

Bencher | **Élection**
Election | du Conseil

Voting Guide for Paralegals

Voting closes April 28, 2023 at 5 p.m. EDT.

Guide électoral - parajuristes

Le vote se termine le 28 avril 2023 à 17 h HAE.



Law Society
of Ontario

Barreau
de l'Ontario

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Voting information

Conduct of election

The 2023 bencher election will be conducted in accordance with the [Law Society Act](#) and By-law 3 made pursuant to the *Law Society Act*. The election will be conducted in both French and English. See [By-law 3](#) for complete details.

The Law Society has hired Computershare, a third-party company, to provide the online voting site and telephone voting for the election.

Voter anonymity

Voting is by secret ballot. Computershare will randomly assign a unique personal voter identification number, called a control number, to every eligible voter. Only Computershare knows the numbers assigned to eligible voters. The control number is required to access the online voting system and the telephone voting system.

The control number and information on how to access the online voting site will be posted to each eligible voter's Law Society Portal account by April 19, 2023 which is the date voting is scheduled to open. Computershare will also send voting information by email to all eligible voters at the time voting opens on April 19, 2023.

Eligible voters who do not receive their control number must contact Computershare at 1-866-301-2518 (toll-free) or 514-982-8711 if outside Canada or the United States, Monday to Friday 8:30 a.m. to 8 p.m EDT. Voters will be asked to provide their Law Society licensee number and other personal identifiers to receive their control number.

Eligible voters

People who, on April 12, 2023, are paralegal licensees of the Law Society and whose licence has not been suspended are eligible to vote in the bencher election for paralegal candidates.

Candidate information

This Voting Guide provides voters with information about the candidates running in the bencher election. The candidates prepare and provide their biographies and election statements, which reflect their views only.

Candidates appear alphabetically by last name. A list of the candidates is [here](#) in the Voting Guide, with links to the candidate pages.

The paralegal benchers who are elected will be the five paralegal candidates who receive the most votes from paralegal voters.

Casting and counting votes

Online voting

To vote online, voters must go to the election website through the link provided by Computershare, where they will be prompted to enter their control number to access the voting site. Once they are logged into the system, the list of candidates will be displayed.

Voters select candidates by clicking the boxes next to the candidates' names. Voters can cast five votes in total. Voters do not need to cast all five votes but the voting system will not permit voters to vote for more than five candidates. It is possible to submit a ballot with no candidates selected.

Once voters have made their candidate selections and click the "submit" button, voters will be prompted to review their selections and make any changes prior to final submission of their votes. Once the votes are submitted, voters will receive a confirmation message that their votes have been submitted.

Voters may only vote for a candidate once. Voters can submit their votes only once.

Voting by telephone

To vote by telephone, voters will call the dedicated election telephone number, 1-866-301-0994 (toll-free) or 514-982-8712 if outside North America. Once connected, voters will be prompted to enter or say their control number to access the voting system.

Voters will be prompted to select the candidates of their choice by entering or saying the two-digit numeric code appearing beside each candidate's name in the Voting Guide.

The voting system will not permit voters to vote for more than five candidates. Voters do not need to cast all five votes. It is possible to submit a ballot with no candidates selected. Once voters have finished selecting candidates, the system will review their selections and ask voters to confirm them before recording the votes.

Voters may only vote for a candidate once. Voters can submit their votes only once.

Voting deadline

The deadline for voting is April 28, 2023 at 5 p.m. EDT. The online and telephone voting systems will shut down at precisely 5 p.m. EDT on April 28, 2023.

Counting votes and announcement of results

Counting of votes will be completed after 5 p.m. EDT on April 28, 2023.

The election results will be announced on May 1, 2023 by news release and on the Law Society's web site LSO.ca following the completion of the counting and tabulation of votes.

Voting assistance

If you are an eligible voter and do not have your control number and voting instructions, or if you require assistance with voting or accessing the voting site, please call Computershare's toll-free help line at 1-866-301-2518 (toll-free) or 514-982-8711 if outside Canada or the United States, Monday to Friday 8:30 a.m. to 8 p.m. EDT. It closes at 5 p.m. EDT on April 28, 2023.

Contact Us

For more information, please contact the Law Society at 416-947-3404, 1-877-947-3404 or by e-mail at bencherelection@lso.ca

Procédure électorale

Tenue de l'élection

L'élection du Conseil de 2023 se déroule conformément à la [Loi sur le Barreau](#) et au [Règlement administratif n° 3](#) pris en application de la *Loi sur le Barreau*. L'élection est tenue en français et en anglais. Consultez le Règlement administratif n° 3 pour avoir tous les détails.

Le Barreau a retenu les services de Computershare, une société indépendante, pour tenir l'élection en ligne et par téléphone.

Anonymat

Le vote est secret. Computershare assignera au hasard des numéros d'identification personnelle, appelés numéros de contrôle, à chaque électeur ou électrice admissible. Seul Computershare connaît ces numéros. Le numéro de contrôle est requis pour accéder au site de vote en ligne et au système de vote par téléphone.

Le numéro de contrôle et l'information pour accéder au site de vote en ligne seront affichés dans le compte du portail du Barreau de chaque électeur ou électrice admissible avant le 19 avril 2023, date à laquelle le vote doit commencer. Computershare enverra également des consignes pour voter par courriel à tous les électeurs et électrices admissibles dès l'ouverture du vote le 19 avril 2023.

Les électeurs et électrices qui ne reçoivent pas leur numéro de contrôle doivent contacter Computershare sans frais au 1 866 301-2518 ou, si à l'extérieur du Canada et des États-Unis, au 514 982-8711, du lundi au vendredi de 8 h 30 à 20 h HE. On demandera aux électeurs et électrices de produire leur matricule de titulaire de permis et autres identificateurs personnels pour recevoir leur numéro de contrôle.

Admissibilité

Les personnes qui sont, le 12 avril 2023, titulaires de permis de parajuriste du Barreau et dont le permis n'est pas suspendu peuvent voter pour des parajuristes.

Renseignements sur les candidats et candidates

Le présent guide électoral contient des renseignements sur les candidates et les candidats qui se présentent à l'élection. Tous les candidats et candidates envoient une biographie et une déclaration électorale qui n'exprime que leur opinion.

Les noms apparaissent en ordre alphabétique du nom de famille. Une liste des candidats se trouve [ici](#) dans le guide, avec des liens menant à leurs pages.

Les conseillers parajuristes qui sont élus seront les cinq candidats parajuristes qui ont reçu le plus grand nombre de votes des électeurs parajuristes.

Vote et dépouillement du scrutin

Vote en ligne

Pour voter en ligne, les électeurs et électrices se rendront sur le site électoral de Computershare, où on leur demandera d'inscrire leur numéro de contrôle. Une fois qu'ils et elles seront dans le système, la liste des candidats et candidates s'affichera.

