

LEGAL ASSISTANCE

Low-cost legal assistance is available to the general public. The following legal agencies provide assistance to Wayne County residents.

Wayne County

Arab Community Center for Economic and Social Services (ACCESS)

6451 Schaefer

Dearborn, MI 48126

Phone: (313) 945-8167

Web site: www.accesscommunity.org

The Legal Aid and Defenders Association (LADA) outreaches to our East Dearborn location to provide free legal aid (civil legal services) once a week to low-income households.

Provides services in the following legal areas:

- Deportation, exclusion, and removal
- General consultations/advice and referrals
- Visa processing
- Political Asylum
- Litigation to defend aliens' rights
- Community education and training

American Civil Liberties Union Fund of Michigan

60 W. Hancock St.

Detroit, MI 48201

Phone: (313) 578-6800

Web site: www.aclumich.org

Provides services in the following legal areas:

- Constitutional Issues
- Freedom of Speech
- Due Process
- Privacy

Community Legal Resources

615 Griswold, Suite 1400

Detroit, MI 48226

Phone: (313) 962-3171

Fax: (313) 962-0797

Email: info@clronline.org

Web site: www.clronline.org

Community Legal Resources, with the assistance of private attorneys, provides pro bono legal representation to Michigan nonprofit organizations that are working with disadvantaged communities and individuals and are unable to pay for traditional legal services.

Detroit Hispanic Development Corporation

1211 Trumbull

Detroit, MI 48216

Phone: (313) 967-4880

Fax: (313) 967-4884

TDD: (800) 649-3777

Web site: www.dhdc1.org

Provides the following services:

- Advice and referrals
- Visa processing and naturalization

Detroit Metropolitan Bar Association

645 Griswold, Suite 1356

Detroit, MI 48226

Phone: (313) 961-6120

Fax: (313) 965-0842

Web site: www.detroitlawyer.org

Detroit Legal Services Clinic provides services in the following areas:

- Housing
- Probate Matters
- Tax/Employment
- Real Estate

- Consumer Rights
- Guardianship

Federal Civil Pro Bono Project provides services to pro se clients in the following legal areas:

- Prisoner Civil Rights
- Employment Discrimination

Volunteer Civil Law Project provides services in the following areas:

- All types of Civil Law
- Client meeting location

First Step Legal Advocacy Project

44567 Pinetree Drive
Plymouth, MI 48170
Phone: (734) 416-1111
Toll Free: (888) 453-5900
Fax: (734) 416-5555

26650 Eureka Road, Suite E
Taylor, MI 48180-4835
Phone: (734) 955-3850
Fax: (734) 955-3855
24 Hour Help Line: (888) 453-5900
24 Hour Help Line: (734) 459-5900
(Local)

First Step Legal Advocacy Project provides services in the following legal areas:

- Domestic violence
- Sexual assault

Free Legal Aid Clinic (FLAC)

5435 Woodward Avenue
Detroit, MI 48202
Phone: (313) 577-2711
Email: flac@wayne.edu
Web site: www.detroitflac.com

Hours: 10:30 a.m.–3:30 p.m.,

Monday–Friday Services: Wayne State

Law Students, guided by supervising attorneys, represent clients in civil, administrative and criminal misdemeanor matters, including welfare matters and limited domestic relations. Eligibility: Wayne County residents; low income, telephone & walk-ins.

Fee: None

Freedom House

2630 W. Lafayette Blvd.
Detroit, MI 48216
Phone: (313) 964-4320
Web site: www.freedomhousedetroit.org

The legal services office of Freedom House represents indigent asylum seekers in the United States. This includes:

- Determining if they are eligible for asylum and whether we can help them.
- Preparing and filing an application for asylum for them with the U.S. Government.
- Representing persons at their initial interview with an Asylum officer.
- Representing persons in court at their Asylum hearing.

