

**Global Risk-Balanced Moderate** 

Fourth Quarter 2023



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## **Richard Bernstein Advisors**

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### **Table of Contents**

Firm Overview Distribution & Visibility Separately Managed Account ETF Portfolios Global Risk-Balanced Moderate ETF Strategy Appendix







### **About RBA**

#### **RBA Overview**

#### **Distribution and Partners**

#### **Assets Under Management**

- Utilize a unique top-down, macro approach to investing that focuses on profits, liquidity, and sentiment
- Offer long-only Multi-Asset, Global Equity, and Fixed Income strategies
- AUM of over \$15.4 billion (as of 12/31/2023 including assets-under-advisement)
- Attractive risk-adjusted returns over longer time horizons
- Founded in 2009, RBA has over a 10year track record

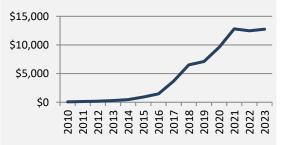
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Multi-Asset, Global Equity and Fixed Income Retail SMAs, and Institutional Accounts

- Eaton Vance
   Subadvisor, Open-end Mutual Funds
- First Trust Income-Oriented & Thematic Equity Unit Trusts, US Equity SMA, and Thematic ETF
- iM Global Partner
   Responsible ETF, UCITS Funds, and Global Distribution Support



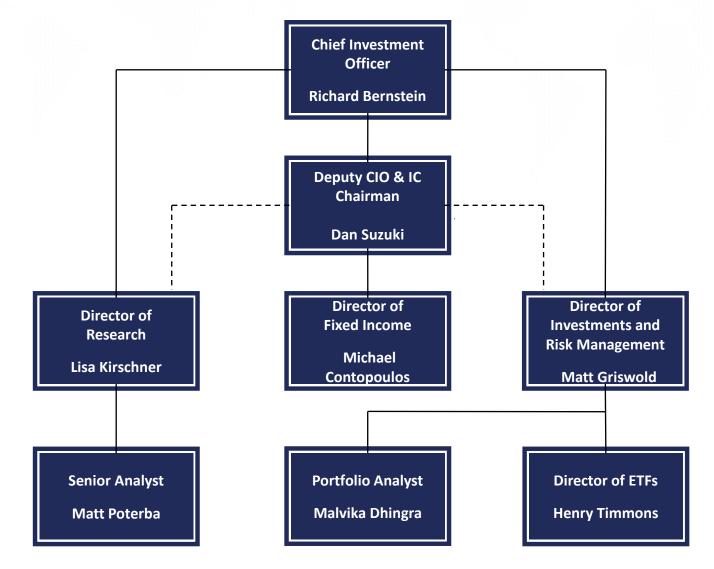
#### ETF SMA Assets (in millions)\*



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\* As of 12/31/2023. CAGR calculation begins 12/31/10, which is RBA's first year-end of AUM/AUA.





#### **Experienced Investment Committee**



#### Richard Bernstein, CEO and CIO

Industry experience: 43 years. RBA experience: 14 years. Formerly Chief Investment Strategist at BofA Merrill Lynch. BA, Hamilton College, MBA, New York University.



#### Matthew Griswold, CFA, Director of Investments and Risk Management

Industry experience: 34 years. RBA experience: 13 years. Formerly Portfolio Manager at State Street Global Advisors. BS, Carnegie Mellon University.



Henry Timmons, CFA, Director of ETFs

Industry experience: 21 years. RBA experience: 12 years. Formerly Portfolio Manager and Quantitative Analyst at GMO LLC. BS and MEng, Cornell University. MBA, Cornell University's SC Johnson College of Business.



Matt Poterba, CFA, Senior Analyst Industry experience: 11 years. RBA experience: 9 years. Formerly Associate Analyst at NERA Economic Consulting. BA, Hamilton College.

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#### Dan Suzuki, CFA, Deputy CIO and Chairman of Investment Committee

Industry experience: 21 years. RBA experience: 5 years. Formerly Senior Equity Strategist at BofA Merrill Lynch. BS, Duke University.



#### Lisa Kirschner, Director of Research

Industry experience: 30 years. RBA experience: 14 years. Formerly Senior Director at BofA Merrill Lynch. Indiana University.



