

Court-Annexed Mandatory Arbitration



State Fiscal Year 2006 Annual Report to the Illinois General Assembly

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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, called an arbitration panel. Mandatory arbitration uses rules of evidence and procedure that are less formal than those followed in trial courts, which usually leads to a faster, less expensive resolution of disputes. An arbitration panel can recommend, but not impose, a decision. In the fifteen 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 promulgates comprehensive rules (Supreme Court Rule 86, *et seq.*) that prescribe actions subject to mandatory arbitration. The rules address a range of operational procedures including: appointment, qualifications, and compensation of arbitrators; the scheduling of hearings; the discovery process; the 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 2006 Annual Report summarizes the activity of court annexed mandatory arbitration from July 1, 2005 through June 30, 2006. 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' fifteen 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. To view a history of mandatory arbitration, which began in 1987, please reference the [State Fiscal Year 2004 Court-Annexed Mandatory Arbitration Annual Report](#) located on the Supreme Court's website at 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 here 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 assists in establishing new arbitration programs that have been approved by the Supreme Court. Staff also provide other support services such as assisting in the drafting of local rules, recruiting personnel, acquiring facilities, training new arbitrators, purchasing equipment and developing judicial calendaring systems.

The AOIC assists existing programs by 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 Alternative Dispute Resolution Coordinating Committee is one of seven standing committees of the Illinois Judicial Conference, whose membership is appointed by the Supreme Court. The charge of the Committee, as directed by the Supreme Court, is to monitor and assess court-annexed mandatory arbitration programs and make recommendations for proposed policy modifications to the full body of the Illinois Judicial Conference. The Committee also surveys and compiles information on existing court-supported dispute resolution programs, explores and examines innovative dispute resolution processing techniques, and studies the impact of proposed amendments to relevant Supreme Court rules. In addition, the Committee proposes rule amendments in response to suggestions and information received from program participants, supervising judges and arbitration administrators.

Local Administration

The chief 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, as well as considers complaints about an arbitrator or the arbitration process, and promotes the dissemination of information about the arbitration process, the results of arbitration, developing case law and new practices and procedures in the area of arbitration.

The supervising judges are assisted by arbitration administrators who are responsible for 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.

CASE FLOW and HEARING CALENDARS

Case Assignment

In most instances, 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 assigns the case an "AR" designation, which places the matter directly onto the calendar of the supervising judge for arbitration. However, in the Circuit Court of Cook County, cases are not initially filed as arbitration cases. All civil cases in which the money damages being sought are between \$5,000 and \$50,000 are filed in the Municipal Department and are given an "M" designation by the clerk. Cases in which the money damages being sought are greater than \$10,000 but do not exceed \$30,000 are considered "arbitration-eligible." After all preliminary matters are heard, 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 particular 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. Summons are 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 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 the pre-hearing. The pre-hearing arbitration calendar consists 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 in order that disputing parties, anxious to avoid the time and cost of an arbitration hearing, have an 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 2006 statistics indicates that parties are carefully managing their cases and working to settle their disputes without significant court intervention prior to the arbitration hearing. During State Fiscal Year 2006, 57% 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, and 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, 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: (1) entry of judgment on the arbitration award; (2) dismissal or settlement by order of the court; or (3) rejection of the arbitration award. While any of these actions will remove a case from the post-hearing calendar, only judgment on the award or dismissal and 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 arbitrator 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 24% 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. Figures reported indicate that approximately 38% 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 that in a number of cases which progress 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 include both judgments entered on the arbitration award and settlements reached after the arbitration award but prior to the expiration for the filing of a rejection.

Rejection rates for arbitration awards vary from county to county. In State Fiscal Year 2006, the statewide average rejection rate was 51% and is fairly consistent with the five year average of 49% (State Fiscal Year 2002 through 2006). Although the rejection rate may seem high, the success of arbitration is best measured by the percentage of cases resolved before trial, rather than the rejection rate of arbitration awards alone. (See Appendix 2 for Post-hearing Calendar Data). Of cases qualifying for the arbitration process, only an average of 1.6% ultimately go to trial in the trial courts.

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: (1) have been present, personally or via counsel, at the arbitration hearing or that party's right to reject the award will be deemed waived; (2) have participated in the arbitration process in good faith and in a meaningful manner; (3) file a rejection notice within thirty days of the date the award was filed; and (4) 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 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. For awards of \$30,000 or less, the rejection fee is \$200. For awards greater than \$30,000, the rejection fee is \$500.

Post-Rejection Calendar

The post-rejection calendar is composed of cases in which one of the parties rejects the arbitrator award and seeks a trial before a judge or jury. Cases are also occasionally reinstated at this stage of the arbitration process and added to the calendar.

Although rejection of the arbitrator award can result in a trial, most cases on the post-rejection calendar are resolved through settlement or other dispositive action. Parties may file a notice of rejection of the arbitration award for a variety of tactical reasons. It does not necessarily signify the end to negotiations or the certainty of a trial. Of those cases that have proceeded to hearing but for which the award has been rejected, more than 90% are still resolved by the parties prior to proceeding to trial. (See Appendix 3 for Post-rejection Calendar Data).

PROGRAM SUMMARY

A review and analysis of the data and program descriptions support 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 90% 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 only 1.6% of the cases filed in an arbitration program proceeded to trial in State Fiscal Year 2006.

NEW DEVELOPMENTS IN STATE FISCAL YEAR 2006

Expanded Statistical Collection and Analysis

During State Fiscal Year 2005, the AOIC implemented expanded statistical reporting requirements for arbitration programs to permit additional analytical material for this report. The new reporting includes the collection of information on the various types of cases that proceed through arbitration (i.e., auto, contract, personal injury, collections, etc.), information on the monetary value of a case at the time of filing and average award granted by arbitration panels, as well as the length of time from case filing to final resolution. Collection of this data assists in determining if arbitration is meeting program objectives. The new statistics, gathered during this first year of expanded data collection, can be found in the statewide data profile as well as the data profiles for each of the individual circuits. They reveal, for example, that almost half of the arbitration matters relate to personal injury cases and that the average time a case spends in the arbitration system ranges from 254 days (for collection matters) to 407 days (for the automobile/subrogation category). In future years, when comparisons can be made and trends identified, a more in-depth analysis will be possible.

Supreme Court Rule 281

Effective January 1, 2006, Supreme Court Rule 281 was amended to increase the small claims jurisdictional limit from \$5,000 to \$10,000. From State Fiscal Year 2005 to 2006, cases referred to arbitration experienced an almost 16% decrease. The expanded small claims jurisdiction may be a factor in this decline. Administrators indicate that some matters which previously would have been eligible for arbitration are now proceeding as small claims cases.

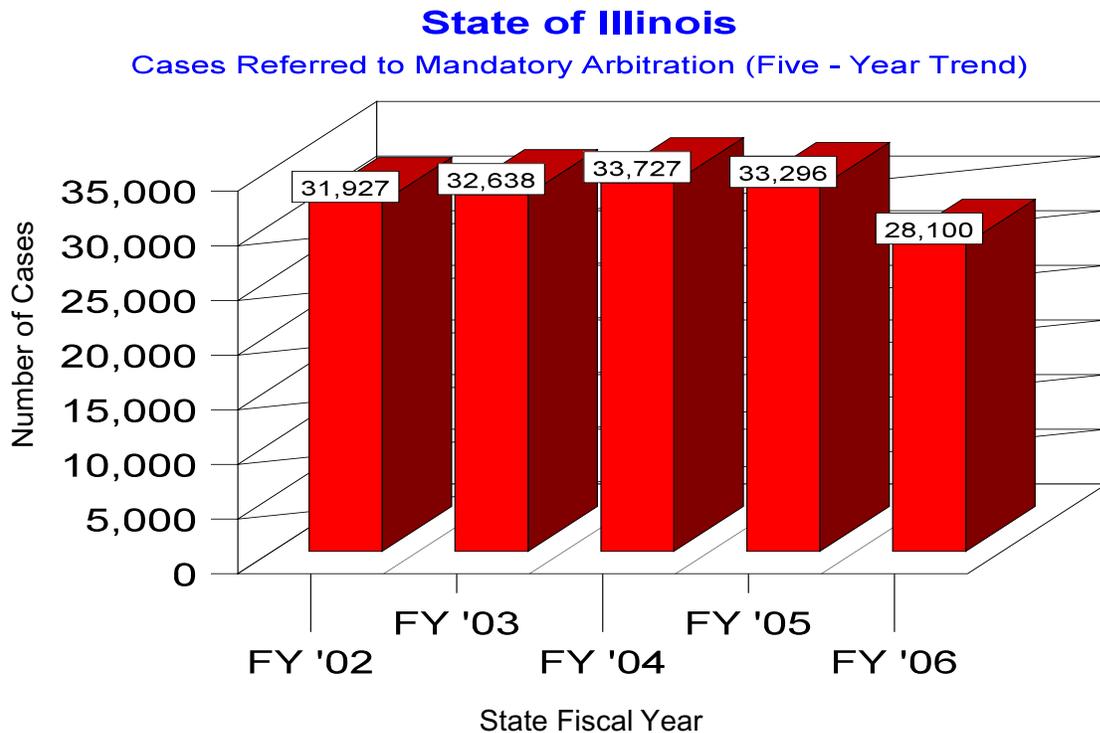
It should be noted that arbitration statistics are reported for the state's 12 month fiscal period (July 1 to June 30) and that the Supreme Court amended Rule 281 on January 1, 2006. Thus, Rule 281, as amended, was in effect for only half of this reporting period. The 2007 arbitration report, which will cover a full year under the Rule 281 amendment, will provide the opportunity for a more complete analysis.

STATEWIDE DATA PROFILE

(Includes Information from Illinois' Fifteen Arbitration Programs)

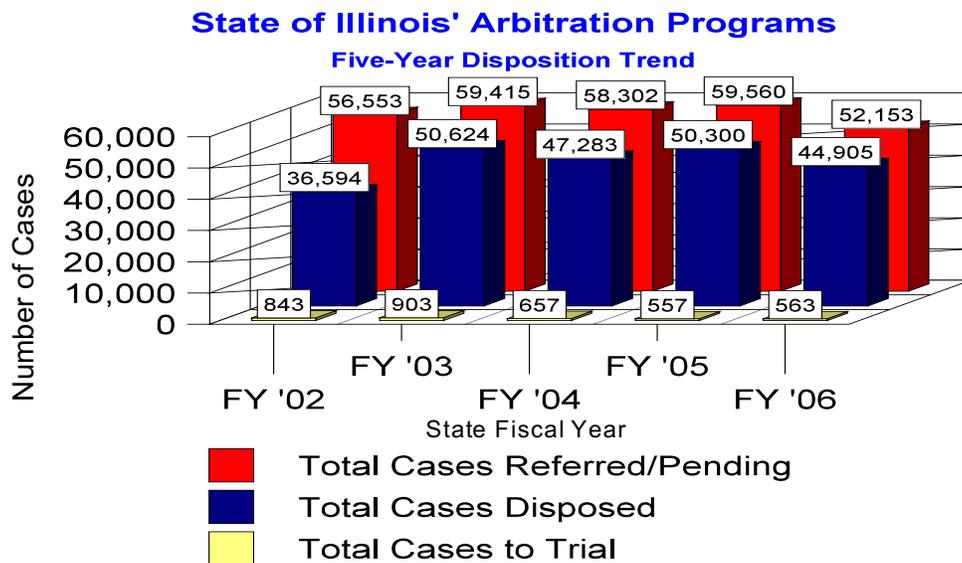
Following are charts and diagrams which contain data from State Fiscal Year 2006.

State Fiscal Year 2006 State of Illinois At A Glance Arbitration Caseload Information	
Number of Cases Pending / Referred to Arbitration	52,153
Number of Cases Settled /Dismissed	45,468
Number of Cases Pending	7,845
Number of Arbitration Hearings	10,484
Number of Awards Accepted	2,481
Number of Awards Rejected	5,385
Number of Cases Filed in Arbitration which Proceeded to Trial	563



While the number of cases referred to Illinois' arbitration programs vary annually, an average of 31,938 cases were referred to arbitration over the past five state fiscal years.

In State Fiscal Year 2006, only 28,100 cases entered the mandatory arbitration process. This represents a 5,196 case decline (almost 16%) from the previous State Fiscal Year 2005. The January 1, 2006, Supreme Court Rule 281 amendment, which expanded the small claims jurisdiction from \$5,000 to \$10,000, is a likely contributing factor to the decline. This trend will be monitored to assess the possible impact on resources required for arbitration programs.

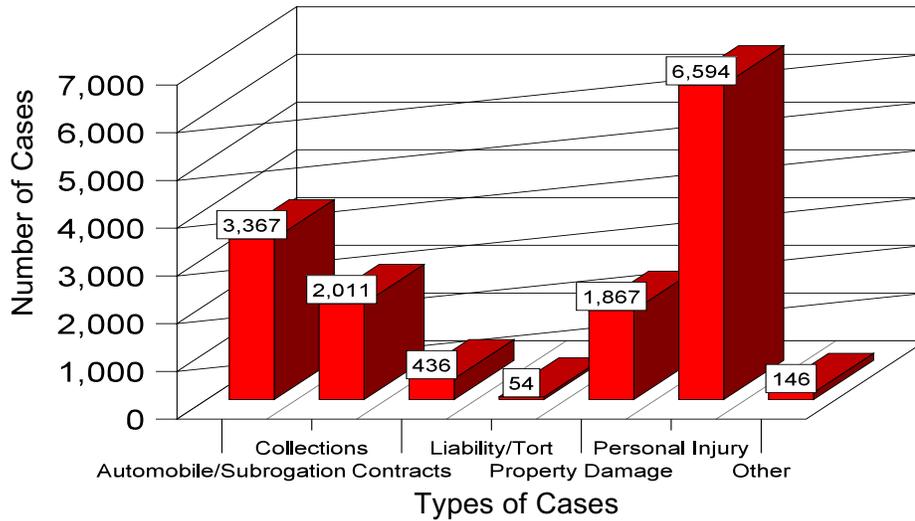


The chart above reflects the total number of cases litigated in all fifteen arbitration programs which either resulted in a disposition through arbitration or ultimately proceeded to trial. Program data indicates that either a settlement or dismissal was reached in 86% (44,905 of 52,153 cases were disposed) of the cases filed in Illinois' arbitration programs for State Fiscal Year 2006. This disposition rate is higher than the five year average of 81%.

A more significant performance indicator for arbitration, however, is measuring the number of cases which, having been arbitrated, proceed to trial. In State Fiscal Year 2006, statewide figures indicate that 1% of the cases filed in Illinois' arbitration programs proceeded to trial. This rate tracks the five-year trend.

State of Illinois Arbitration Programs

Types of Cases in Arbitration



The graph above provides information on the types of cases that are heard in arbitration. Personal injury cases account for the largest share (46%) of the arbitration hearings in the State of Illinois.

