

**Global Equity** 

Third Quarter 2025

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# **Richard Bernstein Advisors**

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# **Firm Overview**



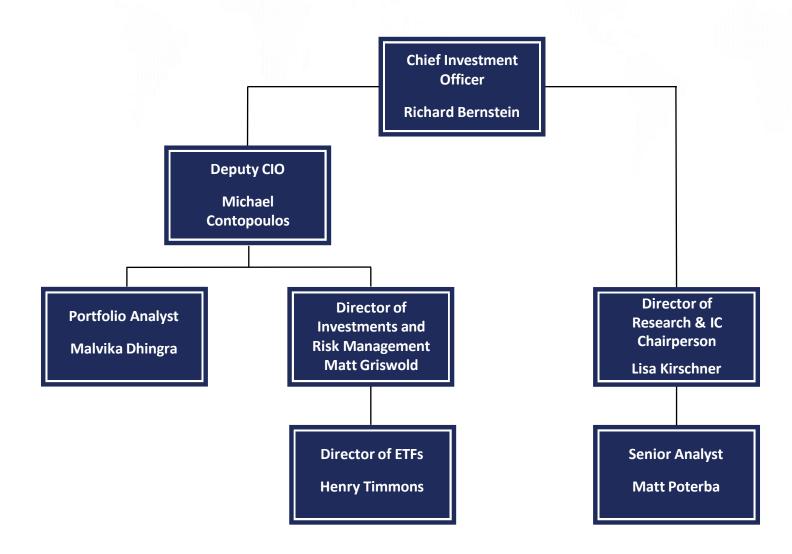
# **About RBA**

RBA Overview	Distribution and Partners	RBA Difference
<ul> <li>Utilize a unique top-down, macro approach to investing that focuses on profits, liquidity, and sentiment</li> <li>Offer long-only Multi-Asset, Global Equity, and Fixed Income strategies</li> <li>AUM of over \$17.5 billion (as of 9/30/2025 including assets-under-advisement)</li> <li>Attractive risk-adjusted returns over longer time horizons</li> <li>Founded in 2009, RBA has over a 10-year track record</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>▶ RBA         Multi-Asset, Global Equity and Fixed Income Retail SMAs, and Institutional Accounts</li> <li>▶ First Trust         Income-Oriented &amp; Thematic Equity Unit Trusts, US Equity SMA, and Thematic ETFs</li> <li>▶ iM Global Partner         UCITS Funds, and Global Distribution Support</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Transparency         Provide frequent portfolio updates and offer regular direct access to senior investment team     </li> <li>Daily Liquidity         Highly liquid portfolios that have no lockups/gates     </li> <li>Competitive Fees         Offer attractive and competitive fee     </li> </ul>



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# **Firm Overview**





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### **Experienced Investment Committee**



Richard Bernstein, CEO and CIO
Industry experience: 44 years. RBA experience: 16 years.
Formerly Chief Investment Strategist at BofA Merrill Lynch.
BA, Hamilton College, MBA, New York University.



Michael Contopoulos, Deputy CIO
Industry experience: 26 years. RBA experience: 5 years.
Formerly Chief Investment Strategist at Anchorage Capital & Head of Leveraged Finance Strategy at BofA Merrill Lynch.
BA, Columbia University, MBA, New York University.



Risk Management
Industry experience: 36 years. RBA experience: 15 years.
Formerly Portfolio Manager at State Street Global Advisors.
BS, Carnegie Mellon University.

Matthew Griswold, CFA, Director of Investments and



Lisa Kirschner, Director of Research and Chairperson of Investment Committee

Industry experience: 32 years. RBA experience: 15 years.

Formerly Senior Director at BofA Merrill Lynch.

Indiana University.



Henry Timmons, CFA, Director of ETFs
Industry experience: 22 years. RBA experience: 14 years.
Formerly Portfolio Manager and Quantitative Analyst at GMO LLC.
BS and MEng, Cornell University. MBA, Cornell University's SC
Johnson College of Business.



Matt Poterba, CFA, Senior Analyst Industry experience: 13 years. RBA experience: 11 years. Formerly Associate Analyst at NERA Economic Consulting. BA, Hamilton College.



