

# **Court-Annexed Mandatory Arbitration**

**State Fiscal Year 2009  
Annual Report to the  
Illinois General Assembly**

**Supreme Court of Illinois**

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Honorable Robert R. Thomas, Justice

Honorable Thomas L. Kilbride, Justice

Honorable Rita B. Garman, Justice

Honorable Lloyd A. Karmeier, Justice

Honorable Anne M. Burke, Justice

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# Introduction



In Illinois, court-annexed arbitration is a mandatory, non-binding, non-court procedure designed to resolve disputes by utilizing a neutral third party, referred to as an arbitration panel. The manner in which rules of evidence and procedure are applied in Mandatory Arbitration cases results in more timely and less expensive resolution of disputes. An arbitration panel can recommend, but not impose, a disposition. In the sixteen jurisdictions approved by the Supreme Court to operate such programs, all civil cases filed, in which the amount of monetary damages being sought falls within the program's jurisdictional limit, are subject to the arbitration process. These modest sized claims are amenable to closer management and faster resolution by using a less formal alternative process than a typical trial court proceeding.

In the exercise of its general administrative and supervisory authority over Illinois courts, the Supreme Court prescribes by rule(s) actions which are subject to mandatory arbitration. The rules address a range of operational procedures including: appointment, qualifications, and compensation of arbitrators; scheduling of hearings; discovery process; conduct of hearings; absence of a party; award and judgment on an award; rejection of an award; and form of oath, award and notice of award.

The State Fiscal Year 2009 Annual Report summarizes the activity of court-annexed mandatory arbitration from July 1, 2008 through June 30, 2009. The report includes an overview of mandatory arbitration in Illinois and contains statistical data as reported by each arbitration program. Aggregate statewide statistics are provided as an overview of Illinois' sixteen court-annexed mandatory arbitration programs. The final section of the report is devoted to providing a brief narrative and data profile for each of the court-annexed mandatory arbitration programs. A comprehensive history of mandatory arbitration, which began in 1987, is available upon request to the AOIC. Additionally, the previous five fiscal year reports may be viewed on the Supreme Court's website at [www.state.il.us/court](http://www.state.il.us/court).

# Administration



The Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts, the Alternative Dispute Resolution Coordinating Committee of the Illinois Judicial Conference, and local arbitration supervising judges and administrators provide ongoing support to the mandatory arbitration programs in Illinois. A brief description of the roles and functions of these entities is herein provided.

## **Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts**

The Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts (AOIC) works with the circuit courts to coordinate the operations of the arbitration programs throughout the state. Administrative Office staff assist in:

- ❖ Establishing new arbitration programs approved by the Supreme Court;
- ❖ Drafting local rules;
- ❖ Recruiting personnel;
- ❖ Acquiring facilities;
- ❖ Training new arbitrators;
- ❖ Purchasing equipment;
- ❖ Developing judicial calendaring systems;
- ❖ Preparing budgets;
- ❖ Processing vouchers;
- ❖ Addressing personnel issues;
- ❖ Compiling statistical data;
- ❖ Negotiating contracts and leases; and
- ❖ Coordinating the collection of arbitration filing fees.

In addition, AOIC staff serve as liaison to the Illinois Judicial Conference's Alternative Dispute Resolution Coordinating Committee.

## **Alternative Dispute Resolution Coordinating Committee**

The charge of the Alternative Dispute Resolution Coordinating Committee, as directed by the Supreme Court, is to:

- ❖ Monitor and assess court-annexed mandatory arbitration programs;
- ❖ Make recommendations for proposed policy modifications to the full body of the Illinois Judicial Conference;
- ❖ Survey and compile information regarding existing court-supported dispute resolution programs;
- ❖ Explore and examine innovative dispute resolution processing techniques;
- ❖ Study the impact of proposed amendments to relevant Supreme Court rules; and
- ❖ Propose rule amendments in response to suggestions and information received from program participants, supervising judges, and arbitration administrators.

## **Local Administration**

The chief circuit judge in each jurisdiction operating a mandatory arbitration program appoints a supervising judge to provide oversight for the arbitration program. The supervising judge:

- ❖ Has authority to resolve questions arising in arbitration proceedings;
- ❖ Reviews applications for appointment or re-certification of an arbitrator;
- ❖ Considers complaints about an arbitrator or the arbitration process; and
- ❖ Promotes the dissemination of information about the arbitration process, the results of arbitration, developing caselaw, and new practices and procedures in the area of arbitration.

The supervising judges are assisted by arbitration administrators who are responsible for duties such as:

- ❖ Maintaining a roster of active arbitrators;
- ❖ Scheduling arbitration hearings;
- ❖ Conducting arbitrator training;
- ❖ Compiling statistical information required by the AOIC;
- ❖ Processing vouchers; and
- ❖ Submitting purchase requisitions related to arbitration programs.

# Caseflow and Hearings Calendar



## Case Assignment

In most jurisdictions, cases are assigned to mandatory arbitration calendars either as initially filed or by court transfer. In an initial filing, litigants may file their case with the office of the clerk of the circuit court as an arbitration case. The clerk places the matter directly onto the calendar of the supervising judge for arbitration.

In the Circuit Court of Cook County, cases are not initially filed as arbitration cases. Rather, civil cases in which the money damages being sought are between \$10,000 and \$50,000 are filed in the Municipal Department. Cases in which the money damages being sought are greater than \$10,000 but do not exceed \$30,000 are considered “arbitration-eligible.” After preliminary matters are managed, arbitration-eligible cases are transferred to the arbitration program.

An additional means by which cases are assigned to a mandatory arbitration calendar is through transfer by the court. In all jurisdictions operating a court-annexed mandatory arbitration program, if it appears to the court that no claim in the action has a value in excess of the arbitration program’s jurisdictional amount, a case may be transferred to the arbitration calendar from another calendar. For example, if the court finds that an action originally filed as a law case (actions for damages in excess of \$50,000) has a potential for damages within the jurisdictional amount for arbitration, the court may transfer the law case to the arbitration calendar.

## Pre-Hearing Matters

The pre-hearing stage for cases subject to arbitration is similar to the pretrial stage for all cases wherein a summons is issued, motions are made and argued, and discovery is conducted. However, for cases subject to arbitration, discovery is limited pursuant to Illinois Supreme Court Rules 89 and 222.

One of the most important features of the arbitration program is the court's control of the time elapsed between the date of filing or transfer of the case to the arbitration calendar and the arbitration hearing. Supreme Court Rule 88 mandates speedy dispositions. Pursuant to the Rule, and consistent with the practices of each program site, all cases set for arbitration must proceed to hearing within one year of the date of filing or transfer to the arbitration calendar unless continued by the court upon good cause shown.

### **Pre-Hearing Calendar**

The first stage of the arbitration process is pre-hearing. The pre-hearing arbitration calendar is comprised of new filings, reinstatements and transfers from other calendars. Cases may be removed from the pre-hearing calendar in either a dispositive or non-dispositive manner. A dispositive removal is one which terminates the case prior to commencement of the arbitration hearing. There are generally three types of pre-hearing dispositive removals: entry of a judgment; case dismissal; or the entry of a settlement order by the court.

A non-dispositive removal of a case from the pre-hearing arbitration calendar may remove the case from the arbitration calendar altogether. Other non-dispositive removals may simply move the case along to the next stage of the arbitration process. A case which has proceeded to an arbitration hearing, for example, is considered a non-dispositive removal from the pre-hearing calendar. Non-dispositive removals also include those occasions when a case is placed on a special calendar. For example, a case transferred to a bankruptcy calendar will generally stay all arbitration-related activity. Another type of non-dispositive removal from the pre-hearing calendar occurs when a case is transferred out of arbitration. Occasionally, a judge may decide that a case is not suited for arbitration and transfer the case to the appropriate calendar.

To provide litigants with the timeliest disposition of their cases, Illinois' arbitration system encourages attorneys and litigants to focus their early attention on arbitration-eligible cases. Therefore, the practice is to set a firm and prompt date for the arbitration hearing so that disputing parties, anxious to avoid the time and cost of an arbitration hearing, have a powerful incentive to negotiate and settle the matter prior to the hearing. In instances where a default judgment can be taken, parties are also encouraged to seek that disposition at the earliest possible time.

As a result of this program philosophy, a sizeable portion of each jurisdiction's arbitration caseload terminates voluntarily, or by court order, in advance of the arbitration hearing. An analysis of the State Fiscal Year 2009 statistics indicates that parties are carefully managing their cases and working to settle disputes without significant court intervention prior to the arbitration hearing. During State Fiscal Year 2009, 51 percent of the cases on the pre-hearing arbitration calendar were disposed through default judgment,



dismissal, or some other form of pre-hearing termination. While it is true that a large number of these cases may have terminated without the need for a trial, regardless of the availability of arbitration, the arbitration process tends to motivate a disposition sooner in the life of most cases due in part to the setting of a firm hearing date.

Additionally, terminations via court-ordered dismissals, voluntary dismissals, settlement orders, and default judgments typically require limited court time to process. To the extent that arbitration encourages these dispositions, the system helps save the court and the litigants the expense of more costly and time-consuming proceedings.

A high rate of pre-hearing terminations also allows each program site to remain current with its hearing calendar and may allow the court to reduce a backlog. The combination of pre-hearing terminations and arbitration hearing capacity enables the system to absorb and process a greater number of cases in less time. (*See Appendix 1 for Pre-Hearing Calendar Data*).

### **Arbitration Hearing and Award**

With some exceptions, the arbitration hearing resembles a traditional trial court proceeding. The Illinois Code of Civil Procedure and the rules of evidence apply. However, Supreme Court Rule 90(c) makes certain documents presumptively admissible. These documents include bills, records, and reports of hospitals, doctors, dentists, repair persons and employers, as well as written statements from opinion witnesses. The streamlined mechanism for the presentation of evidence enables attorneys to present their cases without undue delay.

Unlike proceedings in the trial court, the arbitration hearing is conducted by a panel of three attorneys who serve as arbitrators and are trained pursuant to local rules. At the hearing, each party to the dispute makes a concise presentation of his/her case to the arbitrators. Immediately following the hearing, the arbitrators deliberate privately and decide the issues as presented. To find in favor of a party requires the concurrence of two arbitrators. In most instances, an arbitration hearing is completed in approximately two hours. Following the hearing and the arbitrators' disposition, the clerk of the court records the arbitration award and forwards notice to the parties. As a courtesy to the litigants, many arbitration centers post the arbitration award immediately following submission by the arbitrators, thereby notifying the parties of the outcome on the same day as the hearing.

## Post-Hearing Calendar

The post-hearing arbitration calendar consists largely of cases which have been heard by an arbitration panel and are awaiting further action. Upon conclusion of an arbitration hearing, a case is removed from the pre-hearing arbitration calendar and added to the post-hearing calendar. Cases previously terminated following a hearing may also be subsequently reinstated (added) at this stage. However, this is a rare occurrence even in the larger arbitration programs.

Arbitration administrators report three types of post-hearing removals from the arbitration calendar: entry of judgment on the arbitration award; dismissal or settlement by order of the court; or rejection of the arbitration award. While any of these actions will remove a case from the post-hearing calendar, only judgment on the award, dismissal, or settlement result in termination of the case. These actions are considered dispositive removals. Post-hearing terminations, or dispositive removals, are typically the most common means by which cases are removed from the post-hearing arbitration calendar.

A rejection of an arbitration award is a non-dispositive removal of a case from the post-hearing arbitration calendar, which places the case on the post-rejection arbitration calendar.

A commonly cited measure of performance for court-annexed arbitration programs is the extent to which awards are accepted by the litigants as the final resolution of the case. However, parties have many resolution options after the arbitration hearing is concluded. Tracking the various options by which post-hearing cases are removed from the arbitration inventory provides the most accurate measure.