International Institute of Metropolitan Detroit (IIMD)

111 E. Kirby
Detroit, MI 48202
Phone: (313) 871-8600
Fax: (313) 871-1651
Web site: www.iimd.org

As a non-profit organization, IIMD proudly serves various ethnic communities within the tri-county area since decades. While we emphasize on assisting the underrepresented families, our immigration legal service assists all individuals in achieving their immigration goals.

IIMD immigration attorneys are fluent in Spanish and Mandarin Chinese. We provide efficient and affordable services to an internationally diverse and growing client base.

Latin Americans for Social and Economic Development (LASED)

4138 W. Vernor Hwy.

Detroit, MI 48209

Phone: (313) 554-2025

Fax: (313) 554-2242

Web site: www.lasedinc.org

Provides services in the following legal areas:

- Employment
- Social Security
- Immigration
- Translation of Birth and Marriage Certificates

Legal Aid and Defender Association, Inc.

Web site: www.ladadetroit.org

613 Abbott Street

Detroit, MI 48226

Phone: (313) 967-5555

Toll Free: (877) 964-4700

Fax: (313) 962-0747

Client Service Center

1240 Third Street

Detroit, MI 48226

Phone: (313) 967-5800

Legal Aid and Defender Association, Inc represents low- and moderate-income residents of Macomb, Oakland and Wayne counties, including the City of Detroit, in civil legal matters.

We also represent low- and moderate-income people accused of state criminal offenses in Wayne County Circuit Court and federal criminal offenses in U.S.

District Court for the Eastern District of Michigan.

Michigan Legal Services (MLS)

220 Bagley, Suite 900

Detroit, MI 48226

Phone: (313) 964-4130

Fax: (313) 964-1192

Web site: www.milegalservices.org

Michigan Legal Services is a nonprofit legal services organization dedicated to eliminating systemic causes of poverty in the areas of housing, health, public benefits, and community economic development through impact-oriented legal services and support for community organizations engaged in efforts to rebuild low-income communities. Michigan Legal Services has been serving low-income communities across the state for nearly thirty years. For the past decade, it has focused its efforts in the metropolitan Detroit area where the organization is based.

Special Populations:

Homeless: In a collaborative with three other agencies, MLS provides legal services for this difficult to serve population which presents many urgent legal needs in the areas of public benefits, housing and domestic violence.

Families on the Brink of Homelessness: There are 40,000 eviction cases filed annually in the 36th District Court. Current combined resources of existing legal services providers are meeting less than 2% of that overwhelming need! And the need is growing exponentially as tax and mortgage foreclosures skyrocket due to predatory lending and increased unemployment. MLS also focuses on preserving tenancies in federally subsidized housing.

Undocumented persons: MLS works with

an experienced Hispanic attorney to address an enormous need within this population which has been victimized by bad advice from “notario publicos”.

Prisoners: MLS represents the inmates in the Wayne County jails in a civil action concerning fire safety, medical care, food and sanitation and security and classification issues. MLS also responds to prisoner mail from across the state.

Neighborhood Legal Services

Web site: www.freewebs.com/wcnls

Web site: www.wcnls.org

Child and Family Advocacy Center

104 Lothrop Avenue
Detroit, MI 48202
Phone: (313) 874-5820 Ext. 203,
214, or 215
Fax: (313) 874-5497
Toll Free: (877) 774-8946

Children's Judicial Center

Street Law, Conflict Resolution, &
Drug Abuse Resistance Education
104 Lothrop Avenue
Detroit, MI 48202
Phone: (313) 874-5820, x230
Fax: (313) 874-5497
Toll Free: (877) 774-8946

Disability Advocacy & Legal Advocacy

104 Lothrop Avenue, Suite B
Detroit, MI 48202
Phone: (313) 874-5820, Ext. 200 or
211
Fax: (313) 874-5497
Toll Free: (877) SSI-UWIN

Downriver Housing Advocacy

(In friendly cooperation with
American Indian Services)
1110 Southfield Rd,
Lincoln Park, MI 48146
Phone: (313) 357-2658

