



PROSPECTUS | MAY 1, 2021

# AB Variable Products Series Fund, Inc.

## Class A Prospectus

AB VPS

➤ Small/Mid Cap Value Portfolio

As of May 1, 2021, as permitted by regulations adopted by the Securities and Exchange Commission, you may not be receiving paper copies of the Portfolio's shareholder reports from the insurance company that offers your contract unless you have specifically requested paper copies from the insurance company or from your financial intermediary. Instead of delivering paper copies of the reports, the insurance company may choose to make the reports available on a website, and will notify you by mail each time a report is posted and provide you with a website link to access the report. Instructions for requesting paper copies will be provided by your insurance company.

You may elect to receive all future reports in paper free of charge from the insurance company. You can inform the insurance company or your financial intermediary that you wish to continue receiving paper copies of your shareholder reports by following the instructions provided by the insurance company or by contacting your financial intermediary. Your election to receive reports in paper will apply to all portfolio companies available under your contract with the insurance company.

This Prospectus describes the Portfolio that is available as an underlying investment through your variable contract. For information about your variable contract, including information about insurance-related expenses, see the prospectus for your variable contract which accompanies this Prospectus.

The Securities and Exchange Commission has not approved or disapproved these securities or passed upon the adequacy of this Prospectus. Any representation to the contrary is a criminal offense.

**Investment Products Offered**

- ▶ Are Not FDIC Insured
- ▶ May Lose Value
- ▶ Are Not Bank Guaranteed

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

---

	Page
SUMMARY INFORMATION .....	4
ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ABOUT THE PORTFOLIO'S STRATEGIES, RISKS AND INVESTMENTS .....	8
INVESTING IN THE PORTFOLIO .....	16
MANAGEMENT OF THE PORTFOLIO .....	19
DIVIDENDS, DISTRIBUTIONS AND TAXES .....	20
GLOSSARY .....	21
FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS .....	22
APPENDIX A—HYPOTHETICAL INVESTMENT AND EXPENSE INFORMATION .....	A-1

## SUMMARY INFORMATION

### AB VPS Small/Mid Cap Value Portfolio

#### INVESTMENT OBJECTIVE

The Portfolio's investment objective is long-term growth of capital.

#### FEES AND EXPENSES OF THE PORTFOLIO

This table describes the fees and expenses that you may pay if you buy and hold shares of the Portfolio. Because the information does not reflect deductions at the separate account level or contract level for any charges that may be incurred under a contract, Contractholders that invest in the Portfolio should refer to the variable contract prospectus for a description of fees and expenses that apply to Contractholders. Inclusion of these charges would increase the fees and expenses provided below.

#### Shareholder Fees (fees paid directly from your investment)

N/A

#### Annual Portfolio Operating Expenses (expenses that you pay each year as a percentage of the value of your investment)

Management Fees	.75%
Other Expenses:	
Transfer Agent	.00%(a)
Other Expenses	.08%
Total Other Expenses	.08%
Total Portfolio Operating Expenses	.83%

(a) Amount is less than .01%.

#### Examples

The Examples are intended to help you compare the cost of investing in the Portfolio with the cost of investing in other mutual funds. The Examples assume that you invest \$10,000 in the Portfolio for the time periods indicated and then redeem all of your shares at the end of those periods. The Examples also assume that your investment has a 5% return each year and that the Portfolio's operating expenses stay the same. Although your actual costs may be higher or lower, based on these assumptions your costs would be:

After 1 Year	\$ 85
After 3 Years	\$ 265
After 5 Years	\$ 460
After 10 Years	\$1,025

#### Portfolio Turnover

The Portfolio pays transaction costs, such as commissions, when it buys or sells securities (or "turns over" its portfolio). A higher portfolio turnover rate may indicate higher transaction costs. These transaction costs, which are not reflected in the Annual Portfolio Operating Expenses or in the Examples, affect the Portfolio's performance. During the most recent fiscal year, the Portfolio's portfolio turnover rate was 58% of the average value of its portfolio.

#### PRINCIPAL STRATEGIES

The Portfolio invests primarily in a diversified portfolio of equity securities of small- to mid-capitalization U.S. companies. Under normal circumstances, the Portfolio invests at least 80% of its net assets in securities of small- to mid-capitalization companies. For purposes of this policy, small- to mid-capitalization companies are those that, at the time of investment, fall within the capitalization range between the smallest company in the Russell 2500® Value Index and the greater of \$5 billion or the market capitalization of the largest company in the Russell 2500® Value Index.

Because the Portfolio's definition of small- to mid-capitalization companies is dynamic, the lower and upper limits on market capitalization will change with the markets. As of December 31, 2020, the capitalization ranges of companies in the Russell 2500® Value Index ranged from approximately \$43 million to approximately \$30.6 billion.

The Portfolio invests in companies that are determined by the Adviser to be undervalued, using the Adviser's fundamental value approach. In selecting securities for the Portfolio's portfolio, the Adviser uses its fundamental and quantitative research to identify companies whose long-term earnings power is not reflected in the current market price of their securities.

In selecting securities for the Portfolio's portfolio, the Adviser looks for companies with attractive valuation (for example, with low price to book ratios) and compelling success factors (for example, momentum and return on equity). The Adviser then uses this information to calculate an expected return. Returns and rankings are updated on a daily basis. The rankings are used to determine prospective candidates for further fundamental research and, subsequently, possible addition to the portfolio. Typically, the Adviser fundamental research analysts focus their research on the most attractive 20% of the universe.

The Adviser typically projects a company's financial performance over a full economic cycle, including a trough and a peak, within the context of forecasts for real economic growth, inflation and interest rate changes. The Adviser focuses on the valuation implied by the current price, relative to the earnings the company will be generating five years from now, or "normalized" earnings, assuming average mid-economic cycle growth for the fifth year.

The Portfolio's management team and other senior investment professionals work in close collaboration to weigh each investment opportunity identified by the research staff relative to the entire portfolio and determine the timing and position size for purchases and sales. Analysts remain responsible for monitoring new developments that would affect the securities they cover. The team will generally sell a security when it no longer meets appropriate valuation criteria, although sales may be delayed when positive return trends are favorable. Typically, growth in the size of a company's market capitalization relative to other domestically traded companies will not cause the Portfolio to dispose of the security.

The Adviser seeks to manage overall portfolio volatility relative to the universe of companies that comprise the lowest 20% of the total U.S. market capitalization by favoring promising securities that offer the best balance between return and targeted risk. At times, the Portfolio may favor or disfavor a particular sector compared to that universe of companies. The Portfolio may invest significantly in companies involved in certain sectors that constitute a material portion of the universe of small- and mid-capitalization companies, such as financial services and consumer services.

The Portfolio may enter into derivatives transactions, such as options, futures contracts, forwards and swaps. The Portfolio may use options strategies involving the purchase and/or writing of various combinations of call and/or put options, including on individual securities and stock indices, futures contracts (including futures contracts on individual securities and stock indices) or shares of exchange-traded funds, or ETFs. These transactions may be used, for example, to earn extra income, to adjust exposure to individual securities or markets, or to protect all or a portion of the Portfolio's portfolio from a decline in value, sometimes within certain ranges.

The Portfolio may invest in securities issued by non-U.S. companies.

The Portfolio may, at times, invest in shares of ETFs in lieu of making direct investments in equity securities. ETFs may provide more efficient and economical exposure to the types of companies and geographic locations in which the Portfolio seeks to invest than direct investments.

## PRINCIPAL RISKS

- **Market Risk:** The value of the Portfolio's assets will fluctuate as the stock or bond market fluctuates. The value of its investments may decline, sometimes rapidly and unpredictably, simply because of economic changes or other events, including public health crises (including the occurrence of a contagious disease or illness), that affect large portions of the market. It includes the risk that a particular style of investing, such as the Portfolio's value approach, may underperform the market generally.
- **Capitalization Risk:** Investments in small- and mid-capitalization companies may be more volatile than investments in large-capitalization companies. Investments in small- and mid-capitalization companies may have additional risks because these companies have limited product lines, markets or financial resources.
- **Foreign (Non-U.S.) Risk:** Investments in securities of non-U.S. issuers may involve more risk than those of U.S. issuers. These securities may fluctuate more widely in price and may be more difficult to trade due to adverse market, economic, political, regulatory or other factors.
- **Currency Risk:** Fluctuations in currency exchange rates may negatively affect the value of the Portfolio's investments or reduce its returns.
- **Derivatives Risk:** Derivatives may be difficult to price or unwind and leveraged so that small changes may produce disproportionate losses for the Portfolio. Derivatives, especially over-the-counter derivatives, are also subject to counterparty risk.
- **Management Risk:** The Portfolio is subject to management risk because it is an actively-managed investment fund. The Adviser will apply its investment techniques and risk analyses in making investment decisions for the Portfolio, but there is no

guarantee that its techniques will produce the intended results. Some of these techniques may incorporate, or rely upon, quantitative models, but there is no guarantee that these models will generate accurate forecasts, reduce risk or otherwise perform as expected.

As with all investments, you may lose money by investing in the Portfolio.

