S STRUCTURE

AB and AllianceBernstein Holding L.P. ("**AB Holding**") are Delaware limited partnerships. As limited partnerships, neither company is required to produce an annual proxy statement or hold an annual shareholder meeting. In addition, the general partner of AB and AB Holding, AllianceBernstein Corporation is a wholly-owned subsidiary of AXA, a French holding company for an international group of insurance and related financial services companies.

As a result, most of the positions we express in this Proxy Voting Policy are inapplicable to our business. For example, although units in AB Holding are publicly traded on the New York Stock Exchange ("**NYSE**"), the NYSE Listed Company Manual exempts limited partnerships and controlled companies from compliance with various listing requirements, including the requirement that our board have a majority of independent directors.

5. VOTING TRANSPARENCY

We publish our voting records on our website quarterly, 30 days after the end of the previous quarter. Many clients have requested that we provide them with periodic reports on how we voted their proxies. Clients may obtain information about how we voted proxies on their behalf by contacting their Advisor. Alternatively, clients may make a written request to the Chief Compliance Officer.

6. RECORDKEEPING

All of the records referenced below will be kept in an easily accessible place for at least the length of time required by local regulation and custom, and, if such local regulation requires that records are kept for less than five years from the end of the fiscal year during which the last entry was made on such record, we will follow the US rule of five years. We maintain the vast majority of these records electronically. We will keep paper records, if any, in one of our offices for at least two years.

6.1 PROXY VOTING AND GOVERNANCE POLICY

The Proxy Voting and Governance Policy shall be maintained in the Legal and Compliance Department and posted on our company intranet and the AB website (<https://www.abglobal.com>).

6.2 PROXY STATEMENTS RECEIVED REGARDING CLIENT SECURITIES

For US Securities⁵, AB relies on the SEC to maintain copies of each proxy statement we receive regarding client securities. For Non-US Securities, we rely on ISS, our proxy voting agent, to retain such proxy statements.

6.3 RECORDS OF VOTES CAST ON BEHALF OF CLIENTS

Records of votes cast by AB are retained electronically by our proxy voting agent, ISS.

6.4 RECORDS OF CLIENTS REQUESTS FOR PROXY VOTING INFORMATION

Copies of written requests from clients for information on how AB voted their proxies shall be maintained by the Legal and Compliance Department. Responses to written and oral requests for information on how we voted clients' proxies will be kept in the Client Group.

6.5 DOCUMENTS PREPARED BY AB THAT ARE MATERIAL TO VOTING DECISIONS

The Committee is responsible for maintaining documents prepared by the Committee or any AB employee that were material to a voting decision. Therefore, where an investment professional's opinion is essential to the voting decision, the recommendation from investment professionals must be made in writing to the Proxy Manager.

7. PROXY VOTING PROCEDURES

7.1 VOTE ADMINISTRATION

In an effort to increase the efficiency of voting proxies, AB uses ISS to act as its voting agent for our clients' holdings globally.

Issuers initially send proxy information to the custodians of our client accounts. We instruct these custodian banks to direct proxy related materials to ISS's offices. ISS provides us with research related to each resolution. A Proxy Manager reviews the ballots via ISS's web platform, ProxyExchange. Using ProxyExchange, the Proxy Manager submits our voting decision. ISS then returns the proxy ballot forms to the designated returnee for tabulation. Clients may request that, when voting their proxies, we utilize an ISS recommendation or ISS's Taft-Hartley Voting Policy.

If necessary, any paper ballots we receive will be voted online using ProxyVote or via mail or fax.

⁵ US securities are defined as securities of issuers required to make reports pursuant to §12 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended. Non-US securities are defined as all other securities.

7.2 SHARE BLOCKING

Proxy voting in certain countries requires “share blocking.” Shareholders wishing to vote their proxies must deposit their shares shortly before the date of the meeting (usually one week) with a designated depository. During this blocking period, shares that will be voted at the meeting cannot be sold until the meeting has taken place and the shares are returned to the clients’ custodian banks. We may determine that the value of exercising the vote is outweighed by the detriment of not being able to sell the shares during this period. In cases where we want to retain the ability to trade shares, we may abstain from voting those shares.

