

MICHIGAN INDIAN LEGAL SERVICES, INC.

Contact: James A. Keedy, Executive Director • (616) 947-0122

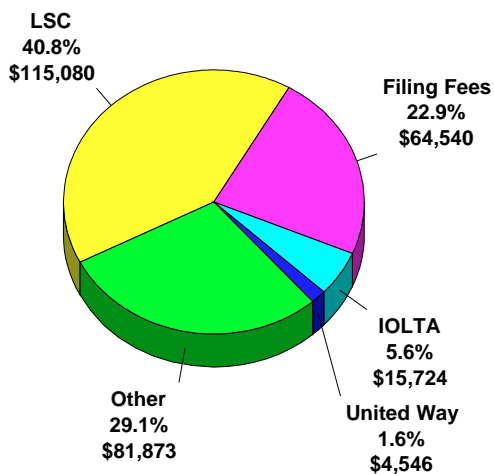
Community Outreach and Collaboration. MILS works closely with the Michigan Commission on Indian Affairs (MCIA). MILS attorneys attend commission meetings to keep abreast of community concerns. MILS also answers questions from the MCIA and accepts referrals from them. MILS staff also works with the Michigan Indian Advisory Council on Aging. MILS attorneys made a presentation to the Michigan Probate Judges Association on the topic of the Indian Child Welfare Act, a major area of emphasis for MILS. MILS helped a tribe obtain a significant grant and is assisting with drafting a code and peace making-system supported by the grant. In 1997, MILS published an article in a child welfare publication and conducted several training sessions for judges, attorneys, and social workers.

Client Age	
18 & Under	1
19-59	152
60 & Over	12
Groups	0
Total	165

Pro Bono Support. MILS involved the private bar in assisting its clients by seeking advice and counsel from other Indian law practitioners. Because the nature of MILS's work makes it difficult to engage pro bono attorneys to assist MILS clients directly, MILS sought financial donations from attorneys as an alternative. MILS also used the services of pro bono programs of the American Bar Association and the National Legal Aid and Defender Association, such as their program "A Business Commitment," which provided a computer law expert to help MILS negotiate a contract for software development services. MILS provided training about the Indian Child Welfare Act to a local bar association. The audience included a judge, prosecutor, court clerks, and people representing juveniles in the justice system.

Client Ethnicity	
White	5
Black	0
Hispanic	1
Native American	159
Asian	0
Other	0
Total	165

MILS Sources of Funding for 1997: \$ 281,763



MILS Cases Closed in 1997: 165

