

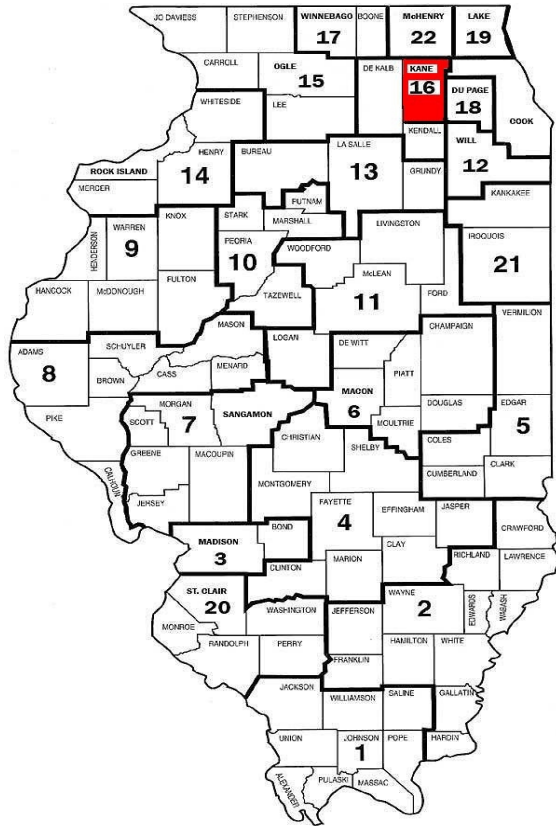
Sixteenth Judicial Circuit

(Kane County)

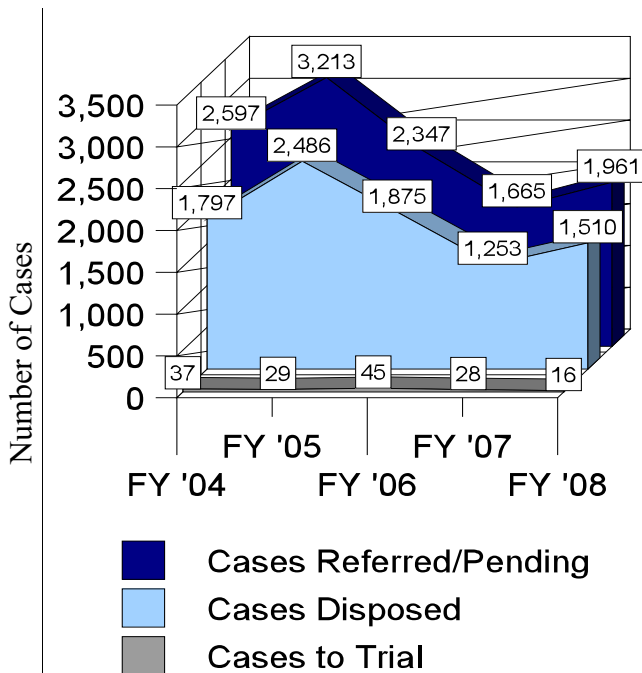
Arbitration Program Information

The Sixteenth Judicial Circuit consists of DeKalb, Kane and Kendall Counties. During Fiscal Year 1994, the Supreme Court approved the request of Kane County to begin operating a court-annexed mandatory arbitration program. Initial arbitration hearings were held in June 1995. The arbitration center is located in the courthouse in Kane County. A supervising judge is assigned to oversee arbitration matters and is assisted by an arbitration program assistant.

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 77% (1,510 of 1,961) of the cases filed in the Kane County arbitration program for State Fiscal Year 2008 were disposed. This disposition rate is slightly higher than the five year average of 76% and slightly lower than the statewide average of 78%.



Kane County
Five - Year Disposition Trend



Kane County

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

Number of Cases Pending / Referred to Arbitration	1,961
Number of Cases Disposed	1,510
Number of Arbitration Hearings	237
Number of Awards Accepted	44
Number of Awards Rejected	134
Number of Cases Filed in which Proceeded to Trial	16

While cases referred to Kane County's arbitration program increased in 2004 and 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 2,357 cases have been referred to arbitration.

The data for Kane County's 2008 arbitration operations is reflected in the chart to the left. In Kane County, less than 1% of the cases (16 of the 1,961) filed in arbitration proceeded to trial.