

ELDER LAW OF MICHIGAN

2007 ELM Office Locations: Lansing

ELM Service Area: Statewide

Service Population: 237,519 individuals living at or below 125% of the poverty level



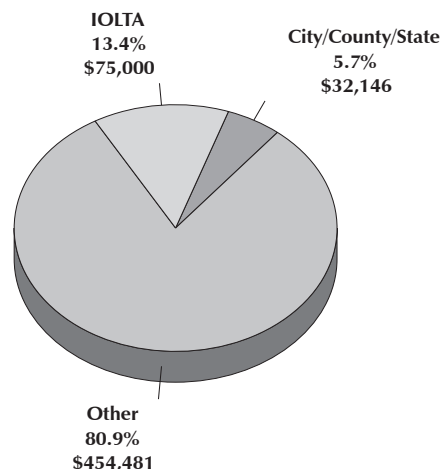
In 2007, ELM's Legal Hotline for Michigan Seniors (LHMS) gave advice and help to 4,728 low-income seniors with a wide variety of legal problems, a 17% increase over 2006. By providing civil legal services over the phone, ELM is able to overcome many of the barriers seniors face when seeking help for legal problems, such as social or geographic isolation, transportation difficulties,

A 74 year old mother whose only income was social security co-signed an auto loan for her son to "lend" him her good credit so he could buy a car. The credit union threatened to sue her after the son stopped making payments. After ELM explained that the lender could repossess the vehicle but could not take her small social security check, she said a great weight had been lifted from her shoulders.

disabilities, or illness. LHMS provided brief services, such as document review or preparation, to 22% of the callers. The ELM Pension Rights Project recovered over \$1.7 million for individuals with pension problems as a result of company mergers, closures, or dissolutions which helped sustain many seniors' independence and created a stable home life for many families. ELM also operates the MI CAFÉ Project which helps low-income seniors navigate the legal requirements in applying for public benefits. In 2007, MI CAFÉ served 1,175 seniors, assisting them in securing Food Assistance and Medicaid benefits, providing vulnerable seniors with better nutrition and often preserving meager income for needed medicines, housing and utilities. The MiCAFE program expanded its services in Wayne County, helping over 900 low-income older adult households apply for food and health assistance.

An elderly woman suffered from a severe form of eczema which caused her much pain. She was greatly helped by her doctors' ultraviolet light machine. When a machine was not available after she moved to a northern area of the state, her doctor told her Medicare would cover her costs to purchase one. After Medicare denied her claim, ELM helped her successfully appeal and reverse that decision. Now she has the medical treatment she needs.

ELM Sources of Funding for 2007: \$ 561,627



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Contact: Kate B. White, Executive Director • (517) 485-9164

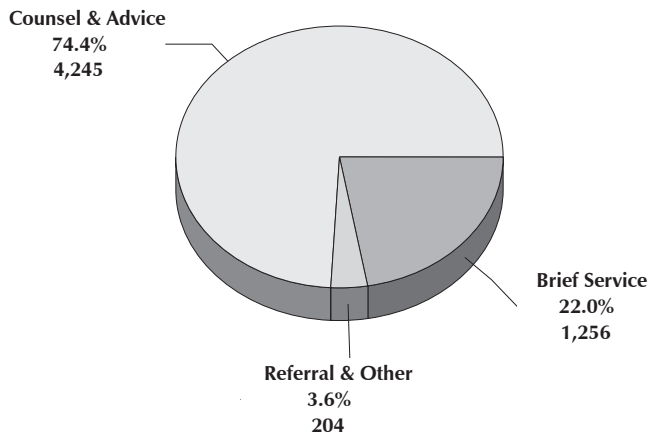
Community Outreach and Collaboration. ELM staff participated in the Governor’s Task Forces on Long Term Care and on Elder Abuse and on the Consumer Task Force for The Department of Community Health. In addition, ELM’s Consumer Fraud Prevention Project trained volunteers over 50 to make calls to vulnerable elders to offer tips to protect them from telemarketing fraud and other scams. ELM mailed letters to nursing home and assisted living staff throughout the state to educate them about alternatives to guardianship and to encourage them to refer family members and potential residents to ELM’s website for more information. In 2007, ELM presented at the Michigan Hospice and Palliative Care Organization’s annual conference to explain tools and forms available to individuals needing options for end of life planning. This information was provided to social workers who will be able to share this information with hospice clients and other family members.

Client Age	
18 & Under	4
19-59	471
60 & Over	5,230
Groups	0
Total	5,705

Pro Bono Support. In 2007 ELM increased the number of pro bono and reduced fee attorneys willing to take cases each year to help low-income seniors with their extended legal needs around the state. ELM continues to work with the MI Litigation Assistance Partnership Project to use pro bono attorneys to assist with the drafting and filing of Qualified Domestic Relations Orders for the Pension Project where the intervention has secured retirement benefits for low-income divorced persons, helping to literally lift those families out of poverty. ELM also receives pro bono financial donations from lawyers through the Access to Justice Fund.

Client Ethnicity	
White	3,967
Black	1,605
Hispanic	22
Native American	29
Asian	21
Other	61
Total	5,705

ELM Types of Service in 2007



ELM Cases Closed in 2007: 5,705

