

This attachment contains the two most recent Senior Officer Fee Summaries for the Fund.

THE FOLLOWING IS NOT PART OF THE SHAREHOLDER REPORT OR THE  
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

SUMMARY OF SENIOR OFFICER'S EVALUATION OF  
INVESTMENT ADVISORY AGREEMENT<sup>1</sup>

The following is a summary of the evaluation of the Investment Advisory Agreement between AllianceBernstein L.P. (the “Adviser”) and AB Bond Fund, Inc. (the “Fund”) in respect of AB Income Fund (the “Portfolio”),<sup>2</sup> prepared by Philip L. Kirstein, the Senior Officer of the Fund for the Directors of the Fund, as required by the August 2004 agreement between the Adviser and the New York State Attorney General (the “NYAG”). The Senior Officer’s evaluation of the Investment Advisory Agreement is not meant to diminish the responsibility or authority of the Board of Directors of the Fund to perform its duties pursuant to Section 15 of the Investment Company Act of 1940 (the “40 Act”) and applicable state law. The purpose of the summary is to provide shareholders with a synopsis of the independent evaluation of the reasonableness of the advisory fees proposed to be paid by the Portfolio which was provided to the Directors in connection with their review of the proposed initial approval of the Investment Advisory Agreement.

The Senior Officer’s evaluation considered the following factors:

1. Advisory fees charged to institutional and other clients of the Adviser for like services;
2. Advisory fees charged by other mutual fund companies for like services;

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<sup>1</sup> The Senior Officer’s fee evaluation was completed on October 20, 2016 and discussed with the Board of Directors on November 1-3, 2016.

<sup>2</sup> Future references to the Portfolio do not include “AB.” References in the fee summary pertaining to performance and expense ratios refer to the Class A shares of the Portfolio.

3. Costs to the Adviser and its affiliates of supplying services pursuant to the advisory agreement, excluding any intra-corporate profit;
4. Profit margins of the Adviser and its affiliates from supplying such services;
5. Possible economies of scale as the Portfolio grows larger; and
6. Nature and quality of the Adviser's services including the performance of the Portfolio.

These factors, with the exception of the first factor, are generally referred to as the “*Gartenberg* factors,” which were articulated by the United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit in 1982. *Gartenberg v. Merrill Lynch Asset Management, Inc.*, 694 F. 2d 923 (2d Cir. 1982). On March 30, 2010, the Supreme Court held the *Gartenberg* decision was correct in its basic formulation of what Section 36(b) requires: to face liability under Section 36(b), “an investment adviser must charge a fee that is so disproportionately large that it bears no reasonable relationship to the services rendered and could not have been the product of arm’s length bargaining.” *Jones v. Harris Associates L.P.*, 130 S. Ct. 1418 (2010). In the *Jones* decision, the Court stated the *Gartenberg* approach fully incorporates the correct understanding of fiduciary duty within the context of Section 36(b) and noted with approval that “*Gartenberg* insists that all relevant circumstances be taken into account” and “uses the range of fees that might result from arm’s length bargaining as the benchmark for reviewing challenged fees.”<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>3</sup> *Jones v. Harris* at 1427.

## INVESTMENT ADVISORY FEES, NET ASSETS, & EXPENSE RATIOS

The Adviser proposed changes, set forth in the table below, to the Portfolio's advisory fee schedule and expense caps in response to changes certain financial intermediaries are making to comply with the Department of Labor's ("DOL") new Fiduciary Rule.<sup>4</sup> Corresponding new expense cap levels for the Portfolio's other share classes will also be implemented.

	Net Assets 9/30/16 <u>(\$MM)</u>	Advisory Fee Based on Average <u>Daily Net Assets</u>	Class A Total Expense Ratio <u>Expense Cap</u>
Current	\$1,003.0 <sup>5</sup>	0.60% on the first \$2.5 billion 0.55% on next \$2.5 billion 0.50% on the balance	0.88%
Proposed		0.45% on the first \$2.5 billion 0.40% on next \$2.5 billion 0.35% on the balance	0.77%

The Portfolio's Investment Advisory Agreement provides for the Adviser to be reimbursed for certain clerical, legal, accounting, administrative and other services provided to the Portfolio.

The Adviser has agreed to waive that portion of its management fees and/or reimburse the Portfolio for that portion of the Portfolio's total operating expenses to the degree necessary to limit the Portfolio's expense ratio to the amounts set forth below for the Portfolio's current fiscal year. The waiver is terminable by the Adviser at the end of

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<sup>4</sup> Under DOL Fiduciary Rule, financial intermediaries should review funds offered on their retirement platforms, and use several criteria, including fund performance, pricing, asset levels and internally generated fund family scores to determine which funds best positions the financial intermediaries to meet the standards imposed by the Fiduciary Rule. The Adviser believes the proposed advisory fees reductions and new expense caps will better position the Portfolio to meet such criteria for financial intermediaries.

<sup>5</sup> Income Fund commenced operations on April 21, 2016 as an open-end Fund and had net assets of approximately \$1.7 billion on that date.

the Portfolio's fiscal year upon at least 60 days' notice prior to the Portfolio's prospectus update. In addition, set forth below are the Portfolio's annualized gross expense ratios for the most recent semi-annual period.<sup>6</sup> As previously mentioned, the Adviser proposed to lower the expense cap for each of the Portfolio's share classes.

