

In October 2022, CLSA members attending the 84th annual convention in Cleveland voted to undertake a strategic planning process to understand how the Board of Governors, committees, and staff function today in their present roles, and to recommend ways forward to prepare to meet future needs and challenges of the CLSA. This process will end with a report and recommendations presented to the membership at the 2024 Convention.

As part of this process, in the spring/summer of 2023, the Strategic Visioning Committee put forward a survey. Responses from this survey will anchor the listening sessions that will take place at the 85th convention in Milwaukee and later.

Results from the survey follow in this document. Results are divided as follows:

- pp. 2-4 - General questions answered by all survey participants
- pp. 5-33 – questions answered by CLSA members (active, associate and student)
- pp. 34-51 – questions answered by former CLSA members
- pp. 52-60 – questions answered by non-CLSA members

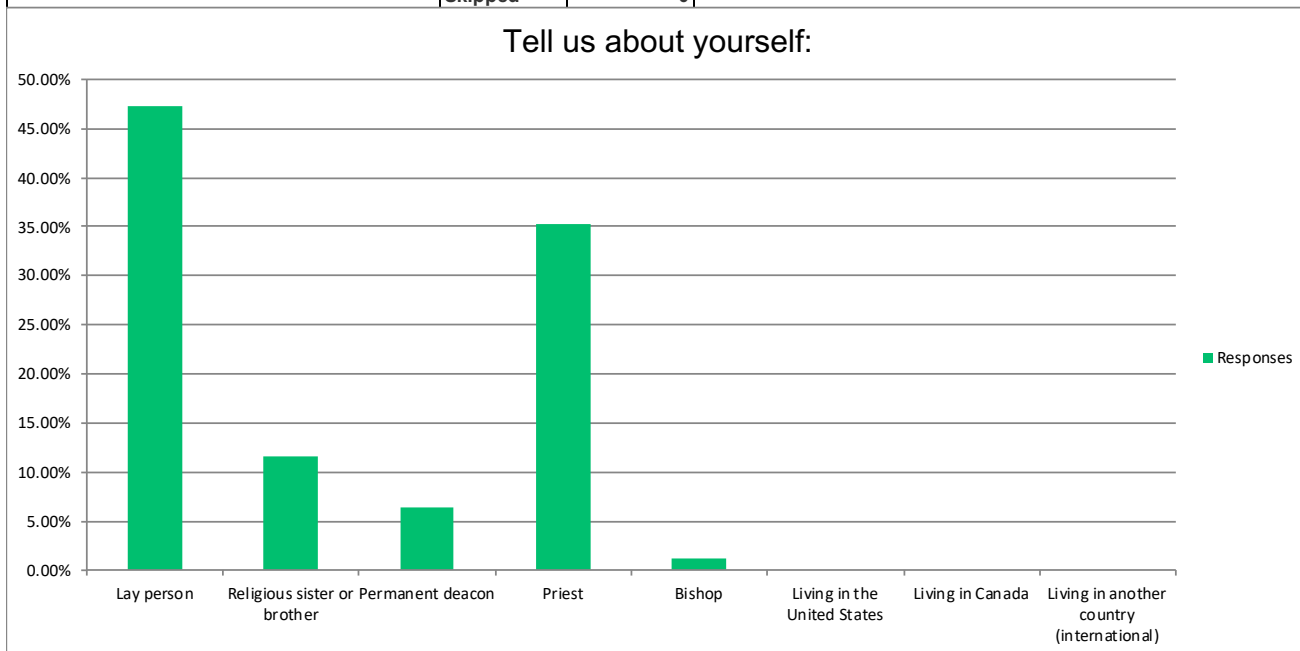
Please note: In total 459 people responded to the survey. The survey then branched into three distinct sets of questions: to active CLSA members, former CLSA members, and non-CLSA members. The survey instrument counted the number of people who skipped a question out of the total of 459; it did not count the number of skipped questions by the number of people who actually saw the question.

Strategic Visioning Initial Survey - June 2023

General question answered by everyone

Tell us about yourself:

Answer Choices	Responses	
Lay person	47.28%	217
Religious sister or brother	11.55%	53
Permanent deacon	6.32%	29
Priest	35.29%	162
Bishop	1.09%	5
Living in the United States	0.00%	0
Living in Canada	0.00%	0
Living in another country (international)	0.00%	0
	Answered	459
	Skipped	0



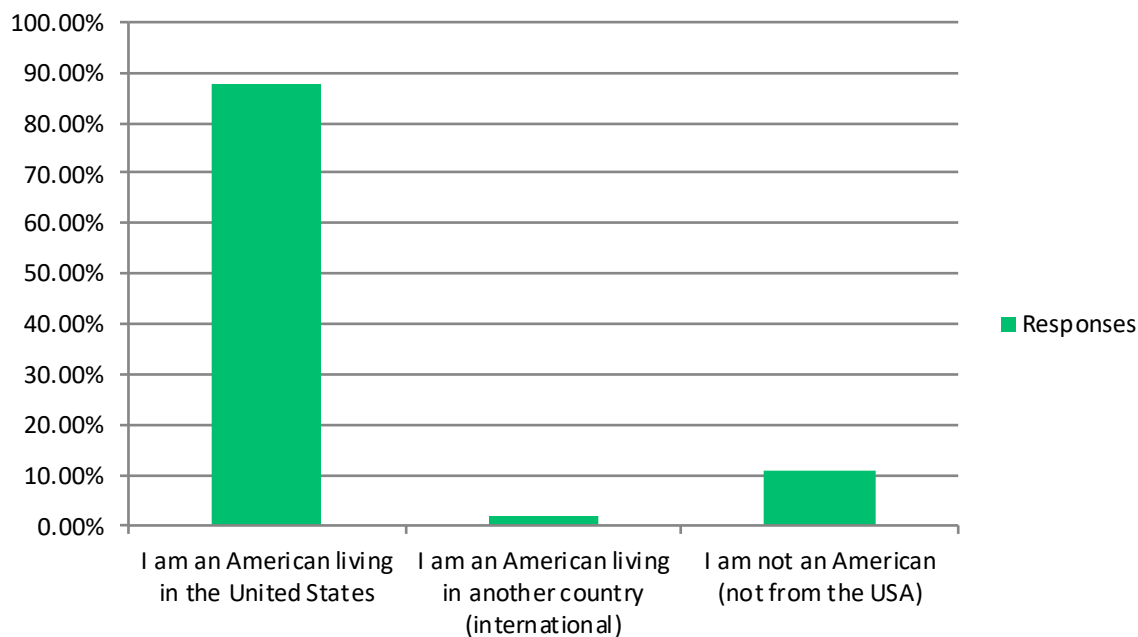
Strategic Visioning Initial Survey - June 2023

General question answered by everyone

Tell us more about yourself:

Answer Choices	Responses	
I am an American living in the United States	87.58%	402
I am an American living in another country (international)	1.74%	8
I am not an American (not from the USA)	10.68%	49
	Answered	459
	Skipped	0

Tell us more about yourself:



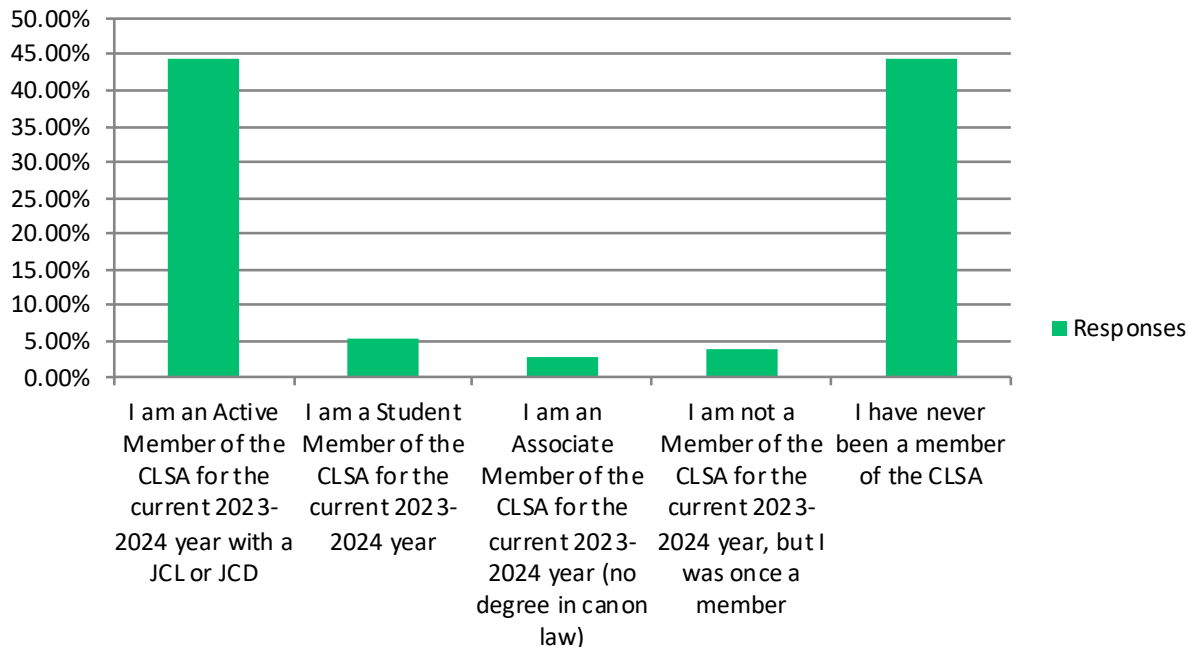
Strategic Visioning Initial Survey - June 2023

general question answered by everyone

Check one of the following:

Answer Choices	Responses	
I am an Active Member of the CLSA for the current 2023-2024 year with a JCL or JCD	44.23%	203
I am a Student Member of the CLSA for the current 2023-2024 year	5.23%	24
I am an Associate Member of the CLSA for the current 2023-2024 year (no degree in canon law)	2.61%	12
I am not a Member of the CLSA for the current 2023-2024 year, but I was once a member	3.70%	17
I have never been a member of the CLSA	44.23%	203
	Answered	459
	Skipped	0

Check one of the following:



Strategic Visioning Initial Survey - June 2023
question for members (active, associate and student)
I have been or was a member of the CLSA for

Answer Choices	Responses	
0 - 5 years	22.93%	47
6 - 15 years	25.37%	52
16 - 25 years	19.51%	40
more than 25 years	32.20%	66
	Answered	205
	Skipped	254

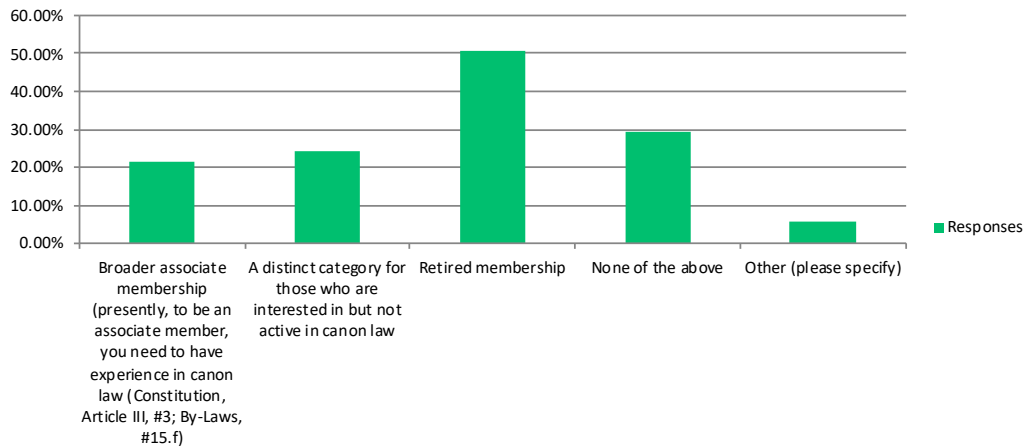


Strategic Visioning Initial Survey - June 2023
question for members (active, associate and student)

At present, CLSA membership categories are: Active, Student, Associate and Honorary members. Should the CLSA explore further these categories for membership? Please indicate all that would be important to explore.

Answer Choices	Responses	
Broader associate membership (presently, to be an associate member, you need to have experience in canon law (Constitution, Article III, #3; By-Laws, #15.f)	21.46%	44
A distinct category for those who are interested in but not active in canon law	24.39%	50
Retired membership	50.73%	104
None of the above	29.27%	60
Other (please specify)	5.85%	12
	Answered	205
	Skipped	254

At present, CLSA membership categories are: Active, Student, Associate and Honorary members. Should the CLSA explore further these categories for membership? Please indicate all that would be important to explore.

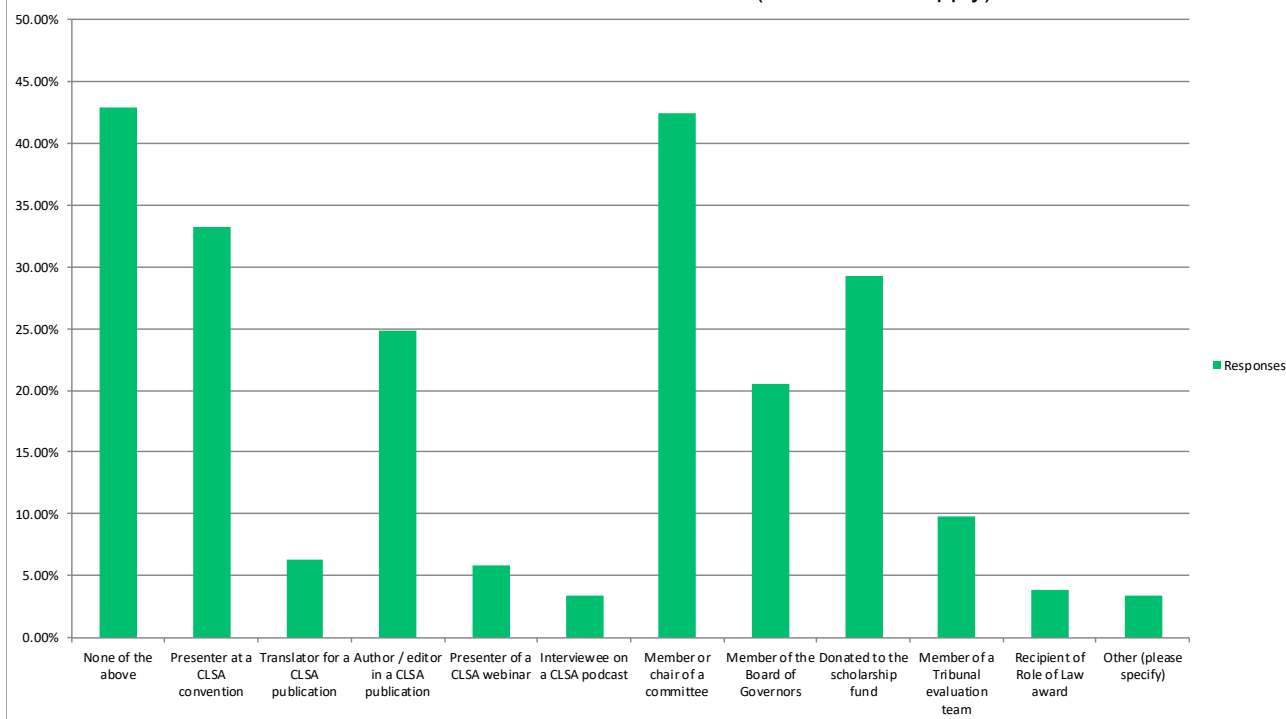


Other response
theologians, liturgists
I would be open to a membership for those, nominated by a coetus of CLSA members, who have provided some service to the field such that their membership could represent a genuine interest to the canonists whose professional service this Society is meant to further.
Institutional membership, e.g., Diocesan membership for \$1500, up to 6 people; no voting privileges for anyone
as a canonist in religious law, I would like a connection, but most of CLSA's content is not in my field.
Those working for the Church.
what ever categories we add, the dues shoould be tiered
Age 65+
The current membership for JCD students who are religious sisters is very expensive. I know sometimes JCD students take several years to graduate, but I have been told it is typical to take 3-4 years to complete a JCD. I ask the CLSA to give 2nd and 3rd year JCD students the student membership. I will start my 2nd year of JCD studies in Fall 2023 but will probably not renew my membership this coming year because I cannot afford it.
Chancery staff members
I feel the membership price should be reduced for those members who are retired and living on fixed income.
I would not be in favor of dropping the experience qualification for associate membership
A non-voting category for "Church personnel"

Strategic Visioning Initial Survey - June 2023
question for members (active, associate and student)
I have served the CLSA in these roles (check all that apply)

Answer Choices	Responses
None of the above	42.93% 88
Presenter at a CLSA convention	33.17% 68
Translator for a CLSA publication	6.34% 13
Author / editor in a CLSA publication	24.88% 51
Presenter of a CLSA webinar	5.85% 12
Interviewee on a CLSA podcast	3.41% 7
Member or chair of a committee	42.44% 87
Member of the Board of Governors	20.49% 42
Donated to the scholarship fund	29.27% 60
Member of a Tribunal evaluation team	9.76% 20
Recipient of Role of Law award	3.90% 8
Other (please specify)	3.41% 7
Answered	205
Skipped	254

I have served the CLSA in these roles (check all that apply)



I was once asked to place my name in nomination as a member of the BOG but was unable to do so that year on account of an unusual professional responsibility that year. I was never approached again.

New member.

Presenter at pre-convention workshops

Attended convention for some 20 years for continuing formation

I attended many of the conventions in the 1970s and 1980s.

Submission to RR&CLSA Advisory Opinions

Strategic Visioning Initial Survey - June 2023

question for members (active, associate and student)

If you answered "none of the above," what would persuade you to be more involved?

Answered	67
Skipped	392

Responses
Being asked or nominated - I am not sure where I would be needed and do not think that I would be comfortable nominating myself.
More time in a day and the confidence to feel that I know canon law
Not sure
If I were asked, I would be happy to assist.
Finish JCL
Not much, given the amount of work at home in the diocese
I have signed up every year for additional involvement but never chosen.
NA
Once I obtain a JCL I wouldn't mind volunteering.
I live overseas and maintain membership because of the availability of resources and Webinars
An invitation
Discussions on most relevant current Canon Law topics. More engagement with USCCB
When I was a member, more time would have helped. My time management skills are not the best.
An invitation to present
Some one to request my assistance It seems like the same people get asked to be involved
Someone reaching out to me to ask to be involved as I have indicated in my profile that I am willing to serve in various ways.
Nothing. Unfortunately, it is a matter of not having time to be more active with the CLSA.
Where the greater [minds] are, the lesser [minds] cannot be.
Only if I had more time available outside of my parish and diocesan duties. With the shortage of priests in my diocese, I am kept very busy with little time for other involvement
To be asked
I have tried numerous times to be "more involved". It's a scam and joke, since all the same people are chosen or elected. I have tried to be involved with committees and then I hear nothing from anybody for a whole year. Discrimination? I wonder. If you're not white, you get no recognition for anything. It's a fact.
As a retired priest who on occasion assists other dioceses in matters of a penal nature, I stay busy enough without taking on other duties
More time
A direct invitation. My willingness was listed in my registration to CLSA
Being asked.
Nothing, I am getting too old.
N/A
Nothing--I'm retiring. Although I was recently asked to serve on a committee--had to decline due to upcoming retirement.
Oh I just need someone to point me in the right direction.
If I had more time.
Having more time.
More options for student members to be involved; better outreach to non-American members
As a student member, I need more experience before I am qualified to be more involved.
Signed up for CLSA because I am a student who works in the tribunal and my JV signed me up

Completing my JCL and more experience at a Tribunal with broader experience.
At the moment it is difficult for me to undertake any further involvement.
Once I have completed JCL studies (anticipated in 2025), I am interested in more involvement in the CLSA. I am chiefly interested in committee involvement and being a member of a tribunal evaluation team.
Not at this time.
I would have to have sufficient expertise.
The dues and costs of conventions are so high that it's almost prohibitive for a lay person to pay for them
I'm just starting
As I get more experience in canonical work I might feel more qualified to offer a valuable contribution
Still a newbie - probably if I talked to someone who asked me.
no idea at the moment
Time
The timing of the conventions is not good for me due to my other responsibilities.
Not sure.
Convincing my superior to free up my schedule. If you can manage it, that would be awesome! :)
More experience in practice of canon law
If I live in USA or CLSA engaged with overseas members
Isn't this a non sequitur? Involvement is usually by invitation and not by an indication of willingness to be involved.
Sometimes, one cannot be involved in everything. If I didn't have family and work obligations that demanded my time, I would be "more involved." I know there are others who can juggle much more than I can, but I don't feel like I can give more.
I don't need to be persuaded. I don't know the process to get involved. I've indicated on my profile a willingness to be involved, but it appears I need to be more proactive
I have never been invited to participate in any of these.
Not much. I'm too busy.
No persuasion, just a reduction in work I already have to make me more available to take on other responsibilities.
I am new to CLSA and looking to join a committee this year.
Committees and presentations that meet my specialty (Teaching Office/Magisterium)
Nothing.
Nothing at this time.
Personal invitation from board/secretary/committee chair etc.
Having more experience in the practice of canon law.
Being asked? CLSA sometimes has the hallmarks of a social clique. People tend to gravitate to those whom they already know and/or like, and senior members are not always the most welcoming of junior ones.
I do not feel I have the time to participate in a more extensive way.
I have signaled a strong interest in becoming more active, but not been asked.
My health currently prevents me
Not yet ready to help... still studying. Need more time to do that

Strategic Visioning Initial Survey - June 2023
question for members (active, associate and student)
What three words best describe the CLSA for you?

