

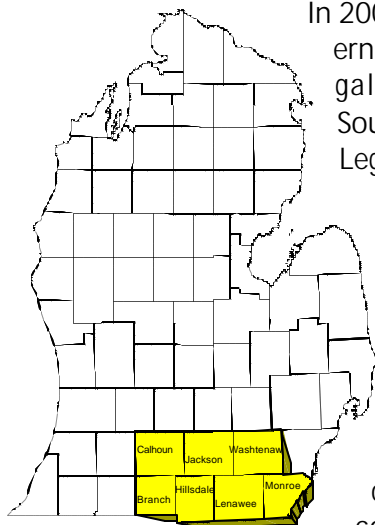
LEGAL SERVICES OF SOUTHERN MICHIGAN

LSSM Office Locations: Ann Arbor, Battle Creek, Berrien Springs, Jackson, Grand Rapids, and Monroe

LSSM Service Area: Jackson, Lenawee, Monroe, Calhoun, Branch, Hillsdale and Washtenaw Counties

Farmworker Legal Services—Statewide
Michigan Poverty Law Program—Statewide

Service Population: 129,812 individuals living at or below 125% of the poverty level



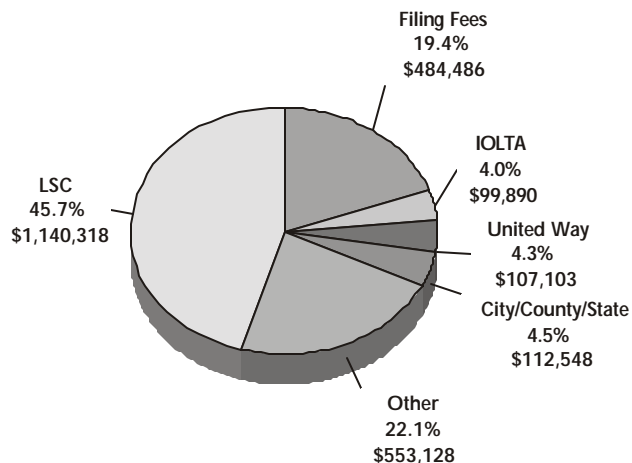
In 2000, Legal Services of Southeastern Michigan merged with the Legal Services Organization of Southcentral Michigan, becoming Legal Services of Southern Michigan and extending its service area to Calhoun, Branch, and Hillsdale Counties. LSSM's seven-county field program continued to target prevention of family violence, prevention of homelessness, preservation of families, access to medical and basic income assistance, and the prevention of consumer abuses. With

a federal grant, LSSM implemented (with the University of Michigan Law School and three domestic violence shelters) a collaborative, holistic approach to legal and social services for domestic violence survivors. LSSM also continued to operate two statewide programs: Farmworker Legal Services, which assists migrant and seasonal agricultural workers, and the Michigan Poverty Law Program.

Not long after she arrived in the United States, a woman from the Ukraine married a man who was extremely abusive physically and emotionally. He took her passport and citizenship documents and threatened to destroy them. A LSSM attorney worked with an immigration attorney to file for citizenship under the federal Violence Against Women Act to keep her safe in this country. Her divorce was final in June 2000, and her immigration attorney is confident that her appeal for citizenship will be successful.

A woman with multiple sclerosis was notified by the local public housing commission that her "family unit size" was reduced from two bedrooms to one bedroom because she lived alone and did not require a live-in aid. She required a two-bedroom apartment because she when she suffers from the temporary aggravation of symptoms that are characteristic of her disease, she must have another person stay overnight to care for her. LSSM appealed the commission's decision and succeeded in restoring her two-bedroom unit size so she can maintain adequate health care.

LSSM Sources of Funding for 2000: \$ 2,497,473



LEGAL SERVICES OF SOUTHERN MICHIGAN

Contact: Robert F. Gillett, Director • (734) 665-6181

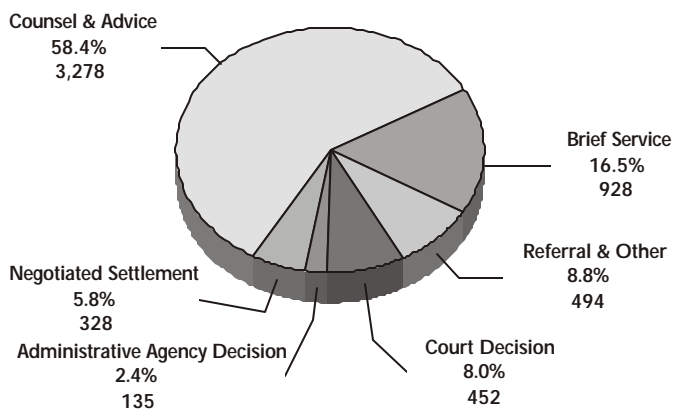
Community Outreach and Collaboration. LSSM worked with many partners—local courts, the private bar, housing providers, homeless shelters, domestic violence shelters, local government, and human services agencies—to ensure that low-income people received the help that they needed. LSSM closed 5,431 cases in 2000, provided services in 195 program support or community impact matters, planned and presented more than 20 training events, and made approximately 150 community legal education presentations. During 2000, LSSM emphasized domestic violence programming including expanded domestic violence services, work on a U.S. Supreme Court parental rights case, expanded outreach to the domestic violence shelters in two counties, and development of statewide domestic violence screening protocols for use with alternative dispute resolution. The Farmworker Legal Services program also began to reorganize its outreach program by hiring a social work intern with extensive experience serving migrant farmworkers.

Client Age	
18 & Under	48
19-59	4,443
60 & Over	1,118
Groups	6
Total	5,615

Pro Bono Support. In 2000, LSSM's pro bono program involved nearly 454 attorneys and 120 law students. These volunteers handled about 610 cases and provided many other types of services. The value of the pro bono services was more than \$1.6 million, and cash donations were more than \$47,859. The program included the Family Law Project, which uses more than 40 volunteer law students to handle domestic assault cases; referral programs with University of Michigan Law School clinics; a low-cost panel for clients who earn just slightly too much to qualify for free service; a pro bono court reporting service; and an active general panel of volunteer attorneys handling complex cases.

Client Ethnicity	
White	3,756
Black	1,018
Hispanic	576
Native American	31
Asian	27
Other	207
Total	5,615

LSSM Types of Service in 2000



LSSM Cases Closed in 2000: 5,615

