

ROBERT ADOURIAN

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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
<i>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.</i>	
If you are an incumbent, do you regret voting to cut the LiRN budget by 10% in November 2020?	No
<i>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</i>	
Do you support offloading funding for LiRN/law libraries to the Law Foundation of Ontario?	No
<i>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.</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 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.</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>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.</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.</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>My understanding is that paralegals are not permitted to use most courthouse libraries and related 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>Toronto 2019 Durham 2022</i>	
Why are you a member of each of the associations you selected above?	
<i>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.</i>	