Answer Choices	Responses
Word 1:	100.00% 175
Word 2:	98.86% 173
Word 3:	94.86% 166
	Answered 175
	Skipped 284

Word 1:	Word 2:	Word 3:
Vital	Educational	Current
Resource	Community	Publisher
networking	expertise sharing	educations
Conservative	Outdated	Fearful
Catholic	Professional	Camaraderie
Professionality	Associative	Juridical
Collegial	Valuable	Pertinent
professional	expert	consultative
Mutual support in ministry	updating the current canonical changes of the church	empowering the pastoral ministry
Resource	Colleagues	Learning
Network	Support	Education
Colleagues	Friends	Professional development
resource	connection	professional
Cooperation	Renewal	Education
None	None	None
Resource	Network	Expensive
necessary	networking	service
Informative	helpful	???
helpful	network	clarification
Professional	Network	Source
Resources	Networking	Limited
professional	network	resources
resource	connection	professional
Helpful	Concerned	Topical
Pragmatic	Rigorous	Scholarly
Database	Webinars	Publish Code
Necessary	Well-organized	Underappreciated
Knowledgeable	Professional	a resource
Fellowship	Formation	Service
retrograde	obstructionist	pharisaical
Qualified	Professional	Helpful
Professional	Educational	Support
Professional	Collaborative	Service
Scholarly	Community	Faithful
Convention	Networking	Resources
Informative	Collegial	Sharing
responsive	proactive	flexible
Informative	Resources	Guidance
innovative	source	valuable
Costly	Unimportant	Valueless
Active	Resourced	Network
Professional	Collegial	Resource
Excellent	Insightful	Resourceful
Professional	Capable	Talented
Resource	Learned	Practical
Professionalism	Training	Publications
Professional	Network	Source
Informative	Connectivity	
Dinosaur	Expensive	Fiscally irresponsible
Effective	Efficient	Indispensible
Networking	Support	Research
innovative	inclusive	professional
resource	networking	political
Professional	Valuable	Communal
community	service	professional
Distant	Disconnected	Potential
professional	educational	Collegial
insular	territorial	cliquish
resource	publications	collaboration
Networking	Practical	Fun
Communion	Professionalism	Scholarship
Informative	Practical	Reliable
informative	helpful	educational
Communal	Enthusiastic	Ecclesial
Expertise	Resources	Professional
Needed	Conservative	Helpful
association	publications	diversity
Professional	Scholarly	Supportive
Resource	Identity	Community
Informative	Supportive	Welcoming
Networking	Educational	Lost
Professional	Collaboration	Gospel
indispensable	helpful	excellent
Outdated	Not practical	Stuck in old ways
elite	in the clouds	good ole boys network
Professional	Integrity	Scholarly
support	community	resource
Professional	Friendly	Scholarly
Resource	Network	Pastoral
professional	engaged	ecclesial
Networking	Information	Consultation
Networking	Education	Professional

publications	conventions	professionalism
networking	professional advice/ consultation	serve the universal church
Resourceful	Educational	Inspiring
Resources	Networking	Influence
Professional	Relevant	Helpful
antiquated	indifferent	useless
aloof	inbred	somewhat clique-ish
Competent	Dependable	Professional
Expensive		
Well done	Good	Very productive association
Network	Education	Fun
Secretive	Short-sighted	Proud history
expensive	poor use of member funds	irrelevant to me
Useful	Enriching	Wild
Relevant	Interesting	Necessary
Professional	Useful	Informative
professionalism	cooperation	smart
Excellent conventions	Good source of resources	Helpful presentation of conference proceedings
American	Exclusive	Dominant
Collaboration	Fraternity	Mentoring
pastoral	diverse	committed
professional	academically-rooted	pragmatic
connection	education	publications
Welcoming	Helpful	Service
Educational	Utilitarian	Necessary
professional	pastoral	competent
professional	expert	consultative
Networking	Educational	Expensive
Professional	Collaborative	Networked
networking	professional development	encouragement
professional	helpful	fun
Collaboration	Consultation	Resource
professional	contemporary	communal
Connected	Professional	Expensive
relevant	helpful	older
Educational	Collegiality	Resourceful
Ongoing Formation	Community	Resources
Network	Resource	Formation
Canon Law	Ecclesiastical Administration	
Professional	Resources	Network
professional	pastoral	ecclesial
Informed	Helpful	
necessary	valuable	networking
Vision	Collaboration	Discernment
Decline	Divided	Disappointing
Helpful	Knowledgeable	Insightful
Essential	Informative	Fellowship
Informative	Canonical	Community
Collegial		
Educational	Fraternal	Collaborative
academic	resource	social
Professional	Collaborative	Ecclesial
Professional	Publisher	Convention
Instructive	Clarifying	Crucial
professional	pastoral	educational
constant	trying	slow
Networking	Comradorie	Information
Informative	Helpful	
Christ	Centered	Canonists
information	networking	professional
Scholarship (research)	Networking	Educational
Expensive	Useful	Support
Professional	Supportive	Inclusive
association	outdated	expensive
resource	community	value
irrelevant	inflexible	clubby
Resources	Education	Professionalism
Unimaginative	Financially irresponsible	Dinosaur
Professional	Academic	Service
Expensive	Resources	Remote
Informative	A resource	
Educational	Networking	Service
Impressive	Collegial / synodal	Expensive
outdated	inefficient	necessary
Well-intentioned	Fekless	Antiquated
Professional	Learned	Bureaucratic
Development	Community	Resources
Liberal	Clique	Establishment
Important	Irrelevant	
community	intellectual	boomer
Network	Update	Renewal of acquaintances
Resource provider	Professional standards setter	Networking tool
Informative	Community	Current
Professiobal	Collegiate	Informative
educational	exclusionary	cliquish
competent	balanced	professional
Resource	Networking	Professional
connections	resources	energizing
USCCB-pawn	supine	
collaboration	resources	education
Helpful	Professional	Liberal
Resources	Convention	Networking
Same presenters	Needs new presenters	Needs broader topics

Strategic Visioning Initial Survey - June 2023

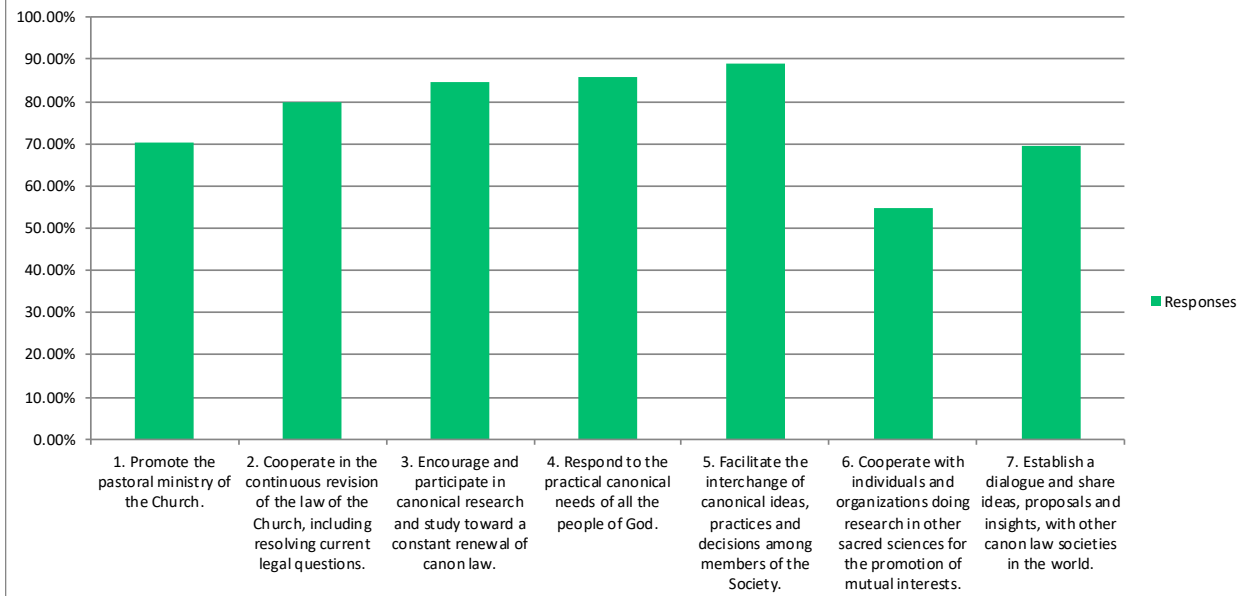
question for members (active, associate and student)

This is a summary of the goals of the CLSA according to its Constitution.

Please check the goals below to indicate which, in your view, should continue to be important as the CLSA moves forward.

Answer Choices	Responses	
1. Promote the pastoral ministry of the Church.	70.24%	144
2. Cooperate in the continuous revision of the law of the Church, including resolving current legal questions.	80.00%	164
3. Encourage and participate in canonical research and study toward a constant renewal of canon law.	84.39%	173
4. Respond to the practical canonical needs of all the people of God.	85.85%	176
5. Facilitate the interchange of canonical ideas, practices and decisions among members of the Society.	88.78%	182
6. Cooperate with individuals and organizations doing research in other sacred sciences for the promotion of mutual interests.	54.63%	112
7. Establish a dialogue and share ideas, proposals and insights, with other canon law societies in the world.	69.27%	142
	Answered	205
	Skipped	254

This is a summary of the goals of the CLSA according to its Constitution.
Please check the goals below to indicate which, in your view, should continue to be important as the CLSA moves forward.



Strategic Visioning Initial Survey - June 2023

question for members (active, associate and student)

If there is a purpose missing from the list above that you think should be a focus for the CLSA, what would that be?

Answered	60
Skipped	399

Responses
Nothing more comes to mind as missing. The above is comprehensive.
assist professional, personal, ethical/moral, development of individual canonist (or student) in USA and abroad in non European focused nations
Required regular updating in canon law and civil law to be able to give talks at conventions/to be elected as official.
Promote and encourage initiatives whereby canonists can refine our practice through the prudent and ethical use of prudently innovative approaches, tools, and technologies, especially those which raise general canonical literacy and provide quality assistance with the practice of canonists in general.
Support diocesan tribunals with connections, insights, and practical advice
None
Conversely, I sense a straying of the CLSA from areas of its stated mission (that is, the study of canonical sciences) toward more ecclesial "partisan" pursuits. Case in point: the introduction of a Newsfeed on the CLSA website. How is the inclusion of a Newsfeed, which contains little, if any, news stories related to canon law, fulfilling the study of canonical sciences and the mission of the CLSA? Is there really a need for a Newsfeed on the CLSA website? Who chooses the featured news items and their sources? Is it an exercise of the BOG or the Publications committee? Why was a Newsfeed introduced?
Facilitate communication with the Dicasteries of the Holy See.
To recognize and promote the diversity of the CLSA members. The CLSA should express the Church's diversity.
Sharing canonical resources FREELY with the people of God (see number 4)
Protection of the rights of ALL of the Christian Faithful.
Provide current students a way of growing in the study of the canonical field.
I suggest keeping the focus more intently on the law. I think we begin to go astray when we subordinate the law to another object (e.g. theological-political-pastoral perspectives). I urge setting the bar high by striving for intellectual and academic excellence.
Create simple pamphlets explaining the law to the faithful
additional advocacy from perspective of the canons to USCCB
additional advocacy in conflicts between clergy and their Bishop
Educate the public
Promote respect for rights and the rule of law
Self-regulate members with regard to ethical practice
Foster the members' call to holiness through common prayer activities and Catholic spiritual formation (in a way that explicitly relates to canonical service)
All seven are good purposes. I do not have any to add.
Simplify and reduce canons and legislative texts.
Deepening of understanding in the interpretation and application of the ius vigens (the goals listed above seem to promote renewal and revision, NOT interpretation and application)
Educate people about canon law
Be more proactive and have a forum like the listserv
promote the pastoral ministry of the Church
Advance the rule of law in the Church, with a special emphasis on the protection of rights and on advocacy and proactively promoting the long-delayed creation of "administrative udiciary", , in place of mere " hierarchical recourse" (cf. can. 1400 § 2)
Promote the collaboration of men and women in the ministerial and pastoral life of the Church
Work more closely in assisting the USCCB.
Dialogue with other societies

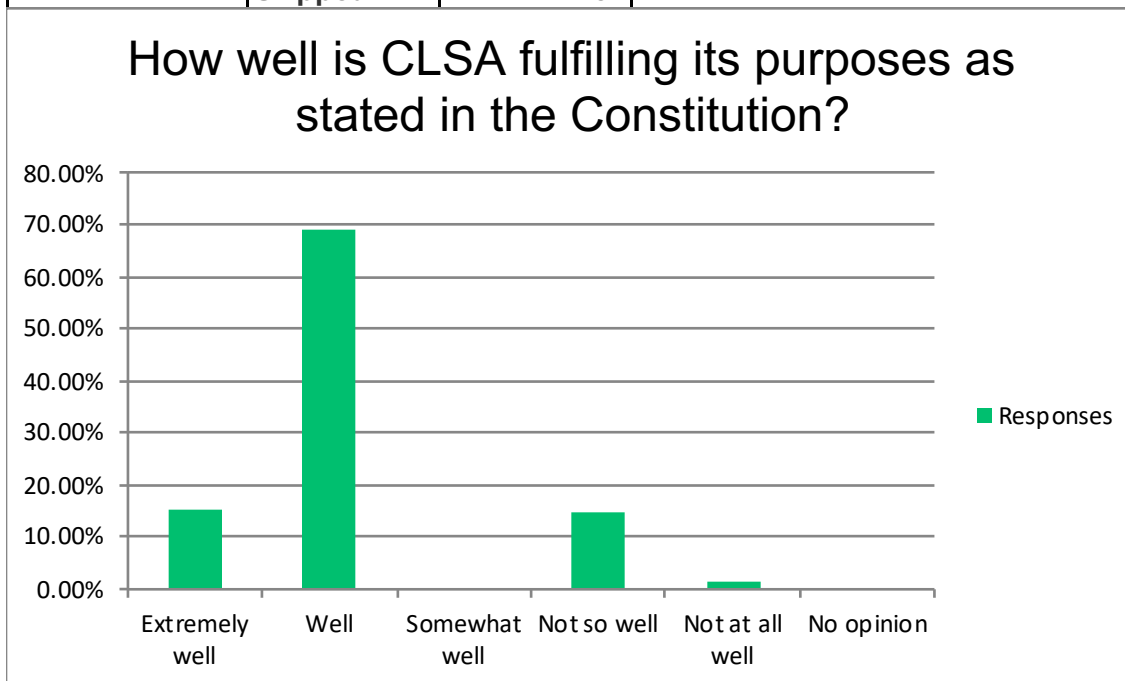
This is very specific, but perhaps a "general" purpose could be drawn from this: Work closely with the USCCB to help educate bishops who are not canonists about some of the abuses in consecrated life (in non-sexual abuse instances) so the bishops can better respond to the problems. It would be wonderful if the CLSA would help the USCCB create a hotline and reporting mechanisms for victims of spiritual abuse (abuse of conscience, psychological abuse, etc) in religious life. So far, the USCCB and Diocesan Offices only receive sexual abuse allegations, to the best of my knowledge.
Assist the pastors of the Church to understand the pastoral nature of fidelity to the law and the importance in its equitable application within their jurisdictions.
Work directly with the Roman Rota on being sure what is proposed by the Holy See is clear to those of the Church (i.e. TLM guidance in 2022 having errors and uncertainties in promulgation).
Encourage and promote ongoing training through webinars and seminars to members and non-members of the CLSA.
Stay current with trends in Roman Diocasteries and Tribunals.
It might be beneficial to strengthen outreach to non-Canonists. We have it as #4, and we often do this individually, but we do not do much outreach as a society.
create canonical resources - whether in print or digitally
provide published articles, books, studies to benefit the practice of canon law
Seek out the best canonists/presenters within the Church, not only the ones from major diocese.
Assist in the training of lay people on their rights and responsibilities.
Serve as a resource for canonical inquiries
Be a more obviously professional body in support of qualified canonists in canonical practice
Encourage and promote canonical education of all ministers of the Church;
Encourage and promote canonical structures to enhance the administration of justice within the Church
Continuing Education of the Membership on Canonical Matters.
Publish books, provide online digital resources, cast webinars and dialogues, develop IT innovations, and sponsor conventions and meetings to sustain the Society and achieve its other purposes.
Can't think of any
no
Work with national organizations such as LCWR, CMSWR, RCRI, etc.
Provide ongoing continuing education for canon law practitioners.
Establish some means of verifying or certifying professionalism, ethics, and competence for practicing canonists.
Promote and provide free and easy access to canon law to all Christians.
Some sort of oversight or other public form of accountability for canonists who practice in the field to abide by ethical standards of conduct.
Promote professional ethics and standards for canonists
Provide a forum for rebuke of canon lawyers who participate in malpractice, either through malice or negligence, and those who take advantage of needy clients.
Professionalism
Advocate for better understanding of law and legal structures in the life of the Church.
N/A
Provide an online translation of the Code of Canon Law, Code of Canons of the Eastern Churches, Dignitas connubii, and other key canonical texts. And don't threaten other websites which seek to provide for the CLSA's failure in this regard.
Include something about upholding the professional standards of work expected from all canonists in the United States. Underscore that membership and participation are expectations of those who do canonical work. Stop emphasizing so much a "customer service" model of the CLSA. The CLSA's "product" is the participation and work of its members, and the message should be reinforced that the CLSA is only as good as what the membership puts into it. Cut off this "what has the CLSA done for me lately" garbage.
Keep canon lawyers up to date regarding canon law.
no
help those with academic preparation or those in situations where canon law is needed in finding out how and what to do practically.
Make known to monoglot USA canonists the riches of Italian and Spanish canonists.

Strategic Visioning Initial Survey - June 2023

question for members (active, associate and student)

How well is CLSA fulfilling its purposes as stated in the Constitution?

