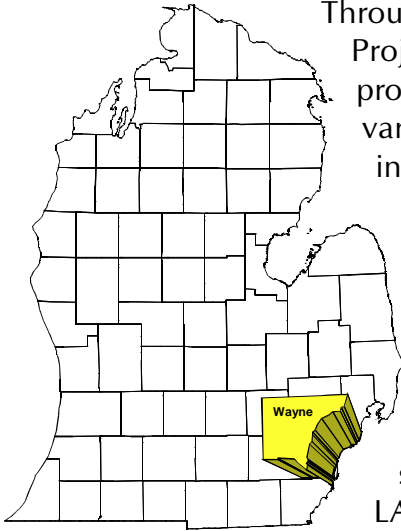


LEGAL AID AND DEFENDER ASSOCIATION OF DETROIT

LADA Office Locations: Detroit

LADA Service Area: Wayne County

Service Population: 502,340 individuals living at or below 125% of the poverty level



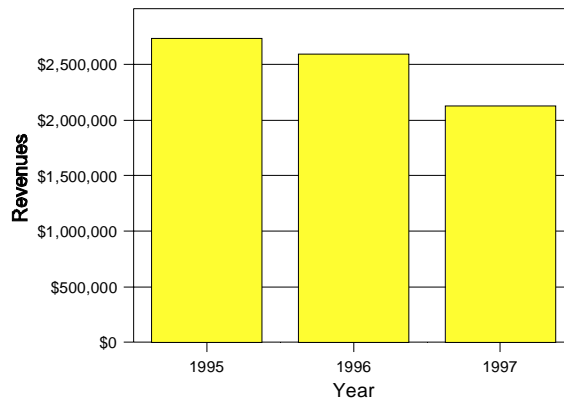
Through the Family Advocacy Project, LADA continued to provide legal services to the variety of area households, including homeless or near-homeless individuals and families, pregnant or parenting teenagers, vulnerable senior citizens, and students who have been excluded from school or are in need of special education services.

LADA has developed workshops, brochures, and pamphlets to address the needs of each group and has provided outreach including events at locations throughout Wayne County. LADA has increased participation with area schools, human services providers, and other legal service providers.

A 69-year-old woman faced eviction by a construction company that had worked on her home. After repeated solicitations, the woman had allowed the company to work on her home and had paid a \$5,260 first installment. When the contractor failed to finish the work satisfactorily, the woman refused to complete payment. The contractor filed for foreclosure under the Construction Lien Act for money owed. Because the woman did not understand how to respond to the foreclosure suit, the court entered a default judgment against her. After representation by an LADA attorney, the default judgment was set aside and the company's possession action was dismissed.

A 76-year-old blind Detroit resident received a demand for payment from the Michigan Department of Treasury. A neighbor who reads his mail to him told him the state was seeking \$2,938.60 from him. This debt far exceeded the man's ability to pay. He feared losing his home. LADA obtained a copy of the demand letter and discovered it was directed at a former resident of the man's home. LADA prepared a letter to the Michigan Department of Treasury to inform them of their error, the client's condition, and the upset the letter had caused him. Collection efforts then stopped.

LADA Funding



LEGAL AID AND DEFENDER ASSOCIATION OF DETROIT

Contact: Joan Glanton Howard, Chief Counsel, Civil Division • (313) 964-4111 ext. 224

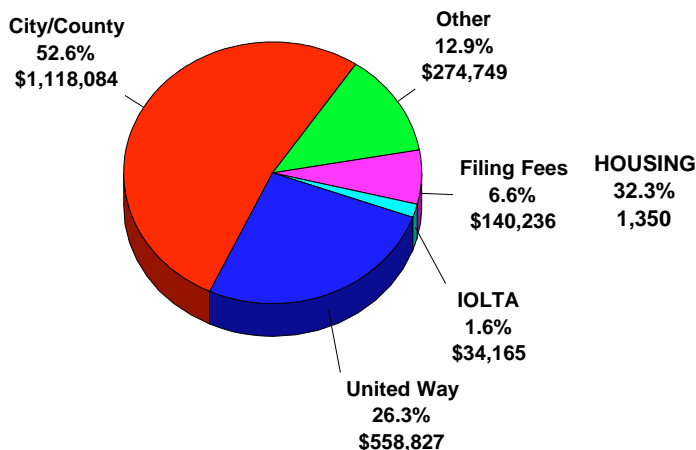
Community Outreach and Collaboration. Forty students participated in the pilot of LADA's Community Legal Education Series (CLES), which is a life skills workshop for Michigan court wards, typically teenage parents on the brink of independence. The young parents learn about consumer law, landlord-tenant law, and family law, making them better able to meet legal and life challenges. Potentially, about 1,500 youths could benefit from CLES. Many clients, particularly individuals involved in homeless education projects, have expressed their appreciation to LADA, indicating the program's positive impact. LADA continued to provide onsite legal services through its Teen Mother Empowerment Project to teen parents attending the three Detroit public high schools for pregnant and parenting teens. Through Project Permanency, LADA provided legal services to young mothers and homeless families, two of the most vulnerable populations in Wayne County.

Client Age	
18 & Under	581
19-59	2,224
60 & Over	1,372
Groups	0
Total	4,177

Pro Bono Support. LADA has benefited from the development of pro bono resources such as the Detroit Legal Services Clinic (DLSC) and Ford Motor Company as well as relationships with individual attorneys who volunteered for pro bono work. Twice a month, volunteer attorneys met with DLSC clients referred by LADA. Local attorneys accepted 271 pro bono referrals in 1997 through LADA's auspices. Pro bono assistance has allowed LADA to help clients who otherwise might have gone unserved due to decreased funding. In many cases, the referrals gave clients access to expertise that LADA attorneys could not have provided without this resource.

Client Ethnicity	
White	789
Black	2,803
Hispanic	16
Native American	7
Asian	10
Other	552
Total	4,177

LADA Sources of Funding for 1997: \$ 2,126,061



LADA Cases Closed in 1997: 4,177

