

# Milwaukee Justice Center

**2009 Annual Report**



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### **Executive Summary**

The Milwaukee Justice Center (MJC), a public service project created by the Milwaukee Bar Association in partnership with Marquette University Law School and Milwaukee County, utilizes volunteers to address the unmet legal needs of Milwaukee County's low-income unrepresented litigants through court-based self-help desks and legal resources.

The underlying philosophy of the project is that unrepresented litigants have a fundamental right to access the justice system even if they cannot afford an attorney or do not qualify for legal aid. Generally, unrepresented litigants who earn more than 125 percent of the federal poverty guidelines do not qualify for free legal services. This means a single person earning more than \$13,538 or a family of four earning more than \$27,563 annually is considered ineligible for most free legal assistance. These families struggle to pay for basic necessities—rent, groceries, and utilities. Thus, when faced with civil legal issues many have no choice but to access the courts alone. As such, the MJC strives to address the substantive and procedural barriers facing unrepresented litigants so that they can better navigate the legal system.

### **Services Offered**

#### **Self-Help Desks:**

The Self-Help Desks assist self-represented litigants with filling out forms, and provide step by step instructions for filing in family law, small claims and foreclosure cases. Service is provided on a first come first served basis. The volunteers that staff the Self-Help Desks do not provide legal advice.

#### **Appointments:**

Scheduled in one hour increments, clients meet with volunteers to complete divorce paperwork and foreclosure answers. The volunteers that staff appointments do not provide legal advice.

#### **Brief Legal Advice and Referral Clinics:**

The Marquette Volunteer Legal Clinic at the Milwaukee Justice Center is a free, walk-in legal information and referral center staffed by volunteer Marquette

University law students working with, and supervised by, volunteer attorneys. The Clinic's goal is to provide self-represented litigants with basic legal information and appropriate referrals on civil legal matters including divorce, custody and support, landlord-tenant disputes, probate, small claims and large claims. The Clinic does not take cases or represent clients in an ongoing manner.

## Hours

### Self-Help Desk Hours of Operation

#### **Milwaukee County Courthouse, Rm. G9**

##### **Family Law Issues:**

Monday	11:00 A.M. - 2:00 P.M.
Tuesday	11:00 A.M. - 2:00 P.M.
Wednesday	11:00 A.M. - 2:00 P.M.
Friday	8:00 A.M. - 11:00 A.M.

##### **Small Claims Issues:**

Thursday	11:30 A.M. - 1:00 P.M.
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### Appointments, Rm. G9

Appointments for assistance with family law paperwork and foreclosure answers can be made in person in Room 104P of the Courthouse, by phone (414) 278-2912, or by email [ctimail@wicourts.gov](mailto:ctimail@wicourts.gov)

### Brief Legal Advice and Referral Clinics Hours of Operation

#### **Milwaukee County Courthouse, Rm. 106**

##### **MVLC @ the MJC:**

Thursday	2:00 P.M. – 4:00 P.M.*
Friday	2:00 P.M. – 4:00 P.M.

