The meeting was called to order at 4:04 p.m. by Chair Lauren P. McKenna.

Upon consideration by the Board, the minutes of the meetings held October 26, 2016 were unanimously approved.

Treasurer Regina Foley presented the Financial Report for the period ending October 31, 2016. The Association is slightly ahead of budget by approximately $106,481. Revenue is running slightly under budget by $21,403, primarily attributed to CLE running under budget which is offset by dues running over budget. LRIS is running slightly under budget, but approximately $60,000 is anticipating by the end of the year. Expenses are running under budget by approximately $127,884 which is primarily attributed to benefits and cost savings measures.

Professional Responsibility Committee Co-Chair, The Honorable Denis P. Cohen, on behalf of the Professional Responsibility Committee and the Professional Guidance Committee, presented consideration of a Resolution Honoring Paul J. Kazaras for his service to the Bar Association. Judge Cohen said he has been very privileged to have been involved in the Association for 30 years, during which time he has had the opportunity to work with many great Chancellors including Chancellor Alfano, with whom he worked in the District Attorney’s office. He has also worked with many wonderful Association staff members over the years. Of all of those staff members, he has worked with Paul Kazaras the longest and the closest due to their work together on the Professional Responsibility and Professional Guidance Committees for between 20-30 years. Judge Cohen said that Paul is an “exceptional person” and an “outstanding and dedicated servant of the Bar Association and the legal community.” Further, Kazaras has been a valuable mentor and good friend that has made it “joyful” to participate in these two Committees. He expressed great thanks to Kazaras, and noted that his feelings are shared by many. Further, Kazaras has guided the Committees with wise judgment while dealing with issues and proposed rule changes, and has dealt with thousands of inquiries to the Ethics Hotline. The Association owes Paul great thanks for elevating the ethical responsibilities and levels of the Philadelphia legal community. With that, Judge Cohen presented Kazaras with the Resolution in his honor, framed. Upon consideration by the Board, the Resolution was unanimously approved.

In response, Kazaras remarked that he was deeply moved by the honor, and that it was a difficult decision to leave the Association. He remarked that he was very proud of the recent passage of the Board’s Resolution adopting the recommendation that ABA model rule 8.4(g) be adopted by the Supreme Court. He is privileged to have worked with the members of the Board, some for as many as 25 years. He gave special thanks to past Chancellors Abe Reich and Sayde Ladov for their leadership and mentorship, and to Executive Director Mark Tarasiewicz, with whom he has worked for almost 23 years, who is a “very special person” who gave him considerable support, care and recognition particularly during the past year. Further, he noted his special thanks to past Association Executive Director Ken Shear, for who he owes a great debt. He thanked the Board for all they have given him in the past, as well as for the present honor, from the bottom of his heart.

Executive Director Mark Tarasiewicz commented that Kazaras has been a mentor and personal friend to him and the “heart and soul” of the Association for 37 years. He has been a “guiding light” to the staff, and an “inspiration and source of knowledge” to the membership. He will be extraordinarily missed.

Young Lawyers Division Chair Erin Lamb reported on the Expungement Clinic held at five sites throughout Philadelphia on Saturday, November 12, 2016, which is the day that Act 5, the new PA law signed by Governor Wolf in February 2016 facilitating expungement for ex-offenders who remain conviction-free for ten
years following many second or third-degree misdemeanors, takes effect. The clinic was the result of a great partnership between the YLD, Community Legal Service, District Attorney’s office, Philadelphia Courts, the City, and State Representative Jordan Harris. Lamb commented that the effort provided an important service to approximately 500 individuals who were given the opportunity to consult with someone about the possibility of having their record expunged. Approximately one-half of the individuals were pre-screened by Community Legal Service, and one-half of the participants were walk-ins. Many were successful in that effort, and all were grateful to have that opportunity. The effort had an important impact on the community, enabled the YLD to advance criminal reform, and made the Association relevant. Lamb gave special thanks to Chancellor Alfano for supporting the project, Assistant Executive Director Paul Kazaras for his help, and the Bar Association staff including and most particularly Director of Communications and Marking Meredith Avakian-Hardaway, Senior Managing Editor, Publications Thomas Rogers, and Web Manager Wesley Terry, for the great press coverage including being broadcast on KYW Newsradio 1060 and reported on the front page of the Philadelphia Inquirer.

Chancellor Alfano commended Lamb along with Executive Committee Member and Program Co-Chair John Coyle, III, YLD Chair-Elect Matthew Olesh, and YLD Executive Committee member Meghan Claiborne for their tremendous efforts on this project.

