



Seventeenth Judicial Circuit

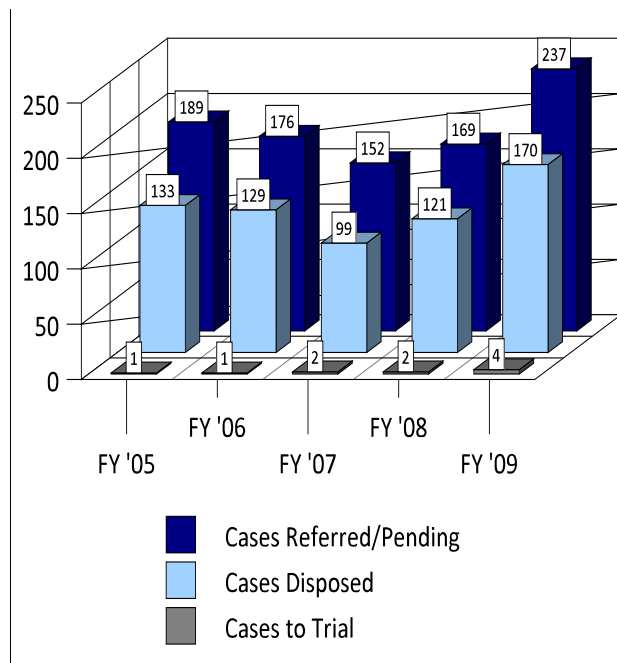
(Boone and Winnebago Counties)

Boone County

Arbitration Program Information

The Seventeenth Judicial Circuit consists of Boone and Winnebago 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 an arbitration administrator.

Boone 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 went to trial. Program data indicate that either a settlement or dismissal was reached in 72 percent (170 of 237 cases were disposed) of the cases filed in the Boone County arbitration program for State Fiscal Year 2009. This disposition rate is slightly higher than the five-year average of 71 percent and slightly lower than the statewide average of 78 percent.

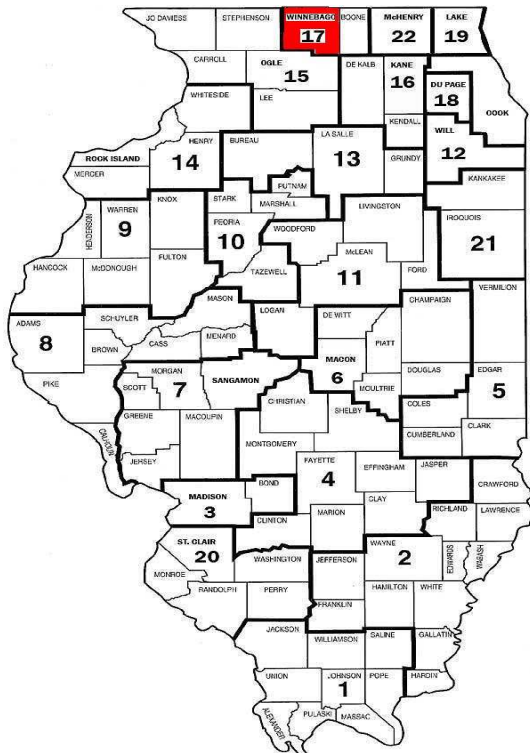
**State Fiscal Year 2009
Boone County
At-a-Glance Arbitration Caseload
Information**

Number of Cases Pending/Referred to Arbitration	237
Number of Cases Settled/Dismissed	170
Number of Arbitration Hearings	6
Number of Awards Accepted	4
Number of Awards Rejected	3
Number of Cases Filed in Arbitration that Proceeded to Trial	4

The data for Boone County's 2009 arbitration operations are reflected in the chart to the left. In Boone County, four cases filed in arbitration proceeded to trial.



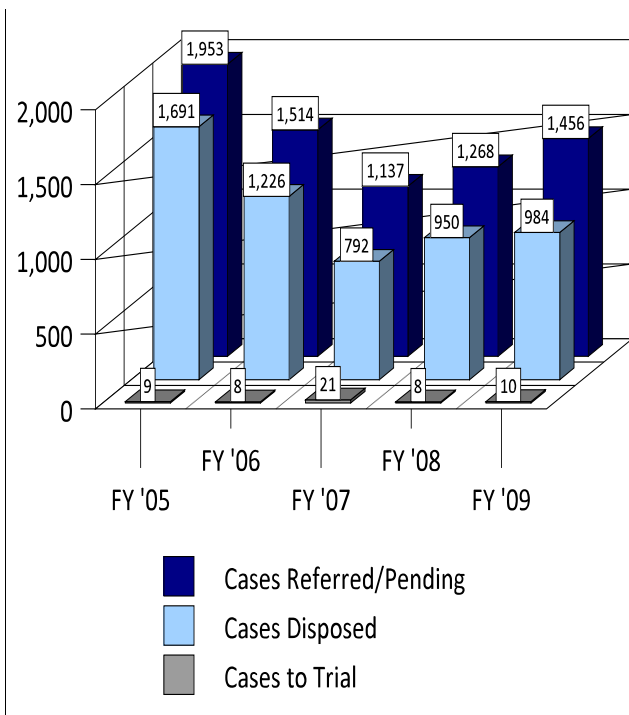
**Seventeenth Judicial Circuit
(Boone and Winnebago Counties)
Winnebago County**



The number of cases referred to Winnebago County's arbitration program during 2005 through 2009 ranged from a high of 1,953 in 2005 to a low of 1,137 in 2007, and has been slowly rising since 2008. The decrease in cases referred to arbitration, from 2006 through 2007, may be attributed to Supreme Court Rule 281 which raised the small claims jurisdiction 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 1,466 cases were referred to or are pending in arbitration.

Winnebago County

**Winnebago 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 went to trial. Program data indicate that either a settlement or dismissal was reached in 68 percent (984 of 1,456 cases were disposed) of the cases filed in the Winnebago County arbitration program for State Fiscal Year 2009. This disposition rate is lower than the five-year average of 75 percent and the statewide average of 78 percent.

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

Number of Cases Pending/Referred to Arbitration	1,456
Number of Cases Settled/Dismissed	984
Number of Arbitration Hearings	87
Number of Awards Accepted	16
Number of Awards Rejected	43
Number of Cases Filed in Arbitration that Proceeded to Trial	10

The data for Winnebago County's 2009 arbitration operations are reflected in the chart to the left. In Winnebago County, less than one percent of cases (10 of the 1,456) filed in arbitration proceeded to trial.

Winnebago County