

ALLIANCEBERNSTEIN HOLDING L.P.
Form 10-Q
October 22, 2015

UNITED STATES
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
Washington, DC 20549
FORM 10-Q
(Mark One)

QUARTERLY REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15(d) OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE
ACT OF 1934

For the quarterly period ended September 30, 2015

OR
 TRANSITION REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15(d) OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE
ACT OF 1934

For the transition period from _____ to _____
Commission File No. 001-09818

ALLIANCEBERNSTEIN HOLDING L.P.
(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Delaware 13-3434400
(State or other jurisdiction of incorporation or organization) (I.R.S. Employer Identification No.)

1345 Avenue of the Americas, New York, NY 10105
(Address of principal executive offices)

(Zip Code)
(212) 969-1000
(Registrant's telephone number, including area code)

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant (1) has filed all reports required to be filed by Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 during the preceding 12 months (or for such shorter period that the registrant was required to file such reports), and (2) has been subject to such filing requirements for the past 90 days.

Yes No

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant has submitted electronically and posted on its corporate Web site, if any, every Interactive Data File required to be submitted and posted pursuant to Rule 405 of Regulation S-T (§232.405 of this chapter) during the preceding 12 months (or for such shorter period that the registrant was required to submit and post such files).

Yes No

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is a large accelerated filer, an accelerated filer, a non-accelerated filer, or a smaller reporting company. See definition of "accelerated filer," "large accelerated filer" and "smaller reporting company" in Rule 12b-2 of the Exchange Act. (Check one):

Large accelerated filer Accelerated filer

Non-accelerated filer (Do not check if a smaller reporting company) Smaller reporting company

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is a shell company (as defined in Rule 12b-2 of the Exchange Act).

Yes No

The number of units representing assignments of beneficial ownership of limited partnership interests outstanding as of September 30, 2015 was 97,772,578.*

*includes 100,000 units of general partnership interest having economic interests equivalent to the economic interests of the units representing assignments of beneficial ownership of limited partnership interests.

ALLIANCEBERNSTEIN HOLDING L.P.

Index to Form 10-Q

| | Page |
|-----------------------|---|
| Part I | |
| FINANCIAL INFORMATION | |
| Item 1. | <u>Financial Statements</u> |
| | <u>Condensed Statements of Financial Condition</u> 1 |
| | <u>Condensed Statements of Income</u> 2 |
| | <u>Condensed Statements of Comprehensive Income</u> 3 |
| | <u>Condensed Statements of Cash Flows</u> 4 |
| | <u>Notes to Condensed Financial Statements</u> 5 |
| Item 2. | <u>Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations</u> 11 |
| Item 3. | <u>Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures About Market Risk</u> 13 |
| Item 4. | <u>Controls and Procedures</u> 14 |
| Part II | |
| OTHER INFORMATION | |
| Item 1. | <u>Legal Proceedings</u> 15 |
| Item 1A. | <u>Risk Factors</u> 15 |
| Item 2. | <u>Unregistered Sales of Equity Securities and Use of Proceeds</u> 15 |
| Item 3. | <u>Defaults Upon Senior Securities</u> 16 |
| Item 4. | <u>Mine Safety Disclosures</u> 16 |
| Item 5. | <u>Other Information</u> 16 |
| Item 6. | <u>Exhibits</u> 18 |
| | <u>SIGNATURE</u> 19 |

Index

Part I

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Item 1. Financial Statements

ALLIANCEBERNSTEIN HOLDING L.P.
 Condensed Statements of Financial Condition
 (in thousands, except unit amounts)

| | September 30, 2015 (unaudited) | December 31, 2014 |
|---|--------------------------------------|----------------------|
| ASSETS | | |
| Investment in AB | \$1,525,599 | \$1,627,740 |
| Other assets | 247 | 152 |
| Total assets | \$1,525,846 | \$1,627,892 |
| LIABILITIES AND PARTNERS' CAPITAL | | |
| Liabilities: | | |
| Other liabilities | \$277 | \$382 |
| Total liabilities | 277 | 382 |
| Commitments and contingencies (See Note 8) | | |
| Partners' capital: | | |
| General Partner: 100,000 general partnership units issued and outstanding | 1,360 | 1,374 |
| Limited partners: 97,672,578 and 100,656,999 limited partnership units issued and outstanding | 1,568,428 | 1,668,585 |
| AB Holding Units held by AB to fund long-term incentive compensation plans | (10,736 |) (13,280) |
| Accumulated other comprehensive loss | (33,483 |) (29,169) |
| Total partners' capital | 1,525,569 | 1,627,510 |
| Total liabilities and partners' capital | \$1,525,846 | \$1,627,892 |

See Accompanying Notes to Condensed Financial Statements.

Index

ALLIANCEBERNSTEIN HOLDING L.P.

Condensed Statements of Income

(in thousands, except per unit amounts)

(unaudited)

| | Three Months Ended September 30, | | Nine Months Ended September 30, | |
|---|-------------------------------------|----------|------------------------------------|-----------|
| | 2015 | 2014 | 2015 | 2014 |
| Equity in net income attributable to AB Unitholders | \$48,988 | \$49,876 | \$155,013 | \$139,714 |
| Income taxes | 6,301 | 5,742 | 18,517 | 16,567 |
| Net income | \$42,687 | \$44,134 | \$136,496 | \$123,147 |
| Net income per unit: | | | | |
| Basic | \$0.43 | \$0.45 | \$1.36 | \$1.28 |
| Diluted | \$0.43 | \$0.45 | \$1.36 | \$1.27 |

See Accompanying Notes to Condensed Financial Statements.

