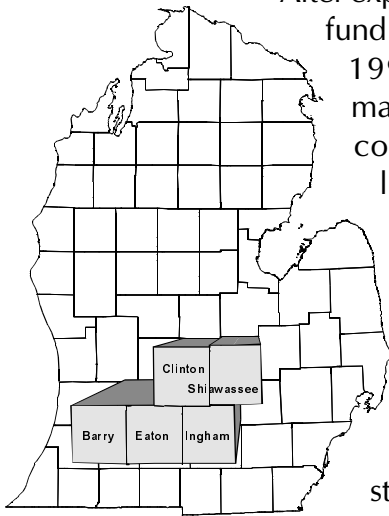


# LEGAL AID OF CENTRAL MICHIGAN

LACM Office Locations: Lansing

**LACM Service Area:** Barry, Clinton, Eaton, Ingham, and Shiawassee Counties

**Service Population:** 83,046 individuals living at or below 125% of the poverty level.

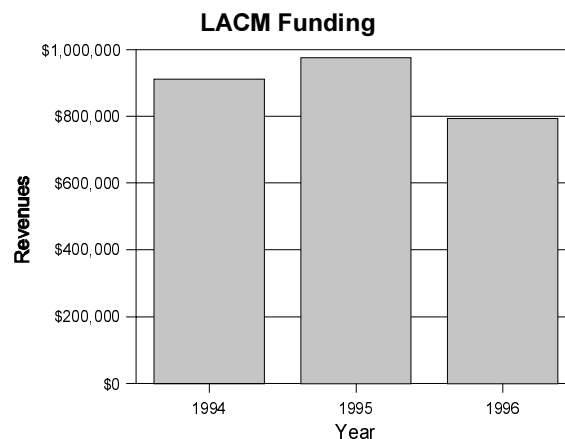


After experiencing significant federal funding cuts and staff turnover in 1996, LACM committed to major restructuring of its five county operation. Streamlining the intake process through maximum use of a "hotline" intake process, providing staff supervision by senior experienced attorneys, who also maintain their own caseloads

A Great Grandmother provided a stable and loving environment for an infant child who was abandoned by his grandmother, mother and father. LACM obtained a legal guardianship for the great grandmother, thus avoiding the need to use community resources for a foster care placement and preventing separation of this family.

and act as mentors to all legal workers, and greater use of law students has allowed Legal Aid of Central Michigan to move into a system which helps the office to do more with less. Systems were put in place in 1996 to facilitate "internships" with Thomas M. Cooley Law School and Detroit College of Law to begin in 1997, complementing LACM's utilization of work-study students from the two law schools. Students learn the benefits of Pro Bono and also gain legal skills development. The IOLTA and Filing Fees grants have allowed LACM to maintain attorney staff and add intake hours one night per week to meet the needs of the working poor.

Recently recovered from a substantial period of illness, a father finally obtained employment at minimum wage. He had incurred substantial debt during his employment and his vehicle was repossessed. An LACM pro bono attorney represented the man in Chapter 7 Bankruptcy proceedings and prevented this man's minimal income from being garnished, allowing him and his family to get back on their feet and begin again to support themselves.



# LEGAL AID OF CENTRAL MICHIGAN

Contact: Carol L. Munday, Executive Director • (517) 485-5418 ext. 231

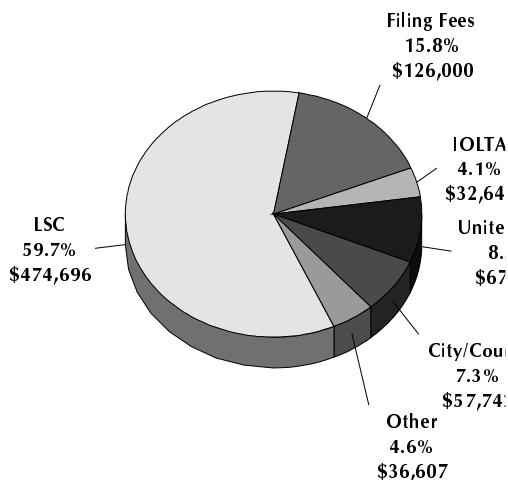
**Community Outreach and Collaboration.** LACM provides educational materials about legal rights and responsibilities in seminars and Pro Se clinics so that legal problems are prevented or some may be resolved before the need for LACM's services arise. In 1996, these forums reached an additional 2,000 clients. LACM joined the Prevention Providers to sponsor a teen parent conference at which LACM provided custody, visitation, paternity and child support pamphlets. LACM's landlord/tenant and consumer pamphlets are distributed in some area district courts. LACM attorneys attend various community service organization meetings and public forums. Information is aired on radio and television stations about LACM's services. Various articles appear in the local Ingham County Bar newspaper. Judges, courts and community service agencies are actively seeking LACM's assistance and referring individuals. LACM maintains a toll-free number to facilitate access for the client population living in the rural counties. LACM is also listed in numerous city directories.

Client Age	
18 & Under	6
19-59	3,871
60 & Over	34
Groups	0
Total	3,911

**Pro Bono Support.** In 1996 Pro Bono attorneys assisted LACM with intake calls in addition to accepting individual cases. The list of pro bono attorneys includes seasoned attorneys who mentor new attorneys accepting pro bono cases. Two trainings were presented to pro bono attorneys in the area of family law. In the fall of 1996, LACM hired a new Director of Litigation (a former State Bar President, Ingham County Prosecutor and Circuit Court Judge) who has helped LACM develop new systems to allow expansion of the pro bono panel and further collaboration with the local bar associations. LACM has also begun to target recruiting efforts toward new attorneys, offering free training in various legal subjects and encouraging them to handle one case in their area of training.

Client Ethnicity	
White	3,204
Black	511
Hispanic	144
Native American	22
Asian	26
Other	4
Total	3,911

LACM Sources of Funding for 1996: \$ 795,145



LACM Cases Closed in 1996: 3,911

