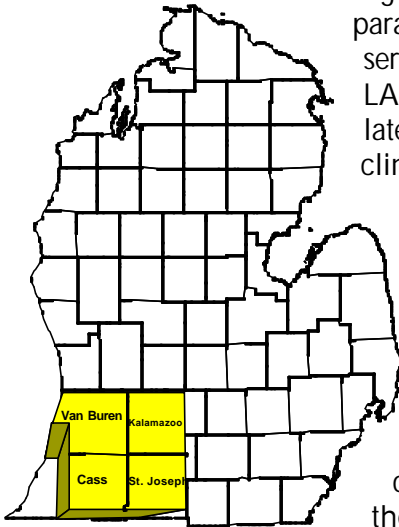


LEGAL AID BUREAU OF SOUTHWESTERN MICHIGAN, INC.

LABSWM Office Locations: Cassopolis, Centreville, Paw Paw, and Kalamazoo

LABSWM Service Area: Cass, Kalamazoo, St. Joseph, and Van Buren Counties

Service Population: 68,230 individuals are living at or below 125% of the poverty level



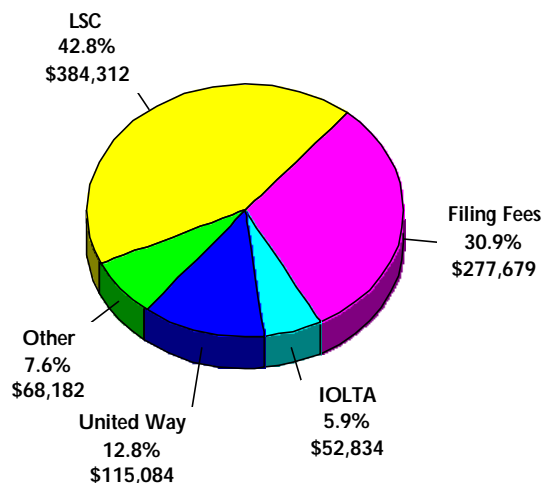
In 1998, LABSWM increased its staff by adding one attorney and one paralegal, improving the level of services available to clients. LABSWM also began holding late-day or evening outreach clinics staffed by pro bono attorneys at community centers, churches, or United Way agencies in its three rural counties. These clinics were intended for people who could not travel to LABSWM's four offices or could not get to them during the day. Lawyers continued to honor their pledges for the

An elderly woman was being sued for a deficiency on a 20-year-old land contract that she thought was paid in full. A pro bono accountant helped LABSWM determine that the woman had actually overpaid on the contract and was owed money from the sellers. LABSWM settled the case favorably, and clear title was conveyed to the homeowner. LABSWM also arranged for a pro bono attorney to help with the closing, draft the deed, and also draft another deed as a probate tool for the client, adding the name of her son to the family home.

LABSWM endowment campaign, "A Case for Legal Aid," in the second year of a three year campaign. LABSWM's public benefits staff attorney developed and produced a bimonthly publication titled "Getting Welfare to Work," which was sent to more than 200 agencies and groups statewide. This publication provided information about welfare requirements and related issues.

A mother with three children faced eviction for alleged nonpayment of rent. In fact, this family's rent was paid up to date, but the landlord had applied the rent to the cost of repairs for water damage. In addition, he claimed money damages alleging the tenant had caused the problem. However, water had backed up into her unit from a defective outside water spigot which the landlord had failed to correct. After LABSWM intervened, the court dismissed the landlord's claim and awarded the mother a small money judgment which assisted her in relocating.

LABSWM Sources of Funding for 1998: \$ 898,091



LEGAL AID BUREAU OF SOUTHWESTERN MICHIGAN, INC.

Contact: Ward F. McDonough, Executive Director ! (616) 344-8113

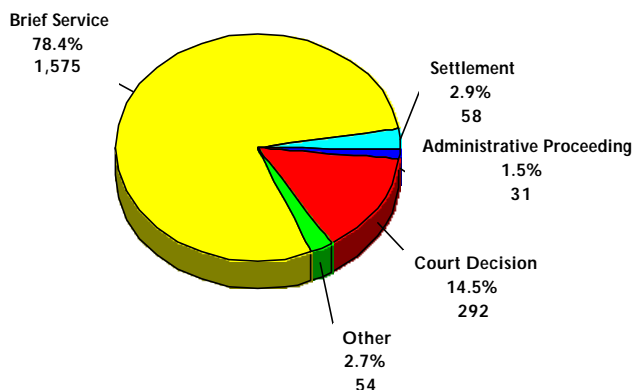
Community Outreach and Collaboration: Staff members participated in fairs and meetings sponsored by the United Way, local agencies, and neighborhood organizations to educate people about legal issues and inform them about LABSWM's services. LABSWM also made 16 presentations at senior citizen centers in 1998. In addition, LABSWM shared information with and referred clients to the Family Independence Agency, community mental health departments, the Social Security Administration, county health departments, substance abuse agencies, hospice, and Kalamazoo AIDS Resource and Education. To encourage community outreach and client referrals, LABSWM enlisted the assistance of groups such as county branches of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored Persons, the United Way, civic organizations, the Domestic Assault Shelter Coalition, and the Three Rivers Community Association to inform clients about LABSWM's services.

18 & Under	10
19-59	1,833
60 & Over	167
Total	2,010

Pro Bono Support: LABSWM continued to work closely with bar association leaders and the pro bono committee of the local bar. The Kalamazoo County Bar Association sponsored free evening legal clinics three nights per month in Kalamazoo. LABSWM referred people to these clinics and assisted in staffing them. LABSWM's pro bono coordinator recruited volunteer lawyers to staff clinics in LABSWM's three rural counties. Pro bono attorneys also assisted with activities for nonprofit groups through the Day of Caring. Attorneys in all four counties participated in the referral of pro bono cases.

White	1,506
Black	424
Hispanic	56
Native American	8
Asian	10
Other	6
Total	2,010

LABSWM Types of Service in 1998



LABSWM Cases Closed in 1998: 2,010