Index

ALLIANCEBERNSTEIN HOLDING L.P.
Condensed Statements of Comprehensive Income
(in thousands)
(unaudited)

| | Three Months Ended September 30, | | Nine Months Ended September 30, | |
|---|-------------------------------------|----------|------------------------------------|-----------|
| | 2015 | 2014 | 2015 | 2014 |
| Net income | \$42,687 | \$44,134 | \$136,496 | \$123,147 |
| Other comprehensive income (loss): | | | | |
| Foreign currency translation adjustments, before reclassification and tax | (2,329 |) (5,354 |) (4,014 |) (3,205 |
| Less: reclassification adjustment for gains included in net income upon liquidation | — | — | 563 | — |
| Foreign currency translation adjustments, before tax | (2,329 |) (5,354 |) (4,577 |) (3,205 |
| Income tax benefit (expense) | 47 | (6 |) 48 | (19 |
| Foreign currency translation adjustments, net of tax | (2,282 |) (5,360 |) (4,529 |) (3,224 |
| Unrealized gains (losses) on investments: | | | | |
| Unrealized gains (losses) arising during period | (13 |) (12 |) (137 |) 288 |
| Less: reclassification adjustments for gains included in net income | 455 | 2 | 455 | 1 |
| Changes in unrealized (losses) gains on investments | (468 |) (14 |) (592 |) 287 |
| Income tax benefit (expense) | 156 | 45 | 258 | (58 |
| Unrealized gains on investments, net of tax | (312 |) 31 | (334 |) 229 |
| Changes in employee benefit related items: | | | | |
| Amortization of prior service cost | — | (462 |) — | (1,377 |
| Recognized actuarial gain | 407 | 152 | 584 | 446 |
| Changes in employee benefit related items | 407 | (310 |) 584 | (931 |
| Income tax (expense) benefit | (11 |) 7 | (35 |) 4 |
| Employee benefit related items, net of tax | 396 | (303 |) 549 | (927 |
| Other comprehensive (loss) | (2,198 |) (5,632 |) (4,314 |) (3,922 |
| Comprehensive income | \$40,489 | \$38,502 | \$132,182 | \$119,225 |

See Accompanying Notes to Condensed Financial Statements.

Index

ALLIANCEBERNSTEIN HOLDING L.P.

Condensed Statements of Cash Flows

(in thousands)

(unaudited)

| | Nine Months Ended September 30, | |
|---|------------------------------------|------------|
| | 2015 | 2014 |
| Cash flows from operating activities: | | |
| Net income | \$136,496 | \$123,147 |
| Adjustments to reconcile net income to net cash provided by operating activities: | | |
| Equity in net income attributable to AB Unitholders | (155,013 |) (139,714 |
| Cash distributions received from AB | 168,505 | 154,454 |
| Changes in assets and liabilities: | | |
| (Increase) in other assets | (95 |) — |
| (Decrease) in other liabilities | (105 |) (220 |
| Net cash provided by operating activities | 149,788 | 137,667 |
| Cash flows from investing activities: | | |
| Investments in AB with proceeds from exercise of compensatory options to buy AB Holding Units | (8,979 |) (12,849 |
| Net cash used in investing activities | (8,979 |) (12,849 |
| Cash flows from financing activities: | | |
| Cash distributions to Unitholders | (150,521 |) (139,078 |
| Capital contributions from AB | 733 | 1,411 |
| Proceeds from exercise of compensatory options to buy AB Holding Units | 8,979 | 12,849 |
| Net cash used in financing activities | (140,809 |) (124,818 |
| Change in cash and cash equivalents | — | — |
| Cash and cash equivalents as of beginning of period | — | — |
| Cash and cash equivalents as of end of period | \$— | \$— |

See Accompanying Notes to Condensed Financial Statements.

Index

ALLIANCEBERNSTEIN HOLDING L.P.
Notes to Condensed Financial Statements
September 30, 2015
(unaudited)

The words “we” and “our” refer collectively to AllianceBernstein Holding L.P. (“AB Holding”) and AllianceBernstein L.P. and its subsidiaries (“AB”), or to their officers and employees. Similarly, the word “company” refers to both AB Holding and AB. Where the context requires distinguishing between AB Holding and AB, we identify which of them is being discussed.

1. Business Description, Organization and Basis of Presentation

Business Description

AB Holding’s principal source of income and cash flow is attributable to its investment in AB limited partnership interests. The condensed financial statements and notes of AB Holding should be read in conjunction with the condensed consolidated financial statements and notes of AB included as an exhibit to this quarterly report on Form 10-Q and with AB Holding’s and AB’s audited financial statements included in AB Holding’s Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2014.

AB provides research, diversified investment management and related services globally to a broad range of clients. Its principal services include:

Institutional Services – servicing its institutional clients, including private and public pension plans, foundations and endowments, insurance companies, central banks and governments worldwide, and affiliates such as AXA and its subsidiaries, by means of separately-managed accounts, sub-advisory relationships, structured products, collective investment trusts, mutual funds, hedge funds and other investment vehicles.

Retail Services – servicing its retail clients, primarily by means of retail mutual funds sponsored by AB or an affiliated company, sub-advisory relationships with mutual funds sponsored by third parties, separately-managed account programs sponsored by financial intermediaries worldwide and other investment vehicles.

Private Wealth Management Services – servicing its private clients, including high-net-worth individuals and families, trusts and estates, charitable foundations, partnerships, private and family corporations, and other entities (including most institutions for which AB manages accounts with less than \$25 million in assets), by means of separately-managed accounts, hedge funds, mutual funds and other investment vehicles.

Bernstein Research Services – servicing institutional investors, such as pension fund, hedge fund and mutual fund managers, seeking high-quality fundamental research, quantitative services and brokerage-related services in equities and listed options.

AB also provides distribution, shareholder servicing, transfer agency services and administrative services to the mutual funds it sponsors.

AB’s high-quality, in-depth research is the foundation of its business. AB’s research disciplines include economic, fundamental equity, fixed income and quantitative research. In addition, AB has experts focused on multi-asset strategies, wealth management and alternative investments.

