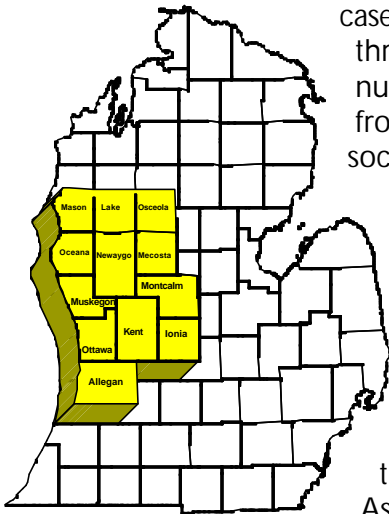


LEGAL AID OF WESTERN MICHIGAN

LAWM Office Locations: Big Rapids, Grand Rapids, Holland, and Muskegon

LAWM Service Area: Allegan, Ionia, Kent, Lake, Mason, Mecosta, Montcalm, Muskegon, Newago, Oceana, Osceola, and Ottawa Counties.

Service Population: 173,861 individuals are living at or below 125% of the poverty level



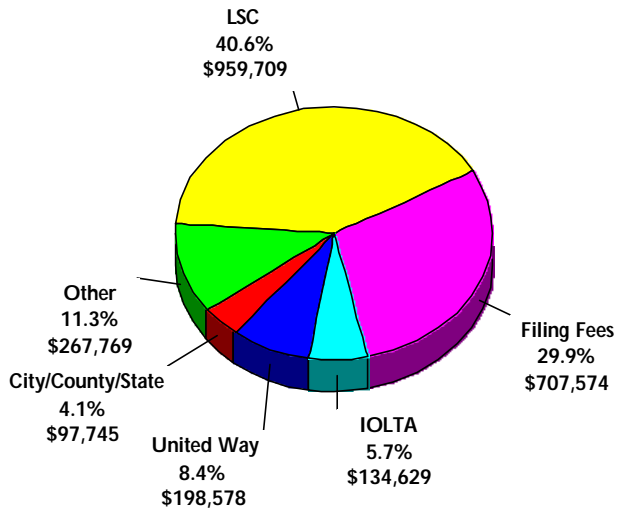
In 1998, LAWM closed nearly 3,900 cases. Clients contacted LAWM through toll-free telephone numbers and through referrals from a variety of human and social service agencies. In addition to handling case intake at its four offices, LAWM conducted client intake at various satellite locations, and emergency intakes were done by telephone for clients in rural counties. Funds from the Grand Rapids Bar Association and increased state funds also allowed LAWM to

A mother and her young child fled their home and went to a local shelter because of her husband's violence and threats. He was later arrested and jailed but had first allowed his sister to move into the home. The husband's sister refused to leave, showed police a handwritten lease and secured a personal protection order (PPO) against the wife after alleging the wife did not own the home. LAWM obtained a court order ending the PPO and awarding exclusive possession of the residence to the mother and her child who were then able to return safely to their home.

open an office in downtown Holland. A computer network was installed in the Muskegon office with five new computers, three laser printers, and two additional monitors to complete the upgrade of the information management system. Haworth and Herman Miller Corporations made a significant contribution of office furniture.

A single mother and her child lived in a house that had been owned by her mother who had been murdered. Because the mother had not paid the property taxes, the house was sold. When the purchaser of the taxes sued to obtain clear title, LAWM arranged for a pro bono attorney to help defend the action in circuit court, process the mother's estate, and secure title in the daughter's name so she could obtain financing to pay the property taxes. As a result, the woman and her child remain in the house where she had lived for most of her life.

LAWM Sources of Funding for 1998: \$ 2,366,004



LEGAL AID OF WESTERN MICHIGAN

Contact: Michael C. Chielens, Executive Director ! [616] 774-0672

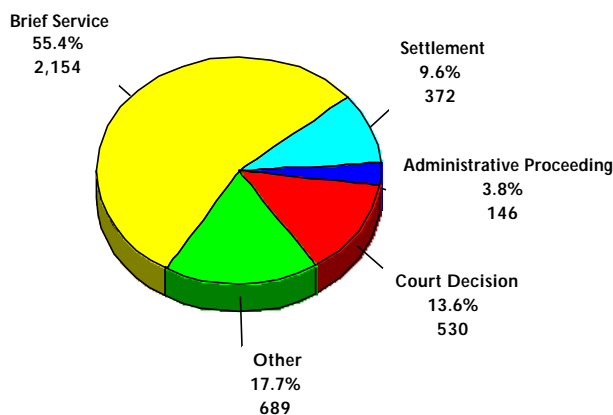
Community Outreach and Collaboration: LAWM attorneys visited community centers, senior citizen centers, transitional housing shelters, and domestic violence shelters to advise and counsel clients in a variety of legal matters: foster care, family law, landlord-tenant law, estate planning, elder law, and domestic violence. By keeping close contacts with social service agencies such as the Grand Rapids Urban League's Housing Assistance Center, United Way's First Call for Help, and Every Woman's Place in Muskegon, LAWM nurtured its relationship with the community by advising and training agency professionals in poverty law issues and accepting case referrals. Staff members furthered this relationship by serving on the boards of numerous local and state agencies. LAWM services were spread throughout its 12-county service area, providing crucial legal services to remote rural areas. As a result of its extensive outreach efforts and advertising, rural counties received a level of service commensurate with their percentage of the eligible client population in the LAWM service area.

18 & Under	207
19-59	3,329
60 & Over	355
Total	3,891

Pro Bono Support: LAWM's 1998 pro bono program exceeded the 1997 record for contributions by receiving more than \$157,000 in pledges from private attorneys. Pro bono attorneys also closed 324 cases in 1998, and 241 new cases were referred to the growing list of private attorneys recruited to accept referrals through LAWM. The Young Lawyers Section of the Grand Rapids Bar Association raised \$9,500 for LAWM at a silent auction held in the spring. In addition, the Grand Rapids Bar Association and LAWM approached the Kent County Board of Commissioners to include an intake and referral center in the new county courthouse.

White	2,574
Black	1,052
Hispanic	194
Native American	28
Asian	43
Other	0
Total	3,891

LAWM Types of Service in 1998



LAWM Cases Closed in 1998: 3,891