Les électeurs et électrices choisiront les candidats et candidates en cliquant sur la case à côté de leur nom. Les électeurs peuvent voter pour cinq candidats au total. Il n'est pas obligatoire de voter pour cinq candidats sur le bulletin, mais le système ne permettra pas de choisir plus de cinq candidats. Il est possible de soumettre un bulletin de vote sans inscription.

Une fois que les électeurs ont terminé leur choix de candidats, ils et elles doivent cliquer sur le bouton « Envoyer ». On leur demandera alors de revoir leur sélection et de faire des changements s'ils le désirent avant la soumission finale de leurs votes, après quoi, ils recevront un message de confirmation de l'envoi de leur vote.

Il n'est permis de voter qu'une fois pour un candidat et d'envoyer son bulletin qu'une fois.

Vote par téléphone

Pour voter par téléphone, les électeurs et électrices doivent appeler le numéro dédié à l'élection, soit le 1 866 301-0994 (sans frais) ou le 514 982-8712, si à l'extérieur de l'Amérique du Nord. Une fois connectés, on leur demandera de saisir ou de dire leur numéro de contrôle pour accéder au système de vote.

Les électeurs et électrices devront choisir les candidats en composant ou en disant le code numérique à deux chiffres figurant à côté du nom de chaque candidat et candidate dans le guide électoral.

Le système ne permettra pas de voter pour plus de cinq candidats. Il n'est pas obligatoire de voter pour cinq candidats sur le bulletin et il est possible de soumettre un bulletin de vote sans inscription. Quand les électeurs auront fait leur choix de candidats, le système récapitulera leurs choix et leur demandera de confirmer avant d'enregistrer leurs votes.

Il n'est permis de voter qu'une fois pour un candidat et d'envoyer son bulletin qu'une fois.

Dates limites pour voter

La date limite pour voter est le 28 avril 2023 à 17 h HE. Les systèmes de vote par Internet et par téléphone fermeront à exactement 17 h HE le 28 avril 2023.

Décompte des votes et annonce des résultats

Le décompte des votes commencera après 17 h HE le 28 avril 2023.

Les résultats seront annoncés le 1^{er} mai 2023 par communiqué, dans les réseaux sociaux du Barreau et sur son site Web LSO.ca une fois que les votes auront été comptés.

Assistance pour voter

Si vous êtes un électeur admissible et que vous n'avez pas votre numéro de contrôle ni les consignes de vote, ou si vous avez besoin d'assistance pour voter ou pour avoir accès au site de vote, veuillez appeler la ligne d'aide de Computershare sans frais au 1 866 301-2518, ou au 514 982-8711, si à l'extérieur du Canada ou des États-Unis, du lundi au vendredi de 8 h 30 à 20 h HE. La ligne d'aide ferme à 17 h HE le 28 avril 2023.

Pour communiquer avec nous

Pour plus de renseignements, veuillez contacter le Barreau au 416 947-3404, 1 877 947-3404 ou à bencherelection@lso.ca

List of Candidates / Liste des candidat(e)s

The two digit code beside each candidate's name is for the purpose of telephone voting. Please refer to the Voting Information for details.

Le code à deux chiffres à côté du nom de chaque candidat s'applique au vote par téléphone. Veuillez lire les renseignements sur la procédure électorale pour des détails.

- | | |
|--------------------------|----------------------|
| 01. Jahne Baboulas | 14. Sean L. O'Connor |
| 02. Paula Callaghan | 15. Matthew C. Olson |
| 03. Tony Caruso | 16. Mike Radan |
| 04. Demetra Dimokopoulos | 17. Vladimir Reznik |
| 05. Daniel English | 18. Rajesh Sehgal |
| 06. Shaun David Harvey | 19. Jeffrey Smith |
| 07. Barbara Jones | |
| 08. Michelle Lomazzo | |
| 09. Salome Lopes | |
| 10. Josh McDougall | |
| 11. Suramya Misra | |
| 12. Deborah June Moriah | |
| 13. Frank William Mucci | |

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Candidates

Candidat(e)s



Law Society
of Ontario

Barreau
de l'Ontario



Jahne Baboulas

jahne@jablegal.ca

Jahne A. Baboulas, B.A.A., PGCert (Finance), Cert. (Dispute Resolution)

- Licensed as a paralegal since 2011
- Completed a Bachelors in Paralegal Studies from Humber College in 2011
- Graduated with a graduate degree in Financial Planning from Humber College and Dispute Resolution from York University
- Member of the Ontario Paralegal Association
- Paralegal practice owner and operator since 2013 practicing in Small Claims Court, Landlord and Tenant Board, corporate bylaw offences, and Human Rights Tribunal
- Speaks English, Spanish and proficient in French
- Advocate of paralegals and paralegal practice areas to the public

Fellow Paralegals,

I am requesting your vote to help improve the conditions in which we practise. Courts and tribunals need to improve and paralegals need more scope for practice.

The court system and every single tribunal in Ontario are barely operating. There are backlogs which are creating additional administrative burdens for us. Nothing has been provided from the Ministry of the Attorney General or Chief Justice's office to make us believe that this will soon be corrected.

In 2020, I started advocating for the opening of the Small Claims Court to the Office of the Chief Justice and to the Ministry of the Attorney General. Although I received responses, these responses were mere formalities. No steps were taken to improve access to justice. I have raised these issues and promoted our profession through national news networks, most recently on CTV and the Globe and Mail.

I reached out to our associations and did not receive assistance. My platform is twofold:

1. The Law Society of Ontario (LSO) needs to start "protect[ing] the public interest, to maintain and advance the cause of justice and the rule of law, to facilitate access to justice for the people of Ontario..." by taking steps to make tribunals and courts operational and affordable.
2. The LSO needs to start respecting paralegals by treating them as equal members and expanding our practice areas. There are 40 lawyer benchers, 8 lay benchers and only 5 paralegal benchers. Why are there more lay benchers than paralegal benchers? Why are there 5 lawyer benchers on the Paralegal Standing Committee? Lawyers and lay benchers are not paralegals, yet they have more say than paralegals in how we provide legal services.

If elected, I will work to fix the LSO and the government backlogs at tribunals and courts where paralegals practise. I will also work to improve status for paralegals within the LSO and expand paralegal practice areas.

Please review my website, www.paralegalrights.ca or follow me on LinkedIn to get to know me.

I would appreciate your vote. Please help me strengthen the paralegal profession.



Paula Callaghan

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I obtained my P1 License in 2011. I run a private practice in Ottawa with a primary focus on small claims and landlord and tenant matters. I also have significant experience in criminal law, provincial offences, and administrative tribunals.