Malvika Dhingra, Portfolio Analyst
Industry experience: 3 years. RBA experience: 3 years.
Formerly Analyst at PricewaterhouseCoopers.
BA, University of Delhi, MS, Duke University's Fuqua School of Business.

**Average Industry Experience: 25 Years Average RBA Experience: 11 Years** 

### **RBA's Unique Multi-Asset Investment Strategy**

#### **Investment Approach Investment Process** ► RBA has unparalleled experience in equity, fixed income and asset Profit Cycles, Not Economic Cycles, Drive Financial Markets allocation. ▶ Utilize in-house macro research to PEAK assess profits, liquidity, and sentiment. **FAVOR FAVOR** - Small-caps - Large-caps - Value RISING ► RBA drives alpha through asset - Stable growth - Cyclical sectors - Defensive sectors **PROFIT CYCLE** selection, size, style, sector, rating, - Lower quality - Higher quality - Discounted dividend duration and geography, and not - Secure dividend yield and bond vield through individual stock selection. - Low beta - High beta - Developed markets - Emerging markets TROUGH ► History of positioning shows RBA's thinking is non-consensus. ► Conservative risk-balanced Stock / Bond Selection approach to total returns. Style Geography Commodities Size Sector Duration ▶ All mandates are global go-anywhere.

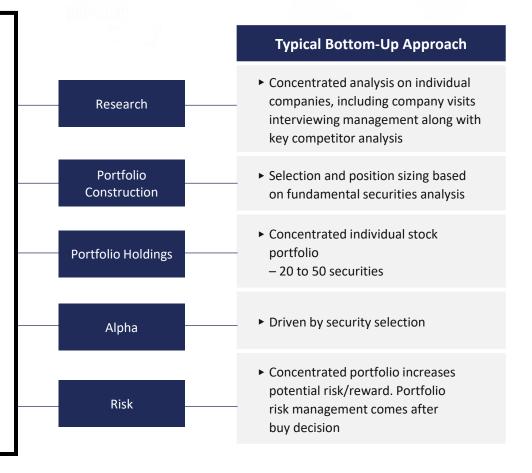


### RBA Top Down - vs. - Typical Bottom Up

#### **RBA's Top-Down Approach**

- ► Extensive array of macro, sentiment, profit, and valuation indicators that have been developed and honed over 30 years
- Quantitative selection process used to gain customized exposures
- Utilize optimizer to build a large and diversified risk-weighted portfolio: 200 to 450 securities (5-30 ETFs)
- ► Driven by macro themes, size, style, sector and geographic allocations
- Large portfolio minimizes individual stock selection risk. Optimization incorporates risk management into buy decisions

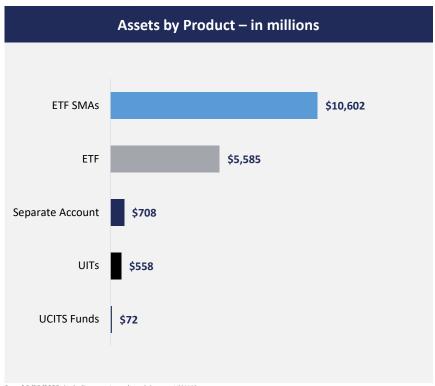
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### **RBA AUM/AUA\***





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<sup>\*</sup>as of 9/30/2025, including assets under advisement (AUA).

### **RBA Digital Presence**

#### **Insights and Webinars**

RBA market analysis and commentary includes

- ► Monthly Insights, Quick Insights, Fixed Income Insights, Research Insights & ETF Insights
- ► Quarterly Webinars



27K+ Insights Subscribers



Quarterly webinars draw 2K+ Investment Professionals



\*as of 9/30/2025.



