

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") with respect to AB Intermediate Bond Portfolio (the "Portfolio").<sup>2</sup> The evaluation of the Investment Advisory Agreement was prepared by Philip L. Kirstein, the Senior Officer of the Fund, for the Directors of the Fund, as required by the September 1, 2004 Assurance of Discontinuance ("AoD") 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 this 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 approval of the continuance 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;

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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.

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 *Jones*, 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 CAPS & RATIOS

The Adviser proposed that the Portfolio pay the advisory fee set forth below for receiving the services to be provided pursuant to the Investment Advisory Agreement. The fee schedule below, implemented in January 2004 in connection with the Adviser's settlement with the NYAG in December 2003, is based on a master schedule that contemplates eight categories of funds with almost all funds in each category having the same advisory fee schedule.

| <u>Portfolio</u>            | <u>Category</u> | <u>Advisory Fee<br/>Based on % of Average<br/>Daily Net Assets</u>                            | <u>Net Assets<br/>09/30/16<br/>(\$MM)</u> |
|-----------------------------|-----------------|---|---|
| Intermediate Bond Portfolio | Low Risk Income | 0.45% on 1 <sup>st</sup> \$2.5 billion<br>0.40% on next \$2.5 billion<br>0.35% on the balance | \$377.3                                   |

The Adviser is reimbursed as specified in the Investment Advisory Agreement for certain clerical, legal, accounting, administrative and other services provided to the Portfolio. During the Portfolio's fiscal year ended October 31, 2015, the Adviser received \$45,801 (0.013% of the Portfolio's average daily net assets) for such services.

The Adviser agreed to waive that portion of its advisory 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 ratios to the amounts set forth below for the Portfolio's current fiscal year. The waiver is terminable by the Adviser upon at least 60 days' notice prior to the Portfolio's prospectus update. In addition, set forth below are the Portfolio's gross expense ratios for the most recent semi-annual period.<sup>4</sup> The Adviser proposed changes to the Portfolio's expense caps in response to changes certain financial

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<sup>4</sup> Semi-annual total expense ratios are unaudited.

intermediaries are making to comply with the Department of Labor’s (“DOL”) new Fiduciary Rule.<sup>5</sup>

| <u>Portfolio</u>               |         | Expense Cap Pursuant to Expense<br>Limitation Undertaking <sup>6</sup> |                 | Gross<br>Expense<br>Ratio | Fiscal Year<br>End                         |
|--------------------------------|---------|--|-----------------|---------------------------|--|
|                                |         | <u>Current</u>   | <u>Proposed</u> |                           |  |
| Intermediate Bond<br>Portfolio | Advisor | 0.60%  | 0.52%           | 0.77%                     | Oct. 31<br>(ratios as of<br>Apr. 30, 2016) |
|                                | Class A | 0.85%  | 0.77%           | 1.02%                     |  |
|                                | Class B | 1.60%  | 1.52%           | 1.87%                     |  |
|                                | Class C | 1.60%  | 1.52%           | 1.78%                     |  |
|                                | Class R | 1.10%  | 1.02%           | 1.39%                     |  |
|                                | Class K | 0.85%  | 0.77%           | 1.07%                     |  |
|                                | Class I | 0.60%  | 0.52%           | 0.74%                     |  |
|                                | Class Z | 0.60%  | 0.52%           | 0.64%                     |  |

## 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 provided by the Adviser to the Portfolio that are not provided to non-investment company clients 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

<sup>5</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 position the financial intermediaries to meet the standards imposed by the Fiduciary Rule. The Adviser believes the proposed advisory fee reductions and new expense caps will better position the Portfolio to meet such criteria for financial intermediaries.

<sup>6</sup> The expense cap pursuant to the expense limitation undertaking for each Fund excludes interest expense.