I believe in giving back to my community; I've volunteered with Reach Canada by providing pro bono services to people living with disabilities, and I've acted in the CCLA's Annual Lawyer Plays for various charity partners. In addition to running my practice, teaching, and volunteering my time, I also host and mentor students and new paralegals, providing support and guidance as they grow in their respective careers.

If elected, I'll make it my priority to advance initiatives that increase access to justice. You can count on me to work in the public interest, and passionately advocate from within. Experience counts more than ever in this election.

Over the last 12 years, I've acquired a unique understanding of the integral role that paralegals play in facilitating access to justice for the people of Ontario. I have the knowledge, political acuity, and strategic communication skills to fulfill the role of Bencher. I've advised two former Attorneys General regarding the paralegal profession and our scope of practice. My experience enables me to build professional and collaborative relationships at all levels of our legal community.

I've worked successfully on a wide range of boards and committees, most notably the County of Carleton Law Association (CCLA). I'm proud to be the first paralegal elected to the CCLA's Board of Directors. As Past Chair, and Member of the CCLA Paralegal Committee, Membership Committee, and Governance Committee, I spearheaded many key initiatives, including:

- bringing CPD courses to the eastern region;
- growing the CCLA membership;
- creating a membership tier for out-of-town paralegals;
- lowering CCLA fees for paralegals;
- launching the Annual Paralegal Day;
- establishing the Paralegal Award; and
- introducing a paralegal trustee seat on the CCLA Board of Directors.

In 2021, I received the CCLA's Paralegal Award in recognition of my achievements. Last year, my contributions to the paralegal profession were recognized by the Law Society of Ontario when I was awarded the William J. Simpson Distinguished Paralegal Award.

As a Program Coordinator and Instructor at a private college, I am keen to review the current curriculum to ensure proper mentorship, oversight, and practical training for our future colleagues. My priorities:

- Decrease paralegal exemptions;
- Establish pro-rated licensing fees;
- Explore Law Association library access;
- Review paralegal education;
- Consider possible expansion of scope of practice.

I'm proudly running with experienced leaders as part of the Good Governance Coalition. Our goal is to return good governance to the Law Society. Meet the Coalition's candidates at www.goodgovernancecoalition.ca. To learn more about me, visit: www.paulacallaghanforbencher.ca



Tony Caruso

tony@tonycaruso.ca

Tony Caruso has political experience working as an appointee official for the City of Niagara Falls from 2006-2011 where he now runs his own practice. Being no stranger to lobbying government for change, he lobbied the federal government for (and won) the right for students to claim tax deductions for textbooks and bus passes.

Tony went to Parliament and met with MPs to advance immigration law for paralegals.

Caruso took on the Canadian Bar Association and won in a dispute over the amendments to IRPA. The victory for paralegals came when the Federal government wrote to Former Treasurer Donnelly that they have no intention of amending IRPA to exclude paralegals. Tony continues fighting for the right of paralegals to practise immigration.

1. Terminate the position of LSO Review Commissioner and appoint a neutral 3rd party.
2. Reform the complaints department to add Paralegals as investigators, while adding safeguards which would address potentially biased investigators who are in conflict of interest. Audit the complaints department for competency and conflicts of interest.
3. Health and dental benefits for its members to include paralegals.
4. No more Paralegal money going towards Lawyer Law libraries unless they allow paralegal membership. Paralegals should be given a full refund.
5. No more paralegal money going towards Legal Aid unless the Province amends the law and allows paralegals to accept legal aid. Paralegals should be given a full refund.
6. Reform the Bencher positions as per the Competition Bureau of Canada to make it even as per the Competition Act.
7. Establish an LSO Ombudsman/Privacy officer to review and investigate matters.
8. Reform the LSO Tribunal to have a body made up of 3rd party/neutral members.
9. Control measures for LSO fees. Paralegals pay half of what a lawyer pays in annual fees with less than half the scope of a lawyer.
10. Allow LawPro to accept Paralegals.
11. Accountability and transparency; no more secret meetings unless it falls under the in-camera guidelines.
12. Bring a motion of non-confidence against the current Treasurer and introduce a motion to reduce the LSO Treasurer's powers that can override Convocations and allow Paralegals to bring forward motions that were removed.
13. The defunding of the Discrimination and Harassment program due its inability to enforce its mandate.
14. Allow Paralegals to go to Divisional Court for appeals in small claims and LTB matters; no second license for family law as a P1 is good enough.

Looking forward to your support this election and healthy debates. If you have any questions, please reach out to me by email info@tonycaruso.ca or by phone at 289-271-0488. This election, please stand up against injustice and inequality and help me deliver the professional standard you deserve.

I look forward to serving you as the next Paralegal Bencher 2023 and getting to work.



Demetra Dimokopoulos

vote@demetra4bencher.ca

P1 License, LSO, 2011 Bilingual in-house paralegal, WM (wm.com), 2021- present

LSO CPD Presenter, A2J Week 2022: Discover new career pathways for paralegals Mentor, University of Toronto Mississauga Mentorship Program, 2020 – present

Education:

- Honours Bachelor of Science, University of Toronto
- Paralegal (Accelerated) Program, Seneca College
- ILCO Associate Program, George Brown College
- Master of Business Administration, Copenhagen Business School

Governance:

- University of Toronto Mississauga Alumni Association - Board Member, 2017-present
- University of Toronto College of Electors - Executive Board Member, 2020-2022; Board Member, 2018-2020; Member, Nominating Committee for Alumni Governors, 2018-2022

Experienced in criminal law, commercial litigation, small claims, privacy law, intellectual property, labour law, corporate and commercial law, risk management, and corporate compliance

For more than a decade, I've built and nurtured relationships with legal assistants, law clerks, paralegals, and lawyers across Ontario. I've worked in small, medium, and full-service law firms in the Greater Toronto Area. I've experienced the inner workings of the public sector while working at the Ministry of the Attorney General and the Financial Services Commission of Ontario. As an entrepreneur (I'm the founder and CEO of a health coaching business), I've experienced the hurdles that come with starting your own business and understand the courage and grit required to sustain it. In the last six years, I've gained in-depth understanding of governance while serving on two university boards.

My education and experiences have strengthened my leadership, communication, and critical thinking skills. I welcome the opportunity to advance the paralegal profession, in the public interest, at Convocation and to collaborate with paralegal, lawyer, and lay benchers to increase access to justice. I commit to governing in the public interest as an independent thinker who demonstrates integrity, diplomacy, and professionalism.

My priorities for the 2023-2027 Term are as follows:

- Continue building relationships with paralegal students, LSO licensees, and stakeholders across Ontario;
- Enhance awareness of paralegal career opportunities (in-house, government, tribunals, etc.);
- Explore possible expansion of paralegal scope of practice;
- Advocate for equitable representation of paralegals at Convocation and on LSO committees;
- Engage in ongoing curriculum review of paralegal education to ensure standardization and comprehensive training that promotes access to justice;
- Recommend a six-month deferral of LSO annual fees for newly licensed paralegals;
- Examine the regulation of technology (e.g. artificial intelligence) in the provision of legal services; and
- Review bencher election practices and procedures, including voter eligibility (enabling paralegals and lawyers to vote for each other), candidate and volunteer code of conduct, campaigning rules (including transparency regarding candidate endorsements), and timelines.