# **Richard Bernstein Advisors**



# **Separately Managed Account ETF Portfolios**



### **Go Anywhere SMAs**

#### **SMA Portfolio Highlights Flexible Asset Allocations** Fixed Income ► "Go-anywhere" ETF based equity and asset ► Equity allocation strategies that invest across asset Domestic Developed Markets classes, geography, and market segments such Foreign Emerging Markets as size, style, sector, and quality. Investment grade Domestic ► SMAs seek to maximize total returns across six - High-yield - Foreign distinct ETF strategies. Corporate Sectors ► Managing within risk parameters will be a focus Government Preferred of our approach. Municipal Currency Hedging Agency ▶ Over time, and under normal market conditions, Commodities - Inflation-linked the portfolios should consistently be invested in ▶ Cash a mix of size/style/asset classes to pursue our Mortgage-backed objective. Interest rate hedging ► Strategic policy guidelines are in place to provide an additional layer of risk-management.



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#### **Investment Process**

#### **Top-Down Macro Assessment**

#### **Risk Assessment**

#### **Strategic Policy Guidelines**

#### ► Corporate Profits:

- Proprietary indicators & forecasts
- Pricing power & inflation
- Earnings expectations

#### ► Liquidity:

- Central bank analysis
- Yield curves
- Lending standards

#### **▶** Sentiment:

- Structural long-term sentiment
- Valuation of market segments
- Consensus positioning

- Diversification is based on correlation of assets within the portfolio, rather than the number of assets.
  - Review risk of opportunistic asset allocation targets within a rigorous variance-covariance framework.
- ► Capital Market Assumptions
  - Utilize capital market assumptions based primarily on historical asset class data to set baseline for risk taking.

- Guidelines provide an additional layer of risk management.
  - Normal tactical deviations will be within 10% of RBA's long-term "neutral" policy based on each risk category.
  - "High Conviction" tactical deviations will be within 25% of RBA's long-term "neutral" policy based on each risk category.\*

\*Only applies to select strategies.

#### **Asset Allocation Decisions**

Growth vs. Value

Stocks vs. Bonds

High Quality vs. Low Quality

Large vs. Small-cap

Cyclical vs. Defensive Sectors

Long vs. Short Duration

Emerging vs. Developed

Sovereign vs. Corporate Bonds

Commodities



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### **ETF Selection & Implementation Process**

#### **ETF Portfolio Selection & Construction**

#### Quantitative screening with qualitative review (>1,000 ETF universe)

- ► Prefer AUM > \$1 billion
- ► Prefer trading history > 1 year
- ► Liquidity: ETF share volume + underlying basket volume
- ► Bid/Ask spread
- ► Legal structure

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Construction methodology

- Discount / premium to NAV
- Sponsor reputation and transparency
- Exposure: fit to targeted market segments: region, style, sector, credit quality, duration, etc.
- ► Minimize fees relative to market-segment peers
- ► Minimize tracking error relative to market-segment peers

### **Resulting In**

#### **ETF Portfolios**

- ► Typically 5-30 ETFs
- Maximize contribution from topdown macro-economic views
- Minimize portfolio risk through asset class portfolio risk measurement
- Minimize stock-specific risk through usage of ETFs



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# **Richard Bernstein Advisors**



# **RBA Global Equity ETF Strategy**



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### **Strategic Policy Guidelines**

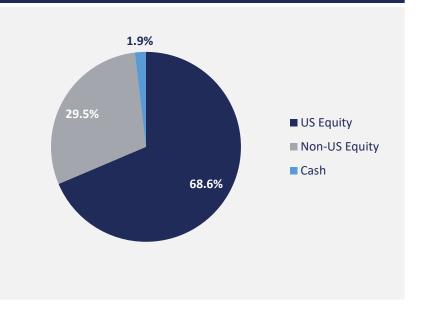
- ▶ Benchmark: 100% MSCI ACWI Index
- ► Cash may be used tactically (up to 30%) to limit volatility and provide downside protection

#### Portfolio Positioning as of 9/30/2025

#### Equity (98.1% = Underweight)\*

- Overweight
  - US, Europe ex UK
  - Health Care, Utilities, Consumer Staples, Industrials, Financials
- Underweight
  - Emerging Markets, Japan, Canada
  - Information Technology, Consumer Discretionary,
     Communication Services

