

JONATHAN MILLER

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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
<i>Law libraries are an essential component of delivering competent professional advice and services to the public. All segments in society, from individuals to corporations to governments, are facing increased costs, and financial prudence is increasingly important. Financial prudence means allocating resources to the costs that are most important to the mission of the organization. In the context of the Law Society, this means funding the programs which are fundamental to the LSO's mandate, which is ensuring that the public interest in the provision of competent legal assistance is met.</i>	
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
<i>Funding of LiRN/law libraries is not a "zero sum" game for the LSO or the Law Foundation of Ontario. The second sentence on the Law Foundation's website is "The Foundation receives and uses the interest on lawyers’ and paralegals’ mixed trust accounts to support legal education, legal research, legal aid, and law libraries in Ontario."</i> <i>I would advocate for co-operation between the LSO and the Law Foundation to ensure that the financial requirements of LiRN/law libraries are met annually.</i>	

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
<i>If you answered “yes”, how?</i>	
<i>I provided legal aid assistance for many years but withdrew from the panel when the tariff was, in my view, offensive and exploitive. The only way to change this situation is to bring it to the attention of the public. Governments over decades have neglected or refused to provide funds to ensure the proper functioning of the legal system until forced to do so, for example to increase funding to courts until the Askov decision or to move into the 21st century of digital filing of documents and remote hearings until Covid.</i> <i>Regrettably, I see similar public pressure and advocacy as the only way to pry open the government's wallet to compensate the lawyers who are at the forefront of providing legal representation to the most disadvantaged.</i>	
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.	
<i>In addition to the above, the LSO should strike a committee and demand that the governments open negotiations for a reasonable tariff in good faith.</i>	

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?	
<i>It should be expanded no further than the FLSP</i>	
<i>If you answered “yes”, in what ways, why, and what additional training (if any) should be required of paralegals?</i>	
<i>No response was required, but the candidate wrote: The jury is still out. I remain skeptical that licensees under the FLSP program will be able to carry out their mandate, but we should await the results of the program and continually monitor what is occurring, using a pre-determined set of criteria. I have not seen any such criteria publicized. If these standards do not exist, they should be created immediately; if they do exist, they should be reviewed continually. In any event, the program should be monitored by a subcommittee of family law practitioners, family court judges, and representatives from the LSO.</i>	
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
<i>There is no difference in the level of professionalism of paralegals and lawyers which is required; they both provide services to the public who have the right to expect the same standard from everyone who is licensed to provide legal services. The only difference between the two groups is the services which they are permitted to provide. Accordingly, both paralegals and lawyers should be expected to use the facilities of the libraries and to support them.</i>	

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.	
<i>I have been a member of the TLA for so long that my records do not go back that far.</i>	
Why are you a member of each of the associations you selected above?	
<i>I have used the evolving legal research resources of the TLA for decades and learned from and enjoyed numerous CLE/CPD programs over the years. Of course, the membership card which gives express entry to the courthouse is very helpful.</i>	