#### Michael Contopoulos, Director of Fixed Income

Industry experience: 24 years. RBA experience: 3 years. Formerly Chief Investment Strategist at Anchorage Capital & Head of Leveraged Finance Strategy at BofA Merrill Lynch. BA, Columbia University, MBA, New York University.



#### Malvika Dhingra, Portfolio Analyst

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Industry experience: 1 year. RBA experience: 1 year. Formerly Analyst at PricewaterhouseCoopers. BA, University of Delhi, MS, Duke University's Fuqua School of Business.

#### Average Industry Experience: 23 Years Average RBA Experience: 9 Years

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

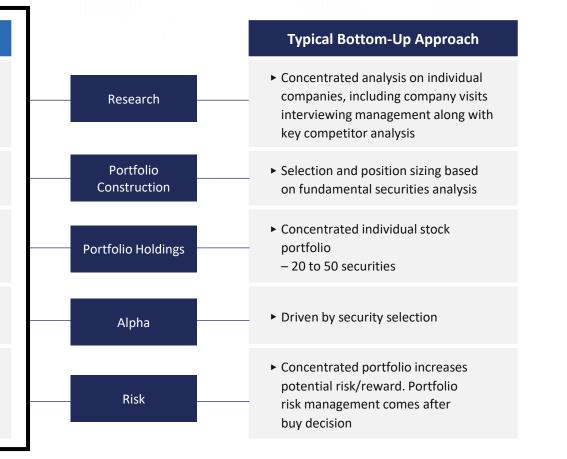
Investment A	pproach	Inv	vestment Process	
<ul> <li>RBA has unparallele in equity, fixed inco allocation.</li> <li>Utilize in-house mad assess profits, liquid</li> <li>RBA drives alpha th</li> </ul>	me and asset cro research to dity, and sentiment. rough asset	Profit Cycles, Not Econo FAVOR - Small-caps - Value	ΡΕΑΚ	nancial Markets FAVOR - Large-caps - Stable Growth
<ul> <li>selection, size, style duration and geogra through individual s</li> <li>History of positionir RBA's thinking is no</li> </ul>	aphy, and not stock selection.	<ul> <li>Value</li> <li>Cyclical sectors</li> <li>Lower quality</li> <li>Discounted dividend and bond yield</li> <li>High Beta</li> <li>Emerging markets</li> </ul>	PROFIT CYCLE TROUGH	<ul> <li>Defensive sectors</li> <li>Higher quality</li> <li>Secure dividend yield</li> <li>Low Beta</li> <li>Developed markets</li> </ul>
<ul> <li>Conservative risk-baa</li> <li>approach to total re</li> </ul>		Stoc	k / Bond Selection	
<ul> <li>All mandates are global</li> </ul>	obal go-anywhere.	Size Style	Geography Durat	tion Commodities
7	Not FDIC Insured	Not Bank Guaranteed	May Lose Value	RBA B

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

#### RBA's Top-Down Approach

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

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





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### **RBA Digital Presence**



\*as of 12/31/2023.

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### Go Anywhere SMAs



▶ 5

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#### **Investment Process**

#### Top-Down Macro Assessment

#### **Risk Assessment**

- ► Corporate Profits:
  - Proprietary indicators & forecasts
  - Pricing power & inflation
  - Earnings expectations

#### ► Liquidity:

- Central bank analysis
- Yield curves
- Lending standards

#### ► Sentiment:

- Structural long-term sentiment
- Valuation of market segments

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- Consensus positioning

- Diversification is based on correlation of assets within the portfolio, rather than the number of assets.
  - Review risk of opportunistic asset allocation targets within a rigorous variance-covariance framework.

#### Capital Market Assumptions

 Utilize capital market assumptions based primarily on historical asset class data to set baseline for risk taking.

### **Strategic Policy Guidelines**

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

\*Only applies to select strategies.