and compliance requirements for the Portfolio are more costly than those for institutional client assets due to the greater complexities and time required for investment companies, although as previously noted, the Adviser is reimbursed for providing such services. Also, retail mutual funds managed by the Adviser are widely held and accordingly, servicing the Portfolio's investors is more time consuming and labor intensive compared to servicing 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. In addition, managing the cash flow of an investment company may be more difficult than that of a stable pool of assets, such as an institutional account with little cash movement in either direction, particularly if the Portfolio 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 arguably 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> In addition to the AB Institutional fee schedule, set forth below is what would have been the effective advisory fee for the Portfolio had the AB Institutional fee schedule been applicable to the Portfolio based on September 30, 2016 net assets.<sup>8</sup>

| <u>Portfolio</u>            | <u>Net Assets<br/>9/30/16<br/>(\$MM)</u> | <u>AB<br/>Institutional<br/>Fee Schedule</u>   | <u>Effective<br/>AB Inst.<br/>Adv. Fee</u> | <u>Portfolio<br/>Advisory<br/>Fee</u> |
|-----------------------------|--|--|--|---------------------------------------|
| Intermediate Bond Portfolio | \$377.3                                  | U.S. Strategic Core Plus Schedule<br>0.50% on 1 <sup>st</sup> \$30 million<br>0.20% on the balance<br><i>Minimum Account Size: \$100 m</i> | 0.224%                                     | 0.450%                                |

The Adviser manages Sanford C. Bernstein Fund, Inc. (“SCB Fund”), an open-end management investment company. The Intermediate Duration Portfolio of SCB Fund has a similar investment style as the Portfolio. Set forth below are Intermediate Duration Portfolio’s advisory fee schedule and what would have been the effective advisory fee of the Portfolio had the fee schedule of Intermediate Duration Portfolio been applicable to the Portfolio based on September 30, 2016 net assets:

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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.

<sup>8</sup> The Adviser has indicated that with respect to institutional accounts with assets greater than \$300 million, it will negotiate a fee schedule. Discounts that are negotiated vary based upon each client relationship.

| <u>Portfolio</u>            | <u>SCB Fund Portfolio</u>       | <u>Fee Schedule</u>   | <u>SCB Fund Effective Fee</u> | <u>Portfolio Advisory Fee</u> |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------------|---|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Intermediate Bond Portfolio | Intermediate Duration Portfolio | 0.50% on 1 <sup>st</sup> \$1 billion<br>0.45% on next \$2 billion<br>0.40% on next \$2 billion<br>0.35% on next \$2 billion<br>0.30% thereafter | 0.500%                        | 0.450%                        |

The adviser also manages the AB Variable Products Series Fund, Inc. (“AVPS”), which is available through variable annuity and variable life contracts offered by other financial institutions and offers policyholders the option to utilize certain AVPS portfolios as the investment option underlying their insurance contracts. The AVPS Portfolio has the same advisory fee schedule as the Portfolio.

The Adviser provides sub-advisory investment services to certain other investment companies managed by other fund families. The Adviser charges the following fee for the sub-advisory relationship that has a somewhat similar investment style as the Portfolio. Also shown are the Portfolio’s advisory fee, the advisory fee schedule of the sub-advised fund, and what would have been the effective management fee of the Portfolio had the fee schedule of the sub-advisory relationship been applicable to the Portfolio based on September 30, 2016 net assets:

| <u>Portfolio</u>                         | <u>Sub-advised Fund</u> | <u>Sub-advised Fund Fee Schedule</u>             | <u>Sub-Advised Fund Effective Fee</u> | <u>Portfolio Advisory Fee</u> |
|--|-------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Intermediate Bond Portfolio <sup>9</sup> | Client #1 <sup>10</sup> | 0.29% on first \$100 million<br>0.20% thereafter | 0.224%                                | 0.450%                        |

<sup>9</sup> It should be noted that the advisory fee paid by the shareholders of the sub-advisory relationship is higher than the fee charged to the Portfolio.

<sup>10</sup> The sub-advisory relationship is with an affiliate of the Adviser.

It is fair to note that the services the Adviser provides pursuant to sub-advisory agreements are generally confined to the services related to the investment process; in other words, they are not as comprehensive as the services provided to the Portfolio by the Adviser. In addition to the extent that this sub-advisory relationship is with an affiliate of the Adviser, the fee schedule may not reflect arm's-length bargaining or negotiations.

While it appears that the sub-advisory relationship is paying a lower fee than the Portfolio, it is difficult to evaluate the relevance of such fees due to the differences in the services provided, risks involved and other competitive factors between the Portfolio and the sub-advisory relationship. There could be various business reasons why an investment adviser would be willing to provide a sub-advised relationship investment related services at a different fee level than an investment company it is sponsoring where the investment adviser is provided all the services, not just investment management service generally required by a registered investment company.