\*Beginning April 8, 2010

Summary Statistics | 2009

6653 Litigants Served

23

Average Hours Worked Per Volunteer

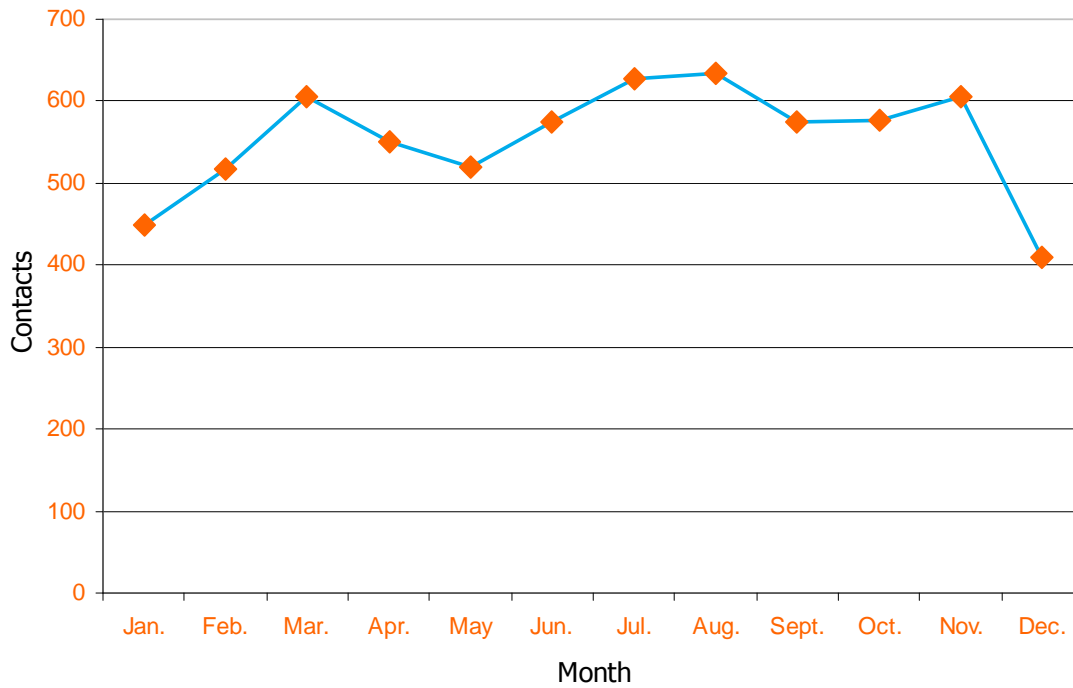
Volunteer Hours 3897

