

ANTOINE COLLINS

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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 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.	
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
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.	

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 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.	
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 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.	

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 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.	
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 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.	

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