## 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 by other investment advisers.<sup>11, 12</sup> Broadridge's analysis included the comparison of the Portfolio's

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<sup>11</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>12</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 classification/objective remains a part of Thomson Reuters' Lipper division. Accordingly, the Portfolio's investment classification continued to be determined by Lipper.

contractual management fee,<sup>13</sup> estimated at the approximate current asset level of the subject Portfolio, to the median of the Portfolio’s Broadridge Expense Group (“EG”)<sup>14</sup> and the Portfolio’s contractual management fee ranking.

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, 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.

| <u>Portfolio</u>            | <u>Contractual<br/>Management<br/>Fee (%)</u> | <u>Broadridge<br/>EG<br/>Median (%)</u> | <u>Rank</u> |
|-----------------------------|---|---|-------------|
| Intermediate Bond Portfolio | 0.450   | 0.450                                   | 5/13        |

Broadridge also compared the Portfolio’s most recently completed fiscal year total expense ratios to the Portfolio’s EGs and Broadridge Expense Universe (“EU”). The EU is a broader group compared to the EG, consisting of all funds that have the same Lipper investment classification/objective and load type as the subject Fund.<sup>15</sup> Set forth below is Broadridge’s comparison of the Portfolio’s total expense ratios and the median of the Portfolio’s EGs and EUs. The Portfolio’s total expense ratio rankings are also

<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 the Portfolio had the lowest effective fee rate in the Broadridge peer group.

<sup>14</sup> Broadridge does not consider average account size when constructing EGs. Funds with relatively small average account sizes tend to have a higher transfer agent expense ratio than comparable sized funds that have relatively large average account sizes.

<sup>15</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.

shown. Pro-forma total expense ratio (italicized) is also shown to show the impact of the DOL related total expense ratio proposal.

| <u>Portfolio</u>            | Total<br>Expense<br>Ratio<br>(%) <sup>16</sup> | Broadridge<br>Exp. Group<br>Median (%) | Broadridge<br>Group<br>Rank | Broadridge<br>Exp.<br>Universe<br>Median (%) | Broadridge<br>Universe<br>Rank |
|-----------------------------|--|--|-----------------------------|--|--------------------------------|
| Intermediate Bond Portfolio | 0.878  | 0.867                                  | 10/13                       | 0.852  | 32/51                          |
| <i>Pro-forma</i>            | <i>0.770</i>                                   | <i>0.867</i>                           | <i>2/13</i>                 | <i>0.852</i>                                 | <i>14/51</i>                   |

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 ADVISORY 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 an independent 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 profitability information for the Portfolio, prepared by the Adviser for the Board of Directors, was reviewed by the Senior Officer and the independent consultant.

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<sup>16</sup> Most recently completed fiscal year Class A share total expense ratio.

The Adviser's profitability from providing investment advisory services to the Portfolio decreased during calendar year 2015 relative to 2014.

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. These affiliates provide transfer agent and distribution related services to the Portfolio and receive transfer agent fees, front-end sales loads, Rule 12b-1 payments and contingent deferred sales charges ("CDSC"). During the Portfolio's fiscal year ended October 21, 2015, ABI received from the Portfolio \$5,543, \$1,207,992 and \$5,401 in front-end sales charges, Rule 12b-1 and CDSC fees, respectively.

AllianceBernstein Investments, Inc. ("ABI"), an affiliate of the Adviser, is the Portfolio'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 revenues derived from sales loads and Rule 12b-1 fees, to firms that sell shares of the Portfolio. In 2015, ABI paid approximately 0.05% of the average monthly assets of the AllianceBernstein Mutual Funds or approximately \$20.4 million for distribution services and educational support (revenue sharing payments).

Fees and reimbursements for out of pocket expenses charged by AllianceBernstein Investor Services, Inc. (“ABIS”), the affiliated transfer agent for the Portfolio, are charged on a per account basis, based on the level of service provided and the class of share held by the account. ABIS also receives a fee per shareholder sub-account for each account maintained by an intermediary on an omnibus basis. During the Portfolio’s fiscal year ended October 31, 2015, ABIS received \$234,555 in fees from the Portfolio.

## V. POSSIBLE ECONOMIES OF SCALE

The Adviser has indicated that economies of scale are being shared with shareholders 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 has 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 AllianceBernstein 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>17</sup> study on advisory fees and various fund characteristics.<sup>18</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>19</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 AllianceBernstein 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.

