

# Seventeenth Judicial Circuit

(Boone and Winnebago Counties)

## Arbitration Program Information

The Seventeenth Judicial Circuit consists of Winnebago and Boone Counties. The arbitration center is located near the courthouse in Rockford, Illinois. In the fall of 1987, court-annexed mandatory arbitration was instituted as a pilot program in Winnebago County, making it the oldest court-annexed arbitration system in the state. The Boone County program began hearing arbitration-eligible matters in February 1995. A supervising judge from each county is assigned to oversee the arbitration programs and is assisted by arbitration program staff.

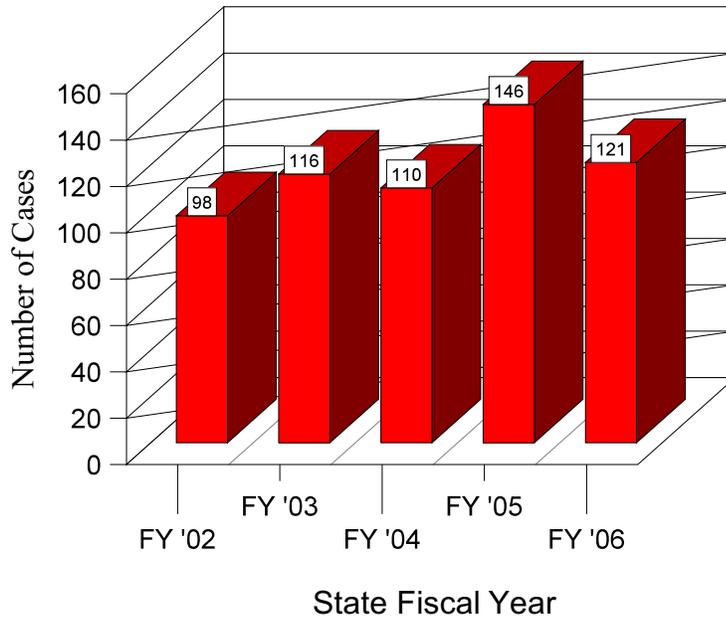
## DATA PROFILES

### Boone County

Following are charts and diagrams which contain data from State Fiscal Year 2006.

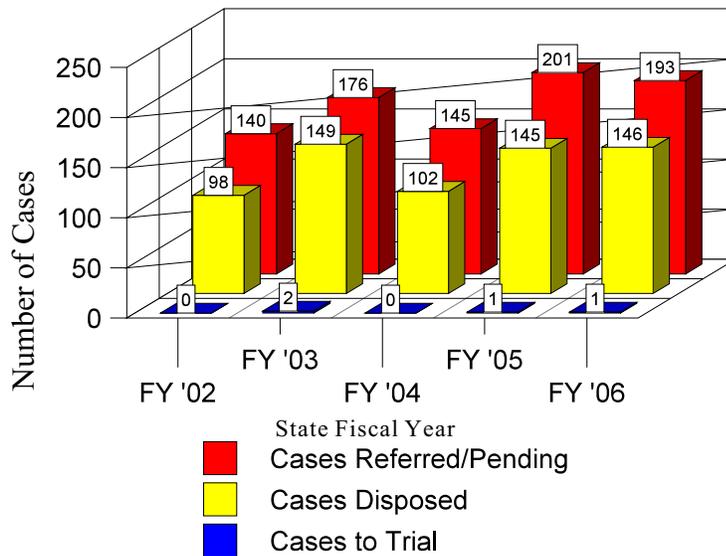
<b>State Fiscal Year 2006 Boone County At A Glance Arbitration Caseload Information</b>	
Number of Cases Pending / Referred to Arbitration . . . . .	193
Number of Cases Settled /Dismissed . . . . .	147
Number of Cases Pending . . . . .	46
Number of Arbitration Hearings . . . . .	10
Number of Awards Accepted . . . . .	3
Number of Awards Rejected . . . . .	7
Number of Cases Filed in Arbitration which Proceeded to Trial . . . . .	1

**Boone County**  
Cases Referred to Mandatory Arbitration  
Five - Year Trend



While cases referred to Boone County's arbitration program vary annually, an average of 118 cases per year were referred to arbitration over the past five state fiscal years.

