

Importance of Free Legal Help for Low-Income Households

By Genesis Clarke, Chris Kanke, Nic Huang

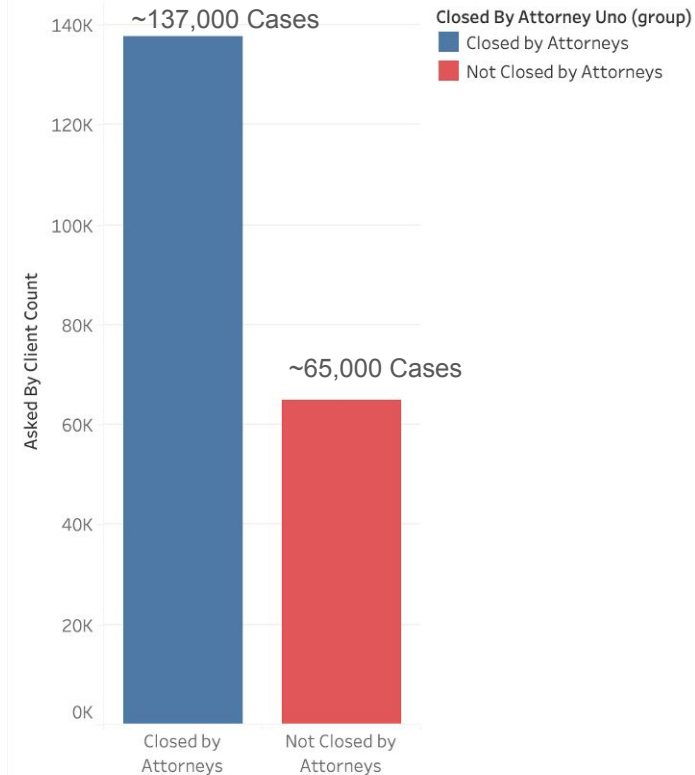
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Presentation Overview

- State Disparities
 - Number of Cases per State
 - Average time on site by attorneys
- Nationwide Problem
 - Lack of cases answered
 - Number Clients per attorney per state graph
- Why is this an issue?
- Potential Solutions
 - Client Side
 - Attorney Side
 - Website Side