AB provides a broad range of investment services with expertise in:

• Actively managed equity strategies, with global and regional portfolios across capitalization ranges and investment strategies, including value, growth and core equities;

• Actively managed traditional and unconstrained fixed income strategies, including taxable and tax-exempt strategies;

• Passive management, including index and enhanced index strategies;

• Alternative investments, including hedge funds, fund of funds and private equity (e.g., direct real estate investing); and

• Multi-asset solutions and services, including dynamic asset allocation, customized target-date funds and target-risk funds.

Index

AB's services span various investment disciplines, including market capitalization (e.g., large-, mid- and small-cap equities), term (e.g., long-, intermediate- and short-duration debt securities), and geographic location (e.g., U.S., international, global, emerging markets, regional and local), in major markets around the world.

Organization

As of September 30, 2015, AXA, a société anonyme organized under the laws of France and the holding company for an international group of insurance and related financial services companies, through certain of its subsidiaries ("AXA and its subsidiaries"), owned approximately 1.5% of the issued and outstanding units representing assignments of beneficial ownership of limited partnership interests in AB Holding ("AB Holding Units").

As of September 30, 2015, the ownership structure of AB, expressed as a percentage of general and limited partnership interests, is as follows:

| | | |
|--------------------------|-------|---|
| AXA and its subsidiaries | 62.8 | % |
| AB Holding | 35.8 | |
| Unaffiliated holders | 1.4 | |
| | 100.0 | % |

AllianceBernstein Corporation (an indirect wholly-owned subsidiary of AXA, "General Partner") is the general partner of both AB Holding and AB. AllianceBernstein Corporation owns 100,000 general partnership units in AB Holding and a 1% general partnership interest in AB. Including both the general partnership and limited partnership interests in AB Holding and AB, AXA and its subsidiaries have an approximate 63.4% economic interest in AB as of September 30, 2015.

Basis of Presentation

The interim condensed financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the instructions to Form 10-Q pursuant to the rules and regulations of the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission ("SEC"). In the opinion of management, all adjustments, consisting only of normal recurring adjustments, necessary for a fair statement of the interim results, have been made. The preparation of the condensed financial statements requires management to make certain estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the dates of the condensed financial statements and the reported amounts of revenues and expenses during the interim reporting periods. Actual results could differ from those estimates. The condensed statement of financial condition as of December 31, 2014 was derived from audited financial statements, but does not include all disclosures required by accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

AB Holding records its investment in AB using the equity method of accounting. AB Holding's investment is increased to reflect its proportionate share of income of AB and decreased to reflect its proportionate share of losses of AB and cash distributions made by AB to its Unitholders. In addition, AB Holding's investment is adjusted to reflect its proportionate share of certain capital transactions of AB.

2. Cash Distributions

AB Holding is required to distribute all of its Available Cash Flow, as defined in the Amended and Restated Agreement of Limited Partnership of AB Holding ("AB Holding Partnership Agreement"), to its Unitholders pro rata in accordance with their percentage interests in AB Holding. Available Cash Flow is defined as the cash distributions AB Holding receives from AB minus such amounts as the General Partner determines, in its sole discretion, should be retained by AB Holding for use in its business or plus such amounts as the General Partner determines, in its sole

discretion, should be released from previously retained cash flow.

On October 22, 2015, the General Partner declared a distribution of \$0.43 per unit, representing a distribution of Available Cash Flow for the three months ended September 30, 2015. Each general partnership unit in AB Holding is entitled to receive distributions equal to those received by each AB Holding Unit. The distribution is payable on November 19, 2015 to holders of record at the close of business on November 2, 2015.

Index

3. Long-term Incentive Compensation Plans

AB maintains several unfunded, non-qualified long-term incentive compensation plans, under which the company grants awards of restricted AB Holding Units and options to buy AB Holding Units to its employees and members of the Board of Directors, who are not employed by AB or by any of AB's affiliates ("Eligible Directors").

AB funds its restricted AB Holding Unit awards either by purchasing AB Holding Units on the open market or purchasing newly-issued AB Holding Units from AB Holding, and then holding all of these AB Holding Units in a consolidated rabbi trust until distributing them to employees or retiring them. In accordance with the AB Holding Partnership Agreement, when AB purchases newly-issued AB Holding Units from AB Holding, AB Holding is required to use the proceeds it receives from AB to purchase the equivalent number of newly-issued AB Units, thus increasing its percentage ownership interest in AB. AB Holding Units held in the consolidated rabbi trust are corporate assets in the name of the trust and are available to the general creditors of AB.

During the three and nine months ended September 30, 2015, AB purchased 3.0 million and 3.8 million AB Holding Units for \$82.1 million and \$103.4 million, respectively (on a trade date basis). These amounts reflect open-market purchases of 3.0 million and 3.7 million AB Holding Units for \$82.1 million and \$101.1 million, respectively, with the remainder relating to purchases of AB Holding Units from employees to allow them to fulfill statutory tax withholding requirements at the time of distribution of long-term incentive compensation awards. During the three and nine months ended September 30, 2014, AB purchased approximately 0.1 million and 0.2 million AB Holding Units for \$1.3 million and \$5.4 million, respectively (on a trade date basis). These amounts reflect purchases from employees to allow them to fulfill statutory tax withholding requirements at the time of distribution of long-term incentive compensation awards.

Each quarter, AB implements plans to repurchase AB Holding Units pursuant to Rule 10b5-1 under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended ("Exchange Act"). A Rule 10b5-1 plan allows a company to repurchase its shares at times when it otherwise might be prevented from doing so because of self-imposed trading blackout periods or because it possesses material non-public information. Each broker selected by AB has the authority under the terms and limitations specified in the plan to repurchase AB Holding Units on AB's behalf in accordance with the terms of the plan. Repurchases are subject to regulations promulgated by the SEC as well as certain price, market volume and timing constraints specified in the plan. The plan adopted during the third quarter of 2015 expired at the close of business on October 21, 2015. AB may adopt additional Rule 10b5-1 plans in the future to engage in open-market purchases of AB Holding Units to help fund anticipated obligations under its incentive compensation award program and for other corporate purposes.

