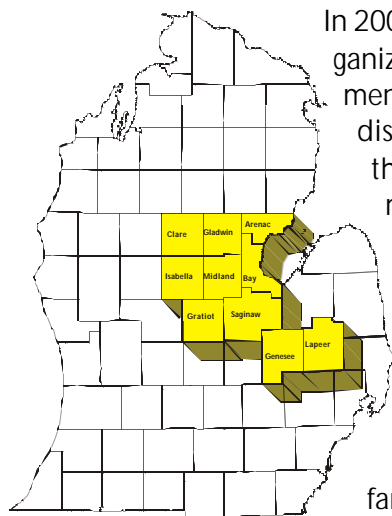


CENTER FOR CIVIL JUSTICE

CCJ Office Locations: Saginaw

CCJ Service Area: Arenac, Bay, Clare, Genesee, Gladwin, Gratiot, Isabella, Lapeer, Midland, and Saginaw Counties; Statewide on anti-hunger advocacy

Service Population: 209,288 individuals living at or below 125% of the poverty level



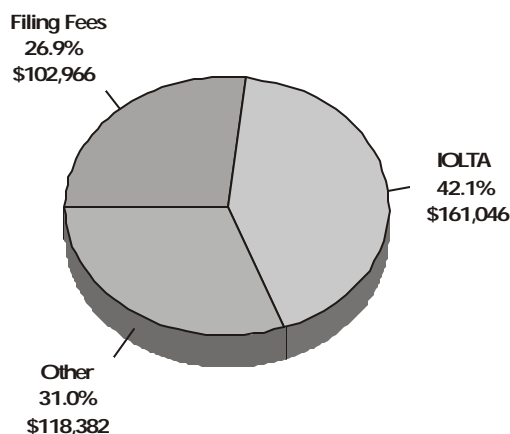
In 2000, CCJ helped a clubhouse organization of 300 people receiving mental health services to reverse a discriminatory zoning decision that had prevented the club members from using a building purchased for the club's social and employment support activities. CCJ also worked to change an unlawful policy causing 6,000 needy citizens to be denied food stamps and helped hundreds of working families keep from prematurely losing Medicaid assistance. CCJ

learned that a public housing agency was not complying with a law that helps residents move from welfare to work by delaying rent increases, and CCJ worked to change the unlawful practice, resulting in affordable rent for working residents trying to get back on their feet.

Many destitute families encountered unlawful delays and misinformation in the expedited food stamp program for people with no or minimal income. This program is required to get food stamps to the most needy applicants within a week, instead of the usual 30 days. CCJ discovered that nearly 30 percent of the Michigan cases that qualified for seven-day service were opened late. CCJ's advocacy helped convince the state food stamp agency to provide caseworkers with intensive training on expedited food stamps. Since then, the percentage of late cases has been cut in half.

Domestic violence victims in regions with no shelters or shelters that are full often seek refuge with family or friends instead. However, a policy providing state emergency assistance only to victims living in shelters created a hardship for these victims. CCJ worked with shelters, domestic violence advocates, and state legislators on a law giving state emergency assistance to domestic violence victims who stay with family or friends. This law will help victims throughout the state establish their own homes free from violence.

CCJ Sources of Funding for 2000: \$ 382,394



CENTER FOR CIVIL JUSTICE

Contact: Terri L. Stangl, Executive Director • (989) 755-3120

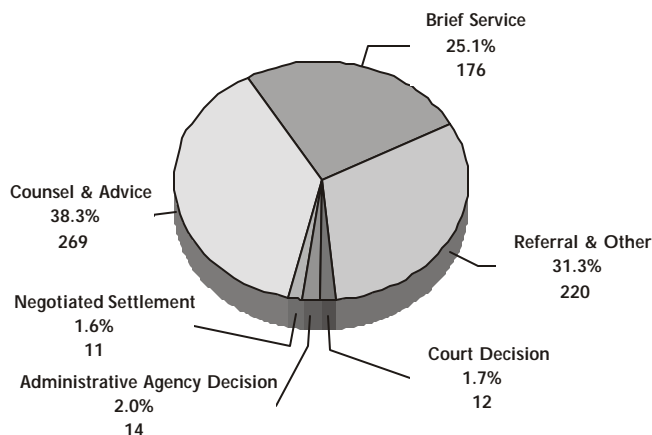
Community Outreach and Collaboration. In partnership with the Michigan Poverty Law Program, CCJ launched "Fill the Basket," a statewide campaign to increase food stamp enrollment by training community and faith-based organizations and legal advocates to screen for and help people potentially eligible for food stamps. By the end of 2000, CCJ taught members of more than 40 organizations to be trainers in their own communities, and these organizations in turn have trained several hundred individuals. In one county alone, 75 percent of people screened were found eligible for food stamps; this effort generated more than \$13,000 per month in increased federal assistance to this single county, where it is spent to buy food at local grocery stores. CCJ's model and materials are being replicated in other states by national organizations such as America's Second Harvest. CCJ also arranged for outreach materials to be distributed at Michigan community colleges describing when and how low-income working parents can receive support for education and training under Michigan law.

Client Age	
18 & Under	387
19-59	293
60 & Over	22
Groups	0
Total	702

Pro Bono Support. CCJ trained pro bono attorneys and paralegals at Dow Corning Corporation who volunteer for a consumer law clinic to (1) identify programs and resources that can help clients stabilize their financial circumstances and (2) identify related issues that should be referred to Legal Services of Eastern Michigan for further assistance. CCJ wrote an article for the Criminal Defense Newsletter, received by more than 2,000 defense attorneys in Michigan, describing which convictions can bar low-income defendants or their families from receiving future government assistance or housing. CCJ also helped the staff and students of the University of Michigan Clinical Law Program analyze a Medicaid case for potential litigation.

Client Ethnicity	
White	296
Black	364
Hispanic	28
Native American	0
Asian	0
Other	14
Total	702

CCJ Types of Service in 2000



CCJ Cases Closed in 2000: 702