State of Illinois Arbitration Programs

Average Award for Arbitration Hearing by Case Type and
Average Number of Days a Case remains in the Arbitration System

Case Type	Average Award	Average Age (Days)
Automobile/Subrogation	\$ 4,211	173
Collections	\$5,081	154
Contracts	\$10,463	358
Liability/Tort	\$3,671	314
Property Damage	\$4,595	158
Personal Injury	\$8,859	160
Other	\$7,327	233

Note: Due to its internal process, Cook County reports combined Collections and Contracts data, which are here reported in the Collections case type, and combined Liability and Property data, which are here reported in the Liability/Tort case type.

The above table 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 state's arbitration cases are combined, the average period that an arbitration case pends is 169 days.

CIRCUIT PROFILES AND CASELOAD ACTIVITY

Eleventh Judicial Circuit

(Ford and McLean Counties)

Arbitration Program Information

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 and it hosts hearings for both counties. A supervising judge from each county is assigned to oversee arbitration matters and both are assisted by arbitration program staff.

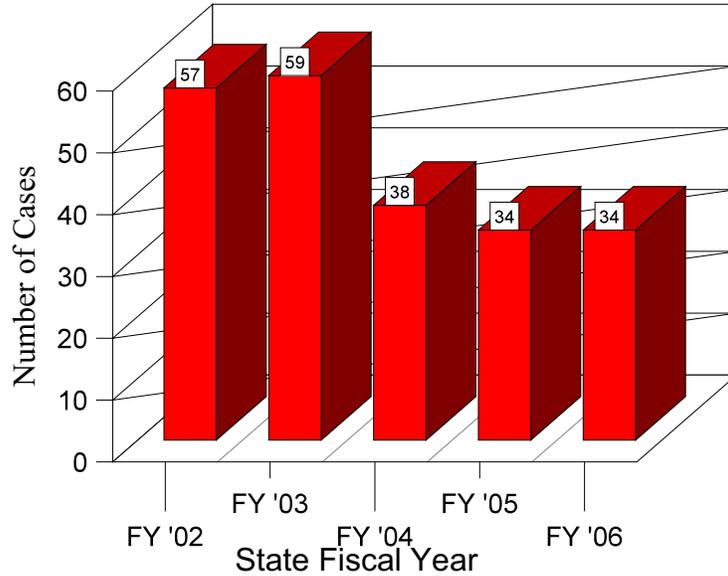
DATA PROFILES

Ford County

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

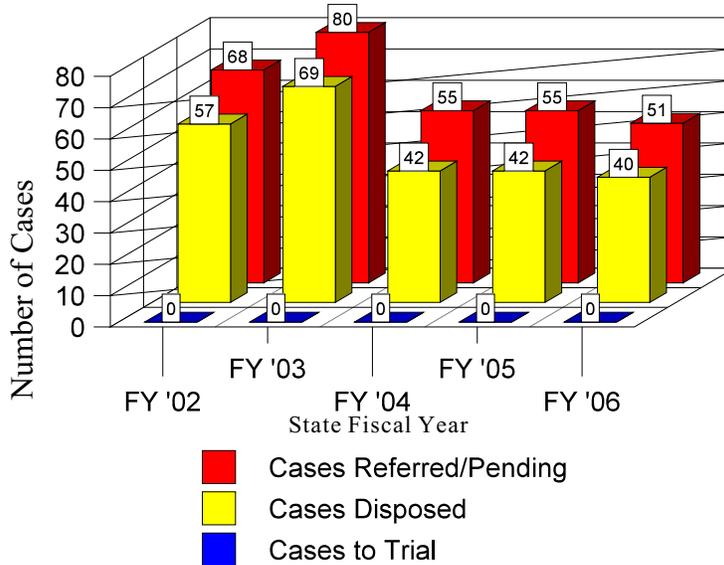
State Fiscal Year 2006 Ford County At A Glance Arbitration Caseload Information	
Number of Cases Pending / Referred to Arbitration	51
Number of Cases Settled /Dismissed	40
Number of Cases Pending	11
Number of Arbitration Hearings	5
Number of Awards Accepted	2
Number of Awards Rejected	0
Number of Cases Filed in Arbitration which Proceeded to Trial	0

Ford County
Cases Referred to Mandatory Arbitration
Five - Year Trend



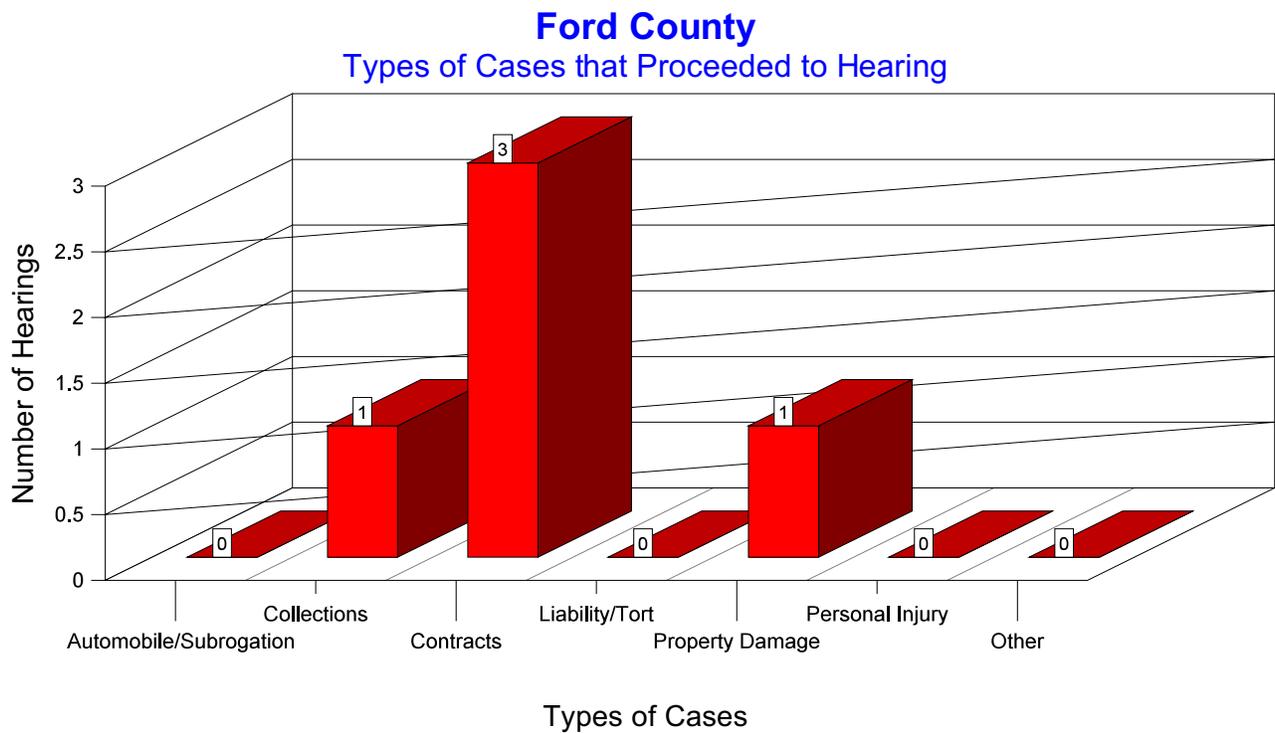
While the number of cases referred to Ford County's arbitration program vary annually, an average of 44 cases per year were referred to arbitration over the past five state fiscal years.

Ford 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 78% (40 of 51 cases were disposed) of the cases filed in the Ford County arbitration program for State Fiscal Year 2006. This disposition rate is slightly lower than the five year average of 81% and is less than the statewide average of 86%.

In Ford County, all cases filed in arbitration have been either settled or dismissed without proceeding to trial.



The graph above provides information on the types of cases that are heard in arbitration. The data indicates that contract cases account for a majority (60%) of the arbitration hearings in Ford County.

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

<i>Case Type</i>	<i>Average Award</i>	<i>Average Age (Days)</i>
Automobile/Subrogation		
Collections	\$10,051	124
Contracts		
Liability/Torts		
Property Damage	-0-	176
Personal Injury		
Other		

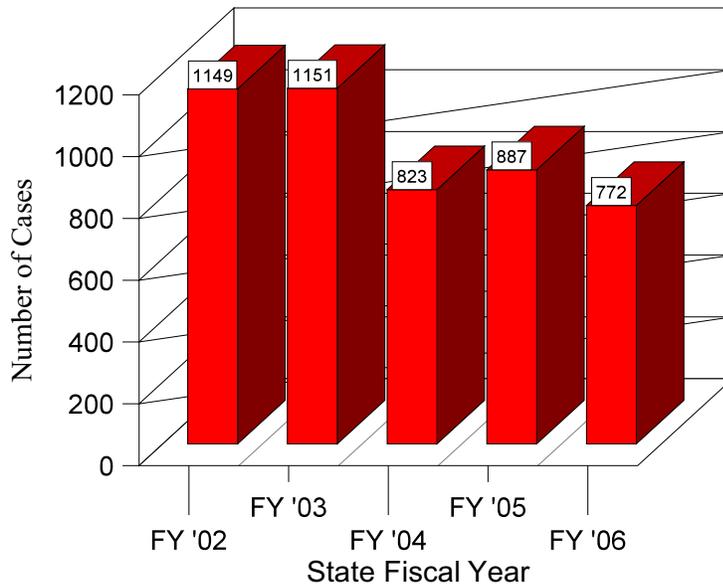
The table above offers information on the types of cases processed in mandatory arbitration and the average award granted at the time of the hearing. The table also presents data regarding the average amount of time each case type remains pending in the arbitration system. When all of the county's arbitration cases are combined, the average period that an arbitration case pends is 150 days. All cases heard in arbitration were resolved in less than one year.

McLean County

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

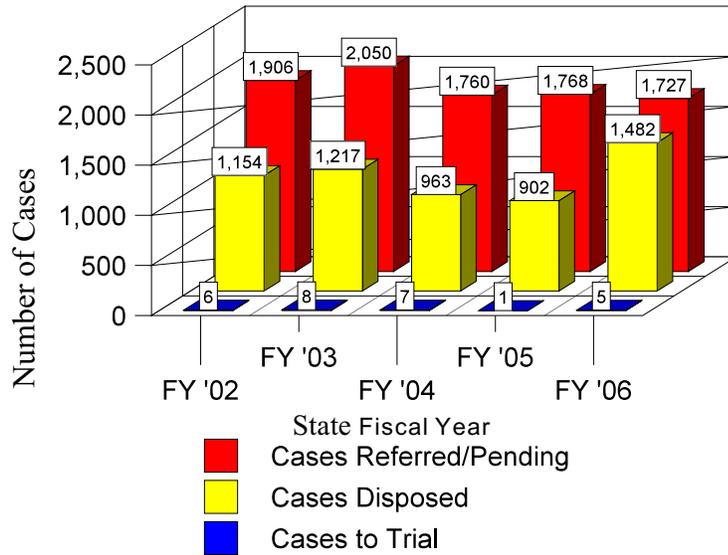
State Fiscal Year 2006 McLean County At A Glance Arbitration Caseload Information	
Number of Cases Pending / Referred to Arbitration	1,727
Number of Cases Settled /Dismissed	1,487
Number of Cases Pending	240
Number of Arbitration Hearings	63
Number of Awards Accepted	31
Number of Awards Rejected	28
Number of Cases Filed in Arbitration which Proceeded to Trial	5

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



While cases referred to McLean County's arbitration program vary annually, an average of 956 cases per year were referred to arbitration over the past five state fiscal years.

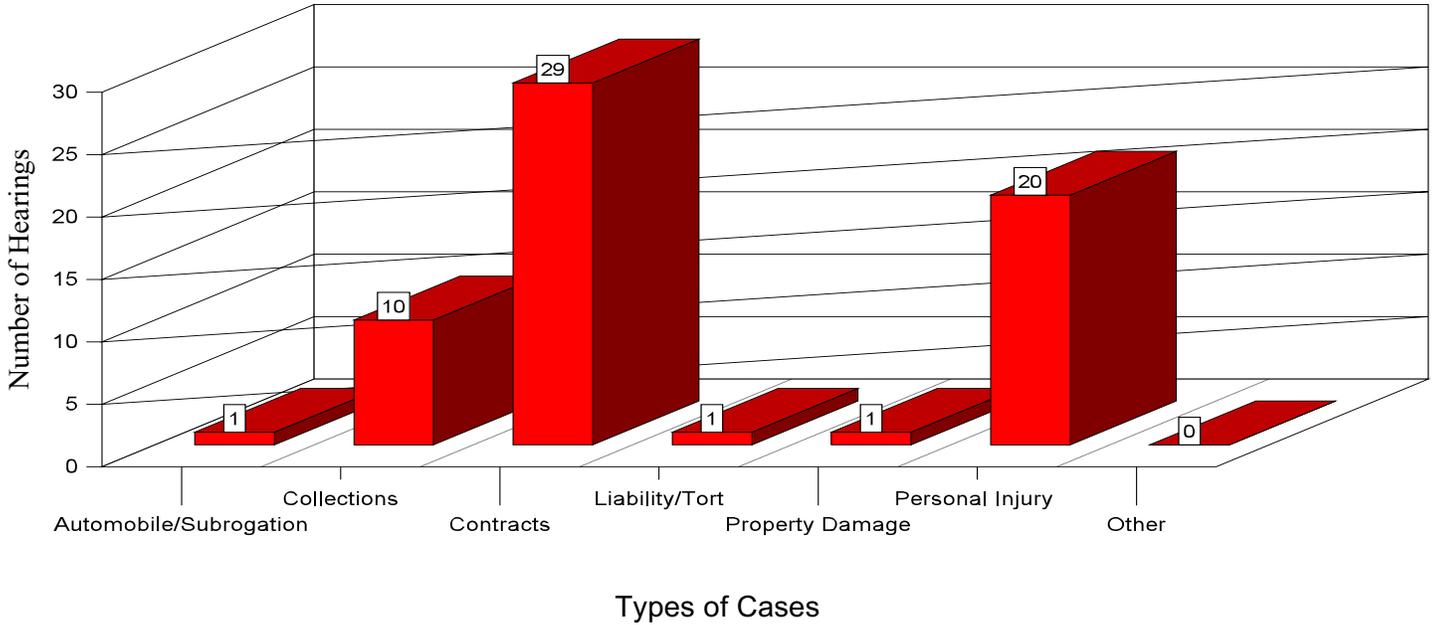
McLean County Five - Year Disposition Trend



The chart above presents information on a five year trend for 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 86% (1,482 of 1,727 cases were disposed) of the cases filed in the McLean County arbitration program for State Fiscal Year 2006. This disposition rate is significantly higher than the five year average of 62% and tracks the statewide average of 86%.

In McLean County, less than one percent (1%) of the cases litigated in arbitration proceeded to trial.

McLean 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 contract cases account for a majority (47%) of the arbitration hearings in McLean County.