<u>Portfolio</u>		Expense Cap Pursuant to Expense Limitation Undertaking <sup>7</sup>		Gross Expense Ratio	Fiscal Year End
		<u>Current</u>	<u>Proposed</u>		
Income Fund <sup>8</sup>	Advisor	0.63%	0.52%	0.60%	Oct. 31
	Class A	0.88%	0.77%	0.67%	(ratios as of
	Class C	1.63%	1.52%	1.26%	Apr. 30, 2016)

## I. ADVISORY FEES CHARGED TO INSTITUTIONAL AND OTHER CLIENTS

The advisory fees charged to investment companies which the Adviser manages and sponsors are normally higher than those charged to similar sized institutional accounts, including pension plans and sub-advised investment companies. The fee differential reflects, among other things, different services provided to such clients, and different liabilities assumed. Services to be provided by the Adviser to the Portfolio that are not provided to non-investment company clients and sub-advised investment companies include providing office space and personnel to serve as Fund Officers, who among other responsibilities, make the certifications required under the Sarbanes–Oxley Act of 2002, and coordinating with and monitoring the Portfolio's third party service providers such as Fund counsel, auditors, custodians, transfer agents and pricing services.

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<sup>6</sup> Semi-annual total expense ratios are unaudited.

<sup>7</sup> The expense cap pursuant to the expense limitation undertaking for the Portfolio excludes interest expense.

<sup>8</sup> The Portfolio's Advisor Class net total expense ratio for the period January 1-April 30, 2016 was 0.59%.

The accounting, administrative, legal and compliance requirements for the Portfolio are more costly than those for institutional assets due to the greater complexities and time required for investment companies, although the Adviser is entitled to be reimbursed for providing some of these services. Also, retail mutual funds managed by the Adviser are widely held; servicing the Portfolio's investors is more time consuming and labor intensive compared to institutional clients since the Adviser needs to communicate with a more extensive network of financial intermediaries and shareholders. The Adviser also believes that it incurs substantial entrepreneurial risk when offering a new mutual fund since establishing a new mutual fund requires a large upfront investment and it may take a long time for the fund to achieve profitability since the fund must be priced to scale from inception in order to be competitive and assets are acquired one account at a time.

Managing the cash flow of an investment company may be more difficult than managing that of a stable pool of assets, such as an institutional account with little cash movement in either direction, particularly, if a fund is in net redemption and the Adviser is frequently forced to sell securities to raise cash for redemptions. However, managing a fund with positive cash flow may be easier at times than managing a stable pool of assets. Finally, in recent years, investment advisers have been sued by institutional clients and have suffered reputational damage both by the attendant publicity and outcomes other than complete victories. Accordingly, the legal and reputational risks associated with institutional accounts are greater than previously thought, although still not equal to those related to the mutual fund industry.

Notwithstanding the Adviser's view that managing an investment company is not comparable to managing other institutional accounts because the services provided are

different, the Supreme Court has indicated consideration should be given to the advisory fees charged to institutional accounts with a similar investment style as the Portfolio.<sup>9</sup>

However, the Adviser has represented that there is no category in the Form ADV for institutional products that have a substantially similar investment style as the Portfolio.

The Adviser has represented that it does not provide sub-advisory investment services to other investment companies that have a substantially similar investment style as the Portfolio.

## II. MANAGEMENT FEES CHARGED BY OTHER MUTUAL FUND COMPANIES FOR LIKE SERVICES.

Broadridge Financial Solutions, Inc. (“Broadridge”), an analytical service that is not affiliated with the Adviser, compared the fees charged to the Portfolio with fees charged to other investment companies for similar services offered by other investment advisers.<sup>10, 11</sup> Broadridge’s analysis included the comparison of the Portfolio’s contractual management fee, estimated at the approximate current asset level of the Portfolio, to the median of the Portfolio’s Broadridge Expense Group (“EG”)<sup>12</sup> and the Portfolio’s contractual management fee ranking.<sup>13</sup>

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<sup>9</sup> The Supreme Court stated that “courts may give such comparisons the weight that they merit in light of the similarities and differences between the services that the clients in question require, but the courts must be wary of inapt comparisons.” Among the significant differences the Supreme Court noted that may exist between services provided to mutual funds and institutional accounts are “higher marketing costs.” *Jones v. Harris* at 1428.

<sup>10</sup> The Supreme Court cautioned against accepting mutual fund fee comparisons without careful scrutiny since “these comparisons are problematic because these fees, like those challenged, may not be the product of negotiations conducted at arm’s length.” *Jones v. Harris* at 1429.

<sup>11</sup> On June 5, 2015, Broadridge acquired the Fiduciary Services and Competitive Intelligence unit, *i.e.*, the group responsible for providing the Portfolio’s 15(c) reports, from Thomson Reuters’ Lipper division. The group that maintains Lipper’s expense and performance databases and investment classifications/objectives remains a part of Thomson Reuters’ Lipper division. Accordingly, the Portfolio’s investment classification/objective continued to be determined by Lipper.

<sup>12</sup> Broadridge does not consider average account size when constructing EGs. Funds with relatively small average account sizes tend to have higher transfer agent expense ratios than comparable sized funds that

Broadridge describes an EG as a representative sample of comparable funds. Broadridge's standard methodology for screening funds to be included in an EG entails the consideration of several fund criteria, including fund type, Lipper investment classification/objective, load type and similar 12b-1/non-12b-1 service fees, asset (size) comparability, expense components and attributes. An EG will typically consist of seven to twenty funds. Pro-forma information is provided to show the impact of the DOL related advisory fee proposal.