Answer Choices	Responses	
Extremely well	15.12%	31
Well	68.78%	141
Somewhat well	0.00%	0
Not so well	14.63%	30
Not at all well	1.46%	3
No opinion	0.00%	0
	Answered	205
	Skipped	254



Strategic Visioning Initial Survey - June 2023
question for members (active, associate and student)

If not well, what needs improving?	
Answered	43
Skipped	416

Responses
focused development/engagement
Updated education in realities of the People of God. Be involved in everyday life of People of God and not just be in canon law offices of a diocese.
CLSA needs to recognize that it is not in the interest of an association of professionals, especially legal professionals attempting to promote awareness among the faithful of their canonical rights, to impede or undermine the availability of tools which the members find genuinely useful (such as Fr. Paul Hedman's CanonLaw.Ninja") on the pretense of an arbitrary application of United States copyright law to one of the only approved (or possibly the only approved) English texts of the law of the Church. It is not in keeping with any vindication of rights in the Church that law texts should be gatekept behind the copyright of a private institution, and it's a bad look for an association of lawyers to monopolize the availability of the law to the general public.
I think the Society is doing well, however, I don't think we have a presence in the wider Church. Individual canonists do, but I don't believe the Society is as active a player as it once was.
Dialogue with USCCB - but not sure it is wanted
As shared previously, I sense a shift in the CLSA from the study of canonical sciences to more of a promotion of an ecclesiology which seems rather "partisan." For instance, in this new website Newsfeed: is this a decision of the BOG or Publications as to what news sources are used and those that are not? Is this Newsfeed a real need? Was this decided upon by the membership? Some past stories on the Newsfeed have included the Montreal Police Department being denied the use of religious symbols. What does this have to do with canon law? Also, one story had as its headline the German Church "sliding toward schism." As we know, Schism is a canonical determination but this piece was more of a critique of the Church in Germany and little to do, if anything, of how "schism" is determined canonically. Again, what does a critique of the Church in Germany have to do with canon law as found in this news piece? Do these stories reflect the official stance of the BOG and the CLSA? Why is CNS from Rome, the official news source of the USCCB, not featured? I would recommend eliminating the Newsfeed - it sends a wrong message and strays from the CLSA's mission. Other canonical societies do not have such Newsfeeds on their websites. The Newsfeed is beyond the constitutional purpose of the CLSA.
I have insufficient knowledge or information to answer.
Ongoing formation and more canonical research. To be open to inviting lecture guests from non-English speaking countries, especially if they are experts in their field.
Asinine enforcement of copyright must stop
The CLSA needs a standard of ethics for canonists that promotes an affirmative obligation to serve the ends of justice and equity over, but not in place of, one's duty to zealously represent a client. This is especially needed in the case of "captive canonists", i.e., those who work exclusively in the Chancery or for an Ordinary/Hierarchy.
Other than the convention, hardly any interaction takes place between HQ & members.
Easy to use, searchable, online version of CIC. CanonLaw.Ninja did this, but you all shot that down for some reason.
At times it seems the convention topics appear forced to fit a theme. It also seems at times that the planning process requires selecting topics far in advance such that they don't respond in as timely a way to our current needs.
I was embarrassed and disheartened at the debacle over Canon Law Ninja website. The intervention of civil lawyers was so distasteful, I can hardly believe it. That is not who we are as Catholics - we are much better than that. The lack of dialogue was absolutely infantile. Moreover, the Society leadership showed themselves to be out of touch with the needs of working canonists. That was such a critical and important tool for us to have; thank God for the imagination and vision of other Sister Societies.
I almost didn't renew my membership, but I did because there is a collaborative effort among the younger canonists in the Society to renew and rejuvenate the Society. While the wisdom and experience of our more seasoned members is needed and valued - the MUST be a passing of baton to the next generation. That needs to be done by way of discipleship, older members taking younger members under their wing, teaching and instructing them - passing on the wisdom.

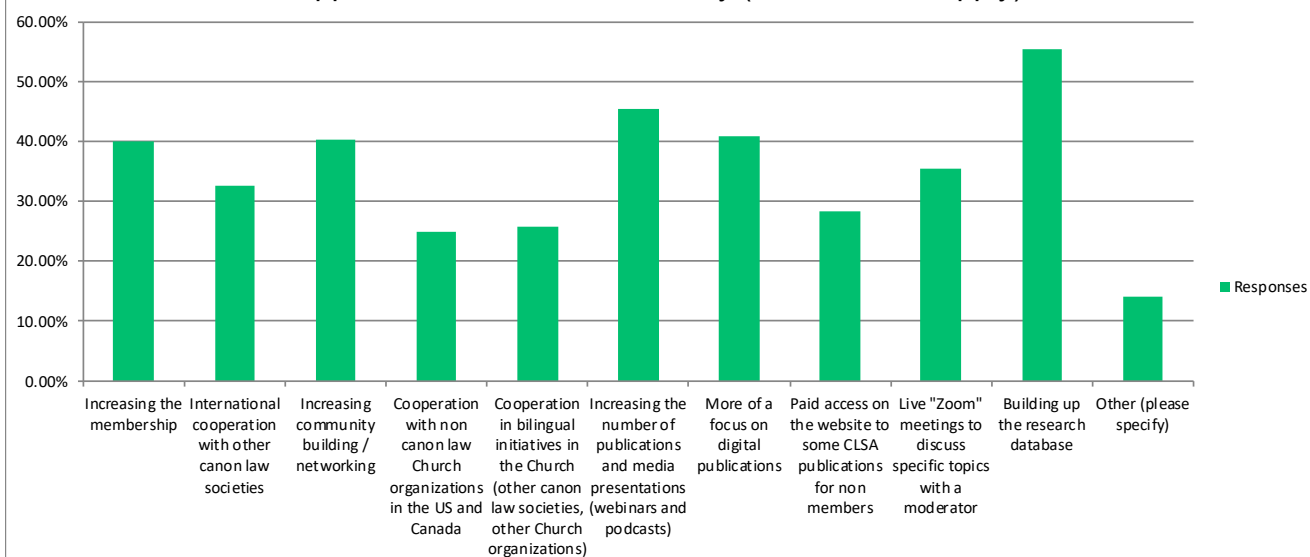
communication, hospitality
An integration with scripture and the message of Jesus.
Over all "well," in some areas, "not so well"
There needs to be more emphasis on research and proposing changes in canon law as seen fit from the research. That seems to be a goal that had lost its emphasis since my earlier years in the CLSA.
Not be so elitist and in the clouds with their good ole boys mentality.
Top down
Too focused on internal issues and not the needs of the people of God.
Less concern about money. Seems to be for those who are able to afford it. Does not serve the needs of the everyday canonist. Lack of welcoming others to participate in the society. Same people all the time. When someone else offers, they are ignored in favor of the "in crowd"
Greater awareness of members outside of the US
The emphasis on the practical seems to have pushed scholarship and renewal of law to the back burner
Rewording to designate a broader function.
I see very little interaction with other organizations such as RCRI. Like the Church today, there is a clear divide between two camps, which has been seen in some conventions. Greater fidelity to Jesus Christ and the Church, especially the Church's liturgy, should be emphasized. Thus, try to overcome the anti-hierarchy mentality of some.
Too partisan and divided to have fruitful developments
The Society feels tired and in need of a new purpose. The conferences are not rigorous and the topics are too broad to be useful.
More work could be done on numbers 4, 5, 6 and 7 including making the general membership more aware of any efforts in these areas.
no access to digital copy of up to date copy of code in English
Forums are available for interaction, but I don't see much participation from the members. How to encourage use of forums for discussion.
It was wrong to shut down canonlaw.ninja. That site was so helpful to canonists. We needed it.
CLSA is too focused on guarding its copywrite of the CIC translation and should be more focused on sharing the Code as a means of furthering the pastoral mission of the Church. Specifically, allow CanonLaw.Ninja to use the CLSA translations!
The connection between paying dues and the benefits of membership is at times obscured. Canonists across the spectrum at times question the utility of remaining in the Society. Greater transparency of the work of the BOG and CLSA outside conventions would help and emphasizing how this work benefits members. Many canonists benefit from the work of the Society but can withdraw and still benefit from publications, scholarship, networking, etc. Canonists ask: "If I can't attend the convention this year, why keep my membership active?"
Many of our approaches are dated and ineffective. Far fewer of our members are in dedicated academia, and the society still operates assuming that volunteers with plenty of time to write are available. This is not the case.
I don't have enough information to accurately say, but from the newsletters and communications it seems as though the society is doing a good job.
Lacking relevance and internal divisions must be overcome.
Don't bully the ninja.
I haven't seen much of the sharing of ideas and praxis outside of the convention.
The inability to produce a current written or digital copy of the Code for this long has been embarrassing. I understand the complications, but a way should have been forged long before now. The snafu with canonlaw.ninja is also an embarrassment that has made my daily work more difficult. The CLSA still has not provided a digital option for its translation and I am not confident that one will be forthcoming. In 2023, this is inexcusable, on top of shutting down the best resource online for American canonists. Shameful.
I think the CLSA is doing well. I would like to see more information coming out of CLSA directly to its members.
Encourage and participate in canonical research and study toward a constant renewal of canon law. Facilitate the interchange of canonical ideas, practices and decisions among members of the Society.
Return to the rule of law as a primary focus.

Strategic Visioning Initial Survey - June 2023
question for members (active, associate and student)

Given the tension between service and the financial realities that limit that service, where should the CLSA further develop its priorities as it approaches its 85th anniversary (check all that apply):

Answer Choices	Responses	
Increasing the membership	40.00%	82
International cooperation with other canon law societies	32.68%	67
Increasing community building / networking	40.49%	83
Cooperation with non canon law Church organizations in the US and Canada	24.88%	51
Cooperation in bilingual initiatives in the Church (other canon law societies, other Church organizations)	25.85%	53
Increasing the number of publications and media presentations (webinars and podcasts)	45.37%	93
More of a focus on digital publications	40.98%	84
Paid access on the website to some CLSA publications for non members	28.29%	58
Live "Zoom" meetings to discuss specific topics with a moderator	35.61%	73
Building up the research database	55.61%	114
Other (please specify)	14.15%	29
	Answered	205
	Skipped	254

Given the tension between service and the financial realities that limit that service, where should the CLSA further develop its priorities as it approaches its 85th anniversary (check all that apply):



Convince Bishops of the need for respect for the CLSA and see the value of canon lawyers for the work done for the Diocese and universal Church. Convince Bishops to stop appointing priests the Bishops do not know what to do with as canon lawyers.

Making the CLSA website a resource that we would use willingly as opposed to because it is the only place where we can obtain the things we actually need from the CLSA. (Note: I am aware of cases where the CLSA website's "Find a Canonist" listing provided the contact information of canonists who did not wish to be on that list and did not know why they were there, so even where it can be useful, there are concerns.)

I would seriously consider exploring a merger with the other English-speaking canon law societies in the Church (Canada, CLSGBI, India, etc.) to form one larger English-speaking society. All would benefit. There are fewer canonists in the Church today that warrant so many individual English-speaking societies. Plus, communication from disparate parts of the world is easier with Zoom, etc.

not sure

Please do not discontinue print publications in favor of digital

Working with diocesan officials and/or the USCCB for additional funding so that the staff could be appropriately beefed up where necessary.

Online continuously updated Codes in a number of languages.

Spanish language

Scholarship and development of canon law

increased use of virtual meetings and hybrid opportunities

Conventions every two years

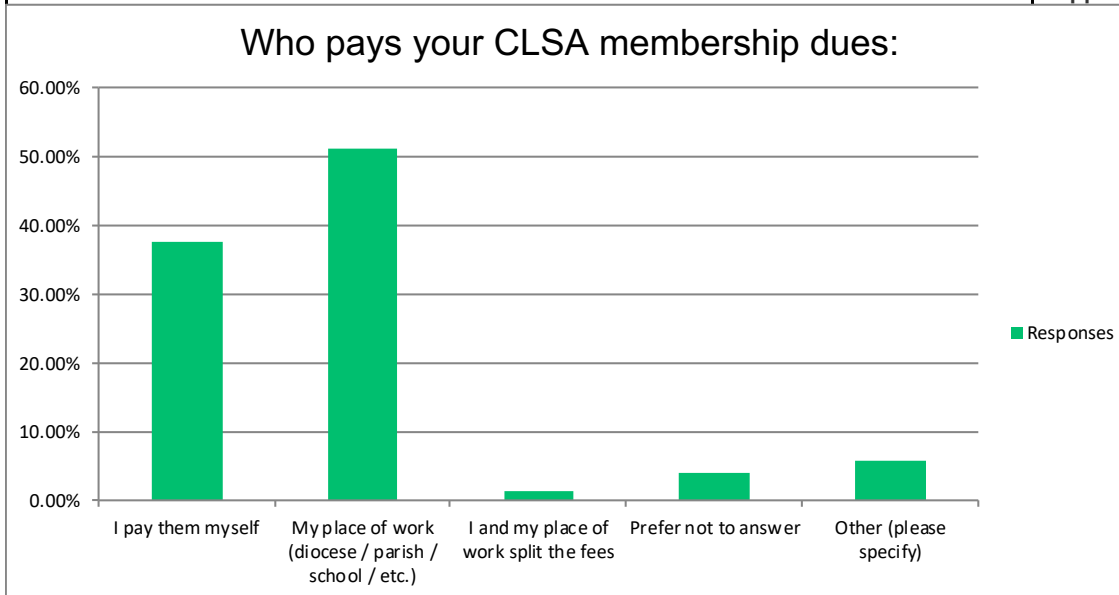
Online forum to discuss canonical issues that arise

updating of resource materials
Engage issues where civil law and canon law intersect
Motivate our committees to do more work!
Opening the CUA Canon Law Library to former JCL/JCD students
Lower cost conventions and venues - explore retreat houses and university hosting options to reduce cost to members.
Outreach to the greater church as a Society, particularly through digital means.
Development of a binder code.
Leading a collaboration across institutional lines to allow for the on-line access of all canonical materials published around the world so that a search engine would provide all canonists (for a price) access to all materials in an effort to expand the application of the law and justice.
Establish some means of verifying or certifying professionalism and competence for practicing canonists.
Some form of accountability to ethical practice principles
Publicly apologize to Fr. Paul and restore the American translation to CanonLaw.Ninja
Need to seriously consider how membership remains relevant so that people don't allow it to lapse if not attending the convention
Providing useful practitioner access to the Code and other canonical resources in a digital online format akin to what Canonlaw.ninja previously provided.
We have to find a sustainable financial model for conventions. The society used to make money on both publications and conventions. Other conferences I've been to have procured corporate sponsors, like the Knights of Columbus or VIRTUS. Be more aggressive in these types of funding sources.
direct messages from CLSA to members when law changes
translating Italian and Spanish works.
consider other funding sources for specific initiatives, services, staffing, etc.

Strategic Visioning Initial Survey - June 2023
question for members (active, associate and student)

Who pays your CLSA membership dues:

Answer Choices	Responses	
I pay them myself	37.56%	77
My place of work (diocese / parish / school / etc.)	51.22%	105
I and my place of work split the fees	1.46%	3
Prefer not to answer	3.90%	8
Other (please specify)	5.85%	12
	Answered	205
	Skipped	254



Religious community as part of budget.
It has varied over time; sometimes self; currently my place of ministry
I pay for them, and some years I ask for reimbursement from my diocese
I am not a current member
Some years I have paid, other years my employer has been willing to pay
Non dues paying person
Not a member. Can't afford it
My religious community
Currently it is my diocese; at times over the years I paid myself
I pay them myself and the fees need to be reduced to keep the retired members active
I now pay for myself in retirement (previously paid by diocese)
my "religious" community

Strategic Visioning Initial Survey - June 2023
question for members (active, associate and student)

Who pays your CLSA convention attendance costs:

Answer Choices	Responses	
I pay them myself	25.37%	52
My place of work (diocese / parish / school / etc.)	44.88%	92
I and my place of work split the fees	13.66%	28
Prefer not to answer	4.88%	10
Other (please specify)	11.22%	23
	Answered	205
	Skipped	254

Who pays your CLSA convention attendance costs:



CLSA chooses hotels and places for conventions that are very expensive. Ever consider selecting less expensive excellent places to have conventions like other diocesan etc.depts do? much higher than Rel. Education /education conventions have. So I can go only when conventions are near me. Every consider choosing less expensive yet excellent ellent places.

I usually pay these myself, but I have at times received reimbursement from my diocese

Never Attended

Given the high cost, I have never attended a national convention, only regional.

Have not gone to one.

Never attended

Have not been able to attend due to overseas travel costs

I haven't been as I am in the UK

I do not attend the convention.

Have not attended convention

When I was Vicar Judicial, and then Appellate Judge, in tthe U.S., the office paid; later I did myself, and later still, I mostly forget to take care of it

DNA

Haven't attended a convention in many years.

don't go. can't afford it

I can't afford to go to the convention

Benefactors, but I usually cannot attend the entire conference as it is too expensive for my religious community and benefactors.

Never been to one

I can't afford to attend the conventions. Perhaps one retiree could be financed every year.

Have not attended because I would have to pay.

I now pay for myself in retirement (previously paid by diocese)

my "religious" community

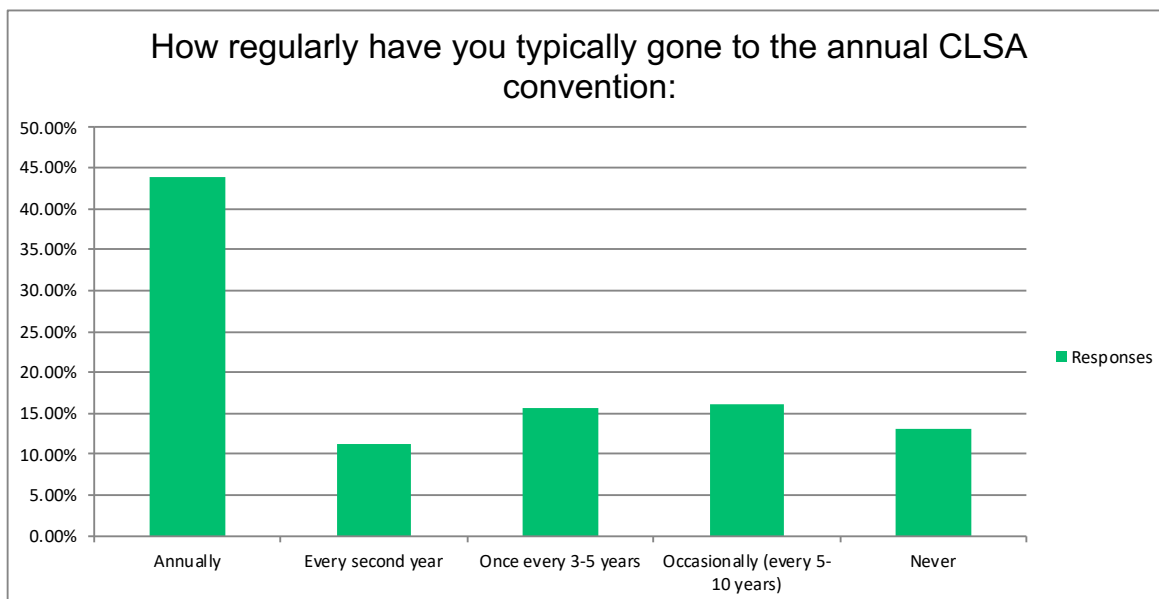
Not been to convention

I have not attended a convention.