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

Case Type	Average Award	Average Age (Days)
Automobile/Subrogation	Case Pending	N/A
Collections	\$9,980	264
Contracts	\$11,990	362
Liability/Tort	\$5,630	258
Property Damage	-0-	489
Personal Injury	\$12,341	327
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 335 days.

Twelfth Judicial Circuit

(Will County)

Arbitration Program Information

The Twelfth Judicial Circuit is one of only three 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 arbitration program staff.

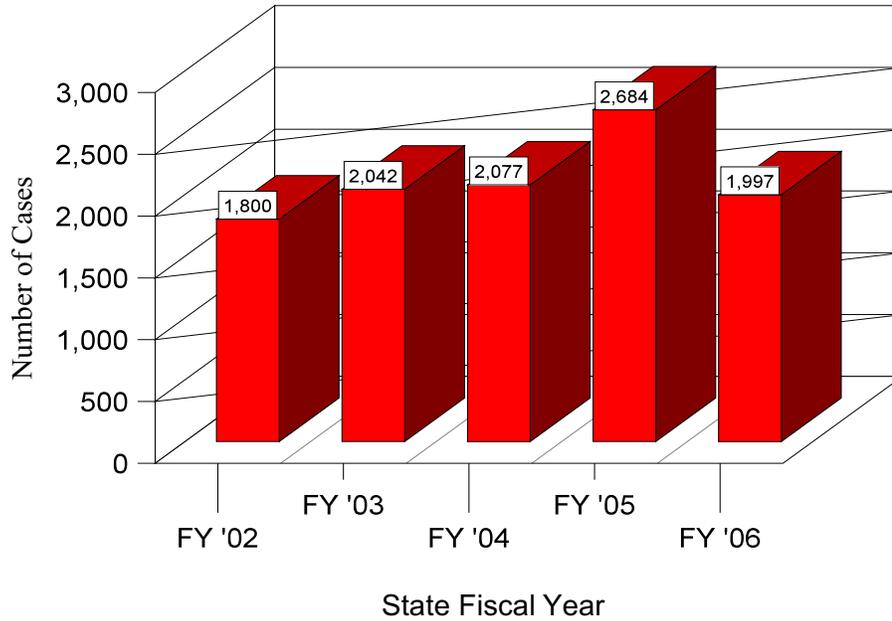
DATA PROFILES

Will County

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

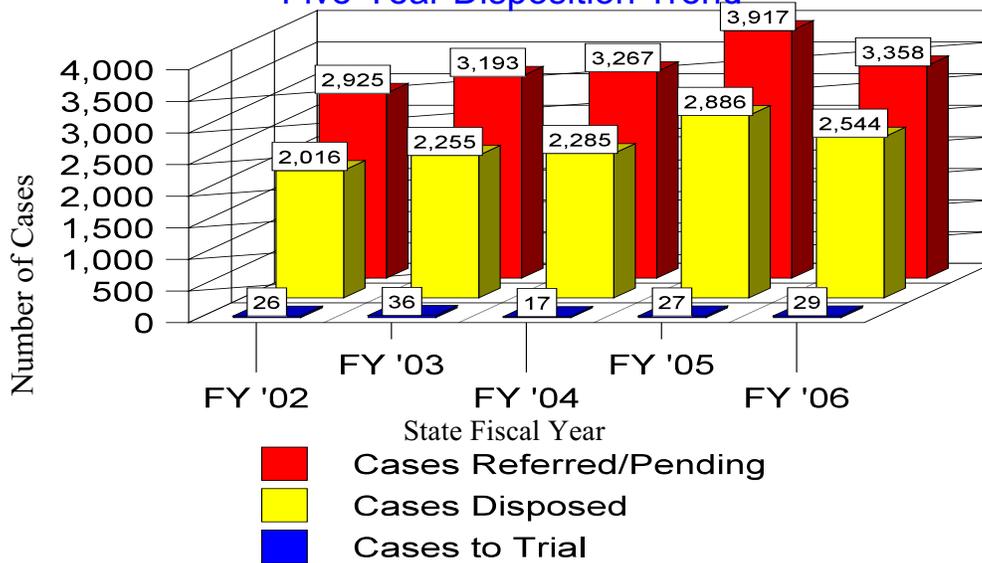
State Fiscal Year 2006 Will County At A Glance Arbitration Caseload Information	
Number of Cases Pending / Referred to Arbitration	3,358
Number of Cases Settled /Dismissed	2,573
Number of Cases Pending	785
Number of Arbitration Hearings	239
Number of Awards Accepted	65
Number of Awards Rejected	115
Number of Cases Filed in Arbitration which Proceeded to Trial	29

Will County
Cases Referred to Mandatory Arbitration
Five - Year Trend



Since State Fiscal Year 2002, cases referred to Will County's arbitration program have increased annually. From 2002 through 2006, an annual average of 2,120 cases have been referred to arbitration.

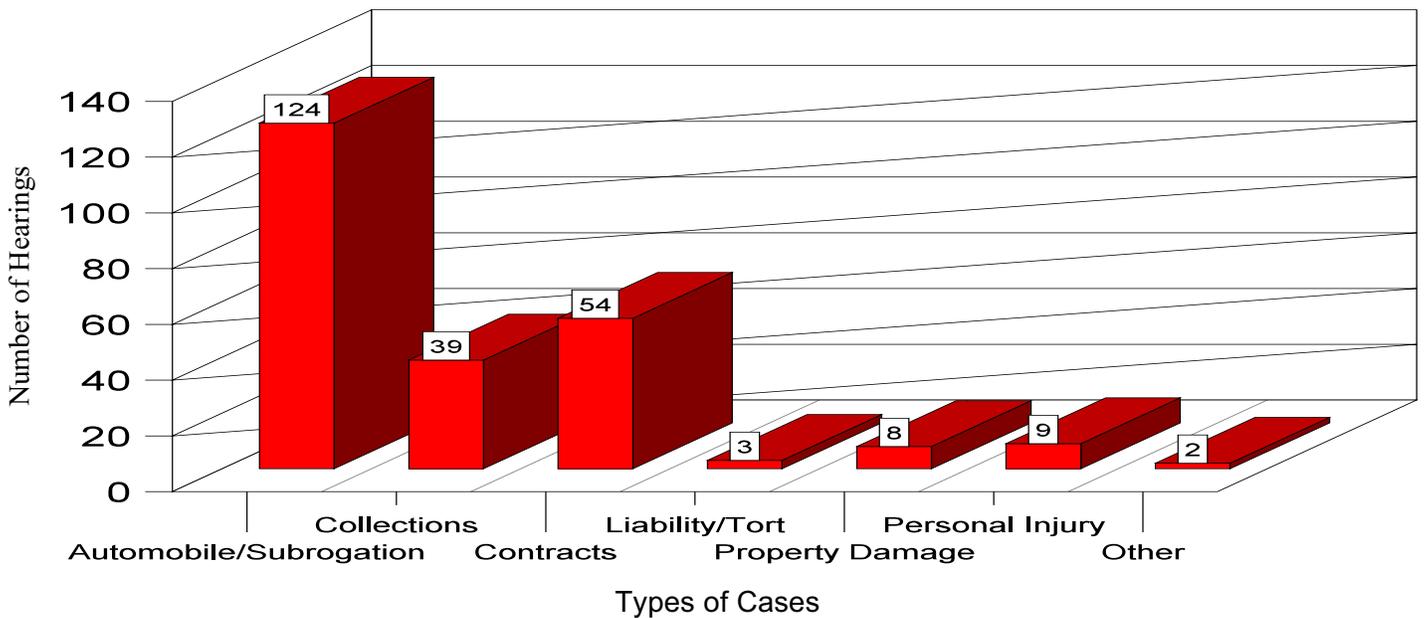
Will County
Five-Year Disposition Trend



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% (2,544 of 3,358 cases were disposed) of the cases filed in the Will County arbitration program for State Fiscal Year 2006. This disposition rate is slightly higher than the five year average of 72% and is less than the statewide average of 86%.

In Will County, less than one percent of cases filed in arbitration proceeded to trial. This percentage is consistent with the average percent of cases which proceeded to trial over the past five state fiscal years.

Will 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 automobile/subrogation cases account for a majority (52%) of the arbitration hearings in Will County.

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

<i>Case Type</i>	<i>Average Award</i>	<i>Average Age (Days)</i>
Automobile/Subrogation	\$10,506	627
Collections	\$8,054	444
Contracts	\$5,965	525
Liability/Torts	\$6,226	605
Property Damage	\$8,253	488
Personal Injury	\$7,084	1,000
Other	\$6,000	791

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 585 days.

Fourteenth Judicial Circuit

(Henry, Mercer, Rock Island and Whiteside Counties)

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 most recent to receive Supreme Court approval to begin operating an arbitration program and 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 arbitration program staff.

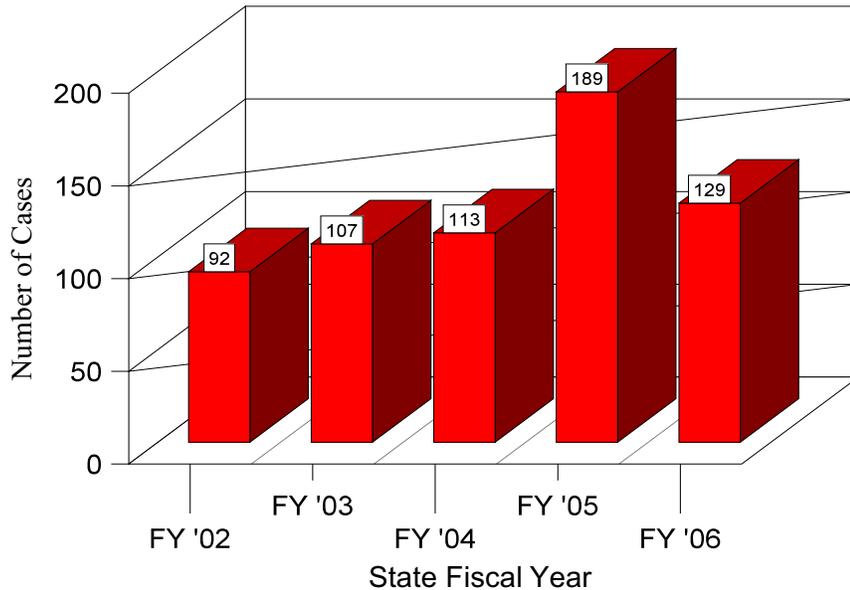
DATA PROFILES

Henry County

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

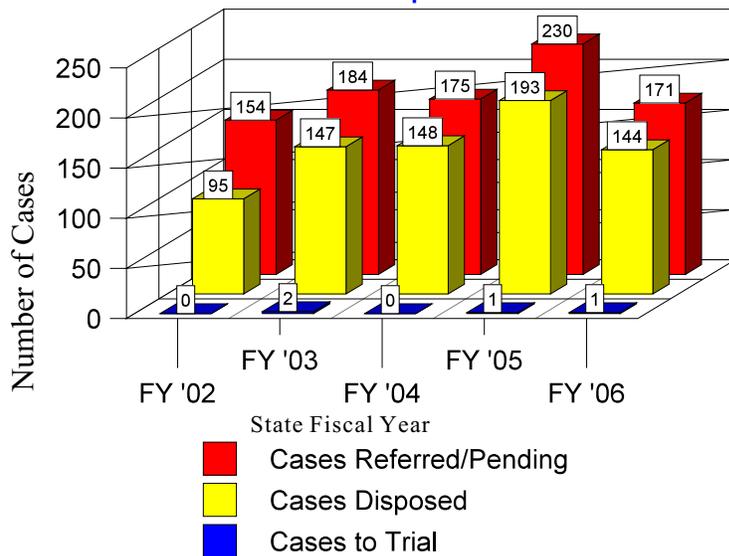
State Fiscal Year 2006 Henry County At A Glance Arbitration Caseload Information	
Number of Cases Pending / Referred to Arbitration	171
Number of Cases Settled /Dismissed	145
Number of Cases Pending	26
Number of Arbitration Hearings	5
Number of Awards Accepted	2
Number of Awards Rejected	1
Number of Cases Filed in Arbitration which Proceeded to Trial	1

Henry County Cases Referred to Mandatory Arbitration Five - Year Trend



Since State Fiscal Year 2002, cases referred to Henry County's arbitration program 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 126 cases have been referred to arbitration.

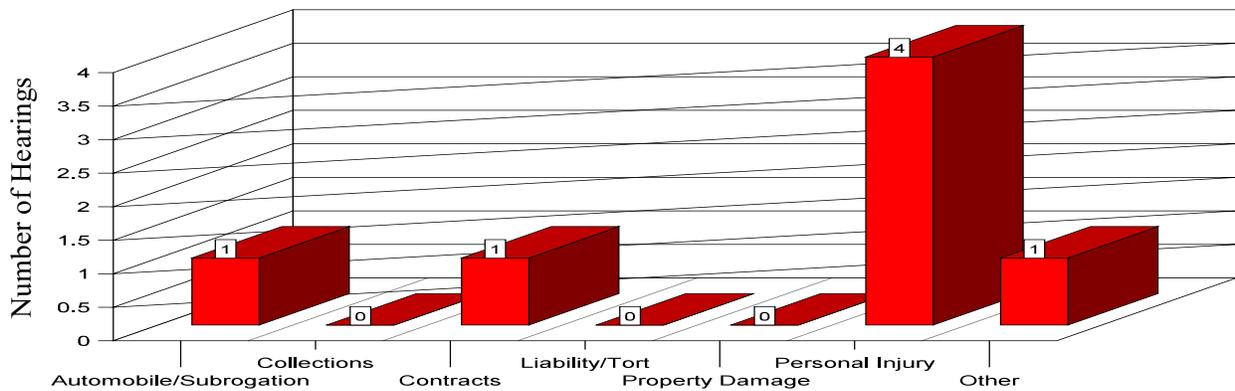
Henry County Five - Year Disposition Trend



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 84% (144 of 171 cases were disposed) of the cases filed in the Henry County arbitration program for State Fiscal Year 2006. This disposition rate is slightly lower than the five year average of 75% and the statewide average of 86%.

In Henry County, only one of the cases filed in arbitration proceeded to trial.

Henry County
Types of Cases that Proceeded to Hearing



Types of Cases

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 (57%) of the arbitration hearings in Henry County.