<u>Portfolio</u>	Contractual Management <u>Fee (%)</u>	Broadridge EG <u>Median (%)</u>	Broadridge EG <u>Rank</u>
Income Fund	0.600	0.453	11/13
<i>Pro-forma</i>	<i>0.450</i>	<i>0.453</i>	<i>5/13</i>

Broadridge also compared the Portfolio's total expense ratio to the medians of the Portfolio's EG and Broadridge Expense Universe ("EU"). The EU is a broader group compared to the EG, consisting of all funds that have the same investment classifications/objective and load type as the subject Portfolio.<sup>14</sup> Set forth below is Broadridge's comparison of the Portfolio's total expense ratio and the medians of the Portfolio's EG and EU. Pro-forma total expense ratio (italicized) is shown to reflect the impact of the DOL related total expense ratio proposal.

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have relatively large average account sizes. There are limitations to Lipper expense category data because different funds categorize expenses differently.

<sup>13</sup> The contractual management fee is calculated by Broadridge using the Portfolio's contractual management fee rate at the hypothetical asset level. The hypothetical asset level is based on the combined net assets of all classes of the Portfolio, rounded up to the next \$25 million. Broadridge's total expense ratio information is based on the most recent annual report except as otherwise noted. A ranking of "1" would mean that Portfolio had the lowest effective fee rate in the Broadridge peer group.

<sup>14</sup> Except for asset (size) comparability, Broadridge uses the same criteria for selecting an EG when selecting an EU. Unlike the EG, the EU allows for the same adviser to be represented by more than just one fund.

<u>Portfolio</u>	Total Expense Ratio (%) <sup>15</sup>	Broadridge EG Median (%)	Broadridge EG Rank	Broadridge EU Median (%)	Broadridge EU Rank
Income Fund	0.880	0.811	10/13	N/A	N/A
<i>Pro-forma</i>	0.770	0.811	4/13	0.849	6/30

Based on this analysis, considering pro-forma information, the Portfolio has a more favorable ranking on a total expense ratio basis than on a contractual management fee basis.

### **III. COSTS TO THE ADVISER AND ITS AFFILIATES OF SUPPLYING SERVICES PURSUANT TO THE MANAGEMENT FEE ARRANGEMENT, EXCLUDING ANY INTRA-CORPORATE PROFIT.**

The Adviser utilizes two profitability reporting systems, which operate independently but are aligned with each other, to estimate the Adviser's profitability in connection with investment advisory services provided to the Portfolio. The Senior Officer has retained a consultant to provide independent advice regarding the alignment of the two profitability systems as well as the methodologies and allocations utilized by both profitability systems. See Section IV for additional discussion.

### **IV. PROFIT MARGINS OF THE ADVISER AND ITS AFFILIATES FOR SUPPLYING SUCH SERVICES.**

There is no profitability information for 2015 and 2014 since the Portfolio commenced operations on April 21, 2016.

In addition to the Adviser's direct profits from managing the Portfolio, certain of the Adviser's affiliates have business relationships with the Portfolio and may earn a profit from providing other services to the Portfolio. The courts have referred to this type

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<sup>15</sup> The total expense ratios shown are for the Portfolio's Class A shares.

of business opportunity as “fall-out benefits” to the Adviser and indicated that such benefits should be factored into the evaluation of the total relationship between the Portfolio and the Adviser. Neither case law nor common business practice precludes the Adviser’s affiliates from earning a reasonable profit on this type of relationship provided the affiliates’ charges and services are competitive and the relationship otherwise complies with the 40 Act restrictions. These affiliates provide transfer agent and distribution related services to the Portfolio and receive transfer agent fees, Rule 12b-1 payments, front-end sales loads and contingent deferred sales charges (“CDSC”).

AB Investments, Inc. (“ABI”), an affiliate of the Adviser, is the Fund’s principal underwriter. ABI and the Adviser have disclosed in the Portfolio’s prospectus that they may make revenue sharing payments from their own resources, in addition to resources derived from sales loads and Rule 12b-1 fees, to firms that sell shares of the Portfolio. The total amount to be paid to a financial intermediary associated with the sale of shares will generally not exceed the sum of (a) 0.25% of the current year’s fund sales by that firm and (b) 0.10% of the average daily net assets attributable to that firm over the year. In 2015, ABI paid approximately 0.05% of the average monthly assets of the AB Mutual Funds or approximately \$20.0 million for distribution services and educational support (revenue sharing payments).

Fees and reimbursements for out of pocket expenses to be charged by AB Investor Services, Inc. (“ABIS”), the affiliated transfer agent for the Portfolio, are based on the level of the network account and the class of shares held by the account. ABIS also receives a fee per shareholder sub-account for each account maintained by an intermediary on an omnibus basis.

## V. POSSIBLE ECONOMIES OF SCALE

The Adviser has indicated that economies of scale are being shared with shareholders of the registered investment companies it manages through pricing to scale, breakpoints, fee reductions/waivers and enhancement to services.

