

LEGAL AID AND DEFENDER ASSOCIATION

2006 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



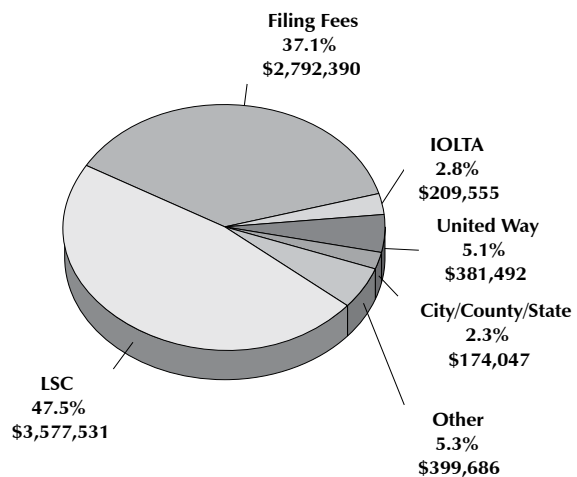
In 2006, LAD opened the Legal Aid for Children (LAC) office at the Children’s Hospital of Michigan. LAC educates medical professionals to recognize and refer civil legal issues creating barriers to improvements in children’s health. In the first months of operation, LAC assisted 146 children and their families with legal problems in landlord/

LAD works in partnership with the Wayne County Treasurer to conduct clinics where residents are assisted in completing and filing hardship applications for additional time to pay delinquent 2003 property taxes. During 2006, 100% of the applications with which LAD assisted were granted, avoiding homelessness for many low-income families.

tenant, medical benefits, special education or other legal matters which were inhibiting the family’s ability to improve the child’s medical health. LAD also assisted families threatened with losing their homes because of foreclosure rescue scams in which “investors” induce the homeowner into transferring ownership to “save” the home and then steal the home equity. LAD staff helped create a task force with the Michigan Poverty Law Program which collaborates with the Michigan Attorney General’s office in stopping these scams. LAD attorneys also assisted the local district court in drafting a court rule to specify requirements for bringing legal collection actions against consumers. Prior to the new court rule, suits were filed with little or no documentation of the debt, or they misidentified the consumer. The new court rule has stopped many mistaken or improper lawsuits from going forward against low-income consumers who are ill-equipped to defend against such actions.

A mother lives with a son who suffers from renal disease and was receiving dialysis. After she fell behind in her mortgage payments, she and her son were in danger of losing their home. LAD negotiated a loan modification which incorporated the arrearage into the balance and enabled her to afford future payments by only paying \$10 more per month allowing this family to keep their home and continue the son’s dialysis treatment uninterrupted.

LAD Sources of Funding for 2006: \$ 7,534,701



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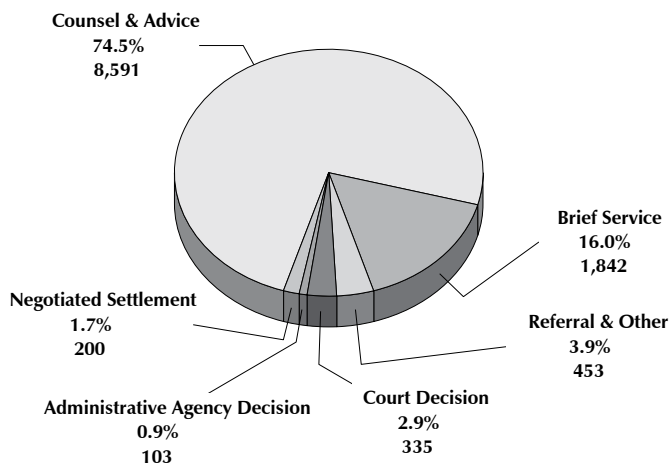
Community Outreach and Collaboration. LAD continues regular outreach in the community through participation in resource and community fairs, schools, human service organizations, informational fairs, veteran’s centers and homeless centers. Outreach topics include home and automobile insurance, education cases, consumer issues, public benefits, housing, guardianship and obtaining birth certificates and other forms of identification. LAD also provides bilingual outreach at ACCESS (a human services organization that serves the Middle East community) and at various community centers in collaboration with the Oakland Coalition of Hispanic Services and Macomb Hispanic Coalition. LAD has also created 13 different community legal education seminars and accompanying material (translated into Spanish and Arabic) that staff and pro bono attorneys use to provide legal information to eligible clients, including collaboration with ACCESS and others to provide court information in Arabic on the internet.

Client Age	
18 & Under	142
19-59	9,434
60 & Over	1,948
Groups	0
Total	11,524

Pro Bono Support. In 2006, LAD closed 762 pro bono cases providing civil legal services to low-income people. LAD has worked with the Oakland County Bar Association, Cooley Law School at Oakland University, and the HELP Task force to develop a coordinated pro bono effort. LAD also temporarily handled the domestic pro se seminars when a local shelter closed and shared pro se expertise with the new pro se providers at Oakland University. LAD helped prepare recruitment literature to increase pro bono attorney participation. Similarly, in Macomb County, LAD works with the Macomb County Bar Association and other legal services providers to coordinate county-wide pro bono efforts. LAD also continues to refer cases to the Detroit Metropolitan Bar Association’s Detroit Legal Services Clinic and support the Free Legal Aid Clinic at Wayne State University where law students provide supervised assistance in domestic cases.

Client Ethnicity	
White	3,089
Black	8,013
Hispanic	233
Native American	23
Asian	36
Other	130
Total	11,524

LAD Types of Service in 2006



LAD Cases Closed in 2006: 11,524

