

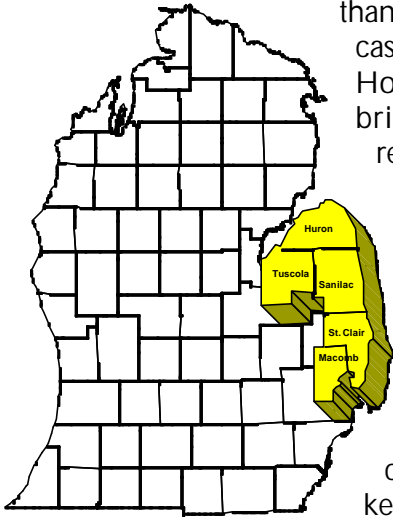
# LAKESHORE LEGAL AID

LLA Office Locations: Caro, Clinton Township, and Port Huron

**LLA Service Area:** Huron, Macomb, St. Clair, Sanilac, and Tuscola Counties

**Service Population:** 97,433 individuals are living at or below 125% of the poverty level

LLA's telephone Hotline received 19,523 calls in 1998, and LLA's lawyers opened more than 7,000 new cases. Of those cases, 5,254 were handled by Hotline attorneys with advice, brief service, or referral, representing nearly 75 percent of LLA's closed cases. LLA's three local offices focused on cases where clients required extended representation by an attorney. When the hotline system was envisioned in 1996, increased

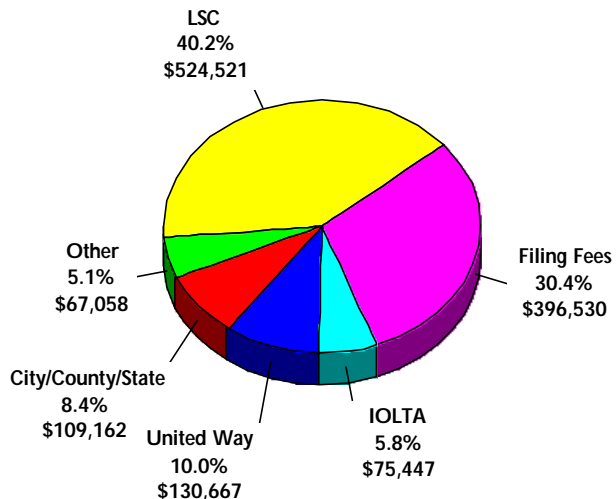


complexity and improved quality of extended service cases was one of the key projected outcomes. In 1998, this anticipated outcome was reflected in the improved quality of the program's work products, the increased number of jury trials conducted, and the number of appeals prosecuted. LLA increased its presence in the community and state with the election of a staff member to the State Bar of Michigan Representative Assembly. An employee was elected treasurer of the Macomb Coalition for Emergency Shelter, and another was elected vice-president of Housing Opportunities of Macomb. LLA also authored the bylaws for the Macomb County Domestic Violence Council.

A couple bought a modest home in 1958 on a land contract. The seller of the home died two years later, but the couple continued to make payments until the home was paid off in 1978. The couple was able to obtain an abstract of title but no deed. They sought help from LLA when they realized they did not have proof they owned the home. LLA assisted them in securing clear title to the home they had shared for 40 years.

A 54-year-old truck driver suffered a stroke which created health complications of severe pain and loss of mental faculties. After he was denied state disability and medical assistance, LLA appealed and presented the judge with research verifying the disabling effect of the medical complications. The judge found that the man's condition prevented him from holding any productive job and awarded him medical insurance and nominal living expenses.

LLA Sources of Funding for 1998: \$ 1,303,385



# LAKESHORE LEGAL AID

Contact: William R. Knight, Jr., Executive Director ! (810)469-5185

**Community Outreach and Collaboration:** LLA continued to be deeply involved in a community's response to the needs of the poverty population. LLA engaged in many outreach and community legal education activities. Along with pro se (self-help) clinics, LLA was able to increase the community's awareness of peoples' legal rights and obligations as well as provide many people with the information to protect their own interests. LLA attorneys volunteered to assist people at the court house who needed personal protection orders to ensure their safety, but who did not have the means to hire an attorney or the ability to prepare the court documents on their own. LLA also trained other community volunteers so they could help even more people.

**Client Age**

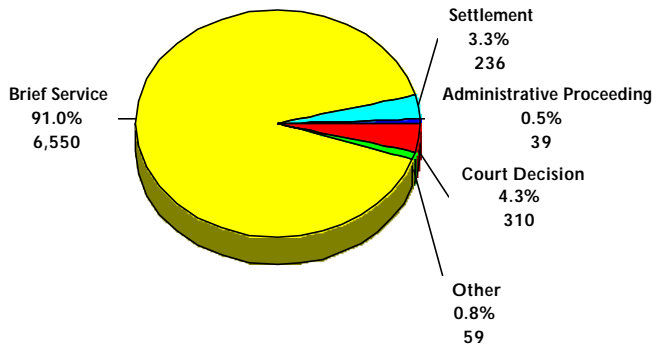
18 & Under	109
19-59	6,199
60 & Over	886
Total	7,194

**Pro Bono Support:** LLA worked closely with the private bar associations in its service area to develop pro bono resources to address the unmet legal needs of the poverty population. Three hundred local attorneys agreed to assist Lakeshore in their individual areas of legal expertise. In 1998, these attorneys donated more than 1,300 hours of their professional time to help low-income people with legal problems. In one bankruptcy case, LLA "unbundled," or divided, the case into separate sections. Pro bono attorneys handled only limited parts of the case, which were areas that LLA was unable to handle efficiently. When each pro bono attorney completed his or her limited, specific assignment, the attorney's involvement was complete. LLA handled the case to its final disposition. This unbundling of a complex case allowed the pro bono attorneys to estimate in advance the time and resources required of them.

**Client Ethnicity**

White	6,198
Black	355
Hispanic	107
Native American	67
Asian	69
Other	398
Total	7,194

**LLA Types of Service in 1998**



**LLA Cases Closed in 1998: 7,194**