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

<i>Case Type</i>	<i>Average Award</i>	<i>Average Age (Days)</i>
Automobile/Subrogation	\$8,000	Cases Pending
Collections	-0-	-0-
Contracts	\$11,660	817
Liability/Torts	-0-	-0-
Property Damage	-0-	-0-
Personal Injury	\$9,125	367
Other	\$7,341	266

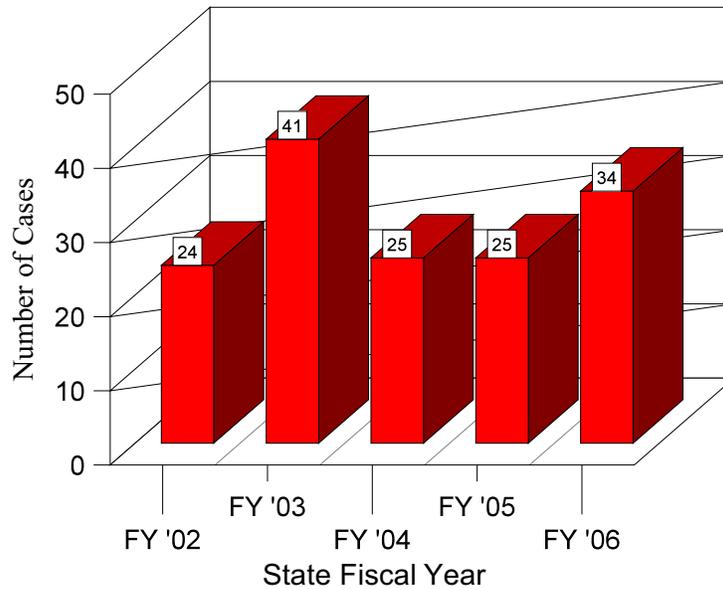
The table above offers information on the types of cases processed in mandatory arbitration and the average award granted at the time of the hearing. The table also presents data regarding the average amount of time each case type remains pending in the arbitration system. When all of the county's arbitration cases are combined, the average period that an arbitration case pends is 425 days.

Mercer County

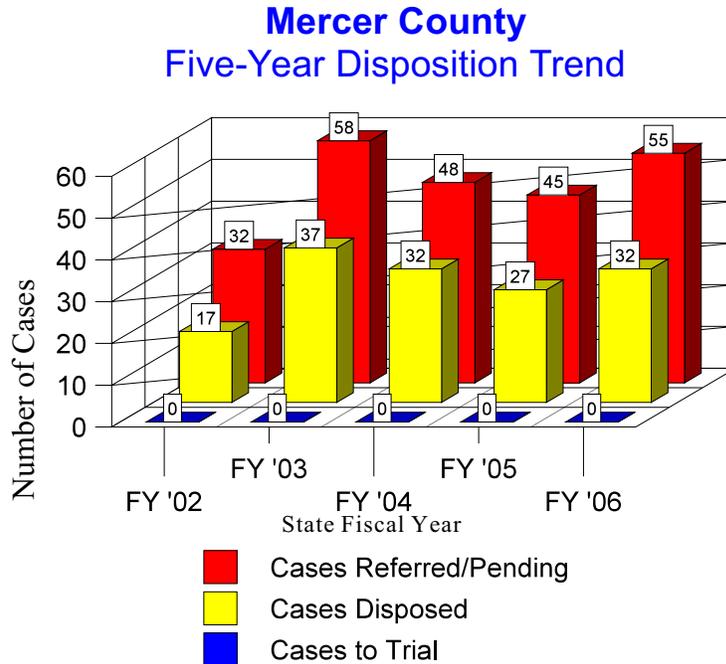
Following are charts and diagrams which contain data from State Fiscal Year 2006.

State Fiscal Year 2006 Mercer County At A Glance Arbitration Caseload Information	
Number of Cases Pending / Referred to Arbitration	55
Number of Cases Settled /Dismissed	32
Number of Cases Pending	23
Number of Arbitration Hearings	4
Number of Awards Accepted	1
Number of Awards Rejected	0
Number of Cases Filed in Arbitration which Proceeded to Trial	0

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



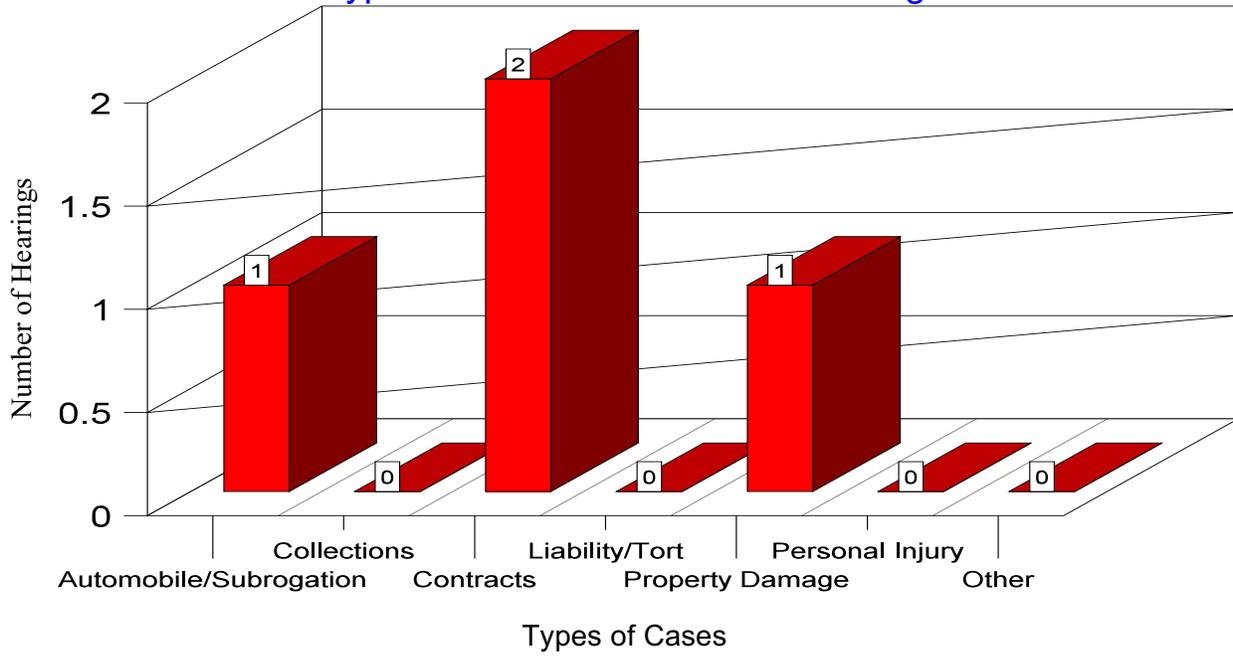
While cases referred to Mercer County's arbitration program vary annually, an average of 30 cases per year were referred to arbitration over the past five state fiscal years.



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 58% (32 of 55 cases were disposed) of the cases filed in the Mercer County arbitration program for State Fiscal Year 2006. This disposition rate is slightly lower than the five year average of 61% and is less than the statewide average of 86%.

In Mercer County, none of the cases litigated in arbitration proceeded to trial.

Mercer County
Types of Cases that went to Hearing



The graph above provides information on the types of cases that are heard in arbitration. The data indicates that contract cases account for a majority (50%) of the arbitration hearings in Mercer County.

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

Case Type	Average Award	Average Age (Days)
Automobile/Subrogation	\$21,000	Case Pending
Collections	-0-	-0-
Contracts	\$15,600	606
Liability/Torts	-0-	-0-
Property Damage	\$3,613	1,499
Personal Injury	-0-	-0-
Other	-0-	-0-

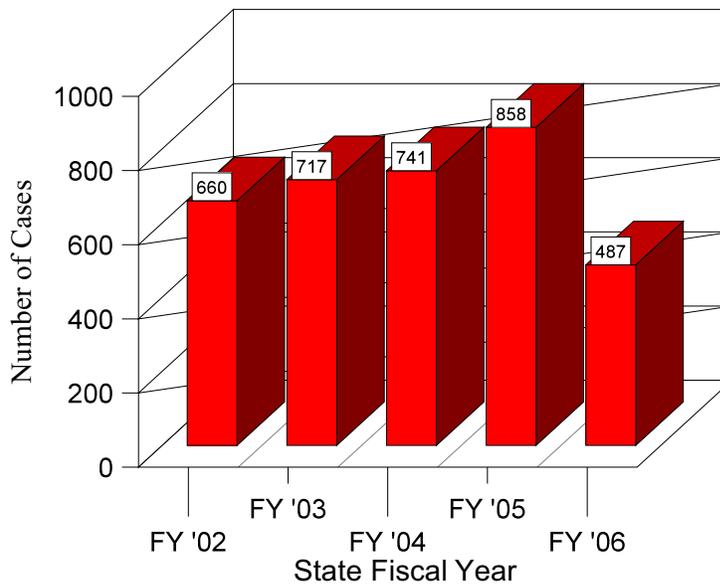
The table above offers information on the types of cases processed in mandatory arbitration; the average award granted at the time of the hearing; and the average amount of time each case type remains pending in the arbitration system. When all of the county's arbitration cases are combined, the average period that an arbitration case pends is 904 days.

Rock Island County

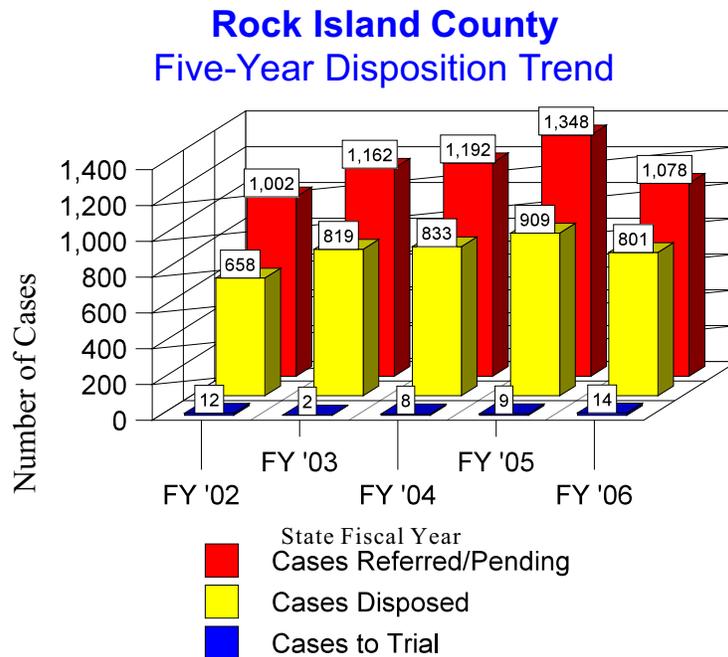
Following are charts and diagrams which contain data from State Fiscal Year 2006.

State Fiscal Year 2006 Rock Island County At A Glance Arbitration Caseload Information	
Number of Cases Pending / Referred to Arbitration	1,078
Number of Cases Settled /Dismissed	815
Number of Cases Pending	263
Number of Arbitration Hearings	107
Number of Awards Accepted	15
Number of Awards Rejected	53
Number of Cases Filed in Arbitration which Proceeded to Trial	14

Rock Island County
Cases Referred to Mandatory Arbitration
Five - Year Trend



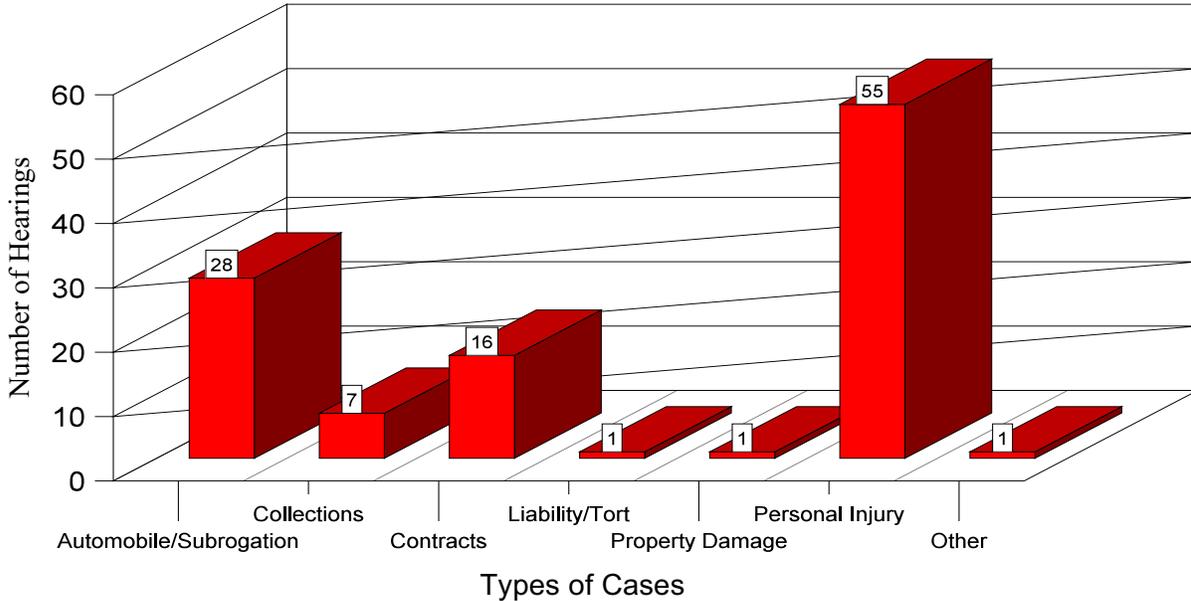
Since State Fiscal Year 2002, cases referred to Rock Island County's arbitration program have increased annually, until 2006. The decrease in cases referred to arbitration may be directly attributable to Supreme Court Rule 281 which raised the small claims jurisdiction to \$10,000 thereby reducing the number of cases eligible for mandatory arbitration. From 2002 through 2006, an annual average of 693 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 76% (815 of 1078 cases were disposed) of the cases filed in the Rock Island County arbitration program for State Fiscal Year 2006. This disposition rate is slightly higher than the five year average of 70% and is less than the statewide average of 86%.

In Rock Island County, only one percent (1%) of the cases (14 of the 1,078) filed in arbitration proceeded to trial.

Rock Island 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 (50%) of the arbitration hearings in Rock Island County.

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

Case Type	Average Award	Average Age (Days)
Automobile/Subrogation	\$4,813	211
Collections	\$3,047	184
Contracts	\$4,740	159
Liability/Torts	\$2,500	Case Pending
Property Damage	\$3,000	170
Personal Injury	\$2,849	147
Other	\$32,274	365

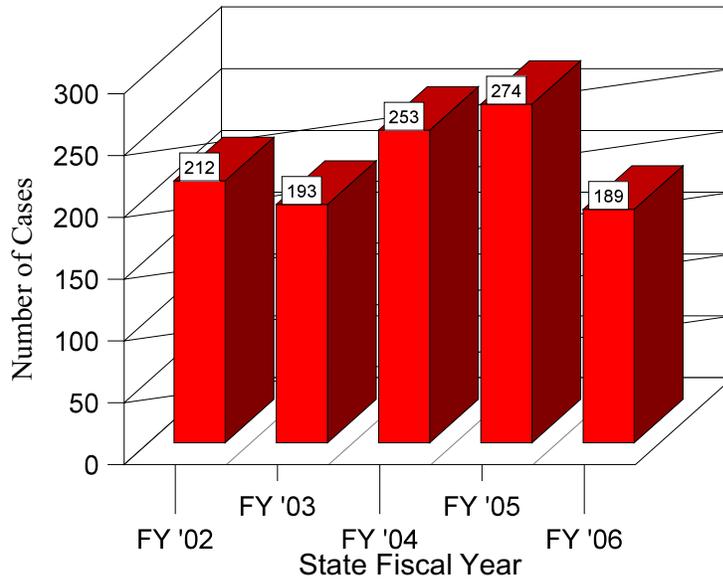
The table above offers information on the types of cases processed in mandatory arbitration and the average award granted at the time of the hearing. The table also presents data regarding the average amount of time each case type remains pending in the arbitration system. When all of the county's arbitration cases are combined, the average period that an arbitration case pends is 170 days.