We seek to vote all proxies for securities held in client accounts for which we have proxy voting authority. However, in some markets administrative issues beyond our control may sometimes prevent us from voting such proxies. For example, we may receive meeting notices after the cut-off date for voting or without enough time to fully consider the proxy. Similarly, proxy materials for some issuers may not contain disclosure sufficient to arrive at a voting decision, in which cases we may abstain from voting. Some markets outside the US require periodic renewals of powers of attorney that local agents must have from our clients prior to implementing our voting instructions.

7.3 LOANED SECURITIES

Many of our clients have entered into securities lending arrangements with agent lenders to generate additional revenue. We will not be able to vote securities that are on loan under these types of arrangements. However, under rare circumstances, for voting issues that may have a significant impact on the investment, we may request that clients or custodians recall securities that are on loan if we determine that the benefit of voting outweighs the costs and lost revenue to the client or fund and the administrative burden of retrieving the securities.

PROXY VOTING AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE MEMBERS

The members of the Committee establish general proxy policies for AB and consider specific proxy voting matters as necessary. Members include senior investment personnel and representatives of the Legal and Compliance Department and the Operations Department. The Proxy Committee is chaired by Linda Giuliano, Senior Vice President, Chief Administrative Officer-Equities, and Head of Responsible Investment. If you have questions or desire additional information about this Policy, please contact the Proxy Team at: ProxyTeam@ABGlobal.com.

PROXY VOTING AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

- + Vincent DuPont, SVP—Equities
- + Linda Giuliano, SVP—Equities
- + Saskia Kort-Chick, VP—Equities
- + Kyle DiGangi, VP—Legal
- + James MacGregor, SVP—Equities
- + Mark Manley, SVP—Legal
- + Ryan Oden, AVP—Equities
- + Neil Ruffell, VP—Operations

PROXY VOTING GUIDELINE SUMMARY

Shareholder Proposal		For	Against	Case-by-Case
Board and Director Proposals				
+	Board Diversity			+
+	Establish New Board Committees and Elect Board Members with Specific Expertise			+
	Changes in Board Structure and Amending the Articles of Incorporation	+		
	Classified Boards		+	
	Director Liability and Indemnification			+
+	Disclose CEO Succession Plan	+		
	Election of Directors	+		
	Controlled Company Exemption			+
	Voting for Director Nominees in a Contested Election			+
+	Independent Lead Director	+		
+	Limit Term of Directorship			+
+	Majority of Independent Directors	+		
+	Majority of Independent Directors on Key Committees	+		
+	Majority Votes for Directors	+		
+	Removal of Directors Without Cause	+		
+	Require Independent Board Chairman			+
+	Require Two Candidates for Each Board Seat		+	
Compensation Proposals				
+	Elimination of Single Trigger Change-in-Control Agreements	+		
+	Pro Rata Vesting of Equity Compensation Awards-Change of Control			+
+	Adopt Policies to Prohibit any Death Benefits to Senior Executives		+	
+	Advisory Vote to Ratify Directors' Compensation	+		
+	Amend Executive Compensation Plan Tied to Performance (Bonus Banking)		+	
	Approve Remuneration for Directors and Auditors			+
	Approve Remuneration Reports			+
	Approve Retirement Bonuses for Directors (Japan and South Korea)			+
	Approve Special Payments to Continuing Directors and Auditors (Japan)			+
+	Disclose Executive and Director Pay			+
+	Exclude Pension Income from Performance-Based Compensation	+		
	Executive and Employee Compensation Plans			+
+	Limit Dividend Payments to Executives		+	
+	Limit Executive Pay			+

