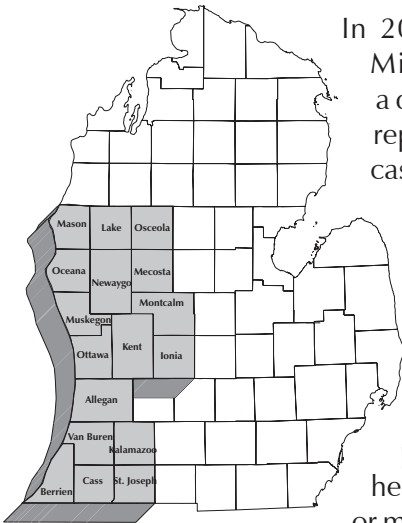


LEGAL AID OF WESTERN MICHIGAN

2007 LAWM Office Locations: Big Rapids, Grand Rapids, Holland, Kalamazoo, Muskegon, Niles, and St. Joseph

LAWM Service Area: Allegan, Berrien, Cass, Ionia, Kalamazoo, Kent, Lake, Mason, Mecosta, Montcalm, Muskegon, Newaygo, Oceana, Osceola, Ottawa, St. Joseph, and Van Buren Counties

Service Population: 261,773 individuals living at or below 125% of the poverty level



In 2007, Legal Aid of Western Michigan (LAWM) provided advice, counsel, and representation to 2,420 housing cases so that families avoided homelessness, litigated 616 family law cases involving spouse abuse, child abuse, or the defense of a custody matter to provide security for families and represented 206 disabled persons at administrative hearings, helping clients receive or maintain critical health care and

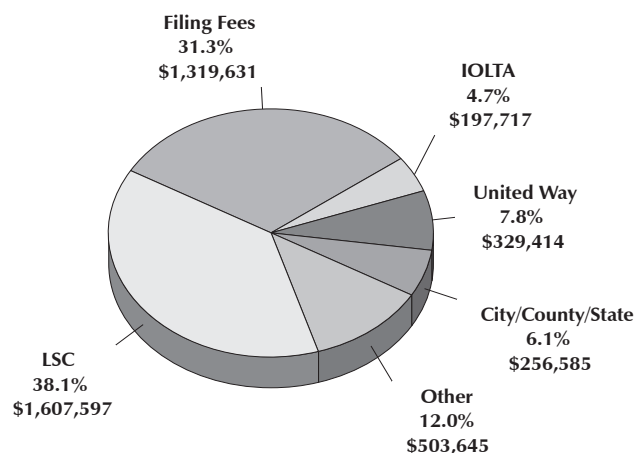
An elderly widow fell behind on her mortgage which put her house into foreclosure. LAWM found the mortgage had numerous predatory terms, including that the adjustable rate would make payments impossible with her modest income and that the lender failed to make disclosures required by law. LAWM obtained an agreement that reduced the woman's balance and fixed her interest rate so that her payments were affordable and she could keep the house.

stable income maintenance. LAWM also partnered with the Counsel & Advocacy

Law Line (CALL) for western Michigan low-income residents to receive advice and counsel from attorneys over the phone. Special projects in 2007 included LAWM's Reentry Law Project attorney working with the State Bar and State Appellate Defender Officer to develop and distribute a questionnaire on the civil consequences of criminal convictions to alert criminal defense lawyers to civil legal issues at the outset so that they may be able to mitigate the effects. In addition, LAWM provides content for the Reentry Law Website which received 10,000 hits and provides materials online for lawyers, human services providers and clients. LAWM's Consumer Law Fellow filed the 25th lawsuit involving predatory lending issues, with nearly all the cases having positive outcomes for LAWM clients.

An illiterate, disabled woman did not understand why the Social Security Administration wanted repayment of her benefits. LAWM's investigation determined that someone else had been using her social security number which showed earnings she did not and was not able to produce due to her disability. The case was resolved so she could keep the funds she needed, and the improper use of her Social Security number was reported to appropriate agencies.

LAWM Sources of Funding for 2007: \$ 4,214,589



LEGAL AID OF WESTERN MICHIGAN

Contact: Michael C. Chielens, Executive Director • (616) 774-0672

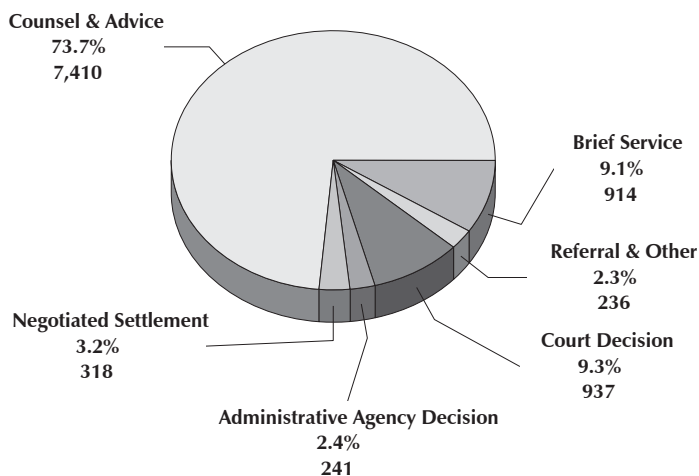
Community Outreach and Collaboration. In 2007, LAWM continued to use many opportunities to provide clients with access to legal services, including meeting clients at courthouses, domestic violence and homeless shelters, churches, community action agencies or senior centers. To broaden outreach to rural populations, LAWM again conducted an all-day education event in Kalamazoo County attended by over 75 human service agency staff who learned how to recognize civil legal problems and make appropriate referrals. LAWM staff also continued to assist and provide legal support for the staff of the Kent County Legal Assistance Center (LAC) which provides pro se help and legal information assisting nearly 1,000 patrons a month on a variety of legal forms and procedures. LAWM staff also participate in numerous community events and regularly make presentations on legal issues, such as community workshops on expungements, child support, employment rights, and other topics, several of which were in collaboration with MI Works!

Client Age	
18 & Under	116
19-59	8,888
60 & Over	1,052
Groups	0
Total	10,056

Pro Bono Support. In 2007, pro bono attorneys volunteered their time to close 181 individual cases in which seventy-two percent were resolved after litigation in court or before an administrative agency. The pro bono program also raised over \$211,000 in donations with 80% contributed for LAWM through the Access to Justice Fund. LAWM also continues to support the Kalamazoo County Bar Association pro bono clinics, which occur several times a month, where pro bono attorneys give advice and counsel and conduct evening intake at area community centers. LAWM held pro bono recognition events in Grand Rapids and Kalamazoo honoring the top pro bono lawyers in each community.

Client Ethnicity	
White	6,946
Black	2,228
Hispanic	488
Native American	130
Asian	31
Other	233
Total	10,056

LAWM Types of Service in 2007



LAWM Cases Closed in 2007: 10,056