Number of Volunteers 170

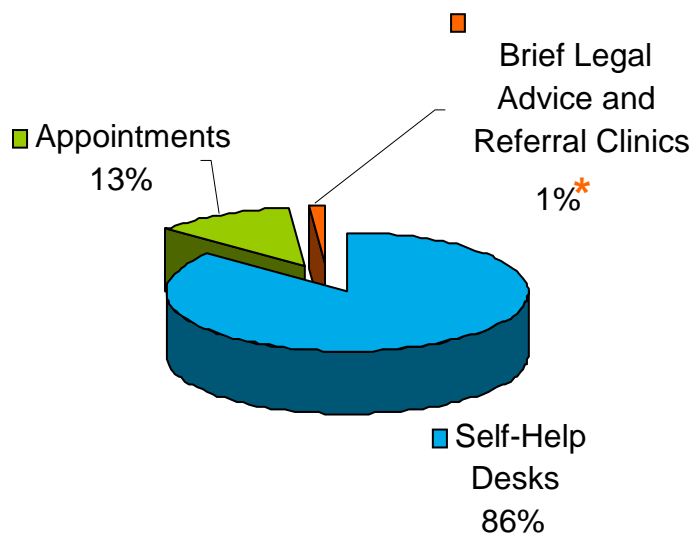
\$172,271

Value of Volunteer Hours

## Number of Client Contacts Per Month

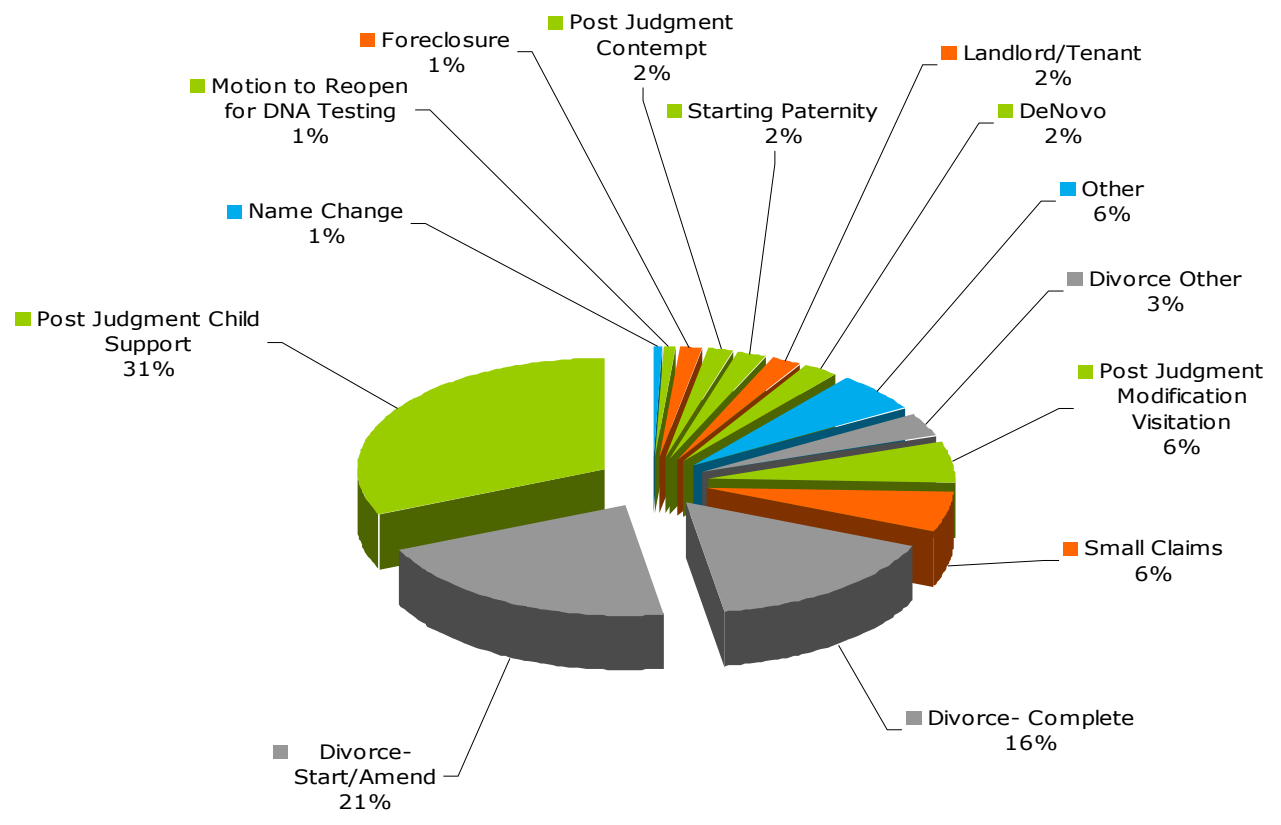


