

Central West Region Candidate Responses

(Outside Toronto)

Candidate Name	Slate/Coalition Affiliation	Response
Hogarth Clauzel	FullStop	Response provided
Jennifer Gold	Good Governance Coalition	Response provided
Gary D. Graham	FullStop	No response provided by deadline
Mian Abdul Hakeem	Unaffiliated	Response provided
Cathi Mietkiewicz	Good Governance Coalition	Response provided
Brian L. Prill	FullStop	No response provided by deadline
Sunish Rai Uppal	FullStop	No response provided by deadline

HOGARTH CLAUZEL

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Region	Incumbency	Slate or Coalition Affiliation	Law Association Membership
Central West	Not An Incumbent	FullStop	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

Ensuring the standards of learning and professional competence apply equally to all persons who practice law in Ontario is a core LSO mandate. Accordingly, I support providing members with reasonable access to law library resources to facilitate learning and competence.

If you are an incumbent, do you regret voting to cut the LiRN budget by 10% in November 2020?

Didn't Vote to Cut

N/A - not an incumbent.

Do you support offloading funding for LiRN/law libraries to the Law Foundation of Ontario?

No

I do not support "offloading" funding. However, I do support looking into additional avenues to provide additional funding and support 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?

Improving access to justice is an LSO core function and I will support reasonable LAO funding to achieve that 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.

No response provided.

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: Given that the FLSP system has already been approved and implemented, the most prudent course of action is to examine and review how it impacts those lawyer in the Family Law field and public access to justice during this 3 year period before determining whether to claw back or maintain the program.

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

No response provided.


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.

 Federation of Ontario
Law Associations

JENNIFER GOLD

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Region	Incumbency	Slate or Coalition Affiliation	Law Association Membership
Central West	Not An Incumbent	Good Governance Coalition	Halton, Peel

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>LiRN supports the county courthouse libraries in Ontario. Having one governance structure for the many courthouse libraries in Ontario is beneficial and effective so that funding is coordinated and allocated to meet the particular needs of a given library. The courthouse libraries are vitally important to sole practitioners and frankly, all lawyers in the local community. In order for these libraries to continue to support lawyers, stable and consistent funding is required. That funding should continue to be provided by the Law Society of Ontario. Any proposal that the Law Foundation of Ontario fund law libraries is fundamentally unworkable. Even if the Law Foundation of Ontario agreed to such a proposal, funding may not be stable and could fluctuate from year to year. A library cannot operate without consistent and stable funding.</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>Any proposal that the Law Foundation of Ontario fund law libraries is fundamentally unworkable. Even if the Law Foundation of Ontario agreed to such a proposal, funding may not be stable and could fluctuate from year to year. A library cannot operate without consistent and stable funding.</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>Legal Aid is fundamentally important to providing access to justice to people in Ontario. Studies have show that increased funding for Legal Aid Ontario so that more individuals are eligible for services results in a costs savings to the justice system. Court resources are used efficiently when people are represented. I currently sit on the Board of Legal Aid Ontario. The Board is committed to ensuring that Legal Aid is sustainable and remains a viable area of practice for 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>I would bring my experience as 1. a lawyer who has done Legal Aid work; and 2. a Board Member of Legal Aid Ontario to the role of Benchers. I have some knowledge of what is needed with respect to this question. Due to my current role as a Board Member, it would be improper for me to answer this question.</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>	
<i>If you answered “yes”, in what ways, why, and what additional training (if any) should be required of paralegals?</i>	
<i>No response was required, but the candidate wrote: There are many ways that lawyers and paralegals can work together to support access to justice. Paralegals should receive very specific and comprehensive training in order to attain the FLSP license. Paralegal performance in the area of Family Law should be reviewed after some time to determine if it is furthering the goal of access to justice in Ontario.</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>In order to enhance competency and to promote lawyers and paralegals working together with integral roles in the justice system, I support paralegals using courthouse libraries/practice resource centres. Correspondingly, their annual fees should include a competency levy as part of their annual fees in order to support these valuable resources.</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>I am a long term member of the Peel Law Association. I first became a member anywhere between 2002 and 2008. I am a recent member of the Halton County Law Association.</i>	
Why are you a member of each of the associations you selected above?	
<i>The Peel Law Association plays an integral role in the Peel legal community. I have always the appreciated the library services offered to members of the Peel Law Association as well as the social events and CPD programs. There are many sole practitioners and lawyers at small firms that rely on the services offered by the Peel Law Association. I am also a member of the Halton County Law Association. Many members of my firm attend at the Milton courthouse and some members reside in Halton. I have also relied on its library when in Court. I view the library and lawyers' lounges at courthouses as vital spaces where lawyers can support each other in practice and be equipped with resources to achieve excellence in practice.</i>	

MIAN ABDUL HAKEEM

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Region	Incumbency	Slate or Coalition Affiliation	Law Association Membership
Central West	Not An Incumbent	Unaffiliated	Peel

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
The support for legal information helps maintain the quality of legal service.	
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
Enhanced library resources are important for the the quality of legal services.	

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?	
It is our duty as lawyer to make legal services accessible to everyone.	
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 will make policies that will ensure that funds allocated by the provincial and federal government are channeled to LAO.	

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?	
No, it should remain as it was prior to December 1, 2022	
👉 If you answered “yes”, in what ways, why, and what additional training (if any) should be required of paralegals?	
No response was required.	
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
They should be charged for enhancing their quality of service.	

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.	
2023-03-15	
Why are you a member of each of the associations you selected above?	
To support justice and freedom.	

Region	Incumbency	Slate or Coalition Affiliation	Law Association Membership
Central West	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
LiRN allows small and solo practitioners to have access to important online resources that would otherwise be cost prohibitive.	
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
Law libraries provide essential resources and research services to thousands of lawyers across the province. Ensuring that lawyers, especially solo and small firm practitioners, in all communities have the necessary legal resources available to them supports the Law Society’s legislated duty to facilitate access to justice.	

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?	
In addition to facilitating access to justice, the Law Society has a legislated duty to maintain and advance the cause of justice and the rule of law. Legal Aid Ontario and Legal Aid empaneled lawyers provide crucial services that support these core mandates of the Law Society.	
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.	
The LSO has the ability to be a respected voice supporting investment in LAO by coming to the table with their only interest being the access to justice for all Ontarians.	

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?	
Paralegals have a role to play in providing services to Ontarians. This is not a threat to lawyers, rather an opportunity for access to justice. I would support the LSO engaging in research to determine what, if any, other areas of law can benefit from greater participation by paralegals and what form that participation should take.	
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
Paralegals should have access to these services and should therefore share the burden with lawyers.	

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.	