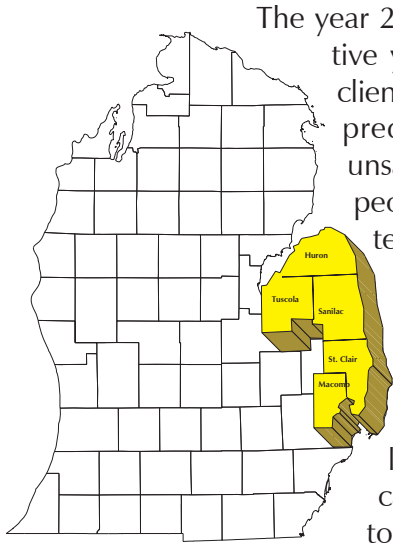


# LAKESHORE LEGAL AID

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

**LLA Service Area:** Huron, Macomb, Sanilac, St. Clair, and Tuscola Counties; senior services for Bay, Clare, Gladwin, Gratiot, Isabella, Midland, and Saginaw

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



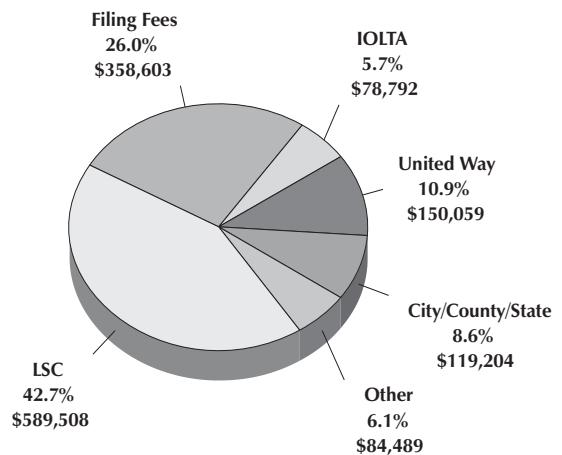
The year 2001 was LLA's most productive year yet. LLA assisted 6,179 clients with problems ranging from predatory lending practices to unsafe housing. To help as many people as possible, a hotline system, staffed entirely by attorneys, was used. The hotline attorneys answered client questions, advised them of their legal rights, or negotiated resolutions of their problems in more than 70% of the cases. The attorneys were able to resolve most of the client problems in less than one half

hour from the time the client called. LLA's other 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 were able to navigate the court system with limited attorney assistance. Once these clients were trained at the divorce clinics, they were supported by the hotline attorneys with quick answers to overcome stumbling blocks they may have encountered in the court system.

After suffering brain damage in an accident, a middle aged widow ran into financial problems which placed her at risk of losing her house. She believed she could not afford house payments and quickly made an agreement to sell her home for much less than its worth. When she learned an apartment would cost even more, she contacted LLA whose attorney worked out a payment plan, obtained assistance for her on money management, and negotiated a cancellation of the sales contract on her home. This woman is now living within her modest financial means and is able to keep her own home of many years.

A 19-year-old woman had heart disease her whole life. Her medical insurance was terminated after her doctor refused to release additional records, sending only cursory letters instead. LLA's attorney was able to subpoena the necessary medical records which resulted in restoring the young woman's medical coverage and continuing disability assistance. With some retroactive benefits, she was able to pay past due medical bills and live on steady, if nominal, income—even enrolling in a community college part-time.

**LLA Sources of Funding for 2001: \$ 1,380,655**



# LAKESHORE LEGAL AID

Contact: William R. Knight, Jr., Executive Director • (586) 469-5185

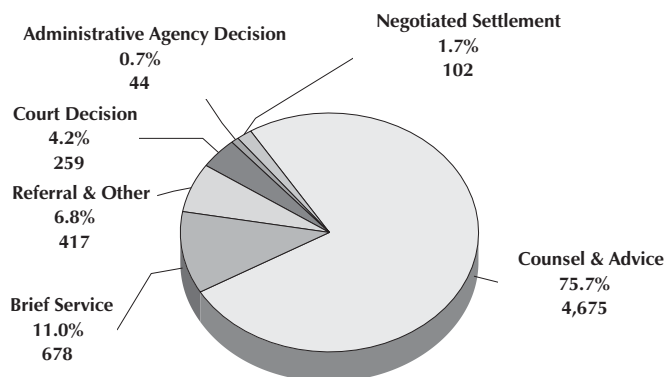
**Community Outreach and Collaboration.** LLA aired public service announcements on cable television and radio and placed articles in the local newspapers to reach potential clients. LLA invited community leaders and workers from other public service agencies to attend educational presentations about LLA's services and its ability to assist and work with agencies serving the same client population. The community gave LLA staff input about some of the barriers that their clients encountered in achieving self sufficiency. Community leaders realized that such needs 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 in the area.

Client Age	
18 & Under	64
19-59	5,186
60 & Over	925
Groups	0
Total	6,175

**Pro Bono Support.** In 2001, more than 150 local attorneys volunteered to help LLA address the unmet legal needs of the poor. These attorneys donated nearly 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 and elderly. Some attorneys also helped establish other nonprofit organizations that will assist the poor. The St. Clair County Bar Association worked to provide pro bono service through 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 family law issues. The Tuscola County Bar Association worked with the Thumb-area office to reach people living in remote rural areas.

Client Ethnicity	
White	5,316
Black	459
Hispanic	112
Native American	66
Asian	36
Other	186
Total	6,175

LLA Types of Service in 2001



LLA Cases Closed in 2001: 6,175