In May 2012, an independent consultant, retained by the Senior Officer, provided the Board of Directors information on the Adviser's firm-wide average costs from 2005 through 2011 and the potential economies of scale. The independent consultant noted that from 2005 through 2007 the Adviser experienced significant growth in assets under management ("AUM"). During this period, operating expenses increased, in part to keep up with growth, and in part reflecting market returns. However, from 2008 through the first quarter of 2009, AUM rapidly and significantly decreased due to declines in market value and client withdrawals. When AUM rapidly decreased, some operating expenses categories, including base compensation and office space, adjusted more slowly during this period, resulting in an increase in average costs. Since 2009, AUM have experienced less significant changes. The independent consultant noted that changes in operating expenses reflect changes in business composition and business practices in response to changes in financial markets. Finally, the independent consultant concluded that the increase in average cost and the decline in net operating margin across the Adviser since late 2008 are inconsistent with the view that there are currently reductions in average costs due to economies of scale that can be shared with the AB Mutual Funds managed by the Adviser through lower fees.

Previously, in February 2008, the independent consultant provided the Board of Directors an update of the Deli<sup>16</sup> study on advisory fees and various fund characteristics.<sup>17</sup> The independent consultant first reiterated the results of his previous two dimensional comparison analysis (fund size and family size) with the Board of Directors.<sup>18</sup> The independent consultant then discussed the results of the regression model that was utilized to study the effects of various factors on advisory fees. The regression model output indicated that the bulk of the variation in fees predicted were explained by various factors, but substantially by fund AUM, family AUM, index fund indicator and investment style. The independent consultant also compared the advisory fees of the AB Mutual Funds to similar funds managed by 19 other large asset managers, regardless of the fund size and each Adviser's proportion of mutual fund assets to non-mutual fund assets.

## VI. NATURE AND QUALITY OF THE ADVISER'S SERVICES, INCLUDING THE PERFORMANCE OF THE FUND

With assets under management of approximately \$490 billion as of September 30, 2016, the Adviser has the investment experience to manage and provide non-investment services (described in Section I) to the Portfolio.

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<sup>16</sup> The Deli study, originally published in 2002 based on 1997 data and updated for the February 2008 Presentation, may be of diminished value due to the age of the data used in the presentation and the changes experienced in the industry over the last four years. Source: Deli, Daniel N. "Mutual Fund Advisory Contracts: An Empirical Investigation." *Journal of Finance*, 57(1): 109-133 (2002).

<sup>17</sup> As mentioned previously, the Supreme Court cautioned against accepting mutual fund fee comparisons without careful scrutiny since the fees may not be the product of negotiations conducted at arm's length. See *Jones V. Harris* at 1429.

<sup>18</sup> The two dimensional analysis showed patterns of lower advisory fees for funds with larger asset sizes and funds from larger family sizes compared to funds with smaller asset sizes and funds from smaller family sizes, which according to the independent consultant is indicative of a sharing of economies of scale and scope. However, in less liquid and active markets, such is not the case, as the empirical analysis showed potential for diseconomies of scale in those markets. The empirical analysis also showed diminishing economies of scale and scope as funds surpassed a certain high level of assets.

Since the Portfolio has less than 1 year of performance history, there is no Broadridge performance comparison against its peers. Set forth below are the 1 year and since inception performance returns of the Portfolio (in bold)<sup>19</sup> versus its benchmark.<sup>20</sup>

Period Ending July 31, 2016  
Annualized Net Performance (%)

	<u>Since Inception</u> <u>(%)</u>
<b>Income Fund</b>	<b>3.23</b>
Bloomberg Barclays US Aggregate Index	3.21
<i>Inception Date: April 21, 2016</i>	

#### CONCLUSION:

Based on the factors discussed above the Senior Officer's conclusion is that the proposed advisory fee for the Portfolio is reasonable and within the range of what would have been negotiated at arm's length in light of all the surrounding circumstances. This conclusion in respect of the Portfolio is based on an evaluation of all of these factors and no single factor was dispositive.

Dated: November 18, 2016

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<sup>19</sup> The performance returns and risk measures shown in the table are for the Class A shares of the Portfolio.

<sup>20</sup> The Adviser provided Portfolio and benchmark performance return information for periods through July 31, 2016.

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SUMMARY OF SENIOR OFFICER'S EVALUATION OF  
INVESTMENT ADVISORY AGREEMENT<sup>1</sup>

The following is a summary of the evaluation of the Investment Advisory Agreement between AllianceBernstein L.P. (the “Adviser”) and AB Bond Fund, Inc. (the “Fund”) in respect of AB Income Portfolio (the “Portfolio”),<sup>2</sup> prepared by Philip L. Kirstein, the Senior Officer of the Fund for the Directors of the Fund, as required by the August 2004 agreement between the Adviser and the New York State Attorney General (the “NYAG”). The Senior Officer’s evaluation of the Investment Advisory Agreement is not meant to diminish the responsibility or authority of the Board of Directors of the Fund to perform its duties pursuant to Section 15 of the Investment Company Act of 1940 (the “40 Act”) and applicable state law. The purpose of the summary is to provide shareholders with a synopsis of the independent evaluation of the reasonableness of the advisory fees proposed to be paid by the Portfolio which was provided to the Directors in connection with their review of the proposed initial approval of the Investment Advisory Agreement.

