

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>	