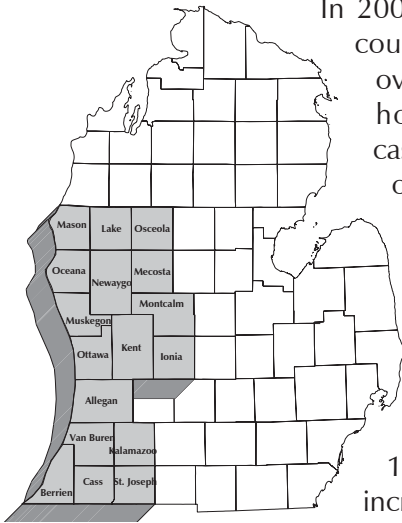


LEGAL AID OF WESTERN MICHIGAN

2008 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



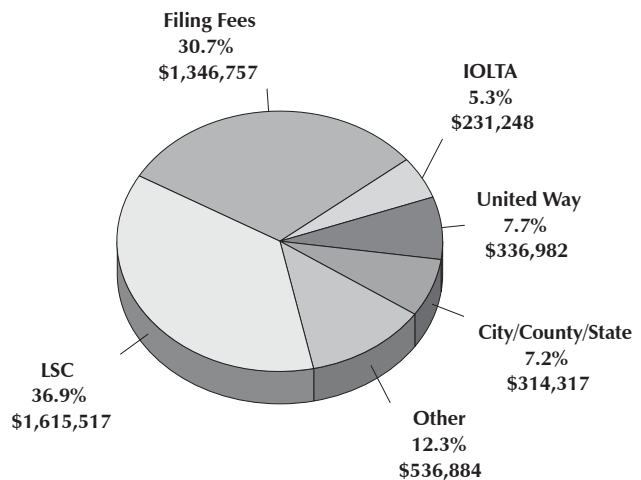
In 2008, LAWM provided advice, counsel, and representation to over 2,500 families at risk for homelessness, litigated 540 cases involving domestic abuse or the defense of a custody matter, and represented 189 disabled persons at administrative hearings to help clients receive or maintain critical health care and stable income. LAWM litigated 152 consumer cases, a 46% increase from the previous year due to the declining economy.

A senior and his three grandchildren were facing eviction after withholding rent due to substandard housing. The entire building was infested with cockroaches. Following a trial and an inspection of the premises by the judge, the landlord agreed to terminate the lease, forgive six weeks of rent and return the entire security deposit, including the non-refundable "cleaning fee," allowing the family enough funds to move to safer lodging.

LAWM also partnered with the Counsel & Advocacy Law Line to provide telephone advice and counsel to low-income persons in west Michigan. Special projects in 2008 included LAWM's Reentry Law Project, including working with the State Bar and the State Appellate Defender Office to distribute a questionnaire to educate criminal defense attorneys about mitigating the civil consequences of criminal convictions. The Reentry Law web site had 40,000 visitors and provided materials for lawyers, human services providers and clients throughout Michigan. Also, LAWM's Homeownership Preservation Project continued to pursue lenders who violated state and federal laws by filing its 30th lawsuit against noncompliant mortgage lenders; nearly all these cases had positive outcomes for clients.

An 87 year-old woman with Alzheimers was duped into buying an in-home security system. She did not realize she had signed a year-long contract for a security monitoring service with the monthly fee automatically deducted from her checking account, depleting her meager income. After LAWM provided documentation of the Alzheimer's disease to the security company, they rescinded the contract and issued a refund.

LAWM Sources of Funding for 2008: \$ 4,381,705



LEGAL AID OF WESTERN MICHIGAN

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

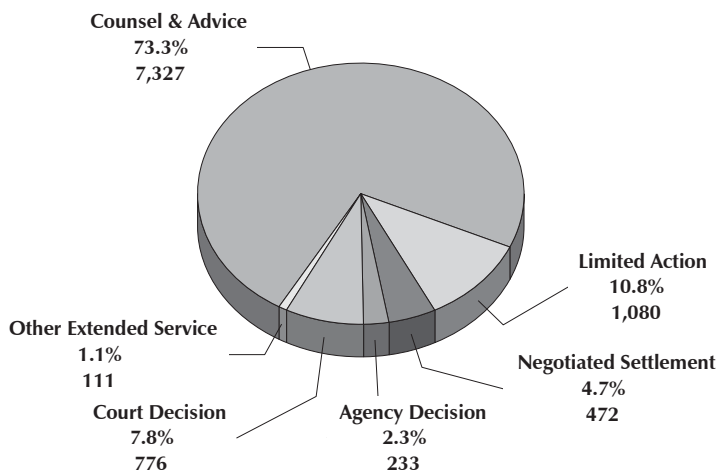
Community Outreach and Collaboration. In 2008, LAWM continued to expand access to legal services through meeting clients at courthouses, domestic violence and homeless shelters, churches, community action agencies or senior centers. LAWM conducted an all-day community legal education event in Kalamazoo County attended by over 160 human service agency staff from seven different counties who learned about poverty law issues and how to recognize civil legal problems and make appropriate referrals. LAWM staff also continued to assist and provide back up legal support for the staff of the Kent County Legal Assistance Center (LAC) which provides pro se help and legal information assisting nearly 1,200 patrons a month on a variety of legal forms and procedures. Two LAWM attorneys conducted a training on behalf of the Tri-County Adult Protective Services Task Force attended by 175 senior citizens on the Financial Abuse of Vulnerable Adults. LAWM attorneys also organized six events to publicize what homeowners can do to avoid foreclosure.

Client Age	
18 & Under	88
19-59	8,729
60 & Over	1,182
Groups	0
Total	9,999

Pro Bono Support. In 2008, LAWM pro bono attorneys closed 204 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 \$214,000 in donations with 85% contributed through the Access to Justice Fund. LAWM 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	6,743
Black	2,310
Hispanic	513
Native American	127
Asian	64
Other	242
Total	9,999

LAWM Types of Service in 2008



LAWM Cases Closed in 2008: 9,999