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<sup>17</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>18</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>19</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.

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

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.

The information below shows the 1, 3, 5 and 10 year performance returns and rankings of the Portfolio<sup>20</sup> relative to its Broadridge Performance Group ("PG") and Broadridge Performance Universe ("PU")<sup>21</sup> for the period ended July 31, 2016.<sup>22</sup>

|                                | Fund<br>Return<br>(%) | PG<br>Median<br>(%) | PU<br>Median<br>(%) | PG<br>Rank | PU<br>Rank |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|---------------------|------------|------------|
| Intermediate Bond<br>Portfolio |                       |                     |                     |            |            |
| 1 year                         | 5.64                  | 5.29                | 5.22                | 3/13       | 13/64      |
| 3 year                         | 4.60                  | 3.81                | 3.86                | 1/13       | 5/60       |
| 5 year                         | 3.73                  | 3.44                | 3.45                | 3/13       | 15/56      |
| 10 year                        | 5.04                  | 4.86                | 4.86                | 3/10       | 16/46      |

Set forth below are the 1, 3, 5, 10 year and since inception net performance returns of the Portfolio (in bold)<sup>23</sup> versus its benchmark.<sup>24</sup> Portfolio and benchmark volatility and reward-to-variability ratio ("Sharpe Ratio") information is also shown.<sup>25</sup>

<sup>20</sup> The performance returns and rankings are for the Class A shares of the Portfolio. The performance returns of the Portfolios were provided Broadridge.

<sup>21</sup> The Portfolio's PG is identical to the Portfolio's EG. The Portfolio's PU is not identical to the Portfolio's EU as the criteria for including/excluding a fund in/from a PU is somewhat different from that of an EU.

<sup>22</sup> The current Lipper investment classification/objective dictates the PG and PU throughout the life of the Portfolio even if the Portfolio may have had a different investment classification/objective at different points in time.

<sup>23</sup> The performance returns and risk measures shown in the table are for the Class A shares of the Portfolio.

<sup>24</sup> The Adviser provided Portfolio and benchmark performance return information for the periods through July 31, 2016.

<sup>25</sup> Portfolio and benchmark volatility and Sharpe Ratio information was obtained through Lipper LANA, a database maintained by Lipper. Volatility is a statistical measure of the tendency of a market price or yield to vary over time. A Sharpe Ratio is a risk adjusted measure of return that divides a fund's return in excess of the riskless return by the fund's standard deviation. A portfolio with a greater volatility would be

|  | Period Ending July 31, 2016 |                  |                  |                   |                           |                                 |                             |                          |
|--|-----------------------------|------------------|------------------|-------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------|
|  | Annualized Performance      |                  |                  |                   |                           |                                 |                             |                          |
|  | 1<br>Year<br>(%)            | 3<br>Year<br>(%) | 5<br>Year<br>(%) | 10<br>Year<br>(%) | Since<br>Inception<br>(%) | Annualized<br>Volatility<br>(%) | Annualized<br>Sharpe<br>(%) | Risk<br>Period<br>(Year) |
| <b>Intermediate Bond Portfolio</b>                         | <b>5.64</b>                 | <b>4.60</b>      | <b>3.73</b>      | <b>5.04</b>       | <b>5.07</b>               | <b>4.27</b>                     | <b>0.93</b>                 | <b>10</b>                |
| Bloomberg Barclays<br>Capital U.S. Aggregate<br>Bond Index | 5.94                        | 4.23             | 3.57             | 5.06              | 5.41                      | 3.20                            | 1.24                        | 10                       |
| <i>Inception Date: July 1, 1999</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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viewed as more risky than a portfolio with equivalent performance but lower volatility; for that reason, a greater return would be demanded for the more risky fund. A portfolio with a higher Sharpe Ratio would be viewed as better performing than a fund with a lower Sharpe Ratio.

