

PAM HRICK

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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>	