## Services Offered



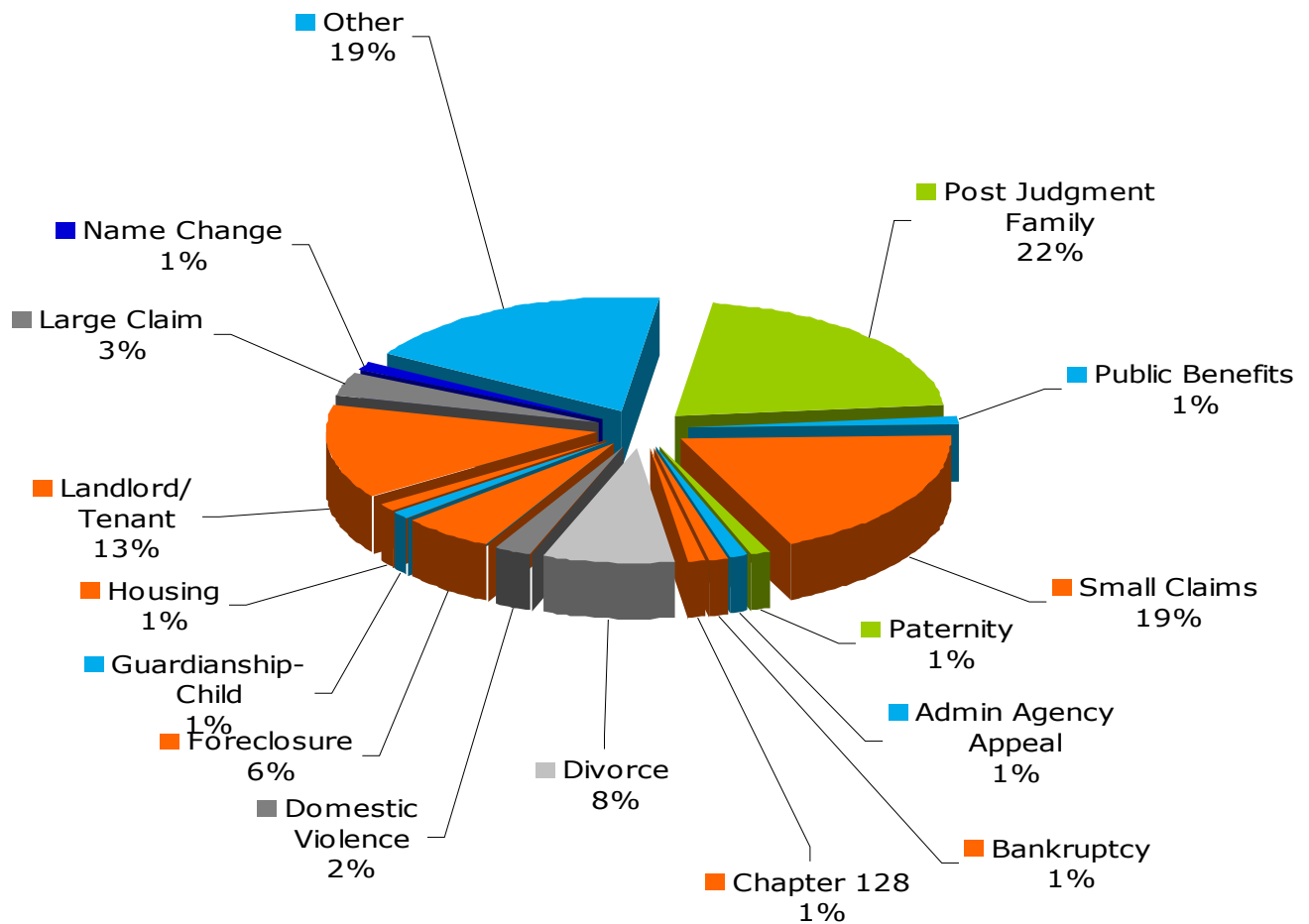
\*The MVLC at the MJC brief legal advice and referral clinic was operational 2 hours per week for 7 weeks.