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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 *Jones*, 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 CAPS & RATIOS

The Adviser proposed that the Portfolio pays the advisory fee set forth in the table below for receiving the services to be provided pursuant to the Investment Advisory Agreement. The fee schedule below, implemented in January 2004 in connection with the Adviser's settlement with the NYAG in December 2003, is based on a master schedule that contemplates eight categories of funds with almost all funds in each category having the same advisory fee schedule.

| <u>Portfolio</u>            | <u>Category</u> | <u>Advisory Fee<br/>Based on % of Average<br/>Daily Net Assets</u>                            | <u>Net Assets<br/>09/30/15<br/>(\$MM)</u> |
|-----------------------------|-----------------|---|---|
| Intermediate Bond Portfolio | Low Risk Income | 0.45% on 1 <sup>st</sup> \$2.5 billion<br>0.40% on next \$2.5 billion<br>0.35% on the balance | \$329.0                                   |

The Adviser is reimbursed as specified in the Investment Advisory Agreement for certain clerical, legal, accounting, administrative and other services provided to the Portfolio. During the Portfolio's fiscal year ended October 31, 2014, the Adviser received \$56,402 (0.015% of the Portfolio's average daily net assets) for such services.

The Adviser agreed to waive that portion of its advisory 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 ratios to the amounts set forth below for the Portfolio's current fiscal year. The waiver is terminable by the Adviser upon at least 60 days' notice prior to the Portfolio's prospectus update. In addition, set forth below are the Portfolio's gross expense ratios for the most recent semi-annual period:<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>4</sup> Semi-annual total expense ratios are unaudited.

| <u>Portfolio</u>                            | <u>Expense Cap<br/>Pursuant to Expense<br/>Limitation<br/>Undertaking</u> | <u>Gross<br/>Expense<br/>Ratio</u> <sup>5</sup> | <u>Fiscal Year End</u> |
|---|---|---|------------------------|
| Intermediate Bond<br>Portfolio <sup>6</sup> | Advisor   | 0.60%   | 0.76%                  |
|   | Class A   | 0.85%   | 1.06%                  |
|   | Class B   | 1.60%   | 1.79%                  |
|   | Class C   | 1.60%   | 1.77%                  |
|   | Class R   | 1.10%   | 1.37%                  |
|   | Class K   | 0.85%   | 1.05%                  |
|   | Class I   | 0.60%   | 0.73%                  |
|   | Class Z   | 0.60%   | 0.63%                  |

Oct. 31  
(ratios as of Apr. 30, 2015)

## 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 provided by the Adviser to the Portfolio that are not provided to non-investment company clients 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 are more costly than those for institutional client assets due to the greater complexities and time required for investment companies, although as previously noted, the Adviser is reimbursed for providing such services. Also, retail mutual funds managed by the Adviser are widely held and accordingly,

<sup>5</sup> Annualized.

<sup>6</sup> Effective June 1, 2015, the Rule 12b-1 fee for Class A shares was reduced from 0.30% to 0.25%. At the same time, the expense cap for the Class A shares was also reduced from 0.90% to 0.85%.

servicing the Portfolio's investors is more time consuming and labor intensive compared to servicing 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. In addition, managing the cash flow of an investment company may be more difficult than that of a stable pool of assets, such as an institutional account with little cash movement in either direction, particularly if the Portfolio 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 arguably 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> In

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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

addition to the AB Institutional fee schedule, set forth below is what would have been the effective advisory fee for the Portfolio had the AB Institutional fee schedule been applicable to the Portfolio based on September 30, 2015 net assets.<sup>8</sup>

| <u>Portfolio</u>            | <u>Net Assets<br/>9/30/15<br/>(\$MM)</u> | <u>AB<br/>Institutional<br/>Fee Schedule</u>  | <u>Effective<br/>AB Inst.<br/>Adv. Fee</u> | <u>Portfolio<br/>Advisory<br/>Fee</u> |
|-----------------------------|--|---|--|---------------------------------------|
| Intermediate Bond Portfolio | \$329.0                                  | U.S. Strategic Core Plus Schedule<br>0.50% on 1 <sup>st</sup> \$30 million<br>0.20% on the balance<br><i>Minimum Account Size: \$25 m</i> | 0.227%                                     | 0.450%                                |

The Adviser manages Sanford C. Bernstein Fund, Inc. (“SCB Fund”), an open-end management investment company. The Intermediate Duration Portfolio of SCB Fund has a similar investment style as the Portfolio. Set forth below are Intermediate Duration Portfolio’s advisory fee schedule and what would have been the effective advisory fee of the Portfolio had the fee schedule of Intermediate Duration Portfolio been applicable to the Portfolio based on September 30, 2015 net assets:

| <u>Portfolio</u>            | <u>SCB Fund<br/>Portfolio</u>   | <u>Fee Schedule</u>   | <u>SCB Fund<br/>Effective<br/>Fee</u> | <u>Portfolio<br/>Advisory<br/>Fee</u> |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------------|---|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Intermediate Bond Portfolio | Intermediate Duration Portfolio | 0.50% on 1 <sup>st</sup> \$1 billion<br>0.45% on next \$2 billion<br>0.40% on next \$2 billion<br>0.35% on next \$2 billion<br>0.30% thereafter | 0.500%                                | 0.450%                                |

