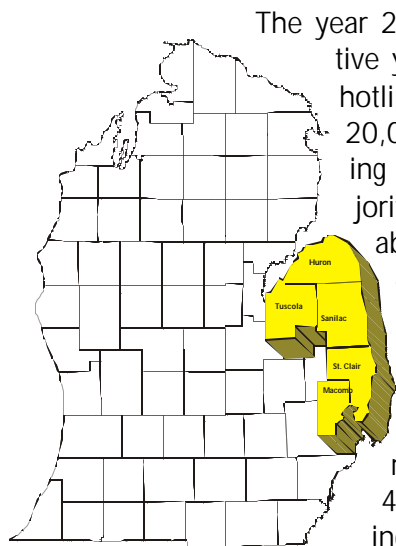


# LAKESHORE LEGAL AID

LLA Office Locations: Caro, Clinton Township, and Port Huron

**LLA Service Area:** Huron, Macomb, Sanilac, St. Clair, and Tuscola Counties

**Service Population:** 97,433 individuals living at or below 125% of the poverty level



The year 2000 was LLA's most productive year yet. LLA's central intake hotline system received more than 20,000 calls from people needing legal assistance. For the majority of callers, an attorney was able to answer their questions or resolve their legal problem within one half hour. In 2000, LLA closed more than 5,350 cases. The telephone intake attorneys were able to resolve and close more than 4,000 of those cases, providing almost immediate relief to clients. LLA's case handlers provided in-depth, extended legal assistance in more than 700 cases. LLA attorneys also provided self-help classes for clients in need of divorces to stabilize their families and who could navigate the court system with assistance. These clients were able to call the hotline attorneys for quick answers to overcome stumbling blocks in the system, or, for more difficult obstacles, the client could meet with a staff attorney.

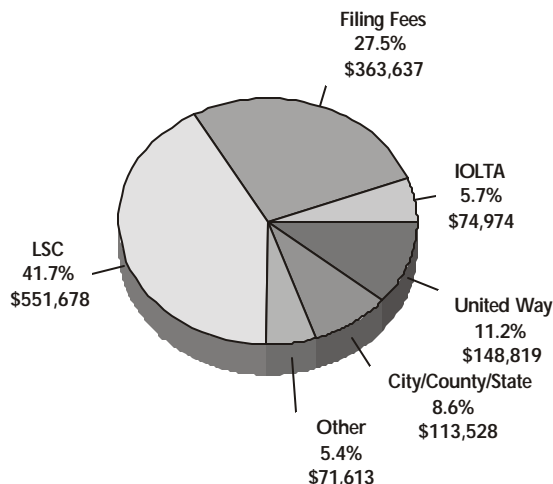
A disabled Vietnam veteran was living in public housing when he met two other homeless veterans. He invited them to stay in his apartment until the Veteran's Administration could help them find low-cost housing. The landlord deemed the otherwise homeless veterans as additional tenants in violation of the lease and brought an action to evict the disabled man. An eviction would have prevented the client from obtaining any future public housing. LLA argued that the two homeless veterans were short-term guests, not tenants, preventing the eviction, and the two other veterans quickly found their own housing.

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A 47-year-old woman was denied medical assistance from the Family Independence Agency (FIA) due to medical records that were inconclusive as to her final diagnosis. She could not get the additional testing she needed without coverage of her medical bills. With LLA's help, her physicians agreed to provide additional testing to verify the necessity of further treatment. Based on the new medical evidence, the client was awarded complete medical coverage for the past due bills and her ongoing treatment for what turned out to be breast cancer.

LLA Sources of Funding for 2000: \$ 1,324,249



# LAKESHORE LEGAL AID

Contact: William R. Knight, Jr., Executive Director • (810) 469-5185

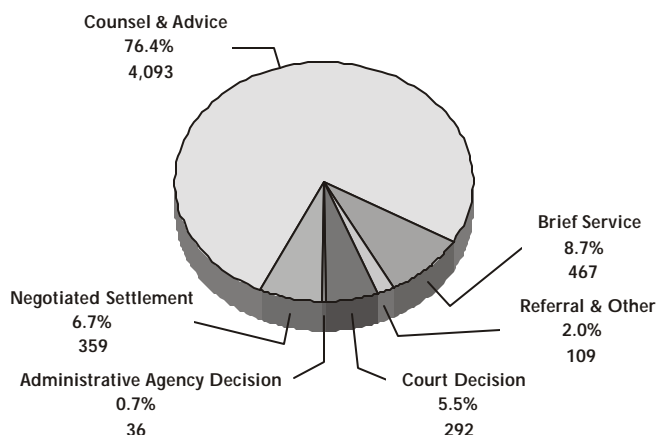
**Community Outreach and Collaboration.** To integrate into the communities it serves and publicize its available services, LLA aired public service announcements on cable television and the radio, and articles appeared in the local newspapers. LLA invited community leaders and workers from other public service agencies to attend an educational presentation about LLA's services and its ability to work with the agencies serving the same client population. The community talked with LLA staff members about when and how they could use LLA' legal services to solve some of the barriers their clients encountered in achieving self sufficiency. The community leaders realized that such matters as driver license restoration and credit repair were preventing clients from maintaining employment or obtaining housing and were issues LLA attorneys could resolve. LLA attorneys are now considered a prime resource by many more public service organizations.

Client Age	
18 & Under	53
19-59	4,574
60 & Over	729
Groups	0
Total	5,356

**Pro Bono Support.** In 2000, more than 175 local attorneys volunteered to help LLA address the unmet legal needs of the poor. These attorneys closed 72 cases and donated more than 1,400 hours to represent clients who had suffered physical abuse, were facing eviction from their homes, or had been swindled by a scam targeting the poor or elderly. Some attorneys also helped establish other nonprofit organizations that will assist the poor. The St. Clair County Bar Association developed pro bono service with LLA's Port Huron office. The Macomb County Bar Association and Senior Legal Services worked with LLA's Macomb office. The Macomb County Bar Association pro bono committee sponsored a seminar on low-income housing issues. The Tuscola County Bar Association worked with the Thumb-area office to help people living in remote rural areas.

Client Ethnicity	
White	4,646
Black	398
Hispanic	81
Native American	38
Asian	24
Other	169
Total	5,356

LLA Types of Service in 2000



LLA Cases Closed in 2000: 5,356