Whiteside County

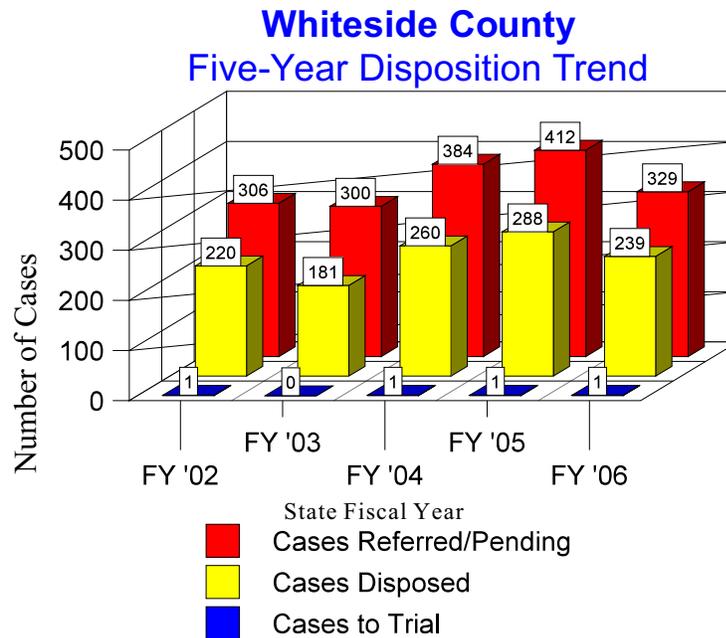
Following are charts and diagrams which contain data from State Fiscal Year 2006.

State Fiscal Year 2006 Whiteside County At A Glance Arbitration Caseload Information	
Number of Cases Pending / Referred to Arbitration	329
Number of Cases Settled /Dismissed	240
Number of Cases Pending	89
Number of Arbitration Hearings	12
Number of Awards Accepted	2
Number of Awards Rejected	5
Number of Cases Filed in Arbitration which Proceeded to Trial	1

Whiteside County Cases Referred to Mandatory Arbitration Five - Year Trend



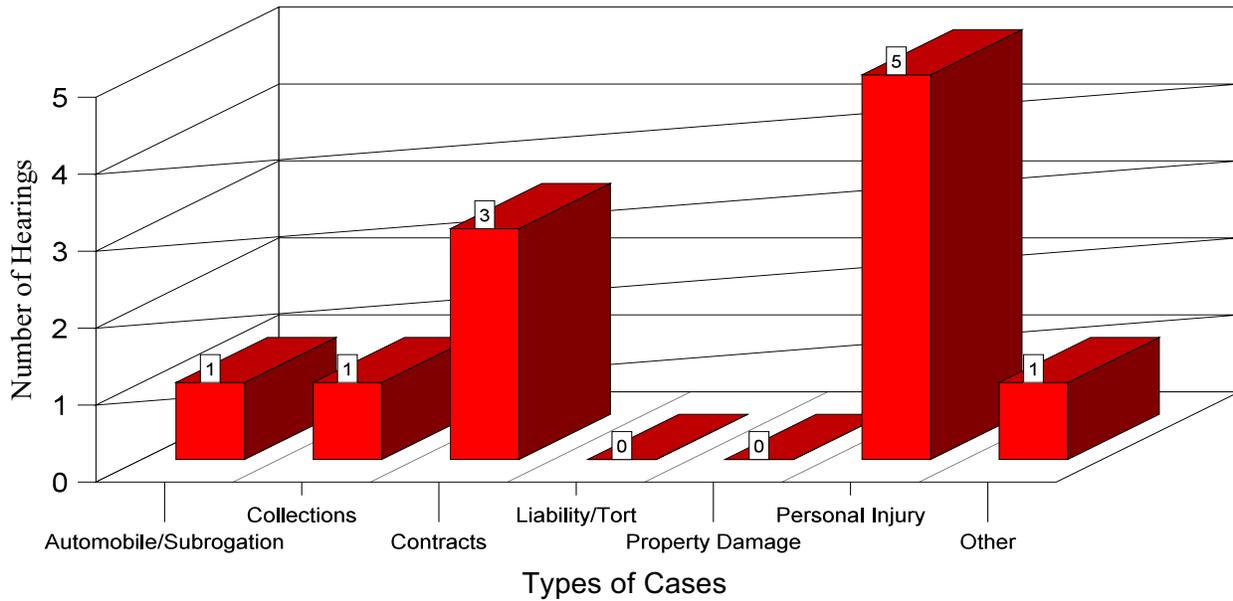
While cases referred to Whiteside County's arbitration program vary annually, an average of 224 cases per year were referred to arbitration over the past five state fiscal years.



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 73% (239 of 329 cases were disposed) of the cases filed in the Whiteside County arbitration program for State Fiscal Year 2006. This disposition rate is slightly higher than the five year average of 69% and is less than the statewide average of 86%.

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

Whiteside 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 (45%) of the arbitration hearings in Whiteside County.

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

Case Type	Average Award	Average Age (Days)
Automobile/Subrogation	\$16,500	1,522
Collections	\$10,960	231
Contracts	\$6,867	165
Liability/Torts	-0-	-0-
Property Damage	-0-	-0-
Personal Injury	\$10,159	732
Other	\$18,500	752

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 605 days.

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 arbitration program staff.

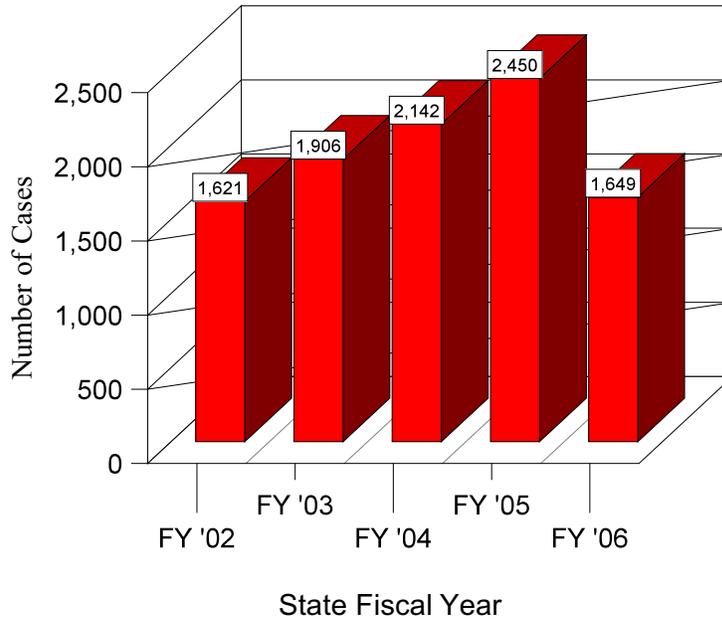
DATA PROFILES

Kane County

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

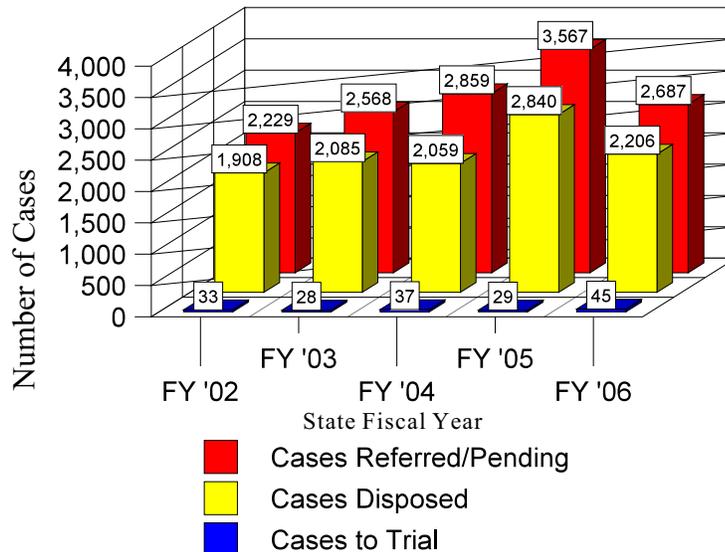
State Fiscal Year 2006 Kane County At A Glance Arbitration Caseload Information	
Number of Cases Pending / Referred to Arbitration	2,687
Number of Cases Settled /Dismissed	2,251
Number of Cases Pending	436
Number of Arbitration Hearings	205
Number of Awards Accepted	44
Number of Awards Rejected	126
Number of Cases Filed in Arbitration which Proceeded to Trial	45

Kane County Cases Referred to Mandatory Arbitration Five - Year Trend



Since State Fiscal Year 2002, cases referred to Kane 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 1,954 cases have been referred to arbitration.

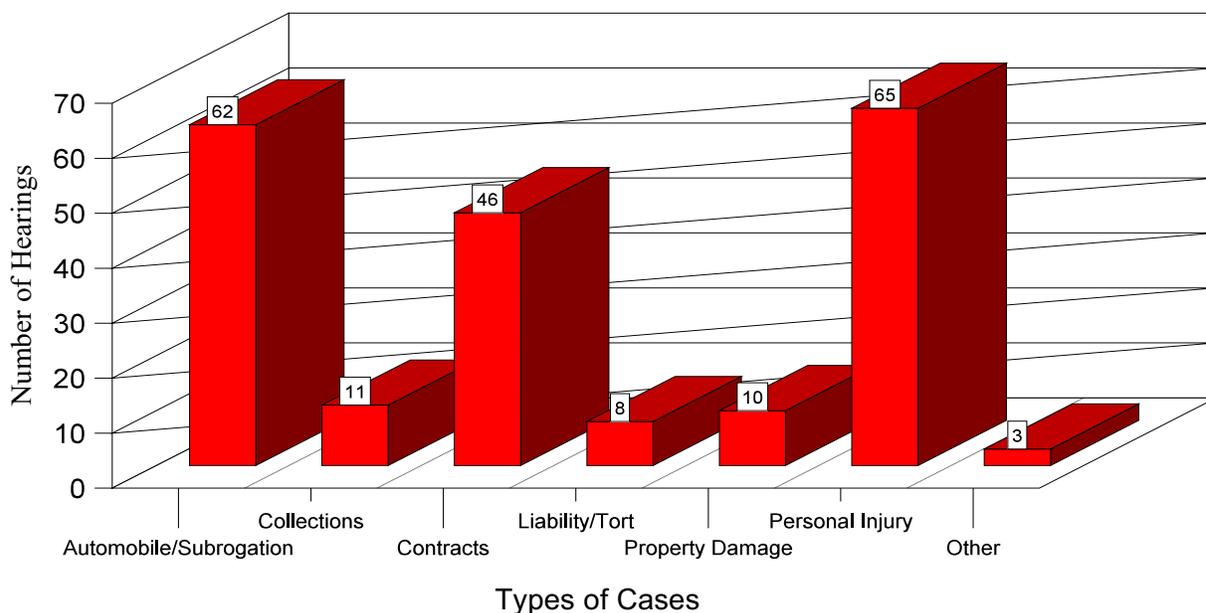
Kane County Five - Year Disposition Trend



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 82% (2,206 of 2,687 cases were disposed) of the cases filed in the Kane County arbitration program for State Fiscal Year 2006. This disposition rate is slightly higher than the five year average of 80% and is less than the statewide average of 86%.

In Kane County, only 2% of the cases (45 of the 2,687) filed in arbitration proceeded to trial.

Kane 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 (32%) and automobile/subrogation cases (30%), account for a majority of the arbitration hearings in Kane County.

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

<i>Case Type</i>	<i>Average Award</i>	<i>Average Age (Days)</i>
Automobile/Subrogation	\$6,680	319
Collections	\$8,133	260
Contracts	\$5,086	383
Liability/Torts	\$5,586	364
Property Damage	\$1,612	214
Personal Injury	\$11,632	456
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 371 days.

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.

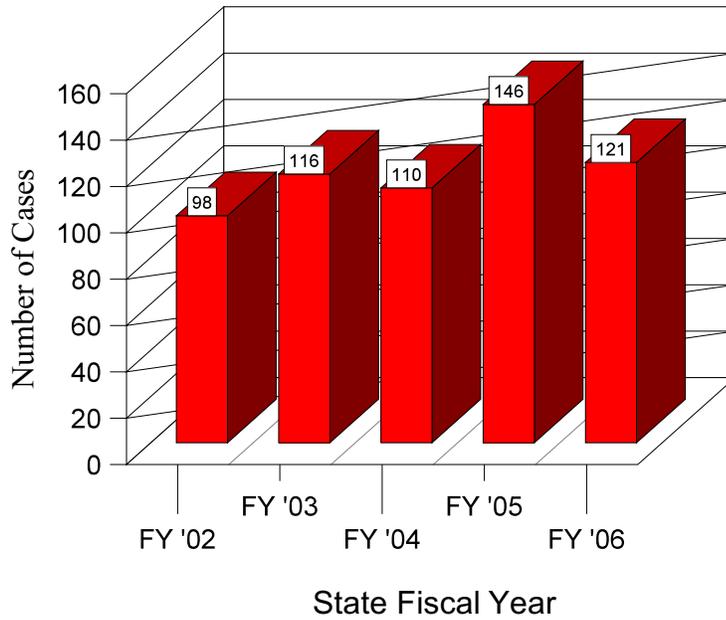
DATA PROFILES

Boone County

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

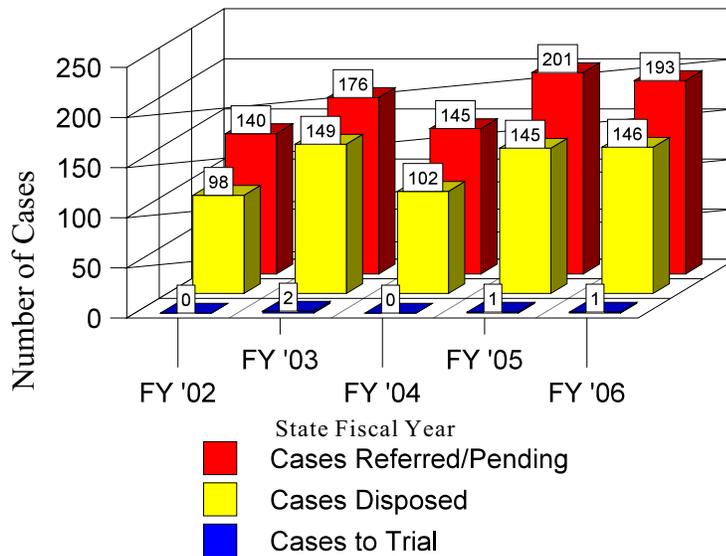
State Fiscal Year 2006 Boone County At A Glance Arbitration Caseload Information	
Number of Cases Pending / Referred to Arbitration	193
Number of Cases Settled /Dismissed	147
Number of Cases Pending	46
Number of Arbitration Hearings	10
Number of Awards Accepted	3
Number of Awards Rejected	7
Number of 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.

