

MARK SURCHIN

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Region	Incumbency	Slate or Coalition Affiliation	Law Association Membership
Toronto	Not An Incumbent	Good Governance Coalition	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
I have practiced law for 40 years in firms with extensive in house resources. I understand that experience is unusual and fully understand the critical importance of funding the LiRN and ensuring access to resources for all practitioners.	
If you are an incumbent, do you regret voting to cut the LiRN budget by 10% in November 2020?	N/A
N/A - not an incumbent.	
Do you support offloading funding for LiRN/law libraries to the Law Foundation of Ontario?	No
I think this is a core area of the LSO's mandate such that it should not be offloaded.	

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?	
Bearing in mind that benchers should not have political mandates and the role is more of an oversight role with management handling day to day operations, I would value LAO funding as an access to justice/public interest matter, given the LSO's mandate.	
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 am a bit of a purist when it comes to governance and don't think I should go into the bencher role, if elected, with a preconceived highly detailed plan of action. I can commit to being thoughtful and well prepared to discuss the issue and to engage in it fully.	

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?	
Yes, it should be expanded.	
👉 If you answered “yes”, in what ways, why, and what additional training (if any) should be required of paralegals?	
Again, as a bit of a purist, and cognizant of the need to meet the standard of care with appropriate diligence, I would want to know everything that incumbent benchers knew and studied in reaching their decision before I weighed in on what my own view is. But in principle the idea that paralegals roles be expanded makes sense in the public interest/access to justice.	
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
This seems fair in principle, subject to doing full diligence and becoming fully up to speed on the issues and the arguments for and against.	

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.	