Strategic Visioning Initial Survey - June 2023
question for members (active, associate and student)

How regularly have you typically gone to the annual CLSA convention:

Answer Choices	Responses	
Annually	43.90%	90
Every second year	11.22%	23
Once every 3-5 years	15.61%	32
Occasionally (every 5-10 years)	16.10%	33
Never	13.17%	27
	Answered	205
	Skipped	254



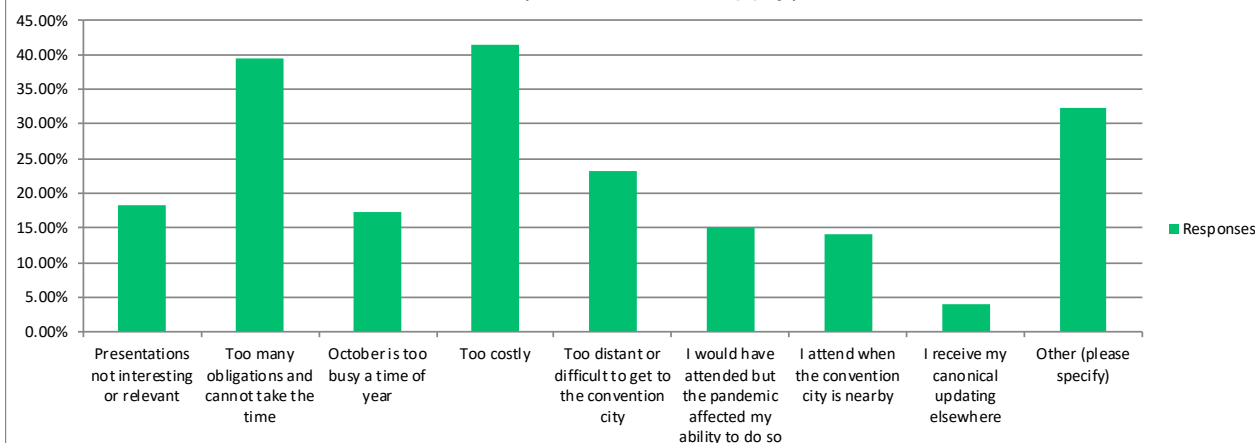
Strategic Visioning Initial Survey - June 2023

question for members (active, associate and student)

If you have not attended the annual convention in the past five years, why not (check all that apply):

Answer Choices	Responses	
Presentations not interesting or relevant	18.18%	18
Too many obligations and cannot take the time	39.39%	39
October is too busy a time of year	17.17%	17
Too costly	41.41%	41
Too distant or difficult to get to the convention city	23.23%	23
I would have attended but the pandemic affected my ability to do so	15.15%	15
I attend when the convention city is nearby	14.14%	14
I receive my canonical updating elsewhere	4.04%	4
Other (please specify)	32.32%	32
Answered		99
Skipped		360

If you have not attended the annual convention in the past five years, why not (check all that apply):



At the time of the conference in Atlantic City, I was caring for a newborn and unable to go.
I attempted to go to the Conference in San Diego, for which I was rather excited, but the booking and registration system prevented this, as (despite my having seemed to have it confirmed) the booking was never made with the hotel by the app interface used, and multiple calls confirmed this.
I may still have gone, but at the point of discovering this, I was still on the wait list owing to limited occupancy, and while the CLSA did eventually contact me fairly close to the actual event to say I had a slot, not having a hotel and short notice meant I had to yield up my position.
In the past, I belonged to a religious institute.
It was then that I frequently participated since the institute helped with my convention fees. Now as a lay person, I stopped attending since I can't afford flights, hotels, Convention fees, food, etc. (It really adds up!!)
Maybe I am misinterpreting the question. I have missed San Diego & I am missing Milwaukee as it is all my own expense.
N/A
Financial constraints in my diocese became a reason for not attending. The interest/desire to attend did not revive.
I have attended twice in the past five years but the above still apply to me.
Still a student and an active parochial vicar - hard to juggle more extensive time off when gone for 2.5 months in the summer
The cost is extremely high, and I know the members of my region. I would gladly attend if the convention were also virtual.
Retired
I have attended in the past 5 years. I usually attend but with COVID I missed 2.
I am allowed to go to one every other year but I'm waiting for one with topics clearly linked to religious life.
New member.
Retired but still working. Conventions topics & papers excellent.
Live in the UK
Live outside USA
I was disappointed in last year's convention and am unsure of attending this year.
Quality of presentations

October itself is not too busy. But as there are more lay canon lawyers with families having it on a holiday weekend for some (Columbus Day) takes a valuable long weekend and time with family.
Second, Having the preconvention on a weekend (travel all day Saturday) and workshops on Sunday and Monday morning (a holiday) is difficult for lay canon lawyers and priests with parishes. It takes them away from their other responsibilities.
The preconvention is very good. It is in depth presentations and discussion that are needed. It is just as worthwhile as the convention. But it is very hard to get to and time consuming on a weekend, when lay people are supposed to be off and priests are in parishes.
family issues that make it hard to be away for so many days
Greater difficulty in terms of mobility as time goes by...
Reputation among some younger priest canonists
It is challenging in that some years the bishop schedules our priest convocation during the same week. When that happens, it's harder to go. I know this is not your concern, but it does impact my ability to attend.
sometimes feel out of place
Arthritis at age 66 has made travel more burdensome. I attended regularly from 1987 or 1988 until about ten years ago.
I teach at the local seminary and its midterm break does not coincide with the traditional scheduling of the convention.
covid-19
I'm new
Whilst the convention can be enjoyable, the liturgical elements and social elements feel appropriate to a different generation. The best part of the convention is the stuff that happens outside it, and under our own steam.
After 25 years, many topics not so helpful to me personally/professionally. It is not easy being gone from parish and so has to be of significant interest.
I just graduated with a JCL last year, and was not able to go while a student. I fully intend to attend this year. My diocese is in bankruptcy and does not pay for conventions, so I have to bear the cost myself
It was a polarizing mistake to have Faggioli, a non-canonist and controversial academic, as a keynote. It made me think conventions aren't for me. Why would I pay for something that isn't even germane to canonical practice.
Medical problems

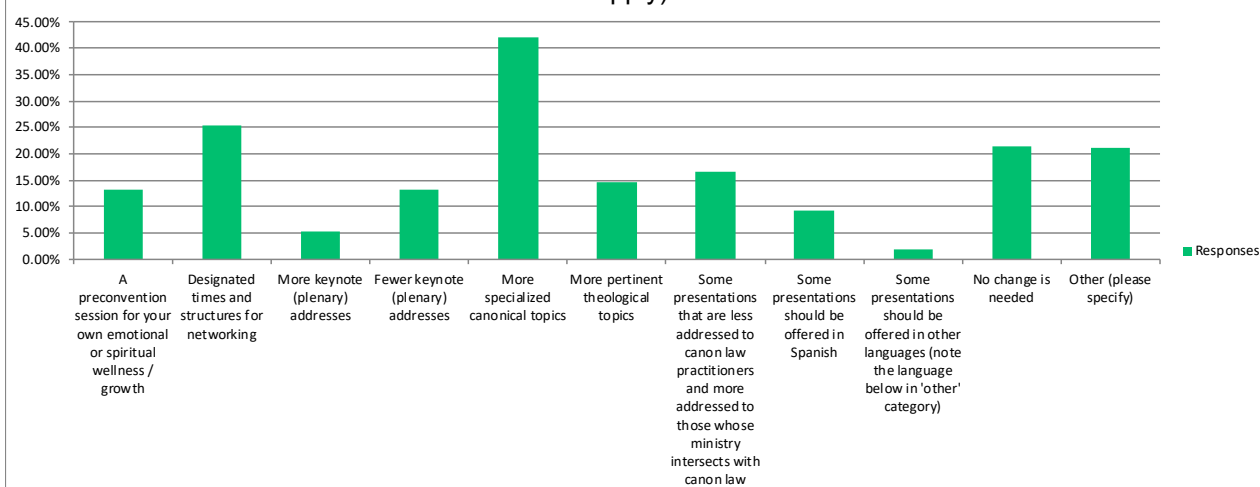
Strategic Visioning Initial Survey - June 2023

question for members (active, associate and student)

How could the CLSA annual convention be more helpful to you (check all that apply)?

Answer Choices	Responses	
A preconvention session for your own emotional or spiritual wellness / growth	13.17%	27
Designated times and structures for networking	25.37%	52
More keynote (plenary) addresses	5.37%	11
Fewer keynote (plenary) addresses	13.17%	27
More specialized canonical topics	41.95%	86
More pertinent theological topics	14.63%	30
Some presentations that are less addressed to canon law practitioners and more addressed to those whose ministry intersects with canon law	16.59%	34
Some presentations should be offered in Spanish	9.27%	19
Some presentations should be offered in other languages (note the language below in 'other' category)	1.95%	4
No change is needed	21.46%	44
Other (please specify)	20.98%	43
	Answered	205
	Skipped	254

How could the CLSA annual convention be more helpful to you (check all that apply)?



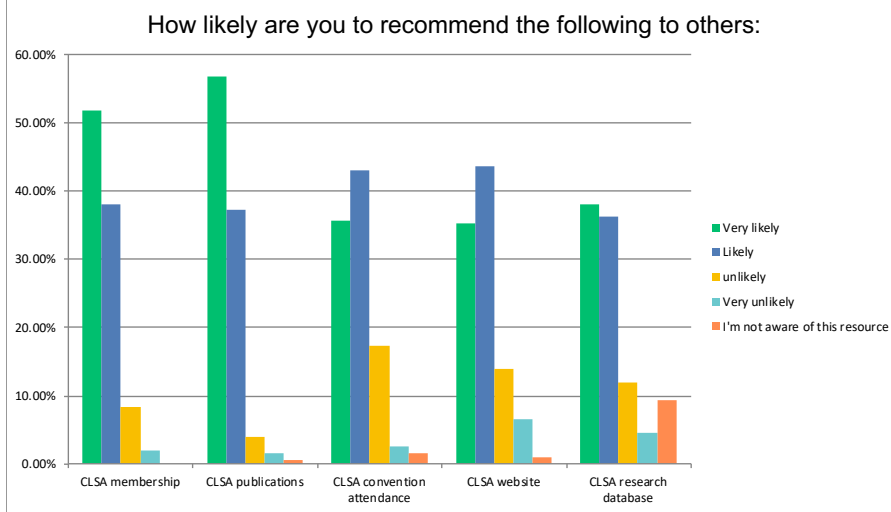
Would like some speakers/topics to have 2 sessions (part 1-2) b/c time limits now restrict deeper learning exchanges
Since the questions bishops ask us tend to be related to how to apply the law in concrete situations, more presentations on practicalities would be helpful.
Workshops geared towards practical professional improvement in canonical practice, such as instructing a deposition as judge, or the "ethical" use of machine learning tools in canonical practice.
I would really like to see an afternoon/day scheduled with break sessions structured with the opportunity for general questions/shared responses with pre-designated topics/areas...marriage law, penal law, religious law, etc. An expert for each field could be the moderator type person with others sharing their experience/expertise as appropriate.
New presenters
I commend CLSA for supporting this ministry. I am grateful that many priests and laity are active in this ministry. However, I am at the point of life and ministry when a more active participation in CLSA does not appeal to me.
Some of the sessions have the same presenters every year or every other year. I would suggest not having a presenter present again within five years. By joining CLSA with other English-speaking societies, this would increase the pool of available speakers.
specialized presentations for those with limited or special interests. E.g. a religious law topic could be presented and local religious could be invited.
Live-streamed or recorded sessions that I can watch online.
The language of the expert presenting the topic (german, italian, french, portuguese, etc).
Location--I know this is a tough one.
Is there time for allowing current student presentations?
new member
Would it be possible to offer a Zoom session or two?
Opportunity to join by zoom
Online. It is a wonder it needs to be said. In this world today, we MUST be willing to be fully online accessible. If COVID taught us anything, it was that. Conference should be seamlessly offered every year online, as if I was there in person.
The present format of scheduling is too dense. Less sessions but repeated so thee member can avail themselves of variety of talks.
More free time to network such as built-in socials or meals
Masses at a local Catholic church (not a hotel conference room!), daily Eucharistic adoration & time for confessions
more diversity besides marriage related topics
I think thios question is best answered by those who have attended CLSA conventions -- because of time constraints, I have never had the opportunity to do so.
By being more strictly professional. on the one hand, and advocating for the rule of law in the Church, on theother hand.
Schedule conventions every other year to reduce costs

promote the voices and decision-making authority of women in the church, issues of the Synod
Add focus on specialized canonical topics: liturgical law, archives & records, administration & structure
Online availability, even a week or month later.
Perhaps add some more scholarly presentations (rather than geared simply to practitioners)
More expert psychologists to speak on abuse topics relevant to canon law.
Remote/distance attendance
Having a track for administrative folks who work in our offices but who are not canonists might be another avenue for continuing education and strengthening conference attendance.
We should seek different presenters. We have way too many of the SAME people. There are tons of people who do work in fields that are relative. Having the CUA professors always as presenters seems odd. Most of them were had by the Canonists that are attending, thus everything they have to say we have already heard time and time again. Speakers should be people NOT teaching, active in Canon Law and advocacy of, and those from international arenas that are relative to the needs of the members continued education.
Meeting in a month other than October
These options represent the issue: the topics should be more serious, more canonical, less preachy and pastoral; the liturgies should be more "normal" (and conform to the liturgical norms); the speakers, especially keynotes, should be experts in "canon law". Have not attended. Not sure.
Would be helpful to have electronic access to sessions soon after they are completed or at least an electronic version of proceedings soon after the close of the convention since one often has to choose between excellent seminars held at the same time.
More practical penal law sessions within the convention itself -- need for better, briefer formularies
More variety in speakers and their canonical perspectives. I worry that CLSA in general can tend to be somewhat insular, which Pope Francis has warned leads to decay within the Church. The impression to some is that it largely tends to be the same contingent of longstanding CLSA members who run the Convention and make decisions on things like topics and speakers. And, therefore, we can tend to see the same (or very similar) speakers over and over again on the same (or very similar) topics. I worry that CLSA in general can tend to be insular, and that is sometimes reflected in the Conventions as well.
virtual attendance
Greater emphasis on prayer, worship, discernment; opportunities for adoration and/or confession
I get the sense from these questions that the CLSA is considering marketing itself to non-canonists. PLEASE do not do this. The number 1 value of CLSA is that its members are canonists. Are there other societies that do this?
languages other than English only if there is electronic simultaneous translations.
more focus on doctrine, less on "praxis"
Structured time for non-canonists to gather. When they attend, they often don't know others and are left alone. Hospitality, perhaps invitation to lunch or dinner similar to what was recently instituted for those who are attending their first convention.

Strategic Visioning Initial Survey - June 2023
question for members (active, associate and student)

How likely are you to recommend the following to others:

	Very likely	Likely	unlikely	Very unlikely	I'm not aware of this resource	Total
CLSA membership	51.71% 106	38.05% 78	8.29% 17	1.95% 4	0.00% 0	205
CLSA publications	56.86% 116	37.25% 76	3.92% 8	1.47% 3	0.49% 1	204
CLSA convention attendance	35.64% 72	43.07% 87	17.33% 35	2.48% 5	1.49% 3	202
CLSA website	35.15% 71	43.56% 88	13.86% 28	6.44% 13	0.99% 2	202
CLSA research database	38.12% 77	36.14% 73	11.88% 24	4.46% 9	9.41% 19	202
					Answered	205
					Skipped	254



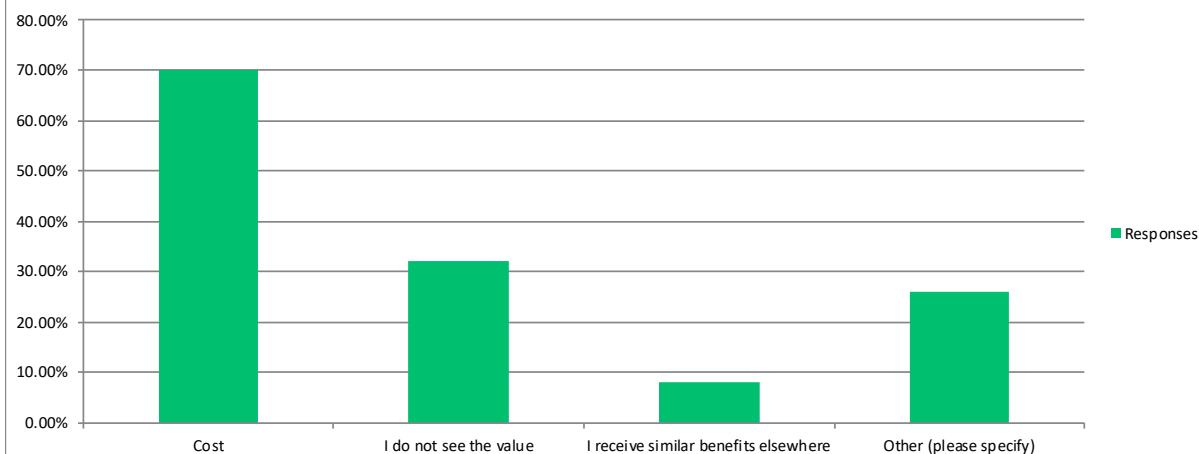
Strategic Visioning Initial Survey - June 2023

question for members (active, associate and student)

If you would not recommend CLSA membership, why not (check all that apply):

Answer Choices	Responses	
Cost	70.00%	35
I do not see the value	32.00%	16
I receive similar benefits elsewhere	8.00%	4
Other (please specify)	26.00%	13
	Answered	50
	Skipped	409

If you would not recommend CLSA membership, why not (check all that apply):



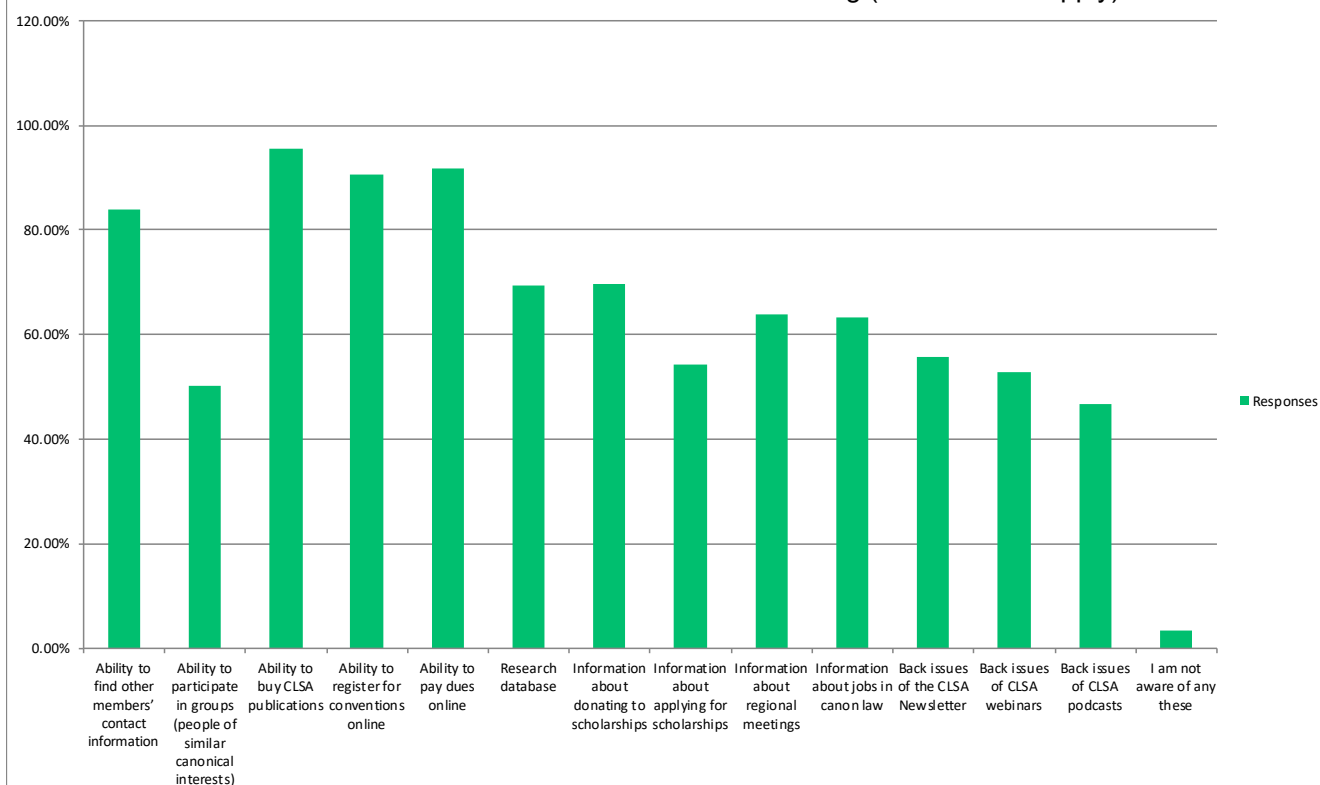
While I always recommend it, cost has been the leading prohibitive factor for many.
See number 15 above.
N/A
I must admit, but with my expressed aforementioned concerns of CLSA drifting in its mission toward more ecclesial "partisan" pursuits that do not seem aligned with canon law, I recently joined another English-speaking society (CLSGBI) and am struck by its refreshing tone, focus on canonical sciences, and more applicable resources. The CLSGBI Newsletter is very professional and serious. It reads more like a journal and the Abstracts are excellent. Respectfully, since 2020, I sometimes find myself asking why I remain a member of CLSA in the past few years when our Newsletter contains stories by the Executive Director about her personal pursuits, travels, and personal living conditions. Even other diocesan canonists ask if this is what we are paying dues for.
NA
I don't know if it would serve non canon law people well for its cost.
can't see why not?
The benefit of membership is disproportionate with the high cost. In practice, one pays \$350 (membership dues) in order to save \$150 or, at most, \$300 on the convention. Membership and the convention ought to be halved; ecclesial professions with families can't be expected to sustain these costs.
Having never attended myself I I not well-positioned to recommend attendance to others.
High end hotel setting/membership fee/conference fee makes this the most expensive professional event in the theological world. Based in original clerical diocesan model--where canonists got "treated" by the bishop? But membership base has changed to include laity with family responsibilities and canonists not employed by a bishop. Rethink the setting and cost of conventions.
Beyond the expectation that I would be a member because of my job, I get little out of the CLSA.
Support for an organization of questionable morals. Is it ethical to give money to a society which behaves in this way?
Little interaction with the general membership. It is an exclusive club for insiders with little care for being welcoming and inclusive. Same insiders decide and run everything.