Shareholder Proposal	For	Against	Case-by-Case
+ Mandatory Holding Periods		+	
+ Performance-Based Stock Option Plans			+
+ Prohibit Relocation Benefits to Senior Executives		+	
+ Recovery of Performance-Based Compensation	+		
+ Submit Golden Parachutes/Severance Plans to a Shareholder Vote		+	
+ Submit Golden Parachutes/Severance Plans to a Shareholder Vote prior to their being Negotiated by Management			+
+ Submit Survivor Benefit Compensation Plans to a Shareholder Vote	+		
Capital Changes and Anti-Take Over Proposals			
+ Amend Exclusive Forum Bylaw		+	
Amend Net Operating Loss ("NOL") Rights Plans	+		
Authorize Share Repurchase	+		
Blank Check Preferred Stock		+	
Corporate Restructurings, Merger Proposals and Spin-Offs			+
Elimination of Preemptive Rights			+
+ Expensing Stock Options	+		
Fair Price Provisions			+
Increase Authorized Common Stock			+
Issuance of Equity without Preemptive Rights	+		
Issuance of Stock with Unequal Voting Rights			+
Net Long Position Requirement	+		
Reincorporation			+
+ Reincorporation to Another jurisdiction to Permit Majority Voting or Other Changes in Corporate Governance			+
Stock Splits	+		
+ Submit Company's Shareholder Rights Plan to a Shareholder Vote	+		
Transferrable Stock Options			+
Auditor Proposals			
Appointment of Auditors	+		
Approval of Financial Statements	+		
Approval of Internal Statutory Auditors	+		
+ Limit Compensation Consultant Services		+	
Limitation of Liability of External Statutory Auditors (Japan)			+
+ Separating Auditors and Consultants			+
Shareholder Access & Voting Proposals			
+ A Shareholder's Right to Call Special Meetings	+		
+ Adopt Cumulative Voting			+
+ Adopt Cumulative Voting in Dual Shareholder Class Structures	+		

Shareholder Proposal	For	Against	Case-by-Case
+ Early Disclosure of Voting Results		+	
+ Implement Confidential Voting	+		
Limiting a Shareholder's Right to Call Special Meetings		+	
+ Permit a Shareholder's Right to Act by Written Consent	+		
+ Proxy Access for Annual Meetings	+		
Reduce Meeting Notification from 21 Days to 14 Days (UK)	+		
+ Rotation of Locale for Annual Meeting		+	
+ Shareholder Proponent Engagement Process	+		
Supermajority Vote Requirements		+	
Environmental & Social, Disclosure Proposals			
+ Animal Welfare			+
+ Climate Change			+
+ Carbon Accounting	+		
+ Carbon Risk	+		
+ Charitable Contributions			+
+ Environmental Proposals			+
+ Genetically Altered or Engineered Food and Pesticides			+
+ Health Proposals			+
+ Pharmaceutical Pricing (US)			+
+ Human Rights Policies and Reports			+
+ Include Sustainability as a Performance Measure (SHP)			+
+ Lobbying and Political Spending	+		
+ Other Business		+	
+ Reimbursement of Shareholder Expenses		+	
+ Sustainability Report			+
+ Work Place: Diversity	+		
+ Work Place: Pay Disparity			+

PROXY VOTING CONFLICT OF INTEREST FORM

Name of Security

Date of Shareholder Meeting

Short Description of the conflict (client, mutual fund distributor, etc.):

1. **Is our proposed vote on all issues consistent with our stated proxy voting policy?** ☐ Yes ☐ No
If yes, stop here and sign below as no further review is necessary.
2. **Is our proposed vote contrary to our client's position?** ☐ Yes ☐ No
If yes, stop here and sign below as no further review is necessary.
3. **Is our proposed vote consistent with the views of Institutional Shareholder Services?** ☐ Yes ☐ No
If yes, stop here and sign below as no further review is necessary.

Please attach a memo containing the following information and documentation supporting the proxy voting decision:

- + A list of the issue(s) where our proposed vote is contrary to our stated policy (director election, cumulative voting, compensation)
- + A description of any substantive contact with any interested outside party and a proxy voting and governance committee or an AB investment professional that was material to our voting decision. Please include date, attendees, titles, organization they represent and topics discussed. If there was no such contact, please note as such.
- + If the Independent Compliance Officer has NOT determined that the proposed vote is reasonable, please explain and indicate what action has been, or will be taken.

Independent Compliance Officer Approval (if necessary. Email approval is acceptable.):

I hereby confirm that the proxy voting decision referenced on this form is reasonable.

Prepared by:

Print Name:

Date:

Phillip Kirstein

Date:

Please return this completed form and all supporting documentation to the Conflicts Officer in the Legal and Compliance Department and keep a copy for your records.

STATEMENT OF POLICY REGARDING RESPONSIBLE INVESTMENT

PRINCIPLES FOR RESPONSIBLE INVESTMENT, ESG AND SOCIALLY RESPONSIBLE INVESTMENT

1. Introduction

AllianceBernstein L.P. (“**AB**” or “**we**”) is appointed by our clients as an investment manager with a fiduciary responsibility to help them achieve their investment objectives over the long term. Generally, our clients’ objective is to maximize the financial return of their portfolios within appropriate risk parameters. AB has long recognized that environmental, social and governance (“**ESG**”) issues can impact the performance of investment portfolios. Accordingly, we have sought to integrate ESG factors into our investment process to the extent that the integration of such factors is consistent with our fiduciary duty to help our clients achieve their investment objectives and protect their economic interests.

