

MICHIGAN LEGAL SERVICES

2007 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



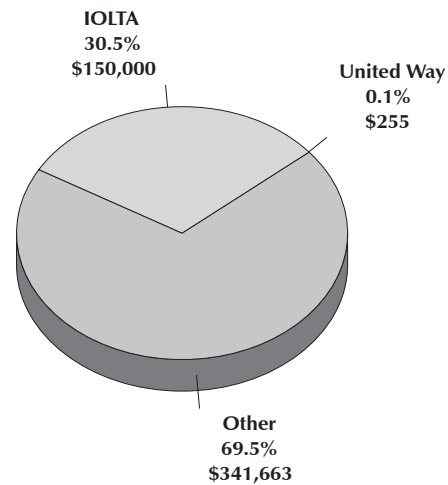
MLS provides legal services to address systemic legal needs of low-income clients in the Detroit Metro area. MLS operates an anti-homeless project providing legal assistance to families with domestic violence or other issues causing homelessness for at-risk families and served more than 700 households in this program in 2007. MLS also successfully represented thousands of children to obtain

Homeless families attempting to relocate had been stymied by utility arrearages which prevent them from establishing utility service at a new address. MLS convinced The Heat & Warmth (THAW) Fund to develop a program to help these families to help pay the arrearages, enabling them to establish utility service at a new address without needing a large deposit, helping to stop the homelessness cycle for these families.

access to the Early and Periodic Screening and Treatment health program which will now have additional outreach to enroll children statewide in the program. In 2007, MLS and the United Community Housing Coalition conducted extensive outreach to 6,500 families facing tax foreclosure in Detroit that prevented the loss of these owner-occupied homes. MLS also serves as counsel for a number of community groups on various public benefits, utilities, housing, community development, health and transportation issues. Recent local impacts of MLS efforts include a water affordability mitigating 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. MLS also served eligible nonprofit community organizations through a subcontract with the Community Legal Resources (CLR), which uses volunteer business lawyers to assist nonprofit organizations with transactional legal problems.

Through the CLR program, 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 westside. As a result, a 56 unit apartment complex was renovated to provide housing with supportive services for homeless individuals and families.

MLS Sources of Funding for 2007: \$ 491,918



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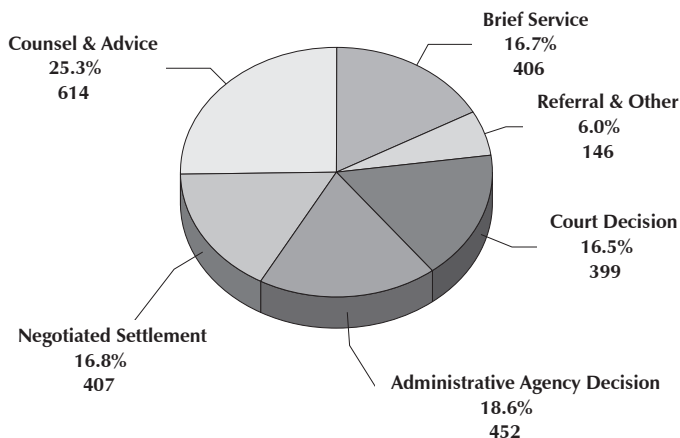
Community Outreach and Collaboration. MLS is an active participant in numerous community organizations and annually provides legal services for 250 community organizations in Detroit's block grant process. MLS also provides educational materials on legal topics and conducts various trainings such as a session at a local nonprofit agency for 200 families concerning prevalent mortgage scams. MLS has also conducted intake off site to reach those in need, e.g. at the county Treasurers office for those with tax foreclosure problems. 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. 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.

Client Age	
18 & Under	0
19-59	2,039
60 & Over	334
Groups	51
Total	2,424

Pro Bono Support. In 2007, CLR provided legal assistance through pro bono lawyers on 183 legal matters for 135 nonprofit organizations for an estimated value of \$500,000. Pro bono attorneys provide advice and counsel, direct representation and conduct trainings for client groups or draft legal educational materials for organizations and their clients. CLR also completed legal audits for several nonprofit agencies conducted by pro bono attorneys to determine legal needs and strengthen their operating capacity. MLS has gotten significant support from private attorneys in complex litigation and receives pro bono financial donations through the Access to Justice Fund.

Client Ethnicity	
White	96
Black	2,218
Hispanic	59
Native American	0
Asian	0
Other	51
Total	2,424

MLS Types of Service in 2007



MLS Cases Closed in 2007: 2,424

