



**Federation of Ontario
Law Associations**

2023 Bencher Election Candidate Questionnaire Responses

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Outside Toronto Candidates *(20 to be elected, 7 of which are elected by voters within their region)*

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Toronto Candidates *(20 to be elected)*

VOTING DATES:

April 19 to 28, 2023 *(online voting)*

Document Last Updated: March 28, 2023

Central East Region Candidate Responses

(Outside Toronto)

Candidate Name	Slate/Coalition Affiliation	Response
Russell Alexander	Unaffiliated	Response provided
Edward Choi	FullStop	Response provided
Arwa DeSantis	Unaffiliated	Response provided
Horatiu Druma-Strugariu	Unaffiliated	Response provided
Kathryn Whitehead	Good Governance Coalition	Response provided
Alexander David Wilkes	FullStop	No response provided by deadline

Region	Incumbency	Slate or Coalition Affiliation	Law Association Membership
Central East	Not An Incumbent	Unaffiliated	Victoria Haliburton

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 support the law society maintaining its current level of funding for LIRN. As a lawyer, I recognize the critical role that LIRN plays in maintaining licensee competence. The resources and information provided by LIRN are essential for legal professionals to stay up-to-date with changes in legislation, case law, and legal trends. It is also important for the general public. Access to accurate and up-to-date legal information is crucial for ensuring that the justice system operates effectively and efficiently. By supporting LIRN, the law society is contributing to the overall well-being of the legal profession and the public it serves.

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

Currently, it is unclear how the funding formula would work if it was offloaded to the Law Foundation of Ontario. By offloading funding to the Law Foundation of Ontario, the Law Society could potentially lose the ability to make decisions on how best to allocate resources to meet the needs of legal professionals.

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 am committed to advocating for improvements to Legal Aid Ontario sustainability to ensure that being a legal aid-empaneled lawyer remains a viable area of practice for the private bar. Through awareness-raising, engagement with policymakers, and collaboration with other legal professionals, I believe that we can make a meaningful difference for legal aid in 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.

Here are some efforts that the Law Society should undertake to effectively advocate for these critical priorities:
First, the Law Society should work to build strong relationships with policymakers and elected officials at both the provincial and federal levels. By developing these relationships, the Law Society can ensure that its voice is heard when it comes to advocating for legal aid funding. This can involve meeting with key decision-makers, participating in government consultations, and providing input and recommendations on legal aid funding proposals.
Second, the Law Society should engage with the public and raise awareness about the importance of legal aid funding. This can involve using social media, public speaking, and other forms of communication to educate the public. By building public support for legal aid funding, the Law Society can help to create a groundswell of support that can be difficult for policymakers to ignore.
Third, the Law Society should work with legal aid clinics and other legal organizations to develop innovative funding proposals that can be presented to policymakers. This can involve working to identify new sources of funding, exploring innovative approaches to legal aid delivery, and developing proposals that demonstrate the impact that legal aid has on communities across Ontario.

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?

No, it should be reduced

👉 If you answered “yes”, in what ways, why, and what additional training (if any) should be required of paralegals?

No response was required.

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

No response provided.


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.

several years ago

Why are you a member of each of the associations you selected above?

I am a member of the Victoria Haliburton Law Association because I believe in the importance of staying connected with other legal professionals in my community. The association provides a valuable platform for networking, professional development, and community involvement. Through attending events and participating in committees, I have been able to stay up to date on current legal issues and trends, as well as build relationships with other lawyers, judges, and members of the legal profession. Additionally, the association offers many resources and benefits, such as access to legal research tools and discounted rates on continuing legal education courses. Being a member of the Victoria Haliburton Law Association has not only enhanced my professional development but has also allowed me to make many friends. Overall, I am proud to be a member of this esteemed organization and look forward to continuing my involvement in the years to come.

 Federation of Ontario
Law Associations

EDWARD CHOI

vote@edwardchoi.ca

Region	Incumbency	Slate or Coalition Affiliation	Law Association Membership
Central East	Not An Incumbent	FullStop	York

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 am supportive of resources to the extent that they are used by the legal profession, assist the legal profession to practice law or provide legal services to the public in Ontario, and/or where they assist in creating a more competent and ethical legal profession. My understanding is that the LiRN is an important resource which meets all of my criteria. It is important to have a network of resources so that libraries can be stronger together.

As a Board Member of my local library board, an avid user of libraries (law, academic, public), and having attended a number of library conferences, I am supportive of library networks as they help disseminate knowledge to others, which is an foundational goal for libraries.

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 have checked no because I am required to answer the question. I have no opinion on this topic and would like to hear from parties involved on the advantages/disadvantages of this offloading of funding. I will need to understand the consequences of such offloading before I can share my opinion on this issue. As with any topic, I am happy to hear from all views of the issue before making a decision.

I do understand that under subsection 55(1) the Law Society Act, the Foundation is required to fund, inter alia, legal education and research, legal aid, and law libraries.

I will be supportive of a policy that will increase the services of the library and education to LSO members so long as the services are used. As a library board member, having recently completed a degree in education, I strongly believe in building education and competence within our profession.

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 am supportive of access to justice. I have volunteered for four different legal clinics in the past and recently (in 2021) I am part of a Steering and Advisory Committee to create a new legal clinic in Ontario. I have also been looking in various models of access to justice in America.

Legal Aid Ontario (“LAO”) is simply not meeting the needs of Ontarians and it appears that things are getting worse. Funding for LAO requires the cooperation of the provincial government. This, unfortunately, have decreased over the recent years. While I am in principle supportive of funding for LAO so long as it is able to assist in creating access to justice, I feel that much more needs to be done in this regard. To that end, I intend to discuss with various involved parties to find a solution where access to justice can be met.

I would like to quote a famous quote on this topic: “Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves, for the rights of all who are destitute. Speak up and judge fairly; defend the rights of the poor and needy.”

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.

Please refer to my response [to the previous question].

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?

It should be expanded no further than the FLSP

👉 If you answered “yes”, in what ways, why, and what additional training (if any) should be required of paralegals?

No response was required, but the candidate wrote: I checked the first box in question 19 because I was required to provide an answer. It appears to me unfair to ask this question at this time given it is a 3 year study and there is insufficient data at this time for it to be reviewed. It is therefore unfair to ask for my, or any prospective benchers, opinion without the proper data. The proper data should drive the answer to this question. This question should be asked when the data is available.

As per your [previous question], it states that the issue is to be reviewed in 3 years. At present, without data, I am unable to comment on this topic as it requires a review of the actual experiences of paralegals and clients for me to make an informed decision.

That said, in principle, I believe that if paralegals are engaging in family law matters, they must thoroughly understand family law related topics such as, inter alia, family law, real estate law, property law, tax law, contract law and drafting, abuse and domestic violence, trusts and estates, negotiation, mediation, advocacy, civil procedure, etc.

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?

No

I checked question 21 because I was required to provide a response. Again, more facts is needed to answer this question, such as a survey or study of whether paralegals would feel that this is necessary for them.

It would depend on whether these services are useful to paralegals. I would like to hear the case for both sides before making a determination.


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 am a member of the York Region Law Association (“YRLA”), but do not serve on any board or executive roles.

Why are you a member of each of the associations you selected above?

I am proud of our law association in York Region along with the services they provide. The library is a great resource and their librarian is resourceful. The YRLA host social events which brings our legal community together. The facilities such a lounge and computers in the courtroom are useful for lawyers attending court or using the library. Being connected to the legal community in my community along with up-to-date resources is important to me which is why I joined the YRLA.

 Federation of Ontario
Law Associations

Region	Incumbency	Slate or Coalition Affiliation	Law Association Membership
Central East	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
The LSO Great Library and the library services throughout the province should be an essential part of all lawyers arsenal. Whether I am conducting research in my office, at home, or at court office, having access to electronic legal articles, books, cases, etc. is invaluable.	
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 do not have enough information about the preceeding bencher elections and the vote to decrease funding for the LiRN, however I am a huge proponent on ensuring that the funding be allocated to maintain the useful resource that the electronic library provides.	

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?	No
👉 If you answered “yes”, how?	
No response was required.	
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.	
No response provided.	

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?	
No, it should remain as it was prior to December 1, 2022	
👉 If you answered “yes”, in what ways, why, and what additional training (if any) should be required of paralegals?	
No response was required.	
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
Paralegals are also licenced under the Law Society of Ontario and presumably would have access to the same or similar resources as Lawyers and in that event should also be expected to pay for access to such resources.	

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.	

HORATIU DRUMA-STRUGARIU

horatiu.druma@gmail.com

Region	Incumbency	Slate or Coalition Affiliation	Law Association Membership
Central East	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
I worked alongside lawyers who did a lot of work with the local association and LiRN and I learned of all of the good work they do. I think the work is extremely important to the profession and that it ought to be continued.	
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?	
200 words is not a lot of space to answer this, so I'll keep it very concise. Improvements and sustainability will require stakeholder input. That might seem simple, but it isn't. Getting stakeholder input and telling the stories compellingly to enact change is what I'm good at. There are tools and techniques to do this, and I love learning them. The continued existence of legal aid lawyers is exceptionally important to all of society.	
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.	
Governments respond to public opinion. If the public opinion of lawyers is low, and if there's a lot of division in society, the payoff to politicians for increasing funding to lawyers isn't great. If we want LAO funding to rise we need to make sure lawyers hold an esteemed role in society. We need to make sure we're abiding by and implementing best - not minimal - practices. If people look up to us as there will be a much greater incentive for politicians to work to increase funding since they will be seen as our champions. We need to tell the stories of law and lawyers. We need to show the best of what we can be. We need to keep up with the times, and focus on meaningful approaches that produce real results. If lawyers are perceived as enemies it will always be hard to obtain more funding, however noble the goal of that particular set of funds. Responsible regulation is one of the best ways we can get more investment.	

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?	
200 words for 'what ways, why, and what additional training' is, again, very little space for a very detailed question, so I'll answer with as much detail as is reasonable given the allotted space but certainly a lot more could be said.	
In what ways: in every way that makes sense, and where we can ensure the public is adequately protected. The key isn't barring people from getting advice or help - it's ensuring that the advice is good enough or that there's insurance if it isn't.	
Why: I've had to represent myself in a number of legal disputes - I've had that 'fool for a client' moment. It's unpleasant, even though I am trained to navigate the law. I can't imagine what it would be like for someone who is essentially flying by the seat of their pants. A lot of those people would benefit from trained help. I've come across some excellent paralegals who have been very thorough and very effective. I've equally come across inattentive and ineffective lawyers. Titles don't necessarily indicate quality.	
What additional training: As may be required depending on the ways in which it's expanded. Different areas will of course need different training. Some may not need any. It really is a case by case basis.	
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
These centres are important, particularly when discussing implementing an expanded scope of practice. The resources they provide are invaluable - and when working on new areas they're hard to beat. I will always support properly funding LiRN.	

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.	

KATHRYN WHITEHEAD

kwhitehead@ainwhitehead.com

Region	Incumbency	Slate or Coalition Affiliation	Law Association Membership
Central East	Not An Incumbent	Good Governance Coalition	Simcoe

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 would support the Law Society maintaining proper and sustainable funding for LiRN unequivocally. The operations of LiRN are essential to ensure access to current legal information and library services, in addition to assisting with the ongoing development and maintenance of competent licensees. The Law Society is statutorily mandated to ensure the public is served by competent licenses and is contractually obligated to fund LiRN pursuant to the Unanimous Shareholder Agreement signed with FOLA and the Toronto Lawyers Association.

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

The Law Foundation of Ontario is not the proper entity to fund LiRN. The Law Foundation of Ontario provides additional funding for Legal Aid and the necessary funding for the Compensation Fund. If funds were allocated to LiRN from the Foundation it would negatively impact the funding for these two very important services. Legal Aid is already underfunded and has seen significant funding cuts over the years. And, unfortunately, the Compensation Fund has required additional funding as a result of significant payments to individuals who have lost money as a result of a licensee’s dishonesty. As previously stated, it is the legislative mandate and contractual obligation of the Law Society to fund LiRN, not the Law Foundation of Ontario.

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?

The Law Society has a statutory obligation to facilitate access to justice. Legal aid is paramount to access to justice across the province for low-income individuals. A properly funded and robust legal aid system is the only way to ensure sustainable legal aid services for low-income Ontarians into the future. The Law Society is a dynamic member of the Alliance for Sustainable Legal Aid, along with FOLA, and has assisted in providing legal stakeholders with an effective voice in advocating for legal aid funding with Legal Aid Ontario. This essential work must be continued.

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 must continue to facilitate and support the work of the Alliance for Sustainable Legal Aid ("ASLA") and be a champion for as sustainable legal aid system. Continued advocacy with both provincial and federal governments, including letter-writing, appearances at standing committees, and meetings with senior government officials are essential to this ongoing advocacy work. The Law Society must continue to be vocal in objecting to any future budget cuts to legal aid and continue to make recommendations to the Attorney General for appointees to the Legal Aid of Ontario Board of Directors.

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?

It should be expanded no further than the FLSP

👉 If you answered “yes”, in what ways, why, and what additional training (if any) should be required of paralegals?

No response was required, but the candidate wrote: Paralegals play an important role in access to justice in Ontario, which is one of the reasons for the introduction of the Family Legal Service Provider license. Currently, there is no further expansion of scope under consideration. If further expansion is proposed, it should be reviewed after significant consultation and with consideration of the impact on access to justice. Paralegals should be encouraged to fill their existing scope of practice as recommended by the Paralegal Standing Committee. Additional mentoring, online website materials and continuing professional development would be excellent educational resources to assist in the development and maintenance of legal competence 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

Courthouse libraries/practice resource centers play a vital role in the ongoing exchange of legal information and maintaining competency of licensees. Paralegal licensees need to maintain and develop their competency, just as lawyer licensees. Access to legal information through courthouse libraries/practice resource centers would be necessary for paralegal competency. In order to utilize these invaluable library and practice resources, paralegal licensees should be required to pay an annual competency levy, just as lawyer licensees, to the Law Society to assist with ongoing sustainable funding for LiRN. To not require such an annual competency levy from paralegal licensees but allow access to courthouse libraries/practice resource centers is inequitable.


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 became a member of the Simcoe County Law Association ("SCLA") in 2009 when I started to practice law in Barrie, Ontario. I joined the Board of Directors first as the Real Estate Representative on behalf of the Barrie Real Estate Lawyers' Association. Thereafter, I sat as the Vice-President and ultimately held an extended term as President during the Pandemic from February 2019 until October 2022. I am currently the Past- President and maintain my role as the Real Estate Liaison between FOLA and the SCLA. I have attended several FOLA, and CDLPA, Plenaries during my involvement with the SCLA and am acutely aware of the ongoing issues facing the Profession and the involvement of FOLA to advocate on behalf of the practicing lawyer.

Why are you a member of each of the associations you selected above?

I became a member of the SCLA for a multitude of essential reasons. The SCLA afforded the opportunity to obtain access to library services and resources, any educational or continuing professional development programs, local and provincial notices related to the Profession, access to the Courthouse Lounge, social events, and informal networking with colleagues. Once I became a member it was obvious the SCLA was providing invaluable services to the membership, which ultimately encouraged me to get involved and join the Board of Directors.

 Federation of Ontario
Law Associations

Central South Region Candidate Responses

(Outside Toronto)

Candidate Name	Slate/Coalition Affiliation	Response
Winfield Corcoran	Unaffiliated	Response provided
Laura Emmett	Good Governance Coalition	Response provided
Michael Lesage	FullStop	Response provided
Grace Pang	FullStop	Response provided
Trevor Parry	FullStop	Response provided
Andrew Spurgeon	Good Governance Coalition	Response provided
David Steele	Unaffiliated	Response provided
Stephanie Sutherland	Good Governance Coalition	Response provided
Mike Winward	Good Governance Coalition	Response provided

WINFIELD CORCORAN

winfieldcorcoran10@gmail.com

Region	Incumbency	Slate or Coalition Affiliation	Law Association Membership
Central South	Not An Incumbent	Unaffiliated	Hamilton

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>I find the local association to be very helpful. They do research for me and provide me with other information on an ad hoc basis. My support of the competency issue is the need to have qualified practitioners on the other side of a case. I had a very bad experience with an incompetent lawyer who caused an estate to blow up beyond proportion. In the end, I had to accept an offer to settle obligating me to pay my fees as executor to the sole beneficiary.</i>	
If you are an incumbent, do you regret voting to cut the LiRN budget by 10% in November 2020?	N/A
<i>N/A - not an incumbent.</i>	
Do you support offloading funding for LiRN/law libraries to the Law Foundation of Ontario?	Yes
<i>I want to see the local associations survive and with a healthy budget. I doubt the sincerity of the LSO to prioritize this funding, they are too busy hiring US companies to do their work for them. There is a no component as well, the foundation has strings attached to their spending, What are those strings?</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 am not certain nhow this can be accomplished. LAO mis full of coopted staff, many of them lawyers who could not cut the pressure of legal practice and they are more interested in doing busy work than acoml;ishing any improvements. The other bugaboo is payment for services, Once a lawyers fees exceed the tariff, the LAO budgetary decision makers slash away at the request for discretionary ucrease. I left LAO behind me a decade ago. I make better returns doing cases for free rather than be shackled to these budgetary constraints. More peace of mind.</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>Once again, I am not certain how to do this. I know there is a ton of featherbedding, Friday afternoon at the local pub, incompetent duty counsel, mutual congratulatory associations with counsel., on and on, I view LAO as a failure to provide sufficient resources to the empaneld lawyers to make LAO work worthwhile. The money the lawyers need for fees is being diverted to excess governance. Director General!!! leave me alone.</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>No, it should remain as it was prior to December 1, 2022</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.</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?	No
<i>Making them pay entrenches them further into our professional lives. I find paralegals to be one step in the slippery slope of removing work for which I am painfully trained from my purview. The end result is "who needs lawyers anyway". I fear this is not an exaggeration. The Arizona initiatives are not healthy. I do not support any initiative that puts another hand in my pocket. Everywhere I look I see the work I am trained to do being offloaded to someone less qualified. I do 200-300 hours of pro bono a year to adhere to my oath.I own it, it is hard sometimes but I get itdone. Access to Justice is a valuable initiative. I do not believe it can be achieved without a price. Better to know what that price is than to assign the task to someone else. This is why I roll alone. I simply can not trust others to get the job done without first liningm theirrown pockets in some way.Access to justice as a guiding principle in class actions is a good example. Great idea, but it does not work that way. Only thos persons who can attract class action counsel to their cause benefit. All for one and one for all does not exist in the Class Proceedings Act.</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>2012 no roles</i>	
Why are you a member of each of the associations you selected above?	
<i>I live in Hamilton</i>	

Region	Incumbency	Slate or Coalition Affiliation	Law Association Membership
Central South	Not An Incumbent	Good Governance Coalition	Middlesex, Waterloo

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
If anything, the Law Society needs to explore the possibility of increased funding for Law Libraries. They play a critical role in supporting licensees in private practice across the Province. Not only do they provide a physical space within the Courthouse for licensees to conduct mid-trial research, but resources supplied through bulk purchasing provide access to online services that many sole and small practice lawyers cannot access on their own. Finally, LiRN is an important component of maintaining competence for licensees as it allows legal professionals to have access to resources and supports necessary to properly do their job.	
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
It is unrealistic to suggest that the Law Foundation of Ontario should be funding LiRN/Law Libraries. Notably, the Law Society has a regulatory mandate to ensure that the public is served by legal professionals with the highest standards of learning and competence. To fulfil this mandate, the Law Society needs to continue to fund these services. Additionally, the Foundation’s cash flow is inconsistent and variable. This prevents any type of long term planning and impacts the quality of services that can be delivered. Further, Convocation does not control how the Foundation allocates its funding which would further hinder the ability of Law Libraries to meet the needs of licensees across the Province.	

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?	
The importance of a properly funded Legal Aid Ontario program cannot be understated. In order for the system to run properly, it needs to be viable for members of the private bar to practice in this area. The Law Society has long been supportive of Legal Aid initiatives and this needs to continue. Since the Law Society does not control funding, it is important for Benchers to advocate for funding from the appropriate funding sources (Federal and Provincial governments). It is also important for the Law Society to continue to play an active role in the Alliance for Sustainable Legal Aid by ensuring that legal stakeholders are able to have their voices, and perspectives, recognized. From 2018 to 2021, in addition to informal interactions, there were 24 formal meetings held with the Alliance. These meetings need to continue and the Law Society needs to work with stakeholders to implement recommendations made.	
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 has an important role in ensuring access to justice. One of the most significant ways of accomplishing this is to ensure that there is a well-funded Legal Aid Ontario system. The Law Society needs to continue to ensure that the Alliance for Sustainable Legal Aid regularly meets and works together to collect perspectives, and statistics, that can be used to lobby the Provincial and Federal Government. The Law Society needs to take every opportunity to continue to champion for Legal Aid. This includes writing letters to government officials, participating in standing committees, and arranging meetings with senior government members. The more knowledgeable the government is about the challenges faced by Legal Aid Ontario, and the important services being provided throughout the Province, the more likely that there will be enhanced financial support. In addition, the Law Society, pursuant to the Legal Aid Services Act, 2020, provides recommendations for the appointment of members to the Legal Aid Ontario Board. In making these recommendations, the Law Society must ensure that they are putting forward names of licensees who have significant legal aid experience and will be keenly aware of the challenges faced in the delivery of legal services in this area. A well-qualified and experienced Board is best able to meet the demands of all Legal Aid Ontario participants. They are also in the best position to also advocate for enhanced government funding.	

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?	
It should be expanded no further than the FLSP	
If you answered “yes”, in what ways, why, and what additional training (if any) should be required of paralegals?	
No response was required, but the candidate wrote: Paralegals are important to the delivery of legal services in the Province. The decision in December, 2022 to allow paralegals to practice in certain areas of family law (once qualified) was made only after significant consultation with stakeholders. It is also to be re-evaluated after three years. It is premature to consider any further expanded scope of practice for paralegals at this juncture.	
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
A mandate of the Law Society is to ensure competency of its licensees. One of the ways to accomplish this mandate is to ensure that Law Libraries are properly funded and supported. By requiring that all licensees, not just lawyers, are contributing a portion of their annual fees to support LiRN, Law Libraries will be better able to serve legal 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.	
No response provided.	
Why are you a member of each of the associations you selected above?	
Local Law Associations play a vital role and have helped me be a better lawyer. They provide a sense of community for the legal bar in each jurisdiction. There are numerous opportunities to network. Personally, having practiced at a firm in a City that I did not grow up in, it afforded me excellent opportunities to get to know lawyers from different firms, and in different practice areas. Most importantly, however, is the access to library services. Going back to my articling term, I have spent a great deal of time researching niche areas in textbooks and online. The assistance that I received from the librarians was immeasurable. They were able to guide me in the right direction and help me answer many challenging legal questions.	

MICHAEL LESAGE

michael@michaelsfirm.ca

Region	Incumbency	Slate or Coalition Affiliation	Law Association Membership
Central South	Incumbent	FullStop	Lincoln

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
No response provided.	
If you are an incumbent, do you regret voting to cut the LiRN budget by 10% in November 2020?	No
No, I made the decision that I believed appropriate at the time, along with every other sitting Benchers.	
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 will continue to be very vocal that lawyers need to be properly funded, including lawyers who provide services to LAO.	
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 be more public with the fact that maintaining the rule of law requires funding (including from LAO), and can't adequately be maintained through 'good intentions' alone.	

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?	
It should be expanded no further than the FLSP	
👉 If you answered “yes”, in what ways, why, and what additional training (if any) should be required of paralegals?	
No response was required.	
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
It is important for any providing legal services to have access to reference materials to properly serve their clients.	

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.	
2012 (I think for a year or 2), then 2015 onwards	
Why are you a member of each of the associations you selected above?	
To interact with the local bar and to benefit from the excellent resources provided by the Lincoln County Law Association.	

GRACE PANG

gpgracep@gmail.com

Region	Incumbency	Slate or Coalition Affiliation	Law Association Membership
Central South	Not An Incumbent	FullStop	Lincoln

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
A key reason for me to seek to become a bencher is to make sure the Law Society focuses on fostering competence.	
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 believe both the Law Society & the Law Foundation have a responsibility to promote competence.	

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 will advocate for funding to advance competence & access to justice, & not to extraneous issues.	
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 can certainly lobby the governments for increased funding to legal aid, but this is only 1 piece of the puzzle. Increasing the budget will not necessarily translate to better access to justice. It is equally important to make the legal system less complex & less expensive.	

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?	
Paralegals have a vital role in improving access to justice, & the Law Society should continue to investigate whether their scope of practice may be expanded if they meet the level of competence required.	
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
Any expanded scope of practice must include an expanded responsibility to meet the level of competence required.	

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.	
No response provided.	
Why are you a member of each of the associations you selected above?	
I have been practising mostly in Lincoln County for 29 years.	

TREVOR PARRY

Declined to Provide

Region	Incumbency	Slate or Coalition Affiliation	Law Association Membership
Central South	Incumbent	FullStop	Hamilton

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
No response provided.	
If you are an incumbent, do you regret voting to cut the LiRN budget by 10% in November 2020?	No
No response provided.	
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?	
No response provided.	
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.	
No response provided.	

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?	
No response provided.	
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
No response provided.	

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.	
2016	
Why are you a member of each of the associations you selected above?	
I moved to Hamilton in 2014. I felt it to be essential to connect with my fellow local lawyer colleagues.	

ANDREW SPURGEON

aspurgeon@rossmcbride.com

Region	Incumbency	Slate or Coalition Affiliation	Law Association Membership
Central South	Incumbent	Good Governance Coalition	Hamilton

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
Libraries are the hubs of legal practice for so many. They are crucial support for sole practitioners and small firms. They are the means through which local legal education is done and the place where real mentorship flourishes. They are essential to the success of the bar.	
If you are an incumbent, do you regret voting to cut the LiRN budget by 10% in November 2020?	No
The LIRN budget was cut during the early stages of the pandemic when it was not clear what the future would hold economically. The world had shut down and everything went on-line. Many cuts were made at the LSO at that time and many folks lost their jobs. I do not regret making a tough decision at that difficult and uncertain time. I was also pleased to vote to restore and indeed enhance funding to LIRN once economic circumstances became more settled.	
Do you support offloading funding for LiRN/law libraries to the Law Foundation of Ontario?	No
The LSO should fund libraries. That way lawyers have a say in the funding levels libraries enjoy. Abdicating funding decisions for libraries to an external organization with an external source of money like the Law Foundation does two things: (1) it takes control of funding out of the hands of lawyers; and (2) it pits demands for library funding against demands for legal aid funding out of the same pot. This is not an appropriate approach to sustainable funding for either undertaking.	

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?	
Ultimately advocacy with the MAG is the only means the LSO has to maintain or enhance Legal Aid funding. The present environment of higher interest rates being yielded from mixed trust accounts may offer an opportunity for enhanced funding; but that is subject to budget formulas established with MAG. Thoughtful advocacy and discussion with relevant players are key to obtaining a better situation.	
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 would have to take advice from people knowledgeable in government relations on the issue of how to best advance this brief.	

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?	
It should be expanded no further than the FLSP	
👉 If you answered “yes”, in what ways, why, and what additional training (if any) should be required of paralegals?	
No response was required.	
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
Paralegal competency should be enhanced. If a levy will provide resources to them, as it does for lawyers, to enhance competence, they should pay it and funding should flow to libraries accordingly. On the other hand, I do not believe that paralegals should be able to use libraries as lawyers to if they are not obliged to contribute to the cost of the service.	

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.	
1997	
Why are you a member of each of the associations you selected above?	
I have been a member of the Hamilton Law Association (HLA) since 1997. I was on the Board of Trustees for 9 years and was President of the HLA in 2008-9. I am a member because I believe that is crucial to be intimately involved in your local law association because it helps you be a better lawyer through education, resources, mentorship and friendship. It has made my life as a lawyer more fulfilling as it is through the HLA that I have made so many friends and learned so much.	

DAVID STEELE

dms@kwlaw.net

Region	Incumbency	Slate or Coalition Affiliation	Law Association Membership
Central South	Not An Incumbent	Unaffiliated	Waterloo

LiRN Funding and Libraries	
Will you support the Law Society maintaining its current level of funding for LiRN, adjusted annually for inflation?	No
Do you recognize the importance of the Law Society’s support for the LiRN budget in maintaining licensee competence across Ontario?	No
While library collections and services should be preserved, it is not written in stone that LSO membership fees should fund that maintenance. I am not allergic, subject to fairness for law associations with smaller membership, to moving library funding to the local level, through the associations. My current inclination is for Ontario-wide funding (and to answer “yes” to questions 9 and 10), but my mind is open.	
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
The Law Foundation has historically emphasizes access to justice over law library funding. This prioritizing is appropriate.	

