



Legal Information and Resource Network

BOARD DIRECTOR VACANCY

The Legal Information and Resource Network (LiRN) is a not-for-profit share capital corporation mandated to effectively evolve the provision of legal information and library services for members of the Law Society of Ontario. The key objectives of LiRN include fulfilling the regulatory mandate to facilitate the public being served by legal professionals with high standards of learning and competence, supporting ongoing learning and development with a specific emphasis on the use and application of legal information, legal research and legal training content and activities, establishing a platform that provides effective access to legal information, and offering a supportive and robust range of services targeted to the needs of users.

In 2018 LiRN adopted a new governance structure and a renewed mandate to support the progressive provision of legal information and supports to members of the Law Society through the management and allocation of grant funding, ongoing assessment of the system, and strategic development of appropriate service offerings.

A new board of directors was appointed in January of 2019 under the new structure. Over the past three years it has hired staff, established policies, surveyed library users, shareholders and librarians, collected data, conducted a strategic planning process, held a librarians' conference, developed an evidence-based approach to granting and adopted a new strategic plan. LiRN's operation under the new governance structure began just a few months before the pandemic disrupted library services. The LiRN board adapted, like many other organizations, and focused on support for librarians developing processes for access for library users and adjusting to remote operations in a period of great uncertainty. The new board addressed the immediate issues and developed a strong plan for the next five years. The Board developed effective committees, navigated funding cuts and successfully advocated for reinstatement of pre-pandemic funding levels and adopted a board evaluation process. The individual Directors communicate well and share a commitment to transparent, principled decision-making.

LiRN is seeking two new Directors who brings library expertise and strong finance and governance skills. The new Directors will join a board with diverse practical skills, experience with different aspects of library use and different demographic and regional experience. An ideal candidate is a strategic thinker committed to the competence of legal professionals and with an interest in, and understanding of, the professional development and legal information needs of all legal professionals and county law library users. LiRN is committed to ensuring that its Board reflects Ontario's regional diversity and welcomes the interest of qualified candidates residing in all judicial regions of Ontario.

LiRN Board Recruitment

The LiRN Directors are nominated by the Nominations Committee, composed of representatives of the three shareholders, Law Society of Ontario, Toronto Lawyers' Association and Federation of Ontario Law Association, and appointed at LiRN's annual general meetings. Candidates are recommended based on the skills matrix that set out the key criteria competencies of LiRN Directors. While contributions of individual Directors will vary based on their qualifications and experience, the

Board should, collectively, bring a balance of expertise, skills, experience and perspectives to the organization, suitable for LIRN's operations.

LIRN Directors are appointed for two-year terms with the possibility for two additional terms. The Board meets 4-6 times per year, virtually or in person. Directors are expected to join one of the Board Committees. Directors are not paid, however all expenses to attend in-person meetings are paid.

Expressions of interest will be solicited until April 15th and should be sent to Sarah McCoubrey at Sarah@calibratesolutions.ca. A recommendation will be made to the shareholders prior to the May 2024 AGM. The Director's term will begin at the board meeting immediately following the AGM.

Qualifications

Directors are expected to meet their legal and ethical obligations to the organization and demonstrate the following attributes:

- Personal Integrity and Ethics
- Intellectual Curiosity and Willingness to Learn
- Courage and Candour
- Strong Interpersonal Skills
- Good Judgment and Business Acumen
- Discretion
- Dependability and Commitment to Contribute

Skills and Competencies

Director skills, experience and competencies will vary; however, the Board should have knowledge and experience in the following areas to meet LIRN's needs based on the following definitions:

- Knowledge of Legal Research & LIRN's User Needs
- An understanding of LIRN's objectives
- Regulation of professionals and the Law Society's mandate
- An understanding of library systems
- An understanding of digital applications and emerging technologies
- An understanding of the challenges and trends in access to justice
- Marketing and communications
- Finance
- Library/Knowledge Management
- Information Technology
- Legal Knowledge
- Human Resources experience
- General Management or Operational experience
- Experience with Client Service-Oriented Organizations such as a consulting firm, professional services firm, etc. With a broad and diverse client base.
- Knowledge of evolving applications of technology in the legal sector.
- Experience creating system-wide protocols for best practices, guidelines, funding and training
- Commitment to evidence-based decision-making