During the first nine months of 2015 and 2014, AB granted to employees and Eligible Directors 0.3 million and 0.8 million restricted AB Holding Unit awards, respectively. AB used AB Holding Units repurchased during the period and newly-issued AB Holding Units to fund the restricted AB Holding Unit awards.

During the first nine months of 2015 and 2014, AB Holding issued 0.5 million and 0.8 million AB Holding Units, respectively, upon exercise of options to buy AB Holding Units. AB Holding used the proceeds of \$9.0 million and \$12.8 million, respectively, received from employees as payment in cash for the exercise price to purchase the equivalent number of newly-issued AB Units.

4. Net Income per Unit

Basic net income per unit is derived by dividing net income by the basic weighted average number of units outstanding for each period. Diluted net income per unit is derived by adjusting net income for the assumed dilutive effect of compensatory options ("Net income – diluted") and dividing by the diluted weighted average number of units

outstanding for each period.

7

Index

| | Three Months Ended September 30, 2015 | | Nine Months Ended September 30, 2015 | |
|---|---|----------|--|-----------|
| | 2014 | 2014 | 2015 | 2014 |
| | (in thousands, except per unit amounts) | | | |
| Net income – basic | \$42,687 | \$44,134 | \$136,496 | \$123,147 |
| Additional allocation of equity in net income attributable to AB resulting from assumed dilutive effect of compensatory options | 301 | 409 | 1,083 | 1,085 |
| Net income – diluted | \$42,988 | \$44,543 | \$137,579 | \$124,232 |
| Weighted average units outstanding – basic | 99,651 | 97,070 | 100,255 | 96,549 |
| Dilutive effect of compensatory options | 970 | 1,249 | 1,113 | 1,174 |
| Weighted average units outstanding – diluted | 100,621 | 98,319 | 101,368 | 97,723 |
| Basic net income per unit | \$0.43 | \$0.45 | \$1.36 | \$1.28 |
| Diluted net income per unit | \$0.43 | \$0.45 | \$1.36 | \$1.27 |

For the three and nine months ended September 30, 2015, we excluded 2,771,250 and 2,383,589 options, respectively, from the diluted net income per unit computation due to their anti-dilutive effect. For the three and nine months ended September 30, 2014, we excluded 2,774,117 and 2,806,033 options, respectively, from the diluted net income computation due to their anti-dilutive effect.

5. Investment in AB

Changes in AB Holding's investment in AB during the nine-month period ended September 30, 2015 are as follows (in thousands):

| | |
|--|-------------|
| Investment in AB as of December 31, 2014 | \$1,627,740 |
| Equity in net income attributable to AB Unitholders | 155,013 |
| Changes in accumulated other comprehensive income (loss) | (4,314) |
| Additional investments with proceeds from exercise of compensatory options to buy AB Holding Units | 8,979 |
| Cash distributions received from AB | (168,505) |
| Capital contributions from AB | (733) |
| AB Holding Units retired | (102,678) |
| AB Holding Units issued to fund long-term incentive compensation plans | 7,553 |
| Change in AB Holding Units held by AB for long-term incentive compensation plans | 2,544 |
| Investment in AB as of September 30, 2015 | \$1,525,599 |

6. Units Outstanding

Changes in AB Holding Units outstanding during the nine-month period ended September 30, 2015 are as follows:

| | |
|--------------------------------------|--------------|
| Outstanding as of December 31, 2014 | 100,756,999 |
| Options exercised | 526,201 |
| Units issued | 246,949 |
| Units retired | (3,757,571) |
| Outstanding as of September 30, 2015 | 97,772,578 |

Index

7. Income Taxes

AB Holding is a “grandfathered” publicly-traded partnership (“PTP”) for federal tax purposes and, accordingly, is not subject to federal or state corporate income taxes. However, AB Holding is subject to the 4.0% New York City unincorporated business tax (“UBT”), net of credits for UBT paid by AB, and to a 3.5% federal tax on partnership gross income from the active conduct of a trade or business. AB Holding’s partnership gross income is derived from its interest in AB.

AB Holding’s income tax is computed by multiplying certain AB qualifying revenues (primarily U.S. investment advisory fees and brokerage commissions) by AB Holding’s ownership interest in AB, multiplied by the 3.5% tax rate. AB Holding Units in AB’s consolidated rabbi trust are not treated as outstanding for purposes of calculating AB Holding’s ownership interest in AB.

| | Three Months Ended September 30, | | | Nine Months Ended September 30, | | |
|---|-------------------------------------|-----------|----------|------------------------------------|-------------|----------|
| | 2015 | 2014 | % Change | 2015 | 2014 | % Change |
| Net income attributable to AB Unitholders | \$134,976 | \$139,798 | (3.4)% | \$425,539 | \$392,958 | 8.3 % |
| Multiplied by: weighted average equity ownership interest | 36.3 % | 35.7 % | | 36.4 % | 35.6 % | |
| Equity in net income attributable to AB Unitholders | \$48,988 | \$49,876 | (1.8) | \$155,013 | \$139,714 | 11.0 |
| AB qualifying revenues | \$572,391 | \$548,319 | 4.4 | \$1,682,390 | \$1,581,456 | 6.4 |
| Multiplied by: weighted average equity ownership interest for calculating tax | 30.8 % | 29.4 % | | 30.9 % | 29.4 % | |
| Multiplied by: federal tax | 3.5 % | 3.5 % | | 3.5 % | 3.5 % | |
| Federal income taxes | 6,167 | 5,642 | | 18,171 | 16,267 | |
| State income taxes | 134 | 100 | | 346 | 300 | |
| Total income taxes | \$6,301 | \$5,742 | 9.7 | \$18,517 | \$16,567 | 11.8 |
| Effective tax rate | 12.9 % | 11.5 % | | 11.9 % | 11.9 % | |

In order to preserve AB Holding’s status as a “grandfathered” PTP for federal income tax purposes, management seeks to ensure that AB Holding does not directly or indirectly (through AB) enter into a substantial new line of business. If AB Holding were to lose its status as a “grandfathered” PTP, it would be subject to corporate income tax, which would reduce materially AB Holding’s net income and its quarterly distributions to AB Holding Unitholders.