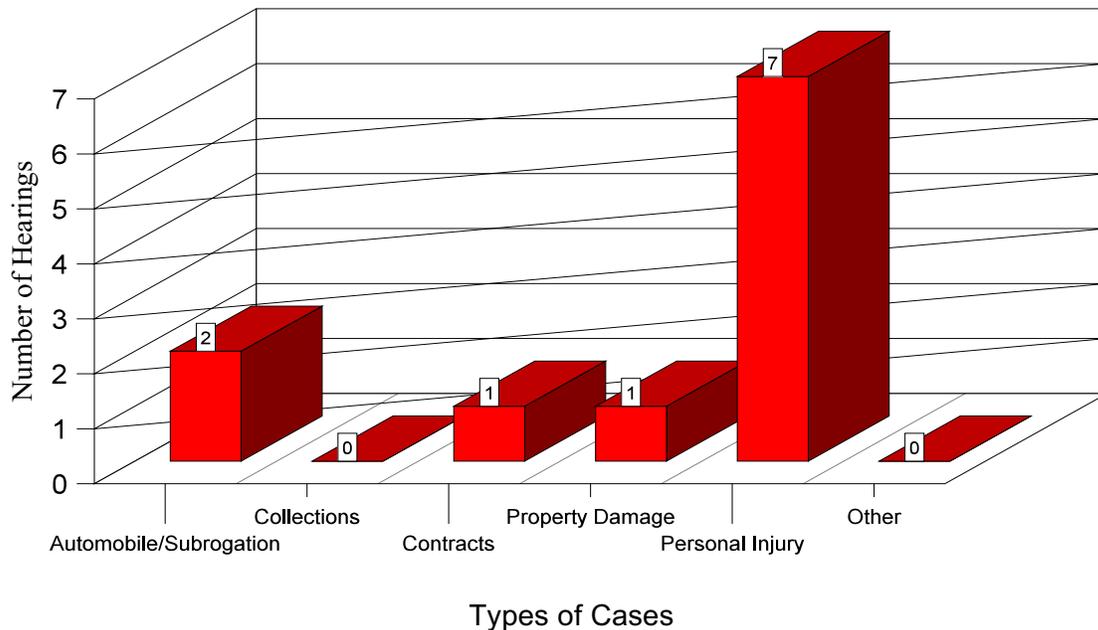
**Boone County**  
Five -Year Disposition Trend



The chart above presents information regarding the total number of cases litigated in arbitration which yielded either a disposition or, ultimately went to trial. Program data indicates that either a settlement or dismissal was reached in 76% (146 of 193 cases were disposed) of the cases filed in the Boone County arbitration program for State Fiscal Year 2006. This disposition rate is slightly higher than the five year average of 75% and is less than the statewide average of 86%.

In Boone County, only one case filed in arbitration proceeded to trial.

**Boone County**  
Types of Cases that Proceeded to Hearing



The graph above provides information on the types of cases that are heard in arbitration. The data indicates that personal injury cases account for a majority (64%) of the arbitration hearings in Boone County.

**Boone County**  
**Average Award for Arbitration Hearing and**  
**Average Age (Number of Days) Pending in**  
**Arbitration System by Case Type**

<b><i>Case Type</i></b>	<b><i>Average Award</i></b>	<b><i>Average Age (Days)</i></b>
Automobile/Subrogation	\$5,925	494
Collections	-0-	-0-
Contracts	\$21,079	650
Property Damage	\$5,034	145
Personal Injury	\$8,584	279
Other	-0-	-0-

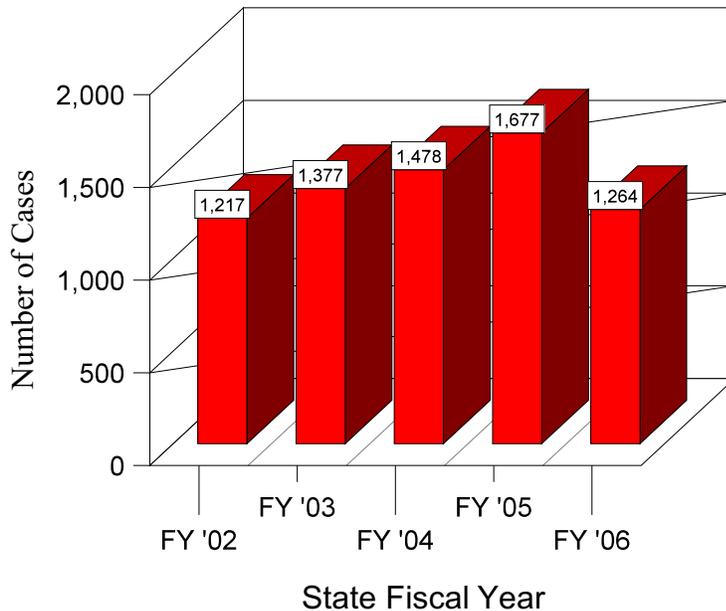
The table above offers information on the types of cases processed in mandatory arbitration and the average award granted at the time of the hearing. The table also presents data regarding the average amount of time each case type remains pending in the arbitration system. When all of the county's arbitration cases are combined, the average period that an arbitration case pends is 340 days.