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### **Asset Allocation Decisions**

Growth vs. Value	Stocks vs. Bonds	High Quality vs. Low Quality			
Large vs. Small-cap	Cyclical vs. Defensive Sectors	Long vs. Short Duration			
Emerging vs. Developed	Sovereign vs. Corporate Bonds	Commodities			



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

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

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

- Prefer AUM > \$100 million
- Prefer trading history > 1 year
- Liquidity: ETF share volume + underlying basket volume
- Bid/Ask spread
- ► Legal structure
- Construction methodology

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

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### **Resulting In**

### **ETF Portfolios**

► Typically 5-30 ETFs

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



14

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#### **Strategic Policy Guidelines**

- ▶ "High Conviction" tactical deviations will be within 25% of RBA long-term neutral policy
- ▶ Benchmark: 50% MSCI ACWI Index, 45% Bloomberg US Aggregate Bond Index, 5% Bloomberg 1-3 month US T-Bill

Asset Class	Long-Term "Neutral" Asset Allocation	Allocation Ranges	Current Allocation as of 12/31/2023
Total Equity	50%	25% - 75%	53.2%
US Equity		0% - 75%	32.2%
Non-US Equity		0% - 75%	21.0%
Total Fixed Income	45%	20% - 70%	42.1%
US Fixed Income		0% - 70%	42.1%
Non-US Fixed Income		0% - 70%	0.0%
Total Cash/Other (Commodities, Currencies, etc.)	5%	0% - 30%	4.7%
Cash		0% - 30%	2.3%
Other		0% - 30%	2.5%

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

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### **Portfolio Snapshot: Asset Allocation**

#### Asset Allocation as of 12/31/2023

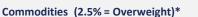
#### Equity (53.2% = Overweight)\*

- Overweight
  - China, Japan
  - Industrials, Health Care, Consumer Staples, Energy
- Underweight
  - US, Asia ex Japan
  - Information Technology, Communication Services, Consumer Discretionary

#### Fixed Income (42.1% = Underweight)\*

- Overweight
  - Long & Short-Term Nominal Treasuries, Securitized/Mortgages
- Underweight
  - Medium-Term Nominal Treasuries, Investment Grade Corporates, Non-US Sovereign Debt

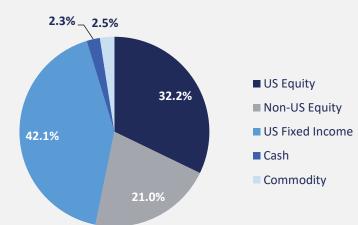
#### Cash & Equivalents (2.3% = Underweight)\*





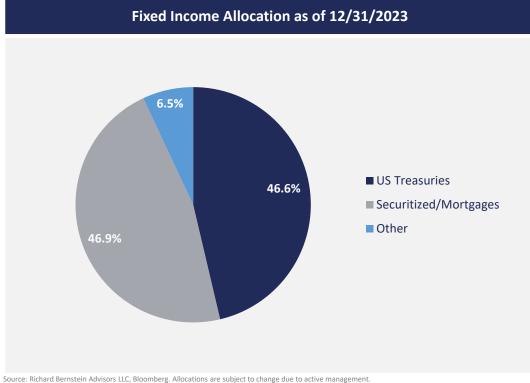
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17





### **Portfolio Snapshot: Fixed Income Allocation**



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



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

Equity Sector Weights (%) as of 12/31/2023 25 Equity Portion of Portfolio 22.9 Equity Portion of Benchmark 20 16.5 15.4<sup>15.9</sup> 15.2 15 14.1 11.2 11.1 10.7 9.3 9.1 10 7.3 6.8 6.8 5.0 4.5 4.5 5 3.5 2.9 2.6 2.2 2.4 0 **Financials Health Care** Industrials Information Materials **Real Estate** Utilities Communication Consumer Consumer Energy Services Discretionary Staples Technology

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

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

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

Equity Region/Country Weights as of 12/31/2023										
Region/Country	Region/Country Allocation % Benchmark %									
US	60.5	64.2								
Emerging Markets	14.7	10.9								
Europe ex UK	11.2	11.2								
Japan	7.6	5.4								
Canada	2.5	2.8								
United Kingdom	2.0	2.7								
Asia ex Japan	1.5	2.9								

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



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#### **Portfolio ETF Holdings**

