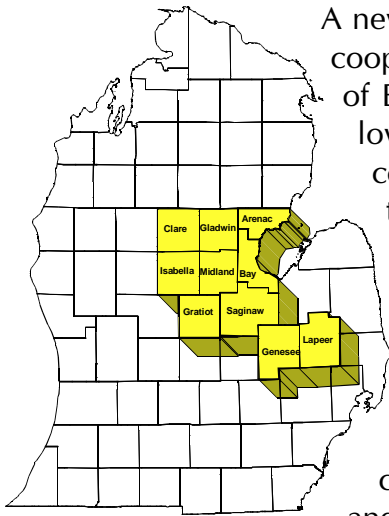


CENTER FOR CIVIL JUSTICE

CCJ Office Locations: Saginaw

CCJ Service Area: Arenac, Bay, Clare, Genesee, Gladwin, Gratiot, Isabella, Lapeer, Midland, and Saginaw Counties

Service Population: 209,288 individuals living at or below 125% of the poverty level

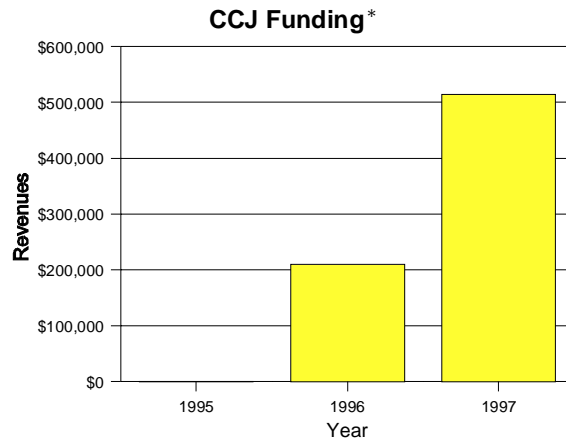


A new grantee in 1997, CCJ, in cooperation with Legal Services of Eastern Michigan, offered low-income clients in its 10-county region the opportunity to receive a full range of legal services involving important legal issues. CCJ represented low-income people in significant cases in state or federal court, successfully negotiated changes in unlawful policies and practices that affect low-income people, and provided state

and local administrative and legislative advocacy to address its clients' legal problems. In addition, CCJ's staff provided legal advocates, community agencies, and clients with technical assistance, numerous training sessions, and extensive educational materials.

Several parents who had left welfare for work called CCJ in great distress when they received notices leading them to believe that they would lose their child care and Medicaid assistance when their welfare cases closed. CCJ discovered that the state's computer-generated notices were incorrect; in fact, the parents would continue to be eligible for help with child care or Medicaid once they started working their way off welfare. After CCJ advocacy with the state agency, officials in the state welfare agency corrected the notices for all state recipients. CCJ estimated that the matter affected more than 20,000 Michigan families that left welfare for work in 1997.

A disabled woman needed to transfer to a two-bedroom apartment to have room for her live-in caregiver. Her federally subsidized landlord at first refused the move, then imposed various fees and conditions for the transfer. CCJ successfully demonstrated that the landlord's conduct was discrimination on the basis of disability and violated the Fair Housing Law. The woman was able to relocate without costs or conditions.



*1997 increase due to inclusion of funds for Legal Services of Eastern Michigan.

CENTER FOR CIVIL JUSTICE

Contact: Terri L. Stangl, Executive Director • (517) 755-3120

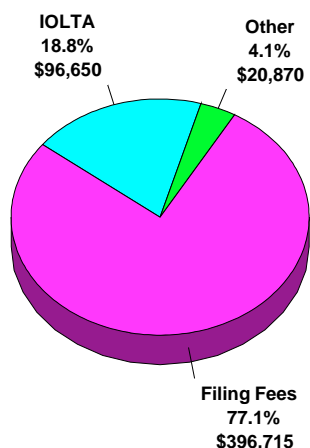
Community Outreach and Collaboration. CCJ's emphasis on issues and cases that significantly affect low-income people often resulted in benefits for the low-income population statewide. For example, CCJ successfully defended a class action judgment that assures timely distribution of child support to thousands of low-income custodial parents each month. CCJ negotiated a settlement that restored Medicaid benefits to more than 500 disabled people. CCJ worked with local media to prepare educational articles on child care and other services available to help people making the transition from welfare to work. CCJ's staff fielded calls from hundreds of clients about these and other legal issues. CCJ prepared more than 50 issue alerts and distributed 1,000 newsletters discussing changes in the law and advocacy strategies adopted by agencies and advocates throughout the state. These materials also were posted on line on the MPLP website. CCJ is also working with the Saginaw Bar Association to develop pro se materials on consumer law for distribution at local community agencies.

Client Age	
18 & Under	410
19-59	337
60 & Over	28
Groups	0
Total	775

Pro Bono Support. The pro bono program in CCJ's service area is handled primarily by Legal Services of Eastern Michigan. However, CCJ has received assistance from private attorneys and law students on several projects. This assistance includes legal research and writing to support CCJ's litigation, preparation and presentation of community legal education materials, outreach to clients, and assistance with policy advocacy.

Client Ethnicity	
White	334
Black	341
Hispanic	36
Native American	0
Asian	27
Other	37
Total	775

CCJ Sources of Funding for 1997: \$ 514,235



CCJ Cases Closed in 1997: 775