Our policy draws a distinction between how the Principles for Responsible Investment (“**PRI**” or “**Principles**”), and Socially Responsible Investing (“**SRI**”) incorporate ESG factors. PRI is based on the premise that, because ESG issues can affect investment performance, appropriate consideration of ESG issues and engagement regarding them is firmly within the bounds of a mainstream investment manager’s fiduciary duties to its clients. Furthermore, PRI is intended to be applied only in ways that are consistent with those mainstream fiduciary duties.

SRI, which refers to a spectrum of investment strategies that seek to integrate ethical, moral, sustainability and other non-financial factors into the investment process, generally involves exclusion and/or divestment, as well as investment guidelines that restrict investments. AB may accept such guideline restrictions upon client request.

2. Approach to ESG

Our long-standing policy has been to include ESG factors in our extensive fundamental research and consider them carefully when we believe they are material to our forecasts and investment decisions. If we determine that these aspects of an issuer’s past, current or anticipated behavior are material to its future expected returns, we address these concerns in our forecasts, research reviews, investment decisions and engagement. In addition, we have well-developed proxy voting policies that incorporate ESG issues and engagement.

3. Commitment to the PRI

In recent years, we have gained greater clarity on how the PRI initiative, based on information from PRI Advisory Council members and from other signatories, provides a framework for incorporating ESG factors into investment research and decision-making. Furthermore, our industry has become, over time, more aware of the importance of ESG factors. We acknowledge these developments and seek to refine what has been our process in this area.

After careful consideration, we determined that becoming a PRI signatory would enhance our current ESG practices and align with our fiduciary duties to our clients as a mainstream investment manager. Accordingly, we became a signatory, effective November 1, 2011.

In signing the PRI, AB as an investment manager publicly commits to adopt and implement all six Principles, where consistent with our fiduciary responsibilities, and to make progress over time on implementation of the Principles.

The six Principles are:

1. We will incorporate ESG issues into investment research and decision-making processes.

AB Examples: ESG issues are included in the research analysis process. In some cases, external service providers of ESG-related tools are utilized; we have conducted proxy voting training and will have continued and expanded training for investment professionals to incorporate ESG issues into investment analysis and decision-making processes across our firm.

2. We will be active owners and incorporate ESG issues into our ownership policies and practices.

AB Examples: We are active owners through our proxy voting process (for additional information, please refer to our *Statement of Policies and Procedures for Proxy Voting Manual*); we engage issuers on ESG matters in our investment research process (we define “engagement” as discussions with management about ESG issues when they are, or we believe they are reasonably likely to become, material).

3. We will seek appropriate disclosure on ESG issues by the entities in which we invest.

AB Examples: Generally, we support transparency regarding ESG issues when we conclude the disclosure is reasonable. Similarly, in proxy voting, we will support shareholder initiatives and resolutions promoting ESG disclosure when we conclude the disclosure is reasonable.

4. We will promote acceptance and implementation of the Principles within the investment industry.

AB Examples: By signing the PRI, we have taken an important first step in promoting acceptance and implementation of the six Principles within our industry.

5. We will work together to enhance our effectiveness in implementing the Principles.

AB Examples: We will engage with clients and participate in forums with other PRI signatories to better understand how the PRI are applied in our respective businesses. As a PRI signatory, we have access to information, tools and other signatories to help ensure that we are effective in our endeavors to implement the PRI.

6. We will report on our activities and progress towards implementing the Principles.

AB Examples: We will respond to the 2012 PRI questionnaire and disclose PRI scores from the questionnaire in response to inquiries from clients and in requests for proposals; we will provide examples as requested concerning active ownership activities (voting, engagement or policy dialogue).

4. RI Committee

Our firm's RI Committee provides AB stakeholders, including employees, clients, prospects, consultants and service providers alike, with a resource within our firm on which they can rely for information regarding our approach to ESG issues and how those issues are incorporated in different ways by the PRI and SRI. Additionally, the RI Committee is responsible for assisting AB personnel to further implement our firm's RI policies and practices, and, over time, to make progress on implementing all six Principles.

