

JORGE PINEDA

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Region	Incumbency	Slate or Coalition Affiliation	Law Association Membership
Toronto	Incumbent	FullStop	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
Courthouse libraries are an important resource for lawyers, and are of particular benefit for those that do not work in a big law firm environment. LiRN provides an economy of scale for products and services, and this is a great benefit to the bar. Lawyers should be able to rely on stable funding for courthouse libraries.	
If you are an incumbent, do you regret voting to cut the LiRN budget by 10% in November 2020?	No
The 2021 budget and LiRN funding was approved under exceptional circumstances during the Covid pandemic response, and made in the context of unprecedented economic uncertainty and disruption. At the time there was real uncertainty around lockdowns, court closures, and other unprecedented measures. I believe that at this time, the decision to reduce funding was reasonable . Funding was subsequently restored, which was the right decision.	
Do you support offloading funding for LiRN/law libraries to the Law Foundation of Ontario?	No
I believe the LSO has a responsibility to fund and support our local law libraries.	

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?	
The LSO has an obligation to ensure the public has access to the justice system. The LAO plays an important role in fulfilling that mandate. The LSO should directly engage with government and advocate for sustainable funding.	
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 should conduct evidence-based analysis that can demonstrate the value of the public funding of the LAO. This could include a) a quantitative and qualitative cost-benefit analysis, including the cost to society and the public of reduced levels of funding b) evidence-based and aggregated assessment of the outcomes of legal aid services for individual clients	

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?	
It should be expanded no further than the FLSP	
👉 If you answered “yes”, in what ways, why, and what additional training (if any) should be required of paralegals?	
No response was required.	
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?	No
No response provided.	

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.	
Not a member of a county or district law association.	
Why are you a member of each of the associations you selected above?	
Not a member of a county or district law association.	