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?	No
👉 If you answered “yes”, how?	
No response was required.	
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 dangers are well documented. LAO funding is falling. Self-represented litigants consume more court time than if they had lawyers. Fewer lawyers are accepting legal aid certificates. There are already committed lawyers’ groups advocating for funding to address these dangers, however. The LSO’s best contribution is through recommending lawyer LAO board members able to demonstrate that the costs from these dangers exceed the savings – and cause real harm.	

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?	
Where does provision of legal services end and practising law begin? This question remains largely unanswered. To the extent that paralegals’ legal marketplace role is defined through Ontario’s experience to date, that definition is not well-understood by lawyers. I believe the LSO’s competence, access to justice, and public protection objects are served by paralegals and lawyers sharing the field. Exactly what that will look like is too complicated to prescribe. We need more experience. Empowerment is the only means to that experience. As for training, the standard of competence is the same for paralegals and lawyers. The LSO’s experience of the training needed for lawyers to attain a certain level of competence should guide what applies to 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
Paralegal access to the local libraries should not differ from lawyers’ access. It follows that paralegals should contribute similarly to the cost.	

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 have enjoyed membership in my local law association since 1993. I was a member of the association’s board between 2011 and 2021. I was treasurer for the association between 2017 and 2021.	
Why are you a member of each of the associations you selected above?	
The law associations improve Ontario lawyers’ competence. Their libraries ensure adequate access to a key resource. Most associations offer events which engender mentorship and collegiality.	

STEPHANIE SUTHERLAND

ssutherland@cohenhighley.com

Region	Incumbency	Slate or Coalition Affiliation	Law Association Membership
Central South	Not An Incumbent	Good Governance Coalition	Waterloo

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
Law libraries play an essential role in maintaining competence for the legal profession, and providing resources to licensees. They are also a wonderful place to connect with other licensees and the legal community. Without LiRN funding, law libraries would lose a substantial amount of funding, and this would have a significant negative impact on all licensees across the province.	
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
The Law Foundation of Ontario provides many incredible and essential resources to licensees, and to the larger public - including significant funding for Legal Aid and other access to justice programs. If funding for law libraries was to be provided primarily or solely through the Law Foundation, these other programs and initiatives that would have to be cut drastically, which would in turn substantially negatively impact equity programs and access to justice across the province.	

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?	
LAO is an absolutely necessary, and significant, part of providing access to justice for all people in Ontario, and proper funding is required for LAO to be able to provide the services that it does.	
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.	
Working within its mandate, the LSO can continue to provide support for LAO, including recognition of the important role that LAO plays in providing access to justice to Ontarians.	

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?	
Paralegals are competent and capable licensees, and could potentially contribute to a wide variety of practices areas. Reviewing areas of law and activities where paralegals could participate - which could only assist with access to justice - would provide a better idea of how the scope could be expanded. Training for particular types of practices could be provided to ensure that the necessary knowledge was obtained before paralegals could practice in those areas.	
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 would support the requirement for paralegals to also pay an annual competency levy - the amount of which would take into account the disparity in average pay between lawyers and paralegals - if paralegals are permitted as members of all Law Associations in the province and given equal access to the resources available through Law Associations and law libraries.	

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 became a member of the Waterloo Region Law Association in 2020, and I was elected to the Board in 2021. I chair the CPD Committee, and sit on the EDI and Mental Health Committees. My Board term will expire this April, and I have chosen not to run for re-election, as I'd like to be able to focus my time and energy on being a Benchler, if elected. I will, however, continue to be a part of the committees.	
Prior to my time with WRLA, I was a member of the Wellington Law Association (when I was living and practicing in Guelph) for 9 years, and was on the Board from 2013-2019. I also sat as Secretary during several of those years.	
Why are you a member of each of the associations you selected above?	
I believe that strong, responsible leadership of the legal profession benefits not only licensees, but also the general public and our communities. Law associations provide such an incredible range of support and resources for the communities that they represent, and I wanted to contribute that and give back to the communities, legal and geographical, that have given me so much.	

MIKE WINWARD

winward@mackesysmye.com

Region	Incumbency	Slate or Coalition Affiliation	Law Association Membership
Central South	Not An Incumbent	Good Governance Coalition	Hamilton

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>After my presidency of the HLA, I became the central south region representative for FOLA. From November 2018 to May 2020, I was Chair of FOLA. In that time, county law libraries and the funding for those libraries was a constant, front and centre issue. I was involved in the negotiations transitioning LibraryCo to LiRN. I signed the Unanimous Shareholders Agreement (USA) on behalf of FOLA. I am acutely aware of the importance of a properly funded county law library system to local law associations and their role in maintaining licensee competence. Access to comprehensive and up to date legal information is central to a lawyer's ability to serve his/her clients and thus is very much in the public interest.</i>	
If you are an incumbent, do you regret voting to cut the LiRN budget by 10% in November 2020?	N/A
<i>N/A - not an incumbent.</i>	
Do you support offloading funding for LiRN/law libraries to the Law Foundation of Ontario?	No
<i>Under the USA between the LSO, TLA and FOLA, the LSO "shall" provide the funding for the law library system in Ontario. The USA specifically directs that the funding is to come from members' fees. Particularly at a time when legal aid is not properly funded, it is inappropriate to look to the LFO for library funding. The money from LFO is not reliable and depends too much on unpredictable forces, including rates of interest. LiRN funding should be predictable, consistent and reliable and it should be met as set out in the USA.</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>The LSO is critical to the Alliance for Sustainable Legal Aid (ASLA), of which FOLA is a member. The April 2019 funding cuts to legal aid created a crisis. In 2018, the LSO issued a report entitled "Abiding Interest". Benchers candidate John Callaghan chaired the committee that issued the report. After the 2019 Benchers election, an updated report was issued, dated June 23, 2021. That report sets out efforts made for legal aid. If elected, I will continue the advocating for improved funding for legal aid. By law, 75% of the net revenue of LFO must go to legal aid. I appreciate that the LSO does not directly fund legal aid. I don't believe the Law Society should fund legal aid. The battle will be at Queens Park. Legal aid is an issue that will require constant and continued engagement with Queens Park and ASALA, with strong participation from the Law Society, will need to be at the forefront of that advocacy. I am not naive - this is going to be a challenging battle but one that must be waged. This is going to be an ongoing, grinding battle with a government that has shown such reluctance in supporting a robust legal aid system. However, that reluctance cannot prevent continued advocacy.</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>I believe my answer above would cover this.</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: Frankly, this is not just a yes or no question. I was against the expansion into family law because I did not believe that a case had been made out for improved access to justice. Without doubt, paralegals play a key role in our legal system and in access to justice. Currently, I am not aware of an area of law where expanding paralegal scope of practice would address an unmet need or address an access to justice issue. Paralegals can practice in dozens of tribunals and it is for them to expand their practices where they can within their current scope. However, as the saying goes, "never say never". The paralegal standing committee issued a report in February. If, at some point, there is an access to justice need that can be demonstrably addressed by expansion of paralegal scope of practice, and if the public can be properly protected by that expansion, I would have to be open minded about it to fulfill my obligation as a Benchers toward access to justice. This would involve comprehensive review and broad consultation, including with both the lawyer and the paralegal professions. Relevant stakeholders would need to be given an opportunity to provide submissions (obviously including FOLA).</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>This is another question that requires some qualification. I would be open to paralegals contributing to LiRN through their annual fees. The fees should be commensurate with the library resources that are within the paralegal scope of practice. Paralegals should not pay the same library fees as lawyers. If fees for libraries is being considered, I would expect to consult with the paralegal bar to get their perspective and input. It seems intuitive to me that legal information services is entirely consistent with competence and public protection, so it would be appropriate for paralegals to contribute to those services.</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>Member since 1985. President 2010-2011 prior to which was trustee for a number of years.</i>
Why are you a member of each of the associations you selected above?
<i>I joined the HLA when I was called to the bar. Joining and getting involved in local law associations is a great way to meet new people, network within the local law community and give back to the profession. With membership comes opportunities to mentor and be mentored. All lawyers should consider joining their local law association.</i>

Central West Region Candidate Responses

(Outside Toronto)

Candidate Name	Slate/Coalition Affiliation	Response
Hogarth Clauzel	FullStop	Response provided
Jennifer Gold	Good Governance Coalition	Response provided
Gary D. Graham	FullStop	No response provided by deadline
Mian Abdul Hakeem	Unaffiliated	Response provided
Cathi Mietkiewicz	Good Governance Coalition	Response provided
Brian L. Prill	FullStop	No response provided by deadline
Sunish Rai Uppal	FullStop	No response provided by deadline

HOGARTH CLAUZEL

hc@clauzelco.com

Region	Incumbency	Slate or Coalition Affiliation	Law Association Membership
Central West	Not An Incumbent	FullStop	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

Ensuring the standards of learning and professional competence apply equally to all persons who practice law in Ontario is a core LSO mandate. Accordingly, I support providing members with reasonable access to law library resources to facilitate learning and competence.

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 do not support "offloading" funding. However, I do support looking into additional avenues to provide additional funding and support for LiRN/law libraries.

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?

Improving access to justice is an LSO core function and I will support reasonable LAO funding to achieve that mandate.

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.

No response provided.

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?

It should be expanded no further than the FLSP

👉 If you answered “yes”, in what ways, why, and what additional training (if any) should be required of paralegals?

No response was required, but the candidate wrote: Given that the FLSP system has already been approved and implemented, the most prudent course of action is to examine and review how it impacts those lawyer in the Family Law field and public access to justice during this 3 year period before determining whether to claw back or maintain the program.

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

No response provided.


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.

 Federation of Ontario
Law Associations

JENNIFER GOLD

jennifer@woodgold.ca

Region	Incumbency	Slate or Coalition Affiliation	Law Association Membership
Central West	Not An Incumbent	Good Governance Coalition	Halton, Peel

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>LiRN supports the county courthouse libraries in Ontario. Having one governance structure for the many courthouse libraries in Ontario is beneficial and effective so that funding is coordinated and allocated to meet the particular needs of a given library. The courthouse libraries are vitally important to sole practitioners and frankly, all lawyers in the local community. In order for these libraries to continue to support lawyers, stable and consistent funding is required. That funding should continue to be provided by the Law Society of Ontario. Any proposal that the Law Foundation of Ontario fund law libraries is fundamentally unworkable. Even if the Law Foundation of Ontario agreed to such a proposal, funding may not be stable and could fluctuate from year to year. A library cannot operate without consistent and stable funding.</i>	
If you are an incumbent, do you regret voting to cut the LiRN budget by 10% in November 2020?	N/A
<i>N/A - not an incumbent.</i>	
Do you support offloading funding for LiRN/law libraries to the Law Foundation of Ontario?	No
<i>Any proposal that the Law Foundation of Ontario fund law libraries is fundamentally unworkable. Even if the Law Foundation of Ontario agreed to such a proposal, funding may not be stable and could fluctuate from year to year. A library cannot operate without consistent and stable funding.</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>Legal Aid is fundamentally important to providing access to justice to people in Ontario. Studies have show that increased funding for Legal Aid Ontario so that more individuals are eligible for services results in a costs savings to the justice system. Court resources are used efficiently when people are represented. I currently sit on the Board of Legal Aid Ontario. The Board is committed to ensuring that Legal Aid is sustainable and remains a viable area of practice for the private bar.</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>I would bring my experience as 1. a lawyer who has done Legal Aid work; and 2. a Board Member of Legal Aid Ontario to the role of Benchler. I have some knowledge of what is needed with respect to this question. Due to my current role as a Board Member, it would be improper for me to answer this question.</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: There are many ways that lawyers and paralegals can work together to support access to justice. Paralegals should receive very specific and comprehensive training in order to attain the FLSP license. Paralegal performance in the area of Family Law should be reviewed after some time to determine if it is furthering the goal of access to justice in Ontario.</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>In order to enhance competency and to promote lawyers and paralegals working together with integral roles in the justice system, I support paralegals using courthouse libraries/practice resource centres. Correspondingly, their annual fees should include a competency levy as part of their annual fees in order to support these valuable resources.</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 am a long term member of the Peel Law Association. I first became a member anywhere between 2002 and 2008. I am a recent member of the Halton County Law Association.</i>	
Why are you a member of each of the associations you selected above?	
<i>The Peel Law Association plays an integral role in the Peel legal community. I have always the appreciated the library services offered to members of the Peel Law Association as well as the social events and CPD programs. There are many sole practitioners and lawyers at small firms that rely on the services offered by the Peel Law Association. I am also a member of the Halton County Law Association. Many members of my firm attend at the Milton courthouse and some members reside in Halton. I have also relied on its library when in Court. I view the library and lawyers' lounges at courthouses as vital spaces where lawyers can support each other in practice and be equipped with resources to achieve excellence in practice.</i>	

MIAN ABDUL HAKEEM

mianhakeemlaw@gmail.com

Region	Incumbency	Slate or Coalition Affiliation	Law Association Membership
Central West	Not An Incumbent	Unaffiliated	Peel

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
The support for legal information helps maintain the quality of legal service.	
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
Enhanced library resources are important for the the quality of legal services.	

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?	
It is our duty as lawyer to make legal services accessible to everyone.	
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 will make policies that will ensure that funds allocated by the provincial and federal government are channeled to LAO.	

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?	
No, it should remain as it was prior to December 1, 2022	
👉 If you answered “yes”, in what ways, why, and what additional training (if any) should be required of paralegals?	
No response was required.	
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
They should be charged for enhancing their quality of service.	

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.	
2023-03-15	
Why are you a member of each of the associations you selected above?	
To support justice and freedom.	

Region	Incumbency	Slate or Coalition Affiliation	Law Association Membership
Central West	Not An Incumbent	Good Governance Coalition	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
LiRN allows small and solo practitioners to have access to important online resources that would otherwise be cost prohibitive.	
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
Law libraries provide essential resources and research services to thousands of lawyers across the province. Ensuring that lawyers, especially solo and small firm practitioners, in all communities have the necessary legal resources available to them supports the Law Society’s legislated duty to facilitate access to justice.	

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?	
In addition to facilitating access to justice, the Law Society has a legislated duty to maintain and advance the cause of justice and the rule of law. Legal Aid Ontario and Legal Aid empaneled lawyers provide crucial services that support these core mandates of the Law Society.	
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 LSO has the ability to be a respected voice supporting investment in LAO by coming to the table with their only interest being the access to justice for all Ontarians.	

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?	
Paralegals have a role to play in providing services to Ontarians. This is not a threat to lawyers, rather an opportunity for access to justice. I would support the LSO engaging in research to determine what, if any, other areas of law can benefit from greater participation by paralegals and what form that participation should take.	
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
Paralegals should have access to these services and should therefore share the burden with lawyers.	

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.	

East Region Candidate Responses

(Outside Toronto)

Candidate Name	Slate/Coalition Affiliation	Response
Jacqueline Beckles	Unaffiliated	Response provided
Neha Chugh	Good Governance Coalition	Response provided
Jean-Jacques Desgranges	FullStop	No response provided by deadline
Mitchell Kitagawa	Good Governance Coalition	Response provided
Cheryl Lean	FullStop	Response provided
Andrej Litvinjenko	FullStop	No response provided by deadline
Cecil Lyon	FullStop	Response provided
Sonia Ouellet	Good Governance Coalition	Response provided
Natalia Rodriguez	Good Governance Coalition	Response provided
Stéphane Sérafin	FullStop	Refused/declined to participate
Douglas Treilhard	FullStop	No response provided by deadline
M. Anne Vespry	Unaffiliated	Response provided

JACQUELINE BECKLES

jbeckles@justice.gc.ca

Region	Incumbency	Slate or Coalition Affiliation	Law Association Membership
East	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
The LiRN is an essential resource for lawyers and it should be maintained and supported by the LSO.	
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 think that the Law Foundation can contribute to the funding of LiRN and law libraries, as part of its mandate, but I don't think that the funding should be offloaded to the law Foundation.	

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 provides a vital service tot he community and should be expanded rather than restricted. I will advocate for additional resources to ensure that it is sustainable and a viable resource and area of practice.	
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.	
In addition to reallocation of resources to fund legal aid, the governments should look at innovative streams of funding. One example would be the Massachusetts Judicial Information Technology Bond Bill to determine whether such an initiative would be feasible in Ontario.	

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 think that where it is reasonable, the LSO should consider expanding a paralegal's scope of practice. I think paralegals can assist in filling the void created by a failing legal aid system and costly lawyers, where appropriate. There must, however be a commensurate educational component. I do not believe that paralegals are adequately trained at the moment and they should require additional training in order to be a licensed professional.	
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 believe if paralegals are operating in the same space as lawyers, they should be held to the same standard of competency, albeit limited by scope of practice. They should therefore pay a similar levy and have access to similar resources.	

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.

NEHA CHUGH

neha@chughlaw.ca

Region	Incumbency	Slate or Coalition Affiliation	Law Association Membership
East	Not An Incumbent	Good Governance Coalition	Prescott & Russell, Stormont, Dundas & Glengarry

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

Local law libraries and resource networks (LiRN) are critical for the proper functioning of law associations. These resources are important to bridge an access to justice gap that is already widening in our communities. As the former library chair, I know how important each resource purchase is to the library. A cut to LiRN funding would mean the associations would have to either download fees to association members or make difficult decisions amongst practice areas of what purchases to make. I support library as bridging access to justice.

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

The Law Society of Ontario's mandate is to serve and protect the public interest. Healthy and properly financed libraries bridge the gap in resources and legal community building that ultimately benefits the public interest in innumerable ways. As the former Library Chair of the Stormont Dundas and Glengarry Law Association, I know how precious every dollar is to the local library. The lawyers use the library and librarian in our communities in ways beyond just borrowing and shelving books. Inflation has affected the cost of running a library, from the cost of the coffee grind in the coffee machine we share to the cost of books and computers. Every dollar counts. The Law Foundation funds special projects, out of the box thinking, and the largest grant they give out is \$250,000.00. To take away from the LFO to fund libraries would be to the detriment of special projects the LFO supports. To undercut law libraries would be to the detriment of our communities. This funding should not be shifted to the LFO.

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 am a Legal Aid Practitioner in the areas of Criminal, Mental Health, Family, and Child Protection Law. It is always in the public interest to ensure that we have a thriving Legal Aid program. Inflation, the rising cost of living, and the stagnant hourly rates for Legal Aid practitioners have made it near impossible to manage a sustainable Legal Aid practice. The affect of this is felt most significantly in small cities and rural communities, where there is a shortage of practitioners. Oversight and advocacy for a sustainable Legal Aid program remains a significant part of my platform.

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 public’s needs and interests must be properly presented to the provincial and federal oversight bodies to ensure an appropriate and adequate investiture in Legal Aid funding. What I am viewing first hand, and experiencing in my own practice, is unsustainable. Fewer and fewer lawyers are taking Legal Aid files. In the community where I work, people will have certificates but cannot find lawyers to take them. The reasons I hear from lawyers: the rate of remuneration is too low and the numbers of allotted hours are too low. Often litigants find they do not qualify for legal aid because they make around minimum wage and work full time. While these litigants are living at or around the poverty line and acting as caregivers, they still do not qualify for Legal Aid. The Law Society needs a holistic understanding of how the public interest is being served by Legal Aid to have an complete understanding of what a sustainable Legal Aid program looks like.

If I am elected as Benchler, I believe that a working group must develop an understanding of what is happening in our communities, post pandemic. First, we need to speak to practitioners across the province to see how issues like inflation and the cost of managing a business have impacted their ability to take on Legal Aid files. We need to consult with poverty groups to have a deepened understanding of the financial eligibility test for Legal Aid, and how we can ensure it is set at the appropriate level to appropriately serve the public interest. We need to meet with duty counsel and the judiciary to understand how problems with Legal Aid funding have impacted our courts. Once these consultations are completed, we can begin to advocate for a stronger, more sustainable legal aid program.

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?

Paralegals are the vital support network that our profession needs, and serve an access to justice gap that needs to be filled. We need to find ways to support paralegals effectively in order to affect a sustainable expansion of their practice. For example, an expansion of continuing professional development for paralegals, targeted at deploying their skills in specific knowledge areas would ensure that they are trained properly for the expanded subject area.

The business of law is tricky. The fact is, we need paralegals in private practice to serve our communities. We need paralegals to help members of the public at administrative tribunals and in provincial offences court. It is difficult for a lawyer to set up a trust account, and paralegals face the same challenges. If we want to support more paralegals in private practice, where we need them the most, the Law Society must assist them at the preliminary stages with the business aspects of law.

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

Paralegals are our colleagues and support network and serve our communities in Courts, Boards, and Tribunals. We want to ensure that our community members are supported by competent and adequately trained members of our paralegal bar. Extending LiRN funded resources can bridge this gap. Paralegals can contribute to the LiRN budget, and then also benefit in kind from the resources that are offered. The end result of this is are healthy legal services for communities in need.


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 joined the Stormont Dundas and Glengarry Law Association in 2013 and was a member of the executive of the Law Association from 2016-2018, when I served as the Library Chair. I joined the Prescott-Russell Law Association in 2022 when our office opened our satellite office in L'Orignal.

Why are you a member of each of the associations you selected above?

I am a member of each of these law associations in order to build a sense of community within the network of lawyers who practice in each of these jurisdictions. Each of the community law associations has events, supports CPDs, has email lists, and many fantastic resources to work with. There is tremendous benefits to these services as lawyers in small communities. I also enjoy the richness of the libraries in each jurisdiction and the excellent services of the librarian. Finally, it is my pleasure and my privilege to be an ambassador of these law associations when I attend other jurisdictions and am able to brag about what the Stormont Dundas and Glengarry, as well as the Prescott Russell Law Associations have to offer.

 Federation of Ontario
Law Associations

MITCHELL KITAGAWA

mitch@mitchkitagawa.ca

Region	Incumbency	Slate or Coalition Affiliation	Law Association Membership
East	Not An Incumbent	Good Governance Coalition	Carleton

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
LiRN funding is the lifeblood for local law associations and their professional resource centres. To carry that analogy further, the local law associations are the heart of legal communities all over Ontario. I believe that it is crucial for local lawyers to have the resources they need to maintain their competency levels. Good lawyers make good communities.	
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
It is the mandate of the LSO to support competency within the profession. As such, lawyer fees are used to fund these goals which include supporting LiRN. The Law Foundation are public funds and as such should remain in trust for the public. My concern with funding through the Law Foundation is that local associations will have to apply for funding. This means that funding is not stable since its application may not be chosen as worthy of receiving funds and it may end up pitting local associations against each other to compete for limited resources. This is not a reliable funding structure that will keep our profession competent.	

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?	
Following the recommendations from the Abiding Interest report in 2018 and the updated report in 2021, I would ensure that the LSO continues its involvement with ASLA and push the provincial government to restore the funding level of LAO to pre-2019 levels.	
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.	
While LSO does not provide funding for LAO (the Law Foundation does, though) I believe that the LSO along with ASLA should continue to lobby the provincial government for increased funding. As the provincial government slashed its support of LAO by 30% in 2019, it is now time to return the funding to those pre 2019 levels. A good business case can be made for it since the pandemic and increased inflation have changed the landscape requiring more financial support from the government.	

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?	
It should be expanded no further than the FLSP	
👉 If you answered “yes”, in what ways, why, and what additional training (if any) should be required of paralegals?	
No response was required, but the candidate wrote: I think that the LSO should research the effects and outcome of the FLSP since its inception in 2022. The results may provide us with some information regarding the number of paralegals who have the FLSP and their effect on accessibility to justice for Ontarians and the effect on the justice system. Currently, paralegals have sufficient scope of services with the small claims court and hundreds of tribunals before which they can appear on behalf of clients.	
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 believe that we should consider some kind of fee for services. It may not be the same amount as paid by a lawyer, but there should be some contribution to defray the costs of using the local legal resources. However, before setting a rate, I believe research should be conducted in order to make sure that any fee is fair for all paralegals across the province.	

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.	
1997 upon being called to the bar. I am currently the chair of the CPD committee and I serve on the Diversity Committee.	
Why are you a member of each of the associations you selected above?	
Being a member of the CCLA is a symbiotic relationship. I volunteer my time to the CCLA but I get so much in return. Our local association provides great services to the lawyers and students in our community including research facilities and skills development programming. Specifically, the CCLA hosts four cornerstone conferences; family law, litigators, solicitors and criminal law. These events are so important to the Ottawa legal community because of the way they enhance professional development and encourage collegiality amongst the members. The CCLA also encourages and supports healthy lifestyles for lawyers while at the same time supporting our community at large with such things as the Firms Filling Fridges food drive. The CCLA is a great organization to support.	

CHERYL LEAN

cheryllelanlaw@gmail.com

Region	Incumbency	Slate or Coalition Affiliation	Law Association Membership
East	Benchers Pre-2019	FullStop	Hastings

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 recognize the importance of court libraries and the need to maintain funding so that all practitioners have access to the legal information they need to carry on their work. I also recognize that the law associations rely on LiRN funding to operate the associations and frequently assign the law librarians to association related work activities.

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

This question is highly misleading, much like "when did you stop beating your wife?"

No one (except FOLA chair Judson) ever suggested that LiRN be offloaded to the Law Foundation. The Law Foundation has a statutory mandate to fund law libraries. But they haven't done so for the past ten years. Previously as much as \$500,000 annually was paid out to the libraries in addition to funding received from the Law Society. Why did this stop? If anything it is the Law Foundation that offloaded funding.

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 needs to be available to a broader spectrum of family law clients, including the working class and those of moderate income. Updates to the family court rules and oppressive filing requirements have added a costly burden to family law proceedings.

It has been over ten years or more since the current legal aid tariffs were set. The lawyer rates need to be increased substantially recognizing the increased cost of litigation and general inflation. Counsel are challenged to meet their basic overhead office expenses while supplying legal services to legal aid clients. 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.

The Law Society has advocated for and will continue to advocate for more funding of LAO. However, this is a political decision over which the Law Society has limited influence. FOLA and the TLA could play a more critical role by mobilizing members of the law associations to lobby for greater funding.

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?

It should be expanded no further than the FLSP

👉 If you answered “yes”, in what ways, why, and what additional training (if any) should be required of paralegals?

No response was required.

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?

No

This is a question for paralegals.

Presently paralegals do not contribute in their annual fees to support LiRN. Thus, some of the libraries are not open to paralegals. If fees were mandated for paralegals all court libraries would be open to them. The paralegals have resisted fee increases. If the paralegals decided they wanted to support and to be "required" to pay fees for libraries, I would support such a requirement.

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 became a member in 2003, I have served on the board for several years, was vice president of the association for two years and served as president from 2007 -2009, I continue as an ex -officio member of the board.

Why are you a member of each of the associations you selected above?

Since being called, I have always been involved in the law association where I practice. I was previously a member of the Carleton County Law Association when I practiced in Ottawa. The CCLA offered practical educational and practice development opportunities when I was beginning my practice.

The associations provide many social benefits to members, supporting collegiality through events and celebrations. The associations are able to address practice issues arising locally and addressed through the bench and bar meetings. The associations support local court libraries and the librarians which are critical to leveling the playing field for small firms and sole practitioners.