Holdings as of 12/31/2023									
ETF Name	Ticker	Portfolio Weight %							
Janus Henderson Mortgage-Backed Securities ETF	JMBS	14.8							
iShares 10-20 Year Treasury Bond ETF	TLH	12.5							
Vanguard Value ETF	VTV	8.0							
WisdomTree Floating Rate Treasury Fund	USFR	7.2							
Janus Henderson AAA CLO ETF	JAAA	5.0							
Invesco S&P 500 Equal Weight Technology ETF	RSPT	4.8							
iShares MSCI Intl Quality Factor ETF	IQLT	4.2							
SPDR S&P Dividend ETF	SDY	4.1							
iShares MSCI China ETF	MCHI	4.0							
SPDR Portfolio S&P 600 Small Cap ETF	SPSM	3.9							
iShares Global Healthcare ETF	IXJ	3.9							
iShares MSCI Emerging Markets ex China ETF	EMXC	3.6							
JPMorgan BetaBuilders Japan ETF	BBJP	3.2							
Quadratic Interest Rate Volatility and Inflation Hedge ETF	IVOL	2.7							
Graniteshares Gold Trust	BAR	2.5							
iShares MSCI Eurozone ETF	EZU	2.3							
SPDR Bloomberg 1-3 Month T-Bill ETF	BIL	2.0							
iShares U.S. Aerospace & Defense ETF	ITA	1.9							
Energy Select Sector SPDR Fund	XLE	1.6							
iShares Global Consumer Staples ETF	KXI	1.6							
Financial Select Sector SPDR Fund	XLF	1.6							
Vanguard FTSE Europe ETF	VGK	1.1							
Invesco S&P 500 Equal Weight Consumer Discretionary ETF	RSPD	0.9							
iShares Global Industrials ETF	EXI	0.9							
JPMorgan BetaBuilders Canada ETF	BBCA	0.9							
SPDR S&P Global Natural Resources ETF	GNR	0.8							

Source: Richard Bernstein Advisors LLC, Bloomberg. Percent of total net assets.

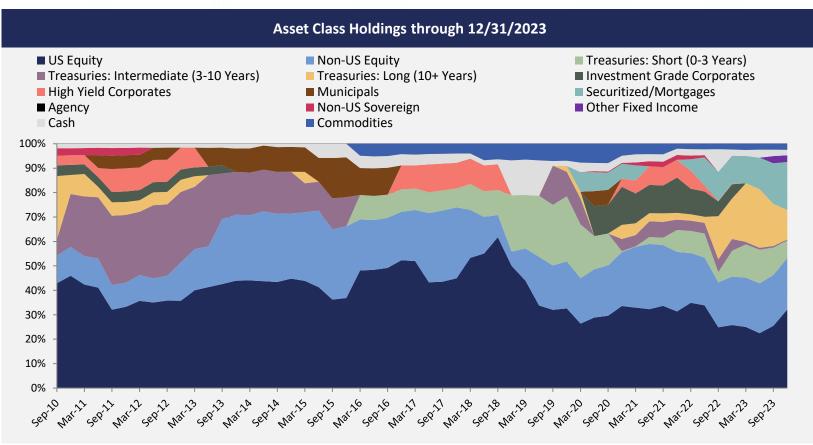
Allocations are subject to change due to active management.

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



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#### **Historical Asset Class Holdings**



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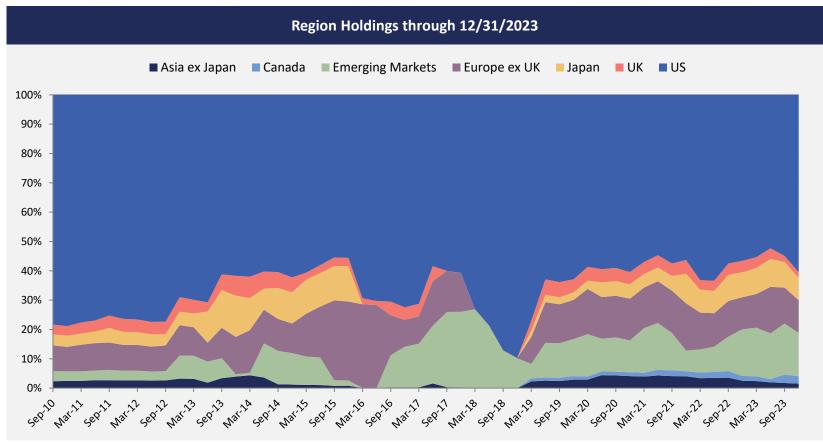
Source: Richard Bernstein Advisors LLC, Bloomberg. Percent of total net assets. Allocations are subject to change due to active management.