I'm running in this election as a member of the Good Governance Coalition together with other experienced candidates so that we can return good governance and decorum to the Law Society. Visit goodgovernancecoalition.ca for more information.

For more information about my candidacy, please visit Demetra4bencher.ca.



Daniel English

danielenglishlegal@gmail.com

I construe law, institutionally, as a vital and essential vehicle for democracy and, practically, as a business, profoundly serving its clientele.

My role in directly observing the intifada in Gaza and West Bank in 1989 demonstrated for me the need for the rule of law in democracy.

My role as a company executive during the early days of internet marketing provided me with some insight into the machinations of litigation.

In addition to being licensed since 2011, I bring 22 years of business acumen as an executive director in film distribution and as a sales and marketing director, as well as a BA and partially completed MA from the University of Toronto.

The general paralegal license (P1) became a reality in 2007. Since 2007, P1s became a fundamental plank within the Ontario legal system by which the public is promised more or better access to justice (A2J). As P1s are regulated by the LSO, A2J is a product of the LSO and the public policy considerations which undergird it.

A2J is a form of affirmative action promising expanded opportunities for more of the public who, otherwise, may not benefit from participation in the justice system.

A2J is, on balance, a failure.

My platform will address "external" and "internal" issues affecting P1s.

External issues stem from a singular issue: the LSO failure, on balance, to realize its mandate of substantively enhancing A2J. My major platform plank, therefore, is to solve the problem of the LSO failure per A2J, which is a failure to protect P1s from historical and entrenched prejudice which festers within the LSO and a failure by the LSO, on balance, to better serve the public via A2J initiatives such as the P1 license.

Internal issues include, but are not limited to: fiscal discipline in operations, licensee fee costs, P1 scope of practice, P1 educational standards and programs, additional licensing, and the disproportionate underrepresentation of P1s at Convocation.

I would be remiss to not address post-pandemic issues.

The LTB backlog is not a legal problem - it is a business operations problem. This problem is directly complicit in the development of a black market within the landlord/tenant landscape. Tenants are empowered to routinely, lawfully "extort" landlords in cash-for-keys scenarios. The LSO or LSO voices can and must lobby the government to remedy this fixable problem or risk further erosion of public perception of our justice system.

ZOOM rescued the justice system from irrelevance but now must be reviewed and improved. While ZOOM may be good for licensee bank accounts, it has eroded the cross-examination process in litigation, a procedural anchor of justice.

I anticipate publishing more nuanced accounts of my positions in future.



Shaun David Harvey

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I have been working as a paralegal since September 2013. During that time, I have focused my practice primarily in the area of Landlord & Tenant, and Small Claims. I have contributed to the development of many of our colleagues through participation in the Ontario Paralegal Association, as well as through the development of <https://caselaw.ninja>. Caselaw.Ninja is a free legal encyclopedia used by over 2000 people a month.

I hold a B.A from the University of Waterloo in Sociology and Legal Studies. I attended Seneca College, and Conestoga College earning my Post-Graduate Certificate in Paralegal Studies. I have operated my own firm since 2013, and as of 2023, I have 4 associates and a business partner.

My vision for the paralegal profession is to create a secondary paralegal license class (P2) with Specialized Designations. The Specialization Designations would fall into various spheres by area of law: Criminal, Family, Civil Litigation, Real Estate, etc.

When a P2 license was granted to an individual, they would be authorized to provide the full scope of legal services including access to the full chain of appeal courts for that particular specialized designation. Think federal court for immigration appeals and divisional court for LTB and small claims matters. Using a second license model is a way to bridge the gap, allowing expansion but also protecting the public interest. A full explanation as to why I hold this position can be found on my website below.

Policy Objectives

- Advance the cause of adding immigration to the current paralegal scope of practice.
- Advance the cause of expanding the Family Law Service Provider (FLSP) license
- Advance the cause of adding Divisional Court Appeals
- Expand student placement hours and permit court attendances by students
- Advance the issuance of an expanded P2 license scope
- Expand the P1 scope of practice to allow paralegals to make motions in Superior Court for the specific purpose of bringing a matter from Superior to Small Claims.
- Expand the P1 scope of practice to allow paralegals to make motions in Superior Court for the specific purpose of enforcing injunctive relief, or mandatory orders granted by an Administrative Tribunal (eg.. the LTB).
- Amend By-Law 13 - 10 (a) to require local law associations to allow paralegals to have access to the local law libraries.

Over the years I have contributed a significant amount of my time to mentoring new paralegals, assisting them in building the skills they need to be successful in our line of work.

I fundamentally believe that progress can only be made through evidence based, well thought through policy considerations. I believe that working with my fellow benchers we can and will move forward with the development of our profession.

Learn more at <https://shaunharvey.ca>



Barbara Jones

barbara.gordonelliott@gmail.com

I am a lifelong learner and a passionate advocate for advancing the paralegal profession. With over 15 years of experience owning and operating a successful print brokerage firm, I have sound experience working with multiple personalities to achieve a common goal.

I have been a licensed paralegal since 2015. Currently, I am a contract paralegal professor at Sheridan College. As a volunteer mooting coach, I have helped many paralegal students develop advocacy skills beyond the classroom walls.

Despite my quiet nature, I do not shy away from difficult conversations and am not afraid to step outside my lane when I believe the reason is for the greater good.

Personally, I am happily married with grown children.

I am proud to announce my candidacy for the position of Paralegal Bencher. As of 2022, paralegals have been regulated by the Law Society for 15 years, but much work remains to be done to ensure that the profession achieves the intended traction and acceptance. That is why I am running for this position, as I am committed to the success of the paralegal profession and believe that I can make a significant change.

Access to justice continues to be at a crisis level, and Ontarians continue to struggle to access quality legal services at an affordable rate. As someone who has spent the past seven years mentoring and teaching the future of our profession at Sheridan College, I have seen first-hand the struggles that paralegal graduates face in finding employment as paralegals, and the barriers that prevent them from assisting our underserved communities.

The struggles faced by paralegal graduates in finding employment are a concern. Encouraging the legal community to create entry-level paralegal positions with adequate pay is a much-needed step toward addressing the attrition rate of paralegals.

It is crucial to recognize that paralegals can play a vital role in assisting underserved communities, and their contributions should be valued.

The paralegal profession is not united, and passionate leaders must come together outside of the LSO to advocate and lobby for changes.