A satisfied party may move the court to enter judgment on the arbitration award. Statewide statistics indicate 23 percent of parties in arbitration hearings motioned the court to enter a judgment on an award. If no party rejects the arbitration award, the court may enter judgment. Reported figures indicate that approximately 35 percent of the cases which progressed to a hearing were disposed after the arbitration hearing on terms other than those stated in the award. These cases were disposed either through settlement reached by the parties or by voluntary dismissals. The parties work toward settling the conflict prior to the deadline for rejecting the arbitration award. These statistics suggest in a number of cases that proceed to hearing, the parties may be guided by the arbitrator's assessment of the worth of the case, but they may not want a judgment entered.

The post-hearing statistics for arbitration programs consist of judgments entered on the arbitration award and settlements reached after the arbitration award and prior to the expiration for the filing of a rejection.

## Rejecting an Arbitration Award

Supreme Court Rule 93 sets forth four conditions which a party must meet in order to reject an arbitration award. The rejecting party must: have been present, personally or via counsel, at the arbitration hearing; have participated in the arbitration process in good faith and in a meaningful manner; file a rejection notice within 30 days of the date the award was filed; and unless indigent, pay a rejection fee. If these four conditions are not met, the party may be barred from rejecting the award and any other party to the action may petition the court to enter a judgment on the arbitration award. If a party's rejection of an arbitration award is filed and not barred, the supervising judge for arbitration must place the case on the trial call.

The rejection fee is intended to discourage frivolous rejections. All such fees are paid to the clerk of the court, who forwards the fee to the State Treasurer for deposit in the Mandatory Arbitration Fund. For awards of \$30,000 or less, the rejection fee is \$200. For awards greater than \$30,000, the rejection fee is \$500.

Rejection rates for arbitration awards vary from jurisdiction to jurisdiction. In State Fiscal Year 2009, the statewide average rejection rate was 52 percent and is consistent with the five-year average of 51 percent (State Fiscal Year 2005 through 2009). Although the rejection rate may seem high, the success of arbitration is best measured by the percentage of cases resolved before trial, rather than by the rejection rate of arbitration awards alone. (*See Appendix 2 for Post-Hearing Calendar Data*). Of cases qualifying for the arbitration process, less than two percent ultimately went to trial in State Fiscal Year 2009.

## Post-Rejection Calendar

The post-rejection calendar consists of arbitration cases in which one of the parties rejects the award of the arbitrators and seeks a trial before a judge or jury. In addition, cases which are occasionally reinstated at this stage of the arbitration process may be added to the inventory of cases pending post-rejection action. Removals from the post-rejection arbitration calendar are generally dispositive. When a case is removed by way of judgment before or after trial, dismissal or settlement, it is removed from the court's inventory of pending civil cases.

Many options remain available to parties after having rejected an award. As noted, parties file a notice of rejection of the arbitration award for the same variety of tactical reasons that they file notices of appeal from trial court judgments. More significant than the rejection rate is the frequency in which arbitration cases are settled subsequent to the rejection, but prior to trial. Of these cases that have gone to hearing, but for which the award has been rejected, 52 percent are still resolved. (*See Appendix 3 for Post-Rejection Calendar Data*).

## Program Summary



A review and analysis of the data and program descriptions supports the conclusion that the arbitration system in Illinois is operating consistent with policy makers' initial expectations for the program. Parties to arbitration proceedings are working to settle their differences without significant court intervention. The aggressive scheduling of arbitration hearing dates induces early settlements by requiring the parties to carefully manage the case prior to an arbitration hearing. Because arbitration hearings are held within one year of the filing or transfer of the arbitration case, most jurisdictions can dispose of approximately 75 to 80 percent of the arbitration caseload within one year of case filing.

Arbitration encourages dispositions earlier in the life of cases, helping courts operate more efficiently. Statewide figures show that only a small number of the cases filed or transferred into arbitration proceed to an arbitration hearing, and an even smaller number of cases proceed to trial. Arbitration-eligible cases are resolved and disposed prior to hearing in ways that do not require a significant amount of court time. Court-ordered dismissals, voluntary dismissals, settlement orders, and default judgments typically require very little court time to process.

Statewide statistics also show that a large number of cases that do proceed to the arbitration hearing are terminated in a post-hearing proceeding. In such cases, the parties either petition the court to enter judgment on the arbitration award or remove the case from the arbitration calendar via another form of post-hearing termination, including settlement.

Not only has mandatory arbitration proven to be an effective means of disposing cases swiftly for litigants, but the overall success of the program is best exemplified in the fact that a statewide average of less than two percent of the cases filed in an arbitration program proceeded to trial in State Fiscal Year 2009.

## New Developments in State Fiscal Year 2009

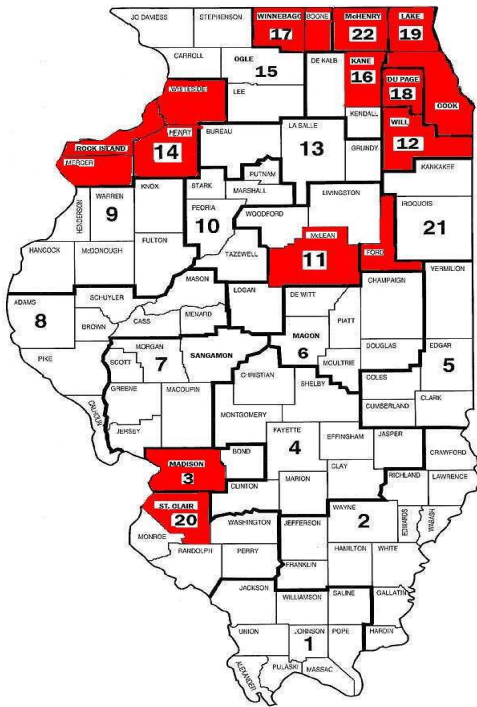


- ❖ As part of its projects and priorities delineated by the Supreme Court, the Alternative Dispute Resolution Coordinating Committee (ADR Committee) of the Illinois Judicial Conference created a *Uniform Arbitrator Reference Manual* and developed a related training outline and materials. The manual will be utilized as one of the tools to train new attorneys wishing to serve as arbitrators as well as retrain existing arbitrators.
- ❖ In its continued efforts to enrich the data analysis of arbitration programs and improve program operations and outcomes, the Supreme Court charged the ADR Committee with reviewing the current collection methods of arbitration statistics to determine whether the data are accurately capturing the results of the program as intended when arbitration was implemented in 1987. The Committee formed a workgroup to study this assignment, and the workgroup has begun to review arbitration programs and related program statistics.
- ❖ The ADR Committee was also charged with surveying program practitioners and identifying reliable measures of participant satisfaction with ADR processes. The ADR Committee, during State Fiscal Year 2009, collected various survey instruments and related data, and began to identify which information is most useful for improving arbitration processes in the state of Illinois.

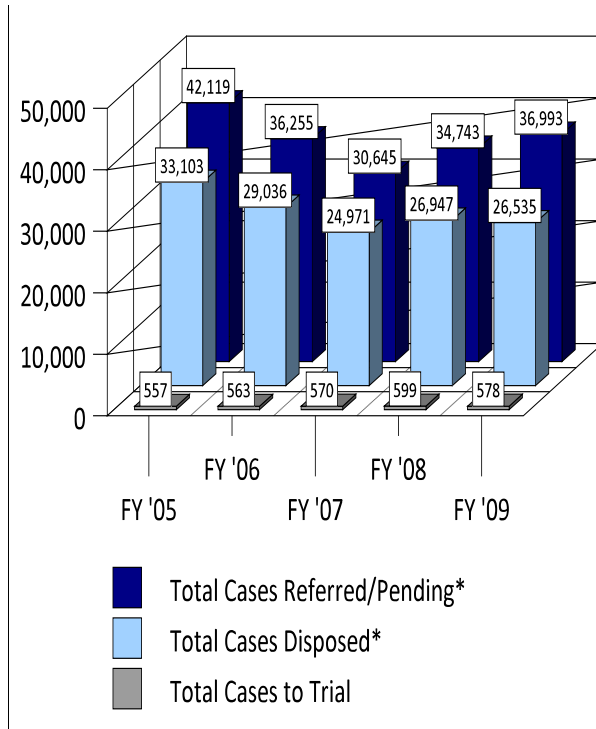
# Statewide Data Profile

## Statewide Data Profile

(Includes Information from Illinois' Sixteen Arbitration Programs)



**Statewide**  
Five - Year Disposition Trend



\*The Statewide and Circuit Profile figures are derived from a compilation of data from the *Statewide Pre-Hearing Calendar* (Appendix 1), *Statewide Post-Hearing Calendar* (Appendix 2), and *Statewide Post-Rejection Calendar* (Appendix 3).

The number of cases referred to Illinois' arbitration programs during 2005 through 2009 ranged from a high of 42,119 in 2005 to a low of 30,645 in 2007, and has been slowly rising since 2008. The decrease in cases referred to arbitration, from 2005 through 2007, may be attributed to amended Supreme Court Rule 281, which raised the small claims jurisdiction to \$10,000, thereby reducing the number of cases eligible for mandatory arbitration. Beginning in State Fiscal Year 2008, Madison County was authorized by the Supreme Court to operate a court-annexed mandatory arbitration program, which resulted in the collection of additional data thereby increasing case filings. Also, the amount of cases filed in the judicial system generally increases annually. From 2005 through 2009, an average of 36,151 cases were referred to or are pending in arbitration.

The chart to the left presents information regarding the total number of cases litigated in all sixteen arbitration programs which were either resolved during the arbitration process, or ultimately proceeded to trial.

Statewide Data

**State Fiscal Year 2009  
State of Illinois  
At-a-Glance Arbitration Caseload  
Information**

Number of Cases Pending/Referred to Arbitration .....	36,993
Number of Cases Settled/Dismissed .....	26,535
Number of Arbitration Hearings .....	10,042
Number of Awards Accepted .....	2,253
Number of Awards Rejected .....	5,194
Number of Cases Filed in Arbitration that Proceeded to Trial .....	578

Program data indicate that either a settlement or dismissal was reached in 72 percent (26,535 of 36,993 cases were disposed) of the cases filed in Illinois' arbitration programs for State Fiscal Year 2009. This is lower than the five-year average of 78 percent.

A more significant performance indicator for arbitration, however, is the number of cases which, having been arbitrated, proceed to trial. In State Fiscal Year 2009, statewide figures indicate that slightly less than two percent of the cases filed in Illinois' arbitration programs proceeded to trial. This rate tracks the same trend over the past five years (2005 - 2009).



# CASELOAD



The table below reports, by jurisdiction, the number of cases referred to mandatory arbitration, the total cases resolved during the arbitration process, and the number of cases that ultimately proceeded to trial in State Fiscal Year 2009.

Arbitration Program	Cases Referred to Mandatory Arbitration	Total Cases Resolved in Arbitration	Total Cases to Trial
Boone	191	170	4
Cook	10,965	10,102	389
DuPage	3,181	3,319	38
Ford	47	42	0
Henry	87	93	0
Kane	2,060	1,804	26
Lake	2,816	2,450	35
Madison	1,112	1,008	6
McHenry	1,388	1,175	15
McLean	831	673	4
Mercer	23	15	0
Rock Island	376	396	6
St. Clair	2,060	1,939	10
Whiteside	175	171	0
Will	2,354	2,194	35
Winnebago	1,146	984	10

# TYPES OF CASES



The table below reports, by jurisdiction, the types of cases that are heard in arbitration.