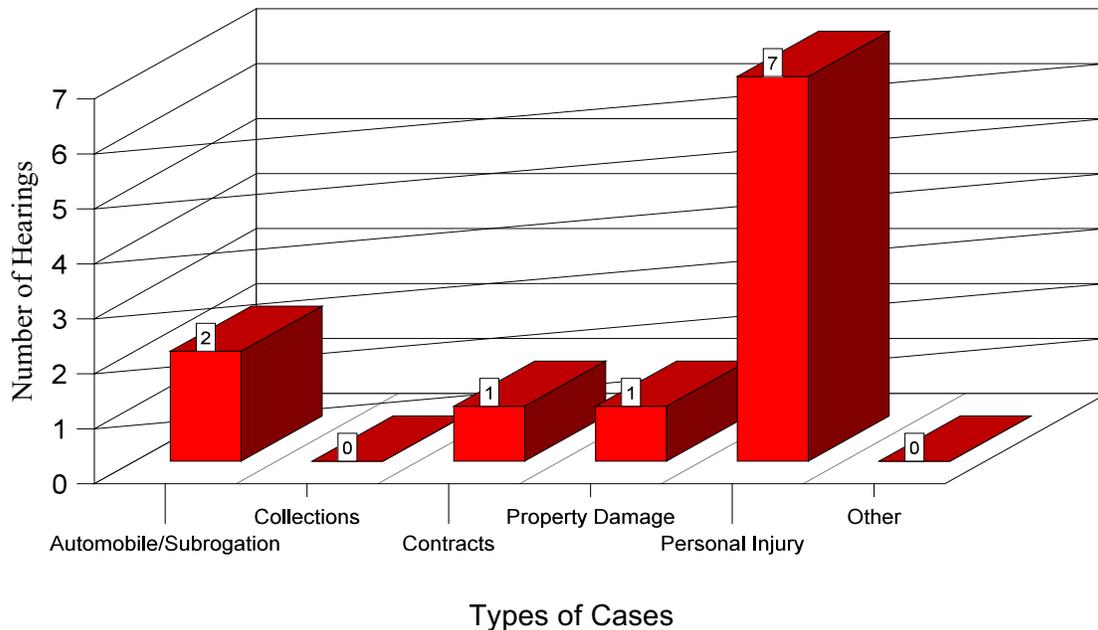
Boone County
Five -Year Disposition Trend



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

<i>Case Type</i>	<i>Average Award</i>	<i>Average Age (Days)</i>
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-

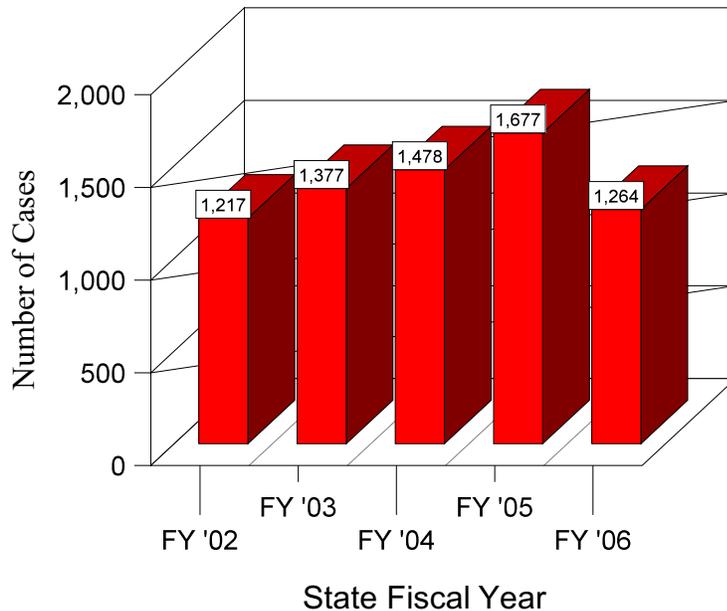
The table above offers information on the types of cases processed in mandatory arbitration and the average award granted at the time of the hearing. The table also presents data regarding the average amount of time each case type remains pending in the arbitration system. When all of the county's arbitration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

Winnebago County

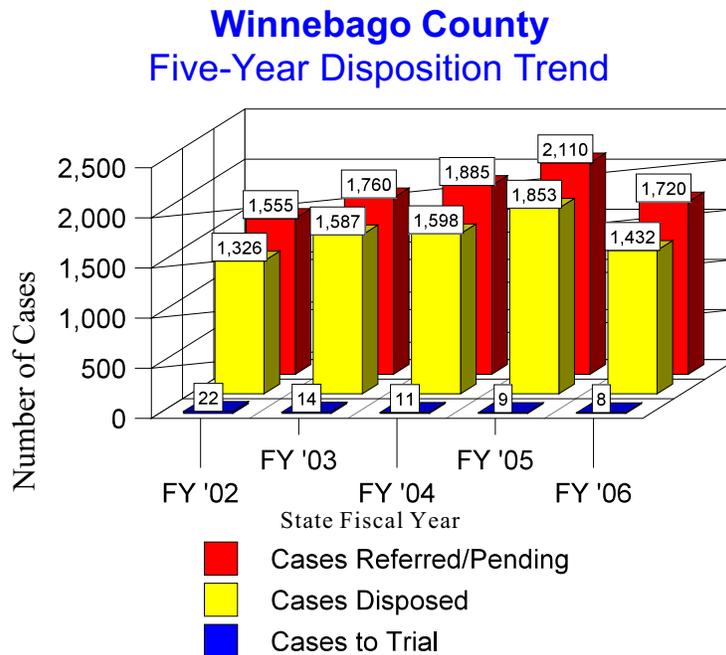
Following are charts and diagrams which contain data from State Fiscal Year 2006.

State Fiscal Year 2006 Winnebago County At A Glance Arbitration Caseload Information	
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



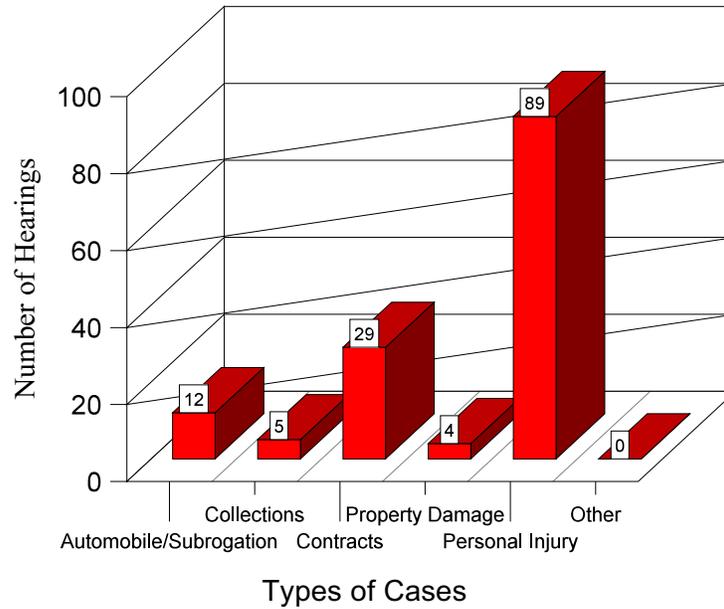
Since State Fiscal Year 2002, cases referred to Winnebago County's arbitration program have increased annually, until 2006. The decrease in cases referred to arbitration may be directly attributable to Supreme Court Rule 281 which raised the small claims jurisdiction to \$10,000 thereby reducing the 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

Case Type	Average Award	Average Age (Days)
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.

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 arbitration program staff.

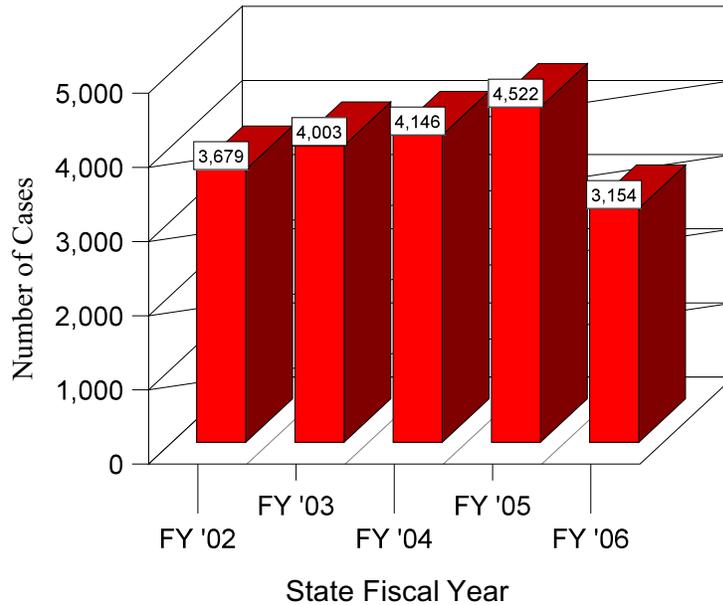
DATA PROFILES

DuPage County

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

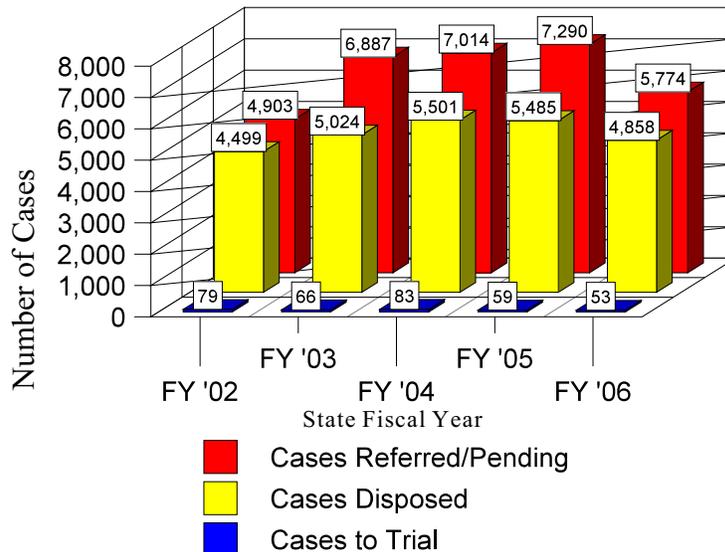
State Fiscal Year 2006 DuPage County At A Glance Arbitration Caseload Information	
Number of Cases Pending / Referred to Arbitration	5,774
Number of Cases Settled /Dismissed	4,911
Number of Cases Pending	863
Number of Arbitration Hearings	431
Number of Awards	99
Number of Awards Rejected	244
Number of Cases Filed in Arbitration which Proceeded to Trial	53

DuPage County
Cases Referred to Mandatory Arbitration
Five - Year Trend



Since State Fiscal Year 2002, cases referred to DuPage 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 which indirectly removed some cases from mandatory arbitration. From 2002 through 2006, an annual average of 3,901 cases have been referred to arbitration.

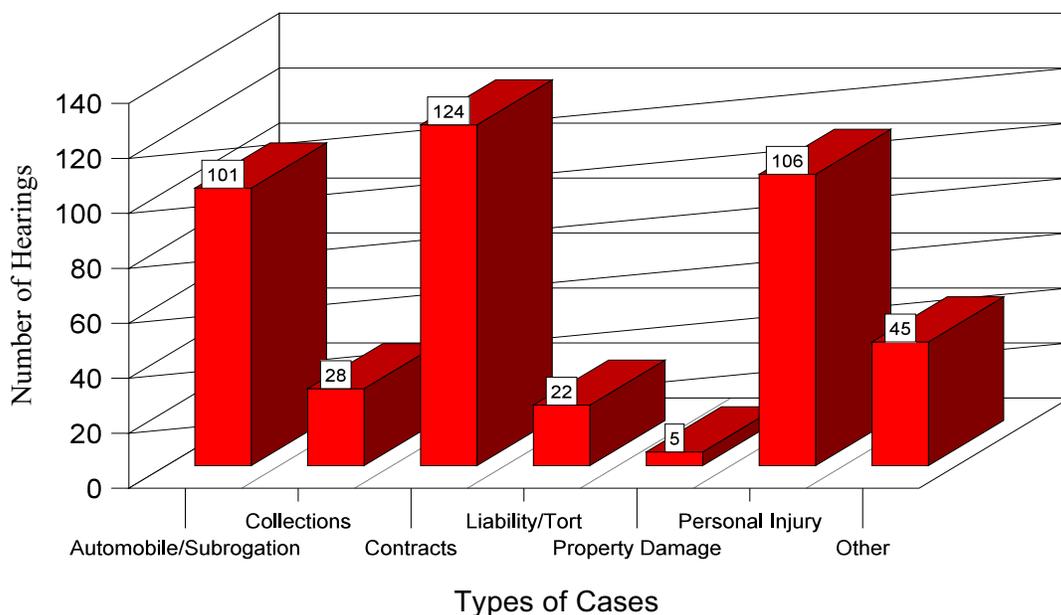
DuPage County
Five-Year Disposition Trend



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 84% (4,858 of 5,774 cases were disposed) of the cases filed in the DuPage County arbitration program for State Fiscal Year 2006. This disposition rate is slightly higher than the five year average of 80% and is less than the statewide average of 86%.

In DuPage County, less than 1% of cases (53 of the 5,774) filed in arbitration proceeded to trial.

DuPage 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 contract cases account for a majority (28%) of the arbitration hearings in DuPage County.

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

<i>Case Type</i>	<i>Average Award</i>	<i>Average Age (Days)</i>
Automobile/Subrogation	\$9,723	275
Collections	\$13,284	359
Contracts	\$16,196	326
Liability/Torts	\$9,422	254
Property Damage	\$7,994	250
Personal Injury	\$12,892	258
Other	\$10,487	347

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 297 days.

Nineteenth Judicial Circuit

(Lake and McHenry Counties)

Arbitration Program Information

For the period reflected in this report, the Nineteenth Judicial Circuit consists of Lake and McHenry Counties. In December 1988, Lake County was approved by the Supreme Court to begin operating an arbitration program. In 1990, the Nineteenth Judicial Circuit became the first multi-county circuit-wide arbitration program when the McHenry County arbitration program was approved.