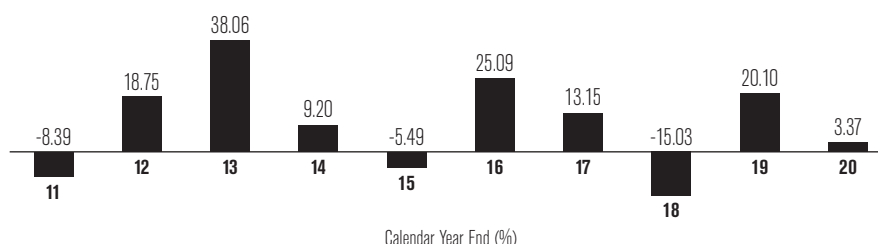
## BAR CHART AND PERFORMANCE INFORMATION

The bar chart and performance information provide an indication of the historical risk of an investment in the Portfolio by showing:

- how the Portfolio's performance changed from year to year over ten years; and
- how the Portfolio's average annual returns for one, five and ten years compare to those of a broad-based securities market index.

The performance information does not take into account separate account charges. If separate account charges were included, an investor's return would be lower. The Portfolio's past performance, of course, does not necessarily indicate how it will perform in the future.

### Bar Chart



During the period shown in the bar chart, the Portfolio's:

**Best Quarter was up 29.10%, 4th quarter, 2020; and Worst Quarter was down -36.46%, 1st quarter, 2020.**

### Performance Table

#### Average Annual Total Returns

(For the periods ended December 31, 2020)

	1 Year	5 Years	10 Years
Portfolio	3.37%	8.35%	8.75%
Russell 2500® Value Index (reflects no deduction for fees, expenses, or taxes)	4.88%	9.43%	9.33%
Russell 2500™ Index* (reflects no deduction for fees, expenses, or taxes)	19.99%	13.64%	11.97%

\* The information for the Russell 2500™ Index is presented to show how the Portfolio's performance compares with the returns of an index of securities similar to those in which the Portfolio invests.

### INVESTMENT ADVISER

AllianceBernstein L.P. is the investment adviser for the Portfolio.

### PORTFOLIO MANAGERS

The following table lists the persons responsible for day-to-day management of the Portfolio's portfolio:

Employee	Length of Service	Title
James W. MacGregor	Since 2005	Senior Vice President of the Adviser
Erik A. Turenchalk	Since 2020	Senior Vice President of the Adviser

### PURCHASE AND SALE OF PORTFOLIO SHARES

The Portfolio offers its shares through the separate accounts of participating life insurance companies ("Insurers"). You may only purchase and sell shares through these separate accounts. See the prospectus of the separate account of the Insurer for information on the purchase and sale of the Portfolio's shares.

**TAX INFORMATION**

The Portfolio may pay income dividends or make capital gains distributions. The income and capital gains distributions are expected to be made in shares of the Portfolio. See the prospectus of the separate account of the Insurer for federal income tax information.

**PAYMENTS TO INSURERS AND OTHER FINANCIAL INTERMEDIARIES**

If you purchase shares of the Portfolio through an Insurer or other financial intermediary, the Portfolio and its related companies may pay the intermediary for the sale of Portfolio shares and related services. These payments may create a conflict of interest by influencing the Insurer or other financial intermediary and your salesperson to recommend the Portfolio over another investment. Ask your salesperson or visit your financial intermediary's website for more information.

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ABOUT THE PORTFOLIO'S STRATEGIES, RISKS AND INVESTMENTS

This section of the Prospectus provides additional information about the Portfolio's investment strategies, practices and risks, including principal and non-principal strategies and risks. This Prospectus does not describe all of the Portfolio's investment practices; additional descriptions of the Portfolio's strategies, investments, and risks can be found in the Portfolio's Statement of Additional Information ("SAI").

### ESG INTEGRATION

The Adviser integrates environmental, social and governance ("ESG") considerations into its research and investments analysis with the goal of maximizing return and considering risk within the Portfolio's investment objective and strategies. Combining third-party ESG data with its own views and research, the Adviser analyzes the ESG practices of companies and issuers to identify potentially material ESG factors that can vary across companies and issuers. ESG considerations may include but are not limited to environmental impact, corporate governance and ethical business practices. ESG considerations may not be applicable to all types of instruments or investments.

### MARKET RISK

The market value of a security may move up or down, sometimes rapidly and unpredictably. These fluctuations may cause a security to be worth less than the price originally paid for it, or less than it was worth at an earlier time. Market risk may affect a single issuer, industry, sector of the economy or the market as a whole. Global economies and financial markets are increasingly interconnected, which increases the probabilities that conditions in one country or region might adversely impact issuers in a different country or region. Conditions affecting the general economy, including political, social, or economic instability at the local, regional, or global level may also affect the market value of a security. Health crises, such as pandemic and epidemic diseases, as well as other incidents that interrupt the expected course of events, such as natural disasters, including fires, earthquakes and flooding, war or civil disturbance, acts of terrorism, power outages and other unforeseeable and external events, and the public response to or fear of such diseases or events, have had, and may in the future have, an adverse effect on the Portfolio's investments and net asset value and can lead to increased market volatility. For example, the diseases or events themselves or any preventative or protective actions that governments may take in respect of such diseases or events may result in periods of business disruption, inability to obtain raw materials, supplies and component parts, and reduced or disrupted operations for the Portfolio's portfolio companies. The occurrence and pendency of such diseases or events could adversely affect the economies and financial markets either in specific countries or worldwide.

### DERIVATIVES

The Portfolio may, but is not required to, use derivatives for hedging or other risk management purposes or as part of its

investment strategies. Derivatives are financial contracts whose value depends on, or is derived from, the value of an underlying asset, reference rate or index. The Portfolio may use derivatives to earn income and enhance returns, to hedge or adjust the risk profile of its investments, to replace more traditional direct investments and to obtain exposure to otherwise inaccessible markets.

There are four principal types of derivatives—options, futures contracts, forwards and swaps—each of which is described below. Derivatives include listed and cleared transactions where the Portfolio's derivative trade counterparty is an exchange or clearinghouse, and non-cleared bilateral "over-the-counter" transactions that are privately negotiated and where the Portfolio's derivative trade counterparty is a financial institution. Exchange-traded or cleared derivatives transactions tend to be subject to less counterparty credit risk than those that are bilateral and privately negotiated.

The Portfolio's use of derivatives may involve risks that are different from, or possibly greater than, the risks associated with investing directly in securities or other more traditional instruments. These risks include the risk that the value of a derivative instrument may not correlate perfectly, or at all, with the value of the assets, reference rates, or indices that they are designed to track. Other risks include: the possible absence of a liquid secondary market for a particular instrument and possible exchange-imposed price fluctuation limits, either of which may make it difficult or impossible to close out a position when desired; and the risk that the counterparty will not perform its obligations. Certain derivatives may have a leverage component and involve leverage risk. Adverse changes in the value or level of the underlying asset, note or index can result in a loss substantially greater than the Portfolio's investment (in some cases, the potential loss is unlimited).

The Portfolio's investments in derivatives may include, but are not limited to, the following:

- **Forward Contracts.** A forward contract is an agreement that obligates one party to buy, and the other party to sell, a specific quantity of an underlying commodity or other tangible asset for an agreed-upon price at a future date. A forward contract generally is settled by physical delivery of the commodity or tangible asset to an agreed-upon location (rather than settled by cash) or is rolled forward into a new forward contract. The Portfolio's investments in forward contracts may include the following:
  - **Forward Currency Exchange Contracts.** The Portfolio may purchase or sell forward currency exchange contracts for hedging purposes to minimize the risk from adverse changes in the relationship between the U.S. Dollar and other currencies or for non-hedging purposes as a means of making direct investments in foreign currencies, as described below under "Other Derivatives and Strategies—Currency Transactions". The Portfolio, for example, may enter into a forward contract as a transaction hedge (to "lock in" the U.S. Dollar price of a non-U.S. Dollar



security), as a position hedge (to protect the value of securities the Portfolio owns that are denominated in a foreign currency against substantial changes in the value of the foreign currency) or as a cross-hedge (to protect the value of securities the Portfolio owns that are denominated in a foreign currency against substantial changes in the value of that foreign currency by entering into a forward contract for a different foreign currency that is expected to change in the same direction as the currency in which the securities are denominated).

- **Futures Contracts and Options on Futures Contracts.**

A futures contract is a standardized, exchange-traded agreement that obligates the buyer to buy and the seller to sell a specified quantity of an underlying asset (or settle for cash the value of a contract based on an underlying asset, rate or index) at a specific price on the contract maturity date. Options on futures contracts are options that call for the delivery of futures contracts upon exercise. The Portfolio may purchase or sell futures contracts and options thereon to hedge against changes in interest rates, securities (through index futures or options) or currencies. The Portfolio may also purchase or sell futures contracts for foreign currencies or options thereon for non-hedging purposes as a means of making direct investments in foreign currencies, as described below under “Other Derivatives and Strategies—Currency Transactions”.