Arbitration Program	Automobile/ Subrogation	Collections	Contracts	Liability/ Tort	Property Damage	Personal Injury	Other
Boone	2	1	2	0	0	7	1
Cook	5,269	2,770*	0	3,142**	0	8,417	151
DuPage	341	22	173	50	23	177	21
Ford	0	3	1	0	0	0	0
Henry	1	0	4	1	0	1	0
Kane	134	14	51	8	24	109	6
Lake	270	40	78	4	20	121	3
Madison	28	18	42	24	9	58	4
McHenry	49	18	36	0	10	37	1
McLean	4	48	34	0	6	18	1
Mercer	1	1	2	0	0	0	0
Rock Island	10	5	17	4	0	31	1
St. Clair	39	21	32	13	13	39	7
Whiteside	2	2	4	0	0	5	0
Will	128	17	44	1	4	17	4
Winnebago	11	10	16	0	0	80	2

\*This figure includes Collections and Contracts

\*\*This figure includes Liability, Tort and Property Damage

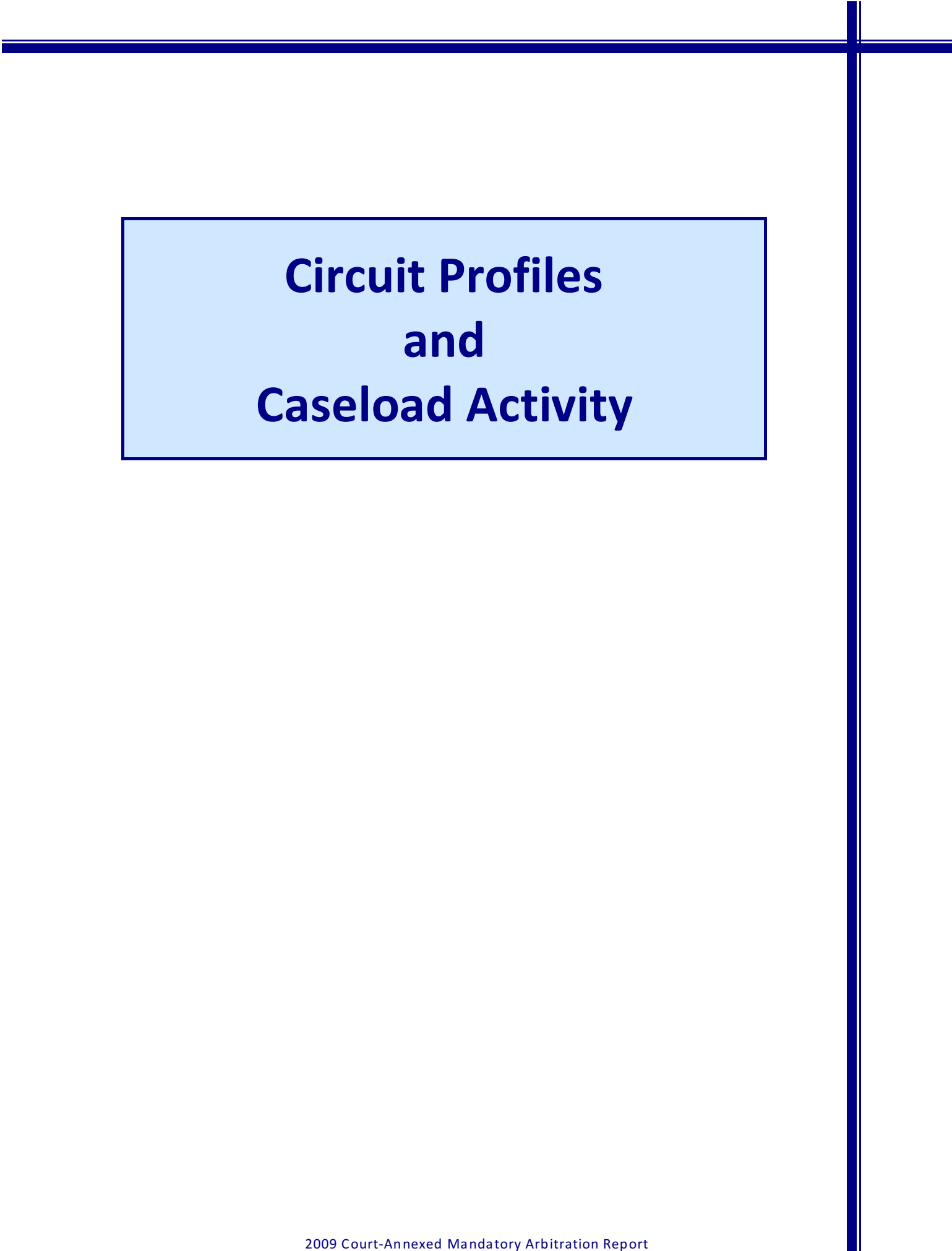
## AVERAGE AWARD AND AVERAGE NUMBER OF DAYS TO RESOLUTION

The table below reflects, by jurisdiction, the average award amount and the average number of days by case type.

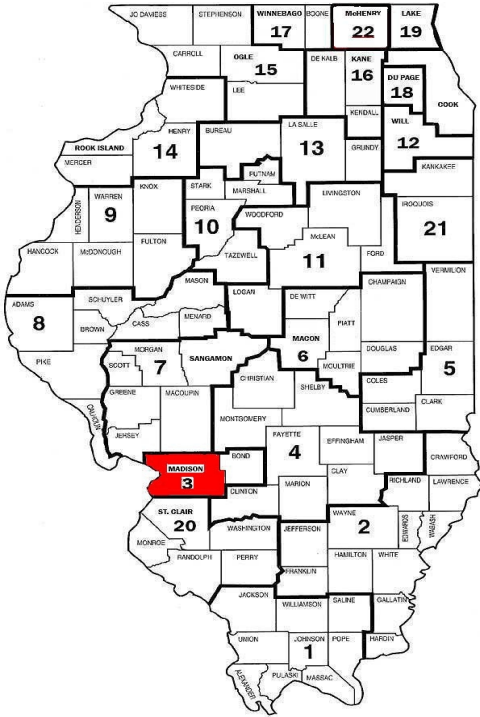
Arbitration Program	Automobile/ Subrogation	Collections	Contracts	Liability/ Tort	Property Damage	Personal Injury	Other
Boone	\$9,381 285 days	\$28,064 507 days	\$16,041 646 days	0	0	\$18,525 392 days	0
Cook	\$4,293 255 days	\$5,762* 224 days	0	\$4,041** 285 days	0	\$8,777 291 days	\$4,568 206 days
DuPage	\$7,393 334 days	\$23,849 366 days	\$16,222 438 days	\$11,680 395 days	\$5,529 396 days	\$12,654 367 days	\$15,998 584 days
Ford	0	\$15,671 124 days	\$8,284 122 days	0	0	0	0
Henry	\$16,348 441 days	0	\$20,228 446 days	0	0	\$12,971 300 days	0
Kane	\$5,900 378 days	\$21,200 529 days	\$12,103 606 days	\$4,900 660 days	\$4,100 397 days	\$13,728 503 days	\$10,700 630 days
Lake	\$5,123 197 days	\$24,680 287 days	\$14,069 399 days	\$4,675 304 days	\$3,182 201 days	\$13,444 372 days	\$9,866 367 days
Madison	\$14,929 380 days	\$11,438 248 days	\$9,754 338 days	\$12,580 263 days	\$8,218 242 days	\$14,385 319 days	\$3,125 369 days
McHenry	\$3,930 231 days	\$21,154 328 days	\$12,005 472 days	0	\$8,597 327 days	\$12,914 360 days	0
McLean	\$6,821 435 days	\$9,944 232 days	\$10,209 404 days	0	0	\$14,581 510 days	0
Mercer	0	0	\$48,925 326 days	0	0	0	0
Rock Island	\$18,305 542 days	\$16,274 262 days	\$12,097 384 days	\$12,659 1,049 days	0	\$9,983 499 days	0
St. Clair	\$21,399 555 days	\$10,017 407 days	\$11,451 444 days	\$16,249 397 days	\$8,523 510 days	\$19,825 571 days	6,554 421 days
Whiteside	0	0	0	0	0	\$9,857 1,339 days	0
Will	\$16,166 650 days	\$18,455 485 days	\$20,497 502 days	0	0	\$14,375 821 days	\$15,491 686 days
Winnebago	0	0	\$22,963 482 days	0	0	\$12,396 394 days	\$32,184 359 days

\*This figure includes Collections and Contracts

\*\*This figure includes Liability, Tort and Property Damage



# **Circuit Profiles and Caseload Activity**



## Third Judicial Circuit

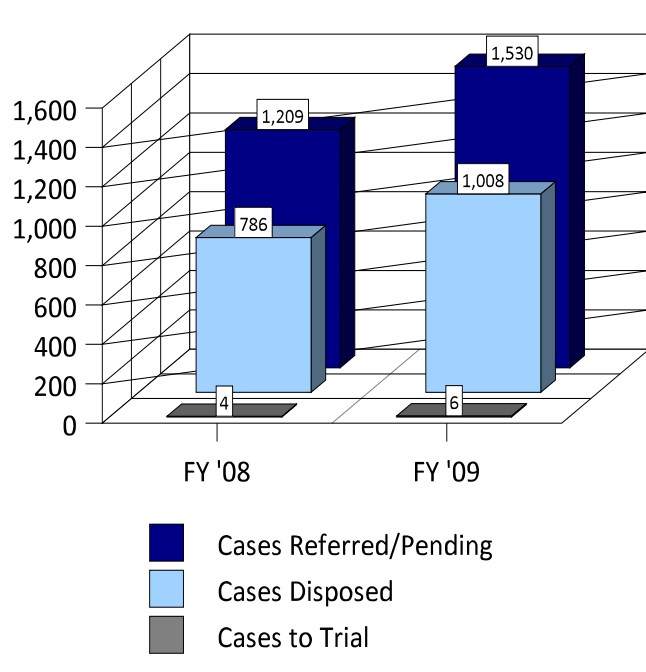
### (Madison County)

#### Arbitration Program Information

Madison County is one of two counties in the Third Judicial Circuit. Madison County is the most recent county to petition the Supreme Court for authorization to implement a court-annexed mandatory arbitration program. During its November 2006 Term, the Supreme Court authorized Madison County to commence operations, effective July 1, 2007. The Madison County Arbitration Center is located in Wood River, Illinois. An arbitration supervising judge is assigned to oversee arbitration matters and is assisted by an arbitration program administrator.

#### Madison County

#### Two - Year Disposition Trend

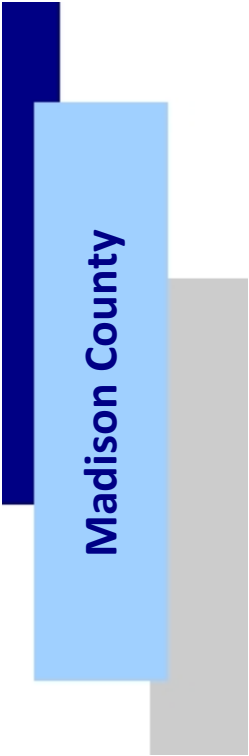


The chart to the left presents information on the first two years of data available from the arbitration program in Madison County. The numbers to the left represent the total number of cases litigated in arbitration which either resolved during the arbitration process, or ultimately proceeded to trial. Program data indicate that either a settlement or dismissal was reached in 66 percent (1,008 of 1,530 cases were disposed) of the cases filed in the Madison County arbitration program for State Fiscal Year 2009.

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

Number of Cases Pending/Referred to Arbitration . . . . .	1,530
Number of Cases Settled/Dismissed . . . . .	1,008
Number of Arbitration Hearings . . . . .	152
Number of Awards Accepted . . . . .	59
Number of Awards Rejected . . . . .	58
Number of Cases Filed in Arbitration that Proceeded to Trial . . . . .	6

The data for Madison County's 2009 arbitration operations are reflected in the chart to the left. In Madison County, less than one percent (6 of 1,530) of cases filed in arbitration proceeded to trial.



