

CATHERINE RHINELANDER

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Region	Incumbency	Slate or Coalition Affiliation	Law Association Membership
Toronto	Not An 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 fully support access to justice and the important role that practice resource centres provide to licensees, especially for sole practitioners and smaller firms. Having relied on these resources when I was in private practice I can attest to its benefits. Ensuring licensees have the ability to conduct fulsome research and stay abreast of the latest decisions, in the midst of trial and in preparation is key to lawyer competence and representation.</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>The LiRN/law libraries require stable and sustainable funding that is not possible thru the Law Foundation of Ontario. As I understand the mandate of the Law Foundation of Ontario is to provide grants to advance access to justice and provide one-time and ongoing funding through a variety of granting programs. It is unrealistic for the LiRN to have to apply for inconsistent funding each year. Some of the services provided include e-legal software, that is not feasible or affordable to many sole practitioners and/or small firms. The centralized buying power of the LiRN permits access to all lawyers regardless of where they practices.</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>Having been a sole practitioner who only practiced criminal law, my practice relied heavily on LAO. It is imperative and legislated that the LSO will ensure access to justice.</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>No response provided.</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>	
<i>If you answered “yes”, in what ways, why, and what additional training (if any) should be required of paralegals?</i>	
<i>There is a large gap in providing legal services to remote and northern communities, not to mention language barriers. It is important to examine the feasibility of expanding paralegals scope of practice with respect to certain areas of law and determining training criteria and needs to ensure any future or further legal services provided are competent.</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>All licensees, whether lawyers or paralegals, that utilize the services provided through LiRN including free wifi and access to e-legal software to conduct research should be required to contribute. The quantum is what needs to be examined to determine what may be appropriate.</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>Very Recently</i>	
Why are you a member of each of the associations you selected above?	
<i>I recently joined the TLA in order to keep informed about upcoming educational and social events. Prior to joining the MAG, as a sole practitioner I had relied upon the libraries, robing rooms, and lawyers' lounges, as well as seeking out assistance for research. The County Law Associations are a fabulous resource.</i>	