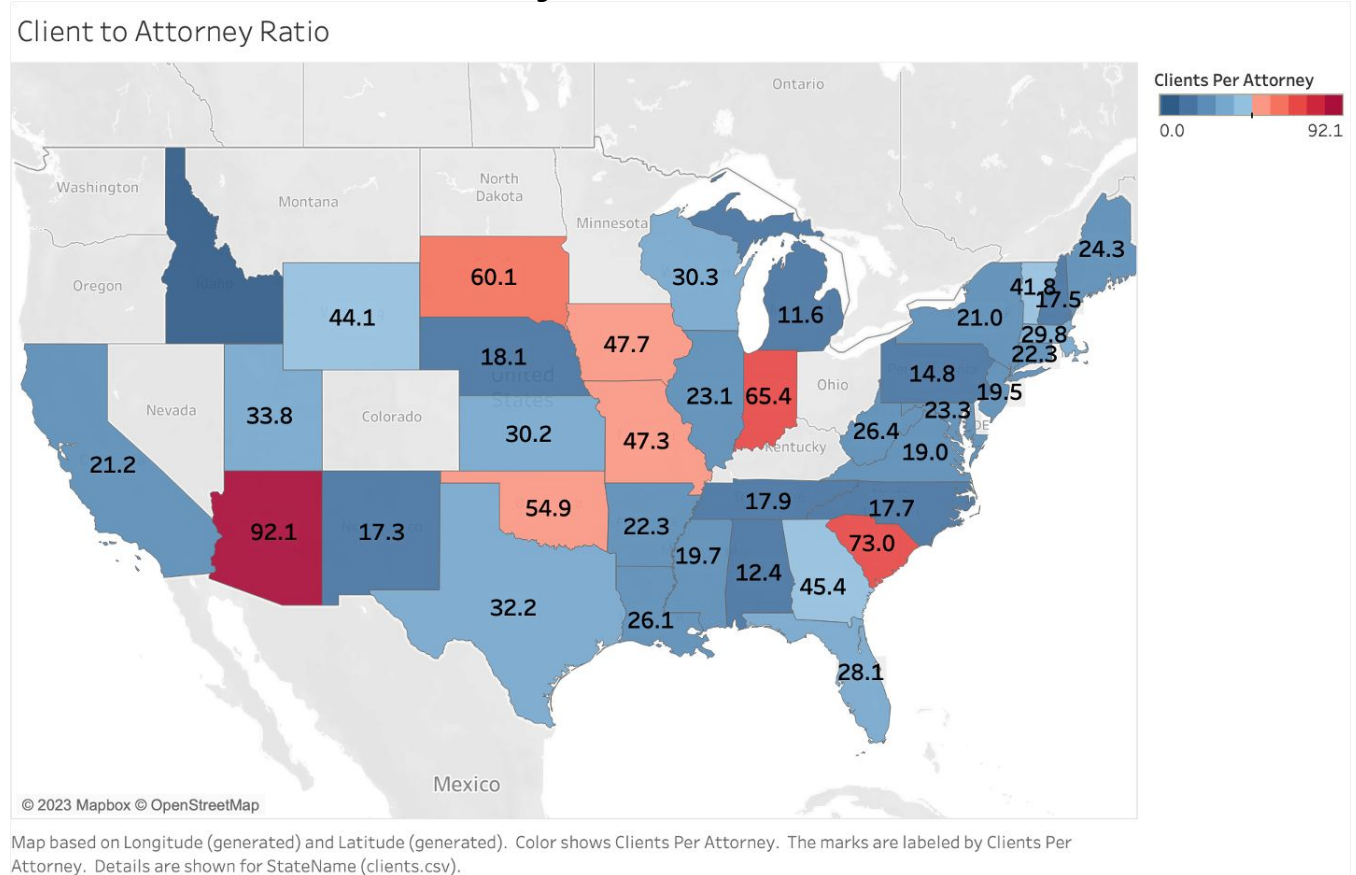
National Total: Cases Never Answered

Questions Closed By
Attorneys



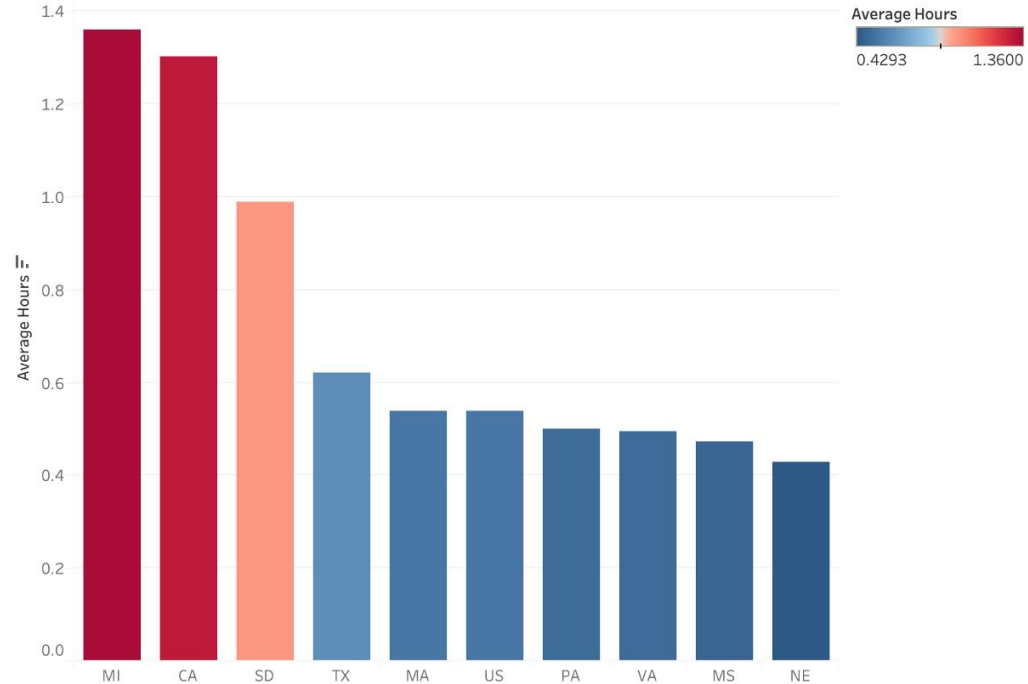
Asked By Client Count for each Closed By Attorney Uno (group). Color shows details about Closed By Attorney Uno (group).