If elected, I will work to build relationships and develop credibility and respect amongst our lawyer colleagues and staff at the Law Society. I will bring a unique voice that protects the public and strengthens the paralegal profession, as issues such as the FLSP and immigration require more than just consultation with educational stakeholders.

In conclusion, it is time for a change, and I am that change. I am committed to the success of the paralegal profession. As someone with life experience, dedication, and the ability to think differently and outside the box, I believe I can make a significant difference in policy development. The paralegal profession needs a new voice at Convocation, and I humbly ask for your support and vote in this election.



Michelle Lomazzo

michelle@lomazzoappeals.com

- **Bencher, Law Society of Ontario 2019-2023**
- **Chair, Paralegal Standing Committee 2022-2023**
- **Bilingual Paralegal Adjudicator, Law Society Discipline Tribunal for 8 years**
- **Past Adjudicator, Rental Housing Tribunal (LTB)**
- **President of Lomazzo Worker's Compensation Appeals**
- **Sole Practitioner**
- **Paralegal for 30+ years practicing WSIB law**
- **Paralegal presenter for various CPD programs at the LSO, Bar Association & Colleges**
- **Paralegal Past Affiliate Executive Member, Ontario Bar Association, WSIB Bar Section for 6 years**
- **Mentor to paralegals & students through student placements**
- **Coach & Advisor Network volunteer, LSO 2019-2023**
- **Paralegal Advisory Committee member since 2008 at St. Clair College**
- **Member, Ontario Paralegal Association**
- **35 years governance experience on Boards of Directors**

Why Vote Michelle Lomazzo for Re-election?

I have served four years as a Paralegal Bencher. I am the Chair of the Paralegal Standing Committee. I am proud to be the first Paralegal Bencher elected outside the GTA. I live in Windsor and am a sole practitioner with a WSIB appeals practice.

Paralegal Benchers represent the paralegal profession, in the public interest. Who do you want advancing paralegal interests? Vote for experience. Vote Michelle Lomazzo for Bencher.

In my first term as a Bencher I have successfully supported:

- expanding paralegal scope into family law
- eliminating certain paralegal exemptions
- instituting a paralegal student right of appearance
- improving paralegal college education by doubling field placement hours so paralegals obtain the hands-on experience they need to practice with confidence and competence
- enhancing awareness of alternate career pathways for paralegals by noting the 200+ boards and tribunals paralegals can appear before
- ensuring no significant increases in annual fees
- ensuring paralegals can be appointed to committees involving Justices of the Peace and included in other awards typically reserved for lawyers
- establishing mutually respectful relationships with other Benchers

In my 30+ year career as a paralegal I fight for the rights of my clients to produce positive outcomes and I will continue to fight to increase access to justice through paralegal practice when re-elected.

Re-Election Platform:

I will fearlessly advocate for paralegals to improve the profession and access to justice by:

- promoting expansion of paralegal scope
- encouraging specialized courses (ex:WSIB) in paralegal education programs
- promoting the role of paralegals in the legal community by improving the professional relationship between lawyers and paralegals in law associations
- reviewing licensing exemptions to further reduce them
- advocating to remedy the inequitable under-representation of paralegal benchers at Convocation
- promoting mentoring for new licensees

Please join me and my paralegal Good Governance Coalition teammates as we make collective strides in advancing the paralegal profession. Your vote for Michelle Lomazzo, is a vote for experience. Please also vote for my paralegal running mates: Deborah Moriah, Demetra Dimokopoulos, Mike Radan and Paula Callaghan. <https://www.linkedin.com/in/michellelomazzo>, www.michellelomazzooforbencher.ca, www.goodgovernancecoalition.ca



Salome Lopes

salome.j.lopes@gmail.com

Salome Lopes - Licensed Paralegal
De Rose Barristers and Solicitors

- **Graduated Humber College in 2013 with Honors and have been practising for 10 years**
- **Personal Injury Paralegal (Accident Benefits) including Small Claims Court, Landlord and Tenant, and Provincial Offences**
- **Parent Counsel - St. Rita Catholic School (secretary)**
- **Attempting to introduce "The Medical Pause" into our hospitals and Long Term Care Homes.**

Why vote for Salome Lopes:

I am a self-driven Paralegal that takes pride in upholding the justice system. I am seeking your support to be elected as a Bencher so together we can expand and develop the Paralegal Profession. It would be a privilege to be elected for this role.

Election Platform

When elected the following issues will be my priorities:

- Advance and expand the Family Law Service Provider (FLSP) license approved by the LSO on December 1, 2022
- Amendments to existing legislation to include paralegals
- Expand the use of technology use in the legal services
- Investigate and expand immigration work into the Paralegal scope of practice
- Ensure Paralegal annual fees remain low
- Continue to advocate for my fellow paralegals in expanding the Paralegal Scope of Practice in a sufficient and timely manner

To Learn more about me, please visit my linkedIn or send me an email with your questions.



Josh McDougall

joshm@yourlegalservices.net

Professional Experience

- FSCO Licensee from 2008-2014
- LSO Licensee since 2018
- Member of the ADRIO
- Opened a Paralegal practice in 2018 and subsequently Professionally incorporated with two Lawyer partners, in early 2021.
- Currently a Founding Partner, and The Managing Partner, of the same firm, with 4 offices and 6 licensees in total, both Lawyers and Paralegals.

Paralegal Experience

- Represented Clients before the Ontario Court of Justice, Provincial Offences Court, Small Claims Court, Arbitral Tribunal, Landlord & Tenant Board, Ontario Land Tribunal, Committee of Adjustments, Human Rights Tribunal, Consent & Capacity Board, Social Justice Tribunal, Criminal Income Compensation Board, License Appeal Tribunal, LSO complaints/Tribunal, Financial Services Regulatory Agency Board

When running in the 2019 Bencher election, I ran with the idea that our elected few amongst us would fight to increase the paralegal scope of practice, which was already being discussed in 2019, would fight to strengthen our competencies, and advocate for what would not only keep that status quo but would do all in their power to work to not just earn a "seat" at the lawyers table, but demand equal standing, equal consideration, and strengthen the legal community as a whole. This has not yet happened, and if anything has become worse.

It is imperative that bloat within the LSO's spending be deflated, that the LSO's core mission of ensuring competency and integrity within the public's interest not be misenforced to include administrative overreach, and encouraging peripheral "inter-agency" complaints, and that the LSO takes no interest, or as little interest as possible, in political, ideological or socially engineered agendas.

The SOP may be a topic of the past, but professional witch hunts, micromanaging of individuality, administrative overreach, and inflated fees, coupled with a lack of fiscal responsibility, are still key issues yet to be dealt with appropriately. A vote for me means a vote for lobbying for Paralegal LAO Empanelment, a vote for creating a better training program for the next generation of licensees, a vote for increasing our scope further within our current competencies, and a vote to stop the unauthorized practice of law by non-licensees.