## Substantive Areas of Law for Self-Help Desks and Appointments



Post Judgment Family-	44%
Divorce-	40%
Consumer-	9%
Other-	7%

## Substantive Areas of Law for Brief Legal Advice & Referral Clinics MVLC @ the MJC



Consumer-	41%
Other-	28%
Post Judgment Family-	23%
Divorce-	8%

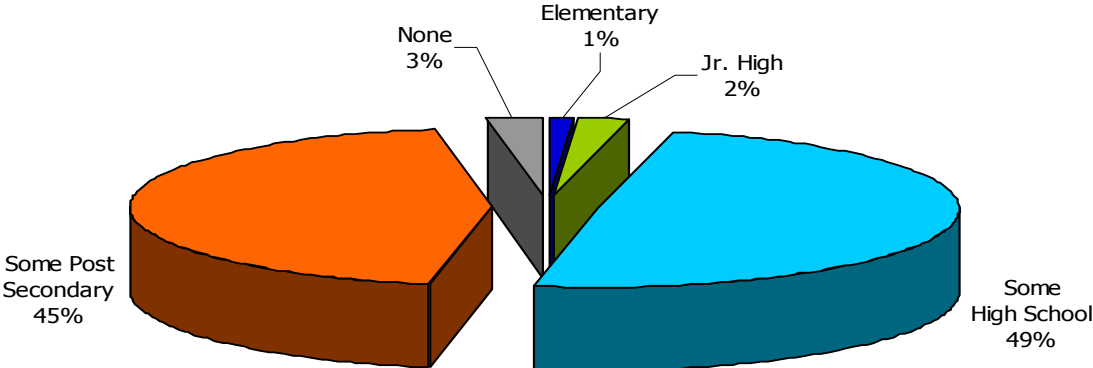


## Client Statistics

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In September of 2009 the Milwaukee Justice Center began using a new intake form to obtain client demographics. Self-reported data, collected from intake forms from September through December, was used to compile the following client statistics on pages 10 through 12.

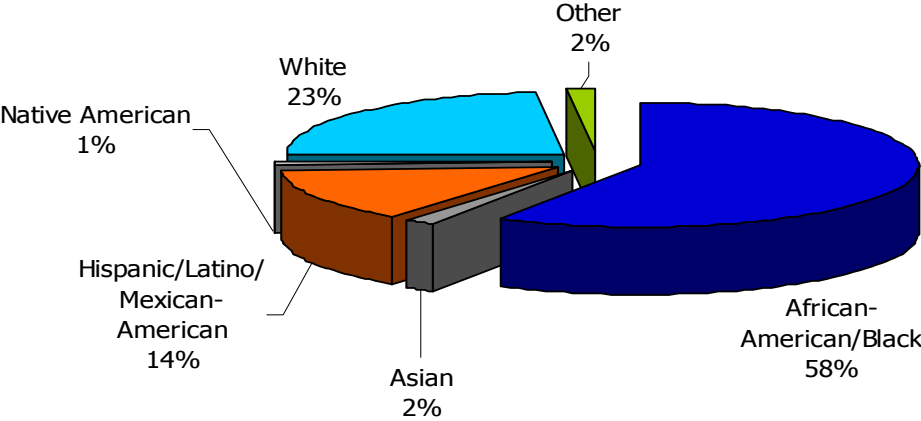
### Education



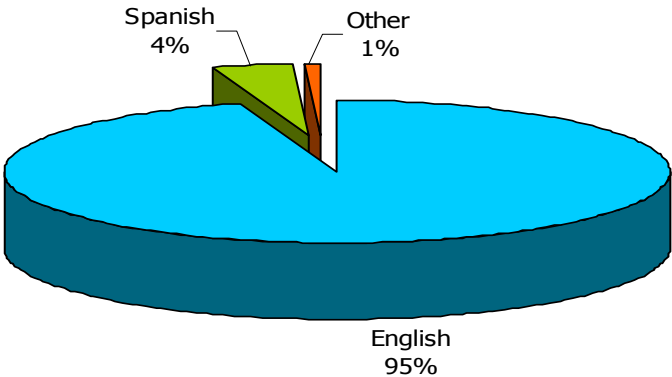
### Monthly Household Income

Monthly Income Range	Percentage of Clients
0-\$1,000	52%
\$1001-\$2,000	30%
\$2,001-\$3,000	10%
\$3,001-\$4,000	4%
>\$4,001	4%

