

| Region | Incumbency | Slate or Coalition Affiliation | Law Association Membership |
|---------|------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Toronto | Not An Incumbent | Unaffiliated | Toronto |

| LiRN Funding and Libraries | |
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| 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 have only recently familiarized myself with these issues, but I am not new to the importance of the services that LiRN organizes, including the importance of those services for enhancing practitioner competency and delivering access to justice. It seems shortsighted to me to defund or underfund LiRN when it provides access to legal information that is mind-blowingly cost-effective. Access to these educational programs and legal research resources enhance competence and client service and would otherwise be cost-prohibitive for many of us.</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>LiRN should continue to be independently funded and operated through LSO fees to ensure a consistent standard of legal research and legal education. This allows LiRN to continue to focus on what it does best: promoting competent provision of legal services through cost-effective access to legal information. It also allows The Law Foundation of Ontario to continue to focus on what it does best: providing grants to advance access to justice. Ensuring the competency of its practitioners is one of the LSO’s core mandates and the LSO should forcefully resist any incentives to divest itself of its influence over the services organized by LiRN, which are crucial to meeting this competence mandate.</i> | |

| Legal Aid Funding | |
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| 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>I will support all reasonable initiatives, in convocation and otherwise, that call for the LSO’s involvement as an advocate and stakeholder in discussions about LAO funding while also collaborating with other elected benchers to determine what more we can do to support low-income Ontarians in their pursuit of affordable legal services. There is a significant nexus between the public’s interest in this respect and the interests of the legal practitioners who provide services funded through LAO. This presents further opportunities to consider collaborating with not just LAO but also local law associations and bar associations to ensure that our practitioners have can viably provide services through LAO funding, which likely also includes discussion of the effects of the exorbitant tuition at Ontario law schools, which further reduces the financial viability, particularly for young lawyers, of providing legal services that are funded by LAO as members of the private bar.</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 LSO has a duty to act so as to facilitate access to justice for the people of Ontario. This requirement is plainly stated in the Law Society Act and, in my view, it necessitates the LSO’s support of adequate funding for Legal Aid Ontario, so long as LAO occupies the crucial position that it currently does in providing access to justice for Ontarians who otherwise would not be able to afford legal services from qualified practitioners. The LSO must therefore maintain its relevance in discussing the funding of services funded by LAO. There is no escaping advocacy for adequate LAO funding as part of the LSO’s access to justice mandate, regardless of any actual administrative role related to LAO and its funding. The LSO must therefore act as a fearless advocate for LAO funding from the provincial and federal governments. The LSO can do this by ensuring that its advocacy for appropriate funding is clear long before to the release of government budgeting decisions and by ensuring that LAO views the LSO as a partner with which to approach key government decision-makers. If the LSO does not ensure that it is at the table when key decisions are made or advocated for, it abdicates its duty to facilitate Ontarians’ access to justice. In this respect, any initiatives undertaken by the LSO must be focused on the services LAO provides and their necessity for access to justice, rather than LAO funding as a goal in itself.</i> | |

| Paralegal Scope of Practice | |
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| 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> | |
| <i>If you answered “yes”, in what ways, why, and what additional training (if any) should be required of paralegals?</i> | |
| <i>The LSO should often be assessing what legal services can be competently provided by paralegals alongside lawyers. Broadening paralegal scope of practice broadens access to justice for Ontarians as it significantly expands the number of legal practitioners available to assist them. In this respect, additional competition is good for the public and therefore fits squarely within the LSO’s mandate so long as sufficient competency is maintained. To ensure competency, the LSO must look first at whether the licensing process is sufficiently relevant to a broader scope of paralegal practice and whether already licensed paralegals require additional training or testing to be qualified. The LSO must then look to ongoing professional education initiatives that might be required to frequently update paralegal knowledge and/or skills. In my view, there may be no scope of practice too broad for paralegals so long as they are individually competent to provide the services offered. However, ongoing assessment and reassessment of these initiatives in the interest of the public will be necessary and no broadening of paralegals’ scope of practice should be undertaken or maintained without extreme care.</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>The regulation of paralegals is at least as important as the regulation of lawyers and so too is the importance of ensuring the competence of paralegals. To accomplish this, paralegals need access to the services organized by LiRN and, accompanied by this access, paralegals should have to pay their own competence levy.</i> | |

| Law Association Involvement |
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| 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 was a member of the TLA from 2016-2021 and now again in 2023.</i> |
| Why are you a member of each of the associations you selected above? |
| <i>The TLA provides important services, has a fantastic space, and has always provided me with great value. While representing the province’s biggest city, they have a welcoming vibe that presents professional services and content in a way that truly does feel local, with chill, friendly energy. It was their 2019 “Starting Your Own Firm” CPD event that inspired me to start seriously considering opening up my own practice, something I recently achieved with the help of my notes from that session. Now in solo practice, I can appreciate their services more than ever.</i> |