 Federation of Ontario
Law Associations

CECIL LYON

cecil@lyonfamilylaw.ca

Region	Incumbency	Slate or Coalition Affiliation	Law Association Membership
East	Incumbent	FullStop	Carleton

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>Competence is a primary focus of the Law Society in the protection of the public. In its current iteration, Law libraries and the infrastructure around libraries including the Barristers' Lounge, etc., provide local focal points for all. That is essential for competence and collegiality. With the technical advances occasioned by COVID, local law libraries are better equipped and connected than ever. With the addition of access to various on-line platforms (free now to users/members courtesy of LiRN) access to legal information is not just within the purview of big firm lawyers and that helps to level the field. COVID required some re-imagining of delivering legal services and the 21st century will require some further re-imagining of law libraries and the infrastructure to ensure they remain vibrant and relevant for years to come.</i>	
If you are an incumbent, do you regret voting to cut the LiRN budget by 10% in November 2020?	No
<i>I do not regret the decision taken in 2020, in the face of a world wide pandemic, to reduce LiRN's budget by 10%. What I said in Convocation then was that such a reduction ought to be a one-off. I suggested, in my speech at Convocation, that if savings</i>	
Do you support offloading funding for LiRN/law libraries to the Law Foundation of Ontario?	No
<i>One of the stated objects of the LFO is to include, "the establishment, maintenance and operation of law libraries". Based on that, I brought a Motion, along with Bencher Charette, that has been, one can only conclude, deliberately mis-characterized by some on the Good Governance Coalition. Bencher Charette and I sought to restore the ADDITIONAL funding that the LFO provided to the libraries up until 2014 when that stopped completely and for reasons that remain opaque despite my efforts to uncover why the LFO stopped providing an additional \$500,000.00 to \$750,000.00 each year to the law libraries.</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
👉 If you answered “yes”, how?	
<i>I have no hesitancy, unlike some other Bencher colleagues, of shaming the government to achieve results as the quiet approach favoured by others has simply NOT worked. The fact is that the Ontario government spends 2/3 of its roughly 140 billion dollar budget on healthcare and education. It spends less than 1% on the entire "justice sector" excluding the police. The government spends peanuts on the legal system yet it rattles on, at every opportunity, about just how important the "justice" sector is. Put its money where its mouth is!</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>We ought to re-establish our government relations committee - abolished by others to limit Bencher input - so that we can actively and forcefully engage with the government about this important issue. We ought to call the government out over its appalling record in not adequately funding legal aid. The government bangs on interminably about "access to justice" but fails utterly to deliver the dollars required to even scratch the surface. We need to bring that out into the open and challenge the government to do its part.</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>No, it should remain as it was prior to December 1, 2022</i>	
👉 If you answered “yes”, in what ways, why, and what additional training (if any) should be required of paralegals?	
<i>No response was required, but the candidate wrote: I declined to answer [the previous question], but I could not submit my Questionnaire unless I checked "a box" so I just checked a box. My answer is that I decline to answer this as framed. It is too complex and challenging an issue to be reduced to a check off the box answer followed by 200 words.</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>I would support such an initiative PROVIDING paralegals were permitted to access all libraries in the province and all services offered within the libraries. As a sitting Bencher I have heard horror story after horror story about how paralegals and, indeed, lawyers have been regularly denied access to local law libraries save for the enlightened folks at the CCLA who have warmly welcomed paralegal participation. Paralegals are a part of the legal system. We must work co-operatively and constructively with paralegals for the betterment of the system as a whole.</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.	
1989	
Why are you a member of each of the associations you selected above?	
<i>The CCLA is blessed to be amongst the most collegial and best run associations in the province. Collegiality is a critical component to a smooth functioning Bar. It has a long tradition of being actively engaged at all levels of government and of putting on excellent programs starting way back its seminal Civil Litigation Up-dated. I first participated in that program in 1985. I have been an invited participant in many such events over the years. The CCLA also offered excellent services including a phonebook (remember those) and a monthly newsletter that has now morphed into a weekly email blast. The CCLA afforded young lawyers, as I was at one time, a way to meet and be mentored by senior lawyers and I found that invaluable. It was and remains a bargain at just over \$200.00 a year. It is an active and positive player in the legal system in Ontario.</i>	

SONIA OUELLET

Sonia.Ouellet.LLB@outlook.com

Region	Incumbency	Slate or Coalition Affiliation	Law Association Membership
East	Not An Incumbent	Good Governance Coalition	Carleton

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
Financial support for LiRN is essential to maintain access to resources for sole practitioners, small firms and provide essential tools to maintain competency, provide CPD and support to lawyers. Financial support for LiRN is part of the LSO's mandate.	
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
The Law Foundation needs to support financially the community based initiatives for access to justice. LSO is not the right funder for such initiatives. The LSO should not take money from community based initiatives that promote access to justice for low-income Ontarians or from community based initiatives that promote diversity and inclusion.	

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?	
Access to justice is part of the LSO's mandate. As a legal aid clinic Executive Director, I will advocate that the LSO continue to reinforce and reinvigorate its support to legal aid initiatives and its collaboration with LAO to find novel ways to keep lawyers engaged and taking certificates to represent vulnerable clients. The LSO has a responsibility to champion initiatives that will serve the public interest and ensure that low-income Ontarians have access to justice fairly and promptly.	
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 LSO should continue to partner with LAO in advocating for increased funding for LAO to expand the access to low-income Ontarians. In my view, the eligibility threshold is not reflective of the reality. Many low-income Ontarians remain eligible despite not being able to make ends meet. Eligibility should be revised by the governments and the "red tape" should be looked at when clients do qualify but for limited retainers. This makes using legal aid certificates very difficult and time consuming for the lawyers that decide to take on files.	

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?	
This should be done in consultation and evidence based by the LSO. There are gaps that already exist in the scopes of practice that exist at the present time. Access to justice is paramount and the LSO needs to ensure that the professionals are competent in the areas of practice they are licensed to practice.	
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
They should pay an annual competency levy and this should in turn, give them access to LiRN across the province. This reinforces overall the confidence the public would have towards the professions and would recognize that we all have a part to play in providing access to justice to Ontarians.	

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.	
Member of CCLA since January 2023. I have also been member of Association des juristes d'expression français de l'Ontario (AJEFO) since 1998 until today. I was President of AJEFO from 2016-2018 and Board member from 2012-2020. I am presently President and member of the Board of the Centre de traduction et de documentation juridique since 2018 to present.	
Why are you a member of each of the associations you selected above?	
I am a member of CCLA because I have returned to private practice since January 2023. I believe in participating in local associations and supporting them. I have been an active member of AJEFO since I was called to the Bar in 1998. Promotion of access to justice in French has motivated my adhesion to this group over the years as there continues to be ongoing challenges for French speaking lawyers.	

NATALIA RODRIGUEZ

nrodriguez@conwaylitigation.ca

Region	Incumbency	Slate or Coalition Affiliation	Law Association Membership
East	Not An Incumbent	Good Governance Coalition	Carleton

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>LiRN coordinates and supports Ontario's law libraries. It ensures libraries meet the evolving needs of lawyers and the public. The Competence Task Force report highlights the crucial role that legal information services play in the development, maintenance, and enhancement of licensee competence. It points out sole practitioners and small firms provide most legal services to individuals, families, and very small businesses, and are crucial in providing access to justice. Thus, their viability should be a priority. LiRN needs sustainable funding to support access to justice by making legal resources more affordable, particularly outside of larger centres and firms.</i>	
If you are an incumbent, do you regret voting to cut the LiRN budget by 10% in November 2020?	N/A
<i>N/A - not an incumbent.</i>	
Do you support offloading funding for LiRN/law libraries to the Law Foundation of Ontario?	No
<i>The Law Foundation of Ontario is an independent non-profit organization. It receives the interest on lawyers' mixed trust accounts and invests it in legal aid and other programs that promote access to justice in Ontario. Its mission is to advance access to justice by promoting legal excellence, enhancing the justice system, and increasing public understanding of the law. The Foundation provides funding to a variety of organizations and initiatives, including legal clinics, public interest advocacy groups, and law-related education programs. It also supports initiatives that promote the use of technology to increase access to justice and improve the delivery of legal services. To fund law libraries from The Law Foundation's budget would gut the Law Foundation from the funds it needs for these projects. It would also mean using public funds (invested interest from mixed trust accounts) to pay for lawyer competence (libraries), which is within the sole purview of the LSO. In addition, it is unclear how such a program would be administered. Would each law library have to apply for funding? Would law libraries now be competing against each other for funding? All in all, funding law libraries by using funds from the Law Foundation is not viable.</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>Yes. The LSO has taken an active role in advocating for Legal Aid funding in the past and it should continue to do so. It successfully lobbied for increased eligibility thresholds for both LAO's certificate program and clinic law services. The LSO also spoke out against the provincial government's 2019 reduction in funding transfer to Legal Aid Ontario, which was cushioned by an unprecedented transfer from the Law Foundation of Ontario and the impacts of the pandemic. The LSO and ASLA urged the federal government to meet their obligations with regard to legal aid funding and to increase their commitment to immigration and refugee funding. The LSO recommended candidates for the LAO Board of Directors to the AG in 2020. The LSO takes this responsibility seriously which highlights the importance it places on LAO's crucial role in providing equitable access to justice. I intend to support motions which advocate for sustainable funding for Legal Aid and which propose actions such as the examples above. Sustainable Legal Aid funding is an access to justice issue which is a core part of the LSO's mandate and all benchers should support it.</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>The LSO has an important role to play in advocating for increased investment in legal aid and supporting access to justice for all individuals. It can undertake various efforts to advocate for investment in Legal Aid Ontario (LAO) and increased financial allocation to LAO from the provincial and federal governments’ budgets. The LSO should engage in direct advocacy with the governments, such as writing letters, making phone calls, and meeting with senior government officials to raise awareness of the need for investment in legal aid. The LSO can also use its influence to encourage the government to prioritize legal aid funding in their budgets and allocate more resources to LAO. The LSO can do this advocacy in partnership with other organizations, such as the Alliance for Sustainable Legal Aid (ASLA), to amplify the message. By working together, they can pool their resources and expertise to engage in more effective advocacy. The LSO can also use its public platform to raise awareness of the importance of legal aid funding and the impact of inadequate funding on access to justice. This can involve issuing public statements, conducting media interviews, and engaging with the public on social media. In addition, the LSO can undertake research and data collection to demonstrate the need for increased funding for legal aid. This can involve gathering information on the number of people who are unable to access legal services due to financial barriers, as well as the economic and social costs of inadequate legal aid funding. Finally, the LSO can work to build relationships with government officials and educate them on the value of investing in legal aid. This can involve offering educational resources to help the governments better understand the role that legal aid plays in promoting access to justice and supporting vulnerable individuals and communities.</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: Paralegals are vital in facilitating access to justice in Ontario. The LSO recently expanded their scope of practice in family law through the Family Legal Service Provider license, but no further expansion is currently under consideration. Any future proposals for expansion should prioritize an access to justice perspective and involve extensive consultation.</i>	
<i>Instead of focusing on expansion, efforts should be made to encourage paralegals to utilize their existing scope of practice to the fullest, including practicing in underrepresented areas such as human rights and working in rural or remote regions to increase access to justice for those communities. With over 100 tribunals available for practice, paralegals have a wide range of practice areas available to them.</i>	
<i>The LSO should encourage the development of paralegal-focused CPD Programs.</i>	
<i>The LSO could also consider fostering mentorship opportunities for paralegals from all practice areas by looking at the Coach and Advisor Network roster to determine where there are opportunities and how to attract new coaches and advisors. As the LSO develops new resources, such as webpages, it should look to incorporate mentorship connections.</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>The CCLA has admitted paralegals to its membership and, as a result, paralegals now have access to the Ottawa Law Library. I have spoken to Ottawa paralegals who feel that this model should be replicated all over Ontario. Indeed, as law libraries are critical for lawyer competence, so too are they an important source of paralegal competence.</i>	
<i>As paralegals become more ubiquitous and expand into their existing scope, there will be more concerns around competence. The LSO should get ahead of these concerns by ensuring paralegal competence through access to law libraries. If paralegals have access to law libraries, they should also pay an annual competency levy as part of their annual fees to contribute to LiRN, but it is understood that this would not be as much as what lawyers pay. This will also serve to distribute the cost of law libraries more broadly and may even result in a slight decrease in the lawyer competency levy.</i>	
<i>Paralegals are critical to access to justice and to serving underrepresented populations. Ensuring they have the tools necessary to succeed is critical. Imposing of a competency levy could play a crucial role in ensuring paralegal competency.</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 became a member when I began practicing in Ottawa in 2012. I have not served on any boards or committees of the County of Carleton Law Association.</i>
Why are you a member of each of the associations you selected above?
<i>The Ottawa bar is a collegial one and the CCLA embodies that collegiality. I regularly attend the CCLA Litigation Conference in Mont Tremblant and have been a presenter at that conference twice. The CCLA allows me to network with my fellow Ottawa lawyers and it keeps me informed as to what is happening in the legal community in Ottawa. I would not consider NOT being a part of the CCLA or of any law association in which I reside and practice.</i>

M. ANNE VESPRY

anne@vespry.ca

Region	Incumbency	Slate or Coalition Affiliation	Law Association Membership
East	Benchers Pre-2019	Unaffiliated	Carleton

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
The Law Society sets standards of competence for practicing lawyers. The CPD materials, books, and computer research tools provided by our County libraries help soles, smalls, new lawyers and articling students gain and maintain those standards.	
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
The Law Foundation is a project-based grant giving organization, not a provider of stable, ongoing funding. LiRN/law libraries need to know that their basic operating costs will be consistently covered so that they can budget realistically and continue to provide services that help lawyers and paralegals maintain and increase our competence.	
That said, I don't oppose individual county Law Associations applying to the Law Foundation for special funding. It might make sense for a particular Law Library to seek a grant from the Law Foundation for a one-time purpose or event. Seeking that sort of funding is, and should remain, an option.	

Legal Aid Funding	
Will you advocate for Legal Aid Ontario funding improvement and sustainability to ensure that being a Legal Aid-empowered lawyer remains a viable area of practice for the private bar?	Yes
If you answered “yes”, how?	
Within the Law Society, advocating for Legal Aid Ontario funding improvement and sustainability is a long-term effort that requires persistence and collaboration. The LSO needs to build relationships with organizations that do anti-poverty work to educate the public and craft a compelling message that will mobilize public support. Access to Justice in general, and Legal Aid in particular, are not seen by the government as topics of interest to the voting public. Until that changes, Legal Aid will remain underfunded.	
To encourage that change, I would urge the LSO to include information about Legal Aid in public education materials about access to justice to build awareness of the need for Legal Aid funding.	
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.	
While I strongly believe that the LSO has role to play in public education, I am less eager to see the Law Society acting as a lobby group. Advocating for the interests of lawyers is the role of the CBA/OBA, or, indeed of FOLA and its members. The LSO can and should educate the public to demand investment in LAO, but I do not believe that, as an administrative/regulatory body, it should be any more directly involved in political advocacy.	

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?	
The Provincial amendment to the Law Society Act (ss. 1(5)-(7)) that gave the LSO the power to regulate paralegals envisioned paralegals working in a much broader scope than they currently do. It is the task of an administrative body to make regulations or By-Laws that support and conform to the legislation that empowers that administrative body. Instead the LSO used the By-Laws to throttle and carve away a significant part of the paralegal scope as proposed in the Act.	
The LSO regulates in the interest of the public. Not to protect lawyers from potential competition. Yet protectionism appears to be the most likely explanation for the cut-back in scope.	
If the LSO were to honour the scope set out in the Act, it would likely be best to follow the model of creating separate qualifications, with rigorous education and a separate licensing exam, for each new area of law added to the scope.	
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
The Rules of Paralegal Conduct require competence of paralegals the same way the Rules of Professional Conduct require it of lawyers. Given that courthouse libraries and practice resource centres are crucial supports to lawyers' ability to maintain and advance our competence it makes no sense at all to exclude paralegals from those resources. Yet as long as lawyers pay a levy that paralegals do not, there will be those who argue finances as a reason for exclusion. The simplest solution is for all to pay, and all to have access.	

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 have been a member of the CCLA since I was in Law School in the late 1990's	
Why are you a member of each of the associations you selected above?	
I am a member of the CCLA in part because of the essential services it provides to lawyers, paralegals, and legal students. First and foremost the library is an excellent source of relevant legal materials, the library staff are expert at answering research questions, and the computer and software provided help level the playing field in the profession by encouraging smalls and soles to use tools that would otherwise be beyond our financial reach.	
In addition to the library services, the CCLA organizes annual CLE Conferences that are events not to be missed (and I don't say that merely because I have presented at both the Family Law Summit and the East Region Solicitors' Conference).	
As a law student, my student membership gave me the first inklings what collegiality might mean, and it has remained an ongoing reminder that even in the most adversarial areas of the law there is room for community.	



Northeast Region Candidate Responses

(Outside Toronto)

Candidate Name	Slate/Coalition Affiliation	Response
Daly Canie	FullStop	Response provided
Joelle Malette	Good Governance Coalition	Response provided
Serge Treherne	Unaffiliated	Response provided

DALY CANIE

daly@mclawyers.ca

Region	Incumbency	Slate or Coalition Affiliation	Law Association Membership
Northeast	Not An Incumbent	FullStop	Cochrane, Sudbury

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
No response provided.	
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?	
No response provided.	
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.	
No response provided.	

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?	
No, it should be reduced	
👉 If you answered “yes”, in what ways, why, and what additional training (if any) should be required of paralegals?	
No response was required, but the candidate wrote: A careful and cautious approach to implementing this expansion needs to be followed.	
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
No response provided.	

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.	
No response provided.	
Why are you a member of each of the associations you selected above?	
No response provided.	

JOELLE MALETTE

joelle@maletteadredd.com

Region	Incumbency	Slate or Coalition Affiliation	Law Association Membership
Northeast	Not An Incumbent	Good Governance Coalition	Cochrane

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
<p>My above noted answers are based on a number of factors, including the following:</p> <p>- The LiRN plays an essential role in supporting and coordinating the county and district law library system. It's mandate to ensure that the services and programs of PRCs meet the evolving needs of licensees and the public is critical in ensuring that licensees meet high learnings of standards and competence to facilitate access to justice across Ontario. The provision of legal services requires access to legal information. A Competence Task Force Report revealed that library users attached great value to legal information and library services. LiRN funding supports access to justice.</p>	
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?	
<p>Access to justice warrants a robust and sustainable system of legal aid. This will require the LSO to champion LAO and engage in advocacy with the provincial and federal government. The Benchers Good Governance Coalition includes candidates from legal aid who would make benchers with a unique insight into the needs of LAO.</p>	
<p>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.</p>	
<p>LSO efforts that I believe should be undertaken by the LSO to advocate for investment in LAO and increased financial allocation to LAO from the provincial and federal government's budgets include, but are not limited, to the following:</p> <p>- The LSO should continue to act as a robust champion for a sustainable system of legal aid in Ontario.</p> <p>- The LSO should continue to engage in dialogue with the provincial and federal governments to ensure the sustainability and health of legal aid</p> <p>- The LSO should continue to take the opportunity to meet with federal and provincial Attorney generals</p> <p>- The LSO should continue to engage in relevant policy discussions, research and data collection</p>	

Paralegal Scope of Practice	
<p>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?</p>	
It should be expanded no further than the FLSP	
👉 If you answered “yes”, in what ways, why, and what additional training (if any) should be required of paralegals?	
<p>No response was required, but the candidate wrote: It may be that the scope of practice of paralegals should be expanded. I answered this question in the manner that I did because I lack information to provide a well informed response. I believe that helping paralegals become aware of the less prominent practice areas and providing pathways and educational resources for this would likely increased public access to legal services in less prominent practice areas which would be of benefit to the public.</p>	
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 am answering yes, however I would require further information to make an informed decision.	

Law Association Involvement	
<p>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.</p>	
<p>I was called to the bar in 2005. I was a member through the firm I practiced with until 2021. I remained a member after leaving private practice and commencing my own firm.</p>	
<p>Why are you a member of each of the associations you selected above?</p>	
<p>I am a member of the CLA for a number of reasons, including but not limited to the following:</p> <p>- The CLA provides valuable continuing legal education to its members.</p> <p>- The CLA provides valuable and specialized library services to its members.</p> <p>- The CLA provides valuable resources to its members such as court schedules and other general information including access links to university libraries, online forms, a directory of Ontario Court House Libraries and statutes and regulations.</p> <p>- The CLA provides networking opportunities within the legal community.</p> <p>- The CLA strives to promote the interests of the legal community to government and to the public.</p>	

SERGE TREHERNE

streherne@eastlink.ca

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

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
Library funding is essential to ensure the competent delivery of legal services for all lawyers who utilize the services of their local law library. The library is central in terms of the information that it provides and communicates to lawyers, and the staff it hires, in order to ensure familiarity and knowledge of important legal issues of the day, and to have the ability to access required information in order to deliver competent services to their clients. Any cut in funding compromises the ability of lawyers to provide legal services, and should not happen.	
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
My understanding is that funding for the Law Foundation is variable and, as such, it would not ensure and guarantee consistent, ongoing funding for the LiRN budget. Consistency is required. Additionally, the importance of library funding should be front and center. It should not be off-loaded to any other entity. It is a totally appropriate cost to be borne by lawyers on an ongoing basis out of annual fees. The role of the Law Foundation of Ontario is not to assist in budget issues relating to the Law Society.	
Library funding should not detract from the work that is done by the Law Foundation to otherwise advance access to justice.	

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?	
Would advocate that provincial and federal funding for Legal Aid be increased on an annual and ongoing basis in order to ensure that legal practices that service clients funded by Legal Aid can be sustained and maintained. The demand for legal services in virtually all areas of practice, most notably criminal and family, is extraordinary. The corresponding ability of people to pay for these services on a fee-for-services basis is minimal to non-existent. Legal Aid funding is essential to ensure that in order to advance the objectives of a just society and access to justice, all citizens of the province of Ontario should have the ability to access justice in a meaningful way, irrespective of their socio-economic status. Having access to lawyers funded in a meaningful and sustainable way by Legal Aid is fundamental for that objective to be achieved.	
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.	
Efforts to work with both federal and provincial members of Parliament, as well as with the Ministries responsible for Legal Aid funding, to emphasize the absolute importance of expanding and increasing, and certainly not cutting, the monies that are necessary in order to enable lawyers to continue practicing in areas that are funded primarily by Legal Aid, and to ensure that those requiring the services can find the representation that they require in order to have meaningful access to justice. The absence of, or reduction, or refusal, or failure to expand Legal Aid funding, cuts at the very heart of any prospect that people, whether dealing with a complex family law matter or the increasing complicated world of criminal law, can have meaningful access to justice. Barriers to Legal Aid by way of inadequate funding seriously compromise access to justice that is frequently advertised by governments of all levels as being a social value of importance.	

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?	
No, it should remain as it was prior to December 1, 2022	
👉 If you answered “yes”, in what ways, why, and what additional training (if any) should be required of paralegals?	
No response was required, but the candidate wrote: I wrote the a minority report almost identical to the model adopted. Family law is too complicated with too much at stake for any further expansion of paralegal practice.	
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
Should paralegals have access to the resources that are otherwise made available to lawyers, at local law libraries or otherwise, there is no reason why paralegals should not also pay competency fees as part of their annual levy. This would appear to be consistent with common sense. Additionally, a competency levy, making funding available to ensure that necessary programs or competency testing is undertaken by paralegals, augments the overall competency and service delivery of the legal profession. Any deficiency in the provision of legal services by a paralegal adversely affects the overall societal impression of lawyers and the Law Society, as such, should be addressed by a competency levy to assist in ensuring that quality services are delivered by paralegals.	

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.	
1985	
Why are you a member of each of the associations you selected above?	
I live, work, and practice in Sudbury, and have been a member of the SDLA for in excess of 30 years. Though I have not been involved in any executive capacity with our association, I have greatly benefited from being a member. The role of the SDLA has been central to keeping myself and other members of the Sudbury Bar well versed in the Association’s ongoing activities, important and current events that affect lawyers, and the overall administration of justice. The core of the Sudbury District Law Association is its library – both its physical space and its day-to-day operations. The library over the years has been an invaluable resource, providing, as it does, current texts on all legal matters of note, important precedents, periodicals, current journals, newspapers, and printed versions of the Ontario Reports. The staffing of the library has similarly been important as it has provided on an ongoing basis, efficient, competent technical support and information that would otherwise not be available or only accessed at considerable expense and inconvenience.	



Northwest Region Candidate Responses

(Outside Toronto)

Candidate Name	Slate/Coalition Affiliation	Response
Ryan Alford	FullStop	Response provided
Etienne Esquega	Unaffiliated	Response provided
Cheryl Siran	Good Governance Coalition	Response provided

RYAN ALFORD

ralford@lakeheadu.ca

Region	Incumbency	Slate or Coalition Affiliation	Law Association Membership
Northwest	Incumbent	FullStop	Thunder Bay

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>LiRN was planned and proposed by the benchers before 2019; I voted for its establishment and for the transition to LiRN which involved an initial period in which the Law Society did not provide funding, as this was proposed by the staff and the CEO of the Law Society. However, I voted to restore and maintain Law Society funding (including this year) while also exploring why the Law Foundation of Ontario is no longer providing funding support, as it is mandated to do and as it should be doing.</i>	
If you are an incumbent, do you regret voting to cut the LiRN budget by 10% in November 2020?	Yes
<i>That proposal was put to us by staff as the implementation of the transition to LiRN and that it would not cause any disruption. I am not as sanguine about the representations made to us by the staff and the CEO of the Law Society in retrospect, and havi</i>	
Do you support offloading funding for LiRN/law libraries to the Law Foundation of Ontario?	No
<i>Offloading is a loaded word. I support the Law Foundation of Ontario funding LiRN (and by extension, county law libraries) because it is in its statutory mandate; I do no understand why it is not providing that funding. I continue to support the Law Society providing funding support, especially if the Law Foundation is not stepping up as it should. Furthermore, I have attempted to support initiatives to explore additional bases for funding, such as funding supplemental "zoom rooms" (a proposal from my colleague Chi-Kun Shi that received inadequate support.)</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>LAO is incredibly important for access to justice and I will support every initiative to make sure Legal Aid Ontario is properly funded and supported to that end. I think that much of the work needs to be done in the area of government relations -- I think that the Law Society can take a more aggressive position on how persistent underfunding is damaging access to justice, as this is squarely within our mandate. We should also do much more to amplify the messaging of the judiciary on this issue whenever possible.</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>The Law Society should be clearer about how access to justice requires governmental support, and that we feel as a regulator that it is part of our mandate to lobby the governments harder to support LAO. We should commission reports and studies on the subject of access to justice that allow us to make this case persuasively (and, where appropriate, passionately).</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>No, it should remain as it was prior to December 1, 2022</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.</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>Insofar as paralegals use law libraries, they should help pay for 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 TBLA since 2015 when I joined the faculty of law at Lakehead; I was appointed an ex officio member of the executive when I was elected benchner.</i>
Why are you a member of each of the associations you selected above?
<i>About half of my students stay in Thunder Bay (and environs) after graduating; I am particularly glad to attend TBLA events to stay connected with them and to learn about the challenges our graduates experience as newly called lawyers (and to hear about the joys of practice in our region and to celebrate their victories as well). I am so proud to see the students who graduated in the first ten years of our faculty's history start to become leaders of the local bar and on the executive of the TBLA as well.</i>

ETIENNE ESQUEGA

ee@esquegalaw.com

Region	Incumbency	Slate or Coalition Affiliation	Law Association Membership
Northwest	Incumbent	Unaffiliated	Thunder Bay

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
When the pandemic cuts were being made in 2020 I expressed my deep concern about cutting the funding to the law libraries. I have always supported and maintained that the law libraries should be adequately resourced and supported. I will continue to do so as they assist with enhancing and maintaining competence and provide valuable opportunities for mentorship.	
If you are an incumbent, do you regret voting to cut the LiRN budget by 10% in November 2020?	No
The decision was made because the world was in a state of crisis and the law society was facing uncharted territory and economic uncertainty. When I supported it, I was doing so as a temporary measure with the full intention of reinstating the funding bac	
Do you support offloading funding for LiRN/law libraries to the Law Foundation of Ontario?	No
One of the mandates of the law society is to ensure the bar is competent. The law libraries help facilitate the realization of that objective. As a result, the law society should be collecting levies for that purpose so that the LiRN has stable and predictable funding.	

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?	
The law society makes appointments to the board of the Legal Aid Ontario. We must continue to appoint the right people to that board who can advocate from within. Further, the law society must take advantage of its relationships and lines of communication to the Attorney General's Office to continue to advocate for and remind them of the importance of this issue. The law society also needs to ensure that it is collecting relevant data to so that it can be shared with our partners to support our position on this.	
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.	
see above.	

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?	
It should be expanded no further than the FLSP	
👉 If you answered “yes”, in what ways, why, and what additional training (if any) should be required of paralegals?	
No response was required.	
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
Paralegals have expressed frustration that, in some areas of the province, they do not have access to the law libraries. If the lawyers have to pay for these resources, the paralegals should have to pay their fair share as well.	

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.	
2005. Never served on the board.	
Why are you a member of each of the associations you selected above?	
I am from Thunder Bay and practice in this region.	

CHERYL SIRAN

csiran@hslaw.ca

Region	Incumbency	Slate or Coalition Affiliation	Law Association Membership
Northwest	Incumbent	Good Governance Coalition	Kenora

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 former Chair of FOLA, I fully realize the vital role played by law libraries for local associations. Maintaining the financial support of LiRN is fundamental to "levelling the playing field" across the province and providing for competence and Access to Justice, particularly for solo and small firm lawyers.	
If you are an incumbent, do you regret voting to cut the LiRN budget by 10% in November 2020?	Didn't Vote to Cut
I did not become a Bencher until after this vote was taken. I would not have voted in favour.	
Do you support offloading funding for LiRN/law libraries to the Law Foundation of Ontario?	No
The Law Foundation's role is not to support licensees in maintaining competence - that is the Law Society's job. As a result, the Law Foundation would have no reason to commit to fund LiRN consistently from year to year. In addition, the Law Foundation's annual budget fluctuates year to year, creating the situation of great potential upheaval and an impossible situation to properly plan and budget for LiRN.	

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?	
Law Society has a duty to protect the public interest, to maintain and to facilitate access to justice for the people of Ontario, which includes access to reasonable and sustainable Legal Aid.	
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.	
Convocation cannot control the decisions of the Ministry of the Attorney General, however, we can work with them as justice partners to identify the challenges and work to offer solutions that will give them the impetus to increase funding to Legal Aid, and with that, help explain and justify why increased funding is an overall cost saving to the justice system as a whole in the long run.	