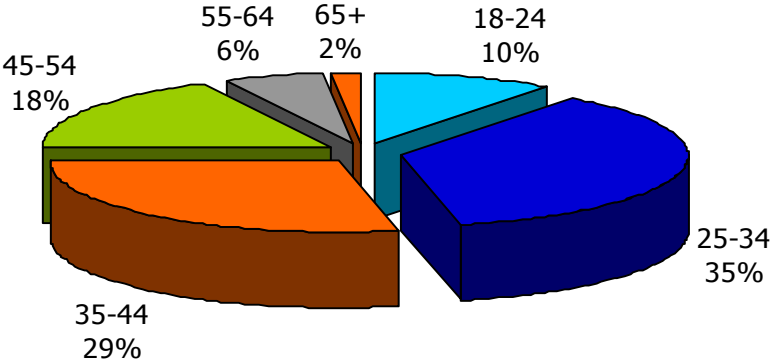
**Ethnicity**



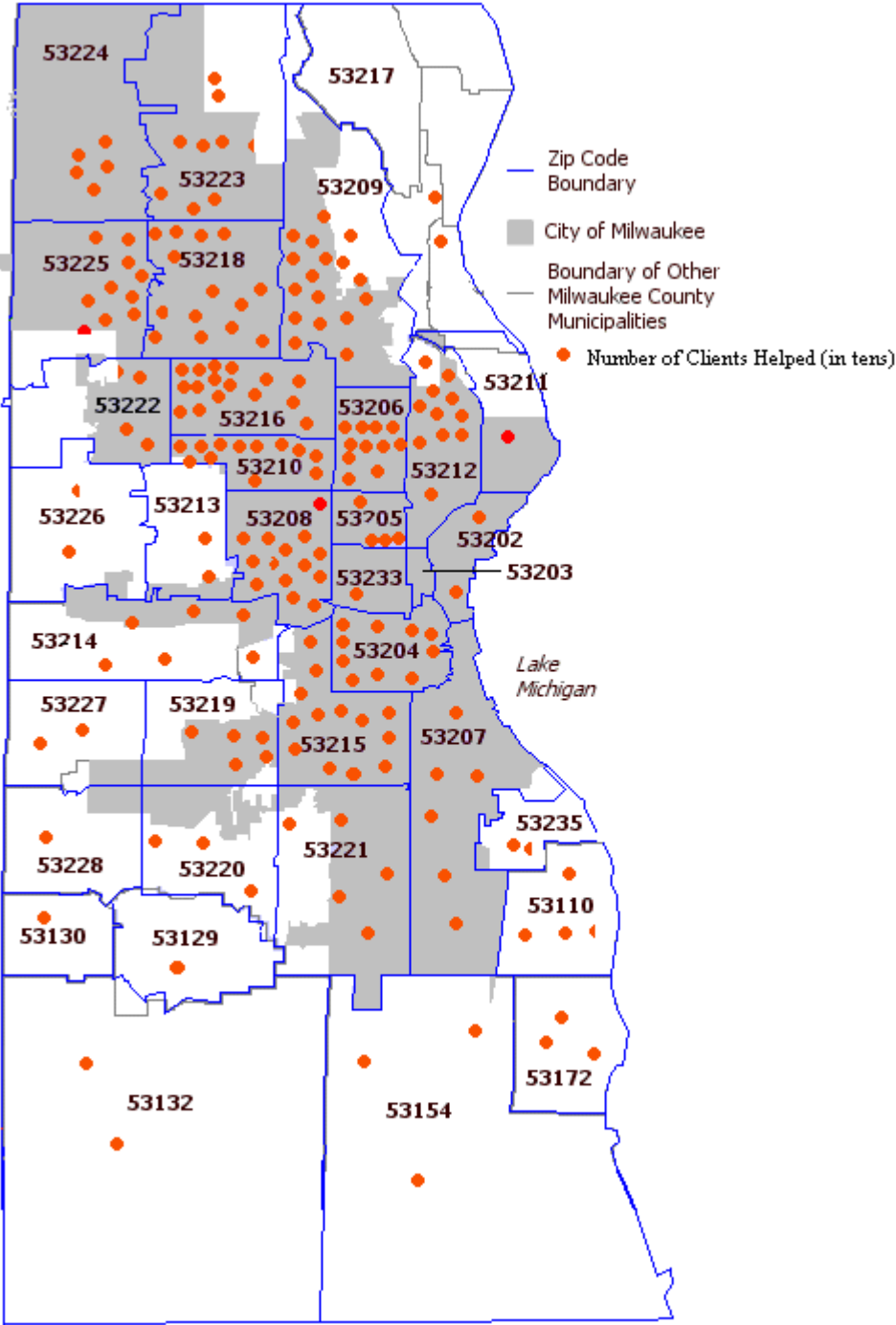
**Preferred Language**



**Age**



# Zip Code Density



## Self-Help Clinic Totals by Volunteer Type

Type of Volunteer	Total Volunteers	Total Hours	Avg. # of Hours per Volunteer
Intern	17	1686.50	99.21
Law Student	44	819.25	18.62
Paralegal	15	303.25	20.22
Attorney	45	471.50	10.48
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>121</b>	<b>3280.50</b>	<b>27.11</b>

