

PETER WARDLE

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Region	Incumbency	Slate or Coalition Affiliation	Law Association Membership
Toronto	Benchers Pre-2019	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
As a benchers (and i presented two budgets to convocation as co-chair of Audit and Finance) i consistently supported continued funding for law libraries. I remain of that view. It is simply too important for lawyers in small firms and sole practice across the Province.	
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 don't believe funding from the Foundation would be consistent and available at all times. In any event, Convocation has no control over the Foundation's funding. Elected representatives should make the decisions around continued sustainable funding for LiRN/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?	
As a benchers I supported the Abiding Interest Report approved by Convocation in 2018 which was intended to reinforce the LSO's support for ensuring "robust, transparent and sustainable legal aid services for low-income Ontarians". Since then the Provincial Government's funding cuts have accentuated the existing LSO funding crisis. I am in favor of whatever the LSO can do to assist, including our continued involvement as a leader in the Alliance for Sustainable Legal Aid.	
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.	
See above. The LSO already is a leader within the Alliance and a Coalition candidate is on the board of directors of LAO. Another Coalition candidate is a member of the Alliance. The LSO should continue its efforts to advocate to the Federal and Provincial governments for more funding.	

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, but the candidate wrote: I believe that at present there is no need to consider any further expansion of scope of practice by paralegals. The LSO should work to ensure that paralegals entering practice receive appropriate training and education.	
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 would support this, but in return I suggest that local law associations consider membership for paralegals and access to county law libraries.	

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've been a member since 2020 at my current firm and for much of my career since starting practice in 1986. I have never served in a board or executive role with the TLA, but I'm a former director of The Advocates Society.	
Why are you a member of each of the associations you selected above?	
I find some of the TLA continuing education extremely useful. During COVID, i found the TLA updates on events relating to the various court protocols extremely helpful. I use the lounge when i am in court at 361 University. I have been to a number of TLA events, like the recent Gala. In the past, i used the library a lot.	