A supervising judge is assigned in each county to oversee arbitration matters. The arbitration program staff, situated in Lake County, administers both programs. Lake County arbitration hearings are conducted in a facility across the street from the Lake County Courthouse in Waukegan and, for McHenry County, the hearings are conducted at the McHenry County Courthouse in Woodstock.

DATA PROFILES

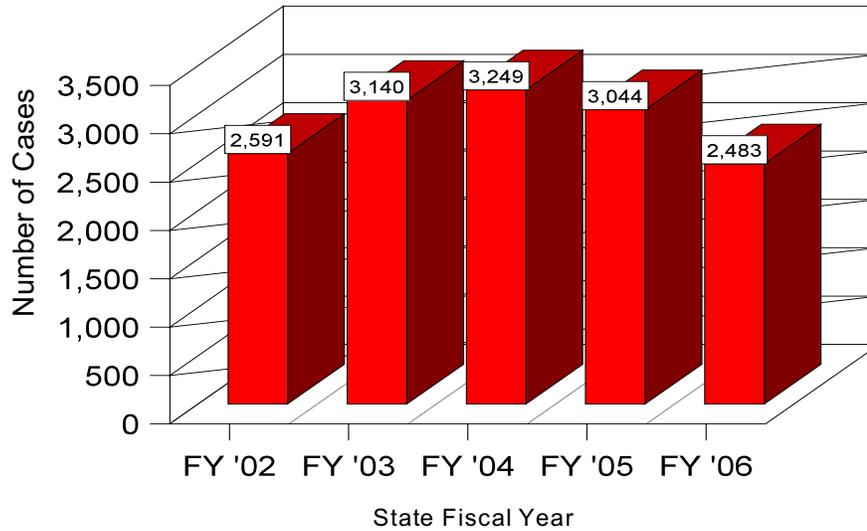
Lake County

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

State Fiscal Year 2006 Lake County At A Glance Arbitration Caseload Information	
Number of Cases Pending / Referred to Arbitration	4,141
Number of Cases Settled / Dismissed	3,409
Number of Cases Pending	732
Number of Arbitration Hearings	367
Number of Awards Accepted	92
Number of Awards Rejected	209
Number of Cases Filed in Arbitration which Proceeded to Trial	47

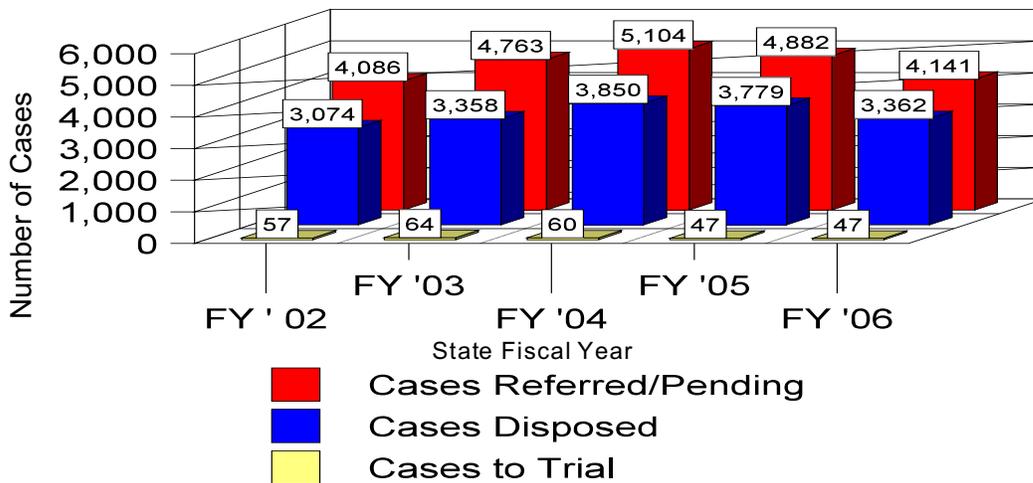
Lake County Cases Referred to Mandatory Arbitration

Five - Year Trend



While cases referred to Lake County's arbitration program vary annually, an average of 2,901 cases per year were referred to arbitration over the past five state fiscal years.

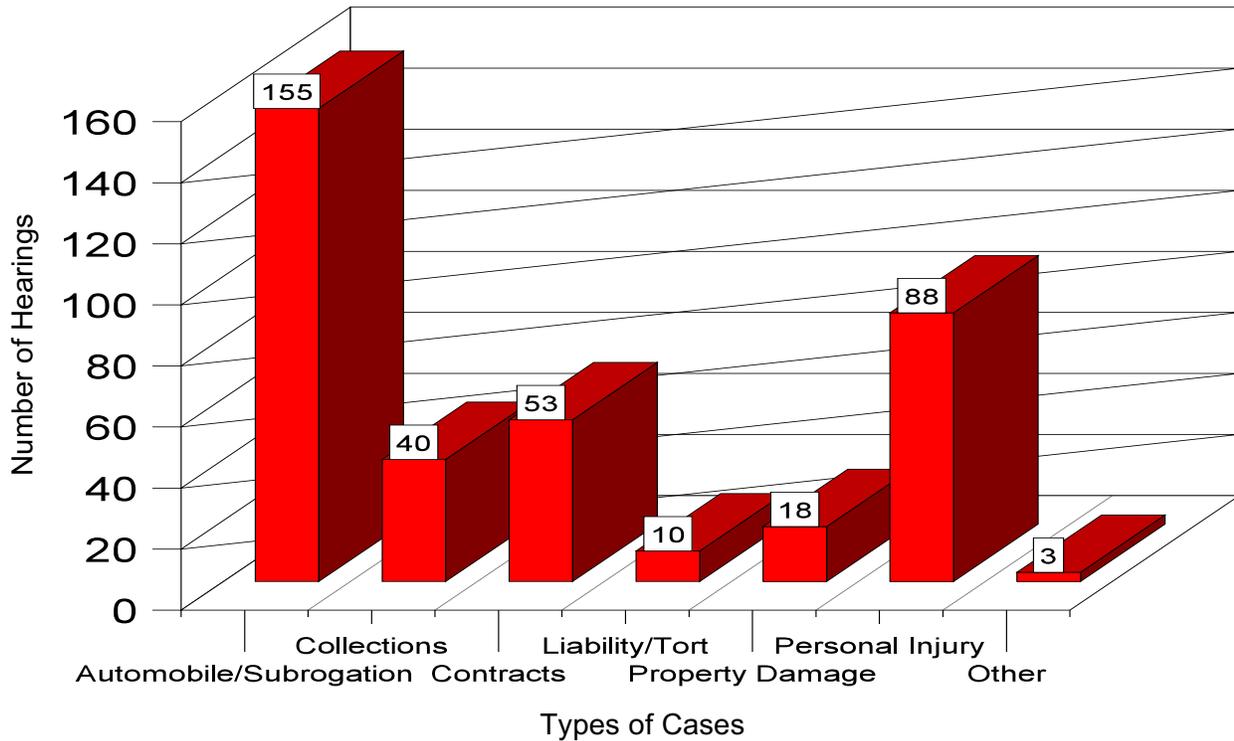
Lake County Five-Year Disposition Trend



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 81% (3,362 of 4,141 cases were disposed) of the cases filed in the Lake County arbitration program for State Fiscal Year 2006. This disposition rate is slightly higher than the five year average of 76% and is less than the statewide average of 86%.

In Lake County, 1% of cases (47 of the 4,141) filed in arbitration proceeded to trial.

Lake 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 automobile/subrogation cases account for a majority (42%) of the arbitration hearings in Lake County.

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

Case Type	Average Award	Average Age (Days)
Automobile/Subrogation	\$ 6,900	245
Collections	\$10,359	278
Contracts	\$ 7,267	350
Liability/Torts	\$14,697	338
Property Damage	\$ 4,742	232
Personal Injury	\$12,738	310
Other	\$ 6,000	162

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 281 days.

McHenry County

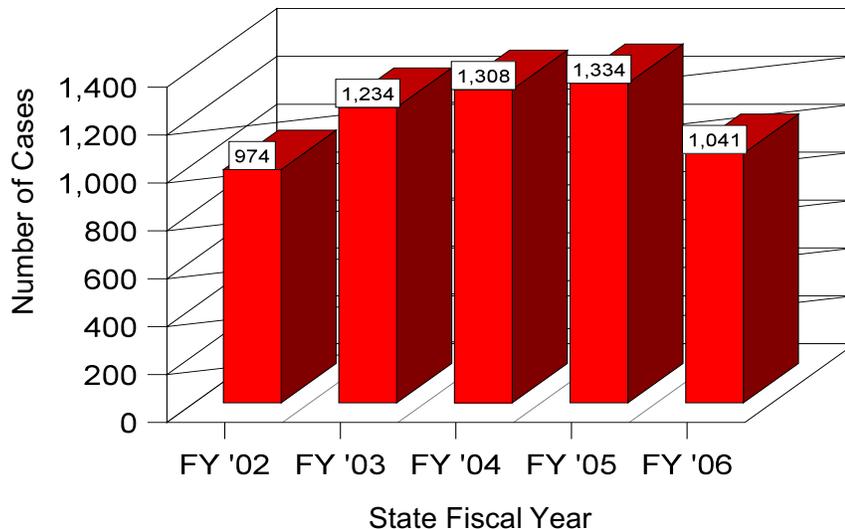
Following are charts and diagrams which contain data from State Fiscal Year 2006.

State Fiscal Year 2006 McHenry County At a Glance Arbitration Caseload Information	
Number of Cases Pending / Referred to Arbitration	1,744
Number of Cases Settled / Dismissed	1,387
Number of Cases Pending	357
Number of Arbitration Hearings	139
Number of Awards Accepted	39
Number of Awards Rejected	81
Number of Cases Filed in Arbitration which Proceeded to Trial	30

McHenry County

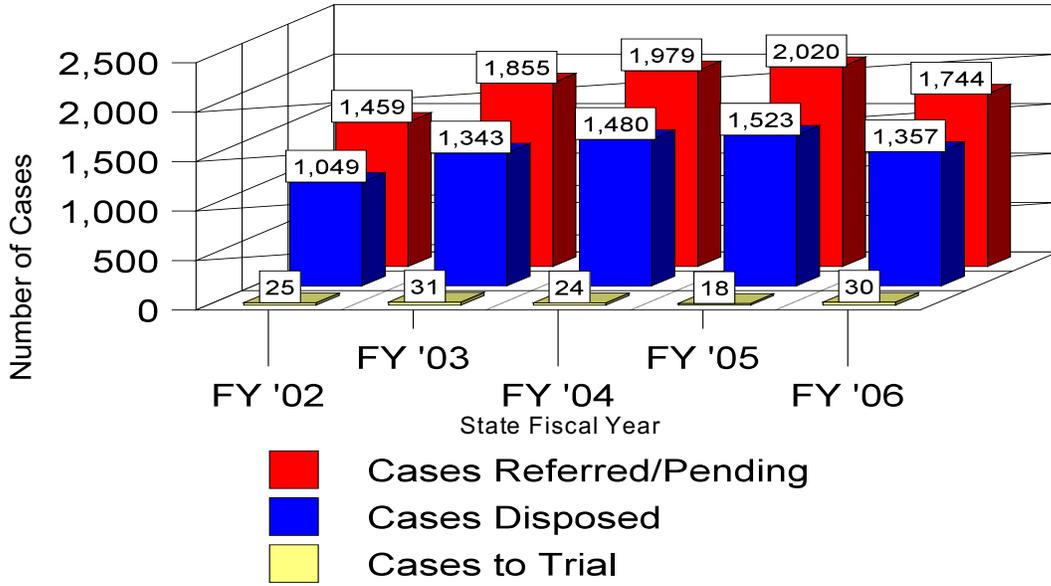
Cases Referred to Mandatory Arbitration

Five - Year Trend



Since State Fiscal Year 2002, cases referred to McHenry 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 small claims jurisdiction to \$10,000 hereby reducing the number of cases eligible for mandatory arbitration. From 2002 through 2006, an annual average of 1,178 cases have been referred to arbitration.

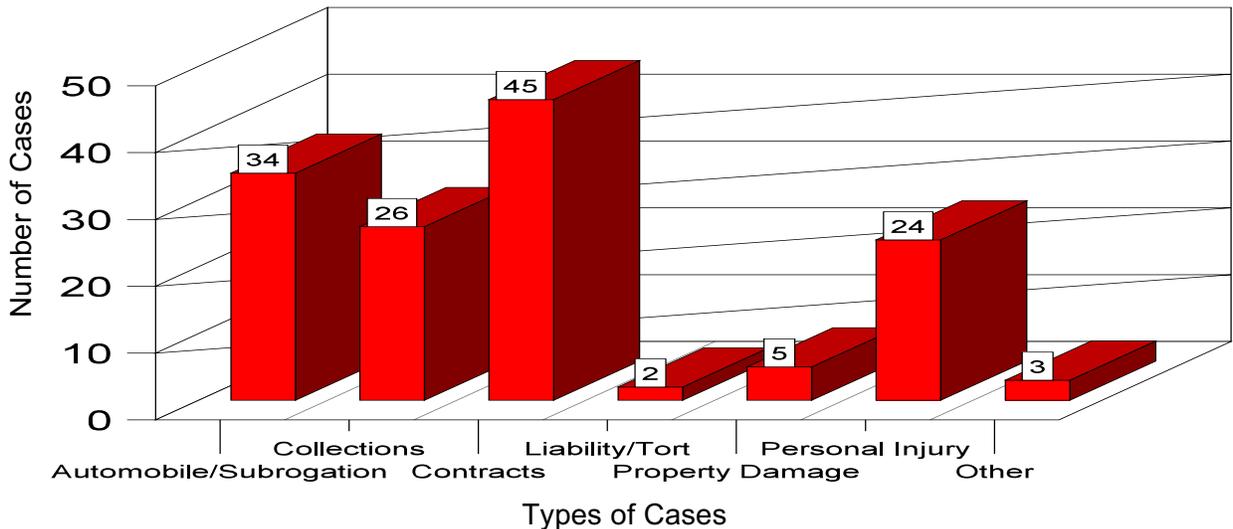
McHenry County Five - Year Disposition Trend



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 78% (1,357 of 1,744 cases were disposed) of the cases filed in the McHenry 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 McHenry County, less than 2% of cases (30 of the 1,744) filed in arbitration proceeded to trial.

McHenry County Types of Cases in Arbitration



The graph above provides information on the types of cases that are heard in arbitration. The data indicates that contract cases account for a majority (32%) of the arbitration hearings in Lake County.

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

Case Type	Average Award	Average Age (Days)
Automobile/Subrogation	\$ 7,096	198
Collections	\$ 9,330	266
Contracts	\$ 8,626	343
Liability/Tort	\$ 9,000	380
Property Damage	\$ 1,163	134
Personal Injury	\$10,564	348
Other	Cases Pending	N/A

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 286 days.