## Winnebago County

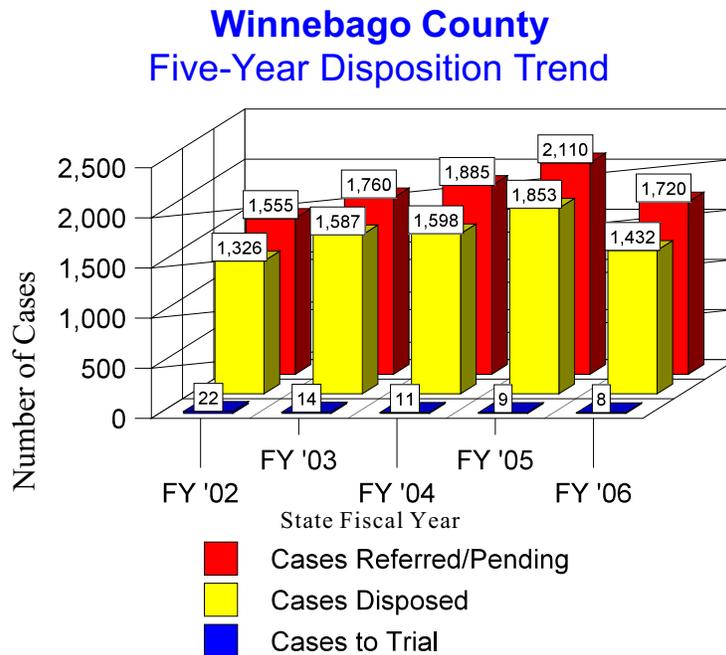
Following are charts and diagrams which contain data from State Fiscal Year 2006.

<b>State Fiscal Year 2006 Winnebago County At A Glance Arbitration Caseload Information</b>	
Number of Cases Pending / Referred to Arbitration .....	1,720
Number of Cases Settled /Dismissed .....	1,440
Number of Cases Pending .....	280
Number of Arbitration Hearings .....	141
Number of Awards Accepted .....	33
Number of Awards Rejected .....	65
Number of Cases Filed in Arbitration which Proceeded to Trial .....	8

**Winnebago County**  
Cases Referred to Mandatory Arbitration  
Five - Year Trend



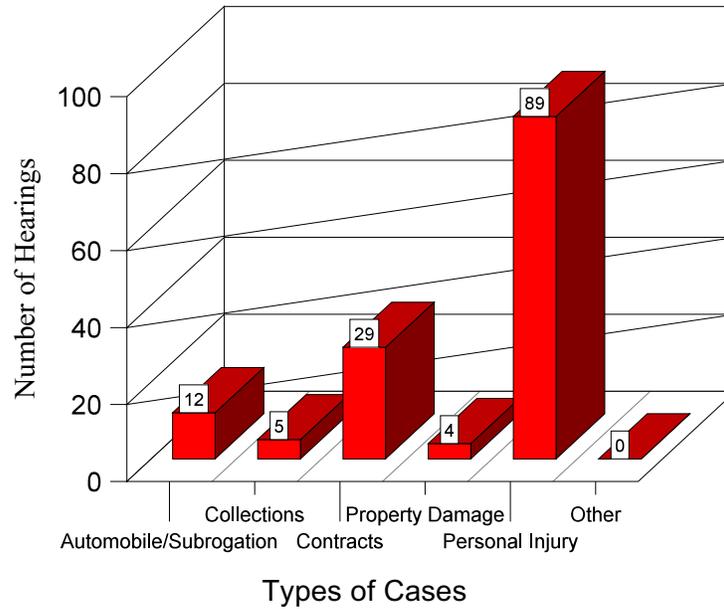
Since State Fiscal Year 2002, cases referred to Winnebago County's arbitration program have increased annually, until 2006. The decrease in cases referred to arbitration may be directly attributable to Supreme Court Rule 281 which raised the small claims jurisdiction to \$10,000 thereby reducing the number of cases eligible for mandatory arbitration. From 2002 through 2006, an annual average of 1,403 cases have been referred to arbitration.



The chart above presents information regarding the total number of cases litigated in arbitration which yielded either a disposition or, ultimately went to trial. Program data indicates that either a settlement or dismissal was reached in 83% (1,432 of 1,720 cases were disposed) of the cases filed in the Winnebago County arbitration program for State Fiscal Year 2006. This disposition rate is slightly lower than the five year average of 86% and is less than the statewide average of 86%.

In Winnebago County, less than 1% of cases (8 of the 1,720) filed in arbitration proceeded to trial.

**Winnebago County**  
Types of Cases that Proceeded to Hearing



The graph above provides information on the types of cases that are heard in arbitration. The data indicates that personal injury cases account for a majority (64%) of the arbitration hearings in Winnebago County.

**Winnebago County**  
Average Award for Arbitration Hearing and  
Average Age (Number of Days) Pending in  
Arbitration System by Case Type

<b>Case Type</b>	<b>Average Award</b>	<b>Average Age (Days)</b>
Automobile/Subrogation	\$9,276	409
Collections	\$8,640	223
Contracts	\$13,195	246
Property Damage	\$9,793	169
Personal Injury	\$9,212	268
Other	-0-	0-

The table above offers information on the types of cases processed in mandatory arbitration and the average award granted at the time of the hearing. The table also presents data regarding the average amount of time each case type remains pending in the arbitration system. When all of the county's arbitration cases are combined, the average period that an arbitration case pends is 271 days.