

I am seeking re-election as a Toronto director for the CLA.

My reason for seeking election last term was highly focused. I felt the pandemic-driven innovations to our justice system were, on balance, windfalls for an overworked, under-resourced, and under-appreciated criminal defence bar. My goal was to make sure the most positive of these changes – changes I helped advocate for during the pandemic – became permanent fixtures in our practice.

During my tenure, as co-chair of both the Tech and Criminal Practice Committees, I worked hard to try and achieve this goal. I also fought to improve the way our bar does its critical work. Among many other projects and committee obligations, I oversaw the creation of a comprehensive Zoom connection database – something our members use daily. Importantly, I did this while simultaneously and forcefully advocating that the OCJ manage, update and publish this data itself. This is a goal we have half-realized with the new OCJ website, and hope to fully realize in the coming year.

I seek re-election now because I feel the hard work has just begun. Our new Provincial Chief has a bold vision for the future of criminal justice in Ontario. The defence bar's singular and invaluable role must remain at the forefront of that vision. We must continue fighting for attainable, sensible innovation, and not allow our hard-won gains to be forfeited or eroded.

I'd be honoured to have your vote and resume my work on behalf of the membership.