Strategic Visioning Initial Survey - June 2023
question for members (active, associate and student)

I am aware that the CLSA website offers the following (check all that apply):

Answer Choices	Responses	
Ability to find other members' contact information	83.90%	172
Ability to participate in groups (people of similar canonical interests)	50.24%	103
Ability to buy CLSA publications	95.61%	196
Ability to register for conventions online	90.73%	186
Ability to pay dues online	91.71%	188
Research database	69.27%	142
Information about donating to scholarships	69.76%	143
Information about applying for scholarships	54.15%	111
Information about regional meetings	63.90%	131
Information about jobs in canon law	63.41%	130
Back issues of the CLSA Newsletter	55.61%	114
Back issues of CLSA webinars	52.68%	108
Back issues of CLSA podcasts	46.83%	96
I am not aware of any these	3.41%	7
	Answered	205
	Skipped	254

I am aware that the CLSA website offers the following (check all that apply):



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question for members (active, associate and student)

How else could the CLSA add value to your membership?	Answered	66
	Skipped	393
Responses		
I find leadership and staff very helpful and am hard pressed to suggest something more. I did like the idea of Zoom meetings with an exchange of ideas in real time. While I might not have something to contribute, I usually feel I gain new insights at the pre-convention talks when there is back and forth with the speaker. Time limits during convention sessions usually interfere with the back and forth exchanges.		
vast digital, searchable 'library' for those of us far and wide with limited canonical libraries and resources nearby		
Be relevant and unafraid to speak up on issues regardless of what Bishops or Vatican officials say/want.		
If Proceedings is a benefit of membership, why was it required to sign-up for it this year? Canonists have been asking about this and are concerned that members will miss out on it if they did not remember to do that.		
Making more resources available for encouraging and assisting those interested in canon law in their determination to enter study, including concerning the scholarships available. Additionally, by doing the right thing and either granting a license to Fr. Paul Hedman to continue operating his resource, CanonLaw.Ninja, with the support of the CLSA for his efforts, or hiring him to do this under the auspices of the CLSA as a service of the Society.		
I would love to see a CLSA APP		
Making the conventions a little less costly. With the dues increase and the increased convention costs maybe add a modest reduced structure for those retired from active work or those who pay their own costs completely.		
Developing an understanding and approach to new technological possibilities, including AI and case managers		
None		
Lower the dues and not increase them.		
Provide a means to publish articles written by members besides those that were given as seminars at the convention.		
Develop a continuing education program and offer certification or a discount to dues for those who participate in a variety of activities, such as writing, editing, translating, podcasting, blogging, giving/attending a webinar, BOG or committee member, speaking at convention, recruiting new members, etc.		
Please see comments above. I would suggest CLSA focus on its mission of the advancement of canonical sciences and less on ecclesial "culture wars."		
Not sure		
I've never found the research database very helpful. I search and do not find basic things (it's probably my fault and my ignorance).		
Videotape all workshops/Presentations for viewing after Convention. The most fruitful experience was the Convention by Zoom, because I went back and listened to all the workshops and all the presentations. Perhaps a fee could be charged to those who do not attend the convention but want to view the zoom workshops and presentations.		
We need digital resources - the code, proceedings, etc. There needs to be at least some way to search indexes of past proceedings to find articles.		
None come to mind at present.		
Recorded video classes on topics of the field as a resource. Like how to video on doing a trial.		
Let CanonLaw.Ninja use our translations. Quit spending on benefits for the BOG.		
Improving the "ease of access" of the available resources would be a great advantage.		
?		
More focus outside of conventions		
We need to be more dynamic in offering consults. We need members who are open and willing to share their wisdom and experience not through the listserv.		
I find the research database really hard to use. Maybe it's already there and I can't find it, but it would be great if you could access digital copies of Communicationes and the Jurist through the database.		
Voting rights for those who cannot attend the annual Convention		
Commission publications from scholars, which then can be offered at a low cost (or gratis) to members.		
I do not know.		
I am an outgoing person but find it difficult to find interactions with new people in the convention schedule. Attendees seem to travel in small groups.		
Ensure publications reflect diversity of opinions when appropriate. News sources on the CLSA website might reflect a more balanced perspective of Church ecclesiology.		
Perhaps organize annual or semi-annual meetings in areas where larger numbers of CLSA members may be concentrated - perhaps major metropolitan areas.		
Online forum to discuss current and practical issues that arise in the tribunal/diocese (like the Listserv) Digital, downloadable examples of decrees and processes.		

Make it easy to actually use the CLSA website to its full potential. Can't figure out the research database. Completely useless.
I am not a member currently
Provide opportunities to LCWR and leadership of religious communities about canonists available to advise them, and protection of ecclesial rights of members. Leadership is often completely ignorant of the rights of vowed members to be represented by a canonist. DICALSAL processes need to be completely reformed by due process guaranteed to the vowed member dismissed by a leader using a canonical "recipe"
Making CLSA publications easier to consult online. While older publications are available, I'd be willing to pay for a digital version of newer editions.
Make it more user-friendly and practical ways to be of assistance to us in our ministry.
Better liason with dicasteries of the Holy See (esp. Doctrine of the Faith, Legislative Texts, Clergy, and Religious)
With so many dioceses going through restructuring after the 2020 Cong. for Clergy document, make critical resources available especially in regard to the diminished rights of clergy.
Scholarships for non-US student members
by making current Rotal jurisprudence more easily available
By continuing to do what they do!
Introduce other presenters who are from smaller dioceses but are excellent canonists. It's the same presenters over & over and they are not of the same caliber as several past presenters who have gone to their heavenly reward.
Thanks
Send publications (which are included in membership or convention registration) automatically rather than the recent move to require that I request them specifically by a predetermined date.
Make the costs of conventions lower by reducing the venue costs. Yes, many members, myself included, have the cost covered by their place of employment, but many do not. Specifically, many members who rarely attend conventions do not...and I often hear of the cost being prohibitive for them. For myself, if I did not have it covered as a employee, I could not afford most years the \$2000-\$4000 expense when travel, registration, and hotels and meals are considered.
The past couple of years having met extremely gifted canonists through work who are not presenting.
Have resources that are beneficial. Weekly or monthly meeting sessions where veteran members could hold sessions for student canonists, advocate/notaries that do not hold JCL's, and also for newer canonists that are still unsure of various aspects.
Not sure at this time.
I'd like to have a list of the membership each year and how to reach each one.
Focus on being a society of canon lawyers that promotes good canonical study and serious research, and that promotes and supports qualified canonists who practice in the Church.
I would suggest that the information about regional gatherings (at least dates and schedules) be available without having to register as a member of another group...in short, a "one click" sort of access since the current method requires a lot more work just to discover what is being presented.
More digital resources at a fee.
nothing further except to say thank you !!!!
Lower cost of convention
Increased continuing education opportunities.
Some kind of platform for discussing and sharing information on practical canonical issues that arise in day-to-day work (I know in theory this is supposed to be the role of the listserv --- but, personally, I have not found the listserv to be very helpful, and in fact have found it to be off-putting at times).
Establish some means of verifying or certifying professionalism and competence for practicing canonists.
Providing an online, easily accessible, readable, searchable version of the Code. Or better yet, pay CanonLaw.Ninja to provide it!
Translating texts and articles into English.
Some kind of annual survey by which members could be asked about which canonical topics they most often engage with, would like to learn more about, or struggle in answering.
Cost less money. Free online access to all CLSA publications.
Provide a user friendly digital version of the code and other canonical documents, or just stop the persecution of canonlaw.ninja and let us get back to what we were used to.
Make an effort to open up opportunities for the non-insider membership and value opinions different than your own, create a more welcoming atmosphere at the dinner and receptions. Firsttimers have noted that they are rarely made to feel welcomed at conventions or regional workshops
I like the idea of live sessions where questions may be addressed
Getting as many proceedings online as possible, perhaps only the most recent two not available...members section
I think there is great value to membership. Cost is reasonable compared to other professional organizations.
More networking opportunities

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Do you have anything to add that could help the CLSA in considering its future?		
	Answered	70
	Skipped	389

Responses
I think the one thing I would add is fostering a better sense of fraternity between older members and younger/new canonists. There is much to learn from each other but at times it feels like a welcoming/supportive environment is not present for younger canonists who are new to the field.
no
digitize
Listen to ordinary people. Stop being a "mouth piece"! AND stop being afraid of what Bishops might do including shutting down CLSA. LCWR had to face that and well they didn't do it too well but they are still around.
Even as a member, we are not able to access committee reports on the website since it says that they are private groups, so that leaves us at a deficit in understanding their work.
The Society can be a great resource for canonists if, instead of taking away useful resources for our practice and general canonical literacy, it finds a way to support them in their utility to practitioners in the field. The policing of copyright demonstrably had a negative effect on the experience of many canonists of their practice in making us use inadequate and inefficient resources to try and further the vindication of rights in the Church, and this is exactly the opposite of the reasons why a canonist would consider membership in our Society valuable.
Additionally, the general concern for ethics in canonical practice by CLSA members would indicate the need to examine whether the good that membership "is" should be subjected to more scrutiny as far as ethics in membership.
It is always helpful to any organization to Periodically review its mission, its governing structure and examine where improvements could be made. I applaud the CLSA for this self study.
Maybe you do this already and I've missed it, but perhaps membership could asked what topics they would find helpful in webinars and/or conventions.
We are increasingly finding too few JCL applicants for open tribunal positions - fewer priests available and lay people understandably reticent to pay for a 3-year education, low salaries, etc.
New presenters
I'll think about this before convention and share anything I think of there.
Thank you. Your work is appreciated. I am not in a position where I can or will do more with or for CLSA. Maybe the next fellow who gets on board will be more energetic and enthusiastic.
quite interested in this as I am also a civil attorney and serve as in-house general counsel. However, there were few civil attorneys presenting at this conference and those that did focused almost exclusively on religious liberty issues. Again, where was canon law on this? While these attorneys are fine persons, it would have been more worthwhile to have civil attorneys present who are also canonists. In addition, why was not the General Counsel of the USCCB presenting? Was he invited? It may have been of interest to also have some attorney presenters who may not be canonists but who nonetheless are recognized for their breadth of experience and who are called upon by many US bishops, such as Mark Chopko who is the former GC of the USCCB; or Nicholas Carfadi (who IS a canonist), etc. A keynote address for this conference on canon and civil law was presented by a non-attorney. It just seemed that attorney presenters who were chosen were chosen because they represented a specific legal viewpoint based solely on religious liberty issues rather than a breadth of experience. When I saw the list of speakers for this conference, I did not bother attending and could not justify spending diocesan money to attend this conference. Several months later, by reading the Proceedings, I was correct in my initial assessment.
Also, the Executive Director in past Newsletter columns seems to be promoting the Catholic Bar Association. While it is a fine organization, why did not the CLSA also promote similar organizations, such as the Catholic Lawyers Guild to which I belong and which has been in existence since the 1920's? Or the American Catholic Lawyers Association, etc. Again, the appearance is the CLSA has begun to promote certain organizations at the exclusion of others and this is noticed by some of my attorney colleagues. I would suggest the CLSA cease promoting non-canonical organizations especially at the expense of other similar organizations.
I regret sounding like I am piling on the CLSA, but I have been a member of CLSA for over 20 years and this is the first time I am questioning my continued membership that is provided by my diocese, especially now with the jump in dues. I know of other well-known and respected canonists who have similar questions, especially in the past few years. I have decided this will be a year to seriously
Not at this time
Keep doing surveys.
No
No
Narrow the scope of the Society - conventions and resources. The constitutional focus and other committees weigh it down.
Change in structure of Officers/Consultors. Election by all members not only convention attendees.
Looking for ways to inspire members to embrace canon law and the society and to want to be involved. Not an easy task!
How do you all engage students to develop possible leaders for CLSA in the future ?
Updated translated Rotal and other relevant dicastery information in one location and on line. Even a subscription service could be valuable if info current and relevant.
Keep up the excellent work. Very much appreciated. Thank you
Let CanonLaw.Ninja use our translations.
At times it is hard to know how the Holy See will deal with a particular issue. Practical guidance--in whatever form it can be offered--based on member's experience with the Holy See is always a benefit.
Insure that each year one official from a dicastery is a presenter
Form/Use a network of Retired Tribunal personnel to advise BOG, to serve as Canonical Advocates in outside dioceses, to provide historical context to shifts in the Code/its application.
Not at this time.
I have nothing to add.
Involve more seasoned and experienced canonists in the society as presenters, committee members, BOG nominees. There is wisdom they can share.

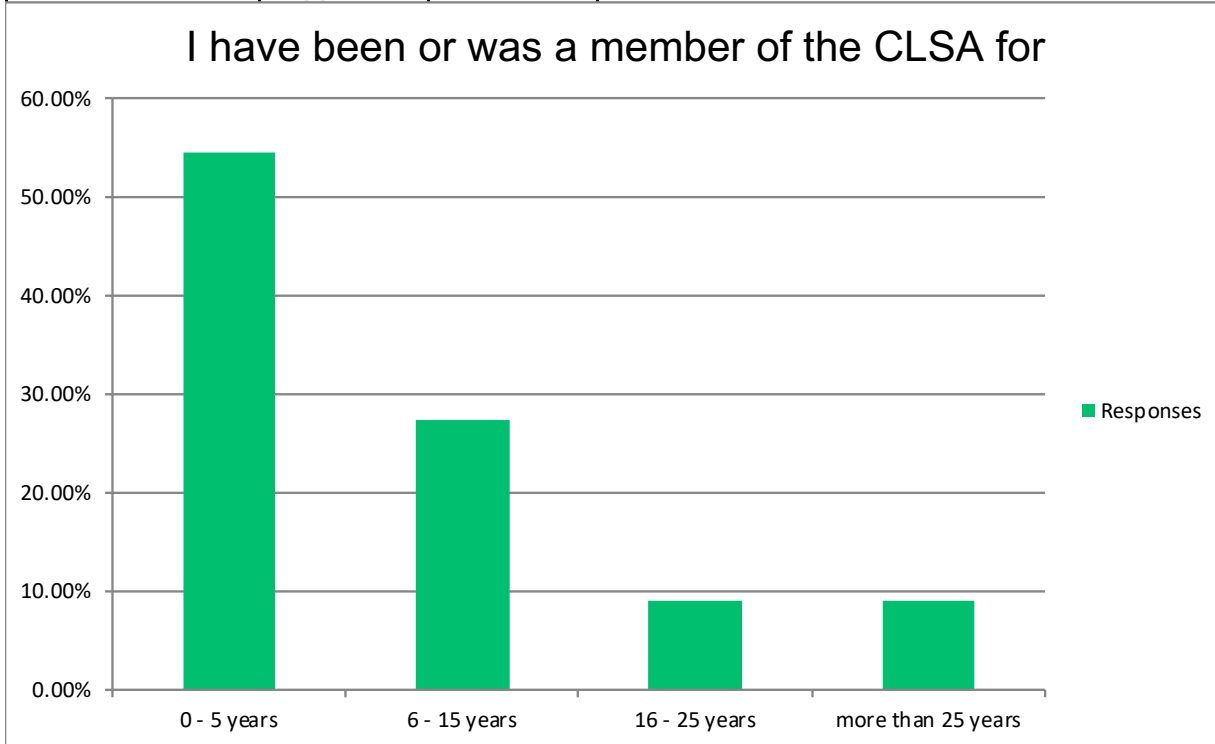
I very much appreciate and support the work that the CLSA does, and regret that I am not more of an "active" member. However, as a married permanent deacon with both parish and tribunal responsibilities, a demanding secular profession, and children and grandchildren living in the immediate area who are entitled to my time and attention (and whom I thoroughly enjoy -- love -- spending time with) I don't have a great deal of time to become actively involved in the CLSA.
Standing committees should remain but they should be inactive until there is a significant project. I grow tired of seeing "no report" or trivial kinds of things.
Stop being so white elitist, in the clouds good ole boy club.
Have a working group to advise DCLSAL on due process for vowed members that's equal to the due process provided in petitions for annulment for laity.
Assist us in making our parishes stronger and more vibrant. Help in re-building the Church in the United States.
I will leave this to the "Listening Sessions" coming up later this year!
Develop a better process for the election of officers and BOG members.
To lower the CLSA membership fees for members who cannot attend the annual conference because they cannot afford it, and to have actual attendees of the conference cover more of the cost.
Create a certification that establishes a person engaged in canonical work at a high professional & ethical standards.
Different categories could be for academic/research, marriage tribunal, & penal process.
Requirements would be to review the person's work (articles, briefs, sentences, decrees) and practices (fees charged, timeliness, ethics).
This would enable bishops, judicial vicars, moderators of tribunals, & private persons to have an objective source to determine the suitability of individuals to engage in canonical work.
It's already a first-rate professional association.
No.
No, thanks.
Members who do work for the society should be appropriately compensated. This includes such things as providing translations or giving workshops and presentations.
I have an idea for a series of videos/webinars that could be marketed to the wider Church. Have floated the idea with Paul Counce, and would be willing to flesh out the idea if this sounds interesting.
I believe it is an important service to canonists and rightly seeks to improve.
Take better note of whom is being requested to present at the CLSA. They aren't all from major dioceses.
There just is not enough sessions dealing with topics that are relevant. We occasionally have the webinars, but they should be more in terms of live discussions, not just being lectured to. The practical application is more what is needed. We all see the Listserve.... The questions asked there are shocing as they are normally fundamental questions, or contact information, or how to do a process... Why is CLSA not simply creating the tools to do this? Why is CLSA not creating online forms that Canonists can input information into and the necessary forms are then developed based on the inputted information. This should be primary in terms of "to do" aspects.
I was disappointed in the effort to prevent canonlawinja from using the English translation of the code. Frankly, I have found canonlawinja more helpful than the CLSA website.
No, thank you.
Change the title of "Executive Coordinator" to something more fanciful, professional, and top-notch. This is not Donna and neither has she nor anyone asked me to speak for her.
Keep up the great work you have been doing. Thank you for being there for us.
Look to the groundswell of young canonists who are coming through, and who need and want something more. The Society feels very tired, and really quite out of touch with the emerging generation of new canonists.
We are a community that is often charged with doing justice and we need to provide actual, consistent training for judges, instructors, etc. in order to help them do justice. Consistent workshops are important whether organized by the CLSA or done in conjunction with other institutions.
Needs to be a more prolific digital publisher and offer practical law sections, sample formularies (marriage & penal), other resources all based on excellent academic research.
No! Thanks for your commitment.
Empower members to volunteer to be of service. Avoid paying staff as much as possible.
I think those in CLSA leadership and planning should consider how to increase diversity and variety amongst those who give input and hold leadership positions.
Establish some means of verifying or certifying professionalism and competence for practicing canonists.
Hire CanonLaw.Ninja to provide an online version of the Code!
Publicly apologize to Fr. Paul and restore the American translation to CanonLaw.Ninja. This could have been handled better.
The canonlaw.ninja copyright cease and desist was very unfortunate and difficult to understand from the outside. The CLSA should be working creatively to encourage and collaborate with such resources and canon law enthusiasts rather than defensively "protecting" copyrights through threats of legal action. Many canonists and others were upset by this short-sighted approach and the lack of explanation regarding it. It was a significant missed opportunity to think outside the box and partner with someone for the furtherance of canon law. Hopefully the CLSA rectifies this.
Only the comment above about how the society, especially at conventions, can operate according to cliques. And I think there is tension right now as the membership diversifies between the "old guard," who tend to say "That's not how we do things" or "That's not what we're about," and younger members who want to advocate for certain changes ad intra and ad extra.
making canonical resources as freely available as possible to members, utilizing broad (Creative Commons, or other) copyright licenses that enable free distribution of the law and an understanding of its nuances, for the benefit of the common good
Repudiate some of the wacky resolutions from the 1990s (eg women deacons) which are still on the books but which make the Society look like it is mired in yesterday's issues and/or is a pressure group for liberal interests in the Church.
no
already stated
Stay focused
Keep up the good work. It would be good to get your story to a wider public.
Look at Consociato programs and try to emulate
I do think hospitality is critical to folks feeling welcome and encouraged to engage. If they feel welcome, there will be more investment in membership, convention, etc. There is a bit of a "clique" perception among the membership.

