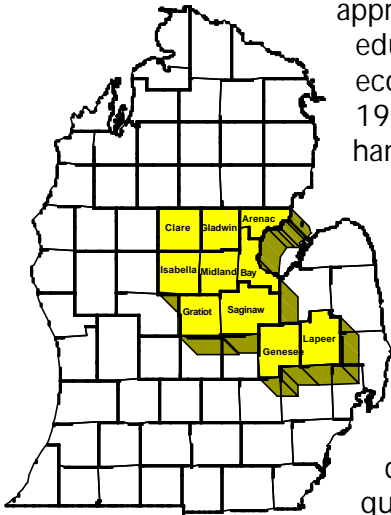


LEGAL SERVICES OF EASTERN MICHIGAN

LSEM Office Locations: Bay City, Flint, Midland, and Saginaw

LSEM Service Area: Arenac, Bay, Clare, Genesee, Gladwin, Gratiot, Isabella, Lapeer, Midland, and Saginaw Counties

Service Population: 209,288 individuals are living at or below 125% of the poverty level



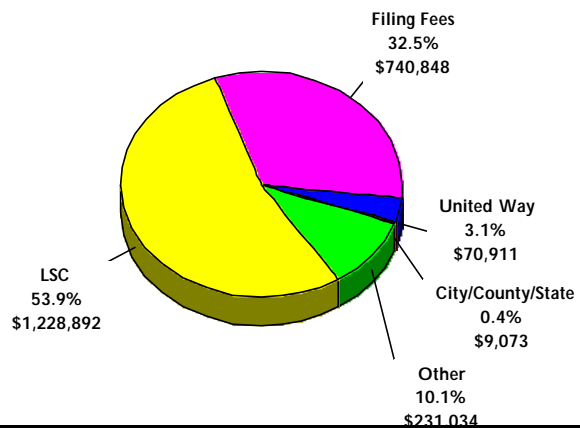
In 1997, LSEM's board of directors approved new specialties in education, employment and economic development. In 1998, LSEM hired staff to handle these specialties. In the education field, LSEM worked to renegotiate or eliminate unfair student loan debts for low-income persons. The staff received extensive training from the Education Law Center in order to work with school districts toward improving the quality of education. In the economic development area,

A woman with a medical disability was terminated from her job because she could not work 40 hours per week even though she had provided her employer with a doctor's statement that limited her work hours to 20 per week. LSEM informed the employer that the Americans With Disabilities Act requires businesses to make reasonable adjustments for an employee's disability, including providing a part time or modified work schedule. The employer subsequently offered this woman her job back with a schedule which accommodated her disability.

LSEM has been an integral part of efforts to establish seven new child care centers. LSEM also added a fair housing center in 1998 and started a project to protect children from the severe consequences of lead paint poisoning. LSEM began eight new pro bono clinics on issues such as divorce, bankruptcy, consumer, employment, and probate matters. New specialty clinics used retired lawyers, corporate lawyers, and individual law firms.

For two years, an elderly woman had asked her landlord to repair major problems, including raw sewage leaking into her living room, holes in the driveway, a porch roof which was collapsing, no hot water in the bathroom sink, and an inoperative oven. LSEM sent a demand letter to the landlord for repairs and also notifying the landlord that the rent would be withheld. As part of the agreement, she was allowed to keep all the rent withheld so that she would have funds to obtain other housing. Although the woman moved from the dwelling six months later, LSEM's work resulted in an improvement in rental property which will benefit future tenants and upgrade the community housing stock.

LSEM Sources of Funding for 1998: \$ 2,280,758



LEGAL SERVICES OF EASTERN MICHIGAN

Contact: Edward J Hoort, Executive Director ! (810) 234-2621

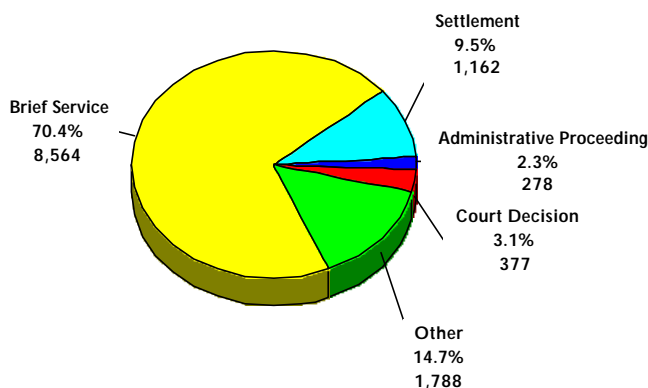
Community Outreach and Collaboration: LSEM's community outreach was evident in its increased emphasis on community legal education, particularly in senior law and elder abuse. LSEM shows its small claims video, accompanied by a pro se kit, monthly at courthouses. In addition, LSEM started offering evening pro se divorce clinics to reach the working poor. The program also worked with a number of tenant groups. Collaboration with other agencies was seen in LSEM's efforts to create elder abuse response teams in counties throughout its service area. In Genesee County, LSEM was involved with the development of the Continuum of Care for the homeless and worked with the Committee Concerned with Housing and a Fair Housing Study Committee. In Saginaw, LSEM participated in the Saginaw Lead Initiative Project. LSEM staff members also served on committees and boards of other non-profit human service agencies that assist poor people.

18 & Under	4,000
19-59	7,509
60 & Over	660
Total	12,169

Pro Bono Support: LSEM, in conjunction with local bar associations, has a pro bono program in which volunteers handle individual cases, staff legal advice clinics, do training, mentor other pro bono attorneys, and help with fundraising. A private law firm in Bay City offers pro bono legal advice clinics in its own offices. Corporate attorneys in Midland staff a monthly pro bono consumer law clinic in LSEM's Midland office. A new clinic was added this year when 15 senior attorneys formed the Saginaw County Senior Circuit Pro Bono Bar Association to do pro bono work through LSEM. This group does monthly clinics at senior centers. LSEM acknowledged the work of its pro bono attorneys by featuring a "Spotlight Attorney" in each issue of its "Pro Bono Newsletter" and naming an attorney of the year in each major county. LSEM pro bono attorneys did most of their individual casework in consumer law, family law, and will preparation.

White	8,369
Black	3,129
Hispanic	662
Native American	5
Asian	4
Other	0
Total	12,169

LSEM Types of Service in 1998



LSEM Cases Closed in 1998: 12,169

