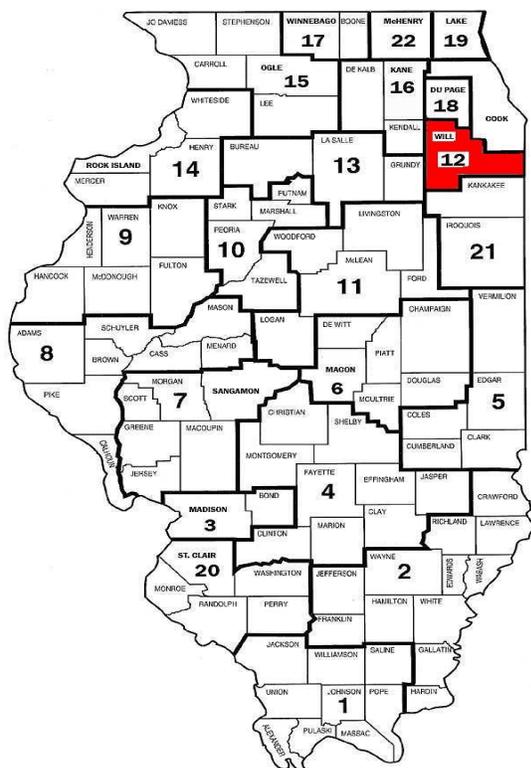


Twelfth Judicial Circuit

(Will County)

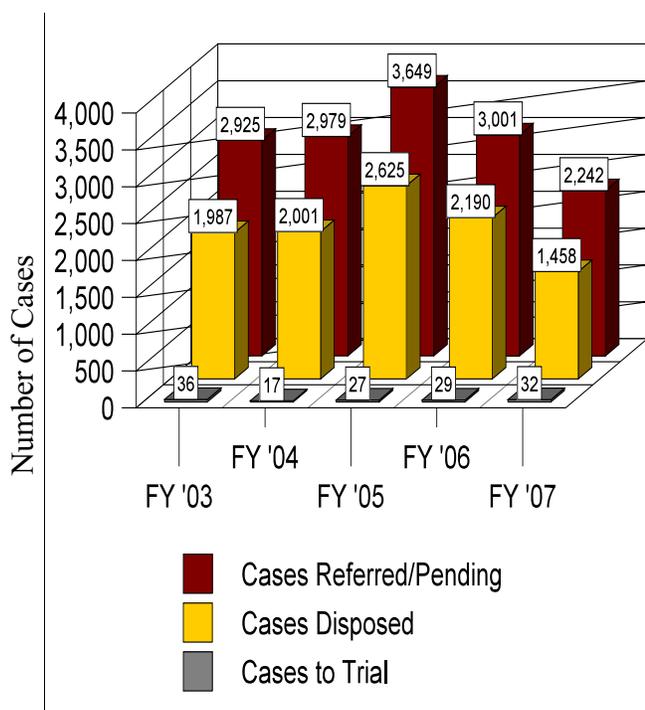
Arbitration Program Information

The Twelfth Judicial Circuit is one of five single-county circuits in Illinois. The Will County Arbitration Center is housed near the courthouse in Joliet, Illinois. After the Supreme Court approved its request, Will County began hearing arbitration cases in December of 1995. An arbitration supervising judge is assigned to oversee arbitration matters and is assisted by a trial court administrator and an arbitration program assistant.



Will County

Five-Year Disposition Trend



The chart to the left presents information regarding the total number of cases litigated in arbitration which were either resolved during the arbitration process or, ultimately proceeded to trial. Program data indicates that either a settlement or dismissal was reached in 65% (1,458 of 2,242 cases were disposed) of the cases filed in the Will County arbitration program for State Fiscal Year 2007.

**State Fiscal Year 2007
Will County
At A Glance Arbitration Caseload
Information**

Number of Cases Pending / Referred to Arbitration	2,242
Number of Cases Settled / Dismissed	1,458
Number of Arbitration Hearings ...	308
Number of Awards Accepted	62
Number of Awards Rejected	141
Number of Cases Filed in Arbitration which Proceeded to Trial	32

While cases referred to Will County's arbitration program increased annually from 2003 through 2005, the same cannot be said for the past two years. The decrease in cases may be directly attributable to Supreme Court Rule 281 which raised the small claims jurisdiction to \$10,000 thereby reducing the number of cases eligible for mandatory arbitration. From 2003 through 2007, an annual average of 2,051 cases were referred to arbitration.

The data for Will County's 2007 arbitration operations is reflected in the chart to the left. In Will County, slightly more than one percent (32 of 2,242) of cases filed in arbitration proceeded to trial.