

Eighteenth Judicial Circuit

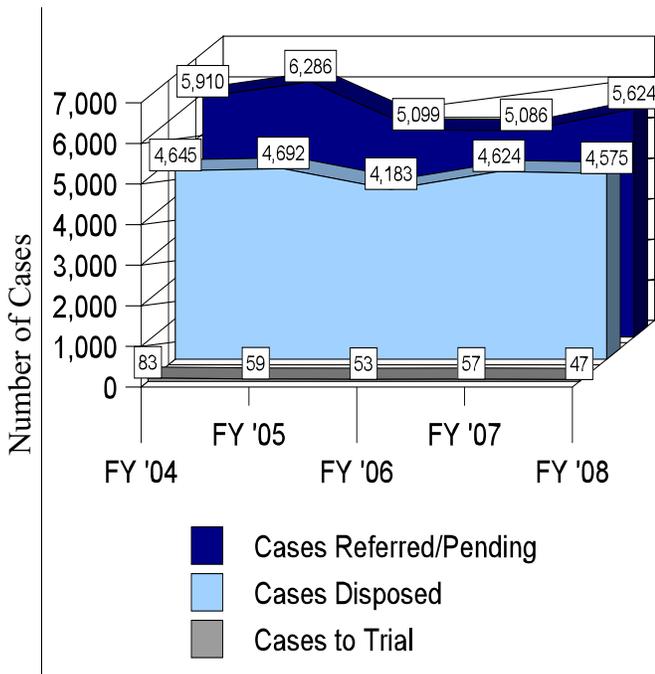
(DuPage County)

Arbitration Program Information

The Eighteenth Judicial Circuit is a suburban jurisdiction serving the residents of DuPage County. Court-annexed arbitration has become an important resource for assisting the judicial system in the adjudication of civil matters. The Supreme Court approved an arbitration program for the circuit in December 1988. During State Fiscal Year 2002, the Supreme Court authorized DuPage County's arbitration program to permanently operate at the \$50,000 jurisdictional limit. A supervising judge oversees arbitration matters and is assisted by an arbitration program administrator.



**DuPage County
Five-Year Disposition Trend**



The chart to the left presents information regarding the total number of cases litigated in arbitration which were resolved during the arbitration process or ultimately went to trial. Program data indicates that 81% (4,575 of 5,624) of the cases filed in the DuPage County arbitration program for State Fiscal Year 2008 were disposed. This disposition rate tracks the five year average of 81% and is slightly higher than the statewide average of 78%.

DuPage County

**State Fiscal Year 2008
DuPage County
At A Glance Arbitration Caseload
Information**

Number of Cases Pending / Referred to Arbitration	5,624
Number of Cases Disposed	4,575
Number of Arbitration Hearings .	551
Number of Awards Accepted	97
Number of Awards Rejected . . .	330
Number of Cases Filed in Arbitration which Proceeded to Trial	47

While cases referred to DuPage County's arbitration program increased annually from 2004 through 2005, the same cannot be said for 2006 and 2007. The decrease in cases referred to arbitration may be influenced by Supreme Court Rule 281 which, effective January 1, 2006, raised the small claims jurisdiction from \$5,000 to \$10,000. However, 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 2004 through 2008, an annual average of 5,601 cases have been referred to arbitration.

The data for DuPage County's 2008 arbitration operations is reflected in the chart to the left. In DuPage County, less than 1% of cases (47 of the 5,624) filed in arbitration proceeded to trial.