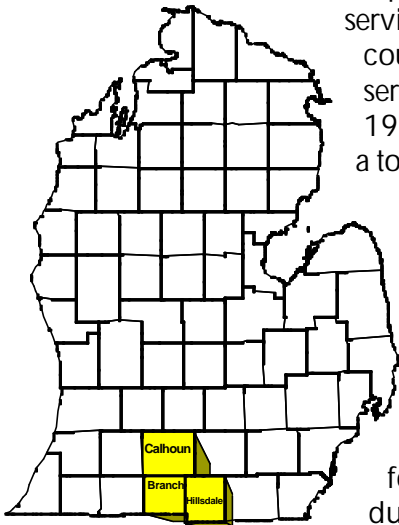


LEGAL SERVICES ORGANIZATION OF SOUTHCENTRAL MICHIGAN

LSOSM Office Locations: Battle Creek, Coldwater, and Hillsdale

LSOSM Service Area: Branch, Calhoun, and Hillsdale Counties

Service Population: 40,180 individuals living at or below 125% of the poverty level



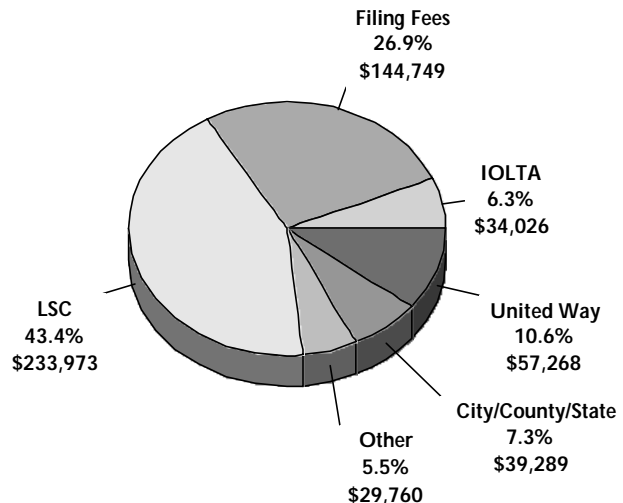
In 1999, LSOSM offered a wide range of access points for seekers of legal services throughout the three county service area, enabling service to 2,069 clients in 1999. These methods included a toll-free legal hotline as well as walk-in assistance at the main Battle Creek office and satellite sites in the outlying counties. LSOSM offered legal clinics, such as self-help divorce clinics, to serve people who cannot be accepted for full legal representation due to insufficient resources.

LSOSM also gave monthly community legal education presentations in landlord-tenant, consumer, and elder law. In the process of ensuring year 2000 computer compliance, LSOSM upgraded its entire computer network to include a virtual private network, enabling the intake of new cases on-line from remote locations.

LSOSM assisted a client, his wife, and young child who were in fear of losing their rented home of 10 years. The roof was leaking, there was no heat or hot water, and the back steps were caving in. The client requested repairs many times without response from the landlord; finally, he withheld his rent. Instead of repairing the problems, the landlord sued to evict the family. The court ordered the landlord to fix the dangerous safety violations and also ordered a partial rebate of the rent to compensate the family for the time they lived in such deplorable conditions. Most importantly, the family was able to stay safely in their longtime home.

A disabled father with three small children called LSOSM's hotline about several overdue bills. After speaking with him, the LSOSM case handler realized that the father had very minimal income, but his family was not receiving food stamps and his children were not covered by the state's health insurance program for low-income children. The client had not realized that his family could receive this help. Obtaining these services made it possible for the client to subsist within his very limited monthly budget without incurring future debt.

LSOSM Sources of Funding for 1999: \$ 539,065



LEGAL SERVICES ORGANIZATION OF SOUTHCENTRAL MICHIGAN

Contact: Thomas K. Thornburg, Interim Executive Director ! (616) 965-3951

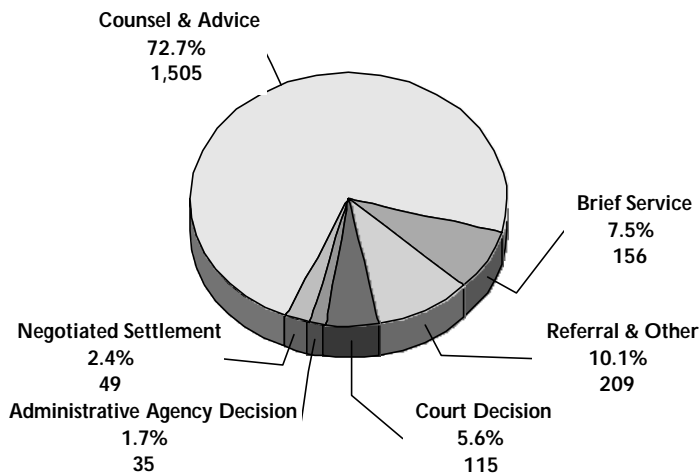
Community Outreach and Collaboration: LSOSM partnered with staffs of governmental and other nonprofit agencies in providing thorough legal education materials to the community, particularly the landlord-tenant clinic conducted jointly with the Battle Creek housing code enforcement program and the district court. Chief judges in each of LSOSM's counties were consulted during the development of the materials for this clinic, as well as the other clinics. LSOSM staff members were active with the Battle Creek Coordinating Council's Audit Team in assessing the needs of domestic violence victims and designing collaborative efforts for organizations to implement in assisting those clients. Staff members were involved in local networks of community agencies that handle homelessness and elder issues. LSOSM continued its outreach to senior citizens at more than 20 senior centers. Presentations were given on topics such as wills and estates and Social Security. After the presentations, seniors could speak with the LSOSM representative individually.

18 & Under	7
19-59	1,831
60 & Over	231
Groups	0
Total	2,069

Pro Bono Support: Many non-emergency matters were handled by LSOSM's pro bono attorney panel. With the assistance of local bar associations, LSOSM has organized a volunteer attorney program. Throughout LSOSM's three counties, 60 attorneys have agreed to provide legal representation, at no charge, to low-income clients referred to them by LSOSM. These lawyers closed 47 cases for LSOSM clients in 1999. They assisted mothers trying to obtain child support, helped elderly clients preparing wills and other end-of-life plans, and enforced consumer rights and remedies.

White	1,512
Black	414
Hispanic	43
Native American	20
Asian	2
Other	78
Total	2,069

LSOSM Types of Service in 1999



LSOSM Cases Closed in 1999: 2,069

