

LEGAL AID AND DEFENDER ASSOCIATION

2003 LAD Office Locations: Detroit, Pontiac and Clinton Township

LAD Service Area: Wayne, Oakland and Macomb Counties

Service Population: 569,314 individuals living at or below 125% of the poverty level



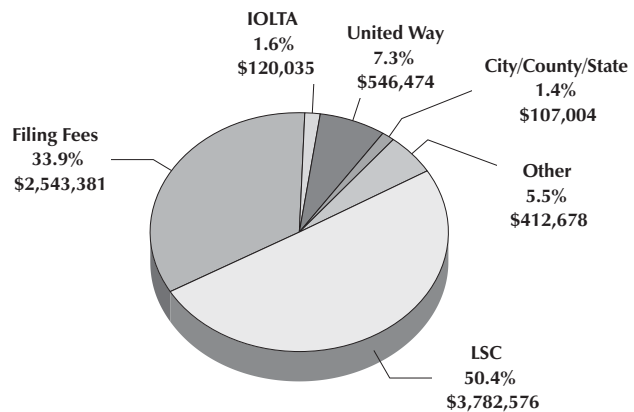
In 2003, LAD expanded into a tri-county region, serving clients in Wayne, Oakland and Macomb Counties. During the transition, LAD worked closely with local courts, bar associations, and human service agencies in Macomb and Oakland Counties to establish a presence and provide quality legal services to low-income residents in the tri-county area. LAD established local offices in Macomb and Oakland Counties and assured that clients from those

A senior citizen was worried that his family could lose their car should he become disabled. Therefore, he accepted the disability insurance option when buying the family's used car. He always made the required payments, but the insurance company wrongfully denied his claim when he eventually became disabled. A LAD pro bono lawyer obtained a settlement for the amount the insurance company should have paid. This senior and his family were able to keep their car to meet their transportation needs.

counties have access to legal offices in the community legal outreach sites as well as a designated legal intake telephone line so that they do not have to compete with Wayne County callers for assistance. Additionally, in 2003 LAD implemented a paperless file service delivery system in which all client documents, pleadings, etc. are kept electronically to enable LAD staff to quickly access client data from inner office or remote locations to more effectively and efficiently serve clients' needs. Also in 2003, after some courts had limited fee waivers to persons receiving food stamps, LAD worked with the State Court Administrative Office and others to clarify the law and remove the restriction. Fee waivers are now available to help all indigent persons access the justice system.

Due to language barriers, a disabled Spanish-speaking man was not able to understand the requirements for his upcoming disability benefits hearing. LAD's Spanish-speaking staff obtained a postponement to secure an interpreter and collect additional medical information so the man could receive a full and fair review. At the rescheduled hearing, the administrative law judge found that the man clearly qualified for the federal disability assistance.

LAD Sources of Funding for 2003: \$ 7,512,148



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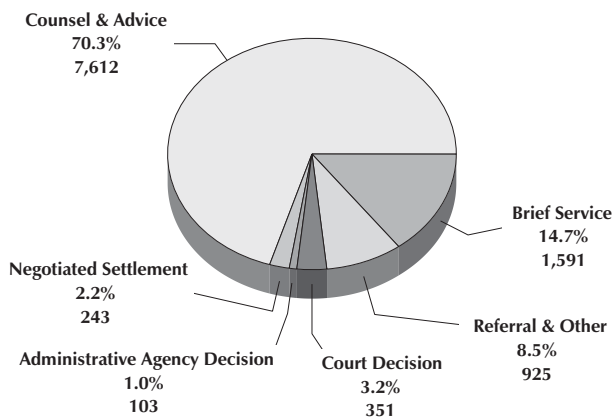
Community Outreach and Collaboration. In 2003, LAD coordinated the First Annual Senior Legal Empowerment Day in partnership with the Detroit Area Agency on Aging and the NAACP’s Freedom Institute. Over 350 seniors attended workshops on topics such as public benefits presented by a Social Security representative, an estate planning workshop conducted by a pro bono attorney, and a session on consumer issues presented by LAD staff. Assistance for homeless veterans was provided through LAD’s Veterans Independence Project, a collaborative with the Detroit Rescue Mission. On-site services at the Veteran’s Center assist those transitioning from homelessness to permanent housing and economic stability. LAD also continued weekly sessions on legal problems for teen mothers enrolled at Detroit’s three alternative schools for girls and at ACCESS, an agency that provides assistance to the Arab community. Agency materials were also translated into Arabic to reach out to others in the Arabic-speaking community.

Client Age	
18 & Under	92
19-59	8,464
60 & Over	2,269
Groups	0
Total	10,825

Pro Bono Support. In addition to continuing referrals to and support for the Detroit Metropolitan Bar Associations’ Legal Service Clinic, in 2003 LAD’s Private Attorney Involvement Unit expanded its recruitment efforts to include attorneys in Oakland and Macomb Counties, joining with local bar groups to develop a coordinated pro bono approach with other programs in the region. The Oakland County Bar Association partnered with LAD to share pro bono lists and jointly prepare literature designed to increase pro bono participation. LAD participated in similar activities in Macomb County. During 2003, volunteers from all three counties were actively engaged in pro se clinics, handling of individual cases and, in Oakland County, assisting staff with intake at outreach sites. Pro Bono attorneys give LAD the capacity to serve more clients effectively, leverage resources and develop new and different solutions to legal issues facing clients in the region.

Client Ethnicity	
White	2,707
Black	7,665
Hispanic	295
Native American	21
Asian	33
Other	104
Total	10,825

LAD Types of Service in 2003



LAD Cases Closed in 2003: 10,825