## Eleventh Judicial Circuit

(Ford and McLean Counties)

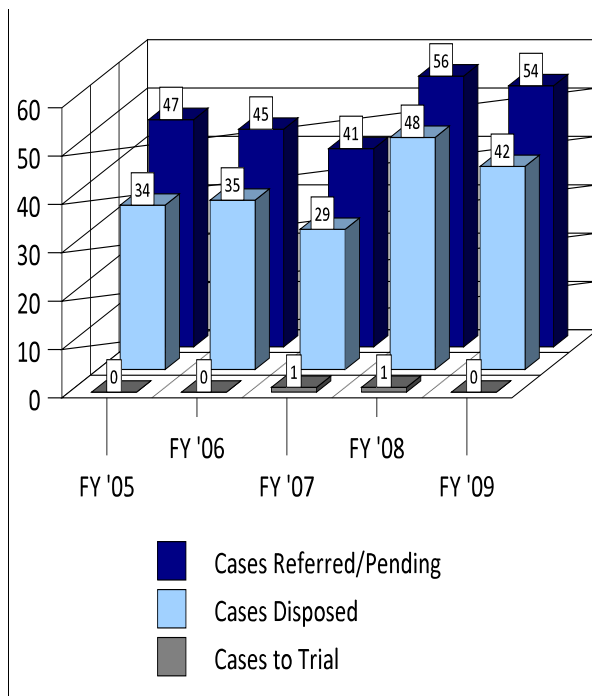
### Arbitration Program Information

#### Ford County

In March of 1996, the Supreme Court of Illinois entered an order which authorized Ford and McLean Counties in the Eleventh Judicial Circuit to begin operating arbitration programs. The arbitration program center for the Eleventh Judicial Circuit is located near the McLean County Law and Justice Center in Bloomington, Illinois which hosts hearings for both counties. A supervising judge from each county is assigned to oversee arbitration matters and both are assisted by an arbitration program administrator.



**Ford 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 78 percent (42 of 54 cases were disposed) of the cases filed in the Ford County arbitration program for State Fiscal Year 2009. This disposition rate tracks the five-year average of 78 percent and the statewide average of 78 percent.

Ford County

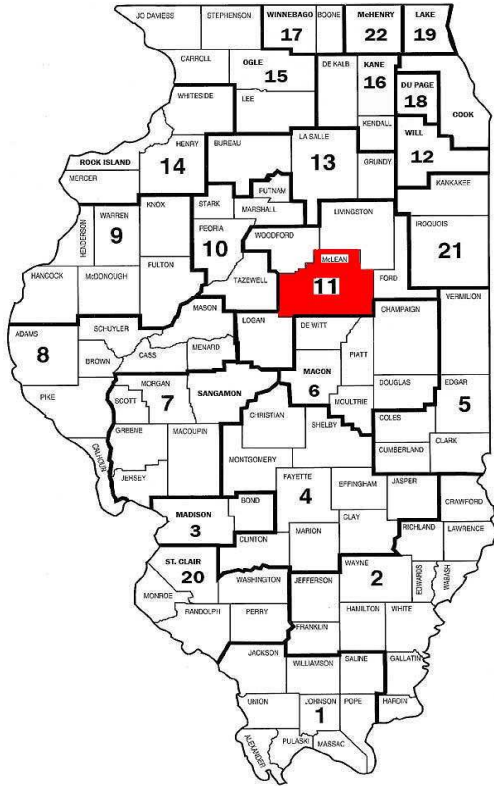
**State Fiscal Year 2009  
Ford County  
At-a-Glance Arbitration Caseload  
Information**

Number of Cases Pending/Referred	
to Arbitration .....	54
Number of Cases Settled/Dismissed .....	
	42
Number of Arbitration Hearings .....	
	3
Number of Awards Accepted .....	
	2
Number of Awards Rejected .....	
	0
Number of Cases Filed in Arbitration	
that Proceeded to Trial .....	0

The data for Ford County's 2009 arbitration operations are reflected in the chart to the left. In Ford County, none of the cases filed in arbitration proceeded to trial.





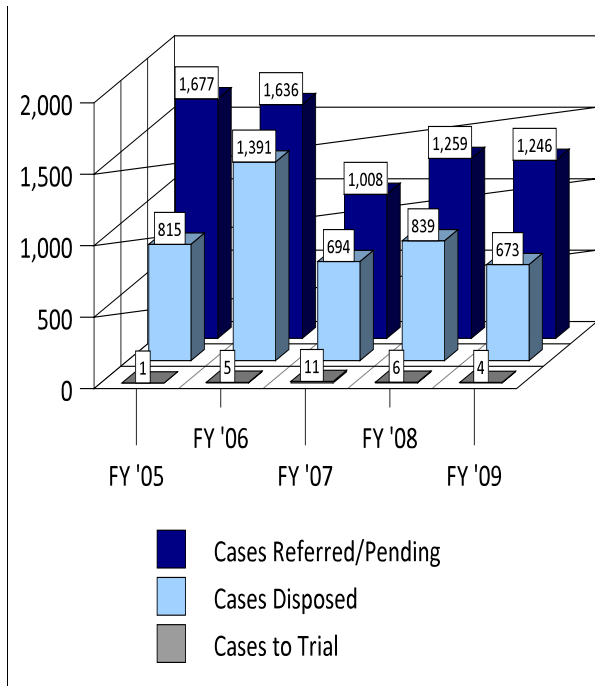


**Eleventh Judicial Circuit**  
(Ford and McLean Counties)

**McLean County**

While cases referred to McLean County's arbitration program vary annually, an average of 1,365 cases per year were referred or pending in arbitration over the past five state fiscal years.

**McLean County**  
**Five - Year Disposition Trend**



The chart to the left presents information on a five-year trend for 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 54 percent (673 of 1,246 cases were disposed) of the cases filed in the McLean County arbitration program for State Fiscal Year 2009. This disposition rate is significantly lower than the five-year average of 65 percent, and the statewide average of 78 percent.

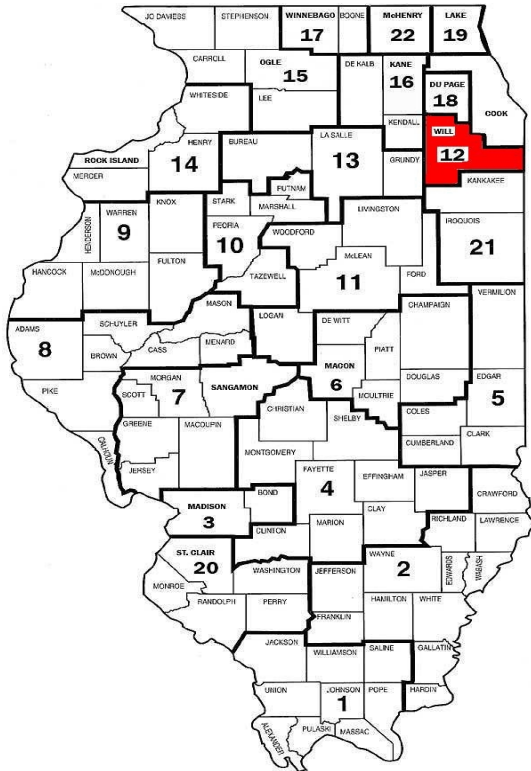
**McLean County**

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

Number of Cases Pending/Referred to Arbitration .....	1,246
Number of Cases Settled/Dismissed .....	673
Number of Arbitration Hearings .....	87
Number of Awards Accepted .....	43
Number of Awards Rejected .....	16
Number of Cases Filed in Arbitration that Proceeded to Trial .....	4

The data for McLean County's 2009 arbitration operations are reflected in the chart to the left. In McLean County, less than one percent of the cases litigated in arbitration proceeded to trial.

**McLean County**



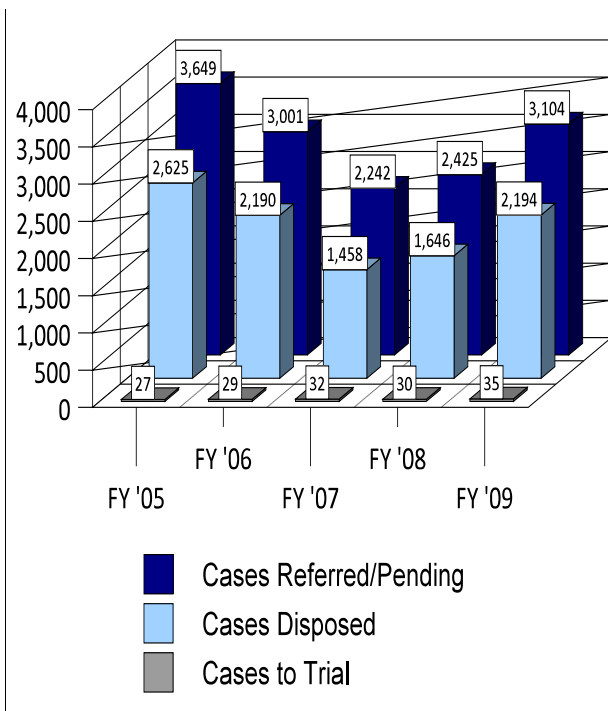
## Twelfth Judicial Circuit

(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.

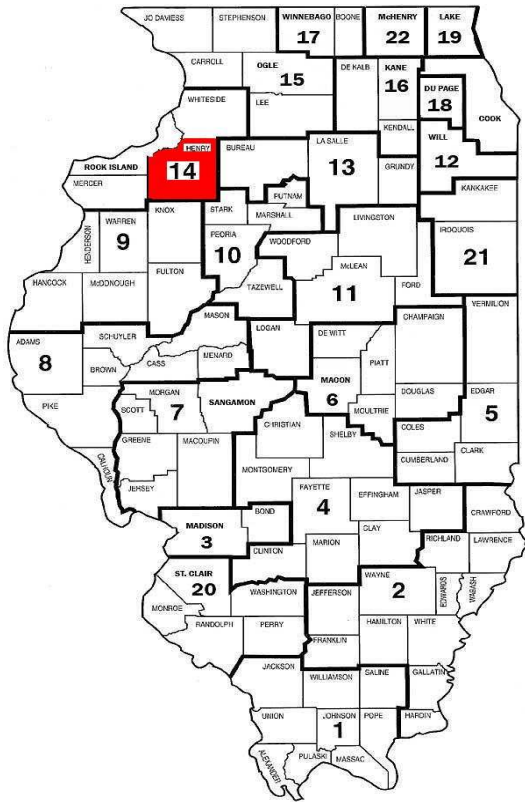
Will County

**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.



## Fourteenth Judicial Circuit

(Henry, Mercer, Rock Island and Whiteside Counties)

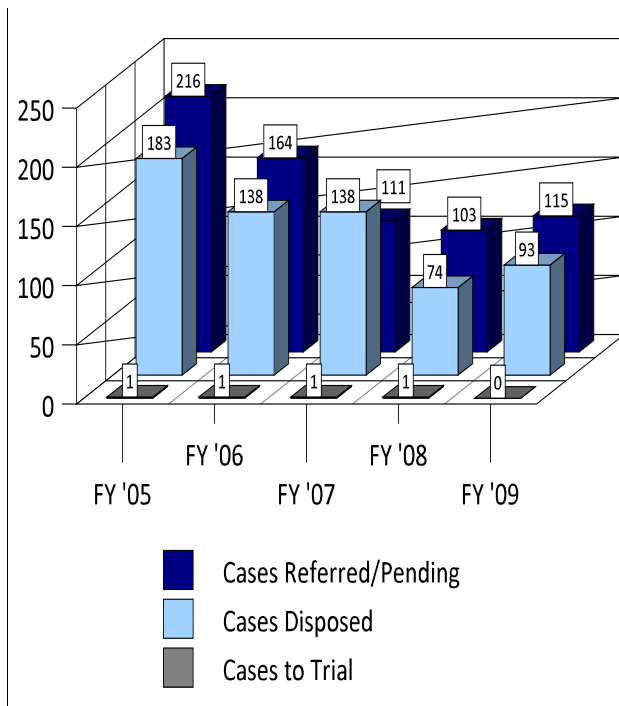
### Henry County

#### Arbitration Program Information

The Fourteenth Judicial Circuit is comprised of Henry, Mercer, Rock Island and Whiteside Counties. In November 1999, the Supreme Court authorized the inception of the program and arbitration hearings began in October 2000. This circuit is the first to receive permanent authorization to hear cases with damage claims up to \$50,000. Hearings are conducted in the arbitration center located in Rock Island. A supervising judge oversees arbitration matters for all counties and is assisted by a trial court administrator and arbitration program assistant.

