

ATRISHA LEWIS

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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>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.</i>	
If you are an incumbent, do you regret voting to cut the LiRN budget by 10% in November 2020?	Yes
<i>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</i>	
Do you support offloading funding for LiRN/law libraries to the Law Foundation of Ontario?	No
<i>See answer 11.</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>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.</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 meetings that I have had with the AG and other government officials, I have strongly advocated for increased funding for 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>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>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.</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>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.</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 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</i>	
Why are you a member of each of the associations you selected above?	
<i>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.</i>	