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?	
It should be expanded no further than the FLSP	
👉 If you answered “yes”, in what ways, why, and what additional training (if any) should be required of paralegals?	
No response was required, but the candidate wrote: It should not be expanded further until after the 3 years, and only after careful review and consideration of how the expansion into family law worked in reality and confirmation there was (and will be) a continued benefit to the public.	
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 am of the view that paralegals are now licensees and as such, should pay an annual competency levy, and have access to the LiRN materials in the result. However, I am also well aware of the potential challenges this creates for some Associations, given the practical reality of the physical locations of those Associations, and their individual membership structures. As such, there would need to be significant consideration and consultation of any concerns before anything was implemented.	

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.	
KDLA Member 2006- current Board Secretary 2007- 2009 Board President 2009- 2011	
Why are you a member of each of the associations you selected above?	
Being in a smaller jurisdiction, I was encouraged by lawyers around me of the many benefits of joining our local association - access to the law library for resources and excellent librarian support, especially in the early years of being around Court; the ability to interact and meet with other local counsel and develop informal mentorship opportunities, and become part of the local legal community fabric.	

Southwest Region Candidate Responses

(Outside Toronto)

Candidate Name	Slate/Coalition Affiliation	Response
Lisa Bildy	FullStop	Response provided
Rod Catford	Unaffiliated	Response provided
Gerard Paul Charette	FullStop	Response provided
Jacqueline Horvat	Good Governance Coalition	Response provided
Karen Hulan	Good Governance Coalition	Response provided
Jasminka Kalajdzic	Good Governance Coalition	Response provided
Greg Monforton	Good Governance Coalition	Response provided
Kevin L. Ross	Good Governance Coalition	Response provided
Quinn Ross	Good Governance Coalition	Response provided
Michael Wills	FullStop	Response provided
Matthew Wilson	Good Governance Coalition	Response provided

Region	Incumbency	Slate or Coalition Affiliation	Law Association Membership
Southwest	Not An Incumbent	FullStop	Middlesex

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
<p>My answer to #9 is "most likely", but that was not an option to this question. I recognize the importance of the LiRN and, to the extent it continues to provide a valuable contribution to maintaining and enhancing the competence of licensees, I would agree that its funding should be secure. However, committing to current levels of funding for the next 4 years, regardless of circumstances, would not be in keeping with "good governance." No one is entitled to a blank cheque -- a certain amount of accountability keeps institutions performing at optimum levels and in accordance with their mandate.</p>	
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
<p>The incumbent StopSOP (now FullStop) benchers did not support "offloading" funding, as has been alleged. They simply sought to ensure that all possible funding sources were pursued, including by making application to the Law Foundation of Ontario for a contribution similar to what it had given in the past, and which the Law Society Act requires it to at least consider. For 10 years, the LFO has provided nothing, when previous contributions were \$500-700,000 per annum. With LiRN's current annual budget being 9.5 million, clearly no one was expecting that the entire cost would be "offloaded". This request by StopSOP benchers was negatively spun by their opponents in a disingenuous manner. The FullStop Team has provided an answer: https://fullstoplso.ca/news-articles/a-note-about-law-libraries/. To date, I have seen no explanation as to why LiRN has not made an application to the LFO (which distributes the interest income from lawyers' trust accounts to various recipient organisations, including Legal Aid Ontario). The answer might be "no", but applying for possible external funding, before turning to the LSO membership to cover budget increases with their dues, was a perfectly reasonable suggestion and showed some thinking outside the box on the part of the StopSOP benchers.</p>	

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
<p>👉 If you answered “yes”, how?</p> <p>Nuance is required again. The lack of access to justice is a serious concern for many Ontarians, including those who don't qualify for Legal Aid. LAO is necessary for ensuring that those facing the criminal justice system, child protection proceedings and domestic abuse situations, in particular, receive competent advice and representation. Funding for this should be sustained. Other practice areas may need some discernment. Funding alone is seldom the answer. The legal profession was thrust into greater efficiencies through the Covid experience, and costs are undoubtedly being saved through online filing and virtual appointments and hearings. The emergence of Artificial Intelligence that is already capable of excelling at the LSAT is going to bring radical change to the justice system far greater than what we saw over the last 3 years. This quickly advancing technology may result in a seismic shift in how legal services are delivered. It is important to have elected representatives at the LSO who can engage in critical thinking and advance creative solutions that do not demand unwavering fealty to a particular course of action from the outset.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>The Law Society has a statutory duty "to act so as to facilitate access to justice for the people of Ontario" while fulfilling its functions under the Law Society Act. Its functions under the Act are to ensure that there are competent, ethical lawyers providing legal services to the public. It is not a lobby group or advocacy organisation. It is a professional regulator. There are things that the LSO can do within its mandate to facilitate access to justice, but government lobbying falls outside its purview. There are many excellent legal advocacy organisations in the province that can fulfill this role.</p>	

Paralegal Scope of Practice	
<p>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?</p>	
It should be expanded no further than the FLSP	
<p>👉 If you answered “yes”, in what ways, why, and what additional training (if any) should be required of paralegals?</p> <p>No response was required, but the candidate wrote: I would qualify my answer by saying, "for now." If the FLSP proves successful after the first three years, I would be inclined to expand it, with appropriate training and competence concerns being adequately addressed, and an adequate business case being made for its necessity (as indicated in an earlier answer, there may be impacts from emerging technology that cause a radical shift in the professions).</p>	
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
It should be lower for paralegals, and it should also then permit paralegals access to the law libraries and resource centres. If we want paralegals to be competent participants in the justice system, we must facilitate that.	

Law Association Involvement	
<p>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.</p> <p>I became a member upon my call in 1995 and a regular attendee of events until I left active practice to raise my family for awhile. I attended occasional MLA events (paying non-member dues) during my hiatus, and my membership was restored shortly after my return to active practice.</p>	
<p>Why are you a member of each of the associations you selected above?</p> <p>In my earliest years of practice, I found the library an invaluable resource and appreciated the CPD opportunities and camaraderie of local events. As a young litigator, I spent a great deal of time in the MLA library and in the barristers' lounge. Since returning to practice after my parenting hiatus, most of my research is now done online and, since Covid, most court appearances (which are often in other communities) are also now online. These days, there seem to be fewer opportunities to connect with the local bar in person. I do find value in maintaining my membership in order to attend various online events, including bench and bar meetings; however, I hope we will return to more frequent in-person activities, as these help build and maintain professional relationships, increase civility amongst the bar, and give newer lawyers important mentoring opportunities.</p>	

ROD CATFORD

rodcatford@gmail.com

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

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
No response provided.	
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?	
No response provided.	
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.	
No response provided.	

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?	
No, it should be reduced	
👉 If you answered “yes”, in what ways, why, and what additional training (if any) should be required of paralegals?	
No response was required.	
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
No response provided.	

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.	
Resumed membership 2023	
Why are you a member of each of the associations you selected above?	
To resume sharing the responsibility of contributing to a collegial legal community.	

GERARD PAUL CHARETTE

charette@millercanfield.com

Region	Incumbency	Slate or Coalition Affiliation	Law Association Membership
Southwest	Incumbent	FullStop	Essex

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

Except for temporary decreases because of Covid, over that last 4 years most Benchers, Slate benchers included, have supported LiRN. But, the Law Foundation (LFO) has consistently failed to help out. I don't want the LFO to take over library funding but I insist that it do its part. It used to give about \$500,000 of annual support to the libraries. But for the last 10 years, nothing. That's \$5M of funding evaporated into thin air.

In 2021, Slate benchers tabled a motion to urge the LFO to support libraries. 15 Slate benchers, me included, voted 'Yes' to the motion. But the motion failed. All but one of the "Big" Governance Coalition Benchers voted 'No'.

The LSO controls the LFO because Convocation appoints 3 out of 5 of the LFO Trustees. This is not good management of our resources if Convocation does not appoint Trustees who will insist the LFO does its part. I will vote to appoint LFO Trustees who will pay attention to the needs of county law libraries.

If you are an incumbent, do you regret voting to cut the LiRN budget by 10% in November 2020?

No

The explanation is above in my answer to [the previous long-form question]. The reductions happened over a couple of years because of Covid. Over the last 4 years the budget has increased by over 18%.

The real shame is that Law Foundation is not doing its part. It should be

Do you support offloading funding for LiRN/law libraries to the Law Foundation of Ontario?

No

See the above answers [to the above long-form questions]. Let me repeat: the Law Foundation (LFO) has consistently failed to help out. I don't want the LFO to take over library funding but I insist that it do its part. It used to give about \$500,000 of annual support to the libraries. But for the last 10 years, nothing. That's \$5M of funding evaporated into thin air.

In 2021, Slate benchers tabled a motion to urge the LFO to support libraries. 15 Slate benchers, me included, voted 'Yes' to the motion. But the motion failed. All but one of the "Big" Governance Coalition Benchers voted 'No'.

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?

Again, for starters, let's focus on the Law Foundation. The LSO Act requires that the LFO give at least 75% of its disburseable receipts to legal aid. That is a minimum, which means that if the government is not funding adequately then there is an emergency and the LFO should be approached.

The LFO may be able to add more cash into the system. But we have to appoint Trustees who have some backbone.

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.

FOLA is the lobby group. It must take the lead. I would be happy to help out. So let me know. The only entity that the LSO controls is the Law Foundation. I will initiate change at the LFO.

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?

No, it should be reduced

👉 If you answered “yes”, in what ways, why, and what additional training (if any) should be required of paralegals?

No response was required.

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

My 'yes' presumes that paralegals would be entitled to access to law libraries.


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.

about 40 years ago

Why are you a member of each of the associations you selected above?

I am a member to stay close to the other members on issues affecting lawyers and to take advantage of continuing education programs

 Federation of Ontario
Law Associations

JACQUELINE HORVAT

jacqueline@spark.law

Region	Incumbency	Slate or Coalition Affiliation	Law Association Membership
Southwest	Incumbent	Good Governance Coalition	Essex, 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
The LSO's core mandate is to ensure that all licensees are competent and funding LiRN goes a long way in ensuring this. In particular, for those lawyers who practice outside of the large firms. LiRN levels the playing field for those lawyers in terms of access to legal resources.	
If you are an incumbent, do you regret voting to cut the LiRN budget by 10% in November 2020?	Yes
I regret my vote based on hindsight. We reduced fees 10% for the 2021 budget in the fall of 2020 as a result of uncertainty re: the pandemic and what it would mean for the provision of legal services in Ontario. Courts were essentially closed and if open,	
Do you support offloading funding for LiRN/law libraries to the Law Foundation of Ontario?	No
I sat on the LibraryCo Board for 10 years immediately prior to LiRN. The LFO was not a realistic or sustainable funding source for LibraryCo, nor is it one for LiRN. Funding by the LFO is also not within the control of the LSO or Benchers. This is an absolutely ridiculous concept.	

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 fully support and have advocated for sustainable LAO funding throughout my 12 years as a bencher and my last ten months as Treasurer. I will continue to do so regardless of whether or not I am re-elected.	
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 LSO has increased government lobbying efforts over the last year and I will continue to increase those efforts if i am re-elected.	

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?	
Paralegals are here to stay. We should continually be assessing underserved areas to determine whether it makes sense for paralegals to fill that void. Increased and continued education for paralegals (and lawyers) is a must. In order for the paralegal profession to increase its credibility (as with lawyers), paralegals individually must have professional credibility. We should increase our resources to ensure competence for all licensees and promote those resources to ensure that licensees actually know that these resources exist.	
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
This is a no-brainer. Paralegals should be able to use the local libraries and join local associations. But they must also pay the annual levy as lawyers do.	

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 became a member of the Essex law Association in 2002 (when i was called to the Bar). I joined the TLA in 2019.	
Why are you a member of each of the associations you selected above?	
I am a member of both associations because I value, support and enjoy the library resources and the networking provided through these organizations.	

KAREN HULAN

khulan@beCKETTINJurylawyers.com

Region	Incumbency	Slate or Coalition Affiliation	Law Association Membership
Southwest	Not An Incumbent	Good Governance Coalition	Middlesex

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>It is the Law Society’s statutory mandate to ensure that the public has access to competent legal representation. All lawyers, regardless of where they work or live in the province, must have access to quality legal information and research. Legal professionals, particularly sole and small firm practitioners, rely on the resources provided by Practice Resource Centres (law libraries). The cost of these resources is rising and can be prohibitive. Funding levels must be adjusted accordingly to offer meaningful services to the public. As MLA President, I frequently reported about the importance of LiRN funding for our PRC. (See https://middlaw.on.ca/newsletter/).</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>The Law Society is a shareholder of LiRN. Part of the shareholder agreement requires the LSO to fund LiRN through levies. The LSO cannot simply offload this responsibility to the Law Foundation. Furthermore, the Law Society Act states that the objects of the Law Foundation are to hold funds for any or all of a number of purposes (legal aid, legal education/research, law libraries and costs assistance to parties in class proceedings). The Law Society Act also requires that at least 75% of net revenue received each year from interest on LSO licensees’ mixed trust accounts must be paid to Legal Aid Ontario. The Law Foundation also provides grants to organizations that promote access to justice. Funding for these other purposes means that the Foundation is not able to provide law libraries with reliable funding from year to year. Law libraries require predictable, sustainable funding in order to commit to contracts for legal publications and other resources including staffing.</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>The Law Society is one of the founders of the modern Legal Aid program in Ontario and has a deep and abiding interest in the long-term sustainability of legal aid. The Law Society advocates for sustainable legal aid funding by the Federal and Provincial governments and also is a member of, and leader in the Alliance for Sustainable Legal Aid (ALSA). ALSA’s member organizations have a depth and breadth of knowledge and experience in Legal Aid. FOLA is also an ALSA member. Benchers can engage with and support the efforts of the LSO, ALSA and FOLA to ensure sustainable legal aid. In furtherance of this, benchers should ensure that the recommendations of the 2018 Abiding Interest Report by the LSO are implemented including recommending appointments of practitioners with firsthand experience representing clients with Legal Aid certificates to the LAO Board. I would support this in furtherance of sustainable funding for LAO.</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>I believe that the LSO should continue to advocate on its own and through ALSA for sustainable funding from the Ontario and Federal governments. This consistent with the Law Society’s statutory obligation to facilitate access to justice. I believe that ALSA is a forum that should be supported and that a coordinated approach by stakeholders is required to pressure government to ensure that the most vulnerable of Ontarians are able to access the justice system. I also support, as noted above, implementation of the LSO’s 2018 Abiding Interest Report.</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?	
Yes, it should be expanded.	
<i>If you answered “yes”, in what ways, why, and what additional training (if any) should be required of paralegals?</i>	
<i>Paralegal professionals serve an important role in advancing access to justice. There is an increasing number of self-represented litigants who could benefit from paralegal representation. Paralegal scope of practice should only be expanded upon following careful consideration of whether there is an access to justice need and only after extensive consultation. If, after such a process, it was ultimately concluded that such a need existed then any LSO approved expanded scope of practice that occurs after licensing can be addressed through additional training such as Family Legal Services Providers license.</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>Practice Resource Centres (PRCs) offer valuable legal resources to legal professionals. The public ought to have the benefit of legal representation that has the best possible access to legal resources. I support paralegal use of PRCs and I support a paralegal library levy much like lawyers currently pay. Part of our lawyers’ LSO fees includes contribution toward libraries. The LSO budget for 2023 set this at \$200 per lawyer. Paralegals do not currently pay a library levy. Some law associations in Ontario which have opened PRC doors to paralegals charge a library levy for access. This is fair given that each lawyer pays a levy, however, this approach has the potential for paralegals to pay greater library fees than lawyers. For instance, lawyers should be able to access any PRC in the province. Paralegals who practice in more than one jurisdiction may face multiple library fees. The issue has been left with associations to determine but this has resulted in inconsistency throughout the province. The LSO can address this by charging paralegal professionals a library levy which would grant them access to PRCs throughout the province.</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>Member since 2006. Currently the Past-President (2023); President (Nov. 2021-Feb. 2023); Vice-President (2021); Treasurer (2020); Assistant Treasurer (2019); Bench and Bar Chair (2 years); Mentoring Chair (2 years); Entertainment Chair (2 years); Newsletter Editor (3-4 years); Administration Committee (1 year); Continuing Professional Development (1 year); Law Library (1 year)</i>
Why are you a member of each of the associations you selected above?
<i>I initially joined the MLA to meet colleagues. I was new to London in 2006 and practiced in a small firm. I attended excellent MLA social and CPD events and wanted to get more involved. I put my name forward and became a Board Trustee in 2011. I simply would not have met the number of colleagues who I now know had it not been for my involvement in the MLA. It has allowed me to advocate for issues of importance to lawyers. It has provided opportunities to connect people with one another through a mentoring program, CPD programming and social events. A number of events have been held in the Practice Resource Centre (library) over the years including bench and bar meetings, AGMs, swearing-in ceremonies and social events. I access library resources in my law practice including librarian research, texts and interlibrary loans. I continue to practice in a small firm and the MLA and PRC remain important parts of that practice, and enjoyment of a career in law.</i>

Region	Incumbency	Slate or Coalition Affiliation	Law Association Membership
Southwest	Not An Incumbent	Good Governance Coalition	Essex

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
Protecting the public by promoting lawyer competence is the core of the LSO's mandate. Access to legal resources - databases, texts, looseleaf services, etc - is vital to lawyers' competence. These resources are expensive, and beyond the financial capacity of most lawyers who practice solo, in small and medium-sized firms. The librarians' expertise can also reduce the time needed to research a legal question, thus improving access to affordable justice for clients. I - and by extension, my clients - benefitted from County Library services while a litigator and recognize their continuing importance for the practicing bar. The LSO must support the LiRN budget.	
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
The LFO does not have a statutory obligation to fund LiRN. By law, the LFO must give 75% of its revenue (after expenses) to Legal Aid Ontario. The remaining 25% supports legal clinics and nonprofit organizations, student research positions at Ontario law schools, legal innovation and many other access to justice initiatives. By contrast, the LSO does have a statutory obligation to regulate licensee competence, and library services are central to this mandate.	

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?	
The current government's budget cuts to LAO are a threat to the rule of law. The SCC has repeatedly emphasized the important role that lawyers play in ensuring access to justice and upholding the rule of law (eg: BC v Christie, 2007 SCC 21; Hryniak v Mauldin, 2014 SCC 87). Legal aid certificates and clinics are the only way low-income Ontarians can access legal services in criminal, family and administrative tribunal proceedings, and still, the majority of those living in poverty cannot get access because the LAO system is badly underfunded. The LSO has a statutory duty to facilitate access to justice, including to complement (without duplicating) LAO's access to justice role. The LSO's work in this regard should be to support licensees who do LAO work, to help in the collection of data on access to justice gaps, to participate in stakeholder discussions and policy initiatives, and to consult with practitioners on ways to improve the LAO system.	
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 LSO should continue to support and engage with the Alliance of Sustainable Legal Aid (ASLA), whose mandate includes lobbying for better funding from the two levels of government. As it has done in the past, the LSO should host ASLA dialogues and publicly promote the importance of legal aid funding which, unlike healthcare funding, does not enjoy widespread popular support. As the regulator of the legal professions in Ontario, the LSO regularly interacts with all levels of government and must continue to ensure that the importance of stable and adequate funding of LAO is forcefully made to both the provincial and federal governments. The LSO should continue to implement and monitor implementation of the LSO’s recommendations involving Legal Aid in the 2018 Abiding Interest Report on Legal Aid.	

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?	
It should be expanded no further than the FLSP	
👉 If you answered “yes”, in what ways, why, and what additional training (if any) should be required of paralegals?	
No response was required, but the candidate wrote: In 2007, the LSO began regulating paralegals in recognition of the very important role they play in access to justice in Ontario. Any future expansion of scope of practice consideration for paralegals should be done through an access to justice lens – that is, are clients in that area of law not currently being served by lawyers. Moreover, the LSO should engage in extensive public consultation before expanding scope. This process was engaged recently in the expansion of scope of practice in some areas of family law for paralegals who obtain a special license Family Legal Service Provider (FLSP) license. In light of this recent study/expansion, I would support the most recent report of the Paralegal Standing Committee which includes a focus on encouraging paralegals to expand to fill their existing scope of practice. The LSO needs to promote the less prominent practice areas that are available to facilitate increased public access to legal services in those areas and should help new paralegals establish themselves. My Good Governance Coalition paralegal colleague Michelle Lomazzo who is the Chair of PSC has recently written thoughtful articles showcasing the varied practice areas for paralegals within existing scope. Whether further expansion of scope of practice is needed should await the three-year review of the FLSP and based on the needs of the public.	
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
As I previously stated, law libraries are a vital source of lawyer competence. They would likewise be for paralegals. The Carleton and Waterloo Law Associations have been leaders in extending law library access to paralegals. Discussions should be had on how to implement access in a fair and thoughtful way. In principle, paralegals who wish to use courthouse libraries in order to better serve their clients should also support the LiRN, through a levy or otherwise.	

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 was a member of the Essex Law Association when I was in private practice in Windsor (beginning in 1998 and ending in 2008). I served as the University of Windsor, Faculty of Law representative on the ELA Board from 2010-2015. I am currently a member (since at 2022).
Why are you a member of each of the associations you selected above?
As a young lawyer, the ELA served as an important way to get to know other members of the bar in Windsor. I also relied on County Law Library Services for my research needs and as a space to prepare for court hearings. I volunteered to be the Windsor Law representative on the ELA Board soon after I was hired for a full-time academic position in order to ensure there was open communication and opportunities for collaboration between the local bar and the law school.

GREG MONFORTON

gmonforton@gregmonforton.com

Region	Incumbency	Slate or Coalition Affiliation	Law Association Membership
Southwest	Not An Incumbent	Good Governance Coalition	Essex

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

Courthouse libraries are not a convenience. They play a huge role in ensuring that lawyers throughout Ontario, regardless of where they practice, meet high standards of competency. They play an invaluable role to a substantial segment of Ontario's practicing bar. And it should go without saying that adequately funded and staffed law libraries are crucial to providing all of the people of Ontario with meaningful and genuine access to justice . As such, I will not only support the Law Society of Ontario maintaining its current level of funding (adjusted for inflation). I will also give consideration to even enhanced levels of support as circumstances warrant.

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

Offloading funding for LiRN/law libraries to the Law Foundation of Ontario is not sustainable for a number of reasons; two of the most significant being as follows: (1) The Law Foundation's cash flow is not consistent from year to year; depending on a whole host of economic conditions and fiscal variables. This lack of dependability is wholly incompatible with the needs of the modern courthouse library network envisioned by LiRN. (2) Convocation does not control how the Law Foundation chooses to allocate its funding; (with a significant percentage thereof being attributed to Legal Aid). For the LSO to pass the buck to the Law Foundation would constitute a betrayal of its commitment to LiRN's mandate.

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?

For some time the Law Society of Ontario has quite rightly been a strong supporter and guiding force behind the Alliance for Sustainable Legal Aid; (with FOLA also being an important member thereof). In 2018, Convocation approved the Abiding Interest Report to reinforce and reinvigorate the Law Society's commitment to Legal Aid in the province of Ontario. The Ford government didn't do Legal Aid any favours when it cut funding by 30% in its April 2019 budget. The LSO spoke out against this. Stated simply, Legal Aid has long been a priority of the LSO, and if elected I will work to ensure that it remains an important priority. Since 2018 the LSO has continued to engage in dialogue with Legal Aid Ontario; facilitated the Association for Sustainable Legal Aid; championed a robust system of legal aid in Ontario, and recommended appointments to the LAO board. If elected I will vigorously support these initiatives; (as well as give careful consideration and great priority to any and all reasonable and fiscally responsible measures aimed at strengthening and sustaining Legal Aid in the province of 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.

In addition to the above, the LSO should continue to actively engage in robust dialogue and advocacy with the provincial and federal governments, including their Attorneys General of the day.. These efforts should continue to include letter-writing, appearances at standing committees, and meeting with all relevant senior government officials. More specifically, the LSO and ASLA should continue to urge the federal government to meet their obligations with regard to legal aid funding generally. And-- the LSO should also continue to recommend strong candidates for appointment to the LAO Board of Directors.

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?

It should be expanded no further than the FLSP

👉 If you answered “yes”, in what ways, why, and what additional training (if any) should be required of paralegals?

No response was required, but the candidate wrote: A meaningful answer to this question is in my respectful view somewhat impossible to provide in the absence of extensive consultation with all legitimate stakeholders. I am of the understanding that there is not presently further expansion of the scope of paralegal practice under consideration.

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 those who utilize our County Law Libraries should bear their fair share of the associated costs incurred in their maintenance. County Law Association law libraries are an important source of lawyer competence and would likewise be an important source of paralegal competence. I think this entire issue needs to be examined through and access to justice lens.


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 have been a member of the Essex Law Association since (or shortly after) I began practicing law in the city of Windsor in 1981. I have never served on its board.

Why are you a member of each of the associations you selected above?

I belong to the Essex Law Association because I consider it a strong and positive force and voice in protecting the public interest and ensuring that its members needs' and concerns are addressed, including the attainment of high standards of professional competency . In this regard I believe it to be incumbent on practicing lawyers to have an awareness of the numerous issues impacting the practice of law where one works and lives; these issues including but by no means limited to the availability of Legal Aid to those who qualify therefor, the necessary funding required to achieve the most effective operation possible of the association's local law library, positive and constructive interactions between the bench and bar, and locally organized and held continuing legal education programs that provide its members with real and lasting benefit. And for the intangible but very real benefit that involvement in our County Law Association accrues from fostering personal relationships with our colleagues in our local bar.

 Federation of Ontario
Law Associations

KEVIN L. ROSS

kross@lerners.ca

Region	Incumbency	Slate or Coalition Affiliation	Law Association Membership
Southwest	Not An Incumbent	Good Governance Coalition	Middlesex

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
<p>Law Libraries are the nexus of local law associations, playing a pivotal role in supporting access to justice and ensuring competence to all members, and not simply those from large firms and or large urban centres. Most members are soles and smalls who are dependent upon these resources to enhance and sustain their practices. They provide a place for mentoring, networking and professional development.</p> <p>It is essential for the LSO to maintain its current level of funding for LiRN. While adjusting funding for inflation is one tool available to ensure adequate funding, the pandemic has reminded us that many factors come into play (often beyond our control) which affect both the supply and demand for resources.</p>	
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
<p>Offloading funding for law libraries to the Law Foundation of Ontario does not eliminate the expense. It simply shifts the funding source outside of the control of the Law Society. It will also impact the way in which funding for LiRN is budgeted, and the manner in which local Practice Resource Centres (PRC) will present and defend their budget requests. This will exacerbate the existing contest for resources, as the Law Foundation of Ontario is responsible for funding a number of important programs, including access to justice and contributing to funding of legal aid.</p>	

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
<p>👉 If you answered “yes”, how?</p> <p>Legal Aid is a critical component of Access to Justice, an important statutory mandate of the Law Society. The findings and recommendations contained in the report of the Legal Aid Working Group (2016) entitled "An Abiding Interest", remain apposite today to ensure a viable legal aid system. The Law Society must continue to bolster communications with Legal Aid Ontario. Ongoing work with legal stakeholders and continued support and facilitation of the work of the Alliance for Sustainable Legal Aid (ASLA) is essential. The Law Society must exercise every opportunity to communicate with the provincial and federal government to advocate and lobby for a viable and sustainable legal aid system.</p> <p>The Law Society must continue to honour its mandate under the Legal Aid Services Act, 2020 by using a robust process for making considered recommendations to the Attorney General regarding appointments to the Legal Aid Ontario Board of Directors.</p>	
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.	
See above	

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.	
<p>👉 If you answered “yes”, in what ways, why, and what additional training (if any) should be required of paralegals?</p> <p>Access to Justice is a very significant issue. Increasingly Ontarians are driven to self-representation as the cost of purchasing legal services is beyond the reach of many. Expanding the scope of practice of paralegals is viewed as one potential ameliorator and the creation of the Family Legal Service Provider (FLSP) license is viewed by many as a positive step in the right direction. I personally feel that further limited expansion of the jurisdiction of paralegals in the future is inevitable although I understand that no further expansion of scope is under consideration at this time.</p> <p>Any such future consideration of this issue must be viewed through an Access to Justice lens, and must also be considered through the lens of the Law Society’s statutory mandate to maintain standards of competence and professional conduct within the legal profession. At the present time, the focus should be on encouraging and assisting paralegals to adapt and develop their practices by moving into areas where a scope of practice currently exists. Development of paralegal focused CPD Programs is required.</p> <p>The work of the Law Society regarding FLSP has moved to the implementation phase. This is an opportunity to consider the core competency, training and educational requirements needed to safeguard the public interest. This will be used as a model for any potential future expansion.</p>	
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
<p>A number of Law Associations (including the Middlesex Law Association) now admit paralegals to membership. As previously outlined, law libraries are an essential component of lawyer competency and vital practice resources for the legal profession, which ought to extend to paralegals. While this issue remains controversial for some, my view is that once membership is granted to paralegals, and access is given to the law libraries it is therefore necessary and appropriate to require some level of competency levy. The amount of the levy requires further consideration.</p>	

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 became a member in 1984.
Why are you a member of each of the associations you selected above?
The MLA plays vital role in improving access to justice and ensuring competency in the delivery of legal services in the public interest. A foundational aspect of the Association is the provision of library services and facilities, including legal reference, computer-assisted research, and CLE to licensees who would otherwise have limited to no access to essential resources. The Association creates opportunities for networking, socialization and mentoring. It provides a vehicle for advocacy and lobbying at both the local and provincial level.