### Henry 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 81 percent (93 of 115 cases were disposed) of the cases filed in the Henry County arbitration program for State Fiscal Year 2009. This disposition rate is lower than the five-year average of 89 percent and higher than the statewide average of 78 percent.

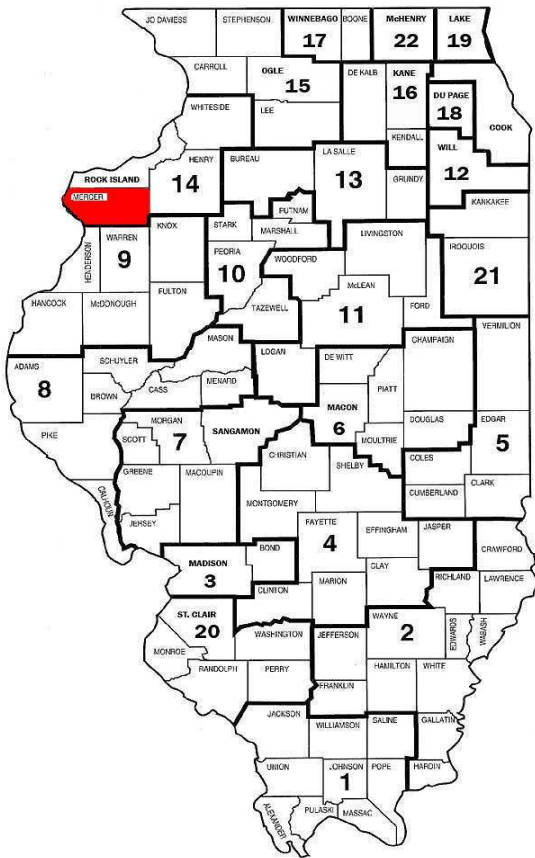
**State Fiscal Year 2009  
Henry County  
At-a-Glance Arbitration Caseload  
Information**

Number of Cases Pending/Referred to Arbitration .....	115
Number of Cases Settled/Dismissed .....	93
Number of Arbitration Hearings .....	6
Number of Awards Accepted .....	0
Number of Awards Rejected .....	2
Number of Cases Filed in Arbitration that Proceeded to Trial .....	0

The number of cases referred to Henry County's arbitration program from 2005 through 2009 decreased from a high of 216 in 2005 to a low of 103 in 2008, and increased slightly in 2009. The decrease in cases referred to arbitration, from 2005 through 2008, 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. From 2005 through 2009, an annual average of 147 cases have been referred to or are pending in arbitration.

The data for Henry County's 2009 arbitration operations are reflected in the chart to the left. In Henry County, none of the cases filed in arbitration proceeded to trial.

**Henry County**



## Fourteenth Judicial Circuit

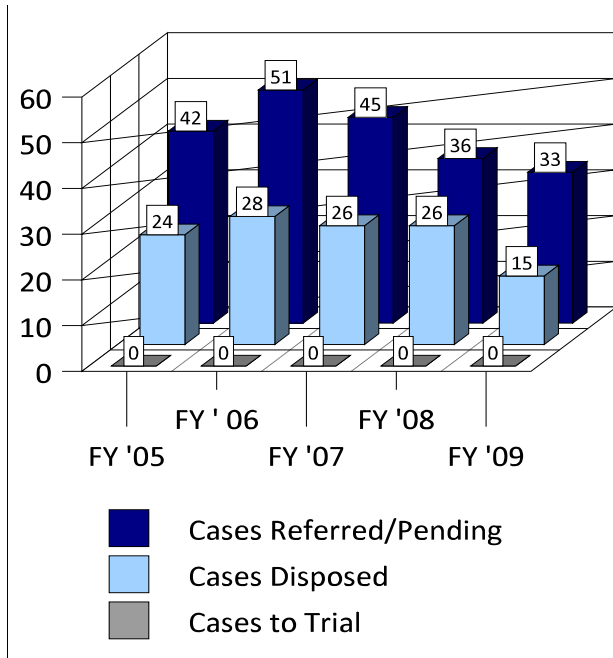
(Henry, Mercer, Rock Island and Whiteside Counties)

### Mercer County

While cases referred to Mercer County's arbitration program vary annually, an average of 41 cases per year were referred or pending in arbitration over the past five state fiscal years.

Mercer County

**Mercer County**  
Five - Year Disposition Trend

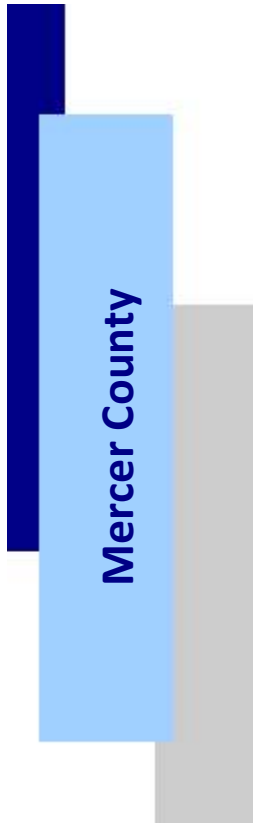


The chart to the left presents information regarding the total number of cases litigated in arbitration which were either resolved during the arbitration process, or ultimately went to trial. Program data indicate that either a settlement or dismissal was reached in 46 percent (15 of 33 cases were disposed) of the cases filed in the Mercer County arbitration program for State Fiscal Year 2009. This disposition rate is considerably lower than the five-year average of 58 percent and the statewide average of 78 percent.

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

Number of Cases Pending/Referred to Arbitration .....	33
Number of Cases Settled/Dismissed .....	15
Number of Arbitration Hearings .....	1
Number of Awards Accepted .....	0
Number of Awards Rejected .....	0
Number of Cases Filed in Arbitration that Proceeded to Trial .....	0

The data for Mercer County's 2009 arbitration operations are reflected in the chart to the left. In Mercer County, none of the cases litigated in arbitration proceeded to trial.



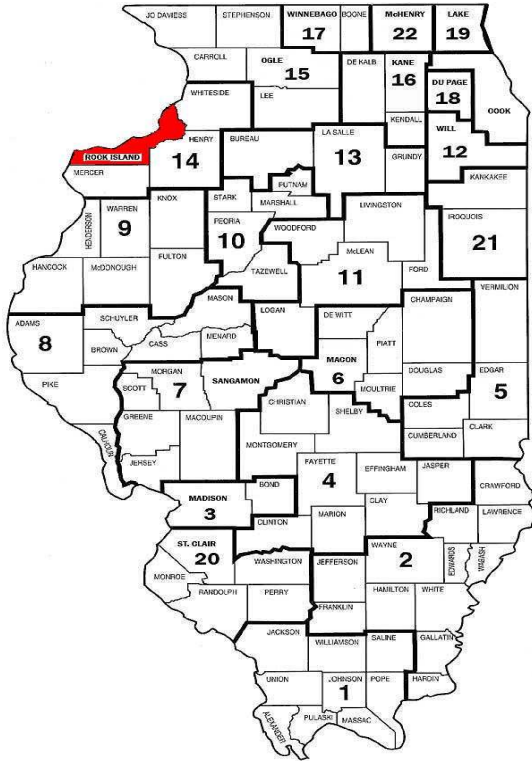


## Fourteenth Judicial Circuit

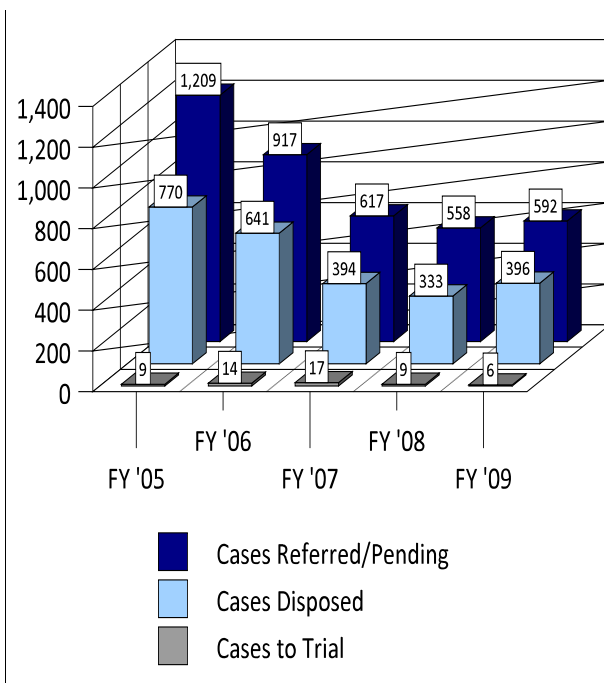
(Henry, Mercer, Rock Island and Whiteside Counties)

### Rock Island County

From 2005 through 2009, an annual average of 779 cases have been referred to arbitration. The decrease in cases referred to arbitration 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.



**Rock Island County**  
Five-Year Disposition Trend



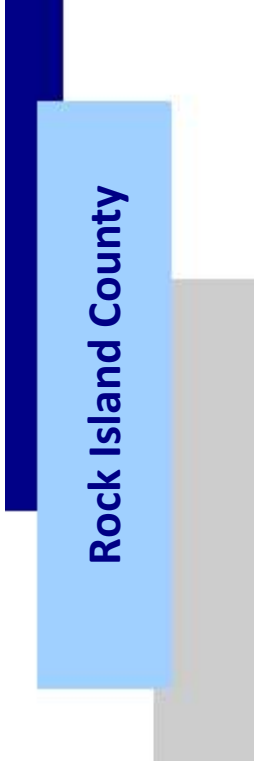
The chart to the left presents information regarding the total number of cases litigated in arbitration which were either resolved during the arbitration process, or ultimately went to trial. Program data indicate that either a settlement or dismissal was reached in 67 percent (396 of 592 cases were disposed) of the cases filed in the Rock Island County arbitration program for State Fiscal Year 2009. This disposition rate is higher than the five-year average of 65 percent and significantly less than the statewide average of 78 percent.

Rock Island County

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

Number of Cases Pending/Referred to Arbitration .....	592
Number of Cases Settled/Dismissed ....	396
Number of Arbitration Hearings .....	43
Number of Awards Accepted .....	5
Number of Awards Rejected .....	17
Number of Cases Filed in Arbitration that Proceeded to Trial .....	6

The data for Rock Island County's 2009 arbitration operations are reflected in the chart to the left. In Rock Island County, one percent of the cases (6 of the 592) filed in arbitration proceeded to trial.





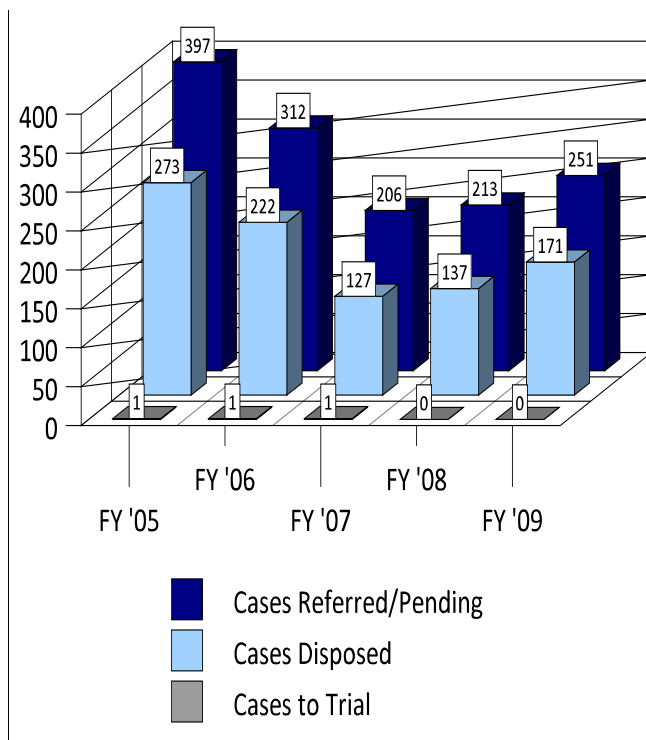
## Fourteenth Judicial Circuit

(Henry, Mercer, Rock Island and Whiteside Counties)

### Whiteside County

While cases referred to Whiteside County's arbitration program vary annually, an average of 276 cases per year were referred or are pending in arbitration over the past five state fiscal years.

**Whiteside 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 (171 of 251 cases were disposed) of the cases filed in the Whiteside County arbitration program for State Fiscal Year 2009. This disposition rate is slightly higher than the five-year average of 68 percent and less than the statewide average of 78 percent.

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

Number of Cases Pending/Referred to Arbitration . . . . .	251
Number of Cases Settled/Dismissed . . . .	171
Number of Arbitration Hearings . . . . .	4
Number of Awards Accepted . . . . .	1
Number of Awards Rejected . . . . .	1
Number of Cases Filed in Arbitration that Proceeded to Trial . . . . .	0

The data for Whiteside County's 2009 arbitration operations are reflected in the chart to the left. In Whiteside County, none of the cases filed in arbitration proceeded to trial.



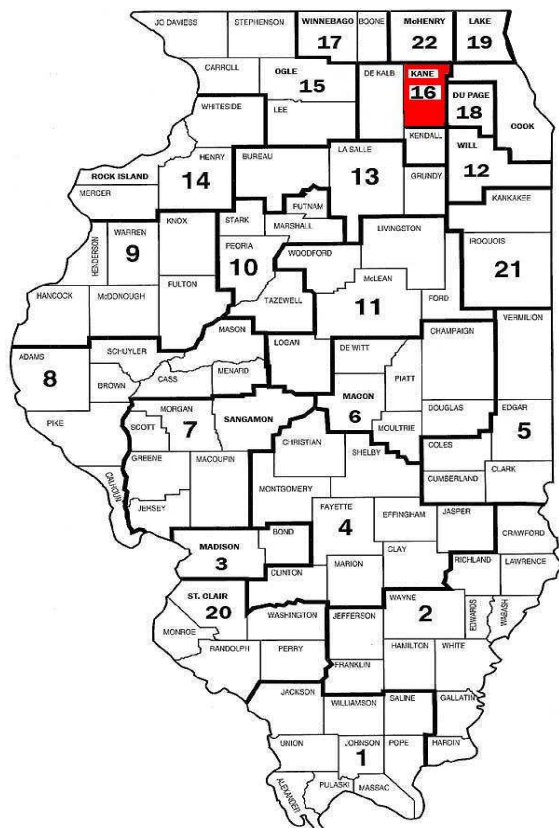
## Sixteenth Judicial Circuit

(Kane County)

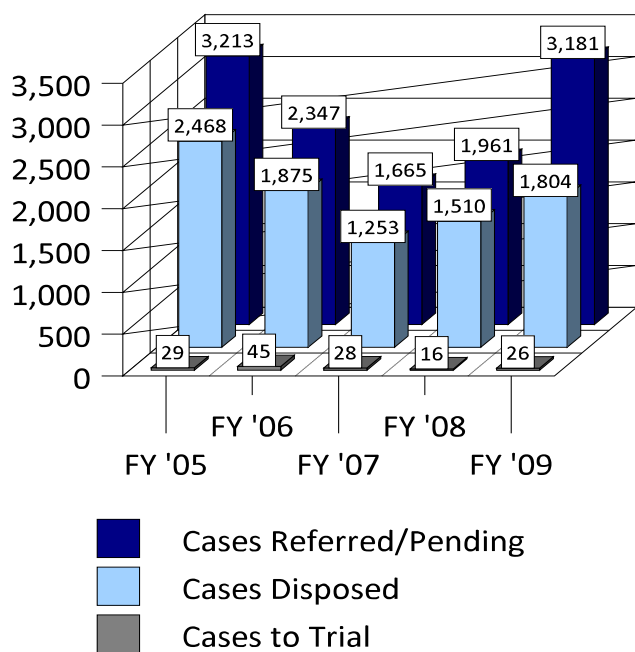
### Arbitration Program Information

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 either resolved during the arbitration process, or ultimately went to trial. Program data indicate that either a settlement or dismissal was reached in 57 percent (1,804 of 3,181 cases were disposed) of the cases filed in the Kane County arbitration program for State Fiscal Year 2009. This disposition rate is significantly lower than the five-year average of 72 percent and the statewide average of 78 percent. From 2005 through 2009, an annual average of 2,473 cases were referred to or are pending in arbitration.



**Kane County**  
Five - Year Disposition Trend



Kane County

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

Number of Cases Pending/Referred to Arbitration . . . . .	3,181*
Number of Cases Settled/Dismissed . . . . .	1,804
Number of Arbitration Hearings . . . . .	239
Number of Awards Accepted . . . . .	50
Number of Awards Rejected . . . . .	143
Number of Cases Filed in Arbitration that Proceeded to Trial . . . . .	26

\*For State Fiscal Year 2009, the arbitration program in Kane County reconciled its caseload statistics with the Circuit Clerk's office. Over the past fiscal years, the full complement of the pending cases in arbitration have been unknown. The numbers for 2009 are accurate and will track future trends.

The data for Kane County's 2009 arbitration operations are reflected in the chart to the left. In Kane County, less than one percent of the cases (26 of the 3,181) filed in arbitration proceeded to trial.





## Seventeenth Judicial Circuit

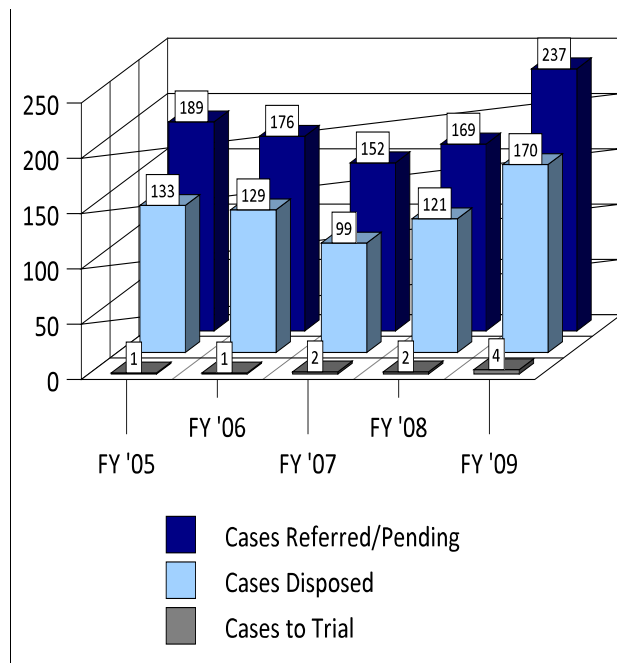
(Boone and Winnebago Counties)

### 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**

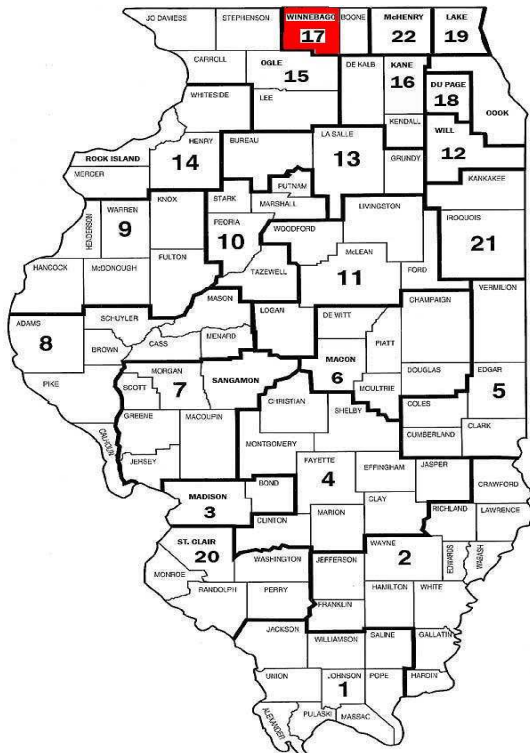
Number of Cases Pending/Referred to Arbitration .....	237
Number of Cases Settled/Dismissed .....	170
Number of Arbitration Hearings .....	6
Number of Awards Accepted .....	4
Number of Awards Rejected .....	3
Number of Cases Filed in Arbitration that Proceeded to Trial .....	4

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.





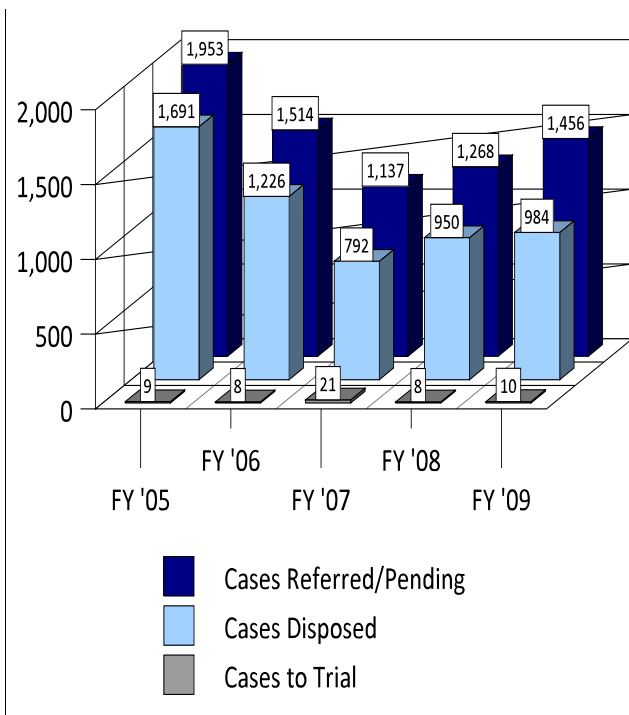
**Seventeenth Judicial Circuit  
(Boone and Winnebago Counties)  
Winnebago County**



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**

## Eighteenth Judicial Circuit

(DuPage County)

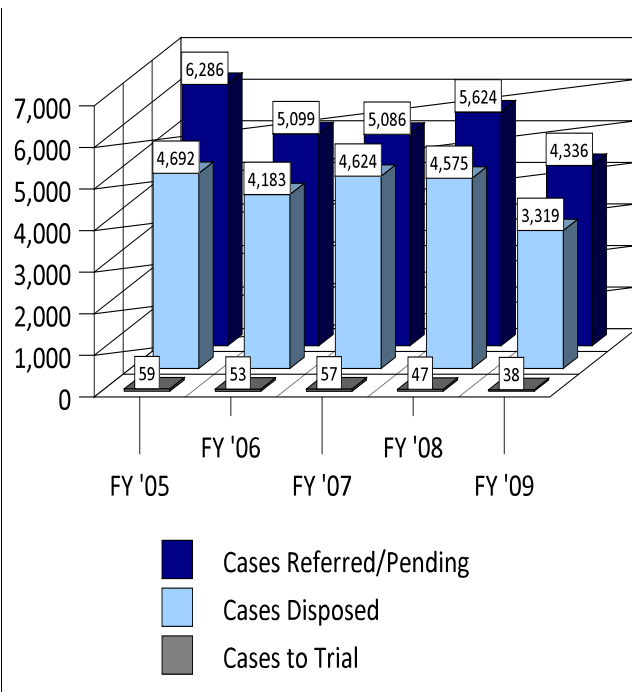
### Arbitration Program Information

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.

