

LEGAL SERVICES OF EASTERN MICHIGAN

2008 LSEM Office Locations: Flint, Midland, Port Huron and Saginaw

LSEM Service Area: Arenac, Bay, Clare, Genesee, Gladwin, Gratiot, Huron, Isabella, Lapeer, Midland, Saginaw, Sanilac, St. Clair and Tuscola Counties; also, senior services in Shiawassee County

Service Population: 213,110 individuals living at or below 125% of the poverty level



LSEM offers legal assistance in family law, housing, public benefits including health, consumer/bankruptcy, senior law including elder abuse, employment/economic development, low-income tax clinics, and education law. During 2008, LSEM received a Violence Against Women's Act Grant to expand its family law services to include representation in domestic violence cases in all counties in its service area.

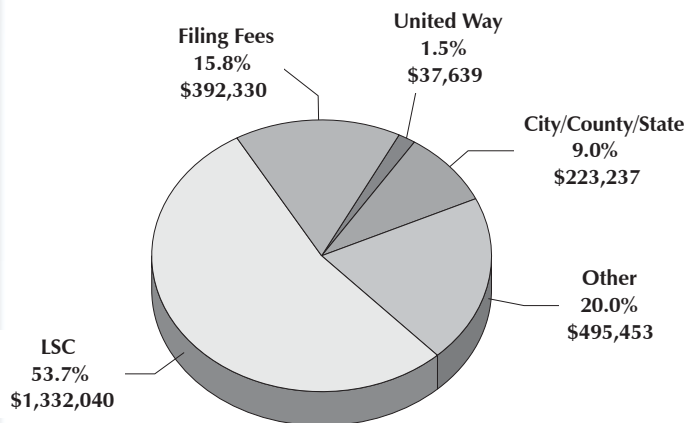
An out-of-state father allowed his son to visit his mother in Michigan. The boy told her he was being abused by the father and did not want to go back to live with him. An LSEM attorney quickly obtained a temporary custody allowing the mother to have custody until the situation could be permanently resolved. The custody issue was then reopened resulting in the mother receiving permanent custody. The boy is now safe and reunited with his mother.

LSEM also sponsors a fair housing

program that serves Bay, Genesee, Midland and Saginaw counties, plus services (as the budget allows) in Huron, Sanilac, Tuscola, St. Clair, and Lapeer counties. LSEM participates in community consortiums that address poverty issues, such as continuum of care for homelessness, tax reversion projects saving homes from foreclosure due to delinquent property taxes, and GAIN\$ (an asset acquisition program matching funds in savings accounts for the working poor to use for home purchase, post-secondary education, or business start-up). LSEM implemented a Teens and the Law Program to educate students about legal issues like paternity, leases, and zero tolerance. LSEM also started a Hospice Program which offers assistance with wills and limited estate planning to terminally ill persons.

LSEM worked as part of a team that included the Genesee County Sheriff's Department Elder Abuse and Exploitation Prevention Unit and a bank representative to protect an elderly woman from exploitation by her Patient Advocate who was misusing resources and was not trustworthy. LSEM immediately drafted documents allowing the woman to revoke both her Durable Power of Attorney and Medical Power of Attorney, safeguarding her from further exploitation.

LSEM Sources of Funding for 2008: \$ 2,480,699



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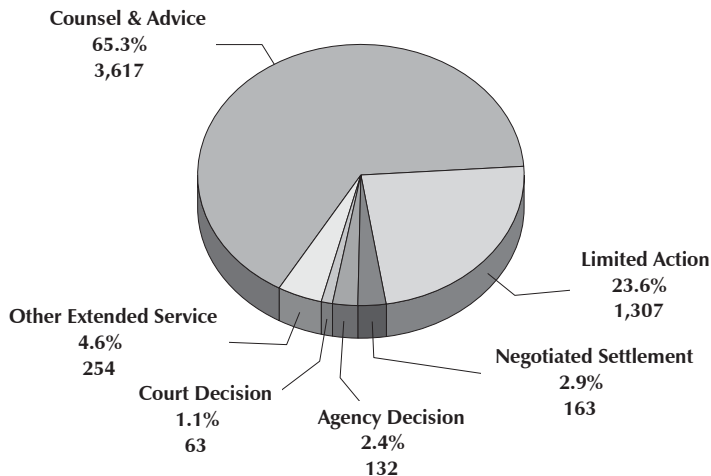
Community Outreach and Collaboration. LSEM has over 100 working agreements with other community-based agencies in its service area that call for mutual referrals and in some instances, joint programming. Additionally, LSEM is involved in many community collaboratives, including three Elder Abuse Response Teams, several local Continuum of Care organizations, two domestic violence coalitions, two emergency services committees, an Early On Consortium identifying and responding to needs of children 0-6, and several multi-purpose collaborative bodies. After the Genesee County Elder Abuse Task Force began the State's first Elder Death Review Team, LSEM and other team members were asked to mentor the City of Lansing and its Police Department in a similar effort. LSEM also offered basic legal training on issues such as landlord/tenant rights for participants of the Bay County Literacy Program.

Client Age	
18 & Under	84
19-59	5,075
60 & Over	377
Groups	0
Total	5,536

Pro Bono Support. In 2008, LSEM implemented a new pro bono recruitment program for its IRS-funded Tax Controversy Program. Participants in LSEM's pro bono panel also engage in outreach. Examples include Law Day, development of educational materials, and the You and the Law project in which pro bono attorneys provide legal education in schools throughout Genesee County. Also in Genesee County, pro bono attorneys staff a Hospice Program that provides assistance with wills and durable powers of attorney for terminally ill clients. Service is delivered at patients' homes, nursing homes and hospice centers. The Saginaw County Bar and LSEM co-produced a Small Claims Video, which is shown in the courthouse and circulated through a state legal library. LSEM receives attorney financial donations through the Access to Justice Fund.

Client Ethnicity	
White	3,459
Black	1,743
Hispanic	178
Native American	14
Asian	5
Other	137
Total	5,536

LSEM Types of Service in 2008



LSEM Cases Closed in 2008: 5,536