Cash & Equivalents (1.9% = Overweight)\*



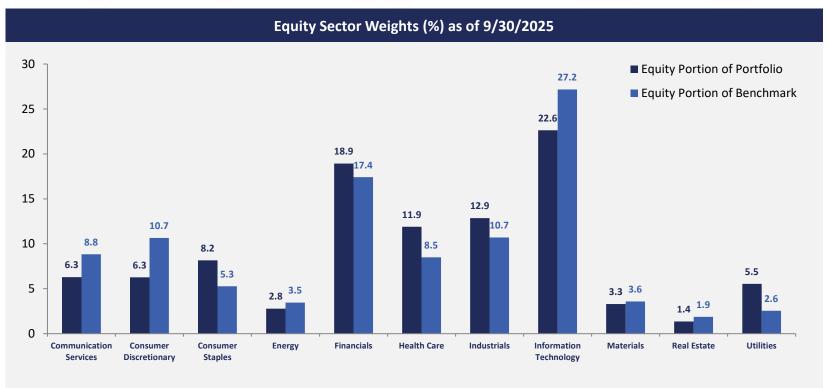
<sup>\*</sup>Overweight, equalweight and underweight are in comparison to our long-term strategic allocation policy.

Source: Richard Bernstein Advisors LLC, Bloomberg. Percent of total net assets. Allocations are subject to change due to active management. Percentages may not total 100% due to rounding.

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### **Portfolio Snapshot: Equity Sector Weights**



Source: Richard Bernstein Advisors LLC, Bloomberg. Weightings are calculated on an equity-only basis. Allocations are subject to change due to active management. Percentages may not total 100% due to rounding. Benchmark: MSCI ACWI Index.

 $Sector\ references\ are\ in\ accordance\ with\ the\ Global\ Industry\ Classification\ Standard\ (GICS^{\textcircled{o}})\ www.msci.com/gics$ 

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# **Portfolio Snapshot: Equity Region/Country Weights**

Equity Region/Country Weights as of 9/30/2025						
Region/Country	Allocation %	Benchmark %				
US	69.9	66.3				
Europe ex UK	11.4	10.0				
Emerging Markets	7.4	11.1				
Japan	3.7	4.8				
United Kingdom	3.2	2.5				
Asia ex Japan	2.6	2.4				
Canada	1.7	2.8				

Source: Richard Bernstein Advisors LLC, Bloomberg. Weightings are calculated on an equity-only basis. Allocations are subject to change due to active management. Percentages may not total 100% due to rounding.

Benchmark: MSCI ACWI Index.

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### **Portfolio ETF Holdings**

Holdings as of 9/30/2025							
ETF Nan	Ticker	Portfolio Weight %					
iShares MSCI Intl Quality	Factor ETF	IQLT	21.5				
Fidelity MSCI Information Tech	nology Index ETF	FTEC	15.8				
Vanguard Value B	ETF	VTV	15.4				
SPDR S&P Dividence	ETF	SDY	8.9				
iShares MSCI Emerging Marke	ets ex China ETF	EMXC	7.1				
Financial Select Sector S	PDR Fund	XLF	6.8				
iShares Global Healtho	care ETF	IXJ	6.3				
iShares Global Industr	rials ETF	EXI	4.4				
Communication Services Select	Sector SPDR Fund	XLC	4.1				
Consumer Staples Select Sec	tor SPDR Fund	XLP	3.2				
Fidelity MSCI Consumer Discret	tionary Index ETF	FDIS	2.4				
Utilities Select Sector SI	PDR Fund	XLU	2.3				
SPDR Bloomberg 1-3 Mon	th T-Bill ETF	BIL	1.8				