Suramya Misra

Suramya@isaidcanada.com

Based in Toronto, Misra has over a decade of experience in the legal industry.

Ms. Misra holds a double Bachelors degree, and she has been volunteering for the community from a very early age. She has worked with the underprivileged during her community involvement in India. Misra, as an immigrant, has been an ardent volunteer, and she wishes to continue giving back to society.

Ms. Misra has had the privilege of doing her clerkship under a Supreme Court justice, and that was her moment of enlightenment, and she oathed to work for the best interest of public.

Education: Paralegal - Sheridan 2015-2017, Bachelor in Social and Legal Sciences Bachelors in Law, Diploma in Human Rights

LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/suramya-misra-0b504a98>

As a Bencher, I wish to work on the following:

1. Advocate for expansion of paralegal Scope of Practice,
2. Advocate for Two-way communication,
3. Advocate for Equality and Respect amongst all,
4. Become the Voice of the Paralegal community,
5. In terms of Immigration, bridge the gap and advocate for federal Paramountcy.

An advocate of the people, by the people, for the people.

Let this election be a new chapter in the paralegal history. Let us come together and bring the change in the world we wish to see.

This election let us care a little more. Let us create a legacy and framework for the purposes of justice and access to justice that the future generation looks back at us and talks about the election of 2023.

Let us restore values like " for the greater good."

As a Bencher Nominee candidate, I will not promise you the world, but one thing that I can promise you for sure is that your voice will be heard. I will be your voice, as mentioned, an advocate of the people, by the people, for the people. Let us not forget one of the most glorious virtues of voting in a democracy.

As an independent candidate, I will always bring diversity and unbiased opinions. I value principles like righteousness, gratitude, competence, efficiency, objectivity, vision, and impartiality.

I value words, emotions, and relationships over materialistic deals and corruption.

I am fearless in my approach, yet kind, polite, and I strongly believe in observance of our professional code of conduct and ethics. I also aim to learn about the current resources available at LSO and make more conveniently available to new licensees.

I have a strong social media presence, and I am well-versed with technology.

My social media handles are my name: Suramya Misra to know more you can follow me on Facebook, instagram or linkedIn.

I urge all the licensees to vote, to exercise their right, so that they are represented by a rep of their choice.



Deborah June Moriah

vote@deborahmoriahforbencher.ca

Paralegal Experience:

- Licensed in 2016
- Practised in a variety of areas including personal injury, provincial offences, small claims, and consumer protection.
- Experience in social justice including human rights, social benefits, and criminal injuries compensation
- Current Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (JEDI) Professional

Proven Professional Leadership:

- Co-Founder and President of the Ontario Association of Black Paralegals
- 2.5+ consecutive years of governance experience sitting on a Board of Directors
- Paralegal presenter for CPD programs at the Law Society of Ontario, Ontario Paralegal Association, Black Outreach Leadership Directive (BOLD) Ontario
- Paralegal field placement host Humber and Centennial College students

Why vote for Deborah Moriah?

Since becoming a paralegal in 2016, I have overcome many systemic barriers. I have learned that I must work hard to achieve justice, and I promise to do that for you. I have been inspired to tirelessly work to improve the profession. I am passionate about providing much-needed career supports and improving paralegal education. As racialized and women paralegals make up a large percentage of the profession, I am committed to building EDI initiatives to improve career opportunities, opportunities for mentorship and sponsorship, and most importantly increase access to justice.

I am an experienced board member with the strategic know-how to effect change and I promise to work just as hard for the paralegal profession while protecting the public interest.

I will tirelessly advocate for:

- LSO support of non-traditional practice areas for paralegals beyond the Small Claims, POA, LTB
- implementation of LSO supported networking events for paralegals to make mentorship/sponsorship connections
- implementation of LSO supported career fairs and panels across all regions
- better LSO oversight of student placement programs for high-quality, better defined experiential training equal to the lawyer Experiential Training and Law Practice Program
- implementation of specialized programs to ensure paralegals are competent and confident in particular areas of practice (immigration, human rights, consumer protection, social benefits, etc.)
- implementation of an income assessment program which allows paralegals to maintain their license based on their income
- implementation of a fee equity policy that offers lower fees for: unemployed or under-employed paralegals, paralegals new to private practice and new paralegals looking for work
- parental leave options for paralegals
- the reform of harsh/restrictive language (i.e., administratively suspended) that may cause the public to lose confidence
- an accreditation process that allows internationally trained legal professionals to more easily obtain a P1 License

I am proudly running with experienced leaders as part of the Good Governance Coalition. Please support each of our candidates so we can return good governance and decorum to the Law Society. You can meet all the Coalition's candidates at goodgovernancecoalition.ca/paralegals



Frank William Mucci

muccif@gmail.com

President, Frank W Mucci Paralegal Services Sep 2010 - Present · 12 yrs 6 mos
Paralegal | Commissioner of Oaths | Notary Public

Provincial Offences Act; Small Claims; Tribunals (WSIB, WSIAT, Landlord and Tenant Board, OHRC, HRT, Social Benefits Tribunal, etc.

Education:

Paralegal: Private College – Everest, Honours Diploma 2009 - 2010

Brock University BA, English/History 1969 – 1974.

Activities: Student Senator - Brock University Senate, Varsity hockey,

Midland Avenue Collegiate Institute – Scarborough, senior matriculation 1966 – 1969, athlete of the year for 1969, MC at commemorative assemblies

Past Employment:

WSIB 35+ years; Rehabilitation Counselor (1974), Claims Investigator (1980).

Activities:

President CUPE Local 1750, 1989 - 1993 · 4 yrs, Contracts, negotiations

My scope of practice has been varied and demanding. Work put in and positive result outcomes flow!

We, as Paralegals, are frustrated with our limited scope of practice. Much needs to be done to towards the FLSP discussion (family law). While this scope of practice is readily on our minds, there are other practices that should be on the table to wit real estate.

We cannot be confused to imagine 5 Paralegal Benchers can/will be successful in whatever endeavour best suits Paralegals in general. But, serious lobbying is requisite if our voice is to be heard.

With a wealth of experience, motivation, and skill to represent the interests of all Paralegals, I place my name forward as a Paralegal Candidate for Bencher.



Sean L. O'Connor

trialagent@gmail.com

Sean Leonard O'Connor is your candidate for Law Society Bencher.

Born in Scarborough General Hospital in 1963, I attended: Maryvale Public School in Toronto, McDougall Public School in Parry Sound.

Graduated North Hastings High School at Bancroft in 1981 and as Student Council President and Captain of the High School Rugby Team.

I boxed all over Ontario for many years and played it forward as a Judicial Official.

I am Director at ticketsave.ca & paralegalservices.legal

My passion for community-service and volunteerism to equip a local elementary school in 1996 morphed into the well known Baskets for Babies Charity (basketsforbabies.ca)

Sadly, BFB is the only private fundraiser of infant formula in North America (Nestles' 2011).