Region	Incumbency	Slate or Coalition Affiliation	Law Association Membership
Southwest	Incumbent	Good Governance Coalition	Bruce, Grey, Huron, Perth

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
No response provided.	
If you are an incumbent, do you regret voting to cut the LiRN budget by 10% in November 2020?	Didn't Vote to Cut
I did not vote in the convocation where the funding cut was brought forward. Local law libraries are invaluable to lawyers and paralegals. These libraries focus on the specific needs of legal professionals, providing resources for legal research and suppo	
Do you support offloading funding for LiRN/law libraries to the Law Foundation of Ontario?	No
In short, downloading LiRN funding to the LFO is a fools errand and will result in precarious funding for this most important tool.	

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?	
A part of the function of the LSO is to interface with government though our policy arm. I would advocate for a strong lobby to be advanced reminding both funders and stakeholders of the importance of adequate funding of and innovation in the Legal Aid space. It's time we looked at not only how much money is directed to Legal Aid, but on how it's spent, what further resources and innovations are possible and needed.(self help, mixed help, fast tracking, simplified streams in Legal Aid matters)	
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 2019 Provincial Budget brought financial challenges for LAO, with provincial funding to the organization reduced by about 30%. Plans for further reductions were later abandoned, but the 30% funding reduction remained going forward. In April 2019, LAO announced internal cost cutting measures including a hiring freeze, a salary freeze for management, and the elimination of certain positions. LAO stated that its goal was to maintain front line services; however, some service changes were made. Among other things, LAO announced changes to the certificate program for bail and some family matters, with duty counsel to take on some of the work previously handled by certificate lawyers. LAO also reduced funding to the clinic program by \$9.6 million in 2019-2020. The cuts and resulting service changes are unsustainable. A return to the principles espoused in the McCamus Report needs to be promulgated. A strong lobby and public attention is the best way to draw the provincial government's attention and consequently it's purse.	

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?	
No, it should remain as it was prior to December 1, 2022	
👉 If you answered “yes”, in what ways, why, and what additional training (if any) should be required of paralegals?	
No response was required.	
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 feel the levy should be prorated to Paralegal fees, but that access to the benefits of the LiRN resources should come with a funding responsibility.	

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 became a member because our firm has offices in those jurisdictions and enjoy the benefits of those bars. I want to keep appraised on the happenings of those areas and participate in dialogue where required.	
Why are you a member of each of the associations you selected above?	
See previous answer.	

MICHAEL WILLS

mwills@mctageulaw.com

Region	Incumbency	Slate or Coalition Affiliation	Law Association Membership
Southwest	Not An Incumbent	FullStop	Essex

LiRN Funding and Libraries	
Will you support the Law Society maintaining its current level of funding for LiRN, adjusted annually for inflation?	No
Do you recognize the importance of the Law Society’s support for the LiRN budget in maintaining licensee competence across Ontario?	Yes
I will support the amount of Law Society funding that is required to operate LiRN and the important goal of maintaining licensee competence across Ontario. If the current level is too low, I would carefully consider an increase; if demonstrably too high, I would carefully consider a decrease. If funding can be supplemented through other avenues, I would consider this also. Accordingly, I am unable to answer [the previous question] with an unqualified "Yes".	
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 think the term offloading in the question is a bit loaded; it's too absolute. If the Law Foundation can provide supplementary or additional funding for LiRN, within its mandate, that's great. But this does not mean I support offloading all funding or in any way allowing the LiRN budget to fall below required levels, regardless of the source (or sources) of funding.	

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 will listen to the issues, consider the options, and proceed in the best interests of the profession and the public.	
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.	
As a prospective 'new' Benchers, I would first like to hear all sides of the issue(s) and work with other Benchers to develop a plan that is in line with the core mandate of the Law Society.	

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 have selected the closest answer to my answer, as the options are incomplete, and an answer was 'required' to move forward. Where is the "Consider each individual expansion or retraction of scope on its merits and decide what the best approach is, in keeping with the core mandate of the Law Society" answer? That would be my answer as the four options presented are far too absolute. Even "Other" with an option to explain would have been preferable. I would not specifically "look for" areas to expand to. I would listen, consider, and decide on individual expansion or retraction options presented.	
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
If paralegals are using the same resources and tools funded through LiRN as licensees, then I would support paralegals paying some level of annual levy, for as long as licensees are paying an annual levy.	

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.	
1997	
Why are you a member of each of the associations you selected above?	
To support the local association of lawyers, including with respect to education, the library, and other association goals.	

MATTHEW WILSON

matthew@wilsonforbencher.ca

Region	Incumbency	Slate or Coalition Affiliation	Law Association Membership
Southwest	Not An Incumbent	Good Governance Coalition	Middlesex

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

Law libraries are not only a vital tool for lawyers, they directly contribute to the access to justice mandate of the Law Society. The public interest demands that lawyers have access to necessary information tool. If I am elected as a Bencher, I will strongly advocate for sustainable long term funding for all the county law libraries across the province.

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

Providing robust, well-funded law libraries is, to me, a core function of the Law Society. The responsibility to do so cannot be offloaded to a third party, whether that's the Law Foundation of Ontario or otherwise, as once that is done the Law Society would no longer be able to ensure that the vital work done by law libraries will continue.

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?

A core mandate of the Law Society is to support, and expand, access to justice. While access to justice is a very broad idea, a core part of ensuring access to justice is ensuring not only sustained but improved funding for Legal Aid Ontario, and by ensuring that the system is continued in such a way as to ensure lawyers continue to be willing to accept clients funded by 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.

Advocacy starts with ensuring government understands the importance of the end goal, and the path needed to get there. This includes ensuring that LAO’s funders recognize the important role that LAO plays in access to justice, and how, without increased financial allocations, that role cannot effectively continue.

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?

Ontario, similar to many other jurisdictions, struggles with access to justice. Paralegals play an important role in our justice system, and with improving access to justice. While I have no personal opinion as to what should happen beyond the LFSP, or even if expanding beyond the LFSP is appropriate, I do believe that good governance requires all options to be considered, especially when the Law Society Act clearly mandates a focus by the Law Society on access to justice issues.

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 am a supporter of paralegals funding LiRN, but only if paralegals, who are a vital part of our justice system, also are able to access the resources they help to fund.

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 joined the Middlesex Law Association upon my call to the bar in 2011, and have enjoyed being a member ever since. I am currently FOLA's local real estate representative, and, while not on the MLA executive, I work closely with the MLA executive and MLA staff by chairing or co-chairing CPD events for the past ten years.

Why are you a member of each of the associations you selected above?

As a lawyer living and working in London I am a proud member, and supporter, of the Middlesex Law Association. The MLA provides exceptional support to the local bar, including through library services and through CPD programming.

Toronto Region Candidate Responses

Candidate Name	Slate/Coalition Affiliation	Response
Robert Adourian	FullStop	Response provided
Sean Aylward	FullStop	No response provided by deadline
Steve Benmor	Unaffiliated	Response provided
Avy J. Ben-zvi	Unaffiliated	Response provided
Charles Boulakia	Unaffiliated	Response provided
D. Jared Brown	FullStop	Response provided
John Callaghan	Good Governance Coalition	Response provided
Gerald Chan	Good Governance Coalition	Response provided
Joseph Chiummiento	FullStop	Refused/declined to participate
Michael Cochrane	Unaffiliated	Response provided
Antoine Collins	Unaffiliated	Response provided
Barry Corbin	Unaffiliated	No response provided by deadline
Rebecca C. Durcan	Good Governance Coalition	Response provided



Candidate Name	Slate/Coalition Affiliation	Response
Annamaria Enenajor	Good Governance Coalition	Response provided
Jeremy Glick	Unaffiliated	Response provided
Sam Goldstein	Unaffiliated	Response provided
Heather Hansen	Good Governance Coalition	Response provided
Sukhi Hansra	FullStop	No response provided by deadline
Sayeh Hassan	FullStop	Response provided
Philip Horgan	FullStop	Response provided
Pam Hrick	Good Governance Coalition	Response provided
Kathryn (Kara) Johnson	FullStop	No response provided by deadline
Murray Klippenstein	FullStop	Refused/declined to participate
Shalini Konanur	Good Governance Coalition	Response provided
Howard A. Levitt	FullStop	No response provided by deadline
Atrisha Lewis	Good Governance Coalition	Response provided
Will McDowell	Good Governance Coalition	Response provided
Isfahan Merali	Good Governance Coalition	Response provided

Candidate Name	Slate/Coalition Affiliation	Response
Jonathan Miller	Unaffiliated	Response provided
David Milosevic	Unaffiliated	Response provided
Mark Jacob Morris	Unaffiliated	Response provided
Jonathan Odumeru	Unaffiliated	Response provided
Angela Ogang	Unaffiliated	Response provided
Mark Persaud	Unaffiliated	Response provided
Jorge Pineda	FullStop	Response provided
Lubomir Poliacik	FullStop	Response provided
Geoff Pollock	FullStop	Response provided
Mark Quail	FullStop	Refused/declined to participate
Maxwell Radway	Unaffiliated	Response provided
Catherine Rhinelanders	Good Governance Coalition	Response provided
Jonathan Rosenthal	Good Governance Coalition	Response provided
Stephen Rotstein	Good Governance Coalition	Response provided
Elliot Patterson Saccucci	Unaffiliated	Response provided



Candidate Name	Slate/Coalition Affiliation	Response
Caryma Sa'd	Unaffiliated	Response provided
Julia Shin Doi	Good Governance Coalition	Response provided
Megan Shortreed	Good Governance Coalition	Response provided
Mark Surchin	Good Governance Coalition	Response provided
Pamela-Jane Taylor	FullStop	Response provided
Sidney Troister	Good Governance Coalition	Response provided
Margaret Waddell	Good Governance Coalition	Response provided
Tanya Walker	Good Governance Coalition	Response provided
Peter Wardle	Good Governance Coalition	Response provided

ROBERT ADOURIAN

robert.adourian@devrylaw.ca

Region	Incumbency	Slate or Coalition Affiliation	Law Association Membership
Toronto	Incumbent	FullStop	Durham, 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

The mandate of the LSO includes ensuring professional competence and facilitating access to justice. It is therefore the responsibility of the LSO to provide to lawyers the resources they need. I have heard from lawyers across Ontario that the courthouse libraries are an essential resource, and so I committed to maintaining them.

If you are an incumbent, do you regret voting to cut the LiRN budget by 10% in November 2020?

No

At the time we were told that the libraries were closed due to COVID. We were told that due to COVID there might be a decrease in the number of licensees, with a corresponding decrease in LSO revenue. We were also told that a partial deferral offered to

Do you support offloading funding for LiRN/law libraries to the Law Foundation of Ontario?

No

Stable and reliable funding for LiRN/law libraries must ultimately be the responsibility of the LSO. I don't have the full story about why the Law Foundation has not been making a contribution for so many years, but this must not be an issue. It is the responsibility of the LSO to provide the funding with or without a contribution from the Law Foundation.

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 do not practice criminal, family, child protection or immigration law. In discussions with these practitioners I am told that the funding is inadequate and that the billing and authorization processes are complex. In order to fulfill the mandate to promote access to justice, the LSO must advocate for an adequately funded legal aid plan. As a benchler I will be supportive of such advocacy. See the answer below.

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.

Governments respond to political pressure. The LSO must be able to make a compelling political case for increased LAO funding. This can be developed and presented together with organizations such as FOLA, the OBA, and the Criminal Lawyers Association. MAG, the federal justice department, Immigration adjudicators and the Judiciary should be persuaded to provide input on how the courts and tribunals would be more efficient with increased LAO funding and fewer self-reps. This government relations effort will require skillful negotiation and co-ordination to build a team which will speak to the issue effectively and demonstrate to the governments that they will receive credit for their increased investments in LAO.

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?

No, it should remain as it was prior to December 1, 2022

👉 If you answered “yes”, in what ways, why, and what additional training (if any) should be required of paralegals?

No response was required.

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?

No

My understanding is that paralegals are not permitted to use most courthouse libraries and related resources.


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.

Toronto 2019 Durham 2022

Why are you a member of each of the associations you selected above?

Toronto - I first became a member when I was called to the Bar in 1980. At some point I let my membership lapse due to financial pressures as a sole practitioner. I re-joined in 2019. Durham - My firm has an office in Whitney, and they arranged for me to be a CPD speaker at their Fall Conference, so I took the opportunity to join.

 Federation of Ontario
Law Associations

STEVE BENMOR

steve@benmor.com

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.	

AVY J. BEN-ZVI

avy@ben-zvi.ca

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.	

CHARLES BOULAKIA

cboulakia@ridoutmaybee.com

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
Access to competent justice, across Ontario, should be a primary focus of the LSO.	
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 think the LSO should be helping with the funding of law libraries. It is not sufficient to pass this responsibility on to the Law Foundation of Ontario, whose primary purpose (as I understand it) is the funding of legal aid. That said, I am not highly educated on the issue and may need more information.	

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?	
Not sure. I don't know enough about how the system works - I've never been a bencher. I do think the Law Society's mandate should have a strong focus on access to justice, and perhaps less of a focus on other things.	
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.	
No response provided.	

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?	
No, it should remain as it was prior to December 1, 2022	
👉 If you answered “yes”, in what ways, why, and what additional training (if any) should be required of paralegals?	
No response was required.	
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
Paralegals are being given increased roles and responsibilities; they will need increased use of libraries and practice resource centres.	

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.	

D. JARED BROWN

jbrown@brownlaw.ca

Region	Incumbency	Slate or Coalition Affiliation	Law Association Membership
Toronto	Incumbent	FullStop	None

LiRN Funding and Libraries

Will you support the Law Society maintaining its current level of funding for LiRN, adjusted annually for inflation?

No

Do you recognize the importance of the Law Society’s support for the LiRN budget in maintaining licensee competence across Ontario?

Yes

Benchers must be vigilant with Licensee dues and Law Society resources by regularly monitoring what Licensees' fund including transfers to 3rd parties like LiRN. Until paralegals are permitted full use of all law libraries, LiRN funding will have the shadow of inequity hanging over it. A review of funding for LiRN should not be restricted to simply maintaining its current level of funding without considering increases.

If you are an incumbent, do you regret voting to cut the LiRN budget by 10% in November 2020?

No

During the COVID lockdowns the Law Society restricted its financial footprint on the professions and the public to decrease and defer dues for licensees. Services and programs were re-examined, reduced, or discontinued requiring everyone including 3rd par

Do you support offloading funding for LiRN/law libraries to the Law Foundation of Ontario?

No

I support the Law Foundation of Ontario returning to its historical legislative purpose of supporting law libraries in Ontario, and encourage FOLA to petition the Law Foundation for additional funding for LiRN to supplement the support from the Law Society.

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?

No response provided.

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.

No response provided.

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 have published my thoughts on this subject in Canadian Lawyer Magazine - <https://www.canadianlawyermag.com/news/opinion/stop-the-regulatory-turf-wars-between-lawyers-and-paralegals/364350>

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

If FOLA members will permit Paralegals access to all law libraries, paralegals in Ontario would likely be pleased to assist in funding the resource.


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.

 Federation of Ontario
Law Associations

JOHN CALLAGHAN

john.callaghan@gowlings.com

Region	Incumbency	Slate or Coalition Affiliation	Law Association Membership
Toronto	Benchers Pre-2019	Good Governance Coalition	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>I view the law libraries as an extension of the Associations. They are the hubs around which most Associations flourish and facilitate the Associations' work in mentoring, professional education and keeping lawyers' connected. This work is not only in the interest of the profession but the public. LiRN also provides a significant benefit to the profession by providing a suite of online resources at minimal cost to lawyers. LiRN’s success should not be lost through neglect by the LSO. I support LiRN.</i>	
If you are an incumbent, do you regret voting to cut the LiRN budget by 10% in November 2020?	N/A
<i>N/A - not an incumbent.</i>	
Do you support offloading funding for LiRN/law libraries to the Law Foundation of Ontario?	No
<i>LiRN promotes professional competency, mentoring and bar connectivity. The Law Society should continue to contribute to its success. Although the LSO appoints some of LFO’s Board, LFO is not answerable to the LSO. In addition, LFO’s funding is not stable. LFO’s revenue is largely from the interest on the profession's trust accounts which fluctuate greatly based on interest rates and lawyers’ trust balances. 75% of LFO’s revenue is statutorily committed to legal aid. The remainder is provided as grants to deserving justice participants. In 2019, the LFO had \$27 million for grants. With interest rate cuts, in 2021, LFO had only \$17 million for grants. LiRN would have required most of the grant money, leaving other community justice partners without access to needed funds. With recent increased interest rates, LFO has more money now but this is temporary and not reliable. LSO can provide LiRN with stable funding that allows for long term planning, while providing budgetary oversight as necessary.</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 was deeply involved in Legal Aid advocacy as a Benchers, ASLA member and as a director of LAO from 2020-23. I have long promoted that the LSO should be a vocal advocate for legal aid. While Chair of the LSO’s Government Relations, we successfully petitioned for significant increases in legal aid under the Wynne government, opposed later cut-backs, and successfully advocated for a bigger federal contribution to immigration legal aid. On each occasion, the LSO was not alone but worked with the profession in its advocacy for legal aid.</i>	
<i>This was not always the case. After the government took over the management of legal aid from the LSO in 1999, the LSO was largely silent. I chaired the LSO group that authored “An Abiding Interest” (at: https://lawsocietyontario.azureedge.net/media/lso/media/legacy/pdf/2/2018_lawg_report.pdf). Convocation adopted the report which recommended that the LSO take a greater interest in advocating for legal aid. Who better than lawyers to let the public/ politicians know the importance of legal aid to society. This is consistent with the LSO’s statutory obligation to facilitate access to justice. To learn more about my advocacy see: www.johncallaghan.com.</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>Legal aid is a political issue competing with all other publicly funded programs. The profession has traditionally done a poor job explaining the importance for legal aid. For example, the clinics, which do a fabulous job, are often the sole legal voice for many Ontarians. Similarly, legal services in Ontario depend on almost solely on legal aid from child protection to mental health to refugee law. Of course, legal aid is essential for our criminal justice system to function. Each area has unmet needs. The LSO can play an active role advocating for a more robust and stable legal aid, including educating the public/ politicians as to why this is in the public's interest. Legal aid funding needs more stability. Currently, 75% of the Law Foundation revenue goes to Legal Aid. As explained above, LAO funding is subject to great fluctuation and dependent on interest rates and the real estate market. This fluctuation poses a challenge to long term planning that impacts not only LAO but the profession that works in the system. Instability is bad for LAO and the profession. In addition, eligibility (below the low-income cutoff) and funding for the certificate bar needs immediate attention. The financial fix for legal aid is beyond the scope of the LSO but starting the discussion is not. Addressing these issues will require advocacy to both prod the government and support those with the political will to make improvements. I have done this work in the past. To play this role does not require a great financial outlay. The Law Society has not been as active in this important advocacy role this current term due to unnecessary infighting. It is imperative that a group is elected that takes these issues seriously. The LSO must be heard on these issues.</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 representation gap is real. As the group that holds a monopoly on legal services, there is an obligation to address those gaps. However, the public must have access to qualified professionals. The profession ought not to be a place where unqualified service providers can operate. The FLSP is a compromise that assists in closing the gap. It imposes not only more and better training on the paralegals providing the service but provides a specified designation allowing the public to know who it can trust. This is a good blueprint which needs to be carefully monitored to determine if it adequately meets the public's needs. The assessment must be rigorous and that assessment must focus on the overall public interest. I would not look for new areas of expansion while this program is being reviewed.</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>The competency of paralegals, like lawyers, is important to the public. I believe the resources of LiRN should be made available to them. However, this is an issue under consideration by FOLA which has the primary responsibility to make the decision. I do think if they are to have access then they should pay a fair contribution to the cost of LiRN.</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 can not remember the year but I have been a member of the TLA from the outset of my practice in the early 1990s.</i>	
Why are you a member of each of the associations you selected above?	
<i>The TLA is a great organization. For my entire professional life, the TLA has provided a great venue to interact with other lawyers either at events or in the robing room/lounge at 361 University. Access to the library, its resources and its staff has been most beneficial over the years. As the profession has embraced mentoring and CPD, the TLA has played a central role in ensuring the profession stays connected and educated. The TLA annual event (recently at the CARLU) is a highlight of the year. In our post-Covid world, as the profession works remotely, the TLA and other Associations, with their emphasis on professional development and social events, will play an even greater role in our profession by helping to combat the ills of isolation. I have also appreciated the effectiveness of the TLA and FOLA’s advocacy on issues that impact lawyers from legal aid to the greying of the bar to the grounds of Osgoode Hall. The Law Society must act in the public interest; in contrast, the TLA and the other Associations act and advocate in the professions’ interest which is an important distinction that is vital to the professions’ long term success.</i>	

GERALD CHAN

geraldc@stockwoods.ca

Region	Incumbency	Slate or Coalition Affiliation	Law Association Membership
Toronto	Not An Incumbent	Good Governance Coalition	Toronto, York

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>A central part of the LSO’s mandate is to ensure the competence of its licensees. Law libraries play an integral role in promoting competence, especially for small firms and sole practitioners outside of larger centres. As the LiRN is responsible for coordinating the county and district law library system, it is critical that the LSO support sustainable funding for the LiRN. This will reduce costs in the long run. It will save many licensees from having to bear the cost of legal resources individually. And it will reduce the money that must be spent on regulating competence through discipline.</i>	
If you are an incumbent, do you regret voting to cut the LiRN budget by 10% in November 2020?	N/A
<i>N/A - not an incumbent.</i>	
Do you support offloading funding for LiRN/law libraries to the Law Foundation of Ontario?	No
<i>I do not support offloading funding for LiRN/law libraries to the Law Foundation of Ontario for three reasons. First, the Foundation’s cash flow is not consistent from year to year. This financial variability does not provide LiRN with the stability it needs to operate effectively. Second, while the LSO appoints three of the five trustees of the Foundation, the LSO does not control the Foundation and how it chooses to allocate its funding. To offload funding to the Foundation would be to abdicate responsibility for a critical part of the LSO’s statutory mandate: promoting professional competence. Third, a signification portion of the Foundation’s funds are intended for Legal Aid and other important access to justice initiatives. For example, Innocence Canada (for which I volunteer as a member of the Case Review Committee) has received Foundation funding, empowering it to do critical work for the wrongfully convicted. The Pro Bono Inmate Appeal Program (of which I am a member) has also received Foundation funding, enabling it to continue providing representation for marginalized inmates in the Court of Appeal. The proper funding of law libraries should not come at the expense of these important access to justice initiatives.</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
🔗 If you answered “yes”, how?	
<i>If I’m elected, I will advocate for LAO funding improvement and sustainability. I am a LAO-empaneled lawyer (on the Extremely Serious Criminal Matters roster). I have represented numerous clients on LAO certificates, most often in criminal appeals. In doing so, I have gained intimate familiarity with the role that LAO plays in ensuring access to justice for the most marginalized members of our community. By offering LAO-empaneled lawyers from the private bar, LAO is able to ensure that standards of competence are met and to respect the right of individuals to their choice of counsel. I have also seen firsthand how costly it can be for the administration of justice when LAO is not properly funded. In the criminal context, underfunding leads to unfair trials and wrongful convictions for those with the least means. This invariably increases the long-term costs to the administration of justice in the form of re-trials and case reviews. FOLA recently called on the provincial government to increase annual spending on LAO from \$350M to \$480M. This strikes me as the minimum required increase, which would merely restore LAO funding to its 2014 level. That underscores just how underfunded LAO has been. More must be done.</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>The LSO does not fund LAO directly. However, the LSO plays a role in the appointment of LAO’s board members. The LSO should recommend candidates to LAO’s board who have a demonstrated a real world understanding how LAO works and a strong commitment to a robust system of legal aid. The LSO should also be the leader in public and government relations advocacy for increased funding to LAO. As the regulator of legal services in Ontario with a mandate to serve the public interest, the LSO is in a unique position to lead this form of advocacy. Its statements may carry more weight than those of legal associations whose mandate is to protect the interests of their members. The LSO can also play a critical role in advocacy as a leading member of the Alliance for Sustainable Legal Aid (ASLA). ASLA’s membership includes two organizations in which I have long been an active member—the Criminal Lawyers’ Association (Ontario) (CLA) and The Advocates’ Society (TAS). I have seen their efforts to advocate for LAO funding up close. The LSO needs to harness its relationship with these organizations as well as the other members of ASLA (e.g., FOLA, OBA, Family Lawyers Association, Refugee Lawyers Association) to lead a coordinated and concerted effort to educate the public about the long-term cost savings of a properly funded legal aid system. This educational campaign should supplement the other forms of LSO advocacy vis-à-vis the government, including letter-writing, appearances at standing committees, and meetings or conversations with senior government officials.</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>	
🔗 If you answered “yes”, in what ways, why, and what additional training (if any) should be required of paralegals?	
<i>No response was required, but the candidate wrote: Because the above question only allowed a few options, let me add this caveat. As a criminal defence lawyer, I have followed the debates around the role of paralegals in providing criminal law services. I have not followed the debates around the role of paralegals and family law nearly as closely, although I can appreciate that the issues may engage similar concerns. I understand that the scope of practice for paralegals in family law was only recently expanded for those who obtain the FLSP license. At the moment, there is no further expansion of scope under consideration. If any expansion is proposed in the future, I would consider it carefully and consult widely to determine whether it would promote access to justice, which requires that legal services be provided at an affordable cost and that they be provided competently by licensees with sufficient training.</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>Because the above question only permits a yes-no answer, let me add this caveat. I would carefully consider this issue and consult extensively with all stakeholders. Law libraries are an important means of promoting competence and, in doing so, enhancing access to justice. Providing paralegals with access to this resource and requiring paralegals to contribute towards its funding is an option worth considering. However, I would like to study it further before committing to a position.</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>Toronto - September 3, 2016 York - March 3, 2023</i>	
Why are you a member of each of the associations you selected above?	
<i>Collegiality with the local bar in jurisdictions where I practice and to keep abreast of the issues affecting my colleagues in those jurisdictions.</i>	

MICHAEL COCHRANE

mcochrane@btlegal.ca

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

Libraries are a key resource for our members. They are about to undergo a tech revolution and the LSO needs to be at the forefront of that discussion.

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

This is a red herring.

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 is a life blood for the profession and our clients. 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.

Establish a Task Force (with a fast turnaround mandate) made up of the interested parties - federal and provincial - to develop a long term solution.

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?

It should be expanded no further than the FLSP

👉 If you answered “yes”, in what ways, why, and what additional training (if any) should be required of paralegals?

No response was required.

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

If they get access then they need to share the cost.

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.