8. Commitments and Contingencies

Legal and regulatory matters described below pertain to AB and are included here due to their potential significance to AB Holding’s investment in AB.

With respect to all significant litigation matters, we consider the likelihood of a negative outcome. If we determine the likelihood of a negative outcome is probable and the amount of the loss can be reasonably estimated, we record an

estimated loss for the expected outcome of the litigation. If the likelihood of a negative outcome is reasonably possible and we are able to determine an estimate of the possible loss or range of loss in excess of amounts already accrued, if any, we disclose that fact together with the estimate of the possible loss or range of loss. However, it is often difficult to predict the outcome or estimate a possible loss or range of loss because litigation is subject to inherent uncertainties, particularly when plaintiffs allege substantial or indeterminate damages. Such is also the case when the litigation is in its early stages or when the litigation is highly complex or broad in scope. In such cases, we disclose that we are unable to predict the outcome or estimate a possible loss or range of loss.

Index

During the first quarter of 2012, AB received a legal letter of claim (“Letter of Claim”) sent on behalf of Philips Pension Trustees Limited and Philips Electronics U.K. Limited (“Philips”), a former pension fund client, alleging that AllianceBernstein Limited (one of AB’s subsidiaries organized in the U.K.) was negligent and failed to meet certain applicable standards of care with respect to the initial investment in, and management of, a £500 million portfolio of U.S. mortgage-backed securities. Philips has alleged damages ranging between \$177 million and \$234 million, plus compound interest on an alleged \$125 million of realized losses in the portfolio. On January 2, 2014, Philips filed a claim form (“Claim”) in the High Court of Justice in London, England, which formally commenced litigation with respect to the allegations in the Letter of Claim.

We believe that any losses to Philips resulted from adverse developments in the U.S. housing and mortgage market that precipitated the financial crisis in 2008 and not from any negligence or other failure or malfeasance on our part. We believe that we have strong defenses to these claims, which were set forth in our October 12, 2012 response to the Letter of Claim and our June 27, 2014 Statement of Defence in response to the Claim, and intend to defend this matter vigorously.

In addition to the Claim discussed immediately above, AB is involved in various other matters, including regulatory inquiries, administrative proceedings and litigation, some of which allege significant damages.

In the opinion of AB’s management, an adequate accrual has been made as of September 30, 2015 to provide for any probable losses regarding any litigation matters for which management can reasonably estimate an amount of loss. It is reasonably possible that AB could incur additional losses pertaining to these matters, but currently management cannot estimate any such additional losses.

Management, after consultation with legal counsel, currently believes that the outcome of any individual matter that is pending or threatened, or all of them combined, will not have a material adverse effect on our results of operations, financial condition or liquidity. However, any inquiry, proceeding or litigation has an element of uncertainty; management cannot determine whether further developments relating to any individual matter that is pending or threatened, or all of them combined, will have a material adverse effect on our results of operations, financial condition or liquidity in any future reporting period.

Index

Item 2. Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations

AB Holding's principal source of income and cash flow is attributable to its investment in AB Units. AB Holding's interim condensed financial statements and notes and management's discussion and analysis of financial condition and results of operations ("MD&A") should be read in conjunction with those of AB included as an exhibit to this Form 10-Q. They also should be read in conjunction with AB's audited financial statements and notes and MD&A included in AB Holding's Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2014.

Results of Operations

| | Three Months Ended | | | Nine Months Ended | | | | |
|---|---|------------|----------|---|------------|----------|---|--|
| | September 30, 2015 (in thousands, except per unit amounts) | 2014 | % Change | September 30, 2015 (in thousands, except per unit amounts) | 2014 | % Change | | |
| Net income attributable to AB Unitholders | \$ 134,976 | \$ 139,798 | (3.4)% | \$ 425,539 | \$ 392,958 | 8.3 | % | |
| Weighted average equity ownership interest | 36.3 | % 35.7 | % | 36.4 | % 35.6 | % | | |
| Equity in net income attributable to AB Unitholders | 48,988 | 49,876 | (1.8) | 155,013 | 139,714 | 11.0 | | |
| Income taxes | 6,301 | 5,742 | 9.7 | 18,517 | 16,567 | 11.8 | | |
| Net income of AB Holding | \$42,687 | \$44,134 | (3.3) | \$ 136,496 | \$ 123,147 | 10.8 | | |
| Diluted net income per AB Holding Unit | \$0.43 | \$0.45 | (4.4) | \$ 1.36 | \$ 1.27 | 7.1 | | |
| Distribution per AB Holding Unit | \$0.43 | \$0.45 | (4.4) | \$ 1.36 | \$ 1.29 | 5.4 | | |

Net income for the three and nine months ended September 30, 2015 decreased \$1.4 million and increased \$13.3 million, respectively, from the corresponding prior-year periods to \$42.7 million and \$136.5 million. The quarter-over-quarter decrease reflects lower net income attributable to AB Unitholders offset by a higher weighted average equity ownership interest. The year-over-year increase reflects higher net income attributable to AB Unitholders and a higher weighted average equity ownership interest.

AB Holding's income taxes represent a 3.5% federal tax on its partnership gross income from the active conduct of a trade or business. AB Holding's partnership gross income is derived from its interest in AB. AB Holding's income tax is computed by multiplying certain AB qualifying revenues (primarily U.S. investment advisory fees and brokerage commissions) by AB Holding's ownership interest in AB (adjusted for AB Holding Units owned by AB's consolidated rabbi trust), multiplied by the 3.5% tax rate. AB Holding's effective tax rate was 12.9% in the third quarter of 2015 compared to 11.5% during the third quarter of 2014. AB Holding's effective tax rate during the nine months ended September 30, 2015 was 11.9% remaining flat compared to the nine months ended September 30, 2014. See Note 7 to the condensed financial statements contained in Item 1 for the calculation of income tax expense.