The Adviser proposed the reorganization of AB Income Fund, Inc. (“ABIF”), the existing closed-end investment company managed by the Adviser, and the establishment of the Portfolio as a “shell” fund to receive the assets of ABIF into the Portfolio. For various reasons, the Adviser is seeking to effectively convert ABIF into an open-end fund. The Adviser seeks an agreement and plan of acquisition and liquidation for the

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<sup>1</sup> The Senior Officer’s fee evaluation was completed on July 23, 2015 and discussed with the Board of Directors on August 4-5, 2015.

<sup>2</sup> Future references to the Portfolio do not include “AB.” References in the fee summary pertaining to performance and expense ratios refer to the Class A shares of the Portfolio.

transfer of ABIF's assets and liabilities into the Portfolio in exchange for shares of the Portfolio.

The Portfolio's investment objective is high current income consistent with preservation of capital. The Portfolio will invest at least 80% of its net assets in income-producing securities. The Portfolio will, under normal circumstances, invest at least 65% of its total assets in securities of U.S. and foreign governments, their agencies and instrumentalities, and repurchase agreements pertaining to U.S. government securities. Furthermore, the Portfolio will be limited to investing at least 65% of its net assets denominated in U.S. dollars; no more than 35% of the Portfolio's net assets will be invested in below investment-grade securities; and no more than 25% of the Portfolio's total assets will be invested in securities of issuers in any one country other than the U.S.

The Adviser will select securities for purchase or sale based on its assessment of the securities' individual risk and returns characteristics and overall impact to the Portfolio's risk and return characteristics. In making this assessment, the Adviser will take into account various factors, including the credit quality and sensitivity to interest rates of the securities under consideration and of the Portfolio's other holdings. The Portfolio's non-fundamental investment policies will restrict the Portfolio from margin purchases and investing in oil, gas and mineral exploration programs.

The Adviser expects to use a variety of derivatives, including options, swaps, forwards and futures, in its management of the Portfolio. In addition, the Adviser does not plan to leverage the Portfolio through conventional borrowings, but may utilize reverse repurchase agreements and similar instruments. The use of derivatives and reverse repurchase agreements is expected to create gross exposure for the Portfolio that

will at times be substantially in excess of the Portfolio's net assets, effectively leveraging the Portfolio.

The Portfolio's benchmark will be the Barclays U.S. Aggregate Bond Index. The Adviser expects Lipper and Morningstar to place the Portfolio in their respective Core Plus Bond and Intermediate Term Bond categories, respectively.

The Senior Officer's evaluation considered the following factors:

1. Advisory fees charged to institutional and other clients of the Adviser for like services;
2. Advisory fees charged by other mutual fund companies for like services;
3. Costs to the Adviser and its affiliates of supplying services pursuant to the advisory agreement, excluding any intra-corporate profit;
4. Profit margins of the Adviser and its affiliates from supplying such services;
5. Possible economies of scale as the Portfolio grows larger; and
6. Nature and quality of the Adviser's services including the performance of the Portfolio.

These factors, with the exception of the first factor, are generally referred to as the "Gartenberg factors," which were articulated by the United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit in 1982. *Gartenberg v. Merrill Lynch Asset Management, Inc.*, 694 F. 2d 923 (2d Cir. 1982). On March 30, 2010, the Supreme Court held the *Gartenberg* decision was correct in its basic formulation of what Section 36(b) requires: to face liability under Section 36(b), "an investment adviser must charge a fee that is so

disproportionately large that it bears no reasonable relationship to the services rendered and could not have been the product of arm's length bargaining." *Jones v. Harris Associates L.P.*, 130 S. Ct. 1418 (2010). In the *Jones* decision, the Court stated the *Gartenberg* approach fully incorporates the correct understanding of fiduciary duty within the context of Section 36(b) and noted with approval that "*Gartenberg* insists that all relevant circumstances be taken into account" and "uses the range of fees that might result from arm's length bargaining as the benchmark for reviewing challenged fees."<sup>3</sup>

## INVESTMENT ADVISORY FEES, NET ASSETS, & EXPENSE RATIOS

The Adviser proposed that the Portfolio pays the advisory fee set forth below for receiving the services to be provided pursuant to the Investment Advisory Agreement.

<u>Portfolio</u>	<u>Advisory Fee Schedule Based on Average Daily Net Assets</u>
Income Portfolio <sup>4</sup>	0.60% on the first \$2.5 billion 0.55% on the next \$2.5 billion 0.50% on the balance

In addition to paying the advisory fee, the Investment Advisory Agreement provides for the Adviser to be reimbursed for providing administrative and accounting services.

The Portfolio's Expense Limitation Agreement calls for the Adviser to establish expense caps, set forth below, for a two year period after the Portfolio commences

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<sup>3</sup> *Jones v. Harris* at 1427.

<sup>4</sup> The proposed advisory fee schedule for the Portfolio is identical to that of recently established fixed income funds: AB Bond Fund, Inc. – Limited Duration High Income Portfolio and AB Bond Fund, Inc. – High Yield Portfolio. The proposed advisory fee schedule for the Portfolio has a higher effective fee rate than the advisory fee schedule of the NYAG related High Income category, in which the Portfolio would have been categorized, had the Adviser proposed to implement the NYAG related fee schedule. The advisory fee schedule of the High Income category is as follows: 50 bp on the first \$2.5 billion, 45 bp on the next \$2.5 billion, and 40 bp on the balance.

operations. The Expense Limitation Agreement also provides a mechanism for reimbursing the Adviser for its expense cap subsidies. Under the Expense Limitation Agreement, the Adviser may be able to recoup all or a portion of the amounts waived or reimbursed until the end of three fiscal years after the fiscal period in which the amounts were waived or reimbursed to the extent that the reimbursements do not cause the expense ratios of the Portfolio’s share classes to exceed the expense caps. The Adviser’s ability to recoup expenses will terminate with the agreements. The Adviser does not expect the Portfolio to outgrow its expense cap.