ANTOINE COLLINS

antoine.collins@irb-cisr.gc.ca

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

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>I believe law libraries play an indispensable role in the legal profession, especially in helping maintain licensee competencies and facilitating access to justice. In supporting the legal community by providing information on a range of legal matters, law libraries offer invaluable resources for ensuring the competency of legal practitioners – a core LSO mandate.</i>	
If you are an incumbent, do you regret voting to cut the LiRN budget by 10% in November 2020?	N/A
<i>N/A - not an incumbent.</i>	
Do you support offloading funding for LiRN/law libraries to the Law Foundation of Ontario?	No
<i>Stable funding for law libraries is a must and should be provided by the Law Society! One of the core mandates of the LSO is the establishment of professional competencies – which law libraries help maintain. While I believe The Law Foundation of Ontario already provides some law library grants, the various law libraries have to compete for a limited amount of funding – this in no way constitutes stable funding. Moreover, it would be inappropriate for The Law Foundation of Ontario to be called upon to provide exclusive funding to law libraries (by using the interest from public funds) for a service which supports the core LSO mandate of maintaining licensee competencies.</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 believe legal aid is fundamental to the proper administration of justice. As there is no equality of resources within society, some people will require help in order to assure their rights or understand their responsibilities. I further believe that government must provide adequate and sustainable legal aid funding. Quite often when legal aid runs out, many Legal Aid-empaneled lawyers nevertheless continue working on a case to completion, volunteering countless hours to ensure their clients get a fair shake. Advocacy for strong LAO funding is therefore essential to ensure that Legal Aid-empaneled lawyers remain a viable area of practice for the private bar. In a society based on the rule of law, every person must have equal access to the justice system. If elected benchner, I will support and advocate on behalf of any initiative that promotes access to justice. Achieving sustainable legal aid funding is one of my key priorities.</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>The LSO provides an important platform for leading discussion on the appropriate level of funding required to meet the objectives of the legal aid program – a program critical for public access to justice. If elected, I will personally advocate strongly for a sustainably-funded legal aid program. In doing so, I will actively seek-out opportunities to engage stakeholders, including government, and work with other benchers and fellow licensees to guide LSO advocacy for sustainable public funding for LAO. I believe that working together in this way will help the LSO to achieve this goal.</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>Yes, it should be expanded.</i>	
<i>If you answered “yes”, in what ways, why, and what additional training (if any) should be required of paralegals?</i>	
<i>I think the current scope of paralegal practice is fine, however, I am open to further dialogue regarding expanding it further, along with a discussion of any additional training or other requirements which should be considered.</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>As I have made clear, I believe law libraries play an indispensable role in the legal profession, especially in maintaining professional competencies and facilitating access to justice. As paralegals, like lawyers, play an important role in providing access to justice, by paying this levy they should be able to benefit from access to the tools that law libraries can provide in helping them maintain competent service to the public. It follows, therefore, that if paralegals benefit from library services, they should contribute funding to these institutions.</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 County of Carleton Law Association (CCLA) since 2015. In 2020, I was elected to the Board of Trustees; I continue to serve as a Trustee at the present time.</i>	
Why are you a member of each of the associations you selected above?	
<i>I strongly believe in encouraging excellence in the legal community. Through my involvement as a CCLA Trustee, I try to support activities that promote academic and professional excellence and advance equality and diversity among the bar and judiciary.</i>	

REBECCA C. DURCAN

rdurcan@sml-law.com

Region	Incumbency	Slate or Coalition Affiliation	Law Association Membership
Toronto	Benchers Pre-2019	Good Governance Coalition	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 view the LSO funding as a key pillar of its regulatory duties. The public benefits when lawyers have access to current, and efficacious, legal resources. The public does not benefit if access to such resources is limited to big firms and big cities.	
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 view funding legal resources as within the mandate of the LSO. As such, it should transparently and consistently provide such funding. To offload funding on a third party does not provide the necessary reliability of funds to the LiRN.	

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?	
The LSO is statutorily required to "facilitate access to justice for the people of Ontario." One way that this can occur is to commit and support sustainability of LAO funding. To be clear, the rationale for such a decision would be to assist the public rather than ensuring lawyers can dedicate their practice to this area. The LSO needs to ensure that its decisions align with its mandate and does not bleed into profession advocacy measures (but if the decision of the LSO to support and advocate for LAO funding resulted in certain lawyers deciding to focus their practice on this all important area of law, it would not be in contravention of the duty of the LSO to ensure its decisions are founded in public interest)	
Ideally, the LSO views funding of LAO, and other ways in which Ontarians can readily access legal services, as core pillars. Several other jurisdictions are asking how this can occur. The LSO has thankfully taken note of this and has commenced a sandbox experiment to understand how Ontarians can access the legal system in less expensive and technical ways.	
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 believe the LSO needs to couple its demands for more funding with concrete examples of how it is making the legal landscape less hostile to self-represented litigants.	
The LAO will always be needed and will always be a core method of delivering legal services to low-income Ontarians. Lawyers who provide services through LAO should be compensated for their experience and the important role they play in society. But the LSO will likely find it difficult to simply ask the respective governments to contribute more if it does not couple its requests with concrete examples of making justice more accessible. For criminal matters, this is incredibly difficult. To expect Ontarians to move through the criminal system without legal expertise is an indictment on a healthy society. But the LSO should be a leader in looking to opportunities in the civil system that would lower the legalese, procedures and costs. This is not to negate the inherent risks that Ontarians face within the family, refugee/immigration and mental health law domains. But if barriers exist and are removed, it will demonstrate to the respective governments that the LSO is doing all it can do to ensure low-income Ontarians access legal services.	

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 struggle with the question as posed. At the end of the day, the LSO needs to ascertain the risk of the service and what competencies are required in order to safely and ethically provide the service. The LSO needs to make this determination upon data.	
If there are legal services that can be provided by non-lawyers, in a safe and competent manner, the LSO should be taking all steps to lower unnecessary barriers.	
So my true answer is that the LSO should look at the data after three years. If the model is working then it should continue and perhaps be expanded. It needs to focus on what is in the best interest of the public as opposed to lawyers and 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
Lawyers and paralegals are regulated legal professionals in Ontario. Their competencies and scope differ - but they both are focused on providing legal services to Ontarians. I believe that paralegals should have ready access to association law libraries and CPD events. This would benefit their clients and communicate to the public that both classes of licensees are viewed as partners on the Ontario legal landscape. It would also ideally reduce the sense of "us" vs "them" that some lawyers/paralegals still hold.	
Asking paralegals to contribute to the funding of these all important resources would just make sense.	

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 have been a member of the TLA since approximately 2016.	
Why are you a member of each of the associations you selected above?	
I was encouraged to become a member by my then colleague Robin McKechney (a current Board member of the TLA). I am a partner in a smaller firm and, embarrassingly, was not fully aware of the resources of the TLA. I, and members of my firm, have renewed our membership annually since we first joined. We are consistently impressed with the work of the TLA (including their library assistance and the quality of the "CPD" events). A firm my size cannot support a full time researcher or subscriptions in the numerous journals and loose leaf publications. The TLA allows my firm to provide excellent (and cost effective) services to our clients.	

ANNAMARIA ENENAJOR

aenenajor@rubyshiller.com

Region	Incumbency	Slate or Coalition Affiliation	Law Association Membership
Toronto	Not An Incumbent	Good Governance Coalition	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
Law libraries are incredibly important for access to justice. They are a source of competence for lawyers, particularly sole practitioners and small practices, that would be unable to support the cost of legal research resources on their own. These resources are vital to ensuring well informed and up-to-date representation for clients. LiRN resource provision through libraries reduces the cost of providing competent representation. Sustainable funding for law library simply makes sense.	
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
The Law Foundation doesn’t have an obligation to fund libraries. The Law Society has a mandate to ensure competent lawyers and has a sustainable source of funding (licensing fees) with which to do so.	

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?	
As a criminal defence lawyer and one who takes Legal Aid cases, I know how important well-funded Legal Aid is to access to justice. We simply cannot rely on the free work of lawyers to ensure that the most vulnerable people in our justice system receive competent and timely representation.	
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.	
We need to push federal and provincial governments to increase LAO funding as part of a broader justice strategy.	

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?	
It should be expanded no further than the FLSP	
If you answered “yes”, in what ways, why, and what additional training (if any) should be required of paralegals?	
No response was required, but the candidate wrote: None of the options above reflect my views. The LSO shouldn’t look for additional areas to expand paralegal scope of practice. What it should be doing, is looking at ways of increasing access to justice. This question should be studied, and consultations should be made, and on the basis of the information received, I would make a decision, whether it is in the public interest to expand the paralegal scope of practice.	
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
Yes, if they also benefit from these resources.	

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.	
2018	
Why are you a member of each of the associations you selected above?	
As a lawyer who has a small practice, the resources provided by the TLA are vital to me, particularly courthouse libraries.	

JEREMY GLICK

jeremyglick@aloc.ca

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
<i>If elected I will commit to at least maintaining the current level of LiRN funding, adjusted annually for inflation. I make that commitment because I recognize the importance of courthouse libraries both to lawyers and other courthouse users across the province. There is a clear connection between well-funded courthouse libraries, professional competence and access to justice. On many occasions while travelling across the province to litigate on behalf of the Crown I have personally benefited from the presence of a courthouse library and a helpful librarian. I am committed to ensuring that the libraries remain a relevant resource.</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>There are two primary reasons why I would not support offloading funding for LiRN/law libraries to the Law Foundation of Ontario. The first is that the responsibility of Convocation to provide funding for law libraries as set out in By-Law is at its heart a recognition of the importance of the LiRN and law libraries to the mandate of the LSO. Law libraries are a key mechanism for ensuring the competence of the legal profession. Ensuring a competent legal profession is very clearly in the public interest. Taking funding decisions away from Convocation improperly delegates an essential part of Convocation’s mandate to a body not assigned the task of regulating in the public interest. This is true even if the Law Foundation were to provide LiRN with proper funding. The second reason I would oppose offloading funding decisions to the Law Foundation is related to the first. If funding of the LiRN/law libraries was offloaded to the Law Foundation, there would be less funding available to other grantees who rely on the Law Foundation to support their work.</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 understand the importance of a robust and well-funded LAO both for lawyers who do this important work and also for access to justice for the people of Ontario. If elected benchler, I will build on the work done by the LSO pursuant to the report prepared in 2016 by the Legal Aid Working Group. This includes working with other organizations including through ASLA and by lobbying directly for increased funding. While I think raising awareness through sessions and other efforts is work worth doing, I would push the LSO to take a more aggressive position on the issue.</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>I think the LSO can and should engage both the provincial and federal governments on the questions of investment in LAO and increased financial allocation from their budgets. It should work with other organizations to encourage them to do the same. I also think the LSO can and should engage its members in this advocacy campaign and ask them to engage with their MPs and MPPs directly. Collective action is the key to successful advocacy on these kinds of issues.</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>Yes, it should be expanded.</i>	
<i>If you answered “yes”, in what ways, why, and what additional training (if any) should be required of paralegals?</i>	
<i>Paralegals play an important role in providing legal services to the public. From an access to justice perspective it makes sense to look at the question of whether there are additional areas in which their scope of practice ought to be expanded.</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>Paralegals should also be required to help fund the LiRN as they also benefit from law libraries.</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>Not a member of a county or district law association.</i>	
Why are you a member of each of the associations you selected above?	
<i>Not a member of a county or district law association.</i>	

SAM GOLDSTEIN

Sam@samgoldstein.ca

Region	Incumbency	Slate or Coalition Affiliation	Law Association Membership
Toronto	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?	No
Do you recognize the importance of the Law Society’s support for the LiRN budget in maintaining licensee competence across Ontario?	Yes
I’d increase the funding to LiRn	
If you are an incumbent, do you regret voting to cut the LiRN budget by 10% in November 2020?	No
We cut expenses across the Board as an emergency response to the Pandemic. We returned funding when the coast was clear.	
Do you support offloading funding for LiRN/law libraries to the Law Foundation of Ontario?	No
I don’t accept the premise of your question. You can walk and chew gum at the same time. The motion to get the LFO to support libraries has been misconstrued by the Cool Kids. The motion was to give another revenue stream to libraries.	

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?	
LSO should pick Benchers splinted to the LAO Board based on whether that person will support sustainability and funding for LAO instead appointing one of their Cool Kid friends.	
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.	
See my answer to 17. The Law Society’s core role is competence and discipline. The LSO appoints a representative to the LAO Board. Through that person it can speak to these issues.	

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?	
It should be expanded no further than the FLSP	
👉 If you answered “yes”, in what ways, why, and what additional training (if any) should be required of paralegals?	
No response was required, but the candidate wrote: This question is not fair. I had to select an answer to move in. We’ll see in three years. Look at the data and decide. I don’t have an ideological axe to grind. Your question prejudices what will happen three years.	
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
If paralegals want to use law libraries then they should pay for law libraries.	

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.	
No response provided.	
Why are you a member of each of the associations you selected above?	
I use the library at the courthouse.	

HEATHER HANSEN

heather@mccarthyco.ca

Region	Incumbency	Slate or Coalition Affiliation	Law Association Membership
Toronto	Not An Incumbent	Good Governance Coalition	Peel

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 lawyer I spend a lot of time in regional courthouses across the province. I see (and personally benefit from) access to the resources made available through LiRN. Smaller firm lawyers and/or lawyers who practice in regional settings depend on these resources to ensure timely, current and reliable information to service their clients.

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

Funding for the LiRN is an LSO mandate and obligation and it should continue to be so. To "offload" funding to the LFO would be placing a critical funding issue in the mix with other competing funding considerations and place the security of this resource at risk. The LSO needs to protect and ensure the continued funding of the critical resources provided through the LiRN for the benefit of the profession. Lawyers across the province need to be assured that their library funding is secure.

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?

As a family law lawyer I see firsthand how critical proper funding is for LAO. While there will always be a small cohort of litigants who elect to represent themselves the vast majority of litigants who are self-represented do not do so by choice and they are overwhelmingly engaged in family law litigation. This places a burden on not just the self-represented litigant but also the system. Whenever we make strides in family law reform we are often just putting a band-aid on a larger, systemic problem. It also goes without saying that those most often impacted by insufficient funding are those who need it most: we see this in particular in child protection litigation where parents are not able to afford proper representation on critical issues for themselves and their children.

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.

From a family law perspective we need to continue to push for data and research on how SLR's are navigating the system. There is limited research to date on volume, impact, and outcomes. As a partner in advocating for investment in LAO and increased funding, the LSO can and should be a leader in understanding the real impact that the lack of funding has on our system.

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?

It is premature for me to say how or on what terms the FLSP should be expanded at the time of the review. I am broadly in support of an increased role for paralegals in family law but I hear and understand the concerns of many stakeholders who have concerns. I supported the FLSP license. On the review I will want to see how paralegals have engaged with that process and advanced this mandate. It will not be an answer for me that the FLSP created barriers or challenges for paralegals: this is the model and in order to evaluate how or if there should be further expansion we need to first see how the existing licensing process works.

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

As we continue to dialogue about the expanded role for paralegals in providing legal services in the province that expanded role needs to run alongside ensuring that our critical resources remain accessible for all stakeholders. Whether the levy needs to be at the same level as lawyers and/or on a sliding scale are options to consider but as a general proposition I believe that paralegals should also pay an annual competency levy.


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.

2022, member at large

Why are you a member of each of the associations you selected above?

I joined the Peel Law Association so that I could access the resources at the Brampton SCJ!

 Federation of Ontario
Law Associations

SAYEH HASSAN

sayehhassan30@gmail.com

Region	Incumbency	Slate or Coalition Affiliation	Law Association Membership
Toronto	Not An Incumbent	FullStop	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 believe libraries are essential services especially for sole practitioners, small firms and articling students who may not have the funds to subscribe to costly legal search engines such as westlaw. I've relied heavily on them throughout my career and believe they are an asset that need to be protected.

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 believe LSO should provide budget and funding for these essential services.

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 was a criminal defence lawyer for 14 years, I believe access to justice includes having access to a competent lawyer, for many people that means lawyers funded by legal aid Ontario, to make this viable those lawyers need to be paid fairly and adequately, so that they can present a well prepared thoughtful and competent defence.

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.

Outreach to other community partners as well as government discussing and explaining the importance of legal aid and seeking funding for it.

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?

No, it should remain as it was prior to December 1, 2022

👉 If you answered “yes”, in what ways, why, and what additional training (if any) should be required of paralegals?

No response was required.

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?

No

Lawyers tend to make more lucrative salaries then paralegals, I am also not sure how often paralegals would use these resources, if i had to guess I would say lawyers use it more often , and paralegals not as much.


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.

Member in 2017, Board Member 2018 until Dec 2022

Why are you a member of each of the associations you selected above?

I love the Toronto Lawyer's Association because they are smaller, more accessible and have practical programs, lots of great value for the benefits that they provide.

 Federation of Ontario
Law Associations

PHILIP HORGAN

photgan@carltonlaw.ca

Region	Incumbency	Slate or Coalition Affiliation	Law Association Membership
Toronto	Incumbent	FullStop	Toronto

LiRN Funding and Libraries

Will you support the Law Society maintaining its current level of funding for LiRN, adjusted annually for inflation?

No

Do you recognize the importance of the Law Society’s support for the LiRN budget in maintaining licensee competence across Ontario?

Yes

I have advocated for a restoration of Law Foundation support for LIRN, as part of the Foundation's stated legislative mandate. Such funding would not replace LSO funding, but we should be willing to explore other funding assistance, especially when it can be found to reduce dues. I advocate fiscal responsibility.

The LSO has increased it funding to LIRN from a baseline of \$8 million to the current \$9.5 million, a 17 % increase, with my support, at a time when when we have reduced member's dues over the past 4 years. It is unfortunate that FOLA seems to have misrepresented a one year reduction to LIRN funding in 2021 as some sort of Slate mandated issue, when there was no opposition to that decision from any benchner at convocation. Check your facts.

If you are an incumbent, do you regret voting to cut the LiRN budget by 10% in November 2020?

No

As of November, 2020, LIRN had not spent \$1.5 million of its prior year allocation of \$8 million - not terribly surprising as law libraries were closed due to Covid since March. In our budget proposals, we were facing reductions in revenues and uncertain

Do you support offloading funding for LiRN/law libraries to the Law Foundation of Ontario?

No

Let's explore whether Foundation funding can be accessed at levels that were provided 10 years ago, e.g. at \$500K to \$750K per year. That mandate remains a stipulated directive of the Law Society Act, now ignored for the past 10 years, despite efforts by me and others to find some additional funding for libraries.

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?

Law Foundation funding will be increased in fiscal 2022 and 2023 owing to rises in interest rates on funds held in lawyers' trust accounts over the year. Legal Aid gets 75 % of those funds. New sources of funding can be found, and legal assistance from civil societies can also assist to fill the gap for the underprivileged. Encouragement of pro bono services would help reduce legal aid demands. Access to justice remains a concern and a priority, but it is a multifaceted problem.

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.

We should re-engage the option of accessing the talents of benchers to be more involved in government relations, rather than leaving these roles entirely to staff. The Government Relations committee was discontinued and compressed into another committee, and has largely been abandoned. It should be restored.

More money from government is not the only answer. We can be innovative on access to justice, via civil society organizations, greater pro bono offerings, and a commitment to serving the less fortunate.

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?

No, it should remain as it was prior to December 1, 2022

👉 If you answered “yes”, in what ways, why, and what additional training (if any) should be required of paralegals?

No response was required, but the candidate wrote: Your question does not allow for no response. My fill in the oval answer is not representative of my position. Your survey is deficient.

(I am also concerned that FOLA leadership has expressed very little responsibility in attacking FullStop positions, or engaging in ad hominem attacks.)

On this question, it seems irresponsible to me to make predictions on decisions to be made three years from now without knowing how the current changes will be adopted or implemented. We work off of evidence, not wild conjecture.

I am not sure the current proposal will receive significant uptake from paralegals, but I also predict that there will be new issues raised, and questions to be answered before three years pass.

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

New funding sources should be explored. Access to such resources would also follow from any such initiative. Many paralegals complain currently of limited access to county libraries. But the reports also suggest that usage of law libraries has declined significantly in recent years. A challenge will remain to find innovation on the usage of law library resources, such as data access and availability.


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 was granted a TLA membership in recent years. I also accessed TLA information from my office colleagues and through my benchner duties, including 4 years on the Audit & Finance Committee of the LSO, where I was active in dealing with LIRN board reports.

Why are you a member of each of the associations you selected above?

I am happy to receive information made available by local law associations. I receive unsolicited information from more than one. I also belong to other lawyer groups, such as the Thomas More Lawyers Guild, and receive materials and present lectures for the Christian Legal Fellowship and non-legal agencies. I also hear directly from the LIRN board, which most lawyers do not have access. But I cannot be everywhere, and I cannot maintain a watching brief on multiple associations.

 Federation of Ontario
Law Associations

PAM HRICK

pam@pamhrick.ca

Region	Incumbency	Slate or Coalition Affiliation	Law Association Membership
Toronto	Not An Incumbent	Good Governance Coalition	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
<i>I understand and appreciate the importance of LiRN funding for courthouse libraries used by lawyers practising across Ontario, especially those in solo practice or small firms. It's in the public interest to ensure that these libraries are adequately funded in order to support the competent delivery of legal services throughout the province.</i>	
If you are an incumbent, do you regret voting to cut the LiRN budget by 10% in November 2020?	N/A
<i>N/A - not an incumbent.</i>	
Do you support offloading funding for LiRN/law libraries to the Law Foundation of Ontario?	No
<i>The Law Society has a fundamental role to play in ensuring law libraries are adequately and sustainably funded. This is consistent with the Law Society's public interest mandate and supporting the competency of licensees. I would be very concerned about "offloading" this responsibility to the Law Foundation of Ontario, given the uncertainty of the LFO's available resources year over year. I would also have concerns about the knock-on effects of "offloading" this funding responsibility, as the LFO directs its available resources towards initiatives that advance access to justice (particularly for marginalized and underserved communities) across Ontario. This work and the communities that benefit from it would be negatively impacted by any such shift.</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>As set out in the report "An Abiding Interest" and its 2021 implementation update, the Law Society has long had an interest in advocating for "robust, transparent, and sustainable legal aid services". It is consistent with the Law Society's mandate to advance access to justice to advocate for much-needed additional funding for LAO and to ensure licensees are able to sustainably provide the services supported by that funding.</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>The Law Society has a role to play in being a strong advocate directly to the provincial and federal governments for increased funding to LAO, particularly following the current provincial government's funding cuts. I would also support the Law Society continuing to be engaged with LAO itself in efforts to enhance funding, as well as facilitating and supporting the work of the Alliance for Sustainable Legal Aid (ASLA).</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: I would be cautious about the Law Society looking to expand the paralegal scope of practice. Any expansion would need to be preceded by consultation and advance access to justice. For the time being, and consistent with recommendations in the Paralegal Standing Committee's recent report, I would support helping paralegals "become aware of the less prominent practice areas that are available to facilitate increased public access to legal services in those areas and help new paralegals establish themselves."</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>I would support this requirement, assuming (a) that paralegals would have access to the libraries/practice resource centres and (b) that the levy would be proportionate to the value of the available resources in relation to the scope of services paralegals provide.</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>Not a member of a county or district law association.</i>	
Why are you a member of each of the associations you selected above?	
<i>Not a member of a county or district law association, but the candidate wrote: Though I haven't been a member since I left private practice, I was glad to be a member of the Toronto Lawyers Association (TLA) for several years before moving in house in early 2021. I believe local law associations like the TLA provide invaluable library, CPD, and social networking resources for lawyers, as well as crucial advocacy for members on issues impacting them.</i>	

SHALINI KONANUR

shalini.konanur@salco.clcj.ca

Region	Incumbency	Slate or Coalition Affiliation	Law Association Membership
Toronto	Not An Incumbent	Good Governance Coalition	York

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 come from the Legal Aid Clinic world where learning and training budgets were almost totally cut. Un understand how difficult it is to practice law and bear the cost of the resources that we need to actually practice. Funding for law libraries/practice resource centres are critical for the majority of lawyers who practice in Ontario from sole practices to small firms. For me this is an issue of access to justice that supports the provision on legal services. I would support continued funding of a sustainable budget for LiRN.

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 believe that funding for LiRN should remain with the Law Society of Ontario, whose obligation it is to support the members of our profession with their ability to practice in Ontario. My legal clinic has been the recipient of Law Foundation funding and, while I am thankful for the support, shifting to LFO funding solely would mean that individual law libraries would have to apply for funding annually and would have to comply with the reporting requirements of the Law Foundation. This would time-consuming, inefficient, and would create uncertainty, which I understand all too well coming from the legal aid clinic world.

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 am the Executive Director of a Legal Aid funded legal clinic. I am fully supportive of greater funding for Legal Aid Ontario both for clinics and for private bar lawyers who take certificates. I have worked with thousands of clients over my past 20 years + in the clinic system and I have never had as much difficulty as I do now in connecting them to lawyers who are able to take legal aid certificates. The rates make it extremely difficult and often impossible for lawyers to take on certificates and have a viable practice, and for them to be able to serve clients in the ways they want to serve them. I believe strongly in creating a system of access to justice for our most vulnerable populations in Ontario, which means funding a robust legal aid system that give service providers (lawyers in private practice and lawyers and paralegal at legal clinics) the ability to provide high quality services and make a living doing it. I have spoken to many certificate taking lawyers about the restrictive rates and hours to do this incredibly needed work. With the cost of practice on the rise the rates and time allocations have not kept pace which is leading us to a crisis point in access to justice.

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.

While the Law Society of Ontario does not directly fund Legal Aid Ontario services, it should continue to be a strong advocate for funding for Legal Aid Ontario. Cuts to Legal Aid Ontario and refugee and immigration legal services have had a significant impact on access to justice for Canada’s largest population of low-income racialized people. The lack of sustainable legal aid / legal clinic funding has meant a reduction in the capacity to provide legal services in all areas of poverty law. As the Executive Director of a legal aid funded legal clinic and someone who has worked in the legal aid clinic system for their entire career I see directly the impact of the cuts to funding at Legal Aid Ontario on both the clients we serve and our profession. As a starting point, the LSO must focus on the “access to justice” component of its mandate. The LSO must work closely with both the provincial and federal governments to ensure that there is sufficient funding for legal aid using its unique and powerful connections. The LSO must continue to support the Alliance for Sustainable Legal Aid (ASLA) in its work in this area including a lead role in ensuring that ASLA has direct connection to provincial and federal ministers, their staff and the bureaucracy, and along with ASLA, work with LAO to ensure that legal aid resources actually flow to front line service providers (both private bar and clinics).

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?

It should be expanded no further than the FLSP

🔗 If you answered “yes”, in what ways, why, and what additional training (if any) should be required of paralegals?

No response was required.

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 may support a requirement for paralegals who are able to access LiRN supports to pay fees towards those programs. As mentioned, I think the LiRN budget is critical to the practice of law for many lawyers and paralegals and we required a reasonable and sustainable solution to ensure these supports remain available. I do however think that the issue needs to be studied to determine the balance between adding more fees and the cost implications for all lawyers and paralegals to be able to practice and make a reasonable living (a cost benefit review).


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.

2023 - member only

Why are you a member of each of the associations you selected above?

I was born and raised in York Region. I live there now, and part of my practice is with clients in York Region.

 Federation of Ontario
Law Associations

ATRISHA LEWIS

alewis@mccarthy.ca

Region	Incumbency	Slate or Coalition Affiliation	Law Association Membership
Toronto	Incumbent	Good Governance Coalition	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 believe LiRN provides valuable services to lawyers across the province (including access to a suite of electronic resources which would be prohibitive on a per lawyer basis). Libraries provide services and support which are critical to ensuring professional competence. I do not agree that LiRN funding should be offloaded to the Law Foundation. First of all, the LSO does not control the Law Foundation. Second, the Law Foundation funds other important services like Legal Aid Ontario.	
If you are an incumbent, do you regret voting to cut the LiRN budget by 10% in November 2020?	Yes
There was considerable uncertainty in 2020 and given the belief that the library spaces remained close for the foreseeable future, it was felt this was a necessary step. I supported subsequent funding increases for LiRN when COVID related uncertainty abat	
Do you support offloading funding for LiRN/law libraries to the Law Foundation of Ontario?	No
See answer 11.	

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?	
The LSO doesn't fund LAO but works closely with the Ministry of the Attorney General and in that role has a lot of opportunity for soft advocacy.	
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.	
In meetings that I have had with the AG and other government officials, I have strongly advocated for increased funding for LAO.	

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?	
The previous question is a bit unfair. The FLSP is a pilot. We will have three years of data that needs to be reviewed carefully and decisions made based on the data. I don't think I can commit to a position without the benefit of the FLSP review. I have selected an a response as I was not given the opportunity to indicate my actual position and I hope that my published answer reflects my qualification.	
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
Yes, on the condition that paralegals also then have the opportunity to access courthouse libraries/practice resources. I don't believe they should pay for something they cannot use. I would appreciate that any published answer reflects my qualification.	

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 believe I became a member of the TLA upon my call to the bar in 2013 (although, I am not 100% sure). I have not been on the board or in an executive role at TLA	
Why are you a member of each of the associations you selected above?	
I am a member of the TLA because I live and work in Toronto and thus the organization is relevant to my practice. The TLA puts on interesting/relevant CPDs and provides locker access at the Court houses in downtown Toronto.	

WILL MCDOWELL

wmcdowell@litigate.com

Region	Incumbency	Slate or Coalition Affiliation	Law Association Membership
Toronto	Benchers Pre-2019	Good Governance Coalition	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
County law libraries are the nerve center of legal communities outside Toronto. They provide resources, such as access to electronic legal search engines (WestLaw, LexisNexis). Beyond that they provide meeting spaces and areas to work, and just meet other lawyers informally.	
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
The present system works well provided adequate funding levels are maintained. The Law Foundation has many responsibilities, and its funding can fluctuate wildly depending on interest rates. It is better that Benchers maintain oversight over this vital resource.	

