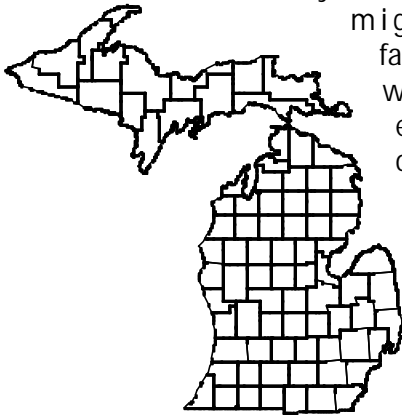


MICHIGAN MIGRANT LEGAL ASSISTANCE PROJECT, INC.

MMLAP Office Locations: Ann Arbor, Grand Rapids

MMLAP Service Area: The area served is the state of Michigan. The program primarily served rural areas, as the focus is farmworkers.

Service Population: 160,000 individuals are living at or below 125% of the poverty level

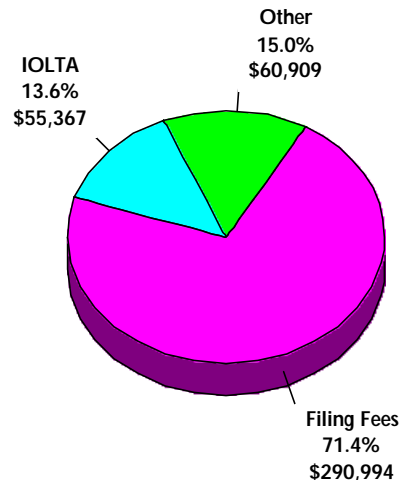


In its 25th year, MMLAP continued to serve migrant and seasonal farmworkers through legal work designed to benefit this extremely poor and culturally and geographically isolated population. MMLAP's efforts in 1998 included determining the extent of noncompliance with a landmark judgment MMLAP obtained against the federal Rural Housing Service, which regulates certain housing for migrant workers. A successful result in this case would mean that tens of thousands of farmworkers would get back money wrongfully taken from them. MMLAP also worked to assure that dishonest "advisors" (nonlawyers exploiting innocent people seeking immigration legal assistance) were prevented from bilking poor persons of funds and giving them inaccurate advice. MMLAP benefited from a Skadden-Arps Fellow, an attorney based in Ann Arbor who could increase services to the east side of the state, an area underserved in the past. In 1998, the Michigan Department of Agriculture awarded a \$37,000 grant to MMLAP for 1999 education and outreach activities.

A grower did not pay the workers their last paychecks of the year. Instead he applied those funds to annual repairs made after the growing season to the camp housing. MMLAP discussed the legal requirement to pay wages earned with the grower's legal counsel who arranged for all of the wages owed to be paid to the workers.

A man who spoke very limited English bought a used vehicle on a monthly payment plan, but the dealer billed him a higher monthly amount than the figure specified in the contract. He was also charged extra for a warranty because the dealer would not sell him the car unless the warranty was also added to the contract. The man was unable to resolve the discrepancy with the seller. MMLAP sent a letter to the dealer rescinding the contract based on fraud and misrepresentation. As a result, the dealership honored the rescission and refunded sums that had been paid by the buyer.

MMLAP Sources of Funding for 1998: \$ 407,270



MICHIGAN MIGRANT LEGAL ASSISTANCE PROJECT, INC.

Contact: Gary N. Gershon, Executive Director ! (616) 454-5055

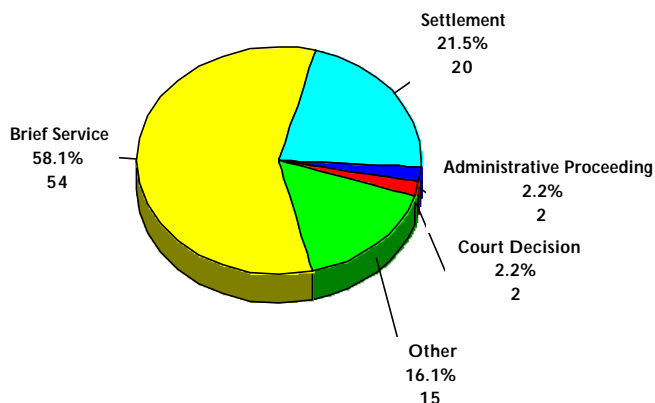
Community Outreach and Collaboration: MMLAP's relationships with other organizations included mutual referrals to the state Family Independence Agency, Michigan Employment Security Agency, Telamon Inc., the Council on Spanish-Speaking Affairs, the State Departments of Agriculture and Civil Rights, and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. MMLAP conducted legal education for farmworkers and their families at work camps, covering topics such as field sanitation, pesticide warnings, farm equipment, worker protection standards, wage problems, workplace discrimination, and consumer matters. MMLAP also produced and distributed the newsletter "Bajo--Under the Burning Sun," which provided information to an estimated 5,000 readers including farmworkers, farmers, and agency networks. MMLAP participated in the Interagency Migrant Council and Migrant Resource Council meetings, working with these agencies to develop mediation services and provide information and updates.

18 & Under	2
19-59	89
60 & Over	2
Total	93

Pro Bono Support: MMLAP worked with the State Bar of Michigan and the Michigan Poverty Law Program to implement the Michigan Litigation Assistance Partnership Program, which refers complex cases to be handled pro bono by large law firms. Because MMLAP provided state-level support to other programs and focused on complex litigation, MMLAP did not maintain a traditional pro bono panel. However, MMLAP has received assistance from large firms on significant cases. Some firms have donated hundreds of hours and often assisted with litigation costs.

White	0
Black	0
Hispanic	90
Native American	0
Asian	0
Other	3
Total	93

MMLAP Types of Service in 1998



MMLAP Cases Closed in 1998: 93