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Former members of the CLSA

I have been or was a member of the CLSA for

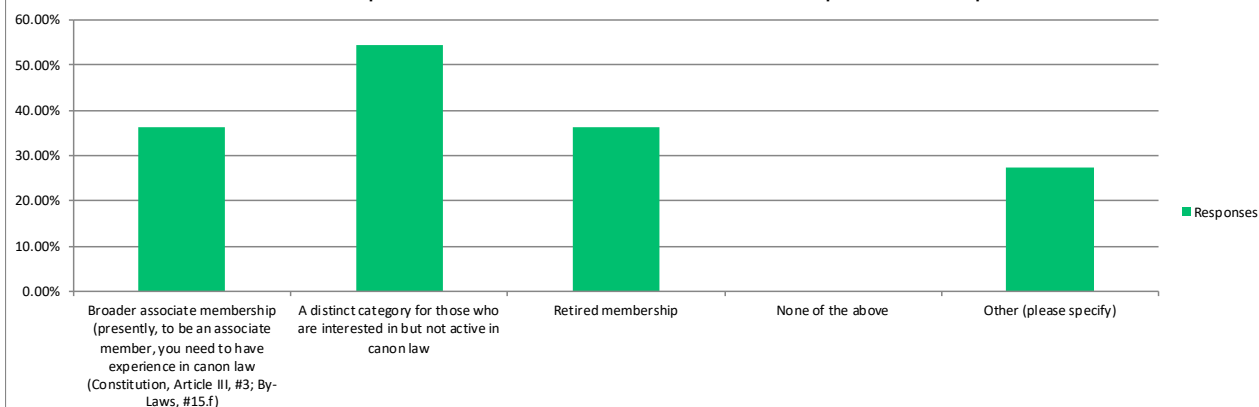
Answer Choices	Responses	
0 - 5 years	54.55%	6
6 - 15 years	27.27%	3
16 - 25 years	9.09%	1
more than 25 years	9.09%	1
	Answered	11
	Skipped	448



At present, CLSA membership categories are: Active, Student, Associate and Honorary members. Should the CLSA explore further these categories for membership? Please indicate all that would be important to explore.

Answer Choices	Responses	
Broader associate membership (presently, to be an associate member, you need to have experience in canon law (Constitution, Article III, #3; By-Laws, #15.f)	36.36%	4
A distinct category for those who are interested in but not active in canon law	54.55%	6
Retired membership	36.36%	4
None of the above	0.00%	0
Other (please specify)	27.27%	3
	Answered	11
	Skipped	448

At present, CLSA membership categories are: Active, Student, Associate and Honorary members. Should the CLSA explore further these categories for membership? Please indicate all that would be important to explore.



Laity non canonist discount
Active members who do not have a JCLONJCJ. However, have other graduate degrees that have qualified them to be active in members.
Ecclesiastical Administration

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Former members of the CLSA

What three words best describe the CLSA for you?

Answer Choices	Responses	
Word 1:	100.00%	10
Word 2:	90.00%	9
Word 3:	80.00%	8
	Answered	10
	Skipped	449

Word 1:	Word 2:	Word 3:
Supportive	Informative	Enriching
Guidance		
library of information	continuing education	support
Informative	Distant	Professional
Informative	Accessible	Professional
Informative	Educational	Proactive
Informative	Interesting	Family
informative	community	wisdom
Justice	Educational	
Trusted	Collegial	Faithful

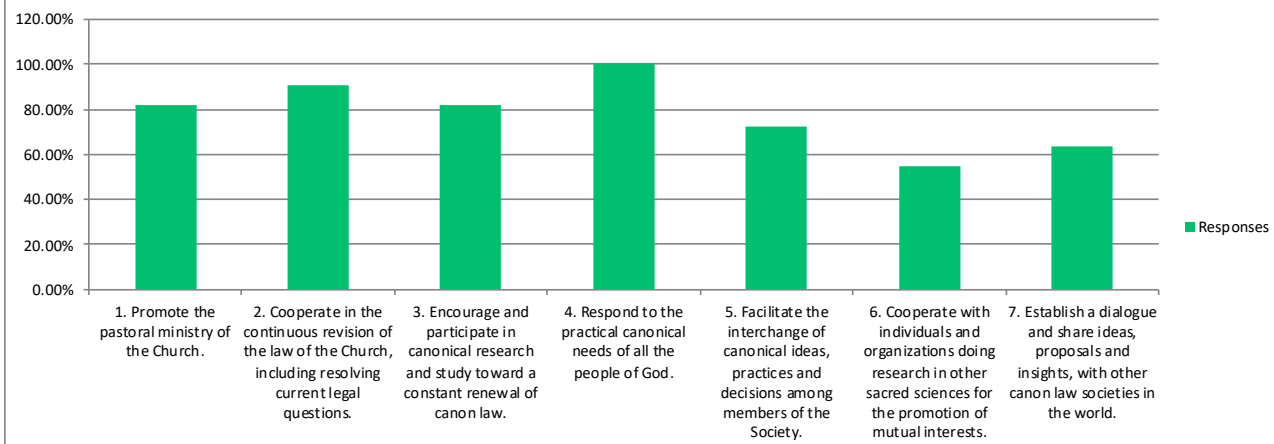
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Former members of the CLSA

This is a summary of the goals of the CLSA according to its Constitution. Please check the goals below to indicate which, in your view, should continue to be important as the CLSA moves forward.

Answer Choices	Responses	
1. Promote the pastoral ministry of the Church.	81.82%	9
2. Cooperate in the continuous revision of the law of the Church, including resolving current legal questions.	90.91%	10
3. Encourage and participate in canonical research and study toward a constant renewal of canon law.	81.82%	9
4. Respond to the practical canonical needs of all the people of God.	100.00%	11
5. Facilitate the interchange of canonical ideas, practices and decisions among members of the Society.	72.73%	8
6. Cooperate with individuals and organizations doing research in other sacred sciences for the promotion of mutual interests.	54.55%	6
7. Establish a dialogue and share ideas, proposals and insights, with other canon law societies in the world.	63.64%	7
Answered		11
Skipped		448

This is a summary of the goals of the CLSA according to its Constitution.
Please check the goals below to indicate which, in your view, should continue to be important as the CLSA moves forward.



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Former members of the CLSA

If there is a purpose missing from the list above that you think should be a focus for the CLSA, what would that be?		
	Answered	6
	Skipped	453

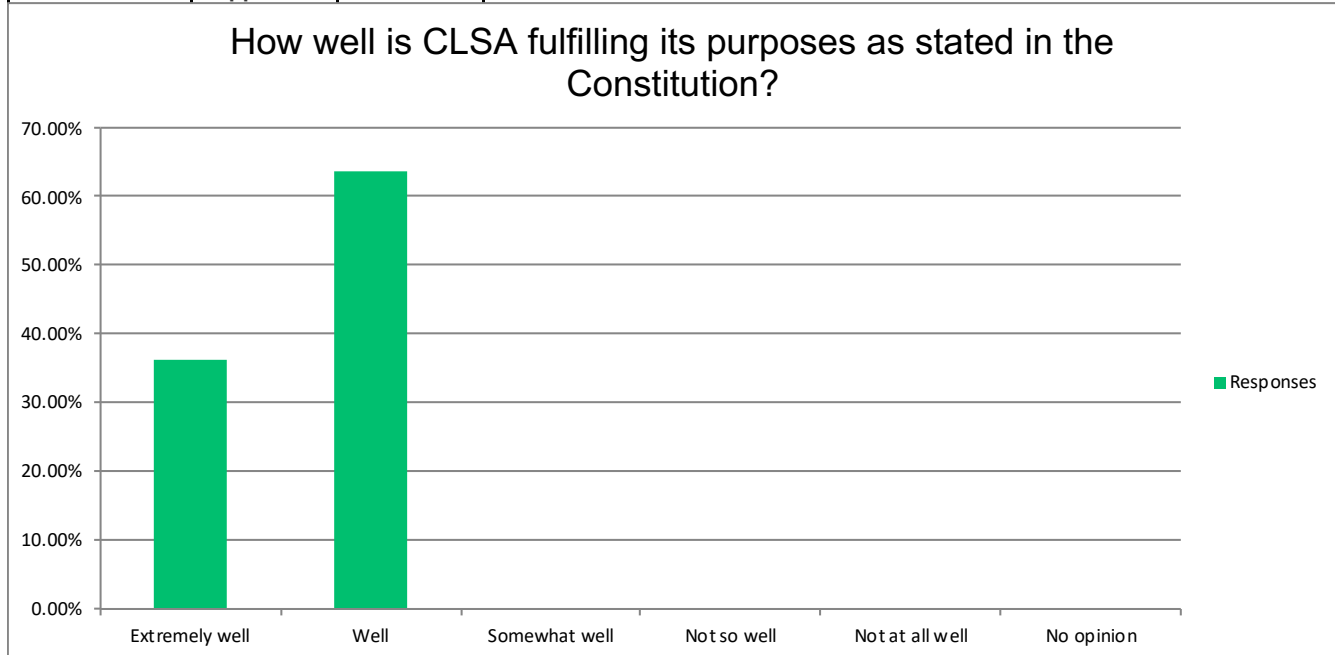
Responses
Greater understanding among the laity
Provide access to canonical information
promote the development of future "practitioners" of the law (develop and support students and those looking to go to Canon Law school).
Getting more Catholic universities or colleges in this country to offer a degree in Canon Law. Why is it only able to be obtained at one school in this nation? Also getting knowlege of its existence into a Catholic high school curriculum, so young Catholics are more informed, and might be interested in studying it right out of high school. Most graduating seniors probably don't even know it exists, let alone what it says. Canon Law was never mentioned in grade or high school, and in college you only took a class in it if that was your degree (at CUA or in Rome). When I was in college it was seen only as something for priests to study, but some laity really are interested in Canon Law!
Getting the clergy, especially bishops, to implement the law fully.
Promote evangelization through good governance and synodal participation

Strategic Visioning Initial Survey - June 2023

Former members of the CLSA

How well is CLSA fulfilling its purposes as stated in the Constitution?

Answer Choices	Responses	
Extremely well	36.36%	4
Well	63.64%	7
Somewhat well	0.00%	0
Not so well	0.00%	0
Not at all well	0.00%	0
No opinion	0.00%	0
	Answered	11
	Skipped	448



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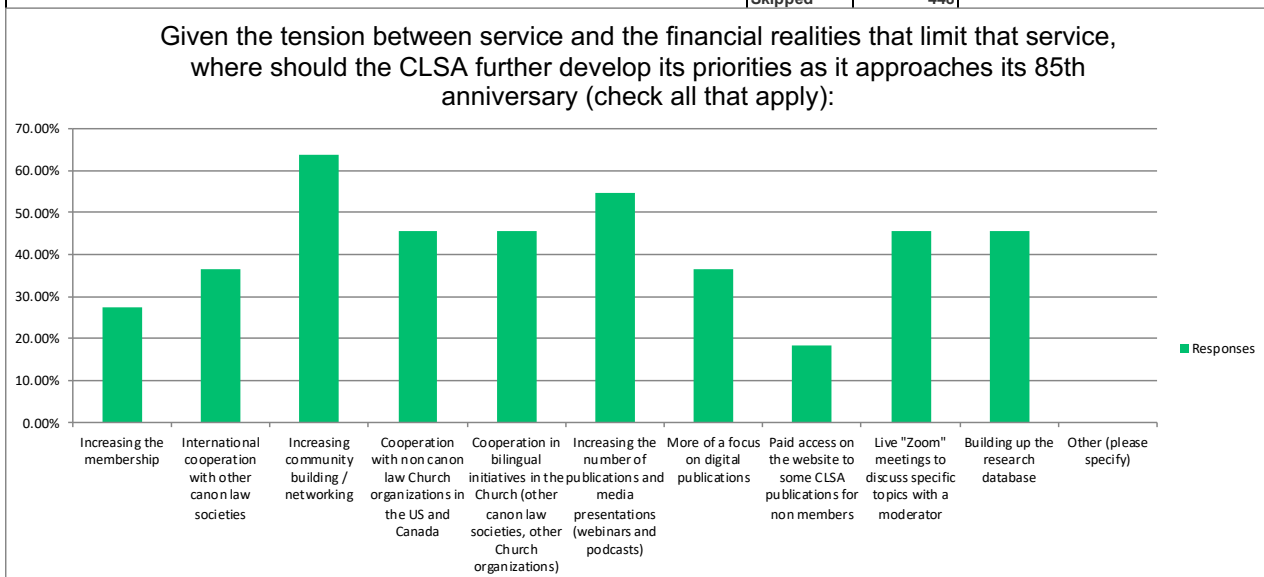
Former members of the CLSA

If not well, what needs improving?		
	Answered	2
	Skipped	457
Responses		
A central access point for canonical information. A place I can search for information easily to aide in research.		
Engage others involved in church governance including associations of the faithful		

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Former members of the CLSA

Given the tension between service and the financial realities that limit that service, where should the CLSA further develop its priorities as it approaches its 85th anniversary (check all that apply):		
Answer Choices	Responses	
Increasing the membership	27.27%	3
International cooperation with other canon law societies	36.36%	4
Increasing community building / networking	63.64%	7
Cooperation with non canon law Church organizations in the US and Canada	45.45%	5
Cooperation in bilingual initiatives in the Church (other canon law societies, other Church organizations)	45.45%	5
Increasing the number of publications and media presentations (webinars and podcasts)	54.55%	6
More of a focus on digital publications	36.36%	4
Paid access on the website to some CLSA publications for non members	18.18%	2
Live "Zoom" meetings to discuss specific topics with a moderator	45.45%	5
Building up the research database	45.45%	5
Other (please specify)	0.00%	0
	Answered	11
	Skipped	448

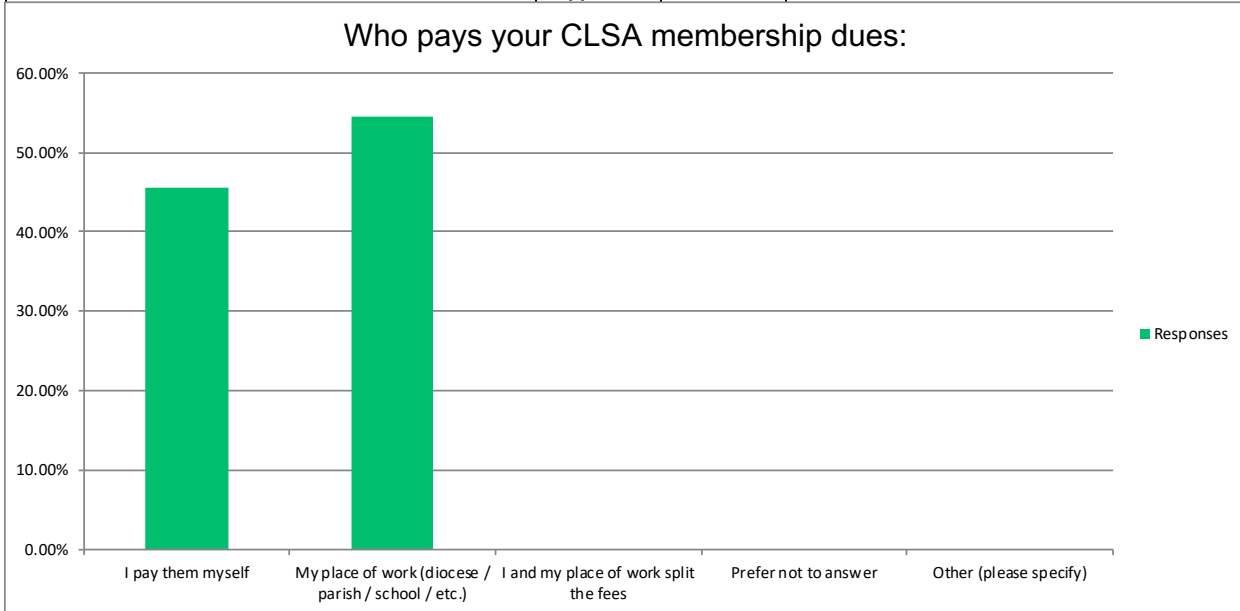


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Former members of the CLSA

Who pays your CLSA membership dues:

Answer Choices	Responses	
I pay them myself	45.45%	5
My place of work (diocese / parish / school / etc.)	54.55%	6
I and my place of work split the fees	0.00%	0
Prefer not to answer	0.00%	0
Other (please specify)	0.00%	0
	Answered	11
	Skipped	448

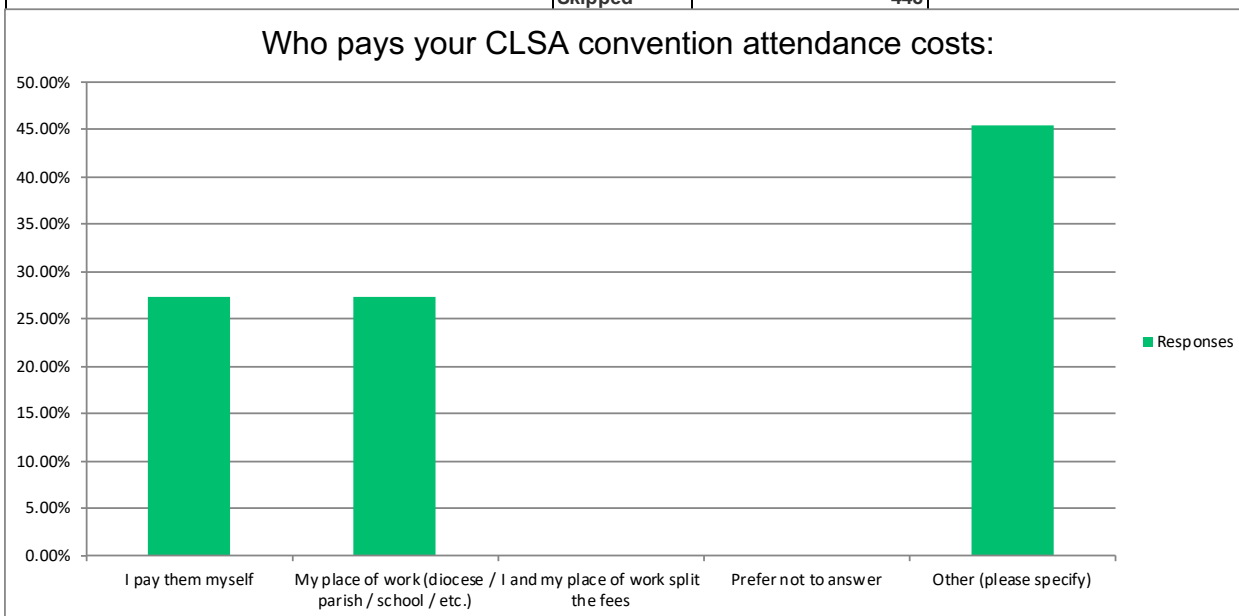


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Former members of the CLSA

Who pays your CLSA convention attendance costs:

Answer Choices	Responses	
I pay them myself	27.27%	3
My place of work (diocese / parish / school / etc.)	27.27%	3
I and my place of work split the fees	0.00%	0
Prefer not to answer	0.00%	0
Other (please specify)	45.45%	5
	Answered	11
	Skipped	448



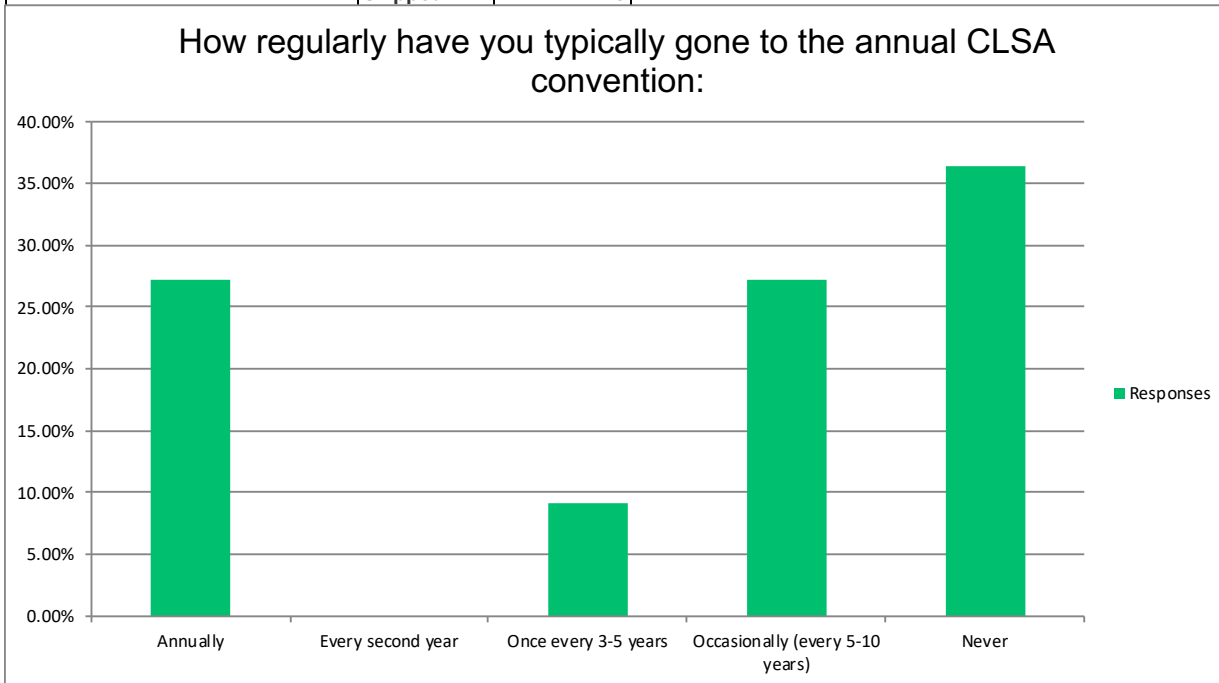
If I were able to attend, I would pay for myself or request assistance from my religious community.
unable to attend due to financial constraints
Don't generally attend the conventions; cost an issue.
as this year will be my first conference, I do not know how it is being paid for.
Have not attended