I hold Diplomas in Mechanical Engineering Technology (GBC 1983), Business Administration (GBC 1996) and a Post Graduate Diploma in Advertising (GBC 1998.) As part of the advanced curriculum, I competed in the Ontario College Marketing Championship (OCMC) and won the Gold Medal for Advertising.

I hold the following list of Appointments, Academia and Certifications:

- Certificate in Adjudication for Administrative Agencies, Boards and Tribunals 2021/2022 at Toronto
- The Osgoode Certificate in Handling Summary Conviction Offences.
- The Osgoode Certificate in Provincial Offences Practice
- Bantam Hockey Referees certificate at Grande Ravine Hockey Association at Toronto
- Level 2 stage 2 Blue-Sail certification at Parry Sound
- Judicial-Official Boxing Ontario Level 1 Certification at Toronto
- Windsurfers Instructors certification at Peterborough Ontario

Sean Leonard O'Connor is your candidate for Law Society Bencher.

Let me get right to the point, as your elected Bencher: I verily pledge to work along-side my fellow Benchers diplomatically and consistently, to raise the conversation regarding the public-interest in creating access to justice; I will do all I can to continue to polish the trustworthy image of the paralegal profession so painstakingly crafted by our Paralegal predecessors.

I believe in faith, volunteerism, accountability, responsibility, and profitability; I verily pledge to every licensee, I will work in the public interest to further the conversation to increase each of these pillars.

WE ALL MUST VOTE FOR diplomacy, advocacy and the public-interest; VOTE FOR SEAN LEONARD O'CONNOR



Matthew C. Olson

matthewcolson1974@outlook.com

Legal Experience

- Paralegal
- Owner and Senior Partner / Olson Craig Legal Offices.
- Current Secretary / OPA Committee / Law Society and Government Relations.

Leadership Experience

- 48 years old, husband of 25 years to the best woman on this planet, father of three wonderful children, grandfather to three incredible grandchildren.
- Bachelor of Theology, Master of Divinity, Doctor of Divinity. Lifetime ordination as Reverend. Lifetime consecration as Bishop. Significant portions of adult life engaged in missional / humanitarian work.
- Self-employed business owner. Passionate, fierce, defender of Human Rights and Civil Liberties. Ability to negotiate and traverse difficulties is what I bring to the role of Bencher. Treat each other with respect, build your colleagues up, by doing so we all win.

Dear Colleagues;

I am honoured to be a Paralegal. It is a blessing in my life. We are privileged to be Advocates. It is in these beliefs that I am running for Bencher.

We are in a time of crisis. It is past time for change. Our education has failed us. Regulations and special interest groups oppose advancement that would help Ontarians. People need our help. They are literally crying out for it. What are we doing? Ignoring it. Making laws and rules that discriminate and exclude. People are hurting. We stand poised to help. There is a logical hole in our profession that we as Paralegals can fill. We are restricted from doing so. We are equal. We must be allowed to help. There is much work to be done. I would be humbled to be your choice at Convocation. We do not need more good governance; we need common sense governance. There is a problem. The profession is the answer.

PLATFORM

- Oppose attempts to force limited licensing.
- Remove EDI in favour of Licensee's moral fiber.
- Binding motion ability at AGM's.
- Initiate a prosecutorial code of conduct.
- Full scope immigration to Paralegals. Let the courts decide without interference.
- Full scope family law within current license.
- Criminal scope enhancement.
- Paralegals to accept Legal Aid.
- Appeals of any matter begun in scope.
- Regulation of scope outside of LSO.
- Bind the relationship between Lawyers and Paralegals to advance A2J for the people of Ontario.
- Your ideas!!!

I COMMIT TO

- Considerable time with stakeholders to advance public and professions interest.
- A Bencher office open to public and licensees.
- Portion of earnings and fundraising to provide pro bono to client legal services performed by Paralegals.
- Open house quarterly.
- I will answer your calls.
- I will listen to you.
- We can talk out your needs and ideas.
- I will deliver and if I cannot, I will be accountable to you personally.

What is good for the profession is good for public, what is good for the public is good for the profession. Contact me via phone or LinkedIn. I'd love to talk to you. Blessings!!!



Mike Radan

michael.radan@gmail.com

Education

- Bachelor of Arts (Economics), University of Western Ontario
- Paralegal Diploma, Trios College

Legal Experience

- Started own private practice concentrating on Small Claims, LTB and tribunals. Was a sole practitioner for 3 years
- Five years experience in-house with the Municipal Property Assessment Corp. working in assessment litigation and dispute resolution
- LSO CPD presenter

Governance

- Board member, Women's Rural Resource Centre

Dear Paralegal Colleagues:

I am seeking your support to be elected as a Bencher in 2023 Bencher election. My reasons are simple. I am proud of the paralegal profession and the dedication and skill of those who make up the profession. At this time, we need good governance, decorum and professionalism at Convocation.

I have the required skill, experience and temperament to govern in the public interest and provide the paralegal perspective at Convocation to ensure access to justice and the paralegal's place in the justice system. Paralegals are an integral part of the justice system in Ontario.

If elected I pledge to:

- Promote the expansion of the paralegal scope of practice to further access to justice
- Eliminate exemptions from licensing by updating By-Law 4
- Advocate for a more equitable number of paralegal benchers
- Promote professional collaboration between lawyers and paralegals
- Promote more practical "hands on" training as part of paralegal education to improve competency
- Advocate for more opportunities for paralegal students to appear in court and at tribunals
- Ensure fiscal responsibility and transparency at the LSO to reduce fees and enhance services for licensees.

I'm running in this election as a member of the Good Governance Coalition. Please vote for me and each of the other experienced candidates, Paula Callaghan, Michelle Lomazzo, Deborah Moriah, and Demetra Dimokopoulos, so that we can return good governance and decorum to the Law Society.

There's a clear choice this Bencher election. Let's elect the competent, experienced, and representative leaders running for the Good Governance Coalition.

www.goodgovernancecoalition.ca
www.radanforbencher.ca



Vladimir Reznik

rezniklegal@gmail.com

rezniklegal@gmail.com | 416-222-9906

- Entered the paralegal profession in 1992 as an immigration and criminal law paralegal;
- Founded my own firm in 1994;
- Chose not to be grandfathered and pursued other ventures including health sciences, investigations, international events, real estate;
- Proudly came full circle and returned to the work I've always loved.

A man of many cultures and multilingual, I am a lifelong learner, educator, negotiator, litigator, entrepreneur, Human Rights advocate, a loving husband and father of four.

I have an acute awareness of the urgent need to elevate the standards and prestige of our profession and eliminate the barriers to paralegal success, and I am looking forward to the opportunity of making my contribution.

