

SIDNEY TROISTER

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Region	Incumbency	Slate or Coalition Affiliation	Law Association Membership
Toronto	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>I am the Chair of Audit and Finance and pressed for full approval of the budget increase for libraries. Stopsoppers say they support libraries but want cut backs on annual fees without regard to where the cuts should come from. Read what I said from October convocation about the importance of county libraries. LiRN has done a great job in levelling the legal research playing field across the province. Cuts need careful thought for their consequences. I do not believe in any cuts to LiRN.</i>	
If you are an incumbent, do you regret voting to cut the LiRN budget by 10% in November 2020?	Didn't Vote to Cut
<i>I have no recollection of voting to cut the LiRN budget. If I did, I certainly regret it and my convocation comments as Chair of Audit and Finance clearly indicate my full support for LiRN. It is the best investment the LSO can make in assuring the competence of lawyers.</i>	
Do you support offloading funding for LiRN/law libraries to the Law Foundation of Ontario?	No
<i>I support funding LiRN from anywhere money is available. But we do not control the Law Foundation and the LFO has its own mandate that includes supporting Legal Aid and other good causes. LiRN is a subsidiary of the Law Society and is the Law Society's responsibility. LiRN can always seek LFO funding but, while it might be nice to get LFO funding, since we do not control the LFO, I am not aware of any way that we can force the LFO to fund LiRN. Convocation can make no decision that forces the LFO to fund LiRN. It is a proposal that is not realistic.</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>Legal Aid is a very important component of facilitating access to justice, one of the statutory mandates of the Law Society.</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>In my view, collaborating with other Legal Aid stakeholders and having strong representation at Legal Aid Ontario has the best chance of achieving more funding for Legal Aid. Maintaining a good relationship with decision makers at all levels of government involved in funding legal aid is essential.</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: We need to proceed cautiously and with all appropriate consultation if we are to consider further expansion of the role of paralegals in the provision of legal services. Paralegals should look to existing opportunities in areas where their services may be utilized effectively before we seek out other areas in which to act. Additional training must be proportionate to the roles in which they play. However, they are not lawyers and not trained as lawyers and the public must be protected from paralegals insufficiently educated in any areas in which they might practice. The success (or not) of the FLSP should be a good guidepost for whatever else is possible. Time will tell. For now, the role of paralegals should not be further expanded until experience suggests otherwise.</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?	No
<i>County libraries are operated by county law associations so the role of paralegals in the county law associations and in access to county law libraries should be left to local associations to decide. Some paralegal practices may require the use of library resources; others not so much and be of no benefit to them. Perhaps, local associations might admit interested paralegals to their associations on payment of a fee or local dues. Again, this is a sensitive local issue and unless there was broad consultation and general consensus, I would not support imposing mandatory county law association membership or access to local libraries on local county law associations.</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>Not a member of a county or district law association.</i>	
Why are you a member of each of the associations you selected above?	
<i>Not a member of a county or district law association.</i>	