The RI Committee has a diverse membership, including senior representatives from investments, distribution/sales and legal. The Committee is chaired by Linda Giuliano, Senior Vice President and Chief Administrative Officer-Equities.

If you have questions or desire additional information about this Policy, we encourage you to contact the RI Committee at Rlinquiries@alliancebernstein.com.

Brochure Supplement: Credit Portfolio Management Team

March 2018

AllianceBernstein L.P., 1345 Avenue of the Americas, New York, NY 10105 | 212.969.1000

This brochure supplement provides information about your Investment Team that supplements the AllianceBernstein L.P ("AB"). Investment Advisor Brochure. Please contact the Chief Compliance Officer at 212-969-1000 if you did not receive AB's Investment Advisor Brochure or if you have any questions about the contents of this supplement.

Name / Year of Birth / Work Address	Educational Background and Business Experience		Disciplinary Information	Other Business Activities	Additional Compensation	Supervision
Shawn E. Keegan Year of Birth: 1971 1345 Avenue of the Americas New York, NY 10105 212969-6061	Siena College BS in Finance	Portfolio Manager AllianceBernstein 1997 - Present	Nothing to report.	Nothing to report.	Nothing to report.	Matthew J. Minnetian Portfolio Manager 212-969-1477 See footnote for details on how supervision is performed.
Matthew J. Minnetian Year of Birth: 1965 1345 Avenue of the Americas New York, NY 10105 212-969-1477	Columbia University MBA in Finance and Accounting Columbia University BA in Economics	Portfolio Manager AllianceBernstein L.P. 1999 - Present Chartered Financial Analyst (CFA). See footnote for details.	Nothing to report.	Nothing to report.	Nothing to report.	Gershon M. Distenfeld Director of High Yield 212-969-6131 See footnote for details on how supervision is performed.
Jorgen Kjaersgaard Year of Birth: 1964 1345 Avenue of the Americas New York, NY 10105 England +44-20-7959-4552	Aarhus School of Business, Aarhus University MBS in Finance Aarhus School of Business, Aarhus University BS in Business Administration	Portfolio Manager AllianceBernstein 2007 - Present Executive Director for structured credit solutions Rabobank 2005 - 2007	Nothing to report.	Nothing to report.	Nothing to report.	Gershon M. Distenfeld Director of High Yield 212-969-6131 See footnote for details on how supervision is performed.

Name / Year of Birth / Work Address	Educational Background and Business Experience		Disciplinary Information	Other Business Activities	Additional Compensation	Supervision
Ashish C. Shah Year of Birth: 1970	University of Pennsylvania BS in Economics and Finance	Portfolio Manager, Global Credit AllianceBernstein 2010 - Present Co-Head Global Credit Strategy Barclays Capital 2008 - 2010 Levered Credit Strategist Lehman Brothers 2003 - 2008	Nothing to report.	Registered representative of AllianceBernstein Investments Inc. ("ABI"). See footnote for details.	Nothing to report.	Seth Bernstein President and CEO 212-969-6151 See footnote for details on how supervision is performed.

CFA: To earn the CFA charter, one must pass the CFA Program, a graduate-level self-study program that combines a broad curriculum with professional conduct requirements, culminating in three sequential exams. Candidates must have at least a bachelor's degree, or its equivalent, from an accredited college or university and at least four years of qualified investment work experience. More information is available at www.cfainstitute.org.

ABI: ABI is an SEC-registered broker-dealer and FINRA member. ABI is an affiliate of AB and is primarily involved in the distribution of the AB family of mutual funds.

Supervision: AB investment professionals are subject to various forms of oversight including an independent risk program and direct supervision by managers within their respective business units. The firm's risk oversight and investment committees also provide general oversight of the investment management processes, and include senior AB investment professionals and other managers.

This document contains personal information about individuals employed at AB and is being provided to you in compliance with SEC Rule 204-3 of the Investment Advisers Act. Out of respect for the privacy of the individuals noted, we ask that you not reproduce or redistribute this information unless necessary for your evaluation of AB services and products. We greatly appreciate your consideration in this regard.

