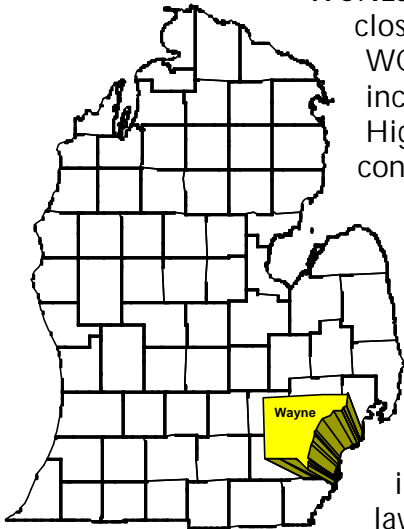


# WAYNE COUNTY NEIGHBORHOOD LEGAL SERVICES

WCNLS Office Locations: Detroit, Highland Park, Ecorse, Redford

**WCNLS Service Area:** Wayne County (except for our AIDS and Children's Law Centers: Wayne, Oakland, Macomb, Lapeer, St. Clair and Monroe Counties)

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



WCNLS opened 23,910 cases and closed 23,676 cases in 1998. WCNLS expanded services to include legal education in the Highland Park schools and a contract with the Third Circuit Court for WCNLS attorneys to act as special masters in difficult family law cases. WCNLS's priorities included family law, housing, income maintenance, consumer, employment, health, individual rights, juvenile law, and education. WCNLS provided legal representation,

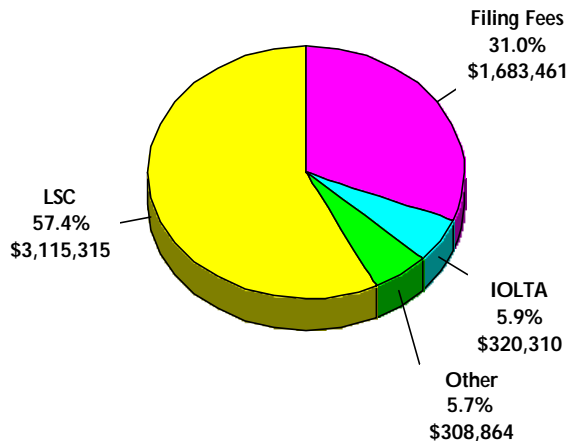
legal education, mediation, and other programs to assist clients in poverty, including case intake for Hispanic and Arabic clients at LASED and ACCESS offices, numerous cases for AIDS victims, thousands of

A physically and mentally disabled man had great difficulty living alone but he could not get his public housing manager to approve double occupancy for his unit. WCNLS assisted in developing an agreement with the housing manager to allow a caretaker to move in. The tenant had a friend move in to help him, but the housing manager had not taken action to authorize double occupancy, and the tenant was served with an eviction notice. After WCNLS successfully argued that the landlord's actions violated the Federal law requiring landlords to reasonably accommodate disabled tenants, the court ruled in favor of the tenant, who now is able to benefit from a live-in helper.

matters for children, and many domestic violence cases.

A mother's SSI (federal disability benefits) were paid on her behalf to her son. The son did not pay her utility bills, and the balances rose to substantial amounts. He then switched the accounts back to his mother's name. In addition, the mother's housing complex was to be torn down, but she could not qualify for a federal subsidy for replacement housing because all utilities must be in her name which the utility company would not permit due to the delinquent accounts. WCNLS worked with the utility company on a resolution requiring minimal out-of-pocket expense for the mother. WCNLS also assisted in changing the payee for her SSI.

WCNLS Sources of Funding for 1998: \$ 5,427,950



# WAYNE COUNTY NEIGHBORHOOD LEGAL SERVICES

Contact: Linda D. Bernard, President & CEO ! (313) 962-0466

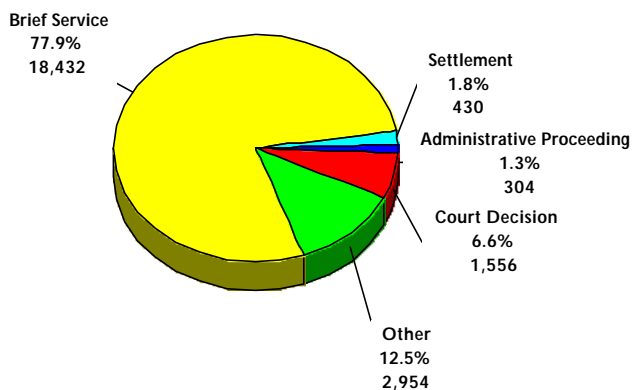
**Community Outreach and Collaboration:** WCNLS has partnerships with many community and government agencies. The mediation center provided community and specialized mediation services and mediation training for the Wayne County Intermediate School districts; other entities also referred cases to the center. The WCNLS Project Permanency program worked with six other agencies to provide legal and housing placement services to Detroit-area homeless individuals and families. WCNLS staff members are affiliated with more than 100 organizations and participated in community involvement activities with more than 40 during 1998. WCNLS produced public service announcements and public legal education that reached more than two million people in the Detroit area, as well as WCNLS's cable television show, "Spotlight on the Law," and the ÇEqual Justice ForumÇ radio broadcasts.

18 & Under	1,687
19-59	19,429
60 & Over	2,560
Total	23,676

**Pro Bono Support:** WCNLS participated in three pro bono programs. WCNLS maintained its own panel of pro bono attorneys who accepted WCNLS referrals. In 1998, WCNLS's pro bono attorneys opened 1,612 cases and closed 1,767 cases. WCNLS also recruited on-site attorney volunteers. WCNLS also worked closely with the Detroit Metropolitan Bar Association to administer the Detroit Legal Services Clinic, helped to recruit and train pro bono attorneys for the clinic and provided mentors to assist them. Through an open bid process, WCNLS contracted with private attorneys to serve Wayne County residents at reduced fees. Through the Partnership for Justice campaigns, WCNLS recruited numerous private practitioners and law firms to contribute 30 hours of service or \$300 annually.

White	4,118
Black	17,081
Hispanic	1,220
Native American	90
Asian	52
Other	1,115
Total	23,676

WCNLS Types of Service in 1998



WCNLS Cases Closed in 1998: 23,676