- **Options.** An option is an agreement that, for a premium payment or fee, gives the option holder (the buyer) the right but not the obligation to buy (a “call option”) or sell (a “put option”) the underlying asset (or settle for cash an amount based on an underlying asset, rate or index) at a specified price (the exercise price) during a period of time or on a specified date. Investments in options are considered speculative. The Portfolio may lose the premium paid for them if the price of the underlying security or other asset decreased or remained the same (in the case of a call option) or increased or remained the same (in the case of a put option). If a put or call option purchased by the Portfolio were permitted to expire without being sold or exercised, its premium would represent a loss to the Portfolio. The Portfolio’s investments in options include the following:

- **Options on Foreign Currencies.** The Portfolio may invest in options on foreign currencies that are privately negotiated or traded on U.S. or foreign exchanges for hedging purposes to protect against declines in the U.S. Dollar value of foreign currency denominated securities held by the Portfolio and against increases in the U.S. Dollar cost of securities to be acquired. The purchase of an option on a foreign currency may constitute an effective hedge against fluctuations in exchange rates, although if rates move adversely, the Portfolio may forfeit the entire amount of the premium plus related transaction costs. The Portfolio may also invest in options on foreign currencies for non-hedging purposes as a means of making direct investments in foreign currencies, as described below under “Other Derivatives and Strategies—Currency Transactions”.
- **Options on Securities.** The Portfolio may purchase or write a put or call option on securities. The Portfolio may

write covered options, which means writing an option for securities the Portfolio owns, and uncovered options.

- **Options on Securities Indices.** An option on a securities index is similar to an option on a security except that, rather than taking or making delivery of a security at a specified price, an option on a securities index gives the holder the right to receive, upon exercise of the option, an amount of cash if the closing level of the chosen index is greater than (in the case of a call) or less than (in the case of a put) the exercise price of the option.
- **Other Option Strategies.** In an effort to earn extra income, to adjust exposure to individual securities or markets, or to protect all or a portion of its portfolio from a decline in value, sometimes within certain ranges, the Portfolio may use option strategies such as the concurrent purchase of a call or put option, including on individual securities, stock indices, futures contracts (including on individual securities and stock indices) or shares of exchange-traded funds, or ETFs, at one strike price and the writing of a call or put option on the same individual security, stock index, futures contract or ETF at a higher strike price in the case of a call option or at a lower strike price in the case of a put option. The maximum profit from this strategy would result for the call options from an increase in the value of the individual security, stock index, futures contract or ETF above the higher strike price or, for the put options, from the decline in the value of the individual security, stock index, futures contract or ETF below the lower strike price. If the price of the individual security, stock index, futures contract or ETF declines, in the case of the call option, or increases, in the case of the put option, the Portfolio has the risk of losing the entire amount paid for the call or put options.
- **Swap Transactions.** A swap is an agreement that obligates two parties to exchange a series of cash flows at specified intervals (payment dates) based upon, or calculated by, reference to changes in specified prices or rates (e.g., interest rates in the case of interest rate swaps or currency exchange rates in the case of currency swaps) for a specified amount of an underlying asset (the “notional” principal amount). Generally, the notional principal amount is used solely to calculate the payment stream, but is not exchanged. Most swaps are entered into on a net basis (i.e., the two payment streams are netted out, with the Portfolio receiving or paying, as the case may be, only the net amount of the two payments). Certain standardized swaps, including certain interest rate swaps and credit default swaps, are subject to mandatory central clearing and are required to be executed through a regulated swap execution facility. Cleared swaps are transacted through futures commission merchants (“FCMs”) that are members of central clearinghouses with the clearinghouse serving as central counterparty, similar to transactions in futures contracts. Portfolios post initial and variation margin to support their obligations under cleared swaps by making payments to their clearing member FCMs. Central clearing is intended to reduce counterparty credit risks and increase liquidity, but central clearing

does not make swap transactions risk free. The Securities and Exchange Commission (“Commission”) may adopt similar clearing and execution requirements in respect of certain security-based swaps under its jurisdiction. Privately negotiated swap agreements are two-party contracts entered into primarily by institutional investors and are not cleared through a third party, nor are these required to be executed on a regulated swap execution facility. The Portfolio’s investments in swap transactions include the following:

- **Currency Swaps.** The Portfolio may invest in currency swaps for hedging purposes to protect against adverse changes in exchange rates between the U.S. Dollar and other currencies or for non-hedging purposes as a means of making direct investments in foreign currencies, as described below under “Other Derivatives and Strategies—Currency Transactions”. Currency swaps involve the exchange by the Portfolio with another party of a series of payments in specified currencies. Currency swaps may be bilateral and privately negotiated with the Portfolio expecting to achieve an acceptable degree of correlation between its portfolio investments and its currency swaps position. Currency swaps may involve the exchange of actual principal amounts of currencies by the counterparties at the initiation, and again upon the termination, of the transaction.

- **Other Derivatives and Strategies**

- **Currency Transactions.** The Portfolio may invest in non-U.S. Dollar-denominated securities on a currency hedged or unhedged basis. The Adviser may actively manage the Portfolio’s currency exposures and may seek investment opportunities by taking long or short positions in currencies through the use of currency-related derivatives, including forward currency exchange contracts, futures contracts and options on futures contracts, swaps and options. The Adviser may enter into transactions for investment opportunities when it anticipates that a foreign currency will appreciate or depreciate in value but securities denominated in that currency are not held by the Portfolio and do not present attractive investment opportunities. Such transactions may also be used when the Adviser believes that it may be more efficient than a direct investment in a foreign currency-denominated security. The Portfolio may also conduct currency exchange contracts on a spot basis (*i.e.*, for cash at the spot rate prevailing in the currency exchange market for buying or selling currencies).
- **Eurodollar Instruments.** Eurodollar instruments are essentially U.S. Dollar-denominated futures contracts or options that are linked to the London Interbank Offered Rate (LIBOR) or another reference rate. Eurodollar futures contracts enable purchasers to obtain a fixed rate for the lending of funds and sellers to obtain a fixed rate for borrowings. The United Kingdom Financial Conduct Authority, which regulates LIBOR, has announced that certain LIBOR benchmarks will cease to be published at the end of 2021. See “LIBOR Transition and Associated Risk” below for additional information.

## **CONVERTIBLE SECURITIES**

Prior to conversion, convertible securities have the same general characteristics as non-convertible debt securities, which generally provide a stable stream of income with generally higher yields than those of equity securities of the same or similar issuers. The price of a convertible security will normally vary with changes in the price of the underlying equity security, although the higher yield tends to make the convertible security less volatile than the underlying equity security. As with debt securities, the market value of convertible securities tends to decrease as interest rates rise and increase as interest rates decline. While convertible securities generally offer lower interest or dividend yields than non-convertible debt securities of similar quality, they offer investors the potential to benefit from increases in the market prices of the underlying common stock. Convertible debt securities that are rated Baa3 or lower by Moody’s Investors Service, Inc. or BBB– or lower by S&P Global Ratings or Fitch Ratings and comparable unrated securities may share some or all of the risks of debt securities with those ratings.

## **FORWARD COMMITMENTS**

Forward commitments for the purchase or sale of securities may include purchases on a when-issued basis or purchases or sales on a delayed delivery basis. In some cases, a forward commitment may be conditioned upon the occurrence of a subsequent event, such as approval and consummation of a merger, corporate reorganization or debt restructuring or approval of a proposed financing by appropriate authorities (*i.e.*, a “when, as and if issued” trade).

When forward commitments with respect to fixed-income securities are negotiated, the price, which is generally expressed in yield terms, is fixed at the time the commitment is made, but payment for and delivery of the securities take place at a later date. Securities purchased or sold under a forward commitment are subject to market fluctuation and no interest or dividends accrue to the purchaser prior to the settlement date. There is a risk of loss if the value of either a purchased security declines before the settlement date or the security sold increases before the settlement date. The use of forward commitments helps the Portfolio to protect against anticipated changes in interest rates and prices.

## **ILLIQUID SECURITIES**

The Portfolio limits its investments in illiquid securities to 15% of its net assets. Under Rule 22e-4 under the Investment Company Act of 1940 (the “1940 Act”), the term “illiquid securities” means any security or investment that the Portfolio reasonably expects cannot be sold or disposed of in current market conditions in seven calendar days or less without the sale or disposition significantly changing the market value of the investment.

The Portfolio may not be able to sell such securities and may not be able to realize their full value upon sale. Restricted securities (securities subject to legal or contractual restrictions on resale) may be illiquid. Some restricted securities (such as securities issued pursuant to Rule 144A under the Securities Act of 1933

(“Rule 144A Securities”) or certain commercial paper) may be more difficult to trade than other types of securities.

## **INVESTMENT IN EXCHANGE-TRADED FUNDS AND OTHER INVESTMENT COMPANIES**

The Portfolio may invest in shares of ETFs, subject to the restrictions and limitations of the 1940 Act, or any applicable rules, exemptive orders or regulatory guidance thereunder. ETFs are pooled investment vehicles that seek to track the performance of a specific index or implement actively-managed investment strategies. Index ETFs will not track their underlying indices precisely since the ETFs have expenses and may need to hold a portion of their assets in cash, unlike the underlying indices, and the ETFs may not invest in all of the securities in the underlying indices in the same proportion as the indices for varying reasons. The Portfolio will incur transaction costs when buying and selling ETF shares, and indirectly bear the expenses of the ETFs. In addition, the market value of an ETF's shares, which is based on supply and demand in the market for the ETF's shares, may differ from its net asset value, or NAV. Accordingly, there may be times when an ETF's shares trade at a discount to its NAV.