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Former members of the CLSA

How regularly have you typically gone to the annual CLSA convention:

Answer Choices	Responses	
Annually	27.27%	3
Every second year	0.00%	0
Once every 3-5 years	9.09%	1
Occasionally (every 5-10 years)	27.27%	3
Never	36.36%	4
	Answered	11
	Skipped	448



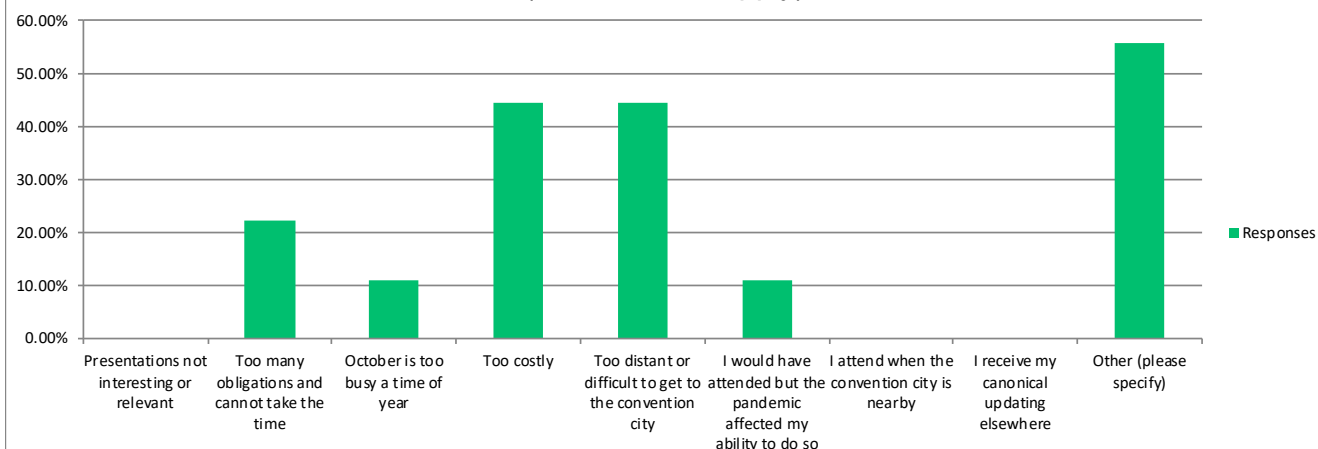
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Former members of the CLSA

If you have not attended the annual convention in the past five years, why not (check all that apply):

Answer Choices	Responses	
Presentations not interesting or relevant	0.00%	0
Too many obligations and cannot take the time	22.22%	2
October is too busy a time of year	11.11%	1
Too costly	44.44%	4
Too distant or difficult to get to the convention city	44.44%	4
I would have attended but the pandemic affected my ability to do so	11.11%	1
I attend when the convention city is nearby	0.00%	0
I receive my canonical updating elsewhere	0.00%	0
Other (please specify)	55.56%	5
Answered		9
Skipped		450

If you have not attended the annual convention in the past five years, why not (check all that apply):



Would appreciate if it was one week earlier or later. October is a good time but the second week in October all of our schools are on vacation and our spouses are left with our children while we all are gone. Obviously a very personal request, but the majority of our Tribunal attends the convention and this affects almost all of us who go.

First year member

Make it more kid-friendly!

Health

Not sure as an Associate I would be welcome

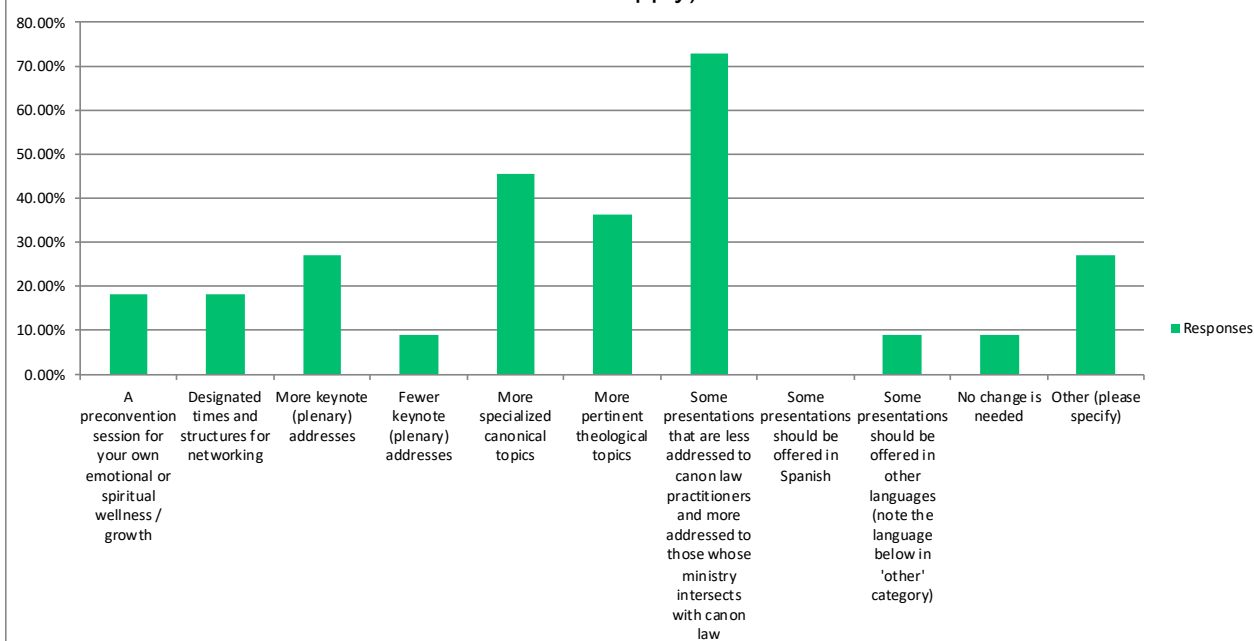
Strategic Visioning Initial Survey - June 2023

Former members of the CLSA

How could the CLSA annual convention be more helpful to you (check all that apply)?

Answer Choices	Responses	
A preconvention session for your own emotional or spiritual wellness / growth	18.18%	2
Designated times and structures for networking	18.18%	2
More keynote (plenary) addresses	27.27%	3
Fewer keynote (plenary) addresses	9.09%	1
More specialized canonical topics	45.45%	5
More pertinent theological topics	36.36%	4
Some presentations that are less addressed to canon law practitioners and more addressed to those whose ministry intersects with canon law	72.73%	8
Some presentations should be offered in Spanish	0.00%	0
Some presentations should be offered in other languages (note the language below in 'other' category)	9.09%	1
No change is needed	9.09%	1
Other (please specify)	27.27%	3
	Answered	11
	Skipped	448

How could the CLSA annual convention be more helpful to you (check all that apply)?



regarding language - it would be feasible to have the talk translated into other languages while presented in English

More working sessions, or sessions where we can practically apply the topic being discussed.

French, Italian, Polish

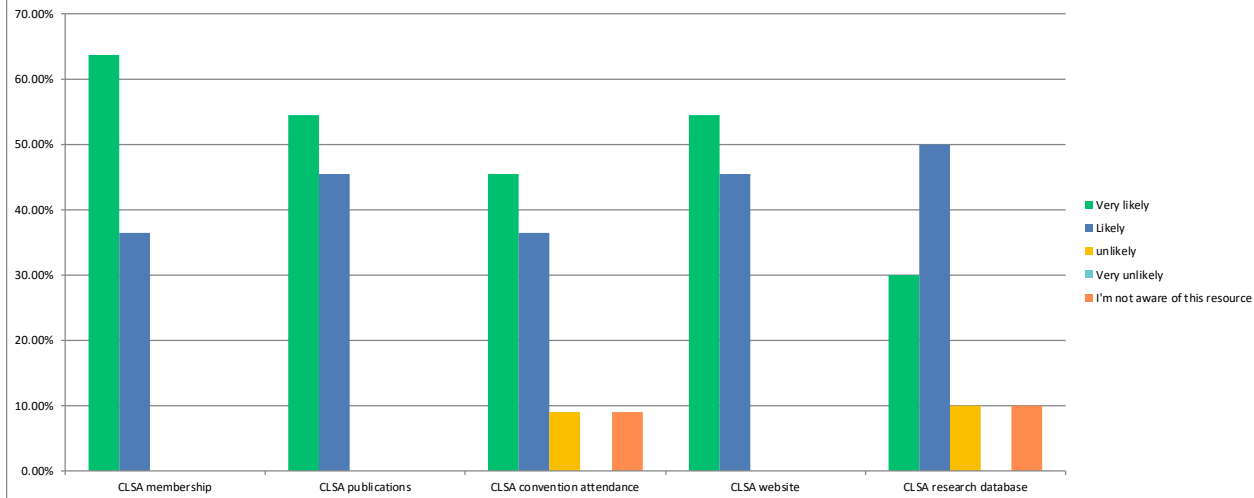
Strategic Visioning Initial Survey - June 2023

Former members of the CLSA

How likely are you to recommend the following to others:

	Very likely		Likely		unlikely		Very unlikely		I'm not aware of this resource	Total
CLSA membership	63.64%	7	36.36%	4	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	11
CLSA publications	54.55%	6	45.45%	5	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	11
CLSA convention attendance	45.45%	5	36.36%	4	9.09%	1	0.00%	0	9.09%	11
CLSA website	54.55%	6	45.45%	5	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	11
CLSA research database	30.00%	3	50.00%	5	10.00%	1	0.00%	0	10.00%	10
									Answered	11
									Skipped	448

How likely are you to recommend the following to others:

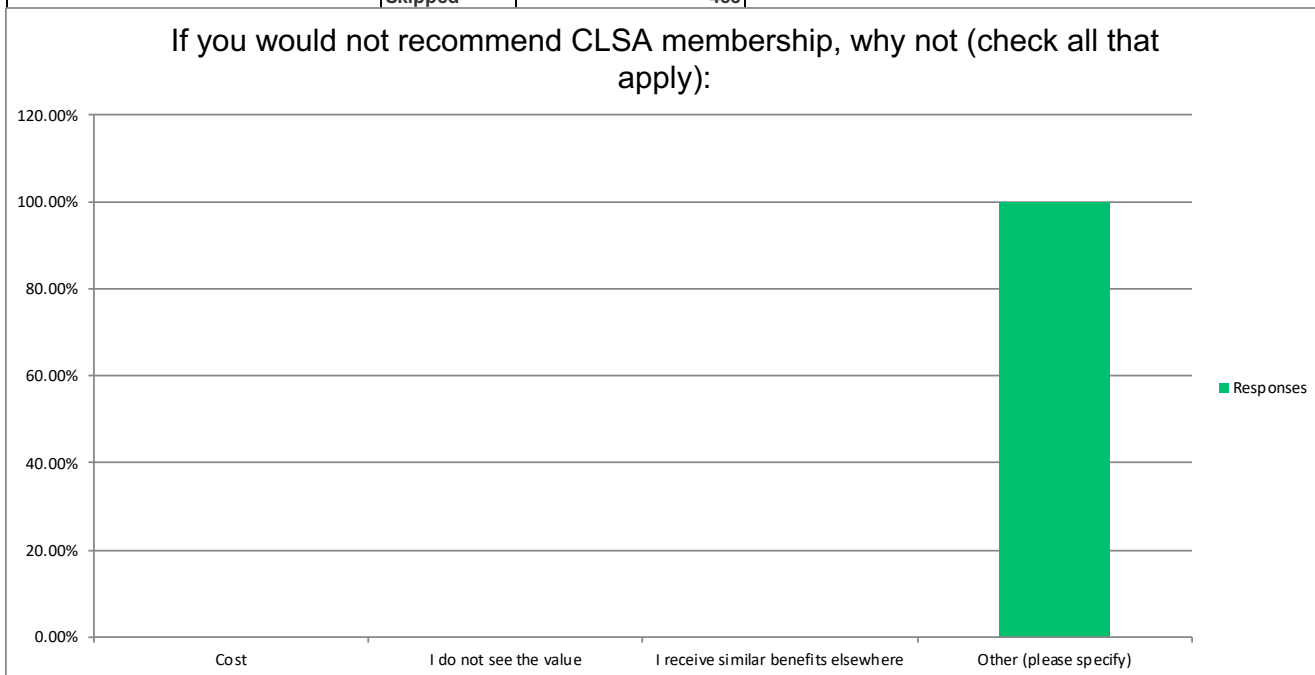


Strategic Visioning Initial Survey - June 2023

Former members of the CLSA

If you would not recommend CLSA membership, why not (check all that apply):

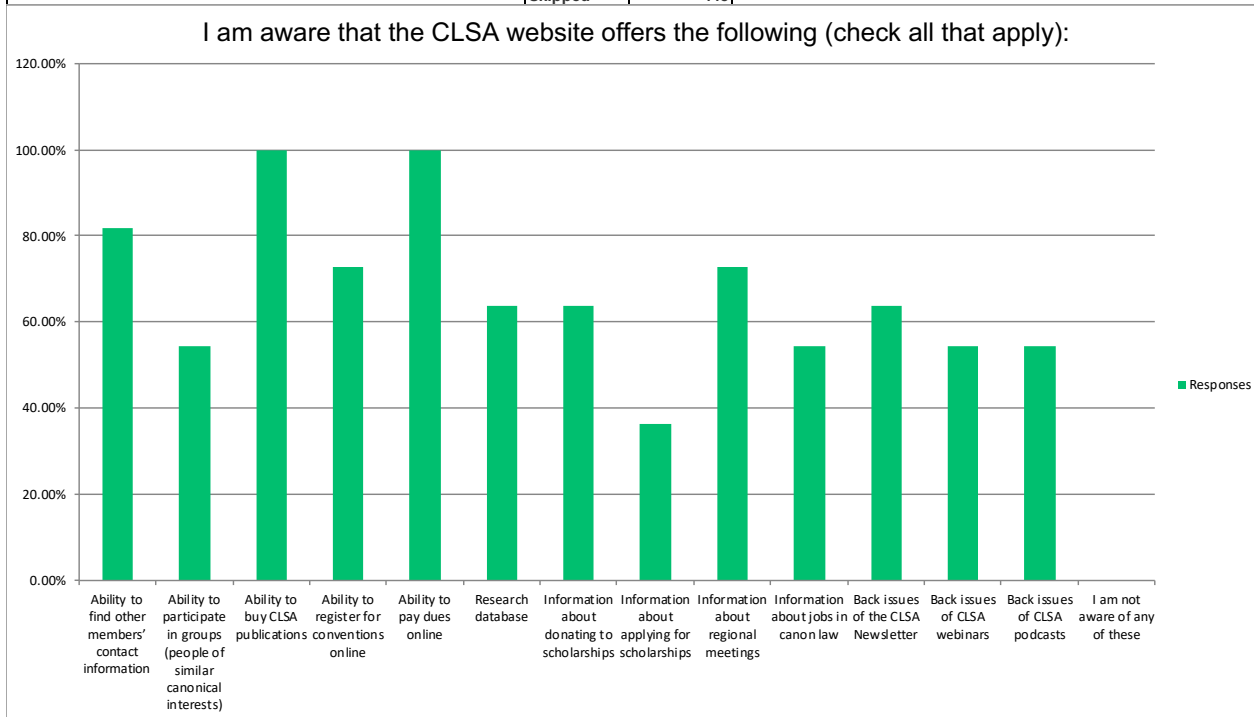
Answer Choices	Responses	
Cost	0.00%	0
I do not see the value	0.00%	0
I receive similar benefits elsewhere	0.00%	0
Other (please specify)	100.00%	1
	Answered	1
	Skipped	458



Strategic Visioning Initial Survey - June 2023
Former members of the CLSA

I am aware that the CLSA website offers the following (check all that apply):

Answer Choices	Responses	
Ability to find other members' contact information	81.82%	9
Ability to participate in groups (people of similar canonical interests)	54.55%	6
Ability to buy CLSA publications	100.00%	11
Ability to register for conventions online	72.73%	8
Ability to pay dues online	100.00%	11
Research database	63.64%	7
Information about donating to scholarships	63.64%	7
Information about applying for scholarships	36.36%	4
Information about regional meetings	72.73%	8
Information about jobs in canon law	54.55%	6
Back issues of the CLSA Newsletter	63.64%	7
Back issues of CLSA webinars	54.55%	6
Back issues of CLSA podcasts	54.55%	6
I am not aware of any of these	0.00%	0
Answered		11
Skipped		448



Strategic Visioning Initial Survey - June 2023

Former members of the CLSA

How else could the CLSA add value to your membership?	
Answered	5
Skipped	454

Responses
Make the list serve (if only available as view only) to all members
More precise search capability for specific canons and/or topics.
Lower membership cost. Lessen sharp distinction between those who are "canonists" and those who are not.
If a member cannot attend the conference, could they pay a lesser fee to attend online?
Continue to grow digital resources and content including partnering with CUA and St Paul sharing access to dissertations and studies

Strategic Visioning Initial Survey - June 2023

Former members of the CLSA

Do you have anything to add that could help the CLSA in considering its future?		
	Answered	3
	Skipped	456
Responses		
Keep up the good work! The website is great and your hard work in everything, from the books and translations to the Convention is very appreciated, thank you.		
A transparent report regarding the money, spent by BOG, especially for social events, e.g. dinners and travel		
Remaining a sure and faithful relationship to the Magisterium in working to restore confidence in a wounded yet resilient Church		

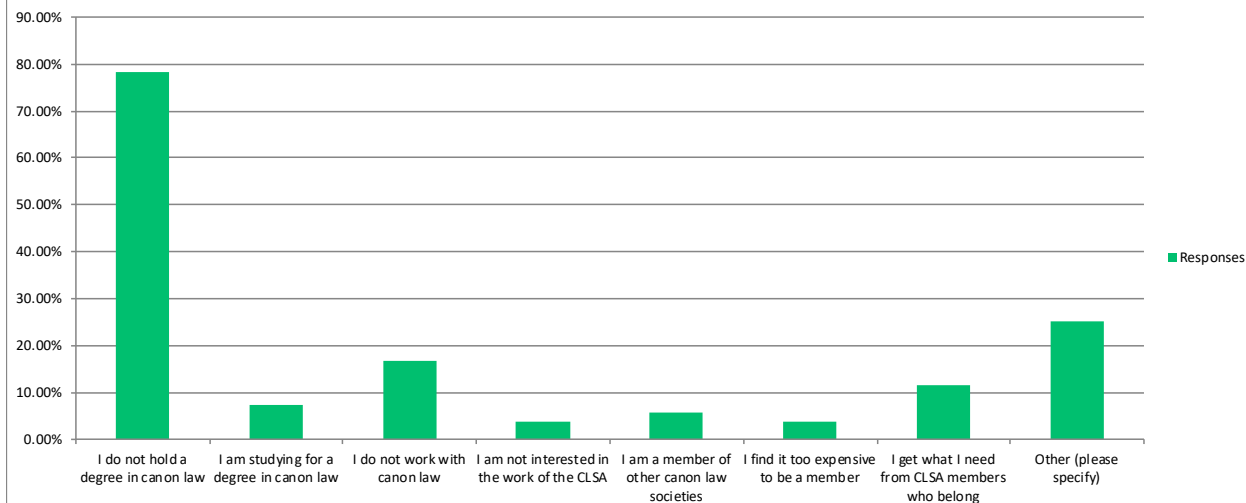
Strategic Visioning Initial Survey - June 2023

Never been a member of the CLSA

I am not a CLSA member because (check all that apply):

Answer Choices	Responses	
I do not hold a degree in canon law	78.42%	109
I am studying for a degree in canon law	7.19%	10
I do not work with canon law	16.55%	23
I am not interested in the work of the CLSA	3.60%	5
I am a member of other canon law societies	5.76%	8
I find it too expensive to be a member	3.60%	5
I get what I need from CLSA members who belong	11.51%	16
Other (please specify)	25.18%	35
	Answered	139
	Skipped	320

I am not a CLSA member because (check all that apply):



I am aware that individuals who are not canon lawyers may become a member of CLSA.
I do not work as a Canon Lawyer, and so I'm not sure my membership in CLSA would be welcomed by my Diocesan Canon Lawyers
I am an attorney and an annulment advocate. I am interested in canon law, but I'm a 68 year old woman, and I am not sure that more training is in order. I feel quite comfortable with nearly all aspects, may be all if I ask for help, of the advocate process. btw, I strongly think that the Catholic church is for ALL Christians, and actually all people, since God created them. That Jesus set up the Catholic Church and it is organized the way Jesus set it up, with the hierarchy, etc Thus, the sacrament of marriage is really important, and us trying to help all, whether entering the Catholic church or a member or not, is important. In fact, that it is so important that teaching valid vows would help our society greatly, from couples, children and even parents and friends.
I get what I need without a membership.
I do plan to join the Canadian Canon Law Society. I am considering joining the CLSA. Receiving the proceedings is attractive. The higher cost is less attractive.
I serve as a Tribunal Advocate.
I'm advocate
I'm not aware of what CLSA does that would be helpful to me.
Never made aware of this organization or what it's about.
Not fully aware of what the advantages would be upon becoming a member
Was not aware of the society
I read The Jurist, buy your publications, have CUA classmates who are members, have attended joint meetings of our two societies
I am a liturgist and I can consult with canonist who are very helpful
Primary area is liturgy
I am paying for my JCL without financial help from my diocese and cannot budget for CLSA membership at the moment.
Not really heard about it until recently.
I am an associate member of FDLC
My professional area is liturgy, both graduate level teaching and diocesan/parish ministry. I am intensely interested in the canon law of liturgy but rely on CLSA members to share with me, especially in the area of Christian initiation.
Others in the diocese are members; the diocese will only support so many memberships.
I do not have a canon law degree. Work in Liturgy - member of the FDLC, was encouraged to complete the survey.
Retired member FDLC
I work in liturgy, and consult as necessary with canonists on points of liturgical law.
I am member of the FDLC that was invited to participate on this survey.