22

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### **Historical Region Holdings**



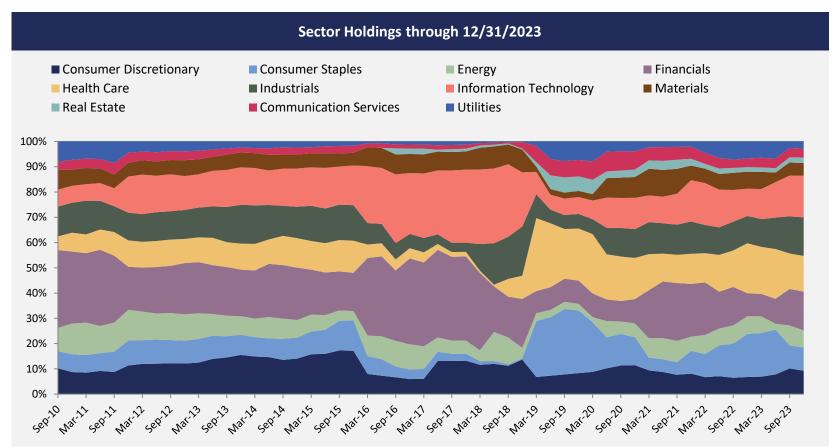
Source: Richard Bernstein Advisors LLC, Bloomberg. Weightings are calculated on an equity-only basis. Allocations are subject to change due to active management.

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### **Historical Sector Holdings**



Source: Richard Bernstein Advisors LLC, Bloomberg. Weightings are calculated on an equity-only basis.

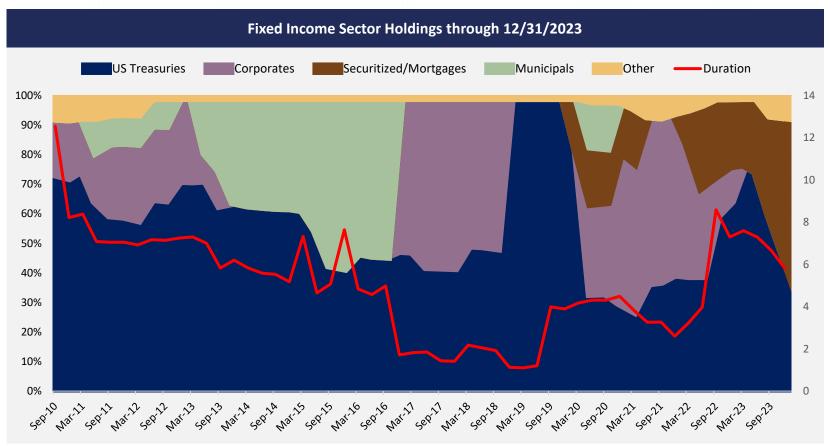
Allocations are subject to change due to active management.

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



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### **Historical Fixed Income Sector Holdings**



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



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Strategy Performance<sup>1</sup> (%) as of 12/31/2023

	3 Months YTD		1 Year	1 Year 3 Years			5 Years		10 Years		Since Inception		
Annual Returns			2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013
	RBA Global Risk-Balanced (Gross)	Moderate ETF Strategy	6.81%	-11.49%	9.14%	12.23%	16.44%	-8.06%	17.42%	9.00%	0.32%	4.47%	15.08%
	RBA Global Risk-Balanced (Net)	Moderate ETF Strategy	6.38%	-11.85%	8.71%	11.86%	15.62%	-8.34%	17.06%	8.63%	-0.76%	3.30%	13.79%
	Benchmark*		13.74%	-14.69%	8.31%	12.58%	17.16%	-4.52%	13.21%	5.35%	-0.69%	4.89%	9.95%

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

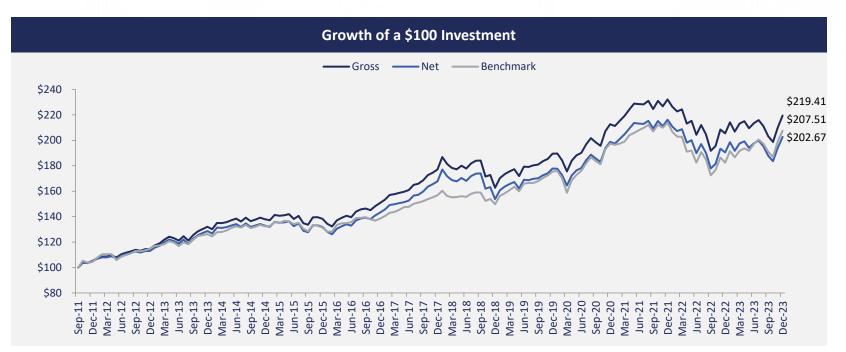
\*Benchmark: 50% MSCI ACWI Index, 45% Bloomberg US Aggregate Bond Index, 5% Bloomberg 1-3 month US T-Bill. For Index descriptors, see "Index Descriptions" at end of document.