The Portfolio may also invest in investment companies other than ETFs, as permitted by the 1940 Act, and the rules and regulations or exemptive orders thereunder. As with ETF investments, if the Portfolio acquires shares in other investment companies, Contractholders would bear, indirectly, the expenses of such investment companies (which may include management and advisory fees), which to the extent not waived or reimbursed, would be in addition to the Portfolio's expenses. The Portfolio intends to invest uninvested cash balances in an affiliated money market fund as permitted by Rule 12d1-1 under the 1940 Act. The Portfolio's investment in other investment companies, including ETFs, subjects the Portfolio indirectly to the underlying risks of those investment companies.

## **LIBOR TRANSITION AND ASSOCIATED RISK**

The Portfolio may invest in debt securities, derivatives or other financial instruments that utilize the London Interbank Offered Rate, or “LIBOR,” as a “benchmark” or “reference rate” for various interest rate calculations. The United Kingdom Financial Conduct Authority, which regulates LIBOR, has announced that certain LIBOR benchmarks will cease to be published at the end of 2021. Although widely used LIBOR rates are intended to be published until June 2023, banks are strongly encouraged to cease entering into agreements with counterparties referencing LIBOR by the end of 2021. Although financial regulators and industry working groups have suggested alternative reference rates, such as the European Interbank Offer Rate, the Sterling Overnight Interbank Average Rate and the Secured Overnight Financing Rate, global consensus on alternative rates is lacking and the process for amending existing contracts or instruments to transition away from LIBOR is underway but remains incomplete. The elimination of LIBOR or changes to other reference rates or any other changes or reforms to the determination or supervision

of reference rates could have an adverse impact on the market for, or value of, any securities or payments linked to those reference rates, which may adversely affect the Portfolio's performance and/or net asset value. Uncertainty and risk also remain regarding the willingness and ability of issuers and lenders to include revised provisions in new and existing contracts or instruments. Consequently, the transition away from LIBOR to other reference rates may lead to increased volatility and illiquidity in markets that are tied to LIBOR, fluctuations in values of LIBOR-related investments or investments in issuers that utilize LIBOR, increased difficulty in borrowing or refinancing and diminished effectiveness of hedging strategies, potentially adversely affecting the Portfolio's performance. Furthermore, the risks associated with the expected discontinuation of LIBOR and transition may be exacerbated if the work necessary to effect an orderly transition to an alternative reference rate is not completed in a timely manner. Because the usefulness of LIBOR as a benchmark could deteriorate during the transition period, these effects could occur prior to the end of 2021.

## **LOANS OF PORTFOLIO SECURITIES**

For the purpose of achieving income, the Portfolio may make secured loans of portfolio securities to brokers, dealers and financial institutions (“borrowers”) to the extent permitted under the 1940 Act or the rules and regulations thereunder (as such statute, rules or regulations may be amended from time to time) or by guidance regarding interpretations of or exemptive orders under the 1940 Act. Under the Portfolio's securities lending program, all securities loans will be secured continuously by cash collateral and/or non-cash collateral. Non-cash collateral will include only securities issued or guaranteed by the U.S. Government or its agencies or instrumentalities. The loans will be made only to borrowers deemed by the Adviser to be creditworthy, and when, in the judgment of the Adviser, the consideration that can be earned at that time from securities loans justifies the attendant risk. If a loan is collateralized by cash, the Portfolio will be compensated for the loan from a portion of the net return from the interest earned on the collateral after a rebate paid to the borrower (in some cases this rebate may be a “negative rebate”, or fee paid by the borrower to the Portfolio in connection with the loan). If the Portfolio receives non-cash collateral, the Portfolio will receive a fee from the borrower generally equal to a negotiated percentage of the market value of the loaned securities. For its services, the securities lending agent receives a fee from the Portfolio.

The Portfolio will have the right to call a loan and obtain the securities loaned at any time on notice to the borrower within the normal and customary settlement time for the securities. While the securities are on loan, the borrower is obligated to pay the Portfolio amounts equal to any income or other distributions from the securities. The Portfolio will not have the right to vote any securities during the existence of a loan, but will have the right to recall loaned securities in order to exercise voting or other ownership rights. When the Portfolio

lends its securities, its investment performance will continue to reflect changes in the value of securities loaned.

The Portfolio will invest any cash collateral in shares of a money market fund approved by the Portfolio's Board of Directors (the "Board") and expected to be managed by the Adviser. Any such investment will be at the Portfolio's risk. The Portfolio may pay reasonable finders', administrative, and custodial fees in connection with a loan.

Principal risks of lending portfolio securities include that the borrower will fail to return the loaned securities upon termination of the loan and that the value of the collateral will not be sufficient to replace the loaned securities.

## **PREFERRED STOCK**

The Portfolio may invest in preferred stock. Preferred stock is a class of capital stock that typically pays dividends at a specified rate. Preferred stock is generally senior to common stock, but is subordinated to any debt the issuer has outstanding. Accordingly, preferred stock dividends are not paid until all debt obligations are first met. Preferred stock may be subject to more fluctuations in market value, due to changes in market participants' perceptions of the issuer's ability to continue to pay dividends, than debt of the same issuer. These investments include convertible preferred stock, which includes an option for the holder to convert the preferred stock into the issuer's common stock under certain conditions, among which may be the specification of a future date when the conversion may begin, a certain number of common shares per preferred share, or a certain price per share for the common stock. Convertible preferred stock tends to be more volatile than non-convertible preferred stock, because its value is related to the price of the issuer's common stock as well as the dividends payable on the preferred stock.

## **REPURCHASE AGREEMENTS AND BUY/SELL BACK TRANSACTIONS**

The Portfolio may enter into repurchase agreements. In a repurchase agreement transaction, the Portfolio buys a security and simultaneously agrees to sell it back to the counterparty at a specified price in the future. However, a repurchase agreement is economically similar to a secured loan, in that the Portfolio lends cash to a counterparty for a specific term, normally a day or a few days, and is given acceptable collateral (the purchased securities) to hold in case the counterparty does not repay the loan. The difference between the purchase price and the repurchase price of the securities reflects an agreed-upon "interest rate". Given that the price at which the Portfolio will sell the collateral back is specified in advance, the Portfolio is not exposed to price movements on the collateral unless the counterparty defaults. If the counterparty defaults on its obligation to buy back the securities at the maturity date and the liquidation value of the collateral is less than the outstanding loan amount, the Portfolio would suffer a loss. In order to further mitigate any potential credit exposure to the counterparty, if the value of the securities falls below a specified level that is linked to the loan amount during the life of the agreement, the counterparty must provide additional collateral to support the loan.

The Portfolio may enter into buy/sell back transactions, which are similar to repurchase agreements. In this type of transaction, the Portfolio enters a trade to buy securities at one price and simultaneously enters a trade to sell the same securities at another price on a specified date. Similar to a repurchase agreement, the repurchase price is higher than the sale price and reflects current interest rates. Unlike a repurchase agreement, however, the buy/sell back transaction is considered two separate transactions.

## **RIGHTS AND WARRANTS**

Rights and warrants are option securities permitting their holders to subscribe for other securities. Rights are similar to warrants except that they have a substantially shorter duration. Rights and warrants do not carry with them dividend or voting rights with respect to the underlying securities, or any rights in the assets of the issuer. As a result, an investment in rights and warrants may be considered more speculative than certain other types of investments. In addition, the value of a right or a warrant does not necessarily change with the value of the underlying securities, and a right or a warrant ceases to have value if it is not exercised prior to its expiration date.

## **SHORT SALES**

The Portfolio may make short sales as a part of overall portfolio management or to offset a potential decline in the value of a security. A short sale involves the sale of a security that the Portfolio does not own, or if the Portfolio owns the security, is not to be delivered upon consummation of the sale. When the Portfolio makes a short sale of a security that it does not own, it must borrow from a broker-dealer the security sold short and deliver the security to the broker-dealer upon conclusion of the short sale.

If the price of the security sold short increases between the time of the short sale and the time the Portfolio replaces the borrowed security, the Portfolio will incur a loss; conversely, if the price declines, the Portfolio will realize a short-term capital gain. Although the Portfolio's gain is limited to the price at which it sold the security short, its potential loss is theoretically unlimited because there is a theoretically unlimited potential for the price of a security sold short to increase.

## **STRUCTURED PRODUCTS**

The Portfolio may invest in certain hybrid derivatives-type instruments that combine features of a traditional stock or bond with those of, for example, a futures contract or an option. These instruments include structured notes and indexed securities, commodity-linked notes and commodity index-linked notes and credit-linked securities. The performance of the structured product, which is generally a fixed-income security, is tied (positively or negatively) to the price or prices of an unrelated reference indicator such as a security or basket of securities, currencies, commodities, a securities or commodities index or a credit default swap or other kinds of swaps. The structured product may not pay interest or protect the principal invested. The structured product or its interest rate may be a



multiple of the reference indicator and, as a result, may be leveraged and move (up or down) more rapidly than the reference indicator. Investments in structured products may provide a more efficient and less expensive means of obtaining exposure to underlying securities, commodities or other derivatives, but may potentially be more volatile and carry greater trading and market risk than investments in traditional securities. The purchase of a structured product also exposes the Portfolio to the credit risk of the structured product.

