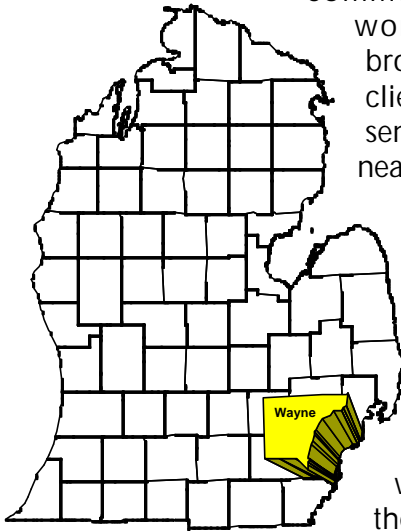


# LEGAL AID AND DEFENDER ASSOCIATION OF DETROIT

LADA Office Locations:

**LADA Service Area:** Wayne County

**Service Population:** 522,834 individuals are living at or below 125% of the poverty level



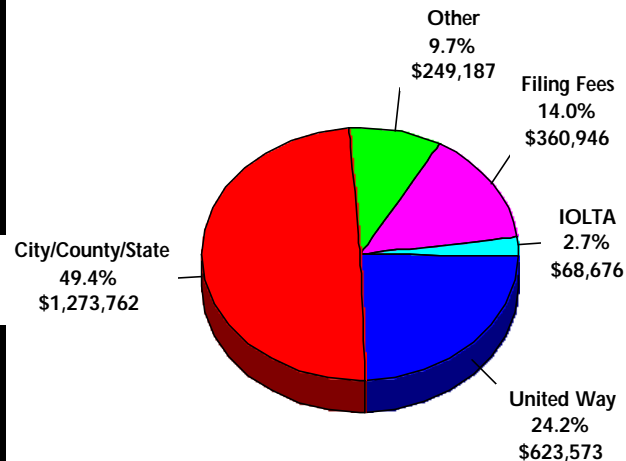
LADA provided legal representation, community legal education workshops, and written brochures to a wide range of clients, including teen parents, senior citizens, homeless and near-homeless families, families with children experiencing school problems, and other vulnerable segments of the community. LADA especially targeted initiatives focusing on legal services to teen parents, temporary court wards, senior citizens, and the formerly homeless. In 1998, increased funding

enabled LADA to add two experienced case handlers to its staff. In late 1998, the federal Legal Services Corporation recognized LADA's 89 years of quality and dedicated service by selecting LADA to receive its federal grant for providing legal aid to the poor in Wayne County.

A mother of three had serious repair problems with a public housing apartment. She contacted the housing authority numerous times about large holes in the ceiling and walls and leaking pipes which flooded her kitchen. Finally, she initiated a complaint and withheld her rent for two months. When the landlord sued for the rent and to evict her, LADA represented the mother in asserting a retaliatory eviction and breach of implied warranty of habitability. LADA negotiated a settlement in which the woman received six months of free rent. This gave her time and the funds to purchase a house on a land contract for her family.

A senior citizen went to a hearing aid dealer for a free hearing test which showed she needed a better hearing aid. The dealer ordered a new hearing aid, demanded that the woman pick it up, and charged her \$5,000. He repeatedly contacted her for payment. LADA assisted the woman in obtaining a hearing test from a medical doctor. This test was compared to tests from earlier years, and her hearing had not deteriorated at all. LADA confronted the dealer with this information, and the dealer ceased all collection attempts.

**LADA Sources of Funding for 1998: \$ 2,576,144**



# LEGAL AID AND DEFENDER ASSOCIATION OF DETROIT

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

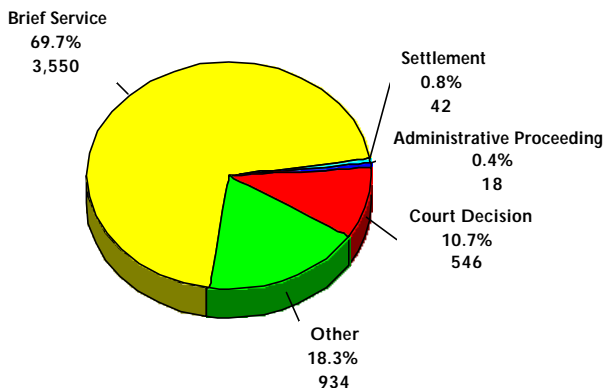
**Community Outreach and Collaboration:** LADA's historic strengths have included its outreach programs, its collaborative efforts with other social service agencies, and its development of community education materials which empower clients to handle legal situations in an informed and prudent manner. In late 1998, LADA received significant additional federal funding allowing LADA to enhance its legal advocacy, create new and novel approaches to client service, and provide clients with a superior quality of legal assistance. In light of this new grant, LADA worked to prepare for being the largest provider of access to the judicial system for the most vulnerable residents of metropolitan Detroit. Accordingly, in 1998, LADA began its design of plans to serve a larger number of clients in an accessible, efficient, and effective manner.

18 & Under	598
19-59	2,745
60 & Over	1,747
Total	5,090

**Pro Bono Support:** LADA continued to enhance the direct delivery of legal services through its pro bono resources. The primary programs included Ford Motor Company Pro Bono Project and the Detroit Legal Services Clinic (DLSC). FMC attorneys assisted many of LADA's senior citizen clients with uncontested divorces, wills, and powers of attorney. These attorneys were particularly helpful with cases involving seniors who have entered into home repair agreements with unscrupulous contractors. The DLSC, located at the Detroit Metropolitan Bar Association, was staffed by attorneys from the law departments of large law firms and corporate general counsel offices. Clients had an opportunity to meet face to face with individual attorneys to discuss their cases. DLSC attorneys used methods ranging from simple letter writing, negotiation, and court appearances to resolve clients' legal matters.

White	980
Black	3,539
Hispanic	25
Native American	2
Asian	544
Other	0
Total	5,090

**LADA Types of Service in 1998**



**LADA Cases Closed in 1998: 5,090**