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 arbitration program staff.

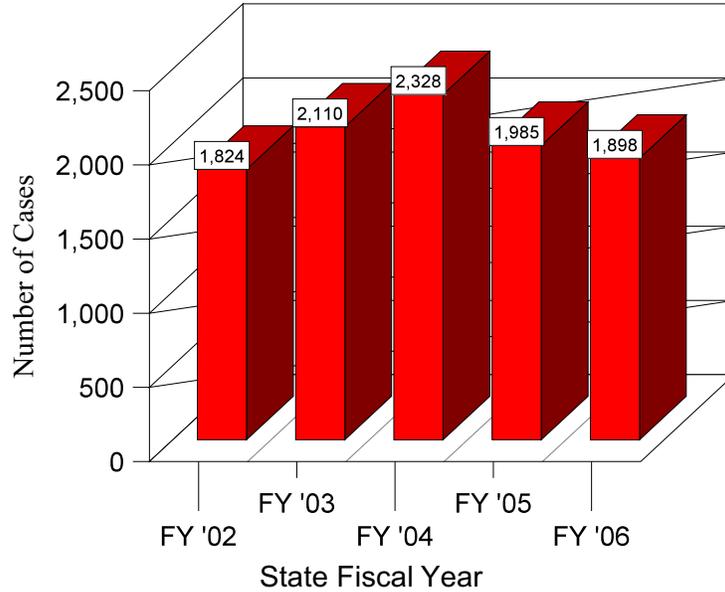
DATA PROFILES

St. Clair County

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

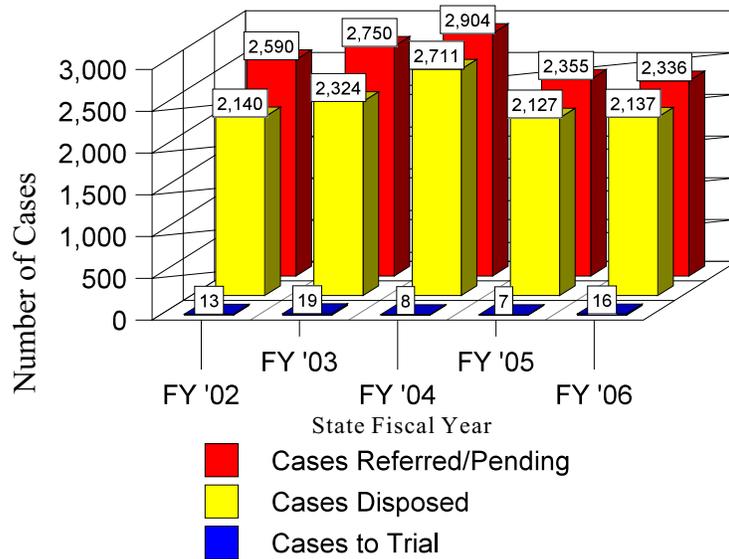
State Fiscal Year 2006	
St. Clair County	
At A Glance Arbitration Caseload Information	
Number of Cases Pending / Referred to Arbitration	2,336
Number of Cases Settled /Dismissed	2,153
Number of Cases Pending	183
Number of Arbitration Hearings	159
Number of Awards Accepted	45
Number of Awards Rejected	58
Number of Cases Filed in Arbitration which Proceeded to Trial	16

St. Clair County Cases Referred to Mandatory Arbitration Five - Year Trend



While cases referred to St. Clair County's arbitration program vary annually, an average of 2,029 cases per year were referred to arbitration over the past five state fiscal years.

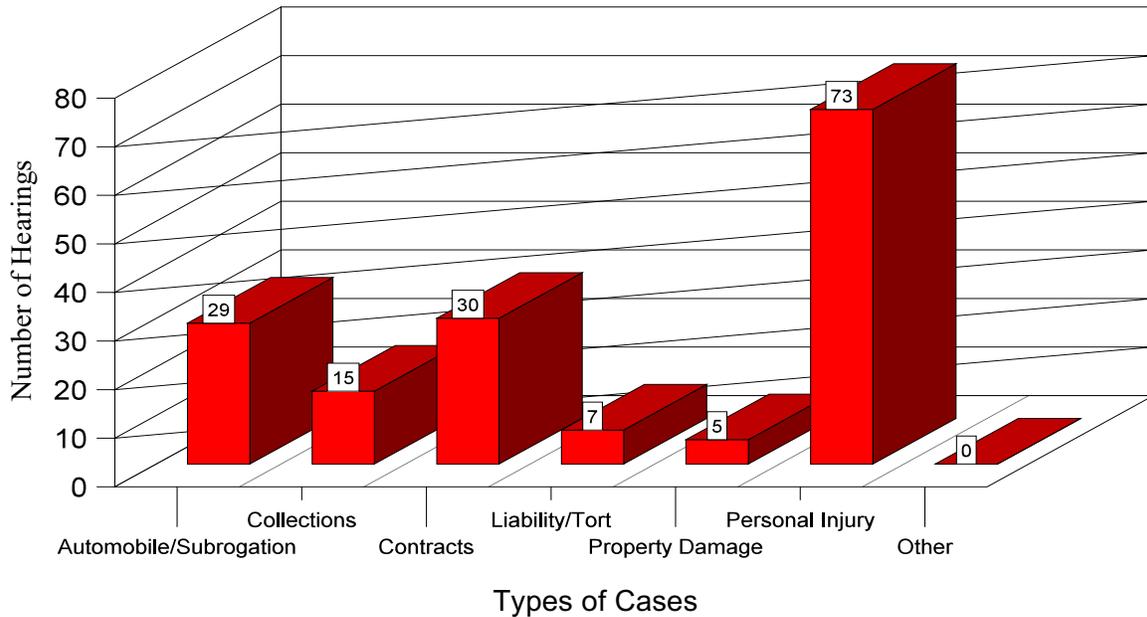
St. Clair County Five-Year Disposition Trend



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 91% (2,137 of 2,336 cases were disposed) of the cases filed in the St. Clair County arbitration program for State Fiscal Year 2006. This disposition rate is slightly higher than the five year average of 88% and is above the statewide average of 86%.

In St. Clair County, less than 1% of cases (16 of the 2,336) filed in arbitration proceeded to trial.

St. Clair 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 (46%) of the arbitration hearings in St. Clair County.

St. Clair County
Average Award for Arbitration Hearing and
Average Age (Number of Days) Pending in
Arbitration System by Case Type

<i>Case Type</i>	<i>Average Award</i>	<i>Average Age (Days)</i>
Automobile/Subrogation	\$10,661	305
Collections	\$10,333	274
Contracts	\$10,061	383
Liability/Torts	\$17,922	272
Property Damage	\$1,400	422
Personal Injury	\$12,587	323
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 327 days.

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 arbitration program staff.

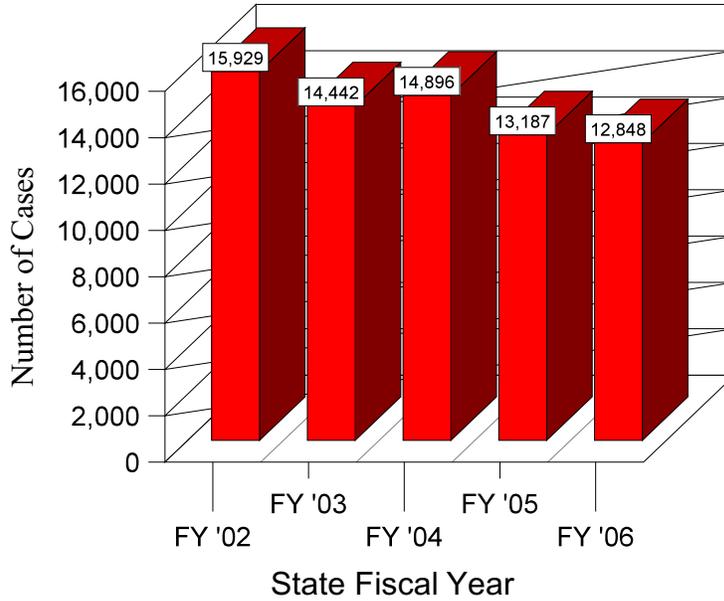
DATA PROFILES

Cook County

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

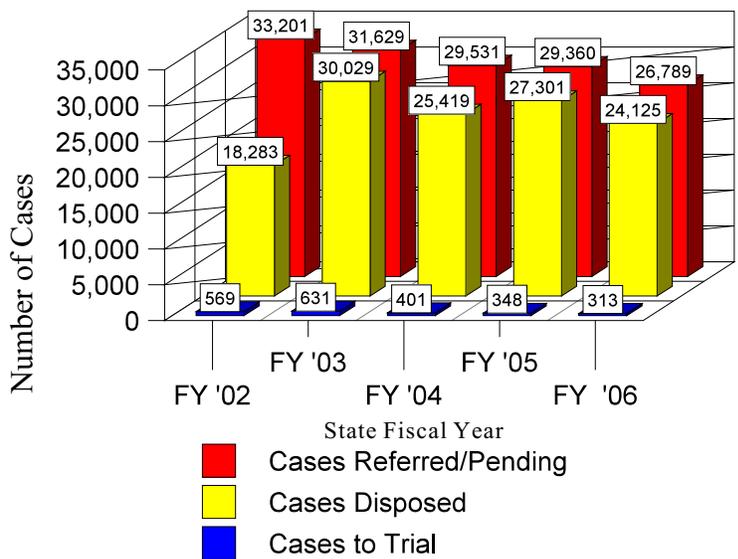
State Fiscal Year 2006 Cook County * At A Glance Arbitration Caseload Information	
Number of Cases Pending / Referred to Arbitration	26,789
Number of Cases Settled /Dismissed	24,438
Number of Cases Pending	3,513
Number of Arbitration Hearings	8,597
Number of Awards Accepted	2,008
Number of Awards Rejected	4,393
Number of Cases Filed in Arbitration which Proceeded to Trial	313
(* Only jurisdiction with a limit of \$30,000 for arbitration cases; others are \$50,000)	

Cook County
Cases Referred to Mandatory Arbitration
Five - Year Trend



While cases referred to Cook County's arbitration program vary annually, an average of 14,260 cases per year were referred to arbitration over the past five state fiscal years.

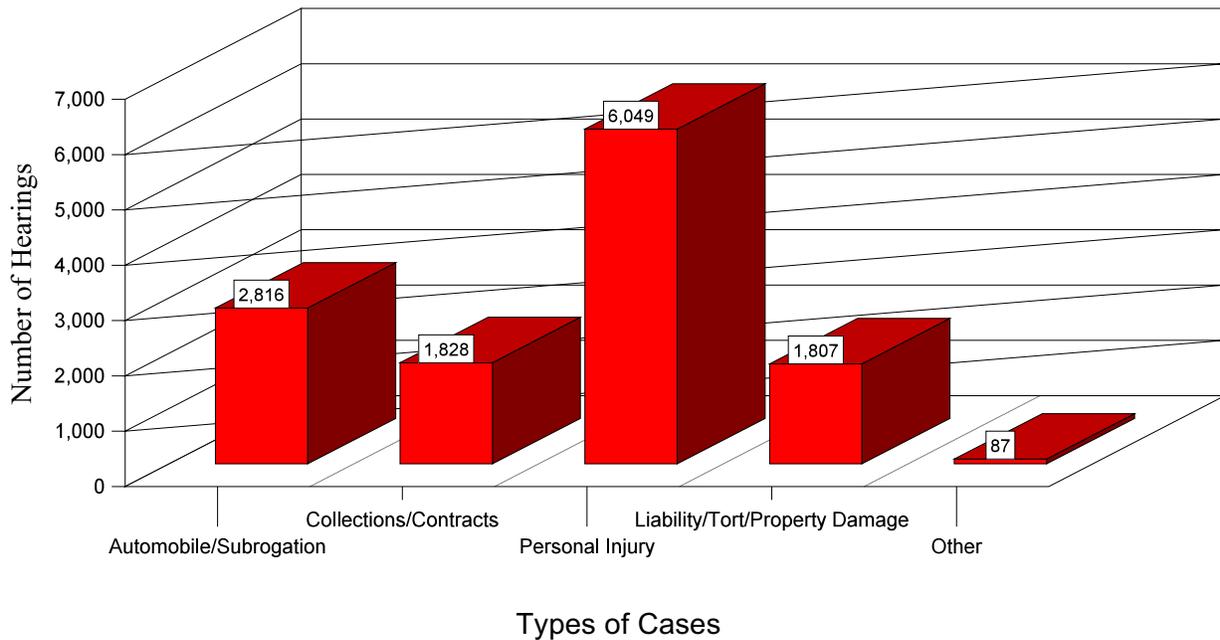
Cook County
Five-Year Disposition Trend



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 90% (24,125 of 26,789 cases were disposed) of the cases filed in the Cook County arbitration program for State Fiscal Year 2006. This disposition rate is higher than the five year average of 83% and is above the statewide average of 86%.

In Cook County, only one percent (1%) of cases (313 of the 26,789) filed in arbitration proceeded to trial.

Cook 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 (48%) of the arbitration hearings in Cook County.

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

<i>Case Type</i>	<i>Average Award</i>	<i>Average Age (Days)</i>
Automobile/Subrogation	\$3,399	138
Collections/Contracts	\$4,620	138
Liability/Torts/Property Damage	\$3,465	154
Personal Injury	\$8,691	146
Other	\$5,354	155

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 144 days.

APPENDIX 1

STATE FISCAL YEAR 2006

STATEWIDE PRE-HEARING CALENDAR DATA

ARBITRATION PROGRAM	CASES PENDING HEARING 07/01/05 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 06/30/06
Boone	51	121	172	119	69%	10	6%	43
Cook	951	12,848	13,799	4,117	30%	8,597	62%	1,085
DuPage	1,945	3,154	5,099	3,807	75%	431	8%	863
Ford	11	34	45	33	73%	5	11%	7
Henry	33	129	162	132	81%	5	3%	25
Kane	474	1,649	2,123	1,697	80%	205	10%	221
Lake	921	2,483	3,404	2,410	71%	367	11%	627
McHenry	433	1,041	1,474	1,023	69%	139	9%	312
McLean	700	772	1,472	1,199	81%	63	4%	210
Mercer	17	34	51	25	49%	4	8%	22
Rock Island	399	487	886	566	64%	107	12%	213
St. Clair	180	1,898	2,078	1,793	86%	159	8%	126
Whiteside	118	189	307	212	69%	12	4%	83
Will	933	1,997	2,930	1,998	68%	239	8%	693
Winnebago	227	1,264	1,491	1,114	75%	141	9%	236

Jurisdictional Limits:

The monetary jurisdictional limit for arbitration cases filed in the Circuit Court of Cook County is \$30,000.

The monetary jurisdictional limit for arbitration cases filed in Boone, DuPage, Ford, Henry, Kane, Lake, McHenry, McLean, Mercer, