

STEVE BENMOR

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Region	Incumbency	Slate or Coalition Affiliation	Law Association Membership
Toronto	Not An Incumbent	Unaffiliated	Toronto

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
As a Family law lawyer, I recognize that LIRN has provided a significant resource to Ontarions who are suffering from a lack of access to justice. Although LIRN is not a panacea, it has mitigated the perilous conditions of separating spouses in Ontario. More work is needed in access to justice and that is why I seek to serve as a Family Law Bencher.	
If you are an incumbent, do you regret voting to cut the LiRN budget by 10% in November 2020?	N/A
N/A - not an incumbent.	
Do you support offloading funding for LiRN/law libraries to the Law Foundation of Ontario?	No
No response provided.	

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?	
I have been a roster lawyer for Legal Aid for over 25 years. I have served as Duty Counsel, as a Certificate lawyer and in clinics. I am a big fan of LAO but it needs more help and greater resources to attract more lawyers including senior lawyers to serve as mentors to the next generation of lawyers who will fill their shoes.	
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.	
There is not one solution to the access to justice issue and the availability of legal aid. Of course, making the case for better funding is one goal I have as Bencher with family law expertise in LAO. But mentorship and the attracting fo new talent to legal aid by offering mentorship from senior counsel is a start, given that most family law lawyers who accept legal aid are young and require training and support.	

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?	
I know that this is a controversial topic. So my comments must be qualified. We have an access to justice issue in family law. The Bonkalo report, LAO and LSO all have indicated that properly trained and monitored FLSP's will help the public. I would like to see this done responsibly and in such a manner that never exposes a person to poor or inadequate legal help. This can be done in such a way that limits the scope of practice and ensures that matters that lawyers do not handle and that the public could use help with can be referred to such a family law professional and that matters that only lawyers should handle are directed to them by FLSP's.	
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
All licensees (lawyers and paralegals) benefit from the LSO governance and should share in its operations.	

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.	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Member (2022-present), Toronto Lawyers Association, Estates & Family Law CommitteeChair of the Board (2018-2020), Humewood HouseChair (2017-2018), Ontario Bar Association, Elder Law SectionChair, Walsh Family Law Appellate Moot (2015-2019)Chair (2013-2015) & Executive Member (2006-2015), Ontario Bar Association, Family Law SectionFounding Director (2009) and Treasurer (2013-2015), Ontario Chapter, Association of Family & Conciliation CourtsChair (2011-2013), Treasurer (2002-2004) and Director (2002-2013), Access for Parents and Children of OntarioMember (2013-2015), Toronto Family Court Bench & Bar CommitteeMember (2013-2015), Canadian Bar Association, National Section’s Executive CommitteeMember (2012-2013), Organizing Committee, Walsh Family Law MootDirector (2009-2013), Ontario Chapter, Association of Family & Conciliation CourtsDirector (2009-2012), Ontario Network for the Prevention of Elder AbuseMember (2010), Expert Advisory Group on Family Justice Improvements to Attorney General, The Honourable Chris BentleyFamily Law Instructor (2000-2005), Bar Admissions Course, Law Society of Upper CanadaMember (2005-2008), Area Committee at North York, Legal Aid OntarioDirector (2000-2004), Jewish Family and Child Service of TorontoMember (2000-2002), Bench and Bar Committee, Ontario Court of Justice at North YorkChair (1997), Young Professionals Division, UJA/FederationMember (1994-1995), Canadian Jewish Congress, Community Relations Committee	
Why are you a member of each of the associations you selected above?	
I believe in public service and that lawyers hold important office in society and should use their education and skills to improve the conditions of Ontarions.	