<u>Portfolio</u>	Expense Cap Pursuant to Expense Limitation <u>Undertaking</u>	Estimated Gross Expense <u>Ratio</u> <sup>5</sup>	Fiscal Year <u>End</u>
Income Portfolio <sup>6</sup>	Class A      0.90% Class C      1.65% Class R      1.15% Class K      0.90% Class I      0.65% Advisor      0.65% Class Z      0.65%	1.10% 1.87% 1.51% 1.20% 0.87% 0.85% 0.77%	October

## I. ADVISORY FEES CHARGED TO INSTITUTIONAL AND OTHER CLIENTS

The advisory fees charged to investment companies which the Adviser manages and sponsors are normally higher than those charged to similar sized institutional accounts, including pension plans and sub-advised investment companies. The fee differential reflects, among other things, different services provided to such clients, and

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<sup>5</sup> The Portfolio’s estimated gross expense ratios is based on an initial estimate of the Portfolio’s net assets at \$1 billion.

<sup>6</sup> Shareholders of ABIF who choose to “open-end” their shares to ABIF would receive Advisor Class shares. During ABIF’s most recently completed fiscal year, its total expense ratio was 0.61% excluding interest expense.

different liabilities assumed. Services to be provided by the Adviser to the Portfolio that are not provided to non-investment company clients and sub-advised investment companies include providing office space and personnel to serve as Fund Officers, who among other responsibilities, make the certifications required under the Sarbanes–Oxley Act of 2002, and coordinating with and monitoring the Portfolio’s third party service providers such as Fund counsel, auditors, custodians, transfer agents and pricing services. The accounting, administrative, legal and compliance requirements for the Portfolio will be more costly than those for institutional assets due to the greater complexities and time required for investment companies, although the Adviser will be reimbursed for providing some of these services. Also, retail mutual funds managed by the Adviser are widely held; servicing the Portfolio’s investors will be more time consuming and labor intensive compared to institutional clients since the Adviser needs to communicate with a more extensive network of financial intermediaries and shareholders. The Adviser also believes that it incurs substantial entrepreneurial risk when offering a new mutual fund since establishing a new mutual fund requires a large upfront investment and it may take a long time for the fund to achieve profitability since the fund must be priced to scale from inception in order to be competitive and assets are acquired one account at a time. Managing the cash flow of an investment company may be more difficult than managing that of a stable pool of assets, such as an institutional account with little cash movement in either direction, particularly, if a fund is in net redemption and the Adviser is frequently forced to sell securities to raise cash for redemptions. However, managing a fund with positive cash flow may be easier at times than managing a stable pool of assets. Finally, in recent years, investment advisers have been sued by institutional clients and

have suffered reputational damage both by the attendant publicity and outcomes other than complete victories. Accordingly, the legal and reputational risks associated with institutional accounts are greater than previously thought, although still not equal to those related to the mutual fund industry.

Notwithstanding the Adviser's view that managing an investment company is not comparable to managing other institutional accounts because the services provided are different, the Supreme Court has indicated consideration should be given to the advisory fees charged to institutional accounts with a similar investment style as the Portfolio.<sup>7</sup> However, the Adviser has represented that there is no category in the Form ADV for institutional products that have a substantially similar investment style as the Portfolio.

Set forth in the table below is ABIF's investment advisory fee schedule. The advisory fee has two components: (i) a base fee based on the closed-end fund's average weekly net assets; and (ii) a fee based on the fund's daily gross income. The Adviser and/or its affiliates are also compensated for administrative and shareholder inquiry services provided to ABIF:

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<sup>7</sup> The Supreme Court stated that "courts may give such comparisons the weight that they merit in light of the similarities and differences between the services that the clients in question require, but the courts must be wary of inapt comparisons." Among the significant differences the Supreme Court noted that may exist between services provided to mutual funds and institutional accounts are "higher marketing costs." *Jones v. Harris* at 1428.

AB Fund    Fee Schedule<sup>8</sup>

**ABIF**      Advisory Fee:  
0.30% on the first \$250 million  
0.25% on the balance  
plus 4.75% of daily gross income

*ABIF's advisory fee shall not exceed  
0.80% of the fund's average weekly net  
assets.*

Administration Fee:  
At cost reimbursement

Shareholder Inquiry Agency Fee:  
At cost reimbursement

The Adviser has represented that it does not provide sub-advisory investment services to other investment companies that have a substantially similar investment style as the Portfolio.