The adviser also manages the AB Variable Products Series Fund, Inc. (“AVPS”), which is available through variable annuity and variable life contracts offered by other

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between services provided to mutual funds and institutional accounts are “higher marketing costs.” *Jones v. Harris* at 1428.

<sup>8</sup> The Adviser has indicated that with respect to institutional accounts with assets greater than \$300 million, it will negotiate a fee schedule. Discounts that are negotiated vary based upon each client relationship.

financial institutions and offers policyholders the option to utilize certain AVPS portfolios as the investment option underlying their insurance contracts. Set forth below is the fee schedule of the AVPS portfolio that has a substantially similar investment style as the Portfolio.<sup>9</sup> Also shown are what would have been the effective advisory fee of the Portfolio had the AVPS fee schedule been applicable to the Portfolio and the Portfolio's advisory fees based on September 30, 2015 net assets:

| <u>Portfolio</u>       | <u>AVPS Portfolio</u>       | <u>Fee Schedule</u>   | <u>AVPS<br/>Effective<br/>Fee</u> | <u>Portfolio<br/>Advisory<br/>Fee</u> |
|------------------------|-----------------------------|---|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Intermediate Bond Fund | Intermediate Bond Portfolio | 0.45% on first \$2.5 billion<br>0.40% on next \$2.5 billion<br>0.35% on the balance | 0.450%                            | 0.450%                                |

The Adviser provides sub-advisory investment services to certain other investment companies managed by other fund families. The Adviser charges the following fee for the sub-advisory relationship that has a somewhat similar investment style as the Portfolio. Also shown are the Portfolio's advisory fee, the advisory fee schedule of the sub-advised fund, and what would have been the effective management fee of the Portfolio had the fee schedule of the sub-advisory relationship been applicable to the Portfolio based on September 30, 2015 net assets:

| <u>Portfolio</u>                          | <u>Sub-advised<br/>Fund</u> | <u>Sub-advised Fund<br/>Fee Schedule</u>         | <u>Sub-Advised<br/>Management<br/>Fund Effective<br/>Fee</u> | <u>Portfolio<br/>Advisory<br/>Fee</u> |
|---|-----------------------------|--|--|---------------------------------------|
| Intermediate Bond Portfolio <sup>10</sup> | Client #1 <sup>11</sup>     | 0.29% on first \$100 million<br>0.20% thereafter | 0.227%   | 0.450%                                |

<sup>9</sup> The AVPS portfolio was also affected by the settlement between the Adviser and the NYAG. As a result, the Portfolio has the same breakpoints in its advisory fee schedule as the AVPS portfolio.

<sup>10</sup> It should be noted that the advisory fee paid by the shareholders of the sub-advisory relationship is higher than the fee charged to the Portfolio.

It is fair to note that the services the Adviser provides pursuant to sub-advisory agreements are generally confined to the services related to the investment process; in other words, they are not as comprehensive as the services provided to the Portfolio by the Adviser. In addition to the extent that this sub-advisory relationship is with an affiliate of the Adviser, the fee schedule may not reflect arm's-length bargaining or negotiations.

While it appears that the sub-advisory relationship is paying a lower fee than the Portfolio, it is difficult to evaluate the relevance of such fees due to the differences in the services provided, risks involved and other competitive factors between the Portfolio and the sub-advisory relationship. There could be various business reasons why an investment adviser would be willing to provide a sub-advised relationship investment related services at a different fee level than an investment company it is sponsoring where the investment adviser is provided all the services, not just investment management service generally required by a registered investment company.

## 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 by other investment advisers.<sup>12, 13</sup> Broadridge's analysis included the comparison of each Portfolio's

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<sup>11</sup> The sub-advisory relationship is with an affiliate of the Adviser.