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?	
Appropriate funding of LAO can only be achieved by effective advocacy with the Ontario Attorney General and the federal Minister of Justice, as well as with other Parliamentarians at each level. There is no silver bullet. I have seen this from both sides--meeting with legal aid delegations as Associate Deputy Minister of Justice, and meeting with the AGs as co-chair of the Government Relations Committee of Convocation.	
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.	
Governments must be made to understand that there are no savings to government spending by cutting Legal Aid. The court system becomes cluttered with unresolved cases. Trials involving unrepresented accused take far longer, and are vulnerable to challenge on appeal. But there are also impacts beyond the justice system, in child protection and in the treatment of mental illness. LAO funding is important to the human condition.	

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?	
It should be expanded no further than the FLSP	
👉 If you answered “yes”, in what ways, why, and what additional training (if any) should be required of paralegals?	
No response was required.	
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
There is a basic fairness in requiring this; paralegals enjoy an important place in the practice of law in Ontario.	

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 have been a member of the Toronto Law Association (and its predecessor) intermittently since my call to the Bar in 1988.	
Why are you a member of each of the associations you selected above?	
The TLA has been an important part of the community for many years. It has been the custodian of an excellent law library and the adjacent lounge. I enjoy its annual events. But the size of the Bar in Toronto means that the TLA plays a somewhat different role than other county law associations.	

ISFAHAN MERALI

contact@isfahanmerali.com

Region	Incumbency	Slate or Coalition Affiliation	Law Association Membership
Toronto	Incumbent	Good Governance Coalition	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 recognize that LiRN funding is absolutely critical for local law associations across the province. I myself am a member of a legal association and am a user of LiRN so I personally appreciate the immense value of this resource for lawyers. I also know that this is even more critical for lawyers practicing outside Toronto. I have answered Yes to #9 and I add that I must always consider all the issues at the time of any issue coming before Convocation based on the reports and research provided, and consider the comments made during the debate so that my decision is informed and considers the public interest.

If you are an incumbent, do you regret voting to cut the LiRN budget by 10% in November 2020?

No

This Fall 2020 decision was an incredibly challenging one to make. It came to Convocation within the context of the pandemic circumstances where the LSO and Benchers were faced with a great deal of unknowns about legal services in Ontario and while the Courts were not operating fully. At the time, a great deal of concern was raised about the ability of lawyers to be able to pay their LSO fees, which of course funds the LSO and in turn provide the needed support to LiRN. I note also that there were benchers (NOT those running with the Good Governance Coalition) who were advocating for 25% cuts to LiRN, and some lawyers advocating for full defunding of the LSO. It was in the context of these unusual and difficult circumstances that this vote was made and I did so after considering all the information as carefully as possible. I note also that Convocation did, in its very next budget, return and increase funds for LiRN and I continue to be supportive of future LiRN funding.

Do you support offloading funding for LiRN/law libraries to the Law Foundation of Ontario?

No

I believe that this responsibility lies primarily with the Law Society.

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 am a strong supporter of access to justice, particularly for the most vulnerable and marginalized, throughout my career. Legal Aid is a vital part of this access and I will continue to support it wherever I can.

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.

While the LSO does not fund Legal Aid directly (it is funded through monies derived from trust funds, and the funds are directed towards LAO from the Law Foundation), the LSO has been a strong and critical supporter of funding to LAO. Some of its important efforts have been through its leadership on the Alliance for Sustainable Legal Aid (ASLA) which has been an initiative shared with other legal associations and organizations including FOLA. I continue to be supportive of the additional and sustained efforts that the LSO has made to advocate for investment in LAO, in particular those set out in the Access to Justice An Abiding Interest: Implementation Update of June 23, 2021. I note also that The Good Governance Coalition includes some critical and passionate advocates for LAO funding including Jennifer Gold who is on the Board of Directors of LAO and Jonathan Rosenthal who is on Alliance of Sustainable Legal Aid (ASLA).

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?

On this question, it is important to note that the LSO recently expanded paralegal scope of practice in family law for paralegals who obtain a special license Family Legal Service Provider license. The issue of additional training was carefully reviewed at that time, and any additional training needed for any other expansion should be similarly carefully reviewed and considered. Currently at the LSO, there is no further expansion of paralegal scope of practice being considered. It is critical that any considerations to future expansion of any practice be reviewed by benchers through the lens of barriers to access to justice, competencies required, risk - and this should be done with a careful review of evidence-based research and always with extensive and transparent consultation. Ultimately, all decisions made by benchers must be made in the best interest of the public.

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 believe that LiRN and legal associations play a critical role in improving access to legal information and increased competency in the legal field. Currently, many paralegals do not have access to courthouse libraries/practice resource centres (I note however that there are some law associations who do now offer paralegal membership). As a result, paralegals do not currently pay to support law libraries through their annual fees to the LSO. Yet, they are part of providing access to justice in Ontario. While it is important to remember that lawyer and paralegal scope of practice and competencies differ, I am supportive of this type of levy in order to provide access to these important legal resources, as I believe that this improves access to justice and is in the best interest of the public.


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 have been a member since around 2015. I am a 2022 recipient of the TLA Honsberger Award. I have spoken or participated in TLA panels as well.

Why are you a member of each of the associations you selected above?

The TLA is a vital source of legal update and information which I depend on regularly to provide excellent legal services. The continuing education and library research has been incredibly helpful to my legal work, and has broadened my understanding of key issues in the legal field. The opportunity for connection and collegiality with the broader legal community has also been important to me.

 Federation of Ontario
Law Associations

JONATHAN MILLER

jm@jmillerlawservices.ca

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
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.	
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
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 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.	

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 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. 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.	
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.	
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.	

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?	
It should be expanded no further than the FLSP	
👉 If you answered “yes”, in what ways, why, and what additional training (if any) should be required of paralegals?	
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.	
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
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.	

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 have been a member of the TLA for so long that my records do not go back that far.
Why are you a member of each of the associations you selected above?
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.

DAVID MILOSEVIC

dm@mflitigation.com

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
A central component of my platform is to ensure sustainable funding for local law libraries. My campaign is centered on being a voice for solo and small firm lawyers, who comprise 94% of lawyers practicing in Ontario. For these lawyers, access to library resources to access expensive databases, for example, is crucial. By supporting solo and small firm lawyers, we are supporting access to justice for the public and fulfilling the mandate of the LSO.	
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
Numerous reasons to oppose offloading funding onto LFO. LFO already strapped by Legal Aid funding needs, the Law Society Act does not mandate LFO funding for law libraries, the client rust fund interest that funds the LFO is not the most stable source of funding, and indirectly offloads funding onto the public. Offloading funding is not a viable solution to the library funding issue, which is central to LSO mandate to advance to ensure lawyer competence.	

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?	
Convocation does have a responsibility to address the issue of access to justice that cuts to legal aid funding threaten. As FOLA know, Legal Aid Ontario is statutorily independent of the LSO, but our ability to participate through appointment recommendations to the LAO board gives us a voice in the organization. I believe we need to work cooperatively with LAO to ensure our mutual interest in advancing access to justice is protected and enhanced. I would also add that this is why independent Benchers candidates are especially important. Politicized slates of candidates do risk alienating other stakeholders with whom we must work.	
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.	
As FOLA members know, LAO funding has been cut dramatically in recent years. This has deepened the access to justice crisis we are facing, and it is genuinely a crisis. Cases are taking longer than ever, and lawyers cannot afford to stay in practice serving clients who require legal aid. At the same time, eligibility for legal aid is set unrealistically low, with minimum wage earners effectively shut out from qualifying. One of the main problems appears to be a misallocation of resources. After the backlogs exacerbated by the pandemic, MAG announced additional funding to hire crown prosecutors and court staff. While beneficial, this approach fails to recognize that the additional burden on the courts stems from the large increase in self-represented litigants, who did not qualify for legal aid. Their cases take longer and place more demands on judges, courts and staff. By adequately funding legal aid, we can address the problem more holistically. We can provide access to justice, keep lawyers in the profession, thus providing representation for the public in Ontario that most needs it, and at the same time reduce the burden on our courts. I would strongly advocate for such a holistic approach.	

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?	
It should be expanded no further than the FLSP	
👉 If you answered “yes”, in what ways, why, and what additional training (if any) should be required of paralegals?	
No response was required.	
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 legal professionals benefit from the availability of library resources and thus all should contribute to maintaining them.	

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.	
approximately 2012. I have not at on the Board. I have sat on Civil Litigation Executive of OBA and 10+ Standing Committee of Advocates' Society for 3 years and 2 years respectively.	
Why are you a member of each of the associations you selected above?	
I became a member originally when I was a more junior lawyer to meet fellow lawyers and to get a better sense of the issues facing the Bar in Toronto, especially issues regarding court delays and access to justice, which I was heavily involved in at the time.	

MARK JACOB MORRIS

mmorris@legalclosing.ca

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
Legal resources and access to case law is the bedrock of a functional legal system. Case law and access to legal materials is often expensive and providing wider access is a requirement for a functional, transparent and therefore fair legal system. In my professional life, I contribute actively to a variety of education systems as a professor of Law and I am acutely aware of the need for accessible legal resources for both students and the general public. That same commitment to education would drive my decision in this area as well.	
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 support the funding mechanism that has been in place for LiRN's existence. I have not seen a compelling reason to amend that funding formula at this time.	

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 do not have an answer to this question as all funding involves trade-offs and I am unaware of the budgetary trade-offs individual funding decisions will require at the present time. Having said that, I have always viewed the provision of legal aid by our profession as fundamental to our commitment to deliver justice to Ontarians. Early in my career, while in Government, I was a strong proponent of, and did in fact assist the Attorney General as his policy advisor in increasing the level of government funding to legal aid Ontario. I have not changed in my views that legal funding of this program is a critical part of our collective professional obligations. In sum, any decision I do make will start from the position that this program is a priority.	
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.	
It is a sad reality that increased LAO funding, while meritorious in its own right, is not a political win for Governments - political parties simply do not see electoral success through the path of increasing LAO funding. Accordingly, to be successful in increasing financial allocations, LAO funding prioritization needs to be strategic and timely. I have been active in Provincial politics, first as a staffer and later as a registered Government Lobbyist. I am acutely aware of the necessity of approaching Governments at the right time and with the right message. Omnibus justice bills are ideal for such an approach and more recently, Covid 19 Justice initiatives provided such cover. When those opportunities arise, and Governments turn to the LSO for its backing in order to clear the way through the legislature, our accession to those packages should come with the price of a new better formula for LAO funding, annually adjusted to avoid having to go back to the drawing board every couple of years.	

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?	
It should be expanded no further than the FLSP	
👉 If you answered “yes”, in what ways, why, and what additional training (if any) should be required of paralegals?	
No response was required, but the candidate wrote: I would like to see where the FLSP project goes before taking a position on where it should go next. As a matter of course, I do strongly believe that there is an important role that Paralegals play in providing access to justice for Ontarians and so I do hope that the FLSP project is a success that can help craft future initiatives in this area.	
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
Paralegals and Lawyers have the same interest in seeing LiRN properly funded. There is no reason that annual fees should not be allocated from both sections of the Bar.	

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.	

JONATHAN ODUMERU

odumeruj@gmail.com

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
The courthouse library system is a critical resource for all kinds of practitioners across the province. Access to legal resources improves access to justice, which is a fundamental goal of the LSO.	
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
Moving responsibility for courthouse libraries to the Law Foundation does not guarantee the survival of this library system. I believe that the resources provided by the courthouse library system support lawyers’ and paralegals’ ability to provide quality legal services across the province, and ensuring such ability is core to the LSO’s mandate. Shifting this burden to a grant-making institution that does not answer to Convocation strips the LSO of the ability to ensure the survival of these precious resources.	

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?	
LAO is highly reliant on funding from government sources and the Law Foundation of Ontario (LFO). Funding from LFO, however, is variable due to the nature of its own funding source, and in 2022 the LAO saw a significant reduction in funding from the LFO, thereby needing to secure additional one-time funding from government sources to help avoid service reductions. I believe the LSO needs open dialogue with the board of directors for LAO to understand how the LSO can assist LAO with securing more sustainable funding, particularly from all levels of government. LAO is essential for access to justice in Ontario, and the LSO must support it.	
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.	
LAO tracks several key performance indicators, revealing how it has performed on an annual basis. The LSO may assist in advocating for increased funding for LAO by using these KPIs as well as qualitative indicators to independently report on LAO’s impact on access to justice in Ontario. A report of this nature could act as an advocacy piece by revealing what effect more stable funding would have on access to justice and how less predictable variable funding can endanger it.	

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 think it is important for the LSO to continue to explore how to expand the scope of practice for paralegals, as it’s in the public interest for our professions to evolve to the needs of the people of Ontario.	
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 say yes with caveats. Any increases in fees for paralegals need to be accompanied with increases in services available to them specifically. I would not support such a levy if it (a) significantly increased their fees; or (b) did not guarantee improved services provided to paralegals.	

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.	

ANGELA OGANG

angela@angelaw.ca

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>The Law Society has the regulatory mandate to ensure that the public is served by licensees with the highest standards of learning and competence, and courthouse libraries play an important role in upholding this goal. If elected as a Benchers, I will ensure that adequate support is provided to the Legal Information and Resource Network (LiRN) and the operation of the 48 county law libraries in the system through the LiRN budget allocation. Further, when faced with complex fiscal challenges, I will advocate for thoughtful policy solutions rather than simplistic cuts to the LiRN budget.</i>	
If you are an incumbent, do you regret voting to cut the LiRN budget by 10% in November 2020?	N/A
<i>N/A - not an incumbent.</i>	
Do you support offloading funding for LiRN/law libraries to the Law Foundation of Ontario?	No
<i>I do not support offloading funding for LiRN and Ontario’s 48 courthouse law libraries to the Law Foundation of Ontario because the Foundation’s revenues vary from year to year and are dependent on economic conditions and fiscal variables. LiRN needs consistency and stability to achieve its goals and meet the evolving needs of the profession and the public. In any event, a significant portion of the Foundation’s revenue is already earmarked for Legal Aid and the Law Society of Ontario has no control over how the Foundation allocates its revenues.</i> <i>In December 2022, the Law Society of Ontario approved a proposal for a family legal services provider (FLSP) license, which allows paralegals to offer certain services in family law. As the Law Society considers whether to extend the Family Legal Service Provider (FLSP) license beyond December 2025, it should also consider whether paralegals ought to contribute towards law libraries as part of their own competency obligations. Such contributions would unlock new revenues for LiRN.</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>In the spring of 2019, the Legal Aid Ontario budget was cut by almost 30% (\$133 million) and funding was eliminated for refugee and immigration cases. As a lawyer practicing immigration law and as a member of the Ontario Bar Association Citizenship & Immigration Law Section Executive, I am concerned that these cuts could have deleterious consequences in the long run, including the migration of highly qualified lawyers to other areas where funding is available.</i> <i>Additionally, legal aid rates for lawyers have remained the same for years despite inflation. In fact, legal aid compensation is so inadequate that defence counsel frequently end up working for free to complete a case. This has caused many young lawyers and lawyers from diverse communities who rely on legal aid cases to leave defence law practice altogether.</i> <i>The Law Society has a role to play in elevating these issues to both levels of government to ensure a stable and predictable legal aid service. If elected as a benchers, I will advocate for adequate legal aid funding and an increase in lawyer tariff rates, but also for an increase in the threshold for legal aid eligibility and greater access to legal aid services in French, particularly outside Ottawa and Toronto.</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>Legal Aid Ontario has three main sources of funding: (i) the amount that the Law Foundation of Ontario is required by statute to give Legal Aid Ontario (75% of the interest earned on lawyers’ and paralegals’ mixed trust accounts after deducting the Foundation’s operating expenses); (ii) the funds that Legal Aid Ontario receives from the Ontario government for the delivery of legal aid services in criminal, youth criminal justice, immigration and refugee law; and (iii) a portion of the federal government’s contribution for various social services through the Canada Social Transfer (CST) that the Ontario government may decide to set aside for civil legal aid.</i> <i>In 2017, the Standing Committee on Justice and Human Rights recommended in its report entitled Access to Justice, Part 2: Legal Aid that the federal government remove the legal aid funds currently included in the CST in favour of a civil legal aid fund specifically earmarked for provinces. The Law Society Legal Aid Working Group expressed support for this proposal in its 2018 report.</i> <i>As one of the initial architects of the legal aid system in Ontario and the regulator of the legal profession, the Law Society has a key role to play in ensuring that the government is aware of the benefits of legal aid and the need for stable legal aid funding. The Law Society should call on the federal government to establish a dedicated transfer to the provincial government or a carve-out from the CST specifically for civil legal aid.</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.</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>It is the regulatory mandate of the Law Society to ensure that the public is served by lawyers and paralegals with the highest standards of learning and competence. Our law libraries play an important role in upholding lawyer and paralegal competence, and well-funded courthouse libraries enable all legal professionals to carry out proper research for their clients pursuant to their obligations under the Rules of Professional Conduct. I would therefore support a requirement for paralegals to also pay an annual competency levy.</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>Friend of the Toronto Lawyers Association (2022), Voting Member (2023)</i>	
Why are you a member of each of the associations you selected above?	
<i>I first heard of the Toronto Lawyers Association (TLA) through a board member whom I met at the Coach and Advisor Network Summer Solstice Social in June 2019. I had just returned from Kenya, where I had been working and practicing law, and I was still in the process of deciding what type of practice I wanted to build. So, I started attending CLE programs hosted by the TLA as well as social events where I met other lawyers practicing in Toronto. In April 2022, I came across a TLA program entitled “Behind the Scenes with Benchers” that promised to provide an insider take on the work of Benchers as well as tips on how to run for a benchers position in the 2023 elections. I was considering running for Benchers at the time, so I jumped at the opportunity to learn more about the role. I also became a Friend of the TLA and signed up for the weekly updates through which I have been able to keep abreast of developments in my areas of practice and TLA programs and networking events. More recently, I upgraded my membership so I can access the Court House Library and seek the assistance of TLA Librarians with research. As a sole practitioner with a burgeoning practice, I find this resource extremely invaluable and cost-effective.</i>	

MARK PERSAUD

mark@persaulaw.ca

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>This is extremely important for newer and younger members of the Bar who may not have the mentorship, support and resources. Licensee competence should be enhanced not compromised by the inability of licensee to have proper access and support necessary to serve the public competently.</i>	
If you are an incumbent, do you regret voting to cut the LiRN budget by 10% in November 2020?	N/A
<i>N/A - not an incumbent.</i>	
Do you support offloading funding for LiRN/law libraries to the Law Foundation of Ontario?	Yes
<i>Having the LiRN/law libraries funded by the Law Foundation of Ontario may provide a more secure and stable source of funding. If not, then it should not be offloaded.</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
👉 If you answered “yes”, how?	
<i>Access to justice is a very critical issue fior the public and the profession. This issue has been repatedly flagged not only by lawyers but also by prominent Canadian jurists who see the impact and consequence of inadequate representation of litigants who cannot afford private counsel. I will be a firm advocate in Convocation for improvements to funding for legal aid to the Ontario public and work with colleagues in this regard.</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>This is an issue that I will canvass with my colleagues and look at what has been done in the past. I will take a pro active approach with similar minded colleagues to consul and develop strategies to garner additional resources for LAO including advocating at the provincial and federal levels of government.</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>	
👉 If you answered “yes”, in what ways, why, and what additional training (if any) should be required of paralegals?	
<i>No response was required, but the candidate wrote: A careful study and evaluation should be conducted into the scope of practice of paralegals on the issue of the nature and scope of any involvement in providing family law services to the public. Only if the review is positive and would allow greater and competent access to family law legal services should any extension or expansion be considered. The protection of the public should be of paramount importance given the vulnerability of family law litigants.</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 should not be a distinction between lawyers and paralegals on matters of core competency. These are often resources that paralegals need as much or perhaps more than lawyers and as such it should be a requirement.</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 Toronto Lawyers Association for several years. I have not served in any official role.</i>	
Why are you a member of each of the associations you selected above?	
<i>The Toronto Lawyers' Association (TLA) provides area lawyers with excellent services and programs including a professionally run law library that is most important and useful to members especially for lawyers without the resources of large or medium sized firms. The TLA's regular educational programs, publications and timely updates are extremely useful. The advocacy and community engagement by the TLA are also invaluable given the required time, resources and organization which are often not readily achievable by busy lawyers. The annual Gala and Awards ceremony are a great source of pride and provides a wonderful forum for camaraderie and celebration of the achievements of colleagues.</i>	

JORGE PINEDA

jpineda@charteradvocates.ca

Region	Incumbency	Slate or Coalition Affiliation	Law Association Membership
Toronto	Incumbent	FullStop	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
Courthouse libraries are an important resource for lawyers, and are of particular benefit for those that do not work in a big law firm environment. LiRN provides an economy of scale for products and services, and this is a great benefit to the bar. Lawyers should be able to rely on stable funding for courthouse libraries.	
If you are an incumbent, do you regret voting to cut the LiRN budget by 10% in November 2020?	No
The 2021 budget and LiRN funding was approved under exceptional circumstances during the Covid pandemic response, and made in the context of unprecedented economic uncertainty and disruption. At the time there was real uncertainty around lockdowns, court closures, and other unprecedented measures. I believe that at this time, the decision to reduce funding was reasonable . Funding was subsequently restored, which was the right decision.	
Do you support offloading funding for LiRN/law libraries to the Law Foundation of Ontario?	No
I believe the LSO has a responsibility to fund and support our local law libraries.	

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?	
The LSO has an obligation to ensure the public has access to the justice system. The LAO plays an important role in fulfilling that mandate. The LSO should directly engage with government and advocate for sustainable funding.	
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 LSO should conduct evidence-based analysis that can demonstrate the value of the public funding of the LAO. This could include a) a quantitative and qualitative cost-benefit analysis, including the cost to society and the public of reduced levels of funding b) evidence-based and aggregated assessment of the outcomes of legal aid services for individual clients	

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?	
It should be expanded no further than the FLSP	
👉 If you answered “yes”, in what ways, why, and what additional training (if any) should be required of paralegals?	
No response was required.	
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?	No
No response provided.	

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.	

LUBOMIR POLIACIK

lubomir.poliacik@ceplaw.ca

Region	Incumbency	Slate or Coalition Affiliation	Law Association Membership
Toronto	Incumbent	FullStop	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
No response provided.	
If you are an incumbent, do you regret voting to cut the LiRN budget by 10% in November 2020?	No
The November 2020 vote took place in the first year of the Covid lockdown. Benchers and LSO staff were uncertain of the financial stability of the members of the professions and we were all worried about LSO's own financial situation. At the time, LiRN	
Do you support offloading funding for LiRN/law libraries to the Law Foundation of Ontario?	No
The Law Foundation should fulfill its statutory mandate and support the law libraries. The Law Foundation's contribution to law libraries' funding was traditionally in excess of \$500,000 a year.	
In recent years it has been arbitrarily reduced to zero. It is not a question of the LSO "offloading" library funding, but rather obtaining additional funding for the libraries.	

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?	
The Law Society has to continue to advocate for increased Legal aid funding, but its influence on government (provincial or federal) budgeting processes is limited.	
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.	
As stated above, our lobbying efforts should continue.	

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?	
It should be expanded no further than the FLSP	
If you answered “yes”, in what ways, why, and what additional training (if any) should be required of paralegals?	
No response was required, but the candidate wrote: This question requires me to select one of the 4 answers on offer. I do not agree with any of the four answers. The whole point of the 3 year review period is to enable benchers to evaluate the FLSP after it had been put into practice. I do not know what my views on this issue will be three years from now, when I will have had a chance to review the success or failure of three years of FLSP.	
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?	No
It is my understanding that paralegals are currently excluded from a number of the county law association libraries. if and when paralegals are granted full access to membership and to the libraries, they can be required to contribute to them financially.	

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.	
1995(?)	
Why are you a member of each of the associations you selected above?	
Primarily to use the library research services	

GEOFF POLLOCK

geoff@geoffpollock.com

Region	Incumbency	Slate or Coalition Affiliation	Law Association Membership
Toronto	Incumbent	FullStop	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
LiRN plays an vital role in the local legal community, particularly outside of the major cities.	
If you are an incumbent, do you regret voting to cut the LiRN budget by 10% in November 2020?	Didn't Vote to Cut
I abstained on the LiRN budget motion in 2020.	
Do you support offloading funding for LiRN/law libraries to the Law Foundation of Ontario?	No
I support holding the Law Foundation to account for its failure to support LiRN, but as a means to enhance the law library system, rather than offloading.	

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 will seek (and have previously sought) to be appointed to the LAO board.	
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.	
To work with both levels of government to ensure adequate and sustainable funding.	

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?	
No, it should be reduced	
👉 If you answered “yes”, in what ways, why, and what additional training (if any) should be required of paralegals?	
No response was required.	
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 support the levy with the caveat that paralegals are then have access to the libraries and resource centres.	

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.	

