

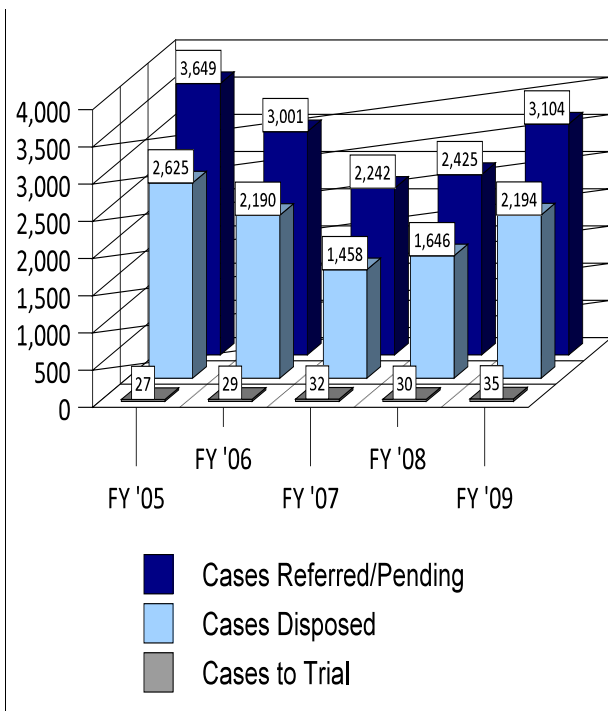
## Twelfth Judicial Circuit

(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 indicate that either a settlement or dismissal was reached in 71 percent (2,194 of 3,104 cases were disposed) of the cases filed in the Will County arbitration program for State Fiscal Year 2009. This disposition rate is consistent with the five-year average of 71 percent and lower than the statewide average of 78 percent.

Will County

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

Number of Cases Pending/Referred to Arbitration . . . . .	3,104
Number of Cases Settled/Dismissed . . . . .	2,194
Number of Arbitration Hearings . . . . .	164
Number of Awards Accepted . . . . .	35
Number of Awards Rejected . . . . .	86
Number of Cases Filed in Arbitration that Proceeded to Trial . . . . .	35

The number of cases referred to Will County's arbitration program during 2005 through 2009 ranged from a high of 3,649 in 2005 to a low of 2,242 in 2007, and has been slowly rising since 2008. The decrease in cases, from 2005 through 2007, may be attributed to Supreme Court Rule 281 which raised the small claims jurisdictional amount to \$10,000 thereby reducing the number of cases eligible for mandatory arbitration. Case filings began to rise again in 2008 which may be connected to the general trend in the judicial system wherein case filings increase annually. From 2005 through 2009, an annual average of 2,884 cases were referred to or are pending in arbitration.

The data for Will County's 2009 arbitration operations are reflected in the chart to the left. In Will County, slightly more than one percent (35 of 3,104) of cases filed in arbitration proceeded to trial.