State Look: Clients Per Attorney



State Average Time Logged Per Session

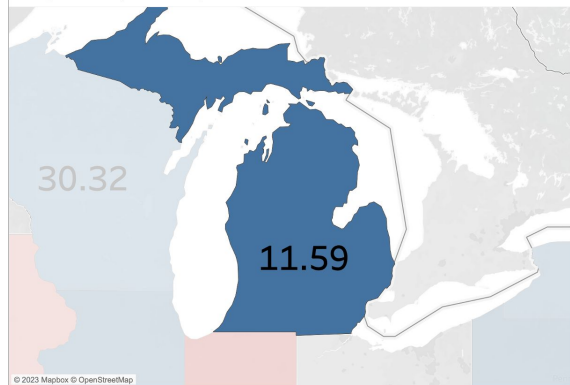
Top 10 States, Average Hours Spent by Attorneys



Sum of Average Hours for each State Abbr. Color shows sum of Average Hours. The data is filtered on Average Hours Rank, which keeps 10 members.

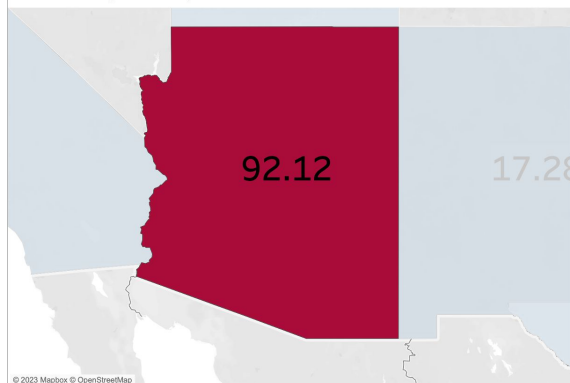
Example: Arizona v. Michigan

Michigan, Client per Attorney Ratio



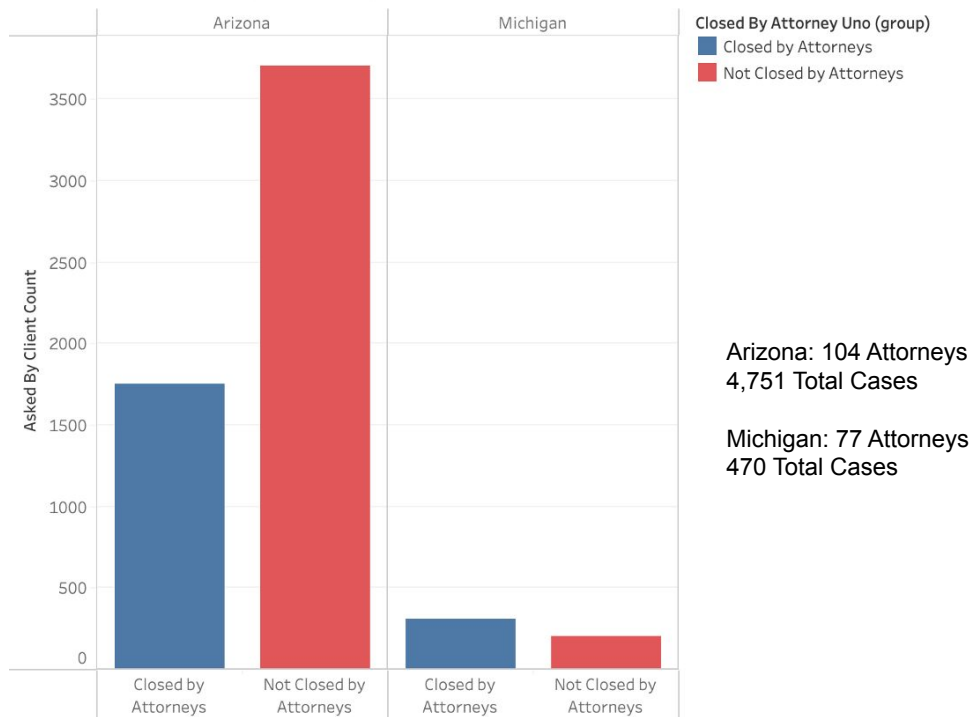
Map based on Longitude (generated) and Latitude (generated). Color shows Clients Per Attorney. The marks are labeled by Clients Per Attorney. Details are shown for StateName (clients.csv).

