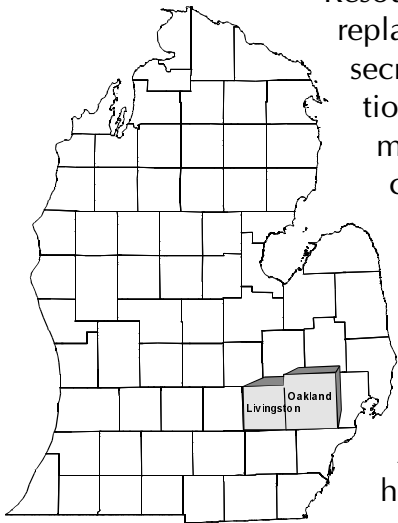


OAKLAND LIVINGSTON LEGAL AID

OLLA Office Locations: Howell, Oak Park, and Pontiac

OLLA Service Area: Livingston and Oakland Counties

Service Population: 93,188 individuals living at or below 125% of the poverty level

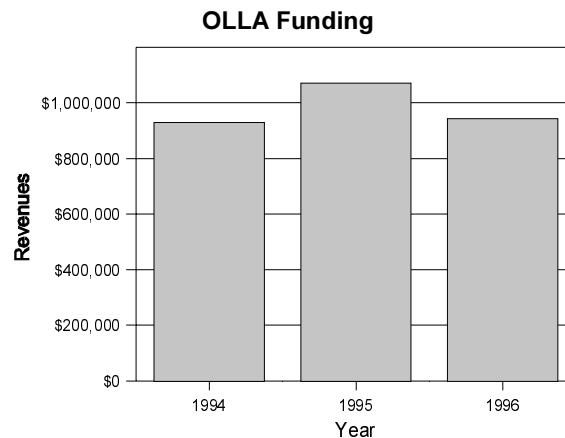


Resources were not available to replace an attorney and a legal secretary lost due to the reduction in federal funding. OLLA made internal changes to continue services such as having administrators do litigation or help with client matters and upgrading the computer infrastructure by training key staff and purchasing equipment. All of this helped OLLA to handle a volume of basic services and close more cases than in 1995 despite the funding loss.

A husband abandoned his wife and young daughter and relocated to Oakland county where he filed for divorce and obtained an exparte custody order. Because the mother had the child in her care, she was arrested for "kidnaping" and held in jail while the two counties disputed jurisdiction. Within 48 hours of the mother's call to OLLA, she was free pending a hearing at which OLLA secured a reversal of the custody order and reunited her with her daughter.

To keep domestic violence a top priority, all attorneys were required to take some family law cases because it was not possible to replace a departing family law specialist due to the funding cuts. Case acceptance and review meetings were initiated so that more experienced staff could help the others. Also the staff has been exploring ways to improve intake through the legal hotline OLLA has had for many years. OLLA was able to maintain two branch offices; without IOLTA and Filing Fees that would not have been possible.

A 62-year-old widow was purchasing her home on a land contract. Unknown to her, the seller had not made the mortgage payments. The widow was notified that her home was in foreclosure. OLLA's attorney investigated and found that the widow had actually overpaid the land contract by \$2,700. OLLA negotiated a settlement in which the widow was able to assume the seller's small HUD mortgage and continue to make payments that could be credited toward purchasing the home.



OAKLAND LIVINGSTON LEGAL AID

Contact: Paula M. Zimmer, Executive Director • (248) 456-8888

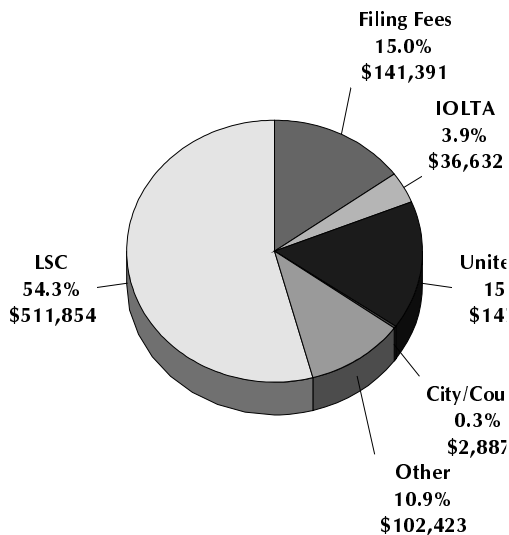
Community Outreach and Collaboration. Because there were significant changes in personal protection laws, OLLA's most experienced family law attorney met with judges, prosecutors and others toward creating uniform court procedures in the state's second largest jurisdiction for these cases. An OLLA attorney gave landlord tenant and home ownership presentations and consulted with clients at Lighthouse, a general family service agency. In the summer of 1996, OLLA staff taped "DUE PROCESS", the Oakland County Bar's television show. The show produced over 100 requests for service; additional showings usually result in another 25 calls. Through one area hospital, 50 teen and older parents heard presentations from OLLA attorneys about parental rights and responsibilities. LAWFAIR is a yearly event held at a local mall; all of OLLA's attorneys and paralegals staff a booth and distribute pamphlets on legal topics.

Client Age	
18 & Under	9
19-59	4,300
60 & Over	897
Groups	0
Total	5,206

Pro Bono Support. OLLA's pro bono program is the largest referral panel in the state. Weekly evening clinics are staffed by volunteer legal assistants who screen applicants. Also, during these clinics an attorney provides information and advice. In 1996, OLLA added an evening clinic in Walled Lake. OLLA's pro bono program is strong due to the excellent working relationship with the county bar associations. In Oakland county, a Pro Bono Advisory Board is comprised of bar staff, volunteer attorneys and legal assistants and OLLA staff. Each month the Oakland County Bar Association's journal publishes a list of pro bono attorneys. At its annual meeting the bar honors all pro bono attorneys.

Client Ethnicity	
White	4,125
Black	955
Hispanic	98
Native American	10
Asian	18
Other	0
Total	5,206

OLLA Sources of Funding for 1996: \$ 942,7



OLLA Cases Closed in 1996: 5,206

