

MARK PERSAUD

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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>This is extremely important for newer and younger members of the Bar who may not have the mentorship, support and resources. Licensee competence should be enhanced not compromised by the inability of licensee to have proper access and support necessary to serve the public competently.</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?	Yes
<i>Having the LiRN/law libraries funded by the Law Foundation of Ontario may provide a more secure and stable source of funding. If not, then it should not be offloaded.</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>Access to justice is a very critical issue fior the public and the profession. This issue has been repatedly flagged not only by lawyers but also by prominent Canadian jurists who see the impact and consequence of inadequate representation of litigants who cannot afford private counsel. I will be a firm advocate in Convocation for improvements to funding for legal aid to the Ontario public and work with colleagues in this regard.</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>This is an issue that I will canvass with my colleagues and look at what has been done in the past. I will take a pro active approach with similar minded colleagues to consul and develop strategies to garner additional resources for LAO including advocating at the provincial and federal levels of government.</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>	
🔗 If you answered “yes”, in what ways, why, and what additional training (if any) should be required of paralegals?	
<i>No response was required, but the candidate wrote: A careful study and evaluation should be conducted into the scope of practice of paralegals on the issue of the nature and scope of any involvement in providing family law services to the public. Only if the review is positive and would allow greater and competent access to family law legal services should any extension or expansion be considered. The protection of the public should be of paramount importance given the vulnerability of family law litigants.</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>There should not be a distinction between lawyers and paralegals on matters of core competency. These are often resources that paralegals need as much or perhaps more than lawyers and as such it should be a requirement.</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 have been a member of the Toronto Lawyers Association for several years. I have not served in any official role.</i>	
Why are you a member of each of the associations you selected above?	
<i>The Toronto Lawyers' Association ( TLA) provides area lawyers with excellent services and programs including a professionally run law library that is most important and useful to members especially for lawyers without the resources of large or medium sized firms. The TLA's regular educational programs, publications and timely updates are extremely useful. The advocacy and community engagement by the TLA are also invaluable given the required time, resources and organization which are often not readily achievable by busy lawyers. The annual Gala and Awards ceremony are a great source of pride and provides a wonderful forum for camaraderie and celebration of the achievements of colleagues.</i>	