Downtown Detroit Management and Housing Advocacy

(In friendly cooperation with Jewish
Vocational Services, Inc)
455 Fort Street, 2nd Floor
Detroit, MI 48226
Phone: (313) 964-1975
Fax: (313) 963-2584

New Center Client Service Center

General Practice Services for
Workers/Retirees
104 Lothrop Avenue
Detroit, MI 48202
Phone: (313) 874-5820, Ext. 200 or
201
Fax: (313) 874-5497
Toll Free: (877) 774-8946

Western Wayne Housing Advocacy (In friendly cooperation with the City of Redford)

12121 Hemingway
Redford, MI 48229
Phone: (313) 937-8291
Fax: (313) 937-8893

NLSM is Metro Detroit's only organization of its kind offering non-criminal legal advocacy, law-related education and supportive services for individuals and families. Abused or homeless people, children, people with life-challenging illness, and seniors who qualify receive services free of charge. To break the cycle of homelessness, NLSM pays budget counselors and partnering agencies to provide counsel and case management services, childcare, and essential items for eligible families. NLSM also contracts with local agencies to assist victims of crime with emergency home security repairs. Founded in 1966, NLSM became of the nation's first civil legal services-based Victims of Crime Act in 1999.

Society of St. Vincent de Paul

Christian Legal Aid
3000 Gratiot Avenue

Detroit, Michigan 48207
Toll free: (877) ST VINCENT (877-788-4623)
Phone: (313) 393-2930
Fax: (313) 393.2978
Web site: www.svdpdet.org

Christian Legal Aid of Southeast Michigan provides free legal counsel and referral. 313.393.2930.

Sugar Law Center for Economic and Social Justice

2727 Second Avenue, Suite 327
Detroit, MI 48201
Phone: (313) 962-6540
Fax: (313) 962-4492
Website: www.sugarlaw.org

Plant Closings (WARN Act), Poverty Rights, Environmental Justice, Economic Rights and Living Wage.

The Sugar Law Center for Economic and Social Justice (SLC) is a national non-profit, public-interest law center. We provide legal advocacy, representation, education and technical support to empower community groups, workers' rights groups and individuals seeking systemic change toward economic and social justice. Throughout its history the SLC has highlighted the interdependence of civil and economic rights, pursuing economic justice by supporting grassroots campaigns for a living wage, representing communities of color in challenging environmental racism, and pressing for corporate and government accountability.

University of Detroit Mercy Law School

Urban Law Clinic
651 E. Jefferson
Detroit, MI 48226
Phone: (313) 596-0200

Hours: Hours and days change each semester

Services: U of D law students supervised by practicing attorneys, represent persons in general civil and minor criminal matters and juvenile cases.

Eligibility: Low income, primarily Wayne County residents.

Fee: None for consultation. (By arrangement if case accepted.)

Wayne State University Law School

471 W. Palmer
Detroit, MI 48202
Phone: (313) 577-4015
TDD: (313) 577-9530

Students in the Disability Clinic assist low-income individuals with disabilities in a range of issues, including social security/SSI, special education, and Medicaid/Medicare. The Clinic aims to help its clients obtain the services and supports they need to live in their own homes rather than in institutional settings. The Disability Law Clinic offers students an intensive exposure to administrative advocacy, while helping one of Detroit's most underrepresented populations.

Student interns in the Child Advocacy Clinic represent children in abuse, neglect, foster care review, termination of parental rights, adoption and delinquency proceedings. Student interns learn about the child protection, child welfare and juvenile justice systems, and the roles and responsibilities of lawyers and other participants in those systems. Students conduct client interviews and home visits, prepare for hearings and trials, advocate for necessary services, perform research, draft motions, and attend juvenile court and foster care review board hearings.