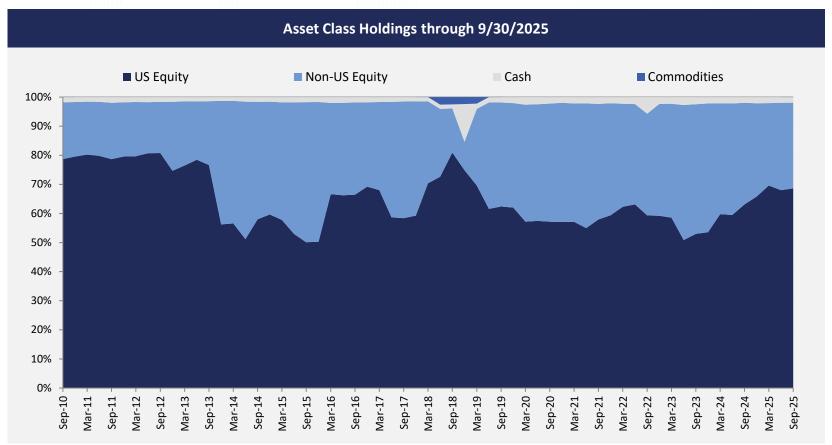


Allocations are subject to change due to active management.

While the material reflects all of the recommended securities in the Strategy as of the dates indicated, the specific securities purchased, sold or selected for a particular client's account may differ from those identified and described above, including in light of such client's individual circumstances. The specific securities identified and described may not represent all of the securities purchased, sold or recommended for client accounts. The reader should not assume that an investment in the securities identified was or will be profitable. May Lose Value



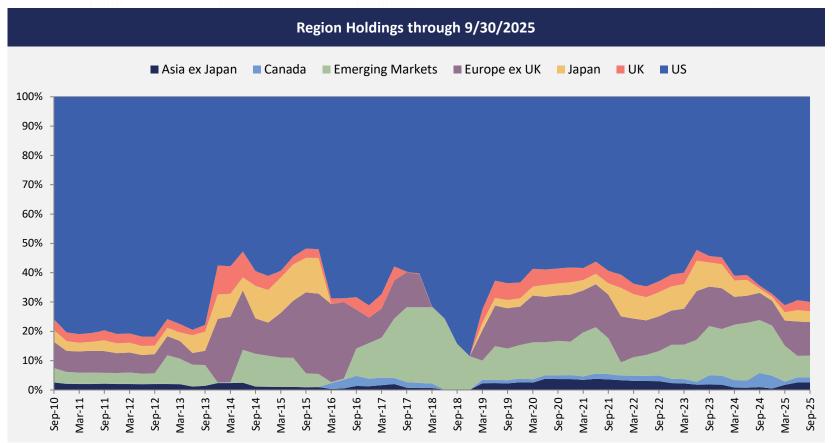
### **Historical Asset Class Holdings**



Source: Richard Bernstein Advisors LLC, Bloomberg. Percent of total net assets. Allocations are subject to change due to active management.



### **Historical Region Holdings**

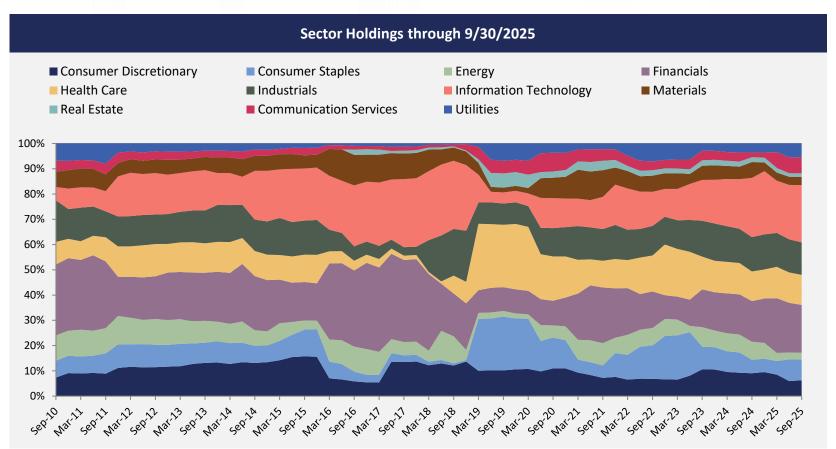


Source: Richard Bernstein Advisors LLC, Bloomberg. Weightings are calculated on an equity-only basis. Allocations are subject to change due to active management.

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### **Historical Sector Holdings**



Source: Richard Bernstein Advisors LLC, Bloomberg. Weightings are calculated on an equity-only basis. Allocations are subject to change due to active management.

Sector references are in accordance with the Global Industry Classification Standard (GICS®) www.msci.com/gics





<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>Returns greater than 1 year are annualized.