Structured notes are derivative debt instruments. The interest rate or principal of these notes is determined by reference to an unrelated indicator (for example, a currency, security, or indices thereof) unlike a typical note where the borrower agrees to make fixed or floating interest payments and to pay a fixed sum at maturity. Indexed securities may include structured notes as well as securities other than debt securities, the interest or principal of which is determined by an unrelated indicator.

Commodity-linked notes and commodity index-linked notes provide exposure to the commodities markets. These are derivative securities with one or more commodity-linked components that have payment features similar to commodity futures contracts, commodity options, commodity indices or similar instruments. Commodity-linked products may be either equity or debt securities, leveraged or unleveraged, and have both security and commodity-like characteristics. A portion of the value of these instruments may be derived from the value of a commodity, futures contract, index or other economic variable.

## **ADDITIONAL RISK AND OTHER CONSIDERATIONS**

Investments in the Portfolio involve the risk considerations described below.

### **FOREIGN (NON U.S.) SECURITIES**

Investing in securities of foreign issuers involves special risks and considerations not typically associated with investing in U.S. securities. The securities markets of many foreign countries are relatively small, with the majority of market capitalization and trading volume concentrated in a limited number of companies representing a small number of industries. If the Portfolio invests in securities of foreign issuers, it may experience greater price volatility and significantly lower liquidity than a portfolio invested solely in securities of U.S. companies. These markets may be subject to greater influence by adverse events generally affecting the market, and by large investors trading significant blocks of securities, than is usual in the United States. Sanctions imposed by the U.S. or a foreign country may restrict the Portfolio's ability to purchase or sell foreign securities or may require the Portfolio to divest its holdings in foreign securities, which could adversely affect the value or liquidity of such holdings. In addition, the securities markets of some foreign countries may be closed on certain days (e.g., local holidays) when the Portfolio is open for business. Under these circumstances, the Portfolio will be unable to add to or exit its positions in certain foreign securities even though it may otherwise be attractive to do so.

Securities registration, custody, and settlement may in some instances be subject to delays and legal and administrative uncertainties. Foreign investment in the securities markets of certain foreign countries is restricted or controlled to varying degrees. These restrictions or controls may at times limit or preclude investment in certain securities and may increase the costs and expenses of the Portfolio. In addition, the repatriation of investment income, capital or the proceeds of sales of securities from certain countries is controlled under regulations, including in some cases the need for certain advance government notification or authority, and if a deterioration occurs in a country's balance of payments, the country could impose temporary restrictions on foreign capital remittances. Income from certain investments held by the Portfolio could be reduced by foreign income taxes, including withholding taxes.

The Portfolio also could be adversely affected by delays in, or a refusal to grant, any required governmental approval for repatriation, as well as by the application to it of other restrictions on investment. Investing in local markets may require the Portfolio to adopt special procedures or seek local governmental approvals or other actions, any of which may involve additional costs to the Portfolio. These factors may affect the liquidity of the Portfolio's investments in any country and the Adviser will monitor the effect of any such factor or factors on the Portfolio's investments. Transaction costs, including brokerage commissions for transactions both on and off the securities exchanges, in many foreign countries are generally higher than in the United States.

Issuers of securities in foreign jurisdictions are generally not subject to the same degree of regulation as are U.S. issuers with respect to such matters as insider trading rules, restrictions on market manipulation, shareholder proxy requirements, and timely disclosure of information. The reporting, accounting, and auditing standards of foreign countries may differ, in some cases significantly, from U.S. standards in important respects, and less information may be available to investors in securities of foreign issuers than to investors in U.S. securities. Substantially less information is publicly available about certain non-U.S. issuers than is available about most U.S. issuers.

The economies of individual foreign countries may differ favorably or unfavorably from the U.S. economy in such respects as growth of gross domestic product or gross national product, rate of inflation, capital reinvestment, resource self-sufficiency, and balance of payments position. Nationalization, expropriation or confiscatory taxation, currency blockage, political changes, government regulation, political or social instability, public health crises (including the occurrence of a contagious disease or illness), revolutions, wars or diplomatic developments could affect adversely the economy of a foreign country. In the event of nationalization, expropriation, or other confiscation, the Portfolio could lose its entire investment in securities in the country involved. In addition, laws in foreign countries governing business organizations, bankruptcy and insolvency may provide less protection to security holders such as the Portfolio than that provided by U.S. laws.

The United Kingdom (the “U.K.”) formally withdrew from the European Union (the “EU”) on January 31, 2020. The U.K. and the EU negotiated an agreement governing their future trading and security relationships effective January 1, 2021. The impact on the U.K. and European economies and the broader global economy of the uncertainties associated with implementing the agreement are significant and could have an adverse effect on the value of the Portfolio’s investments and its net asset value. These uncertainties include an increase in the regulatory and customs requirements imposed on cross-border trade between the U.K. and the EU, the negotiation of additional arrangements between the U.K. and the EU affecting important parts of the economy (such as financial services) that are not covered by the agreement, volatility and illiquidity in markets, currency fluctuations, the renegotiation of other existing trading and cross-border cooperation arrangements (whether economic, tax, fiscal, legal, regulatory or otherwise) of the U.K. and the EU, and potentially lower growth for companies in the U.K., Europe and globally.

### **FOREIGN (NON U.S.) CURRENCIES**

The Portfolio invests some portion of its assets in securities denominated in, and receives revenues in, foreign currencies and will be adversely affected by reductions in the value of those currencies relative to the U.S. Dollar. Foreign currency exchange rates may fluctuate significantly. They are determined by supply and demand in the foreign exchange markets, the relative merits of investments in different countries, actual or perceived changes in interest rates, and other complex factors. Currency exchange rates also can be affected unpredictably by intervention (or the failure to intervene) by U.S. or non-U.S. Governments or central banks or by currency controls or political developments. In light of these risks, the Portfolio may engage in certain currency hedging transactions, as described above, which involve certain special risks. The Portfolio may also invest directly in foreign currencies for non-hedging purposes directly on a spot basis (*i.e.*, cash) or through derivatives transactions, such as forward currency exchange contracts, futures contracts and options thereon, swaps and options as described above. These investments will be subject to the same risks. In addition, currency exchange rates may fluctuate significantly over short periods of time, causing the Portfolio’s NAV to fluctuate.

### **MANAGEMENT RISK – QUANTITATIVE MODELS**

The Adviser may use investment techniques that incorporate, or rely upon, quantitative models. These models may not work as intended and may not enable the Portfolio to achieve its investment objective. In addition, certain models may be constructed using data from external providers, and these inputs may be incorrect or incomplete, thus potentially limiting the effectiveness of the models. Finally, the Adviser may change, enhance and update its models and its usage of existing models at its discretion.

### **FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS**

The Portfolio may take advantage of other investment practices that are not currently contemplated for use by the Portfolio, or

are not available but may yet be developed, to the extent such investment practices are consistent with the Portfolio’s investment objective and legally permissible for the Portfolio. Such investment practices, if they arise, may involve risks that are different from or exceed those involved in the practices described above.

### **CHANGES IN INVESTMENT OBJECTIVES AND POLICIES**

The **AB Variable Products Series (VPS) Fund’s** (the “Fund”) Board may change the Portfolio’s investment objective without shareholder approval. The Portfolio will provide shareholders with 60 days’ prior written notice of any change to the Portfolio’s investment objective. A fund that has a policy to invest at least 80% of its net assets in securities indicated by its name, such as the Portfolio, will not change such policy without 60 days’ prior written notice to shareholders. Unless otherwise noted, all other investment policies of the Portfolio may be changed without shareholder approval.

### **TEMPORARY DEFENSIVE POSITION**

For temporary defensive purposes to attempt to respond to adverse market, economic, political or other conditions, the Portfolio may invest in certain types of short-term, liquid, investment grade or high-quality debt securities. While the Portfolio is investing for temporary defensive purposes, it may not meet its investment objectives.

### **PORTFOLIO HOLDINGS**

The Portfolio’s SAI includes a description of the policies and procedures that apply to disclosure of the Portfolio’s portfolio holdings.

### **CYBER SECURITY RISK**

As the use of the Internet and other technologies has become more prevalent in the course of business, the Portfolio has become more susceptible to operational and financial risks associated with cyber security. Cyber security incidents can result from deliberate attacks such as gaining unauthorized access to digital systems (*e.g.*, through “hacking” or malicious software coding) for purposes of misappropriating assets or sensitive information, corrupting data, or causing operational disruption, or from unintentional events, such as the inadvertent release of confidential information. Cyber security failures or breaches of the Portfolio or its service providers or the issuers of securities in which the Portfolio invests have the ability to cause disruptions and impact business operations, potentially resulting in financial losses, the inability of Portfolio shareholders to transact business, violations of applicable privacy and other laws, regulatory fines, penalties, reputational damage, reimbursement or other compensation costs, and/or additional compliance costs. While measures have been developed which are designed to reduce the risks associated with cyber security incidents, there can be no assurance that those measures will be effective, particularly since the Portfolio does not control the cyber security defenses or plans of its service providers, financial intermediaries and companies with which those entities do business and companies in which the Portfolio invests.