## II. MANAGEMENT FEES CHARGED BY OTHER MUTUAL FUND COMPANIES FOR LIKE SERVICES.

Lipper, Inc. (“Lipper”), an analytical service that is not affiliated with the Adviser, compared the fees charged to the Portfolio with fees charged to other investment companies for similar services offered by other investment advisers.<sup>9</sup> Lipper’s analysis included the comparison of the Portfolio’s contractual management fee, estimated at an initial asset level of \$1 billion, to the median of the Portfolio’s Lipper Expense Group (“EG”)<sup>10</sup> and the Portfolio’s contractual management fee ranking.<sup>11</sup>

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<sup>8</sup> ABIF’s base fee is calculated based on ABIF’s average weekly net assets.

<sup>9</sup> The Supreme Court cautioned against accepting mutual fund fee comparisons without careful scrutiny since “these comparisons are problematic because these fees, like those challenged, may not be the product of negotiations conducted at arm’s length.” *Jones v. Harris* at 1429.

<sup>10</sup> Lipper does not consider average account size when constructing EGs. Funds with relatively small average account sizes tend to have higher transfer agent expense ratio than comparable sized funds that

Lipper describes an EG as a representative sample of comparable funds. Lipper's standard methodology for screening funds to be included in an EG entails the consideration of several fund criteria, including fund type, investment classification/objective, load type and similar 12b-1/non-12b-1 service fees, asset (size) comparability, expense components, operating structure, and expense attributes and attributes. An EG will typically consist of seven to twenty funds.

<u>Portfolio</u>	Contractual Management Fee (%) <sup>12</sup>	Lipper Exp. Group Median (%)	Lipper Rank
Income Portfolio	0.600	0.569	9/12

Lipper also compared the Portfolio's projected total expense ratio to the medians of the Portfolio's EG and Lipper Expense Universe ("EU"). The EU is a broader group compared to the EG, consisting of all funds that have the same investment classification/objective and load type as the subject Portfolio.<sup>13</sup>

<u>Portfolio</u>	Expense Ratio (%) <sup>14</sup>	Lipper Exp. Group Median (%)	Lipper Group Rank	Lipper Exp. Universe Median (%)	Lipper Universe Rank
Income Portfolio	0.900	0.867	8/12	0.874	17/28

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have relatively large average account sizes. There are limitations to Lipper expense category data because different funds categorize expenses differently.

<sup>11</sup> The contractual management fee is calculated by Lipper using the Portfolio's contractual management fee rate at a hypothetical asset level. The hypothetical asset level is based on the combined net assets of all classes of the Portfolio, rounded up to the next \$25 million. Lipper's total expense ratio information is based on the most recent annual report except as otherwise noted. A ranking of "1" would mean that Fund had the lowest effective fee rate in the Lipper peer group.

<sup>12</sup> The contractual management fee does not reflect any expense reimbursements made by the Portfolio to the Adviser for certain clerical, legal, accounting, administrative, and other services. In addition, the contractual management fee does not reflect any advisory fee waivers for expense caps.

<sup>13</sup> Except for asset (size) comparability, Lipper uses the same criteria for selecting an EG peer when selecting an EU peer. Unlike the EG, the EU allows for the same adviser to be represented by more than just one fund.

<sup>14</sup> Projected total expense ratio information, based on an initial net asset estimate of \$1 billion, pertains to the Portfolio's Class A shares.

Based on this analysis, the Portfolio has a higher contractual management fee than the EG median. In addition, the Portfolio's total expense ratio is higher than both EG and EU medians.

**III. COSTS TO THE ADVISER AND ITS AFFILIATES OF SUPPLYING SERVICES PURSUANT TO THE MANAGEMENT FEE ARRANGEMENT, EXCLUDING ANY INTRA-CORPORATE PROFIT.**

The Adviser utilizes two profitability reporting systems, which operate independently but are aligned with each other, to estimate the Adviser's profitability in connection with investment advisory services provided to the Portfolio. The Senior Officer has retained a consultant to provide independent advice regarding the alignment of the two profitability systems as well as the methodologies and allocations utilized by both profitability systems. See Section IV for additional discussion.

**IV. PROFIT MARGINS OF THE ADVISER AND ITS AFFILIATES FOR SUPPLYING SUCH SERVICES.**

The Portfolio has not yet commenced operations. Therefore, there is no historic profitability data with respect to the Adviser's investment services to the Portfolio.

In addition to the Adviser's direct profits from managing the Portfolio, certain of the Adviser's affiliates have business relationships with the Portfolio and may earn a profit from providing other services to the Portfolio. The courts have referred to this type of business opportunity as "fall-out benefits" to the Adviser and indicated that such benefits should be factored into the evaluation of the total relationship between the Portfolio and the Adviser. Neither case law nor common business practice precludes the Adviser's affiliates from earning a reasonable profit on this type of relationship provided the affiliates' charges and services are competitive and the relationship otherwise

complies with the 40 Act restrictions. These affiliates provide transfer agent and distribution related services to the Portfolio and receive transfer agent fees, Rule 12b-1 payments, front-end sales loads and contingent deferred sales charges (“CDSC”).

AB Investments, Inc. (“ABI”), an affiliate of the Adviser, is the Fund’s principal underwriter. ABI and the Adviser have disclosed in the Portfolio’s prospectus that they may make revenue sharing payments from their own resources, in addition to resources derived from sales loads and Rule 12b-1 fees, to firms that sell shares of the Portfolio. The total amount to be paid to a financial intermediary associated with the sale of shares will generally not exceed the sum of (a) 0.25% of the current year’s fund sales by that firm and (b) 0.10% of the average daily net assets attributable to that firm over the year. In 2014, ABI paid approximately 0.05% of the average monthly assets of the AB Mutual Funds or approximately \$20.4 million for distribution services and educational support (revenue sharing payments).

