

LEGAL SERVICES OF NORTHERN MICHIGAN, INC.

LSNM Office Locations: Alpena, Escanaba, Houghton, Marquette, Petoskey, Sault Ste. Marie, and Traverse City

LSNM Service Area: Alger, Alcona, Alpena, Antrim, Baraga, Benzie, Cheboygan, Charlevoix, Chippewa, Crawford, Delta, Dickinson, Emmet, Gogebic, Grand Traverse, Houghton, Iosco, Iron, Kalkaska, Keweenaw, Leelanau, Luce, Mackinac, Manistee, Marquette, Menominee, Missaukee, Montmorency, Ogemaw, Ontonagon, Oscoda, Ostego, Presque Isle, Roscommon, Schoolcraft, and Wexford Counties

Service Population: 144,736 individuals living at or below 125% of the poverty level



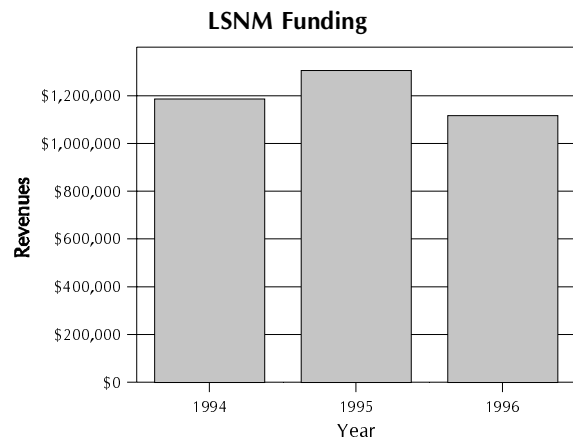
The federal funding cuts in 1996 forced LSNM to lay off experienced staff, reducing services provided to clients in comparison to 1995. Fortunately, through the IOLTA and Filing Fees assistance, LSNM was able to continue the funding of its deputy director position which was critical to the assurance

An elderly woman who was unable to live independently received in-home care from a paid care provider. The care provider tricked the woman and coerced her into signing over her car, bank accounts and other assets. LSNM sued the care provider and recovered this senior citizen's stolen property and money.

of quality representation in a year of financial cutbacks and staffing adjustments. To further improve productivity each staff person has a computer on his/her desk. Computer research and E-mail are available now at the attorneys desk. LSNM's 36 county service area is very rural and very geographically expansive. Accordingly, LSNM's staff serves clients who live in the remotest areas as much as possible by telephone, fax, mail and arranging to meet with them when the attorney travels to the client's county. This extremely rural area

generates program cost dynamics different from more urban programs. Nonetheless, LSNM has been able to keep branch offices open with the help of IOLTA and Filing Fees funds.

An indigent elderly man on social security disability was denied Medicaid because his small mobile home was improperly listed as a useable resource. LSNM represented him at an appeal hearing and showed that Medicaid Asset Eligibility rules do not count a mobile home as a financially available asset. The man now receives the much-needed medical coverage and was able to remain in his home of many years.



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Contact: William R. Brown, Executive Director • (616) 347-8115

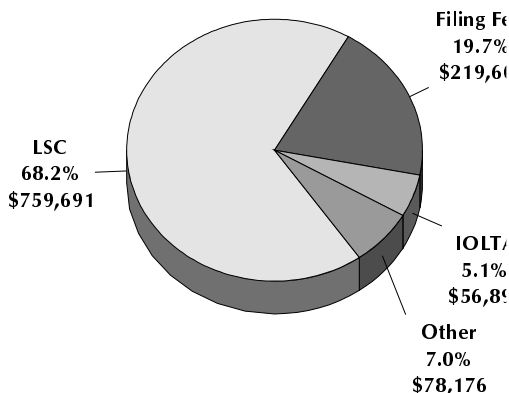
Community Outreach and Collaboration. In 1996, LSNM attorneys continued to deliver community legal education presentations for low income people in substantive areas of concern to them, as well as make presentations to social services and court personnel on Personal Protection Order issues. LSNM also assisted a school organization with information and advice to help the school provide special education students with their legal needs and rights. Social Service agency personnel, previous clients as well as other attorneys and the courts serve as the largest source of client referrals. Relationships with and referrals from social services agencies and community action agencies continue to be strong throughout LSNM's 36 county service area.

Client Age	
18 & Under	55
19-59	3,795
60 & Over	402
Groups	0
Total	4,252

Pro Bono Support. The rural service regions are sometimes difficult areas for developing pro bono. LSNM has used a contract with private attorneys to provide legal services to poor people residing in some rural counties; intake is effected locally. The Traverse City pro bono program continued to be the largest within the LSNM service area. It organized and recruited members to operate a pro bono clinic one night per week; LSNM provides the clerical and reporting services. Members of the Wexford/Missaukee Bar Association accept referrals of clients made through the court personnel after income screening by LSNM. Also, LSNM helped form a pro bono referral program for Emmet and Charlevoix Counties with the assistance of the local bar association, the domestic violence shelter and local judges.

Client Ethnicity	
White	4,045
Black	16
Hispanic	34
Native American	145
Asian	12
Other	0
Total	4,252

LSNM Sources of Funding for 1996: \$ 1,114,



LSNM Cases Closed in 1996: 4,252

