

# MICHIGAN LEGAL SERVICES

2006 MLS Office Locations: Detroit

**MLS Service Area:** Wayne, Oakland and Macomb Counties\*; Statewide

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



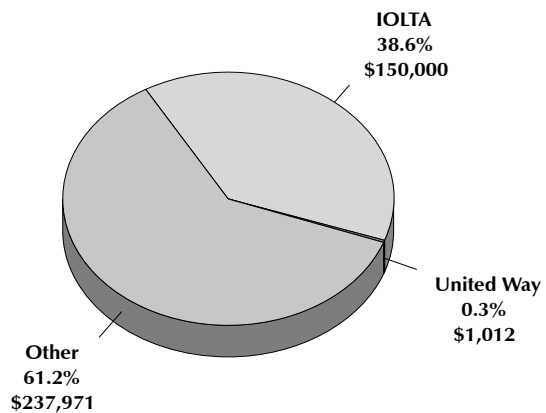
MLS provides legal services to address housing and community development, health, (including mental health), public benefits, and other systemic legal needs of low-income clients in the Detroit Metro area. In 2006, MLS and the United Community Housing Coalition conducted extensive outreach to 4,700 families facing tax foreclosure that prevented the loss of 4,600 owner-

Through the CLR program at MLS, pro bono legal assistance was provided to Detroit's largest family shelter to enable it to develop a permanent supportive and transitional housing development on Detroit's west side. As a result of these efforts, a 56 unit apartment complex was renovated to provide housing with supportive services for homeless individuals and families.

occupied homes in Detroit. MLS also represented 800,000 children in their effort to obtain access to the Early and Periodic Screening and Treatment health program. In addition, MLS operates an anti-homeless project providing legal assistance to families with domestic violence or other issues causing homelessness for at-risk families. MLS serves eligible nonprofit community organizations through Community Legal Resources (CLR) which uses volunteer business lawyers to assist nonprofit organizations throughout Michigan with transactional legal problems. MLS also serves as counsel for a number of community groups on various public benefits, utilities, housing, community development, health and transportation issues. Local impacts of this effort include a water affordability plan for Detroit addressing 40,000 annual water shut-offs, the prevention of the loss of 8,000 homes in the last three years to tax foreclosure, and the establishment of two additional free federal health care clinics in Detroit.

An elderly homeless man with severe mental illness was finally able to obtain permanent housing in a subsidized housing development with rents affordable for his very low income. However, the housing was threatened because he was not able to maintain his apartment. When he faced eviction, MLS sought and obtained benefits to support a chore services worker to assist him with daily activities so that he could remain in his home.

**MLS Sources of Funding for 2006: \$ 388,983**



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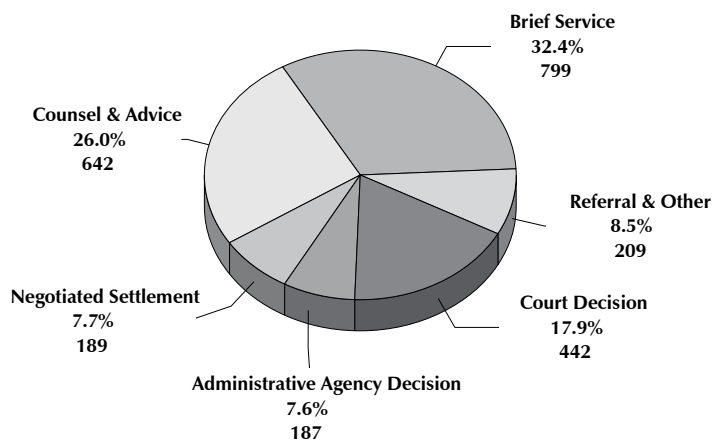
**Community Outreach and Collaboration.** In 2006, the Community Legal Resources (CLR) program of MLS facilitated pro bono lawyer services for 127 nonprofit organizations. These services have an estimated value of \$500,000. CLR also offers free legal education opportunities to the community with various trainings for nonprofits and regular communication about legal issues through the CLR newsletter, Legal Lines for Nonprofits and “E-Briefs.” Publication of the quarterly CLR newsletter now reaches more than 1700 community groups, nonprofit technical assistance providers and trade associations, volunteer attorneys, potential volunteers, and donors. MLS is an active participant in numerous community organizations and annually provides legal services for 250 community organizations in Detroit’s block grant process.

Client Age	
18 & Under	0
19-59	2,060
60 & Over	344
Groups	64
Total	2,468

**Pro Bono Support.** In 2006, CLR provided legal assistance through pro bono lawyers on 165 legal matters for 127 nonprofit organizations engaged in various efforts to rebuild communities through a variety of social and economic development services for low-income individuals and families. Pro bono attorneys provide advice and counsel, direct representation and conduct trainings for client groups, or draft legal educational materials useful to community organizations and their clients. CLR also completed legal audits for 40 nonprofit organizations conducted by pro bono attorneys. These audits helped the groups to determine any legal needs and strengthened their capacity to operate legally. MLS has also received significant support from private attorneys in complex litigation.

Client Ethnicity	
White	101
Black	2,242
Hispanic	61
Native American	0
Asian	0
Other	64
Total	2,468

MLS Types of Service in 2006



MLS Cases Closed in 2006: 2,468