Cyber security incidents, both intentional and unintentional, may allow an unauthorized party to gain access to Portfolio or shareholder assets, Portfolio or customer data (including private shareholder information), or proprietary information, or cause the Portfolio, the Adviser, and/or the Portfolio's service providers (including, but not limited to, fund accountants, custodians, sub-custodians, transfer agents and financial intermediaries) to suffer data breaches, data corruption or lose

operational functionality, or prevent Portfolio shareholders from purchasing, redeeming, or exchanging shares or receiving distributions. The Portfolio and the Adviser have limited ability to prevent or mitigate cyber security incidents affecting third-party service providers. Cyber security incidents may result in financial losses to the Portfolio and its shareholders, and substantial costs may be incurred in order to prevent any future cyber security incidents.

# INVESTING IN THE PORTFOLIO

## HOW TO BUY AND SELL SHARES

The Portfolio offers its shares through the separate accounts of the Insurers. You may only purchase and sell shares through these separate accounts. See the prospectus of the separate account of the Insurer for information on how to purchase and sell the Portfolio's shares. AllianceBernstein Investments, Inc. ("ABI") may, from time to time, receive payments from Insurers in connection with the sale of the Portfolio's shares through the Insurers' separate accounts.

The Portfolio's NAV is available by calling (800) 221-5672.

The Insurers maintain omnibus account arrangements with the Fund in respect of the Portfolio and place aggregate purchase, redemption and exchange orders for shares of the Portfolio corresponding to orders placed by the Insurers' customers, or Contractholders, who have purchased contracts from the Insurers, in each case, in accordance with the terms and conditions of the relevant contract. Omnibus account arrangements maintained by the Insurers are discussed below under "Policy Regarding Short-Term Trading".

The purchase or sale of the Portfolio's shares is priced at the next-determined NAV after the order is received in proper form.

ABI may refuse any order to purchase shares. The Portfolio reserves the right to suspend the sale of its shares to the public in response to conditions in the securities markets or for other reasons.

The Portfolio expects that it will typically take up to three business days following the receipt of a redemption request in proper form to pay out redemption proceeds. However, while not expected, payment of redemption proceeds may take up to seven days from the day a request is received in proper form by the Portfolio by the close of regular trading on any day the New York Stock Exchange (the "Exchange") is open (ordinarily, 4:00 p.m., Eastern time, but sometimes earlier, as in the case of scheduled half-day trading or unscheduled suspensions of trading).

The Portfolio expects, under normal circumstances, to use cash or cash equivalents held by the Portfolio to satisfy redemption requests. The Portfolio may also determine to sell portfolio assets to meet such requests. Under certain circumstances, including stressed market conditions, the Portfolio may determine to pay a redemption request by accessing a bank line of credit or by distributing wholly or partly in kind securities from its portfolio, instead of cash.

## PAYMENTS TO FINANCIAL INTERMEDIARIES

Financial intermediaries, such as the Insurers, market and sell shares of the Portfolio and typically receive compensation for selling shares of the Portfolio. This compensation is paid from various sources.

Insurers or your financial intermediary receive compensation from ABI and/or the Adviser in several ways from various sources, which include some or all of the following:

- defrayal of costs for educational seminars and training;
- additional distribution support; and
- payments related to providing Contractholder recordkeeping and/or administrative services.

ABI and/or the Adviser may pay Insurers or other financial intermediaries to perform recordkeeping and administrative services in connection with the Portfolio. Such payments will generally not exceed 0.35% of the average daily net assets of the Portfolio attributable to the Insurer.

## Other Payments for Educational Support and Distribution Assistance

In addition to the fees described above, ABI, at its expense, currently provides additional payments to the Insurers that sell shares of the Portfolio. These sums include payments to reimburse directly or indirectly the costs incurred by the Insurers and their employees in connection with educational seminars and training efforts about the Portfolio for the Insurers' employees and/or their clients and potential clients and may include payments for distribution analytical data regarding Portfolio sales by the Insurer. The costs and expenses associated with these efforts may include travel, lodging, entertainment and meals.

For 2021, ABI's additional payments to these firms for educational support and distribution assistance related to the Fund's Portfolios are expected to be approximately \$200,000. In 2020, ABI paid additional payments of approximately \$150,000 for the Fund's Portfolios.

**If one mutual fund sponsor that offers shares to separate accounts of an Insurer makes greater distribution assistance payments than another, the Insurer may have an incentive to recommend or offer the shares of funds of one fund sponsor over another.**

**Please speak with your financial intermediary to learn more about the total amounts paid to your financial intermediary by the Adviser, ABI and by other mutual fund sponsors that offer shares to Insurers that may be recommended to you. You should also consult disclosures made by your financial intermediary at the time of purchase.**

As of the date of this Prospectus, ABI anticipates that the Insurers or their affiliates that will receive additional payments for educational support include:

AIG

Brighthouse Life Insurance Company



Equitable  
Lincoln Financial Distributors  
Pacific Life Insurance Company  
Prudential Financial  
Riversource Life Insurance Company  
Transamerica Capital

Although the Portfolio may use brokers and dealers who sell shares of the Portfolio to effect portfolio transactions, the Portfolio does not consider the sale of AB Mutual Fund shares as a factor when selecting brokers or dealers to effect portfolio transactions.

## **FREQUENT PURCHASES AND REDEMPTIONS OF PORTFOLIO SHARES**

The Board has adopted policies and procedures designed to detect and deter frequent purchases and redemptions of Portfolio shares or excessive or short-term trading that may disadvantage long-term Contractholders. These policies are described below. There is no guarantee that the Portfolio will be able to detect excessive or short-term trading or to identify Contractholders engaged in such practices, particularly with respect to transactions in omnibus accounts. Contractholders should be aware that application of these policies may have adverse consequences, as described below, and should avoid frequent trading in Portfolio shares through purchases, sales and exchanges of shares. The Portfolio reserves the right to restrict, reject, or cancel, without any prior notice, any purchase or exchange order for any reason, including any purchase or exchange order accepted by any Insurer or a Contractholder's financial intermediary.

**Risks Associated With Excessive Or Short-Term Trading Generally.** While the Fund will try to prevent market timing by utilizing the procedures described below, these procedures may not be successful in identifying or stopping excessive or short-term trading in all circumstances. By realizing profits through short-term trading, Contractholders that engage in rapid purchases and sales or exchanges of the Portfolio's shares dilute the value of shares held by long-term Contractholders. Volatility resulting from excessive purchases and sales or exchanges of shares of the Portfolio, especially involving large dollar amounts, may disrupt efficient portfolio management and cause the Portfolio to sell portfolio securities at inopportune times to raise cash to accommodate redemptions relating to short-term trading activity. In particular, the Portfolio may have difficulty implementing its long-term investment strategies if it is forced to maintain a higher level of its assets in cash to accommodate significant short-term trading activity. In addition, the Portfolio may incur increased administrative and other expenses due to excessive or short-term trading and increased brokerage costs.

Investments in securities of foreign issuers may be particularly susceptible to short-term trading strategies. This is because securities of foreign issuers are typically traded on markets that close well before the time the Portfolio ordinarily calculates its NAV at 4:00 p.m., Eastern time, which gives rise to the possibility that developments may have occurred in the interim that

would affect the value of these securities. The time zone differences among international stock markets can allow a Contractholder engaging in a short-term trading strategy to exploit differences in share prices that are based on closing prices of securities of foreign issuers established some time before the Portfolio calculates its own share price (referred to as "time zone arbitrage"). The Portfolio has procedures, referred to as fair value pricing, designed to adjust closing market prices of securities of foreign issuers to reflect what is believed to be fair value of those securities at the time the Portfolio calculates its NAV. While there is no assurance, the Portfolio expects that the use of fair value pricing, in addition to the short-term trading policies discussed below, will significantly reduce a Contractholder's ability to engage in time zone arbitrage to the detriment of other Contractholders.

Contractholders engaging in a short-term trading strategy may also target the Portfolio irrespective of its investments in securities of foreign issuers. If the Portfolio invests in securities that are, among other things, thinly traded or traded infrequently, or that have a limited public float, it has the risk that the current market price for the securities may not accurately reflect current market values. Contractholders may seek to engage in short-term trading to take advantage of these pricing differences (referred to as "price arbitrage"). The Portfolio may be adversely affected by price arbitrage.

**Policy Regarding Short-Term Trading.** Purchases and exchanges of shares of the Portfolio should be made for investment purposes only. The Fund seeks to prevent patterns of excessive purchases and sales or exchanges of shares of the Portfolio to the extent they are detected by the procedures described below, subject to the Fund's ability to monitor purchase, sale and exchange activity. Insurers utilizing omnibus account arrangements may not identify to the Fund, ABI or AllianceBernstein Investor Services, Inc. ("ABIS") Contractholders' transaction activity relating to shares of the Portfolio on an individual basis. Consequently, the Fund, ABI and ABIS may not be able to detect excessive or short-term trading in shares of the Portfolio attributable to a particular Contractholder who effects purchase and redemption and/or exchange activity in shares of the Portfolio through an Insurer acting in an omnibus capacity. In seeking to prevent excessive or short-term trading in shares of the Portfolio, including the maintenance of any transaction surveillance or account blocking procedures, the Fund, ABI and ABIS consider the information actually available to them at the time. The Fund reserves the right to modify this policy, including any surveillance or account blocking procedures established from time to time to effectuate this policy, at any time without notice.

