

Circuit Court of Cook County

Arbitration Program Information

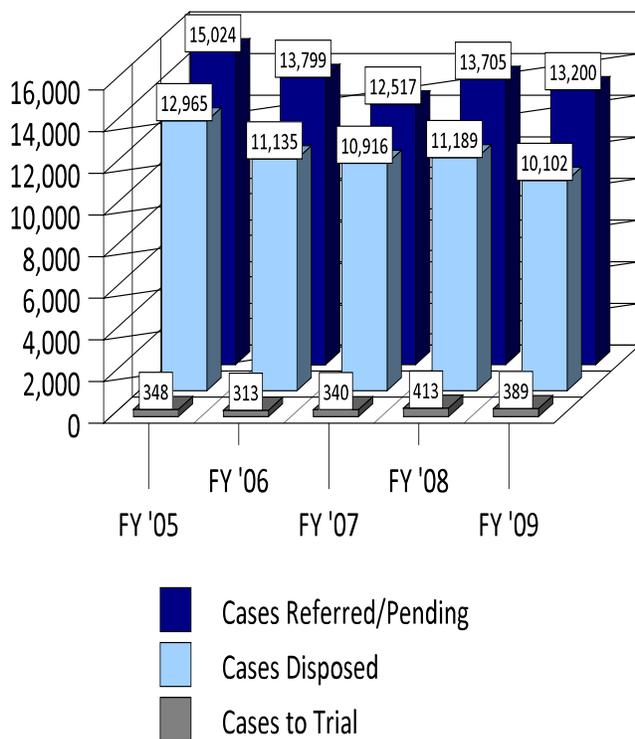
As a general jurisdiction trial court, the Circuit Court of Cook County is the largest unified court in the nation. The Supreme Court granted approval to implement an arbitration program in Cook County in January 1990. The arbitration center is located in downtown Chicago. A supervising judge oversees arbitration program matters and is assisted by an arbitration program administrator and deputy administrator.

While cases referred to Cook County's arbitration program vary annually, an average of 13,649 cases per year were referred or pending in arbitration over the past five state fiscal years.

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 went to trial. Program data indicate that either a settlement or dismissal was reached in 77 percent (10,102 of 13,200 cases were disposed) of the cases filed in the Cook County arbitration program for State Fiscal Year 2009. This disposition rate is less than the five-year average of 83 percent and the statewide average of 78 percent.

Cook County

Cook County
Five-Year Disposition Trend



**State Fiscal Year 2009
Cook County*
At-a-Glance Arbitration Caseload
Information**

Number of Cases Pending/Referred to Arbitration	13,200
Number of Cases Settled/Dismissed	10,102
Number of Arbitration Hearings	8,183
Number of Awards Accepted	1,767
Number of Awards Rejected	4,240
Number of Cases Filed in Arbitration that Proceeded to Trial	389

*Only jurisdiction with a limit of \$30,000 for arbitration cases;
others are \$50,000.

The data for Cook County's 2009 arbitration operations are reflected in the chart to the left. In Cook County, only three percent of the cases (389 of the 13,200) filed in arbitration proceeded to trial.