THE CANDIDATE WHO MAKES SENSE

With experiences ranging from legal services and investigations to business management and international events, I now offer my skills, knowledge, and dedication to advancing access to justice, and I ask you to elect me as your bencher. I stand for advancing access to justice by recognizing and removing inequities and barriers to providing legal services faced by paralegals through all levels of regulation including

- Improving access to competence and professional development;
- Eliminating fiscal inequities in fees and billing structures;
- Eliminating inequities related to tribunal justice and discipline process;
- Removing unjustified limitations in our practice areas, and expanding our scope.

With your help, I aspire to raise the standards of efficient and responsible governance of our profession and to hold the Law Society of Ontario to the highest standard of its duty to facilitate access to justice for the people of Ontario through strengthening the paralegal profession.

My platform stands on these three pillars:

1. Balancing Fiscal Responsibility with Fiscal Equity
 - a. Ensure fiscal discipline and restraint in reducing the operating budget;
 - b. Lower paralegal fees; introduce additional low-fee categories to recognize special needs of licensees who are disproportionately affected by age, health, family structure, and other inequities;
 - c. Facilitate transparency by proactive two-way engagement with licensees, educational institutions, and associations.
2. Responsible and Efficient Governance
 - a. Advocate for increasing paralegal bencher representation to proportionate levels;
 - b. Scrutinize adjudicative and investigative ethics and conflicts;
 - c. Remove cost recoveries to strengthen independence and fairness of the Law Society Tribunal;
 - d. Oppose courtroom censorship, regulation of ideology and expression;
 - e. End the pandemic of frivolous, vexatious, politically motivated complaints, and weaponizing of the Tribunal and discipline process.
3. Access to Competence and Professional Development
 - a. Enhance paralegal competence and standards of education;
 - b. Raise awareness of the excellent work that paralegals are capable of;
 - c. Promote expansion of paralegal scope without creating additional barriers, including immigration, family law, drafting of residential leases, private and ADR tribunals, and other areas.

For more information, detailed articles, and video discussions of my platform, please visit VoteVladimir.ca



Rajesh Sehgal

sehgallegalservices@gmail.com

- I completed a PG program with a Graduate Certificate in Paralegal from Centennial College. I wrote and got my P1 license in 2015
- Besides providing legal services to the community, I am a public-spirited writer having books published in matters of social awareness
- I am serving as President of a Civil Society Organization having its vision to promote the welfare and social justice for all, and subject to funding, has the mission to provide pro bono legal services to the community.
- I advocated CERB for self-employed people. I am a freelance journalist and professional member of the CFG and IFJ.
- I also founded the London News YouTube channel, where I take up social issues in the shows

During my short tenure of 10 months on board as Communicator Director, the OPA:

- Has proactively taken up and repeatedly followed up on the issue of the full scope of practice in immigration law with the LSO
- Supported the motion of FLSP Report to Convocation while expressing disappointment at the scaled-down version of Family Law presented for a vote
- Requested the Attorney General of Ontario to formulate such policies and conditions for funding to Legal Aid Ontario, ensuring fair opportunities and empanelment to participate in administering the legal aid program in Ontario
- Followed up with the Law Foundation of Ontario seeking a grant
- Worked out the new plan with Zen Insurance on the 'E&O' insurance policy
- Negotiated a plan with LexisNexis Quicklaw package

When elected, I will emphasize and ensure to:

- Voice that LSO and provincial government provide support and opportunities for employment and self-employment to paralegals
- Voice for a reduction in fees for the licensees having income less than \$35,000.00
- Voice and promote greater diversity, inclusion, and mutual respect
- Voice for the full scope of practice in the immigration law
- Voice that the approved family law be within the ambit of the P1 license
- Voice on the expansion of the scope of practices within the ambit of the present P1 license other than subjected to excruciating requirements of maintaining separate licenses and instead focus on increasing the CPD courses in the relevant field of law
- Voice to promote access justice for the self-represented Ontarians, as they are deprived of competent and professional legal representation due to the affordability factors
- Advocate that the provincial government, lay a condition of funding to Legal Aid Ontario to amend its rules to include 'paralegals' in the roster of services providers along with lawyers
- Voice for increasing the number of paralegal benchers at LSO to allow them a fair representation
- Voice for Paralegals to be allowed to appeal in divisional courts in matters of LTB and Small Court Claims
- Carry forward efforts to build on relationships with the stakeholders to achieve our collective mission



Jeffrey Smith

jdsmithparalegal@gmail.com

I have two diplomas, one in police foundations, and another in paralegal, along with e-learning in Regulatory Compliance from Penn State school of law, and Child welfare, along with a certificate in Provincial Offences Court practice from Osgoode Hall. Along with significant court experience.

I got my entrance into law by fighting for the rights of fathers to obtain CCB payments for their children, and equal parenting rights.

The same vigour with which I have defended the rights of marginalized persons, is the same vigour with which I will defend the paralegal profession, and seek to expand us as an effective means for access to justice, and court advocacy in every possible venue.

I have been a staunch advocate for increasing the paralegal scope since I was a student. I have a background in investigations and security, along with contracting, I know how to get a job done. My current area of focus is human rights related litigation, which to me includes LTB, POA, Criminal Code, and any area in which a person's rights need to be safeguarded. I formerly sat as the Chair of the Law Society and Government Relations Committee for the Ontario Paralegal Association.

I am a firm believer that an assault on one person's rights is an assault on everyone's rights. I believe in freedom, equity of opportunity, and upholding the inherent dignity and self worth of every individual based upon who they are, and not on a diversity checklist.

I am staunchly opposed to EDI, and similar initiatives, and began my work in the politicking of this profession under the late Ian Wilkinson, my first mentor in this profession.

My commitment to the profession is as follows:

1. Advocate for an increased scope, this includes appeals on matters which originated from the traditional scope, along with family law.
2. Seek the removal of the Law Society as a barrier to practising in any venue, if any barrier does arise it will not be the result of the Law Society.
3. Argue for the correct interpretation of the Law Society Act, and related bylaws, which is that paralegals in fact have a full scope of immigration.
4. Pursue a special code of conduct for prosecutors. Prosecutors interact with the public on a far more regular basis than any other licensee, and their duty and role, is of significant importance to the administration, they need a much higher standard.
5. Encourage and foster a culture of transparency and accountability, within the governance of the Law Society of Ontario.
6. Act in accordance with the statutory mandate of the law society, under Section 4.2 of the act, and make sure the Society, upholds the mandate given to itself.

Don't be shy to reach out.

Bencher | **Élection**
Election | du Conseil

Vote

The deadline for voting is
April 28, 2023
at 5 p.m. EDT.

Votez

La date limite pour voter
est le 28 avril 2023
à 17 h HAE.



Law Society
of Ontario

Barreau
de l'Ontario