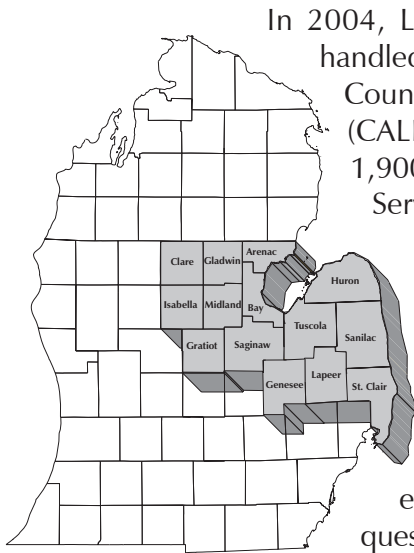


# LAKESHORE LEGAL AID

2004 LLA Office Locations: Caro, Clinton Township, Port Huron and Southfield

**LLA Service Area:** Arenac, Bay, Clare, Genesee, Gladwin, Gratiot, Huron, Isabella, Lapeer, Macomb, Midland, Saginaw, St. Clair, Sanilac and Tuscola Counties; also senior services in Oakland County

**Service Population:** 213,110 individuals living at or below 125% of the poverty level



In 2004, Lakeshore Legal Aid (LLA) handled 5,332 client cases with its Counsel and Advocacy Law Line (CALL), assisting approximately 1,900 additional clients for Legal Services of Northern Michigan, Legal Aid of Western Michigan and Legal Services of South Central Michigan. LLA continues to provide telephone hotline intake and brief services through the CALL hotline. Experienced CALL attorneys answer

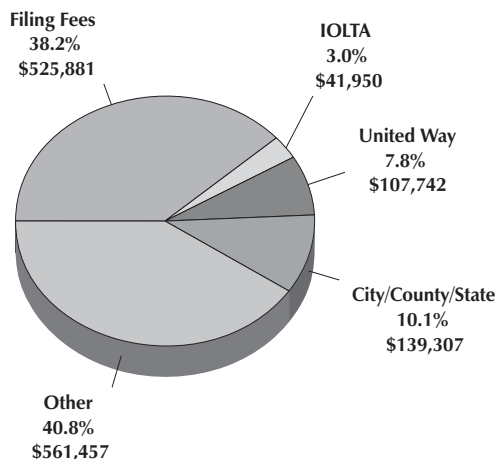
An elderly widow's home of 40 years fell into disrepair after the death of her husband. Losing her husband also caused her income to decrease substantially so she was unable to pay for needed repairs. LLA helped her obtain a HUD loan that would suspend payments until the home was sold. This made it possible for the senior to remain in her long-time home, which was now habitable with repaired roofing and plumbing.

questions, provide advice or negotiate a solution to a client's problem, resolving more than 60 percent of client calls for help over the phone. LLA also offers self-

help materials for clients able to proceed on their own with CALL attorneys remaining available to help overcome stumbling blocks encountered in the court system. Attorneys in LLA's local field offices also provided extended legal assistance to 562 clients. In 2004, nearly 2,400 people were provided with information on their legal rights and responsibilities through face to face community presentations and materials. In rural areas, LLA continues to work with local shelters, judges, prosecutors, and law enforcement in Coordinated Community Councils to support the use of First Response Teams and established protocols to help all agencies effectively respond to domestic violence cases.

An elderly man living alone was convinced by a well drilling company that his well would go dry and a new well was needed or he would not be able to sell his home as planned. When the drilling company did not hit water, the senior did not make payments and the company put a lien on his home. LLA successfully litigated to remove the lien so the senior could sell his home.

**LLA Sources of Funding for 2004: \$ 1,376,337**



# LAKESHORE LEGAL AID

Contact: William R. Knight, Jr., Executive Director • (586) 469-5903

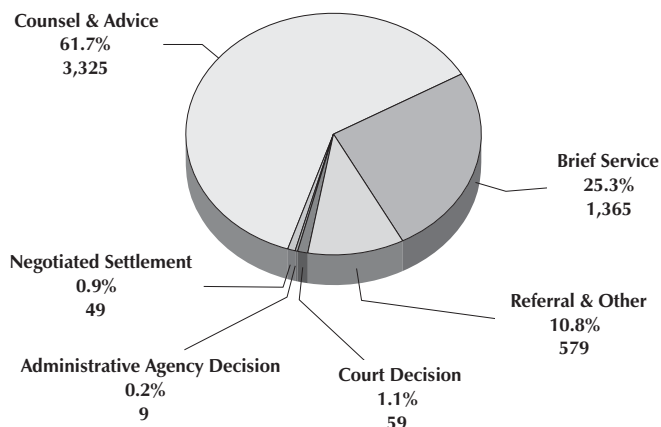
**Community Outreach and Collaboration.** LLA staff continue to serve on community boards such as emergency shelter coalitions, domestic violence councils, area food programs, community action groups, and coalitions serving seniors. CALL also developed an electronic referral manual with information on hundreds of agencies allowing for accurate referrals to assist callers. In 2004, LLA helped to convene local landlords to talk with program advocates and local shelter representatives about domestic violence dynamics and the difficulty that victims have escaping their situation when they cannot find a place to live. Lack of access to funds for a security deposit is often a barrier which prevents a survivor's independence. From LLA's efforts to convene and educate landlords, at least one landlord agreed to assist women leaving the shelter to rent his units without a security deposit. Other landlords agreed to work with the shelters to help place survivors into low income housing units, allowing many women and children the opportunity to escape violent situations and secure a safe environment.

Client Age	
18 & Under	44
19-59	2,859
60 & Over	2,483
Groups	0
Total	5,386

**Pro Bono Support.** Lakeshore focuses its pro bono efforts mainly in the area of domestic violence and senior work, partnering with domestic violence shelters and senior service agencies to recruit specialized pro bono panels. LLA also worked closely with the Saginaw Bar Association where members of the Senior Bar Association offer advice, counsel and brief services to senior clients pro bono at outreach sites in Saginaw County. LLA's general pro bono panels use a variety of methods to assist low-income clients; taking individual cases or assisting at outreach events, self-help clinics, or trainings. LLA uses a mentoring approach to pro bono work by matching less experienced pro bono lawyers with others who have more expertise.

Client Ethnicity	
White	4,706
Black	387
Hispanic	116
Native American	37
Asian	21
Other	119
Total	5,386

LLA Types of Service in 2004



LLA Cases Closed in 2004: 5,386