Brochure Supplement: Municipal Portfolio Management Team

March 2018

AllianceBernstein L.P., 1345 Avenue of the Americas, New York, NY 10105 | 212.969.1000

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Name / Year of Birth / Work Address	Educational Background and Business Experience		Disciplinary Information	Other Business Activities	Additional Compensation	Supervision
Robert B. Davidson III Year of Birth: 1961 1345 Avenue of the Americas New York, NY 10105 212-823-3152	New York University MBA in Finance Wesleyan University BA in Interdisciplinary program covering Economics, Government, History and Political Philosophy	Director, Municipal Bonds AllianceBernstein 1992 - Present	Nothing to report.	Nothing to report.	Nothing to report.	Douglas J. Peebles Head of Fixed Income 212-823-3018 See footnote for details on how supervision is performed.
Terrance T. Hults Year of Birth: 1966 1345 Avenue of the Americas New York, NY 10105 212-969-6453	Columbia University MBA in Finance Williams College BA in Economics	Portfolio Manager AllianceBernstein 1995 - Present	Nothing to report.	Nothing to report.	Nothing to report.	Robert B. Davidson III Director, Municipal Bonds 212-823-3152 See footnote for details on how supervision is performed.
Daryl E. Clements Year of Birth: 1967 1345 Avenue of the Americas New York, NY 10105 212-969-2362	Pace University MBA in Finance Brooklyn College BS in Management and Finance	Portfolio Manager AllianceBernstein 2002 - Present	Nothing to report.	Nothing to report.	Nothing to report.	Alison M. Martier Senior Portfolio Manager 212-969-2458 See footnote for details on how supervision is performed.

Supervision: AB investment professionals are subject to various forms of oversight including an independent risk program and direct supervision by managers within their respective business units. The firm's risk oversight and investment committees also provide general oversight of the investment management processes, and include senior AB investment professionals and other managers.

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Brochure Supplement: Thematic Research Investment Team

March 2018

AllianceBernstein L.P., 1345 Avenue of the Americas, New York, NY 10105 | 212.969.1000

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Name / Year of Birth / Work Address	Educational Background and Business Experience		Disciplinary Information	Other Business Activities	Additional Compensation	Supervision
Daniel C. Roarty Year of Birth: 1971 1735 Market St. Suite 3800 Philadelphia, PA 19103 212-969-6248	University of Pennsylvania, Wharton School of Business MBA Fairfield University BS	Chief Investment Officer—Global Growth & Thematic Equities AllianceBernstein 2013 - Present Team Leader—Global/International Research Growth & Technology Sector Head AllianceBernstein 2012 - 2013 Technology Sector Head AllianceBernstein 2011 - 2012 Managing Director Nuveen Investments 2001 - 2010 Chartered Financial Analyst (CFA). See footnote for details.	Nothing to report.	Nothing to report.	Nothing to report.	Sharon E. Fay Head and Chief Investment Officer, Equities 212-823-3021 See footnote for details on how supervision is performed.

CFA: To earn the CFA charter, one must pass the CFA Program, a graduate-level self-study program that combines a broad curriculum with professional conduct requirements, culminating in three sequential exams. Candidates must have at least a bachelor's degree, or its equivalent, from an accredited college or university and at least four years of qualified investment work experience. More information is available at www.cfainstitute.org.

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Brochure Supplement: US Multi-Sector Fixed Income Portfolio Management Team

March 2018

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Name / Year of Birth / Work Address	Educational Background and Business Experience		Disciplinary Information	Other Business Activities	Additional Compensation	Supervision
Greg J. Wilensky Year of Birth: 1967 1345 Avenue of the Americas New York, NY 10105 212-969-1316	University of Chicago MBA in Business Administration-Finance concentration Washington University BS in Finance and Accounting	Portfolio Manager, Fixed Income AllianceBernstein L.P. 1996 - Present Chartered Financial Analyst (CFA). See footnote for details.	Nothing to report.	Registered representative of AllianceBernstein Investments Inc. ("ABI"). See footnote for details.	Nothing to report.	Michael S. Canter Portfolio Manager 212-823-3456 See footnote for details on how supervision is performed.
Michael S. Canter Year of Birth: 1969 1345 Avenue of the Americas New York, NY 10105 212-823-3456	Columbia University Doctorate in Finance Columbia University Master of Philosophy Degree in Finance Northwestern University BA in Mathematics and Economics	Portfolio Manager AllianceBernstein 2007 - Present President, Ace Principal Finance Ace American Ins 2000 - 2006	Nothing to report.	Nothing to report.	Nothing to report.	Scott A. DiMaggio Portfolio Manager 212-969-6946 See footnote for details on how supervision is performed.

