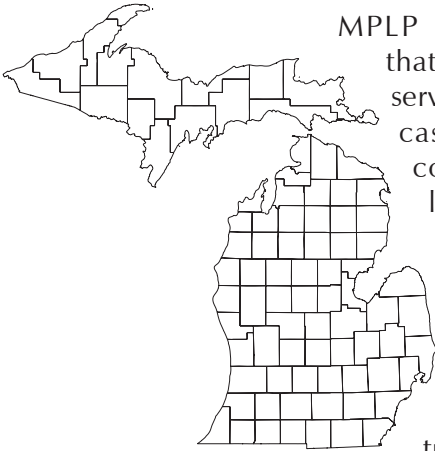


MICHIGAN POVERTY LAW PROGRAM

2007 MPLP Office Locations: Ann Arbor and Lansing

MPLP Service Area: Statewide

Service Population: Legal services programs in Michigan



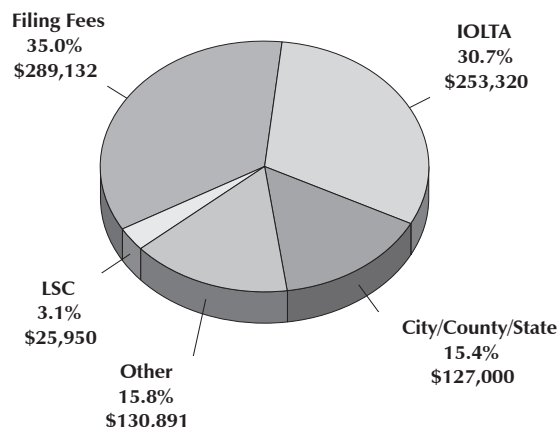
MPLP is a statewide program that supports Michigan legal services providers with direct case assistance, advocacy coordination, substantive law and skills trainings, and technology. MPLP received 1,987 requests for service from legal aid programs, an increase of almost 300 requests from last year. MPLP provides outreach, trainings, and presentations to legal services programs and

other nonprofit agencies in areas such as elder law, consumer law, housing, family law, and public benefits. MPLP provided 16 days of training for 480 attendees and convened 20 task force meetings (including 16 mini-seminars) in legal practice areas that attracted an additional 300 persons. MPLP works with the Michigan Advocacy Project (MAP) on systemic issues such as those affecting the elderly, housing, family law and the mortgage foreclosure crisis. MPLP also assists the state's technology initiatives, such as the Case Q Project that will create a cross platform case transfer system in the Pika case management system so that programs can electronically transfer client case files. MPLP also provides support for the Earned Income Tax Credit electronic tax filing project, which helped secure approximately \$8.7 million in total refunds for Michigan with 7,749 users for the 2007 tax season. This amount is a dramatic increase from 2006, when 2,280 users obtained \$2.5 million in tax refunds.

A nursing home intended to discharge an Alzheimer's patient in the last weeks of his life to a facility more than two hours away from his wife's home. MPLP negotiated with the facility's lawyer to forestall the discharge and engaged the local legal aid program to co-counsel an appeal. Before the appeal was filed, and thanks to the additional time, the wife was able to move her husband to a facility near her son's home where she and other family were able to visit frequently until his death.

After a former student experienced a mental health episode, he became unemployed and unable to pay his student loan. The lender sued him for a huge sum for collection costs in addition to what was owed on the loan. MPLP obtained an agreement to reduce the collection costs to a small amount and begin a payment plan for the loan balance with affordable installments for the student.

MPLP Sources of Funding for 2007: \$ 826,293



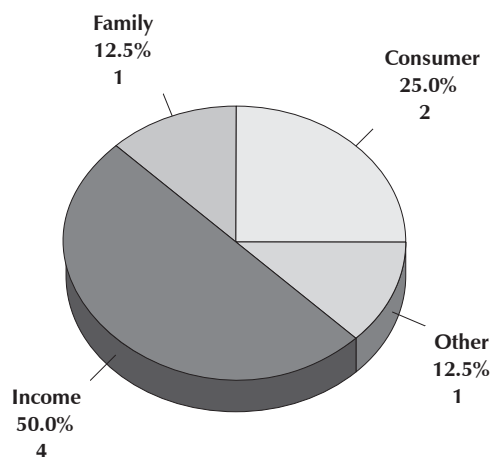
MICHIGAN POVERTY LAW PROGRAM

Contact: Robert F. Gillett, Director • (734) 665-6181

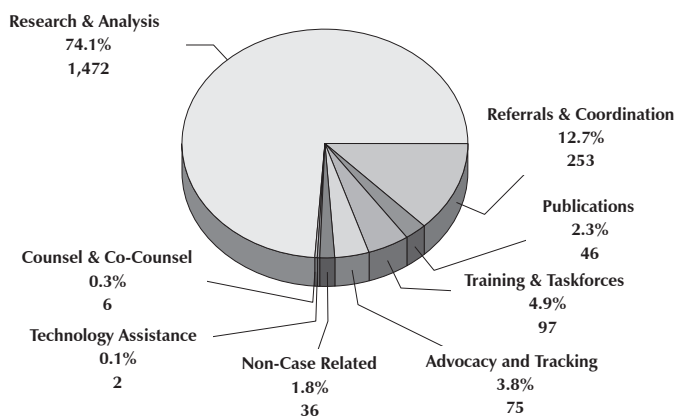
Community Outreach and Collaboration. In 2007, MPLP continued to maintain and update the statewide client website www.michiganlegalaid.org which includes legal educational materials, self-help materials and links to forms regarding housing, consumer, family, and consumer law and income maintenance. MPLP, working with Legal Aid of Western Michigan, continued to host and support the Wiki website supporting prisoner re-entry advocacy in Michigan. MPLP also worked with the State Long Term Care Ombudsman Program, the ARC of Michigan, the Michigan Disability Rights Coalition, the Michigan Quality Care Community Council, and Michigan Protection and Advocacy Service on long term care issues through the creation of Single Points of Entry (SPEs) in four regions of Michigan. SPEs are “one stop shopping” agencies where consumers can get information about long term care, assessments for all available government programs, support in creating a person-centered long term care plan, and advocacy to ensure the plan is implemented well. MPLP also worked with the Michigan Foreclosure Task Force to coordinate advocacy and address issues regarding the state’s mortgage foreclosure crisis.

Pro Bono Support. MPLP has three major pro bono initiatives : 1) utilizing many pro bono attorneys as trainers at MPLP task force meetings and trainings; 2) consulting with programs that are developing statewide pro bono initiatives to address unmet legal needs; 3) consulting with programs that need assistance with complex cases or cases that raise statewide issues. On a case by case basis, MPLP assists local programs in identifying possible pro bono attorneys. MPLP also co-counsels cases with pro bono lawyers and uses many pro bono lawyers as trainers. MPLP receives pro bono financial donations through the Access to Justice Fund.

MPLP Cases Closed in 2007: 8



MPLP Types of Activity in 2007



MPLP Completed Activities in 2007: 1,987