<sup>12</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>13</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

contractual management fee,<sup>14</sup> estimated at the approximate current asset level of the subject Portfolio, to the median of the Portfolio’s Broadridge Expense Group (“EG”)<sup>15</sup> and the Portfolio’s contractual management fee ranking.

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, 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.

| <u>Portfolio</u>            | <u>Contractual<br/>Management<br/>Fee (%)</u> | <u>Broadridge<br/>EG<br/>Median (%)</u> | <u>Rank</u> |
|-----------------------------|---|---|-------------|
| Intermediate Bond Portfolio | 0.450   | 0.461                                   | 4/14        |

Broadridge also analyzed the Portfolio’s most recently completed fiscal year total expense ratios in comparison to the Portfolio’s EGs and Broadridge Expense Universe (“EU”). The EU is a broader group compared to the EG, consisting of all funds that have the same Lipper investment classification/objective and load type as the subject Fund.<sup>16</sup> Set forth below is Broadridge’s comparison of the Portfolio’s total expense ratios and the

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group that maintains Lipper’s expense and performance databases and investment classification/objective remains a part of Thomson Reuters’ Lipper division. Accordingly, the Portfolio’s investment classification continued to be determined by Lipper.

<sup>14</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 the Portfolio had the lowest effective fee rate in the Broadridge peer group.

<sup>15</sup> Broadridge does not consider average account size when constructing EGs. Funds with relatively small average account sizes tend to have a higher transfer agent expense ratio than comparable sized funds that have relatively large average account sizes.

<sup>16</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.

median of the Portfolio's EGs and EUs. The Portfolio's total expense ratio rankings are also shown. Pro-forma total expense ratio (italicized) is shown to reflect the Portfolio's 12b-1 fee reduction had the reduction been in effect during the Portfolio's entire fiscal year.

| <u>Portfolio</u>            | Total<br>Expense<br>Ratio<br>(%) <sup>17</sup> | Broadridge<br>Exp. Group<br><u>Median (%)</u> | Broadridge<br>Group<br><u>Rank</u> | Broadridge<br>Exp.<br>Universe<br><u>Median (%)</u> | Broadridge<br>Universe<br><u>Rank</u> |
|-----------------------------|--|---|------------------------------------|---|---------------------------------------|
| Intermediate Bond Portfolio | 0.900  | 0.889   | 9/14                               | 0.852   | 34/50                                 |
| <i>Pro-forma</i>            | <i>0.850</i>                                   | <i>0.889</i>                                  | <i>5/14</i>                        | <i>0.852</i>  | <i>26/50</i>                          |

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

### III. COSTS TO THE ADVISER AND ITS AFFILIATES OF SUPPLYING SERVICES PURSUANT TO THE ADVISORY 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 an independent 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.

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<sup>17</sup> Most recently completed fiscal year Class A share total expense ratio.

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

The profitability information for the Portfolio, prepared by the Adviser for the Board of Directors, was reviewed by the Senior Officer and the independent consultant. The Adviser's profitability from providing investment advisory services to the Portfolio decreased during calendar year 2014 relative to 2013.

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. These affiliates provide transfer agent and distribution related services to the Portfolio and receive transfer agent fees, front-end sales loads, Rule 12b-1 payments and contingent deferred sales charges ("CDSC"). During the Portfolio's fiscal year ended October 21, 2014, ABI received from the Portfolio \$4,583, \$1,363,838 and \$12,384 in front-end sales charges, Rule 12b-1 and CDSC fees, respectively.

AllianceBernstein Investments, Inc. ("ABI"), an affiliate of the Adviser, is the Portfolio'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 revenues derived from sales loads and Rule 12b-1 fees, to firms that sell shares of the Portfolio. In 2014, ABI paid approximately 0.05% of the average monthly

assets of the AllianceBernstein Mutual Funds or approximately \$20.4 million for distribution services and educational support (revenue sharing payments).

Fees and reimbursements for out of pocket expenses charged by AllianceBernstein Investor Services, Inc. (“ABIS”), the affiliated transfer agent for the Portfolio, are charged on a per account basis, based on the level of service provided and the class of share held by the account. ABIS also receives a fee per shareholder sub-account for each account maintained by an intermediary on an omnibus basis. During the Portfolio’s fiscal year ended October 31, 2014, ABIS received \$293,976 in fees from the Portfolio.