## Brief Legal Advice Totals by Volunteer Type

Type of Volunteer	Total Volunteers	Total Hours	Avg. # of Hours per Volunteer
Law Student	18	102	5.67
Attorney	30	70	2.33
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>172</b>	<b>3.58</b>

Notes:

The clinic had been in operation for 7 weeks. During this time period, if an individual volunteer worked one 2 hour shift per month, the avg. hours worked per volunteer would be 3.5.

## Brief Legal Advice Totals by Partner

Partner	# of Volunteers	# of Hours	Avg. # of Hours per Volunteer
Hinshaw & Culbertson	5	10	2.00
Michael Best & Friedrich	8	20	2.50
O'Neil, Cannon, Hollman, Dejong & Laing	7	14	2.00
Reinhart Boerner Van Deuren	7	16	2.28
Family Practitioners	3	10	3.33
Marquette Law School	18	102	5.66
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>172</b>	<b>3.58</b>

# Volunteer Statistics

## AmeriCorps Volunteer Totals

Type of Volunteer	Total Volunteers	Total Hours	Avg. # of Hours per Volunteer
Public Ally	1	444.5	444.5

## VOLUNTEER TOTALS

Type of Volunteer	Total Volunteers	Total Hours	Avg. # of Hours per Volunteer
Intern	17	1686.50	99.21
Law Student	62	921.25	14.85
Paralegal	15	303.25	20.22
Attorney	75	541.50	7.22
AmeriCorps	1	444.50	444.50
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>170</b>	<b>3897</b>	<b>22.93</b>

## VALUE OF VOLUNTEER SERVICES

Type of Volunteer	Total Volunteers	Total Hours	Wage	Total Value
Intern	17	1686.50	\$12.33**	\$ 20,794.55
Law Student	62	921.25	\$20.00**	\$ 18,425.00
Paralegal	15	303.25	\$77.00*	\$ 23,350.25
Attorney	75	541.50	\$188.00*	\$101,802.00
AmeriCorps	1	444.50	\$17.77**	\$ 7,898.77
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>170</b>	<b>3897</b>		<b>\$172,270.57***</b>

\*2008 Survey Report, Economics of Law Practice in Wisconsin

\*\*Bureau of Labor and Statistics, May 2008 State Occupational Employment and Wage Estimates Wisconsin, [http://www.bls.gov/oes/2008/may/oes\\_wi.htm#b43-0000](http://www.bls.gov/oes/2008/may/oes_wi.htm#b43-0000)

\*\*\* Projected value for 2010 is approx. **\$425,000** due to expansion of brief legal advice and referral clinics

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## Our Partners, Volunteers, Donors

### THANK YOU!

The Milwaukee Justice Center is a working reality because the project's partners, volunteers, donors and friends share a common goal: to increase access to justice for all of Milwaukee's residents. The Milwaukee Bar Association, Milwaukee County and Marquette University Law School thank our partners, volunteers and major sponsors.

The Davis Family  
Faye McBeath Foundation  
Foley & Lardner  
Gene and Ruth Posner Foundation  
Greater Milwaukee Foundation  
Habush Habush & Rottier Charitable Fund  
Habush Habush & Rottier S.C.  
Hinshaw & Culbertson  
Legal Action of Wisconsin  
Lexis Nexis  
Marquette Volunteer Legal Clinic  
Michael Best & Friedrich  
Milwaukee Bar Association Foundation  
Milwaukee County  
Northwestern Mutual Foundation  
O'Neil, Cannon, Hollman, Dejong & Laing  
Quarles & Brady  
Reinhart Boerner Van Deuren  
Weiss Family Foundation