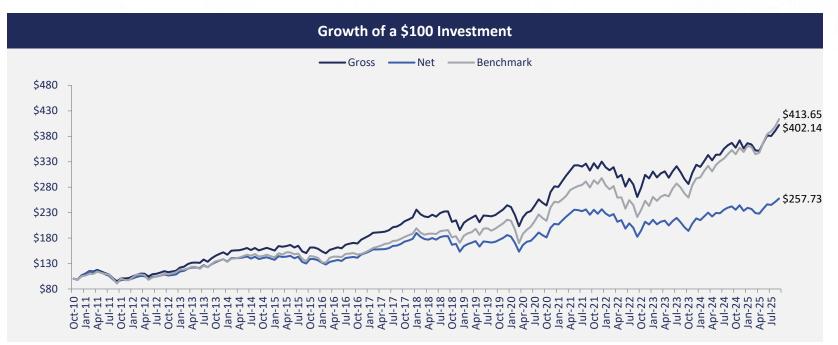
Based on monthly data. Source: Richard Bernstein Advisors LLC. Past performance is no guarantee of future results. Please refer to the Performance Disclosures.

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<sup>\*</sup>Net performance reflects the deduction of an assumed 3.00% annual fee. See performance disclosure for further information.

<sup>\*\*</sup>Benchmark: 100% MSCI ACWI Index. For Index descriptors, see "Index Descriptions" at end of document. Inception October 31, 2010.



Ris	k Measures (5 years as of 9/30/2025)	Standard Deviation	Tracking Error	Alpha	Beta	R2	Information Ratio	Sharpe Ratio	Upside Capture	Downside Capture
	RBA Global Equity ETF Strategy (Gross)	14.12%	3.98%	-2.35%	0.91	92.98%	-0.89	0.52	88.36%	99.35%
	RBA Global Equity ETF Strategy (Net)*	14.12%	3.98%	-5.36%	0.91	92.98%	-1.70	0.31	81.63%	106.14%
	Benchmark**	15.01%						0.71		

<sup>\*</sup>Net performance reflects the deduction of an assumed 3.00% annual fee. See performance disclosure for further information.

Based on monthly data. Source: Richard Bernstein Advisors LLC, Morningstar.

Past performance is no guarantee of future results. Please refer to the Performance Disclosures.



<sup>\*\*</sup>Benchmark: 100% MSCI ACWI Index. For Index descriptors, see "Index Descriptions" at end of document.

#### **Performance Disclosure**

The performance was calculated by Richard Bernstein Advisors LLC (the "Advisor") for the Global Equity ETF Strategy ("Strategy") as described below. The Strategy's asset allocation recommendations are subject to guideline allocation limitations at the major asset class level (i.e. equity and cash) that may change over time.

The Strategy has an inception date of October 31, 2010. The Strategy seeks risk-adjusted long-term growth by employing a top-down style to construct a global tactical equity portfolio. Accounts in this Strategy obtain exposure via ETF vehicles.

The Strategy represents the global equity composite return from November 1, 2010 until June 30, 2016 and thereafter represents the composite returns of the Global Equity ETF strategy maintained by RBA. The Global Equity ETF strategy is presented after June 30, 2016.

The benchmark is MSCI ACWI USD Net. The firm's complete list of composite returns are available upon request.

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Past performance is no guarantee of future results. Performance is shown in USD and includes reinvestment of dividends and other earnings. Results are shown on a "gross" and "net" basis. Gross-of-fee returns are reduced by actual trading costs incurred and platform fees but are before deduction of any advisory or other fees. Net performance reflects the deduction of an assumed 3.00% annual fee rate which is intended to equal or exceed the combined maximum advisory program fees and maximum investment management fees charged to advisory platform clients. Returns are calculated by applying the assumed annual fee rate to the gross monthly returns. This combined fee will normally include all charges for trading costs, portfolio management fees, custody and other administrative fees. Actual fees may vary depending on the individual sponsor's fee. Investment management fees are negotiated directly with advisory program sponsors. Fees are negotiable where circumstances warrant. Taxes have not been deducted.

