I. **WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION:** Richard called the meeting to order at 12:09 p.m. He welcomed everyone and acknowledged the Honorable Daniel R. Sulman, the Honorable Doris Pechkurow, Master Glenn Andreola were present.

II. **CORRECTIONS OR ADDITIONS TO MINUTES:** The December minutes were approved.

III. **TREASURER'S REPORT:** The financial information was not available as of the time of the meeting.

IV. **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

A. The Chancellor's Reception is January 9, 2017, from 5:00 – 7:00 p.m. at the Hyatt at the Bellevue, honoring the incoming Chancellor, Debbie Gross.

B. The Help Desk continues to need volunteer attorneys to sign up for Mondays and Wednesdays from 12:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. Please contact Lee Schwartz, Esquire, to schedule at lee@schwartzjordan.com.

C. The Honorable Maria McLaughlin is running for the Superior Court of Pennsylvania.

V. **PROGRAM:** Round Table Discussion – Proposed Resolution for Parenting Coordination, Rule 155.

A. Richard introduced Meredith Brennan to discuss a proposed resolution drafted by Mary Beth Blessing and Maria Gibbons on behalf of the Family Law Section of the Montgomery County Bar Association in support of reinstating parenting coordination.

B. Notable Points – See attached handout for more information.

1. Attendees had a round table discussion regarding the reinstatement of Parent Coordination to assist with custody cases to avoid litigation over minor issues where the custody agreement is not clear, including without limitation, custody time for holidays and vacations, locations for custody exchanges and choices of extracurricular activities for children. Parenting coordinators are mainly utilized in high conflict cases.
3. Attendees also discuss the process for appointment of parenting coordinators, whether by agreement or by the Court, *sua sponte*.

4. Attendees also discussed the fees for parenting coordination, whether they are shared or allocated between the parties by the parenting coordinator, depending on the issues and whether parenting coordination is an option for all litigants.

VI. COMMITTEE REPORTS: Committee meeting times/dates and announcements are disseminated over the Family Law Section’s listserv.

VII. GOOD & WELFARE: None.

NEXT SECTION MEETING: Monday, February 6, 2017, at 12:00 p.m. on the 15th Floor of the Philadelphia Family Court building at 1501 Arch Street

NEXT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING: Thursday, February 16, 2017, at 12:00 p.m. on the 11th Floor of the Philadelphia Bar Association, Committee Room South at 1101 Market Street, Philadelphia, PA.

Respectfully submitted,

[Signature]
Randi L. Rubin, Esquire
Secretary

ATTACHMENTS(1):
- Resolution/Recommendation re: Rule 155 (Parenting Coordination)
RESOLUTION/RECOMMENDATION
RE: RULE 155 (PARENTING COORDINATION)

WHEREAS, we believe Parenting Coordination provides a much more expeditious means for parties in custody litigation to resolve minor disputes, while using a much lower level of court resources.

WHEREAS, without a Parenting Coordination program in place, custody litigants (particularly those in high conflict cases) must often litigate even minor issues, such as trading custody time for holidays or vacations, choosing locations for custody exchanges, and choice of extracurricular activities for their children.

WHEREAS, many of these minor issues are time sensitive issues which often cannot be resolved in a timely manner by the Court system and the lack of resolution often serves to increase the level of conflict between the parties.

WHEREAS, the pursuit of a court remedy creates family financial hardships, and requires parents to take time off from their jobs, which could be in jeopardy due to absences from the workplace.

WHEREAS, Parenting Coordination offers litigants access to a process which permits them to quickly air their grievances, and obtain timely resolution to their issues.

WHEREAS, through the use of a Parent Coordinator, who will use their mediation skills in helping parties self-direct the resolution of their own differences, parents will become more adept at having meaningful resolution oriented discussions, thus alleviating the need for court intervention or further Parent Coordination in the future.

WHEREAS, diverting these issues out of the judicial system frees up valuable court time for other litigants so that other family law issues can also be handled by the Court more expeditiously.

BE IT RESOLVED AND RECOMMENDED that the Family Law Section and the Philadelphia Bar Association support Rule 155 as to Parenting Coordination as proposed and recommend that the Supreme Court approve Recommendation 155.