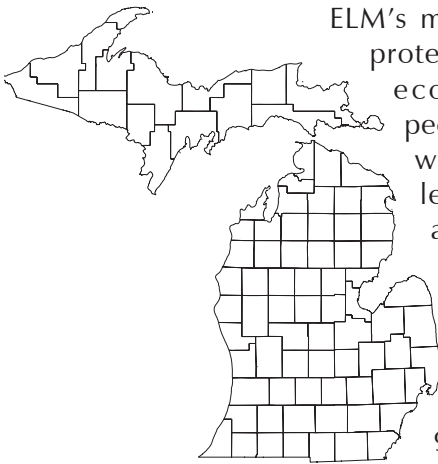


ELDER LAW OF MICHIGAN

2008 ELM Office Locations: Lansing

ELM Service Area: Statewide

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



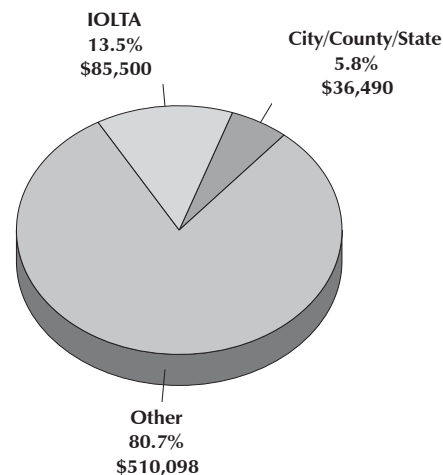
ELM's mission is to promote and protect the rights, health and economic well being of people as they age or those with disabilities by providing legal advice, information, advocacy, and professional services. In 2008, ELM's Legal Hotline for Michigan Seniors (LHMS) and the Pension Rights Project handled 6,408 cases, a 9% increase over 2007. Additionally, LHMS attorneys

Many seniors whose only income is Social Security call the Hotline after receiving receiving notice that that their bank account is going to be garnished. When that is the only income in the account, it is exempt from garnishment. In response, the Hotline created a brochure on how to file an objection to the garnishment order. By following these instructions, the senior can protect the only money that is available to them to live on.

were able to give brief services to 15% of the callers. The ELM Pension Rights Project recovered over \$3.8 million for individuals, helping to sustain those seniors' independence and a stable home life for many families. 70% of these clients resided in households with a total income of \$20,000 or less. ELM also operates the MI CAFÉ Project which uses trained volunteers to help low-income seniors with the requirements of applying for public benefits. In 2008, MI CAFÉ served over 2,100 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. In 2008, the MI CAFÉ project continued to further expand into Wayne County.

The Hotline offers public benefit screening and regularly finds that older adults who have aged into poverty for the first time are not aware of benefits for which they may be eligible. This screening results in applications for and enrollment in programs like Medicare Savings, Medicaid, Home Help, Medicare Part D, Food Stamps and State Emergency Relief, providing additional benefits that dramatically improve the quality of life for these low income seniors.

ELM Sources of Funding for 2008: \$ 632,088



ELDER LAW OF MICHIGAN

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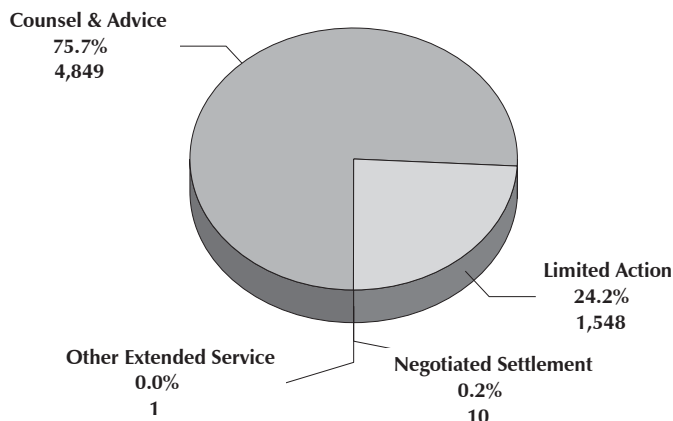
Community Outreach and Collaboration. ELM distributed over 7,500 “After the Loss” booklets to advise seniors on legal issues after the death of a spouse, parent or other significant person. These booklets are placed at legislators’ offices, libraries or other public locations. In 2008, ELM completed work on a companion booklet: “Planning for Your Future.” ELM hosted a statewide Elder Rights Summit in 2008 to bring together legal and human services groups to discuss the legal rights of older adults. Over 100 people participated, forging new connections to improve access to services for older adults. ELM also partners with churches and senior centers and aging agencies to provide trainings on a variety of elder law topics. In 2008 ELM started an e-newsletter; ELM also places articles in the mainstream media on topics relating to elder abuse, elder economic security, and access to benefits. The Legal Hotline has a growing presence on the internet from which it receives many requests each week.

Client Age	
18 & Under	8
19-59	509
60 & Over	5,891
Groups	0
Total	6,408

Pro Bono Support. To help secure retirement benefits for older low-income divorced persons, ELM helped the MiLAPP QDRO Project restructure and develop emergency QDRO procedures for clients in immediate financial jeopardy (such as losing their home). In addition to continuing to support corporate attorneys who volunteer to take hotline cases from a remote location, ELM is moving to a new model of having volunteer attorneys take cases in ELM’s office. Also, some volunteers conduct community education events for ELM, and ELM asks attorneys who have made pro bono donations to ELM in the past to be part of the “Friends of the Legal Hotline” to help increase resources. ELM receives attorney financial donations through the Access to Justice Fund.

Client Ethnicity	
White	4,696
Black	1,406
Hispanic	62
Native American	14
Asian	14
Other	216
Total	6,408

ELM Types of Service in 2008



ELM Cases Closed in 2008: 6,408