Management Operating Metrics

As supplemental information, AB provides the performance measures "adjusted net revenues", "adjusted operating income" and "adjusted operating margin", which are the principal metrics management uses in evaluating and comparing the period-to-period operating performance of AB. Such measures are not based on generally accepted accounting principles ("non-GAAP measures"). These non-GAAP measures are provided in addition to, and not as substitutes for,

net revenues, operating income and operating margin, and they may not be comparable to non-GAAP measures presented by other companies. Management uses both the GAAP and non-GAAP measures in evaluating the company's financial performance. The non-GAAP measures alone may pose limitations because they do not include all of AB's revenues and expenses. Further, adjusted diluted net income per AB Holding Unit is not a liquidity measure and should not be used in place of cash flow measures. See AB's MD&A contained in Exhibit 99.1.

Index

The impact of these adjustments on AB Holding's net income and diluted net income per AB Holding Unit is as follows:

| | Three Months Ended September 30, | | Nine Months Ended September 30, | | |
|---|---|----------|------------------------------------|-----------|---|
| | 2015 | 2014 | 2015 | 2014 | |
| | (in thousands, except per unit amounts) | | | | |
| AB non-GAAP adjustments, before taxes | \$1,908 | \$(59) |) \$1,587 | \$3,877 | |
| Income tax benefit (expense) on non-GAAP adjustments | (136) |) 358 | (102) |) 433 | |
| AB non-GAAP adjustments, after taxes | 1,772 | 299 | 1,485 | 4,310 | |
| AB Holding's weighted average equity ownership interest in AB | 36.3 | % 35.7 | % 36.4 | % 35.6 | % |
| Impact on AB Holding's net income of AB non-GAAP adjustments | \$643 | \$106 | \$541 | \$1,532 | |
| Net income – diluted, GAAP basis | \$42,988 | \$44,543 | \$137,579 | \$124,232 | |
| Impact on AB Holding's net income of AB non-GAAP adjustments | 643 | 106 | 541 | 1,532 | |
| Adjusted net income – diluted | \$43,631 | \$44,649 | \$138,120 | \$125,764 | |
| Diluted net income per AB Holding Unit, GAAP basis | \$0.43 | \$0.45 | \$1.36 | \$1.27 | |
| Impact of AB non-GAAP adjustments | — | — | — | 0.02 | |
| Adjusted diluted net income per AB Holding Unit | \$0.43 | \$0.45 | \$1.36 | \$1.29 | |

The impact on AB Holding's net income of AB's non-GAAP adjustments reflects AB Holding's share (based on its ownership percentage of AB over the applicable period) of the impact of AB's non-GAAP adjustments to its net income.

Cash Distributions

AB Holding is required to distribute all of its Available Cash Flow, as defined in the AB Holding Partnership Agreement, to its Unitholders (including the General Partner). Available Cash Flow typically is the adjusted diluted net income per unit for the quarter multiplied by the number of units outstanding at the end of the quarter. Management anticipates that Available Cash Flow will continue to be based on adjusted diluted net income per unit, unless management determines that one or more non-GAAP adjustments that are made for adjusted net income should not be made with respect to the Available Cash Flow calculation. See Note 2 to the condensed financial statements contained in Item 1 for a description of Available Cash Flow.

Capital Resources and Liquidity

During the nine months ended September 30, 2015, net cash provided by operating activities was \$149.8 million, compared to \$137.7 million during the corresponding 2014 period. The increase primarily resulted from higher cash distributions received from AB of \$14.1 million.

During the nine months ended September 30, 2015, net cash used in investing activities was \$9.0 million, compared to \$12.8 million during the corresponding 2014 period. The decrease reflects lower investments in AB with proceeds

from exercises of compensatory options to buy AB Holding Units.

During the nine months ended September 30, 2015, net cash used in financing activities was \$140.8 million, compared to \$124.8 million during the corresponding 2014 period. The increase primarily was due to higher cash distributions to Unitholders of \$11.4 million and lower proceeds from exercises of compensatory options to buy AB Holding Units of \$3.9 million.

Management believes that AB Holding will have the resources it needs to meet its financial obligations as a result of the cash flow AB Holding realizes from its investment in AB.

Commitments and Contingencies

See Note 8 to the condensed financial statements contained in Item 1.

12

Index

CAUTIONS REGARDING FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS

Certain statements provided by management in this report and in the portion of AB's Form 10-Q attached hereto as Exhibit 99.1 are "forward-looking statements" within the meaning of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. Such forward-looking statements are subject to risks, uncertainties and other factors that could cause actual results to differ materially from future results expressed or implied by such forward-looking statements. The most significant of these factors include, but are not limited to, the following: the performance of financial markets, the investment performance of sponsored investment products and separately-managed accounts, general economic conditions, industry trends, future acquisitions, integration of acquired companies, competitive conditions and government regulations, including changes in tax regulations and rates and the manner in which the earnings of publicly-traded partnerships are taxed. We caution readers to carefully consider such factors. Further, these forward-looking statements speak only as of the date on which such statements are made; we undertake no obligation to update any forward-looking statements to reflect events or circumstances after the date of such statements. For further information regarding these forward-looking statements and the factors that could cause actual results to differ, see "Risk Factors" in Part I, Item 1A of our Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2014 and Part II, Item 1A in this Form 10-Q. Any or all of the forward-looking statements that we make in our Form 10-K, this Form 10-Q, other documents we file with or furnish to the SEC, and any other public statements we issue, may turn out to be wrong. It is important to remember that other factors besides those listed in "Risk Factors" and those listed below also could affect adversely our revenues, financial condition, results of operations and business prospects.

The forward-looking statements referred to in the preceding paragraph, most of which directly affect AB but also affect AB Holding because AB Holding's principal source of income and cash flow is attributable to its investment in AB, include statements regarding:

Our belief that the cash flow AB Holding realizes from its investment in AB will provide AB Holding with the resources it needs to meet its financial obligations: AB Holding's cash flow is dependent on the quarterly cash distributions it receives from AB. Accordingly, AB Holding's ability to meet its financial obligations is dependent on AB's cash flow from its operations, which is subject to the performance of the capital markets and other factors beyond our control.