Fees and reimbursements for out of pocket expenses to be charged by AB Investor Services, Inc. (“ABIS”), the affiliated transfer agent for the Portfolio, are based on the level of the network account and the class of shares held by the account. ABIS also receives a fee per shareholder sub-account for each account maintained by an intermediary on an omnibus basis.

## V. POSSIBLE ECONOMIES OF SCALE

The Adviser has indicated that economies of scale are being shared with shareholders of the registered investment companies it manages through pricing to scale, breakpoints, fee reductions/waivers and enhancement to services.

In May 2012, an independent consultant, retained by the Senior Officer, provided the Board of Directors information on the Adviser's firm-wide average costs from 2005 through 2011 and the potential economies of scale. The independent consultant noted that from 2005 through 2007 the Adviser experienced significant growth in assets under management ("AUM"). During this period, operating expenses increased, in part to keep up with growth, and in part reflecting market returns. However, from 2008 through the first quarter of 2009, AUM rapidly and significantly decreased due to declines in market value and client withdrawals. When AUM rapidly decreased, some operating expenses categories, including base compensation and office space, adjusted more slowly during this period, resulting in an increase in average costs. Since 2009, AUM have experienced less significant changes. The independent consultant noted that changes in operating expenses reflect changes in business composition and business practices in response to changes in financial markets. Finally, the independent consultant concluded that the increase in average cost and the decline in net operating margin across the Adviser since late 2008 are inconsistent with the view that there are currently reductions in average costs due to economies of scale that can be shared with the AB Mutual Funds managed by the Adviser through lower fees.

In February 2008, the independent consultant provided the Board of Directors an update of the Deli<sup>15</sup> study on advisory fees and various fund characteristics.<sup>16</sup> The independent consultant first reiterated the results of his previous two dimensional

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<sup>15</sup> The Deli study, originally published in 2002 based on 1997 data and updated for the February 2008 Presentation, may be of diminished value due to the age of the data used in the presentation and the changes experienced in the industry since 2008.

<sup>16</sup> As mentioned previously, the Supreme Court cautioned against accepting mutual fund fee comparisons without careful scrutiny since the fees may not be the product of negotiations conducted at arm's length. See *Jones V. Harris* at 1429.

comparison analysis (fund size and family size) with the Board of Directors.<sup>17</sup> The independent consultant then discussed the results of the regression model that was utilized to study the effects of various factors on advisory fees. The regression model output indicated that the bulk of the variation in fees predicted were explained by various factors, but substantially by fund AUM, family AUM, index fund indicator and investment style. The independent consultant also compared the advisory fees of the AB Mutual Funds to similar funds managed by 19 other large asset managers, regardless of the fund size and each Adviser's proportion of mutual fund assets to non-mutual fund assets.

## **VI. NATURE AND QUALITY OF THE ADVISER'S SERVICES, INCLUDING THE PERFORMANCE OF THE FUND**

With assets under management of approximately \$485 billion as of June 30, 2015, the Adviser has the investment experience to manage and provide non-investment services (described in Section I) to the Portfolio.

Since the Portfolio has not yet commenced operations, the Portfolio has no performance history. Performance information for ABIF, set forth below, was discussed with the Directors at the August 4-5, 2015 meetings.

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<sup>17</sup> The two dimensional analysis showed patterns of lower advisory fees for funds with larger asset sizes and funds from larger family sizes compared to funds with smaller asset sizes and funds from smaller family sizes, which according to the independent consultant is indicative of a sharing of economies of scale and scope. However, in less liquid and active markets, such is not the case, as the empirical analysis showed potential for diseconomies of scale in those markets. The empirical analysis also showed diminishing economies of scale and scope as funds surpassed a certain high level of assets.

Periods Ended May 31, 2015 at NAV

	1 Year (%)	3 Year (%)	5 Year (%)	10 Year (%)
<b>ABIF</b>	<b>5.78</b>	<b>5.52</b>	<b>7.37</b>	<b>8.03</b>
Lipper Corporate BBB-Rated Debt Funds	2.50	4.93	6.86	6.12
(Leveraged) Average / # Funds				
Lipper Core Plus Bond Average / # Funds <sup>18</sup>	2.37	3.41	4.74	4.86
Barclays U.S. Aggregate Bond Index <sup>18</sup>	3.03	2.21	3.90	4.61

*Inception Date: August 28, 1987*

**CONCLUSION:**

Based on the factors discussed above, the Senior Officer's recommended that the Directors consider asking the Adviser to extend the two-year expense cap period for the Portfolio and to explain why it did not propose to implement ABIF's advisory schedule, which has two components: a base fee and a fee based on the closed-end fund's daily gross income. Such fee structure would compensate the Adviser more directly proportionate to the level of income earned by the Portfolio. This conclusion in respect of the Portfolio is based on an evaluation of all of these factors and no single factor was dispositive.

Dated: August 28, 2015

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<sup>18</sup> Unlike ABIF, funds in the Lipper category, Core Plus Bond, are not leveraged. The Barclays U.S. Aggregate Bond Index is also not leveraged. ABIF's ability to utilize leverage may give the closed-end fund an advantage in terms of performance in comparison to funds that are not leveraged.