

LEGAL AID OF CENTRAL MICHIGAN

LACM Office Location: Lansing

LACM Service Area: Barry, Clinton, Eaton, Ingham, and Shiawassee Counties

Service Population: 83,046 individuals living at or below 125% of the poverty level



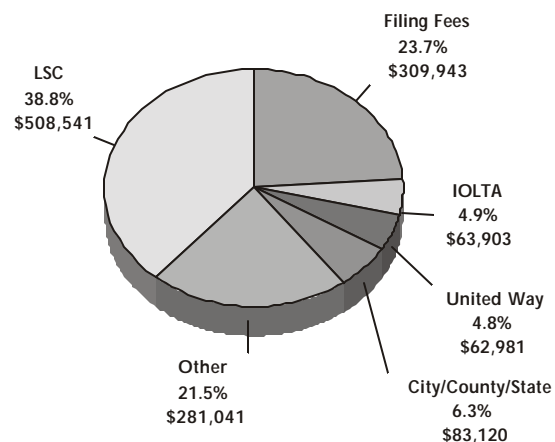
LACM has strived to become a client-focused legal services organization with the goal of providing high-quality, cost-effective legal services to the greatest number of clients possible. In 2000, LACM's Hotline provided thousands of clients with immediate advice and brief service over the telephone. To better serve the working poor, a fast-growing population, the office was open Thursday evenings until 7 p.m., during which time LACM

operated the Hotline, held client consultations, and taught self-help clinics for people who could pursue their legal problems on their own with some assistance. LACM also received a federal Violence Against Women Act grant in 2000 to fund a domestic violence unit including three attorneys, a legal secretary, and a victim advocate.

A physically disabled man was being evicted from public housing because a routine inspection had found the smoke detector disconnected. The man suffered from almost total paralysis on one side of his body from a stroke and severe arthritis in his hands so disabling that a caretaker had to help him perform simple daily functions such as cooking and cleaning. Although the man stated that he had never touched the smoke detector, and in fact it would have been impossible for him to climb up to reach the smoke detector, the public housing authority stood firm on its "one-strike and you're out" policy. At trial, the judge found that the authority had not proved that the man had tampered with the smoke detector, thus preserving his low-income housing.

A father of three girls, ages 3 to 10, came to LACM when his wife left to move in with another man. He learned that his wife's boyfriend had been convicted of accosting a minor for immoral purposes. He and the children's counselors were concerned that the children were particularly vulnerable because an older cousin had molested them in the past. LACM obtained temporary and then permanent custody of the girls for the father and an order restricting his wife's visitation to forbid the boyfriend's contact with the girls and keep them safe.

LACM Sources of Funding for 2000: \$ 1,309,529



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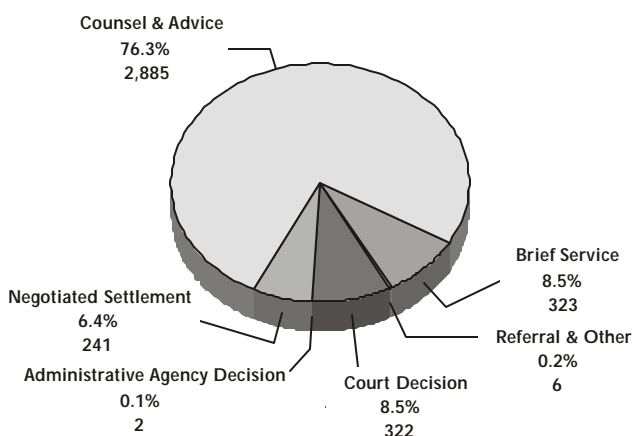
Community Outreach and Collaboration. In 2000, LACM evaluated 4,838 callers on the hotline intake system. LACM closed 3,779 cases ranging from advice or brief service to direct attorney representation through staff or pro bono attorneys. These clients had 6,299 children who indirectly also received legal assistance. LACM enrolled 595 clients in weekly self-help clinics to teach the participants how to handle some of their own legal matters. LACM provided more than 5,000 copies of community legal education materials about legal rights and responsibilities, self-help booklets, and legal forms to Hotline callers, courts, social service agencies, businesses, and self-help clinic participants. This emphasis on prevention helped resolve issues before the need for more complex legal services developed. LACM presented 106 legal education seminars and training sessions to schools, churches, police departments, social service agencies, and others totaling 3,069 participants. LACM's attorneys assisted with 311 pro se cases in family law courtrooms. In all, LACM reached out to more than 19,500 people.

Client Age	
18 & Under	26
19-59	3,627
60 & Over	126
Groups	0
Total	3,779

Pro Bono Support. LACM has a panel of 315 active pro bono attorneys ranging from novice attorneys to seasoned practitioners who mentor new attorneys accepting pro bono cases. LACM referred 157 cases to pro bono attorneys in 2000 and closed 186 cases. These attorneys handled cases including family law, consumer law, housing law, probate, employment, tort defense, and bankruptcy. The pro bono panel contributed 1,738 hours of service, which is valued at \$217,253. One of LACM's effective strategies to recruit pro bono attorneys was to offer pro bono training sessions. Subjects in 2000 included landlord-tenant issues, domestic violence, Social Security and public benefits, and no-fault auto insurance.

Client Ethnicity	
White	2,441
Black	806
Hispanic	242
Native American	42
Asian	24
Other	224
Total	3,779

LACM Types of Service in 2000



LACM Cases Closed in 2000: 3,779