Bylaws Committee Chair Marc Zucker presented a report on the activities of the Bylaws Committee. Initially he thanked the other Committee members including Association Counsel Larry Beaser, Civil Gideon and Access to Justice Task Force co-chair Catherine Carr, Treasurer Foley, former President of The Barristers’ Association of Philadelphia, Inc. Monique Myatt Galloway, Chair McKenna, VIP Executive Director Sara Woods, Michael Hayes, Business Law Section Chair Katayun Jaffari, and as well as Chancellor Alfano, Chancellor-Elect Deborah Gross, and Vice Chancellor Mary Platt. Zucker explained that the Committee is not addressing the dues structure or the Commission on Judicial Selection and Retention, both of which are handled separately. The Committee is reviewing the Bylaws one article at a time, and is seeking involvement from Section and Committee Chairs and Affinity groups. The goal is to reconcile competing tensions in an effort to maximize the efficiency and effectiveness of the Association. Currently, the Committee is focusing on the Bylaws relating to membership in an effort to simplify the multiple categories, including revisiting the category of Honorary Member; imposing less geographical restrictions to maximize members; and, making the membership-related Bylaw provisions more transparent and understandable. Another goal is to empower the Board with greater implementation powers to avoid the need for the Bylaws to be repeatedly reviewed and revised. The Bylaws have not undergone such a significant review in decades, and Zucker commended the Chancellor for taking the initiative to tackle this project.

Director of Continuing Legal Education Tara Phoenix reported on Association sponsored Continuing Legal Education. Phoenix reported that in October, approximate 425 individuals were serviced and slightly over $29,000 was generated before expenses. The October CLE included free training for VIP cases during National Pro Bono Week. It appears November will be a busy month since approximately $20,000 in tuition revenue, in addition to $1,500 in sponsorships to date, has already been collected. A 7.5 hour CLE on climate change is scheduled to be held on November 16, 2016, co-hosted by The Call to The Bar, the PA Environmental Council, Environmental Law Institute and the ABA Section of Environmental Energy and Resources, and featuring some notables in that field including Jeffrey D. Sachs, Director of The Earth Institute, Quetelet Professor of Sustainable Development, and Professor of Health Policy and Management at Columbia University.

The December curriculum is currently being planned. To date, credits for 120 CLE programs have been reported out of 136 scheduled, so the balance will be held in December. Since February 2016, approximately 3,900 individuals have registered through the first week of November 2016, and CLE credits have been issued for over 2,600 individuals. Feedback has been great, and people are looking for more free CLE credits. The continued focus is to continue to enlist new, different speakers, and spread the word about Association CLE, including to surrounding counties.
Executive Director Mark Tarasiewicz reported on Membership. As of November 15, 2016, $1.903,000 in total dues revenue has been collected, which is $28,000 above the budgeted amount for 2016. The Association is pleased to see an uptick in dues renewals, partly due to the pending contested bar election, and is hoping to surpass the 2016 goal. On November 16, 2016 an email blast will be sent to those members who have not yet renewed reminding them about the upcoming election and membership deadline to vote, and additional email reminders to that effect will be sent on November 22 and 29, 2016. This week the Association is reaching out to those who have passed the recent bar examination who are not yet members to offer a free first-year membership. Efforts such as these and the Law School Outreach program puts the Association on track to exceed last year’s total of overall members. Tarasiewicz thanked the Association staff and, in particular, Manager of Member Services Andrea Morris-Tracey. Chancellor Alfano expressed his hope to bring in $1,910,000 in revenue in 2016.

Chair McKenna, on behalf Assistant Secretary Jennifer Coatsworth, reminded the Board to complete the Diversity and Inclusion Action Checklist form by the end of the calendar year.

Chief Financial Officer/Director of Administration Susan Knight reminded the Board that the online election process commences November 21, 2016 at 9:00 a.m. She reported that the Association is advising firms and candidates to get the email address “whitelisted” to avoid the Association ballot email getting caught in a spam filter. She suggested that Board members call her by 1:00 p.m. on that date if they have not yet received the ballot.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:50 p.m. Following the adjournment, the Board went into Executive Session.

Respectfully submitted,
Jacqueline G. Segal
Secretary

Board of Governors
Attendance
November 15, 2016

Voting members
Present:
Gaetan J. Alfano
Deborah R. Gross
Mary F. Platt
Jacqueline Segal
Jennifer S. Coatsworth
Regina M. Foley
Natalie Klyashtorny
Lauren McKenna
Kevin Mincey
Peter Newman
Erin Siciliano
Kathleen Kirkpatrick
Ira Lefton
Myisha Lacey-Tilson
Shabrei Parker
Angela Giampolo
Teresa Rodriguez
Albert S. Dandridge III
Erin Lamb
Matthew Olesh
Katayun Jaffari
Dina Ronsayro
Scott Small
Joseph Turchi
Brad Rush

Present on Phone:
Absent:

- Rahat Babar
- Lawrence Felzer
- Jeremy Menkowitz
- Julia Swain
- Edward Beitz
- Maureen Farrell

Non-voting members

Present:

- Mark Tarasiewicz
- Rochelle Fedullo
- William Fedullo

Present on Phone:

- Jennifer Snyder

Absent:

- Lawrence Beaser
- Sophia Lee
- Louis Rulli
- Steven Bizar
- Andrea Yannuzzi
- Andrew Laver
- Cheryl Disch