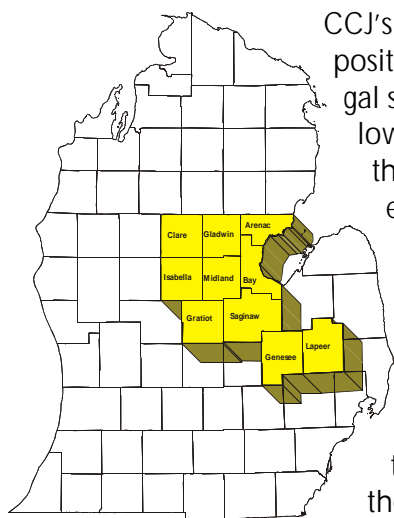


CENTER FOR CIVIL JUSTICE

CCJ Office Locations: Saginaw and Flint

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



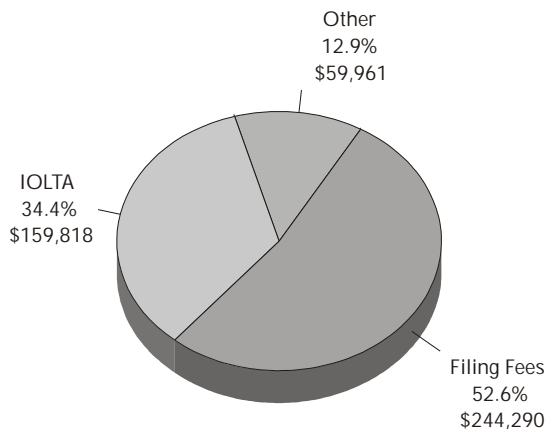
CCJ's mission includes making a positive impact and providing legal services and advocacy for the low-income client community that cannot be provided by federally-funded legal aid programs. In 2002, CCJ expanded its toll-free food assistance helpline through the use of media and outreach to hunger relief agencies. After headlines in Detroit and outstate newspapers, the web-based Food Stamp calculator CCJ maintains with MPLP

A young mother with two small sons received threatening phone calls from collection agencies and was denied home financing because her credit report incorrectly showed unpaid medical bills. With CCJ's intervention, the hospital revised its mis-coding of these charges, billed the correct provider and took all accounts off her credit report. With a clear credit report, this family will now be able to pursue their dream of home ownership.

received 1600 "hits" in two days. As a result of the helpline's success in screening over 2000 persons during the year, CCJ formalized a partnership with MSU Extension whose food and nutrition project now helps to fund the helpline. This work has also led to identifying and correcting broader legal problems such as improperly counting aid to families who have adopted special needs children in calculating food assistance for which they are eligible under the law. CCJ also received a subgrant from LSEM to assist with developing training materials to help community members identify and stop financial exploitation of senior citizens.

A disabled 56-year-old could not meet living expenses and also pay \$500 per month for prescriptions after his food assistance was cut off. CCJ helped educate the woman's case worker about policies under the law that require taking into account necessary medical costs. Now this woman receives critically-needed hunger relief and can also obtain the medicine she needs to survive.

CCJ Sources of Funding for 2002: \$464,069



CENTER FOR CIVIL JUSTICE

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

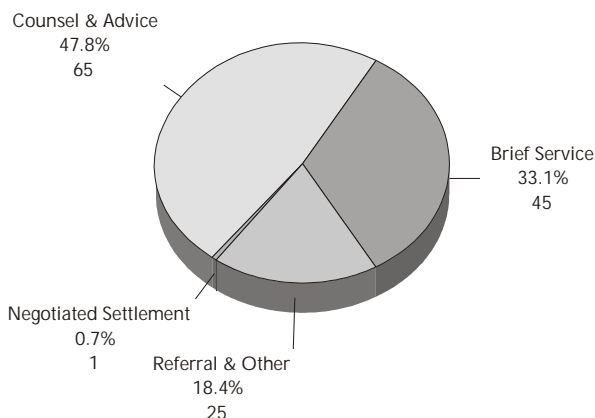
Community Outreach and Collaboration. CCJ provides training, information and tools to assist low-income families and the agencies that help them. For example, CCJ spoke to groups of disadvantaged parents about ways to combine work and education, even if they are still dependent on public assistance, as well as how they can communicate with state agencies about support needed to help low-wage workers move out of poverty. CCJ also worked with students at Carnegie Mellon University to develop a paper and online booklet that can be used by low-income families that include a disabled person to help them convey their special needs to state welfare to work agencies. CCJ prepared and distributed over 60 “alerts” and pamphlets to help local agencies and programs throughout the state become aware of legal issues affecting low-income clients. CCJ offered over 20 legal education trainings to legal aid advocates, community organizations and low-income persons to help them prevent or solve legal problems. In addition, CCJ helped facilitate many meetings of agencies and advocates discussing community needs and law-related solutions in its locale.

Client Age	
18 & Under	9
19-59	126
60 & Over	8
Groups	0
Total	143

Pro Bono Support. CCJ worked with an attorney from Cooley Law School to develop a new form and instructions for a “parental power of attorney” document designed for use with kinship caregivers. CCJ also worked with four private attorneys and the State Bar’s Open Justice Commission to develop the text for a series of educational pamphlets on juvenile justice issues. Because of the complex nature of its cases, CCJ does not maintain its own pro bono panel but uses the state’s MI-LAPP program for private attorney assistance when needed.

Client Ethnicity	
White	82
Black	34
Hispanic	14
Native American	1
Asian	0
Other	12
Total	143

CCJ Types of Service in 2002



CCJ Cases Closed in 2002: 143

