

AVY J. BEN-ZVI

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Region	Incumbency	Slate or Coalition Affiliation	Law Association Membership
Toronto	Not An Incumbent	Unaffiliated	None

LiRN Funding and Libraries	
Will you support the Law Society maintaining its current level of funding for LiRN, adjusted annually for inflation?	Yes
Do you recognize the importance of the Law Society’s support for the LiRN budget in maintaining licensee competence across Ontario?	Yes
It is imperative that we have resources and access to resources for all legal professionals. Not only do we want to sustain what we have built but we would like to grow and add more resources that are accessible for all legal professionals. We are all growing and learning all the time and the more access to resources like LiRN will only make us better and more competent.	
If you are an incumbent, do you regret voting to cut the LiRN budget by 10% in November 2020?	Didn't Vote to Cut
N/A - not an incumbent.	
Do you support offloading funding for LiRN/law libraries to the Law Foundation of Ontario?	No
I am in favor of having as many resources available for the legal community. Cutting funding for LiRN is a very poor decision. Many people including myself continue to do legal research and require these resources to assist them with growing and learning the law.	

Legal Aid Funding	
Will you advocate for Legal Aid Ontario funding improvement and sustainability to ensure that being a Legal Aid-empanelled lawyer remains a viable area of practice for the private bar?	Yes
👉 If you answered “yes”, how?	
Legal Aid Ontario is extremely important and fundamental and integral for access to justice. There are many ways to approach funding. One example may be to allocate resources from surplus areas of the Law Society to accommodate Legal Aid. Offer further incentives to lawyers to continue to do work for Legal Aid Ontario. Another example may be to offer them reduced Professional Insurance rates and reduced Law Society fees based on the number of hours they work for Legal Aid Ontario.	
Please describe efforts that you believe should be undertaken by the Law Society to advocate for investment in LAO and increased financial allocation to LAO from the provincial and federal governments’ budgets.	
The Law Society should advocate that the provincial and federal government should allocate funds from other surplus areas to Legal Aid Ontario. The Law Society should convince the provincial and federal government that it is a great investment to fund Legal Aid Ontario. One example is that Legal Aid Ontario can be used to resolve legal problems within a timely fashion. If you allow the legal problem to persist it will grow and cascade to further problems that would cost the provincial and federal government millions on health and social benefits. So by spending more on Legal Aid Ontario the provincial and federal government will significantly reduce spending on health and social benefits.	

Paralegal Scope of Practice	
On December 1, 2022, Convocation approved the Family Legal Service Provider (FLSP) license to allow paralegals who complete specified training to assist clients with certain family law services. The FLSP is to be reviewed in 3 years. Should paralegals’ scope of practice be expanded?	
Yes, it should be expanded.	
👉 If you answered “yes”, in what ways, why, and what additional training (if any) should be required of paralegals?	
Depending on the area of law there should be something similar to FLSP in place to allow the paralegals more training so they can expand into other areas of law. There should be more mentoring, training and courses available to paralegals to allow them to expand and grow into an area of practice they prefer to work in. FLSP is really the beginning to many doors that will now open for paralegals.	
Lawyer licensees pay an annual competency levy as part of their annual fees that contributes towards LiRN, which funds courthouse libraries. Would you support a requirement for paralegals to also pay an annual competency levy?	Yes
Since paralegals are regulated and have access to some of the same resources they certainly should also be contributing financially. There needs to be a more balanced and fair system. If the Law Society is lacking funding for certain resources it should expand the cost burden to all licensed professionals.	

Law Association Involvement	
When did you become a member of each of the associations you selected above? Which board or executive roles, if any, have you served in as part of these associations? Please list relevant dates and roles.	
Not a member of a county or district law association.	
Why are you a member of each of the associations you selected above?	
Not a member of a county or district law association.	