West Side Mothers Welfare Rights Organization

23 E. Adams, 3rd Floor

Detroit, MI 48226
Phone: (313) 964-3980

Provides services in the following areas:

- Social Security Hearings
- Family Independence Agency Hearings

William Booth Legal Aid Clinic

Salvation Army Harbor Light
3737 Lawton Street
Detroit, MI. 48208
Phone: (313) 361-6340

Serves: Wayne, Oakland, Macomb

Services: The William Booth Legal Aid Clinic of The Salvation Army provides free legal services to people who live at or below national poverty guidelines. They handle mostly family law and landlord/tenant issues. They do not handle lawsuits.

The William Booth Legal Aid Clinic provides legal services to Harbor Light clients as well as to low-income individuals residing in the metro Detroit area. The legal staff consists of licensed practicing lawyers and senior law students who are able to represent clients in court proceedings. Some of the cases handled by the WBLAC include, but are not limited to, divorce, custody issues, landlords / tenant disputes, client advocacy and social security and disability issues. Attorney Robert Dickman is the clinic's director; he and his wife Ellen Dickman opened the clinic in 1993.

Women's Justice Center

615 Griswold St., Suite 1520
Detroit, MI 48226-3900
Phone: (313) 962-4945

Provides services in the following legal areas:

- Domestic Violence
- General Family Law; Divorce and Custody Actions, and Paternity
- Landlord/Tenant
- Abuse and Neglect

Monroe County

Monroe County Senior Legal Services

1126 S. Telegraph
Monroe, MI 48161
Phone: (734) 241-7644
Fax: (734) 241-839

We provide legal services in civil matters. This excludes bankruptcy, driver's license restoration and criminal cases; the criminally accused have the right to counsel at public expense if they cannot afford an attorney.

If you are unable to travel, call the office to have one of our outreach staff visit you at your home.

Legal Services of South Central Michigan - Monroe Office

1118 A South Telegraph
Monroe, MI 48161
Phone: (734) 241-8310
Toll Free: (888) 251-1598
Fax: (734) 241-1381
Web site: www.lsscm.org

Counties served: Monroe Lenawee

Provides services in the following areas:

- Family Law
- Landlord/Tenant
- Home Ownership
- Probate
- Guardianship
- Consumer
- Health Law
- Domestic Violence
- Civil Rights

- Individual Rights
- Employment
- Real Estate
- Government Benefits
- Bankruptcy
- Debtor Relief
- Housing

Southeastern Dispute Resolution Services

Community Action Agency
1214 Greenwood
Jackson, MI 49204
Phone: (517) 784-4800
Fax: (517) 784-5188

Service area: Jackson, Hillsdale, Lenawee,
& Monroe Counties

Statewide

State Bar Association

Lawyer Referral and Information Service
306 Townsend St.
Lansing, MI 48933
Phone: (800) 968-0738
Web site: www.michbar.org

Elder Law of Michigan

3815 West St. Joseph Suite C200
Lansing, MI 48917
Phone: (517) 485-9164
Toll Free: (866) 400-9164
Fax: (517) 372-0792
Email: info@elderlawofmi.org
Web site: www.elderlawofmi.org

Elder Law of Michigan operates a special telephone hotline that the public can use to speak with an attorney about issues affecting older adults and their caregivers. Typical topics include: wills; probate; Medicare/Medicaid; Social Security; consumer fraud; pension rights; kinship care; tax issues; bankruptcy/debtor protection; and medical rights/billing. Attorneys provide information and advice but not legal representation. Makes

referrals to other legal resources when appropriate.

Michigan Indian Legal Services

215 S. Washington Square, Suite C
Lansing, MI 48933-1888
Phone: (888) 218-9254
Fax: (517) 316-0654
Web site: www.mils.org

Michigan Indian Legal Services provides civil legal services to low income Indian individuals and tribes to further self sufficiency, overcome discrimination, assist tribal governments and preserve Indian families.

Provides services in the following legal areas:

- Indian Child Welfare Act
- Treaty and Statutory Rights
- Tribal recognition
- Community Education
- Discrimination

Michigan Protection & Advocacy Service, Inc.