- **Transaction Surveillance Procedures.** The Portfolio, through its agents, ABI and ABIS, maintains surveillance procedures to detect excessive or short-term trading in Portfolio shares. This surveillance process involves several factors, which include scrutinizing each individual Insurer's omnibus transaction activity in Portfolio shares in order to seek to ascertain whether any such activity attributable to one or more Contractholders might constitute excessive or

short-term trading. Insurers' omnibus transaction activity identified by these surveillance procedures, or as a result of any other information actually available at the time, will be evaluated to determine whether such activity might indicate excessive or short-term trading activity attributable to one or more Contractholders. These surveillance procedures may be modified from time to time, as necessary or appropriate to improve the detection of excessive or short-term trading or to address specific circumstances.

- **Account Blocking Procedures.** If the Fund determines, in its sole discretion, that a particular transaction or pattern of transactions identified by the transaction surveillance procedures described above is excessive or short-term trading in nature, the relevant Insurer's omnibus account(s) will be immediately "blocked" and no future purchase or exchange activity will be permitted, except to the extent the Fund, ABI or ABIS has been informed in writing that the terms and conditions of a particular contract may limit the Fund's ability to apply its short-term trading policy to Contractholder activity as discussed below. As a result, any Contractholder seeking to engage through an Insurer in purchase or exchange activity in shares of the Portfolio under a particular contract will be prevented from doing so. However, sales of Portfolio shares back to the Portfolio or redemptions will continue to be permitted in accordance with the terms of the Portfolio's current prospectus. In the event an account is blocked, certain account-related privileges, such as the ability to place purchase, sale and exchange orders over the internet or by phone, may also be suspended. As a result, unless the Contractholder redeems his or her shares, the Contractholder effectively may be "locked" into an investment in shares of one or more of the Portfolio that the Contractholder did not intend to hold on a long-term basis or that may not be appropriate for the Contractholder's risk profile. To rectify this situation, a Contractholder with a "blocked" account may be forced to redeem Portfolio shares, which could be costly if, for example, these shares have declined in value. To avoid this risk, a Contractholder should carefully monitor the purchases, sales, and exchanges of Portfolio shares and should avoid frequent trading in Portfolio shares. An Insurer's omnibus account that is blocked will generally remain blocked unless and until the Insurer provides evidence or assurance acceptable to the Fund that one or more Contractholders did not or will not in the future engage in excessive or short-term trading.
- **Applications of Surveillance Procedures and Restrictions to Omnibus Accounts.** The Portfolio applies its surveillance procedures to Insurers. As required by Securities and Exchange Commission (the "Commission") rules, the Portfolio has entered into agreements with all of its financial intermediaries that require the financial intermediaries to provide the Portfolio, upon the request of the Portfolio or its agents, with individual account level information about their transactions. If the Portfolio detects excessive trading through its monitoring of omnibus accounts, including trading at the individual account level, Insurers will also execute instructions from the Portfolio to

take actions to curtail the activity, which may include applying blocks to accounts to prohibit future purchases and exchanges of Portfolio shares.

## HOW THE PORTFOLIO VALUES ITS SHARES

The Portfolio's NAV is calculated on any day the Exchange is open at the close of regular trading (ordinarily, 4:00 p.m., Eastern time, but sometimes earlier, as in the case of scheduled half-day trading or unscheduled suspensions of trading). To calculate NAV, the Portfolio's assets are valued and totaled, liabilities are subtracted, and the balance, called net assets, is divided by the number of shares outstanding. If the Portfolio invests in securities that are primarily traded on foreign exchanges that trade on weekends or other days when the Portfolio does not price its shares, the NAV of the Portfolio's shares may change on days when Contractholders will not be able to purchase or redeem their shares in the Portfolio.

The Portfolio values its securities at their current market value determined on the basis of market quotations or, if market quotations are not readily available or are unreliable, at "fair value" as determined in accordance with procedures established by and under the general supervision of the Board. When the Portfolio uses fair value pricing, it may take into account any factors it deems appropriate. The Portfolio may determine fair value based upon developments related to a specific security, current valuations of foreign stock indices (as reflected in U.S. futures markets) and/or U.S. sector or broader stock market indices. The prices of securities used by the Portfolio to calculate its NAV may differ from quoted or published prices for the same securities. Fair value pricing involves subjective judgments and it is possible that the fair value determined for a security is materially different than the value that could be realized upon the sale of that security.

The Portfolio expects to use fair value pricing for securities primarily traded on U.S. exchanges only under very limited circumstances, such as the early closing of the exchange on which a security is traded or suspension of trading in the security. The Portfolio may use fair value pricing more frequently for securities primarily traded in foreign markets because, among other things, most foreign markets close well before the Portfolio ordinarily values its securities at 4:00 p.m., Eastern time. The earlier close of these foreign markets gives rise to the possibility that significant events, including broad market moves, may have occurred in the interim. For example, the Portfolio believes that foreign security values may be affected by events that occur after the close of foreign securities markets. To account for this, the Portfolio may frequently value many of its foreign equity securities using fair value prices based on third-party vendor modeling tools to the extent available.

Subject to its oversight, the Board has delegated responsibility for valuing the Portfolio's assets to the Adviser. The Adviser has established a Valuation Committee, which operates under the policies and procedures approved by the Board, to value the Portfolio's assets on behalf of the Portfolio. The Valuation Committee values Portfolio assets as described above. More information about the valuation of the Portfolio's assets is available in the Portfolio's SAI.

# MANAGEMENT OF THE PORTFOLIO

## INVESTMENT ADVISER

The Portfolio's adviser is AllianceBernstein L.P., 1345 Avenue of the Americas, New York, New York 10105. The Adviser is a leading global investment adviser managing client accounts with assets as of December 31, 2020, totaling approximately \$686 billion (of which \$135 billion represented assets of registered investment companies sponsored by the Adviser). As of December 31, 2020, the Adviser managed retirement assets for many of the largest public and private employee benefit plans (including 18 of the nation's FORTUNE 100 companies), for public employee retirement funds in 29 of the 50 states, for investment companies, and for foundations, endowments, banks and insurance companies worldwide. The 27 registered investment companies managed by the Adviser, comprising approximately 91 separate investment portfolios, had as of December 31, 2020 approximately 2.5 million retail accounts.

During the second quarter of 2018, AXA S.A. ("AXA"), a French holding company for the AXA Group, completed the sale of a minority stake in its subsidiary, Equitable Holdings, Inc. (formerly AXA Equitable Holdings, Inc.) ("Equitable"), through an initial public offering. Equitable is the holding company for a diverse group of financial services companies, including an approximately 65.3% economic interest in the Adviser and a 100% interest in AllianceBernstein Corporation, the general partner of the Adviser. Since the initial sale, AXA has completed additional offerings, most recently during the fourth quarter of 2019. As a result, AXA no longer owns a controlling interest in Equitable and owns less than 10% of the outstanding shares of common stock of Equitable. AXA previously announced its intention to sell its entire interest in Equitable over time, subject to market conditions and other factors (the "Plan"). Most of AXA's remaining Equitable shares are to be delivered on redemption of AXA bonds mandatorily exchangeable into Equitable shares and maturing in May 2021. AXA retains sole discretion to determine the timing of any future sales of its remaining shares of Equitable common stock.

Sales under the Plan that were completed on November 13, 2019 may be deemed to have resulted in an "assignment" of the Portfolio's investment advisory agreement. In order to ensure that the investment advisory services could continue uninterrupted in such event, the Board previously approved a new investment advisory agreement with the Adviser, and shareholders of the Portfolio subsequently approved the new investment advisory agreement. This agreement became effective on November 13, 2019.

The Adviser provides investment advisory services and order placement facilities for the Portfolio. For these advisory services, the Portfolio paid the Adviser for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2020 as a percentage of average daily net assets .75%.

A discussion regarding the basis for the Board's most recent approval of the Portfolio's investment advisory agreement is

available in the Portfolio's annual report to shareholders for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2020.

The Adviser acts as an investment adviser to other persons, firms, or corporations, including investment companies, hedge funds, pension funds, and other institutional investors. The Adviser may receive management fees, including performance fees, that may be higher or lower than the advisory fees it receives from the Portfolio. Certain other clients of the Adviser have investment objectives and policies similar to those of the Portfolio. The Adviser may, from time to time, make recommendations that result in the purchase or sale of a particular security by its other clients simultaneously with the Portfolio. If transactions on behalf of more than one client during the same period increase the demand for securities being purchased or the supply of securities being sold, there may be an adverse effect on price or quantity. It is the policy of the Adviser to allocate advisory recommendations and the placing of orders in a manner that is deemed equitable by the Adviser to the accounts involved, including the Portfolio. When two or more of the clients of the Adviser (including the Portfolio) are purchasing or selling the same security on a given day from the same broker or dealer, such transactions may be averaged as to price.