Arizona, Client per Attorney Ratio



Map based on Longitude (generated) and Latitude (generated). Color shows Clients Per Attorney. The marks are labeled by Clients Per Attorney. Details are shown for StateName (clients.csv).

Questions Closed By Attorneys, Arizona v. Michigan



Asked By Client Count for each Closed By Attorney Uno (group) broken down by StateName (clients.csv). Color shows details about Closed By Attorney Uno (group). The view is filtered on StateName (clients.csv), which keeps Arizona and Michigan.

Client Demographics

- Under the federal poverty line:
 - Regardless of gender, race/ethnicity, age... etc.. The average annual income of clients is **\$21,130 per year**
- Access to legal counsel is a necessary right for many Americans
 - Those who need help the most are not receiving it
 - About **one-third** (32.6%) of cases submitted by clients are not getting answered.

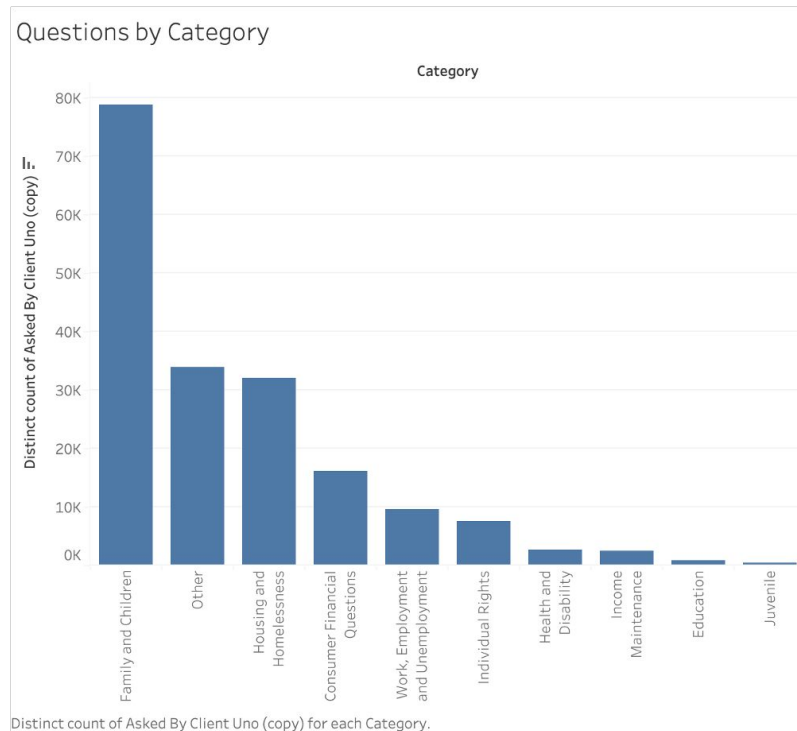
Why is this an Issue?

- “According to the Clio 2022 Legal Trends Report, the average attorney hourly rate was \$313.00 in 2022”₁
- Doesn't Include:
 - Retainer Fees
 - Contingency Fees'
- System with unfair advantage of resources -> distrust in legal system
- Lack of education about the legal system -> more legal trouble

If the majority of client cases are not being responded to, then it raises the question of what purpose the service is serving.

Potential Solutions

- Clients
 - Advertise at local community centers, food banks, job and family services
 - Provide education services for legal advice
- Attorneys
 - Require pro-bono!
 - Emphasize the importance of pro-bono work
 - Participating in pro-bono will promote their practice
- Website
 - Delete inactive attorneys for more accurate info about volunteer base



Resources & Tools

- R Language / R Studio
- Tableau
- Python Pandas / Jupyter Notebook

References

1. Christy Bieber, J. D. (2023, January 3). *How much do lawyers cost? 2023 guide*. Forbes. Retrieved April 16, 2023, from <https://www.forbes.com/advisor/legal/how-much-lawyers-cost/>