Index and portfolio data herein have been supplied by outside sources, including, Richard Bernstein Advisors LLC, and are believed to be reliable as of the date indicated. The source for ETF returns is Richard Bernstein Advisors LLC. The source for risk measures is Morningstar.



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# **Important Information**

#### **Index Descriptions**

The following descriptions, while believed to be accurate, are in some cases abbreviated versions of more detailed or comprehensive definitions available from the sponsors or originators of the respective indices. Anyone interested in such further details is free to consult each such sponsor's or originator's website.

Past performance of an index is no guarantee of future results. Unless otherwise stated, index returns do not reflect the effect of any applicable sales charges, commissions, expenses, taxes or leverage, as applicable. It is not possible to invest directly in an index. Historical performance of the index illustrates market trends and does not represent the past or future performance of the models.

Each index reflects an unmanaged universe of securities without any deduction for advisory fees or other expenses that would reduce actual returns, as well as the reinvestment of all income and dividends. An actual investment in the securities included in the index would require an investor to incur transaction costs, which would lower the performance results. **Indices are not actively managed and investors cannot invest directly in an index.** 

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US Fixed Income: Bloomberg U.S. Aggregate Index: An unmanaged index that tracks domestic investment-grade bonds, including corporate, government, and mortgage-backed securities.

**S&P 500®: Standard & Poor's (S&P) 500® Index:** The S&P 500® Index is an unmanaged, capitalization-weighted index designed to measure the performance of the broad U.S. economy through changes in the aggregate market value of 500 stocks representing all major industries.

**World: MSCI ACWI Index.** The MSCI ACWI Index is a free-float-adjusted, market-capitalization-weighted index designed to measure the equity-market performance of global developed and emerging markets. MSCI ACWI Index is net of foreign withholdings taxes.

Sector/Industries: Sector/industry references in this report are in accordance with the Global Industry Classification Standard (GICS®) developed by MSCI Barra and Standard & Poor's. The GICS structure consists of 10 sectors, 24 industry groups, 68 industries and 154 sub-industries.

**Bloomberg U.S. Treasury Bills: 1-3 Months.** The U.S. Treasury Bills: **1-3 Months.** The U.S. Treasury Bills with a maturity from one up to (but not including) 12 months. It excludes zero coupon strips.

Investments in foreign instruments or currencies can involve greater risk and volatility than U.S. investments because of adverse market, economic, political, regulatory, geopolitical or other conditions. In emerging countries, these risks may be more significant. The value of commodities investments will generally be affected by overall market movements and factors specific to a particular industry or commodity, including weather, embargoes, tariffs, or health, political, international and regulatory developments. An imbalance in supply and demand in the income market may result in valuation uncertainties and greater volatility, less liquidity, widening credit spreads and a lack of price transparency in the market. As interest rates rise, the value of certain income investments is likely to decline. Investments in income securities may be affected by changes in the creditworthiness of the issuer and are subject to the risk of non-payment of principal and interest. The value of income securities also may decline because of real or perceived concerns about the issuer's ability to make principal and interest payments. Smaller companies are generally subject to greater price fluctuations, limited liquidity, higher transaction costs and higher investment risk than larger, established companies. Derivatives instruments can be used to take both long and short positions, be highly volatile, result in economic leverage (which can magnify losses), and involve risks in addition to the risks of the underlying instrument on which the derivative is based, such as counterparty. correlation and liquidity risk. If a counterparty is unable to honor its commitments, the value may decline and/or the portfolio could experience delays in the return of collateral or other assets held by the counterparty.

The views expressed in this presentation are those of (portfolio manager/team) and are current only through the date stated and are not intended as investment advice or a recommendation to purchase or sell specific securities. These opinions may change at any time without notice, and there is no assurance that any securities discussed herein will remain in an account at the time you receive this report. While every effort has been made to verify the information contained herein, we make no representations as to its accuracy. It should not be assumed that any of the securities or transactions listed were or will be profitable. Actual portfolio holdings will vary for each client, and there is no guarantee that a particular client's account will hold any or all of the securities mentioned. It is not possible to invest directly in an Index.

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