4095 Legacy Parkway, Suite 500
Lansing, MI 48911
Phone: (517) 487-1755
Toll Free: (800) 288-5923
Fax: (517)487-0827
Email: molson@mpas.org
Web site: www.mpas.org

People with disabilities have to deal with a wide variety of issues. We try to answer any questions you may have relating to disability. We have experience in the following areas: discrimination in education, employment, housing, and public places; abuse and neglect; Social Security benefits; Medicaid, Medicare and other insurance; housing; Vocational Rehabilitation; HIV/AIDS issues; and many other disability-related topics.

Michigan Migrant Legal Assistance Project (MMLAP)

648 Monroe NW, Suite 318
Grand Rapids, MI 49503
Phone: (616) 454-5055
Toll Free: (800) 418-3390
Fax: (616) 454-7022
Email: info@mmlap.com
Web site: www.mmlap.com

Provides bilingual services to farm workers in the following legal areas:

- Employment
- Housing
- Civil Rights
- Education
- Consumer
- Public Benefits
- Immigration
- Health

Michigan Welfare Rights Organization (MWRO)

23 E. Adams, 4th Floor
Detroit, MI 48226
Phone: (313) 964-0618
Fax: (313) 964-2600
Email: info@mwro.org
Web site: www.mwro.org

The Michigan Welfare Rights Organization is the union of public assistance recipients and low-income workers in this state. MWRO has chapters across Michigan and is one of the founding members of the National Welfare Rights Union. Our goal is to organize recipients and low-income workers to fight for our rights, to eliminate poverty in this country and to build an army prepared to battle or the economic and human rights of millions of disenfranchised Americans.

Welfare recipients, low income workers and homeless people rarely know what benefits they are entitled to under existing social service rules and regulations that

undergo daily sometimes hourly changes. Since President Bill Clinton signed the Welfare Reform Bill on August 22, 1996, most of the safety nets that barely separated poor people from outright hunger and homelessness have disappeared reducing millions across the country and hundreds of thousands in Michigan to membership in the "New Great Depression." The focus of MWRO is to intervene and advocate on behalf of the victims of poverty when disputes surface between this population and service delivery agencies. MWRO sponsors training sessions for the victims of poverty that cover eligibility for Food Stamps, Medicaid, cash assistance, disputes with landlords, utility companies and how to file a hearing when these rights are being violated. The work is monumental, sometimes crushing and seemingly endless.

Prison Legal Services of Michigan, Inc.

119 N. Washington Sq., Suite 302
Lansing, MI 48933
Phone: (517) 484-8112
Email: questions@plsminc.org
Web site: www.plsminc.org

PLSM, Inc. is dedicated to providing the inmates of the Michigan Department of Corrections (MDOC) with advice for dealing with legal issues and materials with which they may aid themselves.

Provides services in the following legal areas:

- All civil legal aid matters (other than civil rights suits against prison officials).
- Detainees and federal habeas corpus.
- Assistance after the right of criminal appeal is exhausted and other post conviction matters.

- Advice in prison administrative matters.
- Paralegal training for selected inmates and job placement assistance for released paralegals.
- Provide information sheets on numerous post-conviction, civil, and prison administrative topics.
- Provide self-help packets in selected criminal, prisoners' rights, and prison administrative matters.

**Thomas M. Cooley Law School
Innocence Project**

300 S. Capitol Avenue

P.O. Box 13038

Lansing, MI 48901

Phone: (517) 371-5140

Web site: www.cooley.edu

The Innocence Project does not charge for its services and receives no government

funding. It is maintained entirely by Cooley Law School, with a supporting grant from the Michigan Bar Foundation and private donations.

Case intake criteria includes all of the following three categories:

- Persons who claim actual innocence saying they did not commit the crime for which they were committed.
- Persons who are serving a substantial sentence in prison in the State of Michigan.
- Persons whose innocence could be established by DNA testing of biological evidence that was collected during the course of the criminal investigation of their case.