Inception September 30, 2011.

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



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Risk Measures (5 years as of 12/31/2023)		Standard Deviation	•	Alpha	Beta	R2	Information Ratio	Sharpe Ratio	Upside Capture	Downside Capture
	RBA Global Risk-Balanced Moderate ETF Strategy (Gross)	10.29%	2.46%	-0.31%	0.95	94.61%	-0.24	0.44	96.97%	100.02%
	RBA Global Risk-Balanced Moderate ETF Strategy (Net)	10.28%	2.47%	-0.76%	0.94	94.57%	-0.43	0.40	95.14%	101.01%
	Benchmark*	10.62%						0.48		

\*Benchmark: 50% MSCI ACWI Index, 45% Bloomberg US Aggregate Bond Index, 5% Bloomberg 1-3 month US T-Bill. For Index descriptors, see "Index Descriptions" at end of document.

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

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



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### **Performance Disclosure**

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

The Strategy has an inception date of September 30, 2011. The Strategy seeks risk-adjusted long-term growth by employing a top-down style to construct a global tactical asset allocation portfolio with flexible guardrails. Accounts in this Strategy obtain desired exposure via ETF vehicles.

The Strategy returns represents the all-asset composite return from October 1, 2011 until December 31, 2015 and thereafter represents the composite returns of the Global Risk Balanced Moderate ETF strategy maintained by RBA. The Global Risk Balanced Moderate ETF strategy is presented after December 31, 2015.

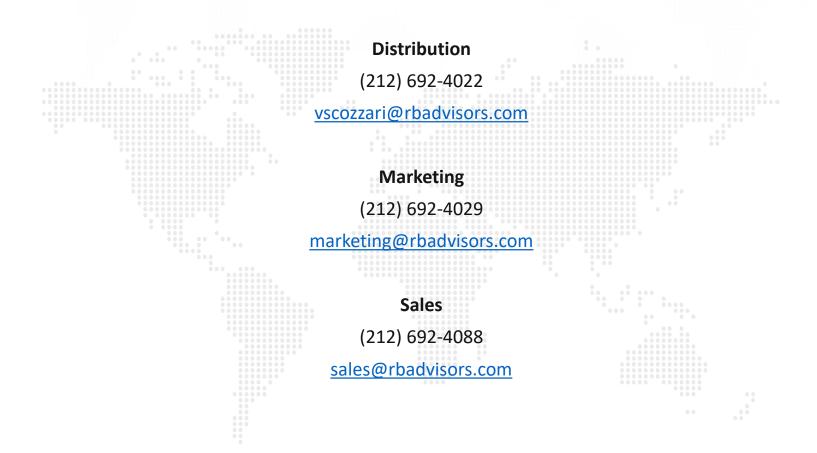
The benchmark is composed as follows: 50% MSCI ACWI USD Net, 45% Bloomberg US Aggregate Index Unhedged USD, and 5% Bloomberg US Treasury Bills: 1-3 Months Index Unhedged. The benchmark is rebalanced daily. The firm's complete list of composite returns are available upon request.

Past performance is no guarantee of future results. Performance is shown in USD and includes reinvestment of dividends and other earnings. Results are shown on a "gross" and "net" basis. Gross-of-fee returns are reduced by actual trading costs incurred and platform fees but are before deduction of any advisory or other fees. Net performance is shown net of a model annual advisory fee of 0.40% deducted on a monthly basis, the highest fee charged by the Adviser. Taxes have not been deducted.

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



### Contacts



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### **Important Information**

#### **Index Descriptions**

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

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

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

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

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

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

MSCI ACWI Index is net of foreign withholdings taxes.

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

Bloomberg U.S. Treasury Bills: 1-3 Months. The U.S. Treasury Bills: 1-3 Months is the 1-3 month component of the U.S. Treasury Bill Index. The U.S. Treasury Bill Index includes U.S. Treasury bills with a maturity from one up to (but not including) 12 months. It excludes zero coupon strips.

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

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

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31

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