Our financial condition and ability to access the public and private capital markets providing adequate liquidity for our general business needs: Our financial condition is dependent on our cash flow from operations, which is subject to the performance of the capital markets, our ability to maintain and grow client assets under management and other factors beyond our control. Our ability to access public and private capital markets on reasonable terms may be limited by adverse market conditions, our firm's credit ratings, our profitability and changes in government regulations, including tax rates and interest rates.

The outcome of litigation: Litigation is inherently unpredictable, and excessive damage awards do occur. Though we have stated that we do not expect certain pending legal proceedings to have a material adverse effect on our results of operations, financial condition or liquidity, any settlement or judgment with respect to a pending or future legal proceeding could be significant, and could have such an effect.

The possibility that we will engage in open market purchases of AB Holding Units to help fund anticipated obligations under our incentive compensation award program: The number of AB Holding Units AB may decide to buy in future periods, if any, to help fund incentive compensation awards depends on various factors, some of which are beyond our control, including the fluctuation in the price of an AB Holding Unit (NYSE: AB) and the availability of cash to make these purchases.

Our determination that adjusted employee compensation expense should not exceed 50% of our adjusted net revenues: Aggregate employee compensation reflects employee performance and competitive compensation levels. Fluctuations in our revenues and/or changes in competitive compensation levels could result in adjusted employee compensation expense exceeding 50% of our adjusted net revenues.

Item 3. Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures About Market Risk

There have been no material changes in AB Holding's market risk from the information provided under "Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures About Market Risk" in Part II, Item 7A of AB Holding's Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2014.

Index

Item 4. Controls and Procedures

Disclosure Controls and Procedures

AB Holding and AB each maintains a system of disclosure controls and procedures designed to ensure that information required to be disclosed in our reports under the Exchange Act is (i) recorded, processed, summarized and reported in a timely manner, and (ii) accumulated and communicated to management, including the Chief Executive Officer and the Chief Financial Officer, to permit timely decisions regarding our disclosure.

As of the end of the period covered by this report, management carried out an evaluation, under the supervision and with the participation of the Chief Executive Officer and the Chief Financial Officer, of the effectiveness of the design and operation of the disclosure controls and procedures. Based on this evaluation, the Chief Executive Officer and the Chief Financial Officer concluded that the disclosure controls and procedures are effective.

Changes in Internal Control over Financial Reporting

No change in our internal control over financial reporting occurred during the third quarter of 2015 that materially affected, or is reasonably likely to materially affect, our internal control over financial reporting.

Index

Part II

OTHER INFORMATION

Item 1. Legal Proceedings

See Note 8 to the condensed consolidated financial statements contained in Part I, Item 1.

Item 1A. Risk Factors

There have been no material changes in our risk factors from those disclosed in AB Holding's Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2014.

Item 2. Unregistered Sales of Equity Securities and Use of Proceeds

There were no AB Holding Units sold by AB Holding in the period covered by this report that were not registered under the Securities Act.

Each quarter, since the third quarter of 2011, AB has implemented plans to repurchase AB Holding Units pursuant to Rule 10b5-1 under the Exchange Act. The plan adopted during the third quarter of 2015 expired at the close of business on October 21, 2015. AB may adopt additional Rule 10b5-1 plans in the future to engage in open-market purchases of AB Holding Units to help fund anticipated obligations under the firm's incentive compensation award program and for other corporate purposes. See Note 3 to the condensed financial statements contained in Part 1, Item 1.

The following table provides information relating to any AB Holding Units bought by AB in the quarter covered by this report:

ISSUER PURCHASES OF EQUITY SECURITIES

| Period | Total Number of AB Holding Units Purchased | Average Price Paid Per AB Holding Unit, net of Commissions | Total Number of AB Holding Units Purchased as Part of Publicly Announced Plans or Programs | Maximum Number (or Approximate Dollar Value) of AB Holding Units that May Yet Be Purchased Under the Plans or Programs |
|------------------------------------|--|--|--|--|
| 7/1/15 - 7/31/15 ⁽¹⁾⁽²⁾ | 461,513 | \$27.88 | — | — |
| 8/1/15 - 8/31/15 ⁽²⁾ | 1,434,050 | 27.66 | — | — |
| 9/1/15 - 9/30/15 ⁽²⁾ | 1,119,415 | 26.41 | — | — |
| Total | 3,014,978 | \$27.23 | — | — |

(1) During the third quarter of 2015, AB purchased from employees 86 AB Holding Units to allow them to fulfill statutory withholding tax requirements at the time of distribution of long-term incentive compensation awards.

(2) During the third quarter of 2015, AB purchased 3,014,892 AB Holding Units on the open market pursuant to a Rule 10b5-1 plan to help fund anticipated obligations under our incentive compensation award program.

Index

The following table provides information relating to any AB Units bought by AB in the quarter covered by this report:

ISSUER PURCHASES OF EQUITY SECURITIES

| Period | Total Number of AB Units Purchased | Average Price Paid Per AB Unit, net of Commissions | Total Number of AB Units Purchased as Part of Publicly Announced Plans or Programs | Maximum Number (or Approximate Dollar Value) of AB Units that May Yet Be Purchased Under the Plans or Programs |
|---------------------------------|------------------------------------|--|--|--|
| 7/1/15 - 7/31/15 | — | \$— | — | — |
| 8/1/15 - 8/31/15 | — | — | — | — |
| 9/1/15 - 9/30/15 ⁽¹⁾ | 2,891 | \$26.44 | — | — |
| Total | 2,891 | \$26.44 | — | — |

⁽¹⁾ During September 2015, AB purchased 2,891 AB Units in private transactions.

Item 3. Defaults Upon Senior Securities

None.

Item 4. Mine Safety Disclosures

None.

