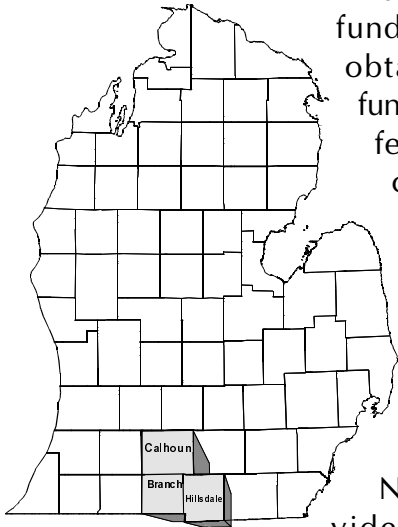


LEGAL SERVICES ORGANIZATION OF SOUTHCENTRAL MICHIGAN

LSOSM Office Locations: Battle Creek, Coldwater, Hillsdale

LSOSM Service Area: Branch, Calhoun, and Hillsdale Counties

Service Population: 40,180 individuals living at or below 125% of the poverty level



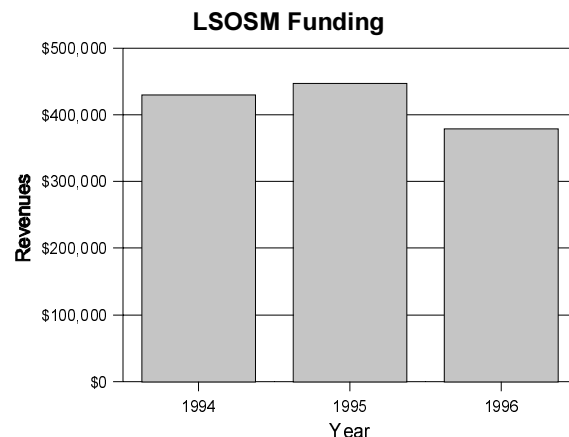
In 1996, IOLTA and Filing Fees funds provided leverage for obtaining local and other funding in the wake of reduced federal support. However, current revenues do not provide for full-time staffing at LSOSM branch offices, so it is more difficult to meet the demand of the local communities for expanded intake and more in-person contact. Nonetheless, LSOSM provided important services,

A 72-year-old World War II veteran had undergone some serious health problems. After being hospitalized, he was placed in a nursing home. While this was going on, his step-daughter took possession of his home and rented it out. When his health improved, he advised her that he wanted to move back into his home. She refused to return it to him. LSOSM won a Judgment of Possession against the step-daughter so that he could return to his home.

including preventing family violence through obtaining personal protection orders and also by obtaining custody and support orders, and dissolution of marriages, where necessary. Elderly clients were helped with saving their homes from foreclosures, protection from abusive relatives and sustaining peace of mind through end-of-life planning. Families were saved from wrongful evictions; clients were assisted when public benefits were incorrectly denied to them. IOLTA and Filing Fees have helped LSOSM remain stable and expand some client service. For example, LSOSM was able to open the Hillsdale office enabling service to that area via its own intake office. Along with LSOSM's toll-free telephone

number, this helps ensure access for clients and better establishes the agency within the local community.

A disabled, elderly woman had placed her funds in a joint bank account with her brother. When he died, the bank froze the account and she could not access her own money. She needed this money to pay her rent and buy food. Within a week, the LSOSM staff attorney petitioned the Probate Court, opened a small estate and had the funds released so that the woman could pay her rent and other expenses.



LEGAL SERVICES ORGANIZATION OF SOUTHCENTRAL MICHIGAN

Contact: Jeanne M. McGuire, Executive Director • (616) 965-3951

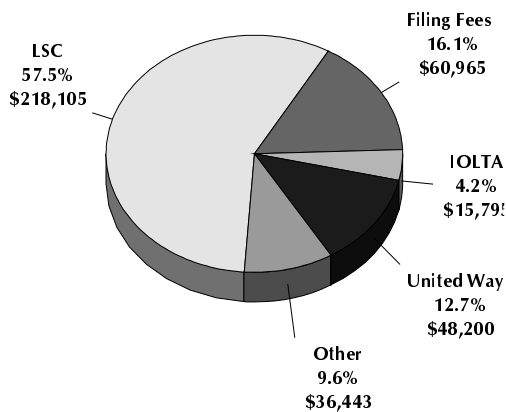
Community Outreach and Collaboration. The community legal education program is targeted to prevent, or to at least minimize, legal problems by providing legal information to 356 individuals regarding such topics as veteran's or other benefits and housing issues. LSOSM assisted staff at a women's shelter in learning about legal options for their clients. The Pro Se Family Law Clinic was started in late 1996 to help those with relatively simple family law matters obtain access to the courts. LSOSM staff members participated in over 30 different community gatherings and serve on the boards of several local and statewide nonprofits. LSOSM brochures are distributed to locations where clients, or those who assist clients, regularly congregate. Media coverage also raises LSOSM's visibility, including a regular public service cable TV message. LSOSM is working with Berrien County Legal Services to develop a joint "centralized" case intake system to expand capacity to conduct more client intake. LSOSM, Berrien County Legal Services and Lakeshore Legal Services are also working on a joint intake manual, and LSOSM is exploring shared cost savings for such things as audits with other providers.

Pro Bono Support. During 1996, some 60 attorneys volunteered to accept three civil cases a year without a fee. LSOSM also received increased financial contributions from local private attorneys. Current recruitment efforts include frequent articles in the bar newsletter and announcements regarding pro bono at each bar meeting. In 1996, LSOSM also included more options for lawyer volunteers, who now assist with new client intake, community legal education presentations and the Pro Se Family Law Clinic as well as traditional representation of clients. Each local Bar president signs a recruiting letter to their members and the largest bar sponsors a "Pro Bono Award" dinner each year.

Client Age	
18 & Under	26
19-59	2,372
60 & Over	135
Groups	0
Total	2,533

Client Ethnicity	
White	1,931
Black	542
Hispanic	32
Native American	19
Asian	9
Other	0
Total	2,533

LSOSM Sources of Funding for 1996: \$ 379,508



LSOSM Cases Closed in 1996: 2,533