I would actually think of joining as an associate (or whatever the official title of someone who isn't a Canon Lawyer is) because I'm a liturgist. However, at the moment I don't see how it would be beneficial or a move that would be useful and justifiable as far as price goes.
I am a liturgist.
I am an advocate for the Tribunal for men and women seeking annulments.
I often ask the opinion/advice of our Judicial Vicar in matters liturgical.
didn't know I could belong
I do work with canon law as an Advocate in two dioceses. I was staffed to a Tribunal previously.
I don't know anything about the society.
Staff of diocesan archives
I am a member of the canon law listserv and took courses in the field while a grad student at CUA. I work as an archivist for a religious order and find items on archives and religious law useful to track.
I've never really thought about the possible benefits of being a member.
Never thought about it before that archivists have to know a little about canon law.
I'm not sure how it would support my role as a diocesan Archivist. I suspect most of the info. would be too specialized unless it were narrowly focused on Archives, sacramental records, and parish closures/mergers.

Strategic Visioning Initial Survey - June 2023

Never been a member of the CLSA

What three words best describe the CLSA for you?

Answer Choices	Responses	
Word 1:	100.00%	94
Word 2:	90.43%	85
Word 3:	84.04%	79
	Answered	94
	Skipped	365

Word 1:	Word 2:	Word 3:
Ministry	Strict	Educated
learned	practical	authentic
Pastoral	Guiding	Informing
canon	lawyers	organization
New to me	Support	Guidance
Academic	Experience	Collaboration
Unknown	Distant	
regional meetings	publisher of English Code	smart folks
Resource	Education	Meetings
excellent idea	needed	important
Rules	Study	Application
Scholar	Complicated	Helpful
Guidance	pastoral	Wisdom
Don't	Know	It
Was not aware of the CLSA		
Religious	Doctrine	Impersonal
Code	Publishing	Ninja
I have never heard of this society		
Tribunal	Canon	Law
Canon law clarification	Canon law work with tribunals	Gathering of those who work with canon law
Legal	Ministry	Church society
administrative	analyze	religion
Support	Advice	Guidance
Useful	Supporting	Unfamiliar
Education	Resource	Meetings
Unkown	U nknown	Unknown
All	For	Jesus
Informative	Appropriate	Bridge builder
Annulments	Liturgy	Compliance
Canon	Law	Society
faithful	helpful	insightful
Helpful	Precise	Analysis
Available	Helpful	Generous
Association	Ministers	Competent
Active	Efficient	Exemplary
publisher	resource	convention
Proceedings		
Resource	Community	Exclusive
Publisher of opinions	Market dominator	Expensive
Canon Law	Interpretations	Background
resource	connection	news
Informative	Comprehensive	

Experts	Interpretation	
Resources	Updates	Assistance
Chancellors	Tribunals	Academic
Scholarly	Helpful	Implementation
Service	Pastoral	outreach
catholic	clarity	application
Advice	Clarification	Legislative texts
Unknown		
Knowledge	Kinship	History
Well Informed	Dependable	Informative
knowledge base	information sharing	up to date
law	structure	unity
Instructive	Efficient	Intense
Canon	Law	Society
Directives	Guidelines	Canon
Ordered	Faithfilled	Guidelines
Canon	Law	Society
canonical		
Law	Rules	Overseer
Protection	Value	Crucial
Translations	Opinions	Resources
legalistic	minutiae	parapastoral
canon	law	society
Insight	Innovative	Inspiring
canon law	association	debate
Expertise	Professional	Detail
Informative	Enforcement	Pastoral
Arcane	Parochial	Fastidious
Pricey	Echo Chamber	
Wisdom	Teachers	Collegiality
Necessary		
Informative	Supportive	significant
Professional	Knowledge	Political
Expertise	Canonists	Authority
unknown	link between Roman thinking and USA thinking (Okay, more than three words)	resource
law	prestige	
law	canan	pastoral
religious law	collaborative	forward thinking
Learned	Academic	Professional
Unknown		
N/a		
Resource	Professional	Important
Code	Collaboration	Communion
Professional	Inaccessible	Unapproachable
important	supportive	helpful
isolated	haughty	elite
Resource	Knowledge	Information
ecclesiastical	professional	legal
n/a		
Intelligent	Lawyers	Pastoral
Terra	Ignota	
Supportive	Objective	Dedicated

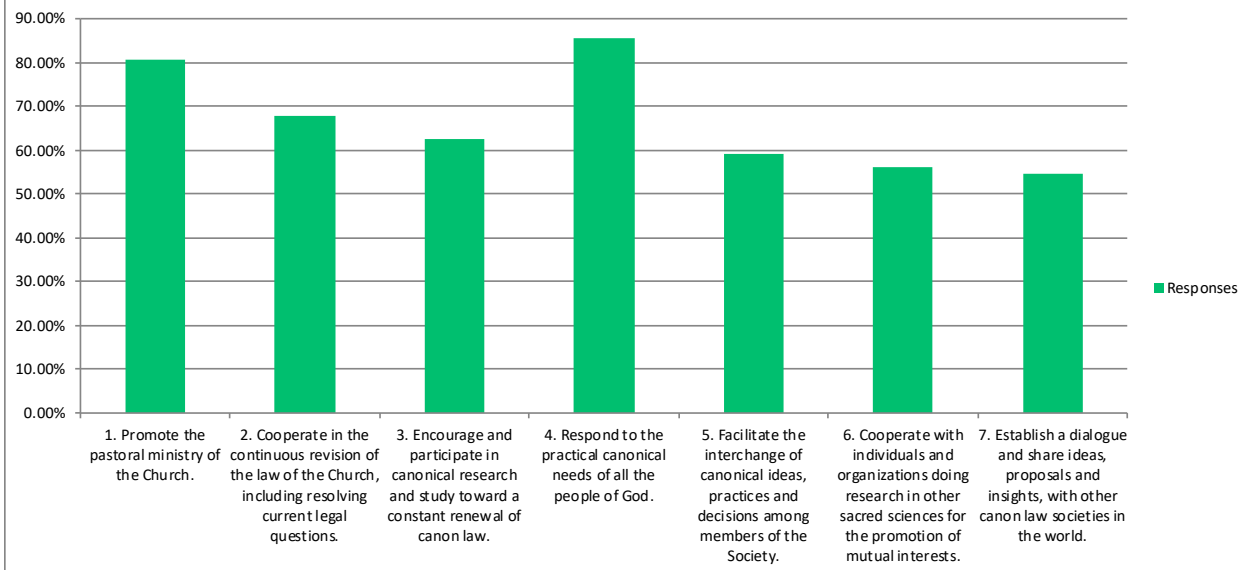
Strategic Visioning Initial Survey - June 2023

Never been a member of the CLSA

This is a summary of the goals of the CLSA according to its Constitution. Please check the goals below to indicate which, in your view, should continue to be important as the CLSA moves forward.

Answer Choices	Responses	
1. Promote the pastoral ministry of the Church.	80.58%	112
2. Cooperate in the continuous revision of the law of the Church, including resolving current legal questions.	67.63%	94
3. Encourage and participate in canonical research and study toward a constant renewal of canon law.	62.59%	87
4. Respond to the practical canonical needs of all the people of God.	85.61%	119
5. Facilitate the interchange of canonical ideas, practices and decisions among members of the Society.	58.99%	82
6. Cooperate with individuals and organizations doing research in other sacred sciences for the promotion of mutual interests.	56.12%	78
7. Establish a dialogue and share ideas, proposals and insights, with other canon law societies in the world.	54.68%	76
	Answered	139
	Skipped	320

This is a summary of the goals of the CLSA according to its Constitution.
Please check the goals below to indicate which, in your view, should continue to be important as the CLSA moves forward.



Strategic Visioning Initial Survey - June 2023

Never been a member of the CLSA

If there is a purpose missing from the list above that you think should be a focus for the CLSA, what would that be?		
	Answered	31
	Skipped	428
Responses		
More changes in the annulment process for non-Catholics wishing to become Catholic.		
Education of the faithful in the parishes regarding the reason, purpose and aim of Canon Law for the Universal Church (if this does not fall under the goal of "Promote the pastoral ministry of the Church.")		
Not sure		
Act as a resource to Canonists 'in the field.'		
Reach out to adjacent organizations outside of the field of cannon law (similar to 6 above, but more broad)		
Facilitate access to the current code in English		
Goals focused on internal CLSA collaboration, and seem to indicate a lack of interest in collaboration with other experts implementing Canon Law, such as Diocesan Archivists.		
To encourage all Christians or interested people to seek annulments and to better understand the total self-giving nature of marriage, to make valid vows more often, so that God enters the marriage. So that children and society and even laws are more oriented to valid vows with no conditions.		
Assist the secular regular people to discover the practicality of our canon in helping them to live the life of faith in accord with the criteria of Catholic Church tradition.		
N/A		
Self promotion- invite those not affiliated to learn more about Society and what you offer to Curia and Church		
Is. There any merit the CLSA consider how the law impacts/ connects with the spiritual life of the church faithful ?		
Provide a complete and current version of canon law (current canons and all authoritative supplementary documents) online in one easy location.		
Further emphasise the importance of supporting and enabling the former study of canon law.		
No		
No. This list is so positive and forward-looking. Great perspective!		
Answer significant questions		
You mentioned in the introduction that Archivists/Archives constantly "bump up against" the CLSA regarding what to keep, etc. in their Archives. I am fairly new at archiving - from scratch! - for my religious community. So, would be interested in the interactions between CLSA and Archives.		
As a former diocesan archivist, I had regular contact with issues in canon law. Continuing dialog between canon lawyers and those in related church professional capacities is important.		
Collaborate with other organizations that address Church law such as Liturgical law.		
Above all, consideration for the people of God in this time and place. Not just letter of the law - but the spirit in which it was intended.		
Establish a dialogue with other church groups, federations, and/or societies to increase a dialogue and share of ideas among the different church groups.		
Find points of intersection with CL and other like minded areas (like liturgy) and help facilitate practical means of cooperation both academically AND (and more importantly) in a pastoral setting.		
Help resolve impediments individuals face which keep them from the Sacraments.		
To educate the common "pew person" about changes. To Streamline the annulment process to offer support for the laity to return to the sacraments quicker.		

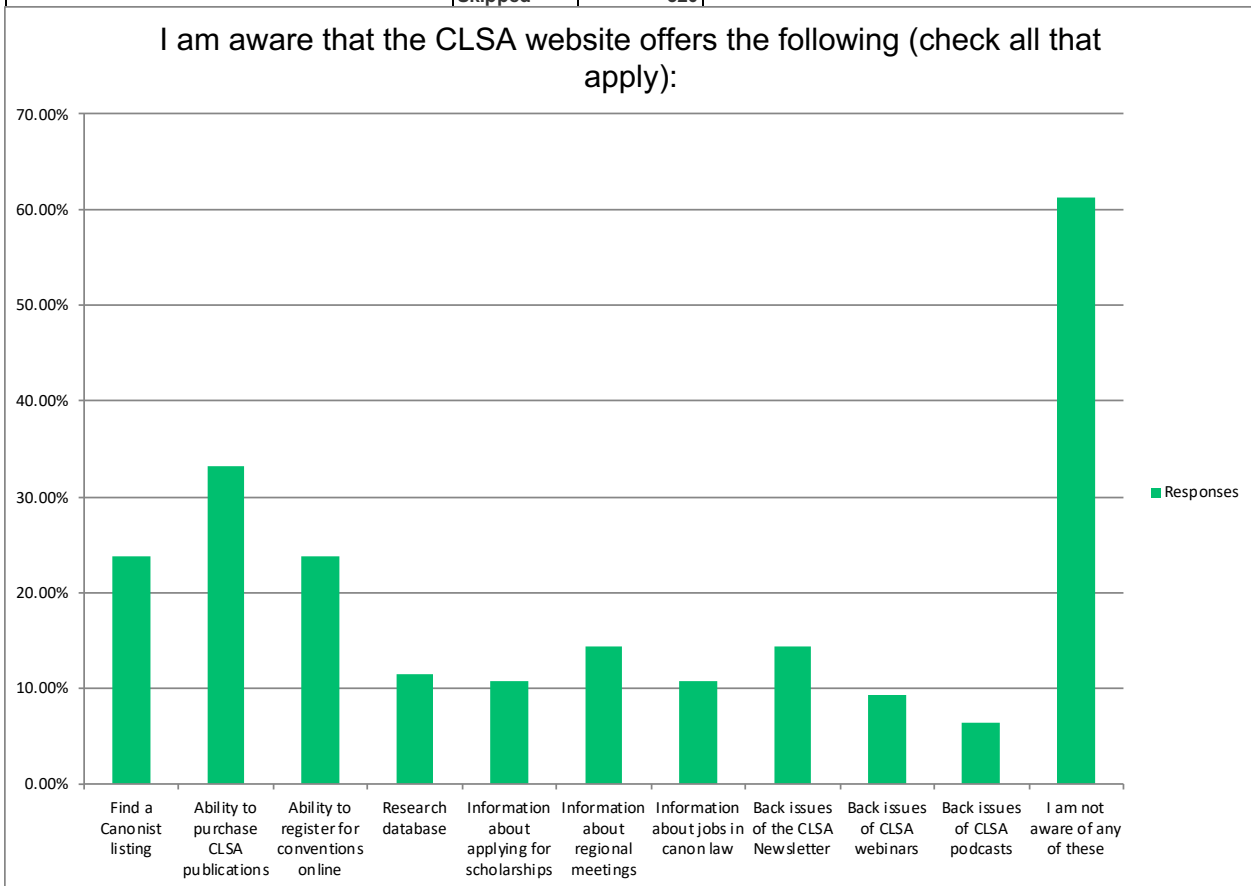
Pastoral dimension of canonical issues and application.
Protect the rights of clergy against unwarranted pressure of their bishops
not that I can detect
Make information more available and accessible.
outreach to archivists
Promote education in canon law for non-specialists, perhaps in cooperation with the ACDA's biannual conference and also with the National Assoc. of Deacon Directors.

Strategic Visioning Initial Survey - June 2023

Never been a member of the CLSA

I am aware that the CLSA website offers the following (check all that apply):

Answer Choices	Responses	
Find a Canonist listing	23.74%	33
Ability to purchase CLSA publications	33.09%	46
Ability to register for conventions online	23.74%	33
Research database	11.51%	16
Information about applying for scholarships	10.79%	15
Information about regional meetings	14.39%	20
Information about jobs in canon law	10.79%	15
Back issues of the CLSA Newsletter	14.39%	20
Back issues of CLSA webinars	9.35%	13
Back issues of CLSA podcasts	6.47%	9
I am not aware of any of these	61.15%	85
Answered		139
Skipped		320



Strategic Visioning Initial Survey - June 2023

Never been a member of the CLSA

Do you have anything to add that could help the CLSA in considering its future?		
	Answered	43
	Skipped	416
Responses		
Look at #4.		
Is the CLSA website accessible by non-members or is it members only accessible?		
Not at this time. I have been an advocate for our diocese Tribunal Office for three years and have learned a lot. I was asked to complete this by staff from that office, but I am not sure that I could really provide much that is helpful.		
Pray for each other and for the Church.		
I was asked to complete this survey as a member of FDLC. I was not aware of CLSAs work at all and didn't even know about the organization prior to being asked for this survey.		
To encourage all Christians or interested people to seek annulments and to better understand the total self-giving nature of marriage, to make valid vows more often, so that God enters the marriage. So that children and society and even laws are more oriented to valid vows with no conditions.		
I am an attorney and an annulment advocate. I am interested in canon law, but i'm a 68 year old woman, and i am not sure that more training is in order. I feel quite comfortable with nearly all aspects, may be all if I ask for help, of the advocate process.		
the Catholic church is for ALL Christians, and actually all people, since God created them. That Jesus set up the Catholic Church and it is organized the way Jesus set it up, with the hierarchy, etc Thus, the sacrament of marriage is really important, and us trying to help all, whether entering the Catholic church or a member or not, is important. In fact, that it is so important that teaching valid vows would help our society greatly, from couples, children and even parents and friends.		
Was not aware of CLSA at all		
I am new to the field, and appreciate the opportunity to share my brief experiences with CLSA and canon law in general. I look forward to continuing my education in this field.		
Although many of us do not have a degree in Canon Law we do love our faith and try to make help others as much as possible. That's what I would love to see in the CLSA.		
Keep up the good work. I am studying for Canon Law. It seems that over time, canonists have become more and more on the outskirts of the Church. When canon law comes up, people roll their eyes. This is a shame because canon law is essential to good governance in the Church. Is there a way that the society can try to turn the tide about the public opinion of canonists? I know we can't change the culture, but your work is so essential!		
No		
I will do research. My ears itch when I hear "change Canon law" I doubt this is necessary. If anything, we should work toward education and fuller understanding. The Catholic Church must stand strong, not compromise with society.		
No		
Training specifically geared toward Advocates. Sometimes I feel as if I should be an "information aggregator and at others like I sm expected to know Canon law		
ad multos annos.		
Do you disseminate information about continuing formation standards for CSLA members ?		
More considerations for canonists who wish to be members of CLSA but not based in USA like fees, scholarships, showing interest and to be more accommodative in make their resources available to Catholics.		
It seems perhaps silly to keep publishing physical books of the canons since they change so frequently now. Just have a one stop online location for the current law and authoritative supplemental documents that have come out. You can charge a yearly or monthly fee to cover the cost of keeping it up to date.		
I would be really interested to know if canonists are engaging in discussions about controversial topics of the times and how deep in collaboration they are working with experts in the social sciences,		
Sending out unanticipated cease and desist orders really isn't good optics for an organisation that already has the appearance of having a lot of money. Practice the principle of pastoral engagement before getting your civil lawyers to protect your interests. We're all in the same boat, and we have the same goals.		
No		
No		
I look forward to the partnership and dialogue with the CLSA through the FDLC		
I am shocked that I had no idea that these services were available on the website. I encourage the CLSA to keep in close touch with the FDLC and NAAL especially. We liturgists need to be FAR more aware of all the ways you are partners with us.		
Thanks for this survey.		