## PORTFOLIO MANAGERS

The day-to-day management of, and investment decisions for, the Portfolio are made by the Adviser's Small/Mid Cap Value Senior Investment Management Team. The Small/Mid Cap Value Senior Investment Management Team relies heavily on the fundamental analysis and research of the Adviser's internal research staff. No one person is principally responsible for making recommendations for the Portfolio's portfolio.

The following table lists the persons within the Small/Mid Cap Value Senior Investment Management Team with the most significant responsibility for the day-to-day management of the Portfolio's portfolio, the length of time that each person has been jointly and primarily responsible for the Portfolio, and each person's principal occupation during the past five years:

Employee; Length of Service; Title	Principal Occupation During the Past Five (5) Years
James W. MacGregor; since 2005; Senior Vice President of the Adviser	Senior Vice President of the Adviser, with which he has been associated in a substantially similar capacity to his current position since prior to 2016.
Erik A. Turenchalk; since 2020; Senior Vice President of the Adviser	Senior Vice President of the Adviser, with which he has been associated in a substantially similar capacity to his current position since prior to 2016.

The Portfolio's SAI provides additional information about the portfolio managers' compensation, other accounts managed by the portfolio managers, and the portfolio managers' ownership of securities in the Portfolio.

## **DIVIDENDS, DISTRIBUTIONS AND TAXES**

---

The Portfolio declares dividends on its shares at least annually. The income and capital gains distributions are expected to be made in shares of the Portfolio.

See the prospectus of the separate account of the Insurer for federal income tax information.

Investment income received by the Portfolio from sources within foreign countries may be subject to foreign income taxes withheld at the source. Provided that certain requirements are met, the Portfolio may “pass-through” to its Contractholders credits or deductions to foreign income taxes paid. Non-U.S. investors may not be able to credit or deduct such foreign taxes.

## GLOSSARY

---

**Russell 2500™ Index** measures the performance of the small- to mid-capitalization segment of the U.S. equity universe, commonly referred to as “smid” capitalization. The Russell 2500™ Index is a subset of the Russell 3000® Index. It includes approximately 2,500 of the smallest securities based on a combination of their market capitalization and current index membership.

**Russell 2500® Value Index** measures the performance of the small- to mid-capitalization value segment of the U.S. equity universe. It includes those Russell 2500® companies with lower price-to-book ratios and lower forecasted growth values.

## FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

The financial highlights table is intended to help you understand the Portfolio's financial performance for the past five years. Certain information reflects financial results for a single share of a class of the Portfolio. The total returns in the table represent the rate that a Contractholder would have earned (or lost) on an investment in the Portfolio (assuming reinvestment of all dividends and distributions). The total returns in the table do not take into account separate account charges. If separate account charges were included, a Contractholder's return would have been lower. This information has been audited by Ernst & Young LLP, the independent registered public accounting firm for the Portfolio, whose report, along with the Portfolio's financial statements, are included in the Portfolio's annual report to Contractholders, which is available upon request.

### AB VPS Small/Mid Cap Value Portfolio

	CLASS A				
	Year Ended December 31,				
	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016
Net asset value, beginning of period	\$ 17.91	\$ 16.93	\$ 21.68	\$ 20.29	\$ 17.29
<b>Income From Investment Operations</b>					
Net investment income(a)(b)	.17	.16	.13	.10	.10†
Net realized and unrealized gain (loss) on investment transactions	.20	3.04	(3.04)	2.41	4.09
Net increase (decrease) in net asset value from operations	.37	3.20	(2.91)	2.51	4.19
<b>Less: Dividends and Distributions</b>					
Dividends from net investment income	(.16)	(.11)	(.11)	(.09)	(.11)
Distributions from net realized gain on investment transactions	(.73)	(2.11)	(1.73)	(1.03)	(1.08)
Total dividends and distributions	(.89)	(2.22)	(1.84)	(1.12)	(1.19)
Net asset value, end of period	\$ 17.39	\$ 17.91	\$ 16.93	\$ 21.68	\$ 20.29
<b>Total Return</b>					
Total investment return based on net asset value(c)*	3.37%	20.10%	(15.03)%	13.15%	25.09%†
<b>Ratios/Supplemental Data</b>					
Net assets, end of period (000's omitted)	\$222,441	\$211,046	\$188,052	\$233,652	\$231,197
Ratio to average net assets of:					
Expenses, net of waivers/reimbursements	.83%	.82%	.81%	.81%	.82%
Expenses, before waivers/reimbursements	.83%	.83%	.81%	.82%	.83%
Net investment income(b)	1.17%	.90%	.61%	.47%	.53%†
Portfolio turnover rate	58%	33%	39%	33%	57%

(a) Based on average shares outstanding.

(b) Net of expenses waived/reimbursed by the Adviser.

(c) Total investment return is calculated assuming an initial investment made at the net asset value at the beginning of the period, reinvestment of all dividends and distributions at net asset value during the period, and redemption on the last day of the period. Total return does not reflect (i) insurance company's separate account related expense charges and (ii) the deductions of taxes that a shareholder would pay on Portfolio distributions or the redemption of Portfolio shares. Total investment return calculated for a period of less than one year is not annualized.

† For the year ended December 31, 2016, the amount includes a refund for overbilling of prior years' custody out-of-pocket fees as follows:

Net Investment Income Per Share	Net Investment Income Ratio	Total Return
\$.001	.003%	.003%

\* Includes the impact of proceeds received and credited to the Portfolio resulting from class action settlements, which enhanced the Portfolio's performance for the years ended December 31, 2018 and December 31, 2017 by .07% and .11%, respectively.

## APPENDIX A

### Hypothetical Investment and Expense Information

The following supplemental hypothetical investment information provides additional information calculated and presented in a manner different from expense information found under “Fees and Expenses of the Portfolio” in this Prospectus about the effect of the Portfolio’s expenses, including investment advisory fees and other Portfolio costs, on the Portfolio’s returns over a 10-year period. The chart shows the estimated expenses that would be charged on a hypothetical investment of \$10,000 in Class A shares of the Portfolio assuming a 5% return each year. Except as otherwise indicated, the chart also assumes that the current annual expense ratio stays the same throughout the 10-year period. The current annual expense ratio for the Portfolio is the same as stated under “Fees and Expenses of the Portfolios”. There are additional fees and expenses associated with variable products. These fees can include mortality and expense risk charges, administrative charges, and other charges that can significantly affect expenses. These fees and expenses are not reflected in the following expense information. Your actual expenses may be higher or lower.

#### AB VPS Small/Mid Cap Value Portfolio

Year	Hypothetical Investment	Hypothetical Performance Earnings	Investment After Returns	Hypothetical Expenses	Hypothetical Ending Investment
1	\$10,000.00	\$ 500.00	\$10,500.00	\$ 87.15	\$10,412.85
2	10,412.85	520.64	10,933.49	90.75	10,842.74
3	10,842.74	542.14	11,384.88	94.49	11,290.39
4	11,290.39	564.52	11,854.91	98.40	11,756.51
5	11,756.51	587.83	12,344.34	102.46	12,241.88
6	12,241.88	612.09	12,853.97	106.69	12,747.28
7	12,747.28	637.36	13,384.64	111.09	13,273.55
8	13,273.55	663.68	13,937.23	115.68	13,821.55
9	13,821.55	691.08	14,512.63	120.45	14,392.18
10	14,392.18	719.61	15,111.79	125.43	14,986.36
Cumulative		\$6,038.95		\$1,052.59	



For more information about the Portfolio, the following documents are available upon request:

- **ANNUAL/SEMI-ANNUAL REPORTS TO CONTRACTHOLDERS**

The Portfolio's annual and semi-annual reports to Contractholders contain additional information on the Portfolio's investments. In the annual report, you will find a discussion of the market conditions and investment strategies that significantly affected the Portfolio's performance during its last fiscal year.

- **STATEMENT OF ADDITIONAL INFORMATION (SAI)**

The Portfolio has an SAI, which contains more detailed information about the Portfolio, including its operations and investment policies. The Portfolio's SAI and the independent registered public accounting firm's report and financial statements in the Portfolio's most recent annual report to Contractholders are incorporated by reference into (and are legally part of) this Prospectus.

You may request a free copy of the current annual/semi-annual report or the SAI, or make inquiries concerning the Portfolio, by contacting your broker or other financial intermediary, or by contacting the Adviser:

**By Mail:** AllianceBernstein Investor Services, Inc.  
P.O. Box 786003  
San Antonio, TX 78278-6003

**By Phone:** For Information: (800) 221-5672  
For Literature: (800) 227-4618

You may also view reports and other information about the Portfolio, including the SAI, by visiting the EDGAR database on the Securities and Exchange Commission's website (<http://www.sec.gov>). Copies of this information can be obtained, for a duplicating fee, by electronic request at the following e-mail address: [publicinfo@sec.gov](mailto:publicinfo@sec.gov).

You also may find these documents and more information about the Adviser and the Portfolio on the Internet at: [www.abfunds.com](http://www.abfunds.com).

The [A/B] Logo is a service mark of AllianceBernstein and AllianceBernstein® is a registered trademark used by permission of the owner, AllianceBernstein L.P.

SEC File No. 811-05398