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>I have only recently familiarized myself with these issues, but I am not new to the importance of the services that LiRN organizes, including the importance of those services for enhancing practitioner competency and delivering access to justice. It seems shortsighted to me to defund or underfund LiRN when it provides access to legal information that is mind-blowingly cost-effective. Access to these educational programs and legal research resources enhance competence and client service and would otherwise be cost-prohibitive for many of us.</i>	
If you are an incumbent, do you regret voting to cut the LiRN budget by 10% in November 2020?	N/A
<i>N/A - not an incumbent.</i>	
Do you support offloading funding for LiRN/law libraries to the Law Foundation of Ontario?	No
<i>LiRN should continue to be independently funded and operated through LSO fees to ensure a consistent standard of legal research and legal education. This allows LiRN to continue to focus on what it does best: promoting competent provision of legal services through cost-effective access to legal information. It also allows The Law Foundation of Ontario to continue to focus on what it does best: providing grants to advance access to justice. Ensuring the competency of its practitioners is one of the LSO’s core mandates and the LSO should forcefully resist any incentives to divest itself of its influence over the services organized by LiRN, which are crucial to meeting this competence mandate.</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 will support all reasonable initiatives, in convocation and otherwise, that call for the LSO’s involvement as an advocate and stakeholder in discussions about LAO funding while also collaborating with other elected benchers to determine what more we can do to support low-income Ontarians in their pursuit of affordable legal services. There is a significant nexus between the public’s interest in this respect and the interests of the legal practitioners who provide services funded through LAO. This presents further opportunities to consider collaborating with not just LAO but also local law associations and bar associations to ensure that our practitioners have can viably provide services through LAO funding, which likely also includes discussion of the effects of the exorbitant tuition at Ontario law schools, which further reduces the financial viability, particularly for young lawyers, of providing legal services that are funded by LAO as members of the private bar.</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>The LSO has a duty to act so as to facilitate access to justice for the people of Ontario. This requirement is plainly stated in the Law Society Act and, in my view, it necessitates the LSO’s support of adequate funding for Legal Aid Ontario, so long as LAO occupies the crucial position that it currently does in providing access to justice for Ontarians who otherwise would not be able to afford legal services from qualified practitioners. The LSO must therefore maintain its relevance in discussing the funding of services funded by LAO. There is no escaping advocacy for adequate LAO funding as part of the LSO’s access to justice mandate, regardless of any actual administrative role related to LAO and its funding. The LSO must therefore act as a fearless advocate for LAO funding from the provincial and federal governments. The LSO can do this by ensuring that its advocacy for appropriate funding is clear long before to the release of government budgeting decisions and by ensuring that LAO views the LSO as a partner with which to approach key government decision-makers. If the LSO does not ensure that it is at the table when key decisions are made or advocated for, it abdicates its duty to facilitate Ontarians’ access to justice. In this respect, any initiatives undertaken by the LSO must be focused on the services LAO provides and their necessity for access to justice, rather than LAO funding as a goal in itself.</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>Yes, it should be expanded.</i>	
<i>If you answered “yes”, in what ways, why, and what additional training (if any) should be required of paralegals?</i>	
<i>The LSO should often be assessing what legal services can be competently provided by paralegals alongside lawyers. Broadening paralegal scope of practice broadens access to justice for Ontarians as it significantly expands the number of legal practitioners available to assist them. In this respect, additional competition is good for the public and therefore fits squarely within the LSO’s mandate so long as sufficient competency is maintained. To ensure competency, the LSO must look first at whether the licensing process is sufficiently relevant to a broader scope of paralegal practice and whether already licensed paralegals require additional training or testing to be qualified. The LSO must then look to ongoing professional education initiatives that might be required to frequently update paralegal knowledge and/or skills. In my view, there may be no scope of practice too broad for paralegals so long as they are individually competent to provide the services offered. However, ongoing assessment and reassessment of these initiatives in the interest of the public will be necessary and no broadening of paralegals’ scope of practice should be undertaken or maintained without extreme care.</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>The regulation of paralegals is at least as important as the regulation of lawyers and so too is the importance of ensuring the competence of paralegals. To accomplish this, paralegals need access to the services organized by LiRN and, accompanied by this access, paralegals should have to pay their own competence levy.</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 was a member of the TLA from 2016-2021 and now again in 2023.</i>
Why are you a member of each of the associations you selected above?
<i>The TLA provides important services, has a fantastic space, and has always provided me with great value. While representing the province’s biggest city, they have a welcoming vibe that presents professional services and content in a way that truly does feel local, with chill, friendly energy. It was their 2019 “Starting Your Own Firm” CPD event that inspired me to start seriously considering opening up my own practice, something I recently achieved with the help of my notes from that session. Now in solo practice, I can appreciate their services more than ever.</i>

CATHERINE RHINELANDER

Catherine.Rhinelander@ontario.ca

Region	Incumbency	Slate or Coalition Affiliation	Law Association Membership
Toronto	Not An Incumbent	Good Governance Coalition	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>I fully support access to justice and the important role that practice resource centres provide to licensees, especially for sole practitioners and smaller firms. Having relied on these resources when I was in private practice I can attest to its benefits. Ensuring licensees have the ability to conduct fulsome research and stay abreast of the latest decisions, in the midst of trial and in preparation is key to lawyer competence and representation.</i>	
If you are an incumbent, do you regret voting to cut the LiRN budget by 10% in November 2020?	N/A
<i>N/A - not an incumbent.</i>	
Do you support offloading funding for LiRN/law libraries to the Law Foundation of Ontario?	No
<i>The LiRN/law libraries require stable and sustainable funding that is not possible thru the Law Foundation of Ontario. As I understand the mandate of the Law Foundation of Ontario is to provide grants to advance access to justice and provide one-time and ongoing funding through a variety of granting programs. It is unrealistic for the LiRN to have to apply for inconsistent funding each year. Some of the services provided include e-legal software, that is not feasible or affordable to many sole practitioners and/or small firms. The centralized buying power of the LiRN permits access to all lawyers regardless of where they practices.</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>Having been a sole practitioner who only practiced criminal law, my practice relied heavily on LAO. It is imperative and legislated that the LSO will ensure access to justice.</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>No response provided.</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>Yes, it should be expanded.</i>	
<i>If you answered “yes”, in what ways, why, and what additional training (if any) should be required of paralegals?</i>	
<i>There is a large gap in providing legal services to remote and northern communities, not to mention language barriers. It is important to examine the feasibility of expanding paralegals scope of practice with respect to certain areas of law and determining training criteria and needs to ensure any future or further legal services provided are competent.</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>All licensees, whether lawyers or paralegals, that utilize the services provided through LiRN including free wifi and access to e-legal software to conduct research should be required to contribute. The quantum is what needs to be examined to determine what may be appropriate.</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>Very Recently</i>	
Why are you a member of each of the associations you selected above?	
<i>I recently joined the TLA in order to keep informed about upcoming educational and social events. Prior to joining the MAG, as a sole practitioner I had relied upon the libraries, robing rooms, and lawyers' lounges, as well as seeking out assistance for research. The County Law Associations are a fabulous resource.</i>	

JONATHAN ROSENTHAL

jrosenthal@bondlaw.net

Region	Incumbency	Slate or Coalition Affiliation	Law Association Membership
Toronto	Incumbent	Good Governance Coalition	Toronto, York

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>I cannot stress the importance of law libraries as I said in [the above question]. Its just not the physical spaces but places to develop relationships. Whenever I would conduct a trial out of town it was often the libraries or associations that I would get to meet and connect with local counsel. Those places are important hubs.</i>	
If you are an incumbent, do you regret voting to cut the LiRN budget by 10% in November 2020?	Yes
<i>November 2020 was a very challenging time for the LSO and the world. We had no idea what the future was going to bring and at the time I believed it was the correct decision.</i>	
Do you support offloading funding for LiRN/law libraries to the Law Foundation of Ontario?	No
<i>Absolutely not. Firstly the Law Foundation has an independent board who benchers do not and cannot control. I know one of the FullStop candidates said they appoint trustees to the law foundation who will insist on the foundation funding law libraries. They cannot. Secondly this is the responsibility of the LSO.</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
👉 If you answered “yes”, how?	
<i>I have been the LSO lawyer bencher representative to ASLA for some time. We need to get the message across that a self represented litigant is never a good idea. In fact it creates a horrible inequitable situation. In addition the obvious reality is that it is much more costly to the system as a whole when one party does not have a lawyer and is forced to act for themselves than simply providing them a lawyer. Though I fully see the importance of staff duty counsel this can never be a substitute for the certificate lawyer.</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>The LSO should continue at trying to convince the government the simple economics of the situation that it is simply cheaper to fund lawyers than allow someone to be self represented. I have been making this argument for some time. I strongly feel with COVID backlogs still in place we are in an ideal situation to get some traction.</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>	
👉 If you answered “yes”, in what ways, why, and what additional training (if any) should be required of paralegals?	
<i>No response was required.</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>No response provided.</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>No response provided.</i>	
Why are you a member of each of the associations you selected above?	
<i>I believe law libraries and local law associations are incredibly important to all lawyers. Especially sole practitioners and those who practice outside of the GTA. I have been a sole practitioner for almost the entirety of my career. My office is in Toronto it is important to be a member of my local association. I joined York as when I was in Newmarket I often used their facilities ie. lawyers lounge and library and was happy to pay for it.</i>	

STEPHEN ROTSTEIN

sarotstein@gmail.com

Region	Incumbency	Slate or Coalition Affiliation	Law Association Membership
Toronto	Not An Incumbent	Good Governance Coalition	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
Law Libraries are of critical importance and must be appropriately funded.	
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
As a non-Bencher, I have not seen this proposal but would be concerned about any offloading that reduced services or access.	

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?	
Having a sustainable legal aid system is critical to the justice system.	
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.	
No response provided.	

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?	
It should be expanded no further than the FLSP	
👉 If you answered “yes”, in what ways, why, and what additional training (if any) should be required of paralegals?	
No response was required, but the candidate wrote: The issue comes down to ensuring competency while addressing access to justice issues. The changes were recently approved by Convocation and there has yet to be time to assess their impact before expanding into additional practice areas. Instead, the focus should be on paralegals expanding to fill the gaps within their existing scope to help address access to justice issues.	
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?	No
Before any change was made the use of Law Libraries by paralegals would need to be explored further.	

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.	

ELLIOT PATTERSON SACCUCCI

esaccucci@loonix.com

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

These resources are especially important for solo and small practitioners, which is an access to justice issue. As you will see in my platform, increasing resources for this constituency, and access to justice more broadly, is a key priority for me as an independent bench candidate.

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

The Law Society of Ontario owes its membership value for their dues, and these ought to be invested in worthy access to justice initiatives such as LiRN and law libraries.

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?

Without turning to the statistics (in the interest of space) for every lawyer that has a well-resourced client, many many more do not. For our legal system to be more than a pay-to-play system, there must be resources to support under-resourced users. This is, again, an access to justice issue.

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.

It is the responsibility of the Law Society of Ontario (through Convocation) to present a cogent, cohesive, unified and unwavering demand to the Ontario government to fund urgently needed support for under-resourced users of our legal system. Investment in mandatory mediation across the province, and increasing judicial resources are also urgent access to justice issues that the LSO must weigh-in on.

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?

Greater (meaningful) access to para-professionals is an access to justice issue. I am in full support of expanded areas of practice. The specifics of that increased mandate require examination, and meaningful feedback from my constituents, as well as from the paralegal benchers, and I will look forward to working with all toward an expanded platform for para-professionals.

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

To the greatest extent possible, para-professionals should be treated comparably as members of the LSO.

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.

2014

Why are you a member of each of the associations you selected above?

To be among similarly-situated litigators in Toronto.

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 would not have been able to start my practice without relying on resources from the local law library; I imagine many others find themselves in similar positions, especially outside of large city centres. The current level of funding should be maintained, at the very least.

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

To my understanding, there are no checks and balances that Convocation to ensure continued adequate funding for law libraries if the money is offloaded to the Law Foundation of Ontario. This seems a dicey proposition, and one that can backfire. The mandate of benchers can be distilled to ensuring competence and discipline. Properly funded and accessible law libraries are an essential support that is complementary to the goal of promoting competence.

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 funding is a matter that falls under provincial purview. However, there seems room for benchers to highlight shortcomings in funding and communicate the urgency and necessity of LAO to the legislature. Benchers are also in a position to assess what resources and support the LSO can provide to lawyers whose practice includes or focuses on marginalized people.

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 a lack of political will to increase LAO funding because most ordinary citizens misapprehend its purpose and wrongly assume that only criminals need legal aid. Until someone finds themselves in the position of needing to hire a lawyer, there is little regard for the program. At the same time, years of slashing funding means that lawyers who accept certificates end up subsidizing the actual cost to provide clients with effective representation. This stands in contrast to the assumption that lawyers in general are overpaid. I believe there needs to be an information campaign to address these critical misunderstandings, to be bolstered by lobbying efforts.

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?

It should be expanded no further than the FLSP

👉 If you answered “yes”, in what ways, why, and what additional training (if any) should be required of paralegals?

No response was required, but the candidate wrote: I work primarily with paralegals at the Landlord and Tenant Board, and often speak at paralegal CPDs. There is a wealth of talent and diversity that can be used to facilitate access to justice. However, it is wrong to assume that paralegals are necessarily or always cheaper to hire than lawyers. The review of the FLSP should dictate Convocation's next steps, including feedback from judges and litigants.

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

If these resources are available to paralegals, extra revenue should be collected to increase funding.

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.

2017

Why are you a member of each of the associations you selected above?

I joined the Toronto Lawyers Association in my first year of practice. It provided sanctuary and a safe space to connect with other lawyers to ask questions and find mentors.

JULIA SHIN DOI

Julia.shindoi@torontomu.ca

Region	Incumbency	Slate or Coalition Affiliation	Law Association Membership
Toronto	Incumbent	Good Governance Coalition	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
No response provided.	
If you are an incumbent, do you regret voting to cut the LiRN budget by 10% in November 2020?	Didn't Vote to Cut
I did not vote to cut funding initially.	
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?	
No response provided.	
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.	
No response provided.	

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?	
It should be expanded no further than the FLSP	
👉 If you answered “yes”, in what ways, why, and what additional training (if any) should be required of paralegals?	
No response was required.	
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
No response provided.	

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.	
25 years ago, founded RODA	
Why are you a member of each of the associations you selected above?	
Community, Professional Development	

MEGAN SHORTREED

megan.shortreed@paliarerland.com

Region	Incumbency	Slate or Coalition Affiliation	Law Association Membership
Toronto	Incumbent	Good Governance Coalition	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 have voted in support of LiRN budgets at Convocation, and LSO budgets which provide it with funding in accordance with its budgetary needs. The "current level of funding" is not an absolute number, but rather based on a comprehensive budget from LiRN, which may go up or down (for the 2023 budget, there was an exceptional request related to electronic library resources). I recognize that the statutory mandate of the Law Society includes ensuring that the public is served by licensees who meet high standards of learning and competence and to facilitate access to justice across Ontario. The importance of practice resource centres includes access to legal information.

If you are an incumbent, do you regret voting to cut the LiRN budget by 10% in November 2020?

No

We reduced LSO fees across the board by 10% in the 2021 budget, as a result of uncertainty related to the COVID-19 pandemic. Courts and courthouse libraries were essentially closed or working in a very restrictive way. There was legitimate concern about t

Do you support offloading funding for LiRN/law libraries to the Law Foundation of Ontario?

No

The LiRN board will have to make a determination as to what application it can/should make for funding from the LFO, and LFO will have to determine if any application meets its criteria. Notably, LiRN has not done applied over the last decade. The LFO is not a sustainable source of funding at the level LiRN requires at the present time, and has its own important access to justice funding priorities. I wholeheartedly oppose the Full Stop suggestion that the LSO Board should interfere in the governance of either LiRN or LFO.

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?

The LSO does not fund Legal Aid Ontario directly. However, under the Law Society Act, money on trust accounts goes to the Law Foundation of Ontario which currently focuses 75% its funding on legal aid. I agree with the LSO's role as an advocate for legal aid as set out in the Abiding Interest report, and its involvement with the Association for Sustainable Legal Aid.

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 LSO should continue in its advocacy before the Federal and Provincial governments for funding and its support for ASLA. I am proud to be running with Coalition candidates who have served on the Board of Directors of LAO, and on ASLA. Notably, efforts by the Full Stop to dictate that LFO take over funding of county law libraries would have significant negative consequences for legal aid funding in the province - I oppose this short-sighted thinking.

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?

It should be expanded no further than the FLSP

👉 If you answered “yes”, in what ways, why, and what additional training (if any) should be required of paralegals?

No response was required, but the candidate wrote: The framing of the question above is difficult. The FLSP has only just been passed, and under the Family Law Action Plan, it is intended to be a first phase, followed by expansion only if it is a viable license and clients are well-served. Therefore, further study and broad consultation will be required at the end of the trial period. My approach is driven by ensuring competent legal services are provided to the public, and access to justice. It is not the Law Society's role to protect the "turf" of either lawyers or paralegals; but rather, to work with the government, the courts and licensees to meet the access to justice challenges in family law.

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

Again, a yes/no answer is not appropriate. Courthouse libraries foster competence, and paralegals would benefit from access to library services across the province. If they have access, they should pay a levy accordingly. However, currently, only a few law associations permit paralegals access to libraries. This is an issue that FOLA may address with its membership, and I would be happy to consider their submissions to Convocation, if elected.


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 have been a member of the TLA since at least 2013. While I have not served on the Board or Executive, I have contributed to TLA education sessions and was honoured to be the Inaugural Recipient of TLA's Honsberger Award.

Why are you a member of each of the associations you selected above?

I appreciate what County Law Associations do for their members, including library and courthouse services, information resources, advocacy, and fostering collegiality amongst the bar. I often attend their events and education programs. As a Benchler, I find FOLA and the TLA's contributions to the regulation of the professions in Ontario to be invaluable.

 Federation of Ontario
Law Associations

MARK SURCHIN

msurchin@goodmans.ca

Region	Incumbency	Slate or Coalition Affiliation	Law Association Membership
Toronto	Not An Incumbent	Good Governance Coalition	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
I have practiced law for 40 years in firms with extensive in house resources. I understand that experience is unusual and fully understand the critical importance of funding the LiRN and ensuring access to resources for all practitioners.	
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 think this is a core area of the LSO's mandate such that it should not be offloaded.	

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?	
Bearing in mind that benchers should not have political mandates and the role is more of an oversight role with management handling day to day operations, I would value LAO funding as an access to justice/public interest matter, given the LSO's mandate.	
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 am a bit of a purist when it comes to governance and don't think I should go into the bencher role, if elected, with a preconceived highly detailed plan of action. I can commit to being thoughtful and well prepared to discuss the issue and to engage in it fully.	

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?	
Again, as a bit of a purist, and cognizant of the need to meet the standard of care with appropriate diligence, I would want to know everything that incumbent benchers knew and studied in reaching their decision before I weighed in on what my own view is. But in principle the idea that paralegals roles be expanded makes sense in the public interest/access to justice.	
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
This seems fair in principle, subject to doing full diligence and becoming fully up to speed on the issues and the arguments for and against.	

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.	

PAMELA-JANE TAYLOR

ptaylor@pjtlaw.ca

Region	Incumbency	Slate or Coalition Affiliation	Law Association Membership
Toronto	Not An Incumbent	FullStop	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
No response provided.	
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?	
No response provided.	
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.	
No response provided.	

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?	
It should be expanded no further than the FLSP	
👉 If you answered “yes”, in what ways, why, and what additional training (if any) should be required of paralegals?	
No response was required.	
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
No response provided.	

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.	

SIDNEY TROISTER

stroister@torkinmanes.com

Region	Incumbency	Slate or Coalition Affiliation	Law Association Membership
Toronto	Incumbent	Good Governance Coalition	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
<i>I am the Chair of Audit and Finance and pressed for full approval of the budget increase for libraries. Stopsoppers say they support libraries but want cut backs on annual fees without regard to where the cuts should come from. Read what I said from October convocation about the importance of county libraries. LiRN has done a great job in levelling the legal research playing field across the province. Cuts need careful thought for their consequences. I do not believe in any cuts to LiRN.</i>	
If you are an incumbent, do you regret voting to cut the LiRN budget by 10% in November 2020?	Didn't Vote to Cut
<i>I have no recollection of voting to cut the LiRN budget. If I did, I certainly regret it and my convocation comments as Chair of Audit and Finance clearly indicate my full support for LiRN. It is the best investment the LSO can make in assuring the competence of lawyers.</i>	
Do you support offloading funding for LiRN/law libraries to the Law Foundation of Ontario?	No
<i>I support funding LiRN from anywhere money is available. But we do not control the Law Foundation and the LFO has its own mandate that includes supporting Legal Aid and other good causes. LiRN is a subsidiary of the Law Society and is the Law Society's responsibility. LiRN can always seek LFO funding but, while it might be nice to get LFO funding, since we do not control the LFO, I am not aware of any way that we can force the LFO to fund LiRN. Convocation can make no decision that forces the LFO to fund LiRN. It is a proposal that is not realistic.</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
👉 If you answered “yes”, how?	
<i>Legal Aid is a very important component of facilitating access to justice, one of the statutory mandates of the Law Society.</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 my view, collaborating with other Legal Aid stakeholders and having strong representation at Legal Aid Ontario has the best chance of achieving more funding for Legal Aid. Maintaining a good relationship with decision makers at all levels of government involved in funding legal aid is essential.</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>	
👉 If you answered “yes”, in what ways, why, and what additional training (if any) should be required of paralegals?	
<i>No response was required, but the candidate wrote: We need to proceed cautiously and with all appropriate consultation if we are to consider further expansion of the role of paralegals in the provision of legal services. Paralegals should look to existing opportunities in areas where their services may be utilized effectively before we seek out other areas in which to act. Additional training must be proportionate to the roles in which they play. However, they are not lawyers and not trained as lawyers and the public must be protected from paralegals insufficiently educated in any areas in which they might practice. The success (or not) of the FLSP should be a good guidepost for whatever else is possible. Time will tell. For now, the role of paralegals should not be further expanded until experience suggests otherwise.</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?	No
<i>County libraries are operated by county law associations so the role of paralegals in the county law associations and in access to county law libraries should be left to local associations to decide. Some paralegal practices may require the use of library resources; others not so much and be of no benefit to them. Perhaps, local associations might admit interested paralegals to their associations on payment of a fee or local dues. Again, this is a sensitive local issue and unless there was broad consultation and general consensus, I would not support imposing mandatory county law association membership or access to local libraries on local county law associations.</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>Not a member of a county or district law association.</i>	
Why are you a member of each of the associations you selected above?	
<i>Not a member of a county or district law association.</i>	

MARGARET WADDELL

marg@waddellphillips.ca

Region	Incumbency	Slate or Coalition Affiliation	Law Association Membership
Toronto	Not An Incumbent	Good Governance Coalition	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 former TLA President, I am intimately familiar with the important function that LiRN plays in ensuring the competency of the legal profession. Law Libraries have been and will continue to be the primary source of legal information for the vast majority of licensees (and the public). LiRN ensures that the resources are in place to maintain and enhance legal competence. LiRN provides the ability for Libraries to share resources, and reduce overhead costs. As resource costs increase, it is essential that LiRN remain fully funded to provide appropriate and necessary information resources to all areas of the province.	
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
While funding libraries was one of the possible uses of the Law Foundation's funds, it has historically not done so, and it makes little sense to turn to the Foundation for funding now. The Law Foundation's resources are appropriately focused on access to justice initiatives that support the public good, in keeping with its mission. Lawyers are able to and should continue to finance and support Law Libraries through a portion of their annual fees. The Libraries are available to and used broadly by licensees, and are necessary for licensees to fulfill their roles competently. Having all licensees pay towards maintaining the Libraries is equitable, and enhances competency across the profession. If funding was offloaded to the Law Foundation, this would leave the Libraries in serious jeopardy, given the uncertainty of funding, the competing demands on the Foundations' limited resources, and its priority mandate to enhance access to justice. It is, in my view, naïve to think that the Foundation could and would be able to adequately fund Law Libraries and fulfill its other important functions. It cannot do both without further financial inputs from the profession. Which, of course, begs the question about offloading. Maintaining functional Libraries is a part of legal professionalism.	

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 funding comes primarily from the provincial government, and secondarily from the federal government for limited purposes (and the Law Foundation also supports it). Maintaining strong lines of open and receptive, not combative, communication with the Ministry of the Attorney General about the essential character of Legal Aid, and the democratic imperative of maintaining a viable legal aid program is the best means of ensuring its continued sustainable funding.	
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.	
Increased funding for the LAO is a difficult and delicate issue that is not easily accomplished, particularly given the substantial cut in funding that was imposed on the LAO by the current provincial government in 2019, despite substantial pushback from the LSO and lawyer organizations including FOLA and TLA. That said, the LSO's mandate includes maintaining and advancing the cause of justice and the rule of law, as well as facilitating access to justice, so engaging in strong advocacy with both levels of government is appropriate, and called for here. Effective advocacy will require objective data that can be used to refute the provincial government's view that no additional spending is needed. Pointing to the mayhem that arose in AB as a result of the public defenders' recent strike, and the fact that an interim increase of 25% was agreed to by that conservative government may also assist in such negotiations.	

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?	
It should be expanded no further than the FLSP	
If you answered “yes”, in what ways, why, and what additional training (if any) should be required of paralegals?	
No response was required, but the candidate wrote: Too many individuals with family law issues are self-represented because they cannot afford legal representation. They are unaware of their rights and responsibilities. The FLSP is intended to help address this gaping hole in the provision of legal services where it is needed the most. Assuming that paralegals are provided with appropriate and adequate training, then having paralegals provide this limited and narrow area of assistance to an otherwise unserved population who need legal advice is an important step to enhancing access to justice and protection of individuals when they are at their most vulnerable.	
I understand that a curriculum is currently being developed by several colleges and will be vetted by the LSO before any program is accredited. This supplementary and specialized training is essential for paralegals who want to practice in this area, so that they are able to provide appropriate and competent advice, and so that they understand the limits to the advice they can provide, as well as the serious consequences to the clients that can flow from a failure to identify issues that are beyond the scope of their practice area.	
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
Paralegals can and should be making use of the legal resources available at Law Libraries to meet and maintain their professional competency requirements. They should therefore also be contributing to the costs of obtaining and maintaining those resources. That said, given the limited scope of practice for paralegals, many of the resources provided by LiRN will not be useful to their practices. Accordingly, any competency levy paid by paralegals should be only a percentage of that paid by lawyer licensees.	

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 became a TLA member in or around 1992. I joined the TLA Board in or about 2007, and joined the Executive in 2014. I was president in 2019/20.	
Why are you a member of each of the associations you selected above?	
I believe that it is an important part of my responsibility to the legal profession to be an active member of the organizations that advocate for the profession, and that provide the essential services that lawyers rely upon, such as education, mentoring and training, networking, and representation with government organizations and the judiciary. The TLA is the grassroots representative organization for lawyers practicing in the Greater Toronto Area. It operates the library at 361 University and provides vital practice-enhancing services and programming. The TLA understands and advocates for the diverse needs of its broad-based constituency, i.e. lawyers from all practice areas. Being a member of this organization provides community and connections, and allows me to more effectively advocate for other local lawyers to make the practice more fulfilling and meaningful and helps me to provide the best services to my clients.	

TANYA WALKER

tanya@tcwalkerlawyers.com

Region	Incumbency	Slate or Coalition Affiliation	Law Association Membership
Toronto	Incumbent	Good Governance Coalition	Durham, Hamilton, 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

The Law Society should support an increase in the funding for the Legal Information and Resource Network, not just support its maintenance.

This is because the LiRN’s annual increase in costs exceed the inflation rate. LiRN Funding should reflect the cost increases the LiRN faces, such as being able to provide to employees (like librarians) with salary increases that are in line with industry standards. The resources and support the LiRN provides are especially important for sole practitioners and those practicing in smaller firms, who aren’t otherwise able to afford the information they need to become and remain competent lawyers.

If you are an incumbent, do you regret voting to cut the LiRN budget by 10% in November 2020?

Yes

The reduction of the LiRN budget by 10% in 2020 was a result of numerous factors - including the fact that Courts were closed or operating at a very limited capacity as a result of the pandemic and the fact that members of the Slate were pushing for a “defunding” of the LSO.

However, funding for the LiRN is critical to support licensees, especially those in smaller firms and those who are sole practitioners, and recognition of this fact is why the Benchers returned and increased funding to LiRN in 2021.

Do you support offloading funding for LiRN/law libraries to the Law Foundation of Ontario?

No

The LiRN and law libraries provide an invaluable service to lawyers. Access to privately provided resources are cost-prohibitive to many practitioners, and the provision of comprehensive, up-to-date legal resources is critical to ensuring lawyer competency and providing continuing legal education. Funding LiRN is within the mandate of the Law Society and should continue, and funding should not be offloaded to the Law Foundation.

Resisting the reduction of funding for LiRN/law libraries also plays an important role in promoting access to justice, because it gives lawyers the resources they need to serve clients competently, regardless of the financial restrictions of the lawyer or their client.

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 would find ways to raise awareness of the current situation of the funding of Legal Aid, and how it fails to serve large groups of people seeking access to justice. This can include asking news outlets to report on how the Legal Aid system works currently, and highlighting the limitations the system has.

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.

In addition to the work the Law Society already does in supporting the Alliance for Sustainable Legal Aid and implementing the 2018 Abiding Interest Report, another way the Law Society could advocate for more funding in LAO is to advocate for more lenient eligibility criteria, including allowing persons from higher income brackets to access Legal Aid, as the current income eligibility cutoff points are below the poverty line.

The Law Society should continue to help the Government appreciate that an insufficient legal aid system has negative repercussions that affect the legal system on a larger scale. People who cannot afford legal aid, for example, may choose to represent themselves, causing inefficiencies and increased costs throughout the Court system.

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?

It should be expanded no further than the FLSP

👉 If you answered “yes”, in what ways, why, and what additional training (if any) should be required of paralegals?

No response was required.

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

Currently, paralegals are not required to pay an annual competency fee which contributes towards courthouse libraries/resource centres. Paralegals are allowed to use some of the resources (but not all) that are funded by the competency levies. The LSO should consider allowing paralegals to access all library/resource centres that lawyers have access to, and also to require paralegals to contribute proportionately to the funding of these resources.

The LSO has a responsibility to ensure that all licensees have access to the resources they need to become and remain competent in their fields. This should include having resources in place that both lawyers and paralegals can access.

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.


Durham Region Law Association - 2023

Hamilton Law Association - 2023

Toronto Law Association - 2014

Why are you a member of each of the associations you selected above?

To meet fellow colleagues, stay connected to the legal community, and attend events and educational programs.

 Federation of Ontario
Law Associations

PETER WARDLE

pwardle@singleton.com

Region	Incumbency	Slate or Coalition Affiliation	Law Association Membership
Toronto	Benchers Pre-2019	Good Governance Coalition	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 benchers (and i presented two budgets to convocation as co-chair of Audit and Finance) i consistently supported continued funding for law libraries. I remain of that view. It is simply too important for lawyers in small firms and sole practice across the Province.	
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 don't believe funding from the Foundation would be consistent and available at all times. In any event, Convocation has no control over the Foundation's funding. Elected representatives should make the decisions around continued sustainable funding for LiRN/law libraries.	

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?	
As a benchers I supported the Abiding Interest Report approved by Convocation in 2018 which was intended to reinforce the LSO's support for ensuring "robust, transparent and sustainable legal aid services for low-income Ontarians". Since then the Provincial Government's funding cuts have accentuated the existing LSO funding crisis. I am in favor of whatever the LSO can do to assist, including our continued involvement as a leader in the Alliance for Sustainable Legal Aid.	
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.	
See above. The LSO already is a leader within the Alliance and a Coalition candidate is on the board of directors of LAO. Another Coalition candidate is a member of the Alliance. The LSO should continue its efforts to advocate to the Federal and Provincial governments for more funding.	

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?	
It should be expanded no further than the FLSP	
If you answered “yes”, in what ways, why, and what additional training (if any) should be required of paralegals?	
No response was required, but the candidate wrote: I believe that at present there is no need to consider any further expansion of scope of practice by paralegals. The LSO should work to ensure that paralegals entering practice receive appropriate training and education.	
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 would support this, but in return I suggest that local law associations consider membership for paralegals and access to county law libraries.	

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've been a member since 2020 at my current firm and for much of my career since starting practice in 1986. I have never served in a board or executive role with the TLA, but I'm a former director of The Advocates Society.	
Why are you a member of each of the associations you selected above?	
I find some of the TLA continuing education extremely useful. During COVID, i found the TLA updates on events relating to the various court protocols extremely helpful. I use the lounge when i am in court at 361 University. I have been to a number of TLA events, like the recent Gala. In the past, i used the library a lot.	