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. From 2005 through 2009, an annual average of 5,286 cases were referred to or are pending in arbitration. Program data indicate that either a settlement or dismissal was reached in 77 percent (3,319 of 4,336 cases were disposed) of the cases filed in the DuPage County arbitration program for State Fiscal Year 2009. This disposition rate is lower than the five-year average of 81 percent and the statewide average of 78 percent.



**DuPage County**  
Five-Year Disposition Trend



DuPage County

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

Number of Cases Pending/Referred to Arbitration . . . . .	4,336
Number of Cases Settled/Dismissed . . . .	3,319
Number of Arbitration Hearings . . . . .	406
Number of Awards Accepted . . . . .	96
Number of Awards Rejected . . . . .	227
Number of Cases Filed in Arbitration that Proceeded to Trial . . . . .	38

The data for DuPage County's 2009 arbitration operations are reflected in the chart to the left. In DuPage County, less than one percent of cases (38 of the 4,336) filed in arbitration proceeded to trial.



## Nineteenth Judicial Circuit

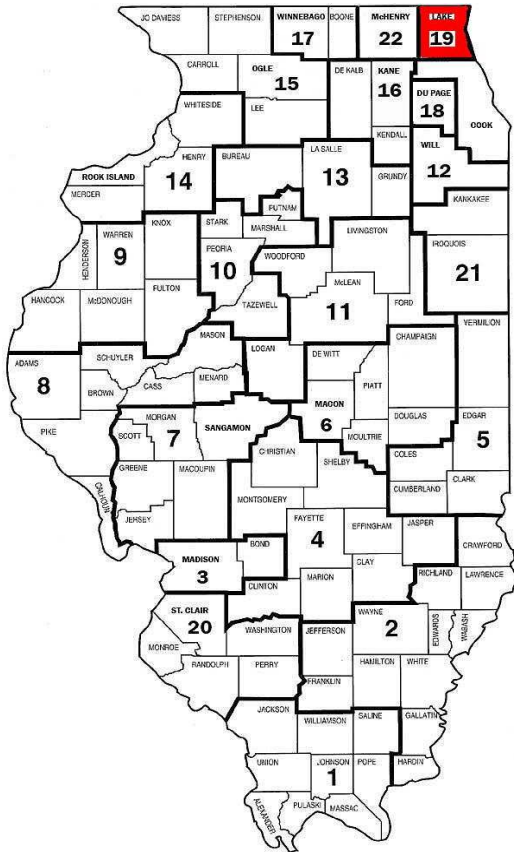
(Lake County)

### Arbitration Program Information

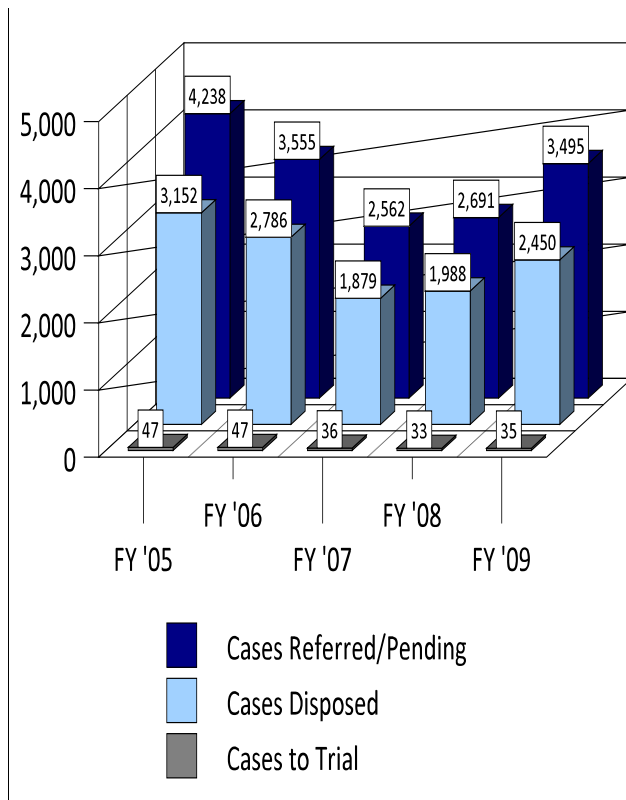
In December 1988, Lake County was approved by the Supreme Court to begin operating an arbitration program. The supervising judge is assisted by an arbitration program administrator and an administrative assistant. Arbitration hearings are conducted in a facility across the street from the Lake County Courthouse in Waukegan.

While cases referred to Lake County's arbitration program vary annually, an average of 3,308 cases per year were referred or pending in arbitration over the past five state fiscal years.

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 70 percent (2,450 of 3,495 cases were disposed) of the cases filed in the Lake County arbitration program for State Fiscal Year 2009. This disposition rate is lower than the five-year average of 74 percent and the statewide average of 78 percent.



**Lake County**  
Five-Year Disposition Trend



Lake County

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

Number of Cases Pending/Referred to Arbitration . . . . .	3,495
Number of Cases Settled/Dismissed . . . . .	2,450
Number of Arbitration Hearings . . . . .	427
Number of Awards Accepted . . . . .	94
Number of Awards Rejected . . . . .	255
Number of Cases Filed in Arbitration that Proceeded to Trial . . . . .	35

The data for Lake County's 2009 arbitration operations are reflected in the chart to the left. In Lake County one percent of cases (35 of the 3,495) filed in arbitration proceeded to trial.





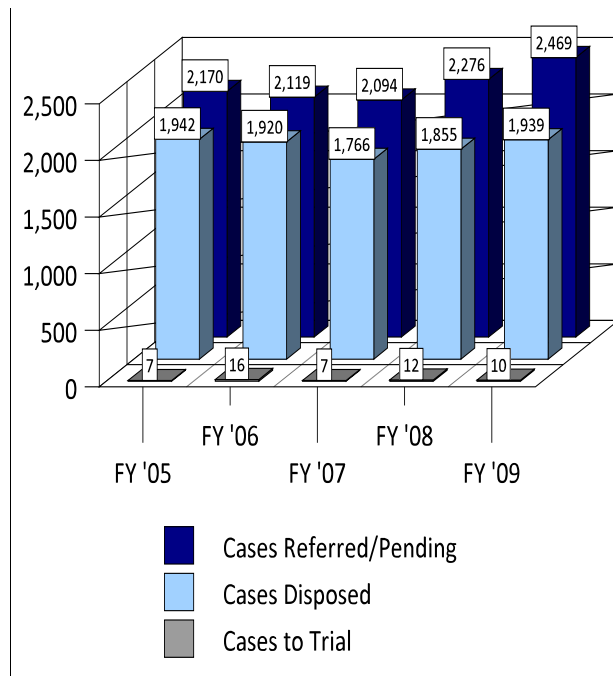
## Twentieth Judicial Circuit

(St. Clair County)

### Arbitration Program Information

The Twentieth Judicial Circuit is comprised of five counties: St. Clair, Perry, Monroe, Randolph and Washington. The Supreme Court approved the request of St. Clair County to begin an arbitration program in May of 1993 and the first hearings were held in February 1994. The arbitration center is located across the street from the St. Clair County Courthouse. A supervising judge is assigned to oversee arbitration matters and is assisted by an arbitration program administrator.

**St. Clair County**  
Five-Year Disposition Trend



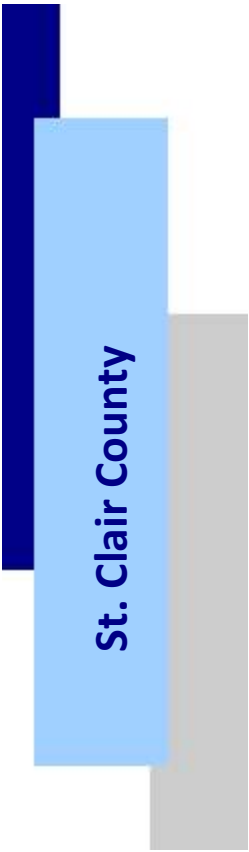
The chart to the left presents information regarding the total number of cases litigated in arbitration which were either resolved during the arbitration process, or ultimately went to trial. Program data indicate that either a settlement or dismissal was reached in 79 percent (1,939 of 2,469 cases were disposed) of the cases filed in the St. Clair County arbitration program for State Fiscal Year 2009. This disposition rate is lower than the five-year average of 85 percent and slightly higher than the statewide average of 78 percent.

St. Clair County

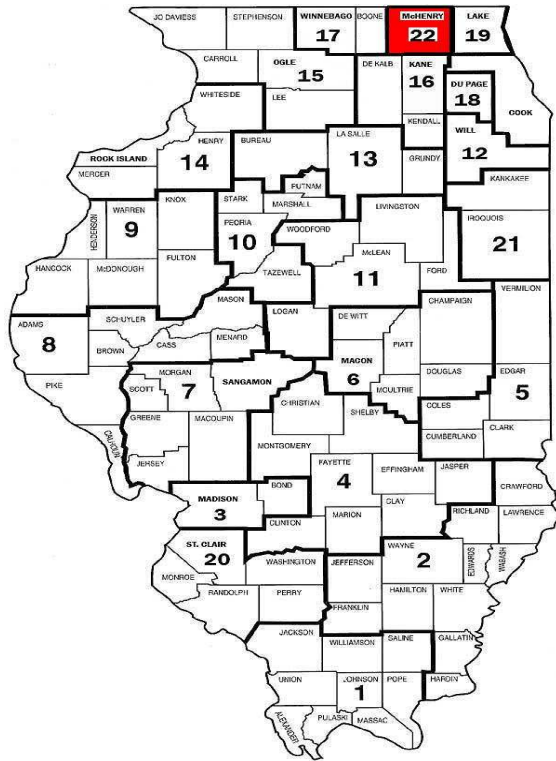
**State Fiscal Year 2009  
St. Clair County  
At-a-Glance Arbitration Caseload  
Information**

Number of Cases Pending/Referred to Arbitration . . . . .	2,469
Number of Cases Settled/Dismissed . . .	1,939
Number of Arbitration Hearings . . . . .	120
Number of Awards Accepted . . . . .	51
Number of Awards Rejected . . . . .	42
Number of Cases Filed in Arbitration that Proceeded to Trial . . . . .	10

The data for St. Clair County's 2009 arbitration operations are reflected in the chart to the left. In St. Clair County, less than one percent of cases (10 of the 2,469) filed in arbitration proceeded to trial.







## Twenty-Second Judicial Circuit

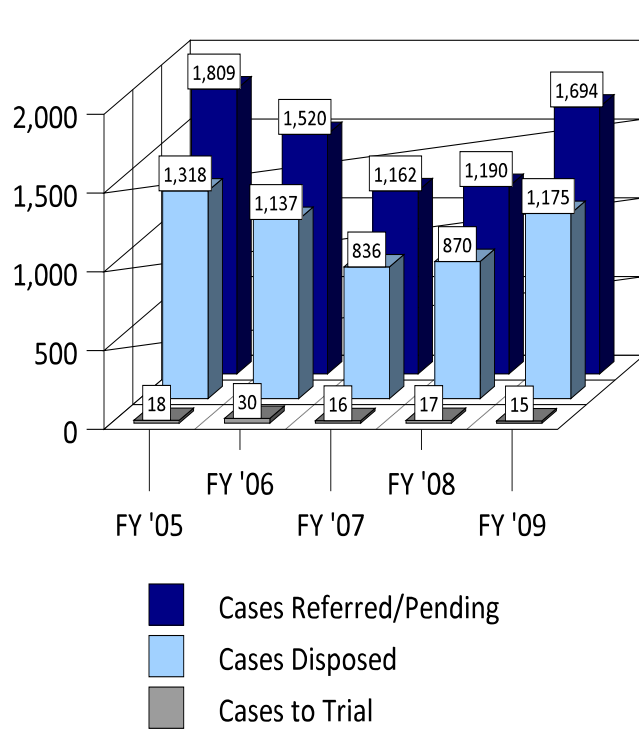
(McHenry County)

### Arbitration Program Information

In 1990, McHenry County was approved to operate an arbitration program as a component of the Nineteenth Judicial Circuit's operations. On December 4, 2006, enacted legislation separated Lake and McHenry counties and created the Twenty-Second Judicial Circuit (McHenry County), which is the newest judicial circuit in the state. The supervising judge in McHenry County is assisted by the arbitration program personnel from the Nineteenth Judicial Circuit. Arbitration hearings are conducted in the McHenry County Courthouse in Woodstock.