Item 5. Other Information

Iran Threat Reduction and Syria Human Rights Act

Pursuant to Section 219 of the Iran Threat Reduction and Syria Human Rights Act of 2012 (“Iran Act”), which added Section 13(r) to the Exchange Act, an issuer is required to disclose in its annual or quarterly reports, as applicable, whether it or any of its affiliates knowingly engaged in certain activities, transactions or dealings relating to Iran or with individuals or entities designated pursuant to certain Executive Orders. Disclosure generally is required even where the activities, transactions or dealings were conducted in compliance with applicable law. AB, AB Holding and their global subsidiaries had no transactions or activities requiring disclosure under the Iran Act, nor were they involved in the AXA Group matters described immediately below.

The non-U.S. based subsidiaries of AXA operate in compliance with applicable laws and regulations of the various jurisdictions in which they operate, including applicable international (United Nations and European Union) laws and regulations. While AXA Group companies based and operating outside the United States generally are not subject to U.S. law, as an international group, AXA has in place policies and standards (including the AXA Group International Sanctions Policy) that apply to all AXA Group companies worldwide and often impose requirements that go well beyond local law. For additional information regarding AXA, see Note 1 to the condensed financial statements in Part 1, Item 1.

AXA has informed us that AXA Konzern AG, an AXA insurance subsidiary, provides car insurance to the Iranian embassy in Berlin, Germany and some of their staff. The total annual premium of these policies is approximately \$13,000 and the annual net profit arising from these policies, which is difficult to calculate with precision, is estimated to be \$6,500. These policies were underwritten by a broker who specializes in providing insurance coverage for diplomats. Provision of motor vehicle insurance is mandatory in Germany and cannot be cancelled until the policies expire.

In addition, AXA has informed us that AXA Ireland, an AXA insurance subsidiary, provides statutorily required car

Index

insurance under three separate policies to the Iranian embassy in Dublin, Ireland. AXA has informed us that compliance with the Declined Cases Agreement of the Irish Government prohibits the cancellation of these policies prior to their expiration unless another insurer is willing to assume the coverage. The total annual premium for these policies is approximately \$3,750 and the annual net profit arising from these policies, which is difficult to calculate with precision, is estimated to be \$1,875.

Lastly, AXA has informed us that AXA Sigorta, an insurance subsidiary of AXA organized under the laws of Turkey, provides car insurance coverage for the vehicle pools of the Iranian General Consulate and the Iranian embassy in Istanbul, Turkey. Motor liability insurance coverage is mandatory in Turkey and cannot be cancelled unilaterally. The total annual premium in respect of these policies is approximately \$3,150 and the annual net profit, which is difficult to calculate with precision, is estimated to be \$1,575.

The aggregate annual premiums for the above-referenced insurance policies are approximately \$19,900, representing approximately 0.00002% of AXA's 2014 consolidated revenues, which are approximately \$100 billion. The related net profit, which is difficult to calculate with precision, is estimated to be \$9,950, representing approximately 0.0002% of AXA's 2014 aggregate net profit.

W.P. Stewart

On December 12, 2013, we acquired W.P. Stewart & Co., Ltd. ("WPS"), an equity investment manager that managed, as of December 12, 2013, approximately \$2.1 billion in U.S., Global, and Europe, Australasia (Australia and New Zealand) and Far East ("EAFE") concentrated growth equity strategies for its clients, primarily in the U.S. and Europe. On the date of the WPS acquisition, each of approximately 4.9 million outstanding shares of WPS common stock (other than certain specified shares, as previously disclosed in Amendment No. 2 to Form S-4 filed by AB on November 8, 2013) was converted into the right to receive \$12.00 per share and one transferable contingent value right ("CVR") entitling the holders to an additional \$4.00 per share cash payment if the Assets Under Management (as such term is defined in the Contingent Value Rights Agreement ("CVR Agreement") dated as of December 12, 2013, a copy of which we filed as Exhibit 4.01 ("Exhibit 4.01") to our December 31, 2013 Form 10-K) in the acquired WPS investment services business exceed \$5 billion on or before December 12, 2016, subject to measurement procedures and limitations set forth in the CVR Agreement. See the definition of AUM Milestone in the CVR Agreement filed as Exhibit 4.01 for additional information regarding the circumstances that trigger payment pursuant to the CVRs. The foregoing description of the CVR Agreement does not purport to be complete and is qualified in its entirety by the full text of the CVR Agreement.

As of September 30, 2015, the Assets Under Management are approximately \$3.8 billion. Accordingly, management has determined that the AUM Milestone did not occur during the third quarter of 2015.

Index

Item 6. Exhibits

- 31.1 Certification of Mr. Kraus furnished pursuant to Section 302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002.
- 31.2 Certification of Mr. Weisenseel furnished pursuant to Section 302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002.
- 32.1 Certification of Mr. Kraus furnished for the purpose of complying with Rule 13a-14(b) or Rule 15d-14(b) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 and 18 U.S.C. Section 1350, as adopted pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002.
- 32.2 Certification of Mr. Weisenseel furnished for the purpose of complying with Rule 13a-14(b) or Rule 15d-14(b) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 and 18 U.S.C. Section 1350, as adopted pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002.
- 99.1 Part I, Items 1 through 4 of the AllianceBernstein L.P. Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended September 30, 2015.
- 101.INS XBRL Instance Document.
- 101.SCH XBRL Taxonomy Extension Schema.
- 101.CAL XBRL Taxonomy Extension Calculation Linkbase.
- 101.LAB XBRL Taxonomy Extension Label Linkbase.
- 101.PRE XBRL Taxonomy Extension Presentation Linkbase.
- 101.DEF XBRL Taxonomy Extension Definition Linkbase.

Index

SIGNATURE

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned thereunto duly authorized.

Date: October 22, 2015

ALLIANCEBERNSTEIN HOLDING L.P.

By: /s/ John C. Weisenseel
John C. Weisenseel
Chief Financial Officer

By: /s/ Edward J. Farrell
Edward J. Farrell
Chief Accounting Officer