## V. POSSIBLE ECONOMIES OF SCALE

The Adviser has indicated that economies of scale are being shared with shareholders 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 has 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 AllianceBernstein 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>18</sup> study on advisory fees and various fund characteristics.<sup>19</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>20</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 AllianceBernstein Mutual Funds to similar funds managed by 19 other large

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<sup>18</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>19</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>20</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.

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 PORTFOLIO.

With assets under management of approximately \$463 billion as of September 30, 2015, the Adviser has the investment experience to manage and provide non-investment services (described in Section I) to the Portfolio.

The information below shows the 1, 3, 5 and 10 year performance returns and rankings of the Portfolio<sup>21</sup> relative to its Broadridge Performance Group ("PG") and Broadridge Performance Universe ("PU")<sup>22</sup> for the period ended July 31, 2015.<sup>23</sup>

| <u>Portfolio</u>            | <u>Portfolio<br/>Return<br/>(%)</u> | <u>PG<br/>Median<br/>(%)</u> | <u>PU<br/>Median<br/>(%)</u> | <u>PG<br/>Rank</u> | <u>PU<br/>Rank</u> |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Intermediate Bond Portfolio |                                     |                              |                              |                    |                    |
| 1 year                      | 2.25                                | 1.90                         | 2.02                         | 2/15               | 16/63              |
| 3 year                      | 2.28                                | 1.65                         | 1.70                         | 2/15               | 10/61              |
| 5 year                      | 3.75                                | 3.17                         | 3.40                         | 2/15               | 15/57              |
| 10 year                     | 4.59                                | 4.47                         | 4.47                         | 5/12               | 18/47              |

Set forth below are the 1, 3, 5, 10 year and since inception net performance returns of the Portfolio (in bold)<sup>24</sup> versus its benchmark.<sup>25</sup> Portfolio and benchmark volatility and reward-to-variability ratio ("Sharpe Ratio") information is also shown.<sup>26</sup>

<sup>21</sup> The performance returns and rankings are for the Class A shares of the Portfolio. The performance returns of the Portfolios were provided Broadridge.

<sup>22</sup> The Portfolio's PG/PU is not identical to the Portfolio's EG/EU as the criteria for including/excluding a fund in/from a PG/PU are somewhat different from that of an EG/EU.

<sup>23</sup> The current Lipper investment classification/objective dictates the PG and PU throughout the life of the Portfolio even if the Portfolio may have had a different investment classification/objective at different points in time.

<sup>24</sup> The performance returns and risk measures shown in the table are for the Class A shares of the Portfolio.

<sup>25</sup> The Adviser provided Portfolio and benchmark performance return information for the periods through July 31, 2015.

<sup>26</sup> Portfolio and benchmark volatility and Sharpe Ratio information was obtained through Lipper LANA, a database maintained by Lipper. Volatility is a statistical measure of the tendency of a market price or yield

|  | Period Ending July 31, 2015 |                  |                  |                   |                           |                                 |                             |                          |
|--|-----------------------------|------------------|------------------|-------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------|
|  | Annualized Performance      |                  |                  |                   |                           |                                 |                             |                          |
|  | 1<br>Year<br>(%)            | 3<br>Year<br>(%) | 5<br>Year<br>(%) | 10<br>Year<br>(%) | Since<br>Inception<br>(%) | Annualized<br>Volatility<br>(%) | Annualized<br>Sharpe<br>(%) | Risk<br>Period<br>(Year) |
| <b>Intermediate Bond Portfolio</b>         | <b>2.25</b>                 | <b>2.28</b>      | <b>3.75</b>      | <b>4.59</b>       | <b>5.04</b>               | <b>4.29</b>                     | <b>0.73</b>                 | <b>10</b>                |
| Barclays Capital U.S. Aggregate Bond Index | 2.82                        | 1.60             | 3.27             | 4.61              | 5.37                      | 3.25                            | 0.96                        | 10                       |
| <i>Inception Date: July 1, 1999</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 25, 2015

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to vary over time. A Sharpe Ratio is a risk adjusted measure of return that divides a fund's return in excess of the riskless return by the fund's standard deviation. A portfolio with a greater volatility would be viewed as more risky than a portfolio with equivalent performance but lower volatility; for that reason, a greater return would be demanded for the more risky fund. A portfolio with a higher Sharpe Ratio would be viewed as better performing than a fund with a lower Sharpe Ratio.