### McHenry 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. From 2005 through 2009, an annual average of 1,475 cases were referred to or are pending in arbitration. Program data indicate that either a settlement or dismissal was reached in 70 percent (1,175 of 1,694 cases were disposed) of the cases filed in the McHenry County arbitration program for State Fiscal Year 2009. This disposition rate is lower than the five-year average of 73 percent and the statewide average of 78 percent.

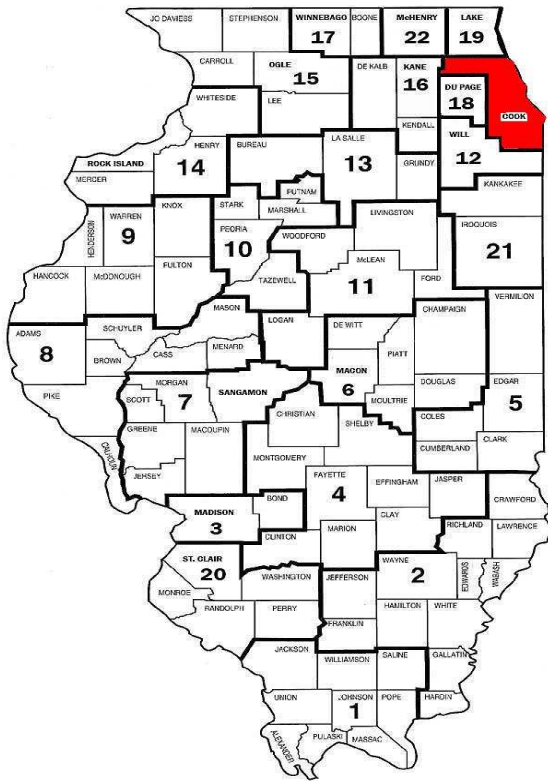
McHenry County

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

Number of Cases Pending/Referred to Arbitration . . . . .	1,694
Number of Cases Settled/Dismissed . . . . .	1,175
Number of Arbitration Hearings . . . . .	114
Number of Awards Accepted . . . . .	30
Number of Awards Rejected . . . . .	61
Number of Cases Filed in Arbitration that Proceeded to Trial . . . . .	15

The data for McHenry County's 2009 arbitration operations are reflected in the chart to the left. In McHenry County, less than one percent of the cases (15 of the 1,694) filed in arbitration proceeded to trial.





## Circuit Court of Cook County

### Arbitration Program Information

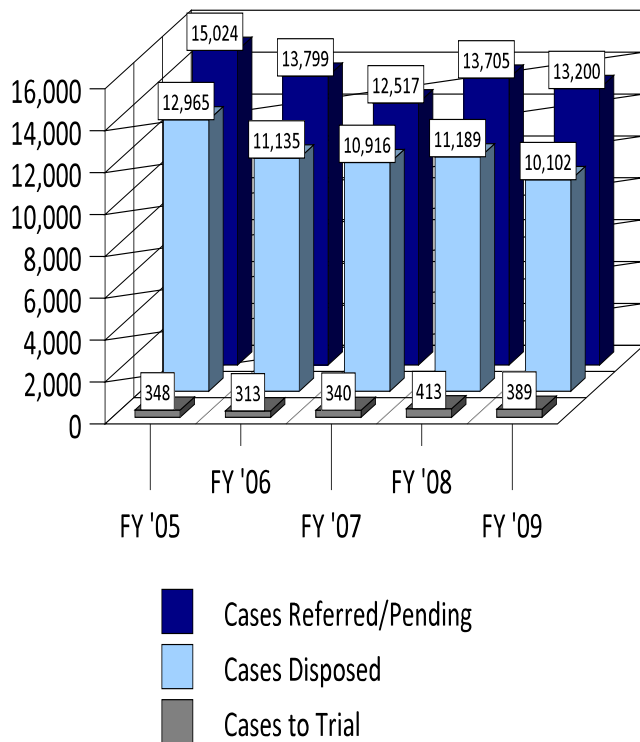
As a general jurisdiction trial court, the Circuit Court of Cook County is the largest unified court in the nation. The Supreme Court granted approval to implement an arbitration program in Cook County in January 1990. The arbitration center is located in downtown Chicago. A supervising judge oversees arbitration program matters and is assisted by an arbitration program administrator and deputy administrator.

While cases referred to Cook County's arbitration program vary annually, an average of 13,649 cases per year were referred or pending in arbitration over the past five state fiscal years.

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 77 percent (10,102 of 13,200 cases were disposed) of the cases filed in the Cook County arbitration program for State Fiscal Year 2009. This disposition rate is less than the five-year average of 83 percent and the statewide average of 78 percent.

Cook County

**Cook County**  
Five-Year Disposition Trend



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

Number of Cases Pending/Referred to Arbitration . . . . .	13,200
Number of Cases Settled/Dismissed . . . .	10,102
Number of Arbitration Hearings . . . . .	8,183
Number of Awards Accepted . . . . .	1,767
Number of Awards Rejected . . . . .	4,240
Number of Cases Filed in Arbitration that Proceeded to Trial . . . . .	389

\*Only jurisdiction with a limit of \$30,000 for arbitration cases;  
others are \$50,000.

The data for Cook County's 2009 arbitration operations are reflected in the chart to the left. In Cook County, only three percent of the cases (389 of the 13,200) filed in arbitration proceeded to trial.



# Appendices

**APPENDIX 1**  
**STATE FISCAL YEAR 2009**  
**STATEWIDE PRE-HEARING CALENDAR DATA**

ARBITRATION PROGRAM	CASES PENDING HEARING 07/01/08 AS REPORTED	CASES REFERRED TO ARBITRATION	TOTAL CASES ON CALENDAR	PRE-HEARING DISPOSITIONS	PERCENT OF CASES ON PRE-HEARING CALENDAR DISPOSED PRIOR TO ARBITRATION HEARING	ARBITRATION HEARING	PERCENTAGE REFERRED TO HEARING	CASES PENDING HEARING 06/30/09
Boone	41	191	232	162	70%	6	3%	64
Cook	2,235	10,965	13,200	3,446	26%	8,183	62%	1,571
DuPage	974	3,181	4,155	2,961	71%	406	10%	788
Ford	6	47	53	38	72%	3	6%	12
Henry	28	87	115	88	77%	6	5%	21
Kane	875	2,060	2,935	1,570	53%	239	8%	1,126
Lake	550	2,816	3,366	2,057	61%	427	13%	882
Madison	387	1,112	1,499	889	59%	152	10%	458
McHenry	267	1,388	1,655	1,068	65%	114	7%	473
McLean	378	831	1,209	595	49%	87	7%	527
Mercer	10	23	33	14	42%	1	3%	18
Rock Island	194	376	570	355	62%	43	8%	172
St. Clair	362	2,060	2,422	1,823	75%	120	5%	479
Whiteside	67	175	242	159	66%	4	2%	79
Will	659	2,354	3,013	2,038	68%	164	5%	811
Winnebago	281	1,146	1,427	909	64%	87	6%	431

## APPENDIX 2

### STATE FISCAL YEAR 2009

### STATEWIDE POST-HEARING CALENDAR DATA

ARBITRATION PROGRAM	CASES PENDING ON POST-HEARING CALENDAR 07/01/08 AS REPORTED	CASES ADDED	JUDGMENT ON AWARD	POST-HEARING PRE-REJECTION DISPOSITION DISMISSED	AWARDS REJECTED	AWARDS REJECTED AS A PERCENTAGE OF HEARINGS	TOTAL CASES AS A PERCENTAGE OF ALL WHICH WERE REJECTED 07/01/08 THROUGH 06/30/09	CASES PENDING 06/30/09
Boone	2	8	4	3	3	50%	1%	0
Cook	N/A	8,183	1,767	3,005	4,240	52%	32%	N/A
DuPage	45	406	96	93	227	56%	5%	35
Ford	1	3	2	2	0	0%	0%	0
Henry	0	6	0	4	2	33%	2%	0
Kane	47	239	50	48	143	60%	5%	45
Lake	64	432	94	102	255	60%	8%	45
Madison	11	152	59	30	58	38%	4%	16
McHenry	14	119	30	30	61	54%	4%	12
McLean	22	89	43	23	16	18%	1%	29
Mercer	0	1	0	1	0	0%	0%	0
Rock Island	6	43	5	20	17	40%	3%	7
St. Clair	14	120	51	24	42	35%	2%	17
Whiteside	2	5	1	5	1	25%	less than 1%	0
Will	28	164	35	38	86	52%	3%	33
Winnebago	4	88	16	20	43	49%	3%	13

**APPENDIX 3**  
**STATE FISCAL YEAR 2009**  
**STATEWIDE POST-REJECTION CALENDAR DATA**

ARBITRATION PROGRAM	CASES PENDING ON POST-REJECTION CALENDAR 07/01/08 AS REPORTED	CASES ADDED	PRE-TRIAL POST-REJECTION DISPOSITIONS DISMISSALS	TRIALS	PERCENT OF TOTAL CASES ON PRE-HEARING CALENDAR PROGRESSING TO TRIAL 07/01/08 THROUGH 06/30/09	CASES PENDING 06/30/09
Boone	3	3	1	4	2%	1
Cook	N/A	4,240	1,884	389	3%	2,424
DuPage	136	406	169	38	less than1%	335
Ford	0	0	0	0	0%	0
Henry	0	2	1	0	0%	1
Kane	199	143	136	26	less than1%	180
Lake	65	259	197	35	1%	92
Madison	20	59	30	6	less than1%	43
McHenry	25	65	47	15	less than1%	28
McLean	15	16	12	4	less than1%	15
Mercer	0	0	0	0	0%	0
Rock Island	16	17	16	6	1%	11
St. Clair	33	42	41	10	less than1%	24
Whiteside	7	1	6	0	0%	2
Will	63	86	83	35	1%	31
Winnebago	25	45	39	10	less than1%	21



## APPENDIX 4

### Percentage of Arbitration Eligible Cases in Total Civil Case Filings by County

MANDATORY ARBITRATION PROGRAM	CIVIL CASES FILED IN STATE FISCAL YEAR 2009	ARBITRATION ELIGIBLE CASES IN STATE FISCAL YEAR 2009	PERCENTAGE OF ARBITRATION ELIGIBLE CASES IN TOTAL CIVIL CASE FILINGS
Boone	2,408	232	10%
Cook	383,184	13,200	4%
DuPage	36,320	4,155	12%
Ford	441	53	12%
Henry	2,135	115	6%
Kane	22,112	2,935	14%
Lake	31,566	3,366	11%
Madison	16,730	1,499	9%
McHenry	13,085	1,655	13%
McLean	7,475	1,209	17%
Mercer	737	33	5%
Rock Island	8,519	570	7%
St. Clair	17,374	2,422	14%
Whiteside	3,462	242	7%
Will	33,647	3,013	9%
Winnebago	19,066	1,427	8%

The table above demonstrates the percentage of arbitration-eligible cases in the total civil case filings for each county with a mandatory arbitration program. Statewide statistics indicate that a total 36,126 cases were arbitration eligible out of the 598,261 civil cases filed in counties with a mandatory arbitration program in State Fiscal Year 2009. A statewide average of six percent of the total civil cases filed in court-annexed mandatory arbitration counties were eligible for arbitration proceedings.