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Brochure Supplement: Concentrated US Growth Team

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Name / Year of Birth / Work Address	Educational Background and Business Experience		Disciplinary Information	Other Business Activities	Additional Compensation	Supervision
James T. Tierney, Jr. Year of Birth: 1966 1345 Avenue of the Americas New York, NY 10105 212-823-3824	Providence College, BS in Finance Columbia University, MBA	Chief Investment Officer—Concentrated US Growth, AllianceBernstein, 2013-Present Managing Director and Chief Investment Officer, W.P. Stewart & Co., Ltd., 2010-2013 Director and Chief Investment Officer, WPS Advisors, Inc, 2010-2013 Senior Vice President, WPS Advisors, Inc, 2003-2013 Portfolio Manager/Analyst, WPS Advisors, Inc, 2000-2013	Nothing to report.	Nothing to report.	Nothing to report.	Sharon E. Fay Head and Chief Investment Officer, Equities 212-823-3021 See footnote for details on how supervision is performed.

Name / Year of Birth / Work Address	Educational Background and Business Experience		Disciplinary Information	Other Business Activities	Additional Compensation	Supervision
Mark I. Phelps Year of Birth: 1959 50 Berkeley Street London W1J 8HA (W1J 8SB for England +44-207-959-4517	University of York, BA (Honors) in Economics Royal Military Academy	Chief Investment Officer—Concentrated Global Growth, AllianceBernstein, 2013-Present Chief Executive Officer and Director, W.P. Stewart & Co., Ltd., 2008-2013 President and Managing Director-Global Inv, W.P. Stewart & Co., Ltd., 2007-2013 Deputy Managing Director-Global Inv, W.P. Stewart & Co., Ltd., 2006-2007 Chief Executive Officer, W.P. Stewart & Co. (Europe), Ltd., 2006-2013 Director, W.P. Stewart & Co. (Europe), Ltd., 2005-2013 Director, W.P. Stewart Asset Management (Europe), Ltd., 2010-2012	Nothing to report.	Nothing to report.	Nothing to report.	Sharon E. Fay Head and Chief Investment Officer, Equities 212-823-3021 See footnote for details on how supervision is performed.

Name / Year of Birth / Work Address	Educational Background and Business Experience		Disciplinary Information	Other Business Activities	Additional Compensation	Supervision
Debasish Chakrabarti Year of Birth: 1977 50 Berkeley Street London W1J 8HA (W1J 8SB for England +44-20-7959-4518	University of Bristol, BSc (Honors) in Economics London Business School, MSc in Finance	Portfolio Manager/Senior Research Analyst—Concentrated Global Growth, AllianceBernstein, 2013-Present VP, Global Equity Portfolio Manager/Analyst, WPS Advisors, Inc., 2009-2013 European Equity Analyst, WP Stewart & Co, Ltd, 2005-2009	Nothing to report.	Nothing to report.	Nothing to report.	Mark I. Phelps Chief Investment Officer—Concentrated Global Growth +44-207-959-4517 See footnote for details on how supervision is performed.
Michael Walker Year of Birth: 1972 1345 Avenue of the Americas New York, NY 10105 212-823-3826	University of Pennsylvania (Wharton School), BS in Economics	Portfolio Manager/Senior Research Analyst—Concentrated Growth, AllianceBernstein, 2013-Present Portfolio Manager/Analyst, WPS Advisors, Inc, 2009-2013 Senior Vice President, WPS Advisors, Inc, 2011-2013 Vice President, WPS Advisors, Inc, 2009-2011 Managing Director and Analyst, Ark Asset Management, 2007-2009	Nothing to report.	Nothing to report.	Nothing to report.	James T. Tierney, Jr. Chief Investment Officer—Concentrated US Growth 212-823-3824 See footnote for details on how supervision is performed.

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In the normal course of business we collect information about our clients from the following sources: (1) account documentation, including applications or other forms (which may include information such as the client's name, address, social security number, assets, and income) and (2) information about our clients' transactions with us (such as account balances and account activity).

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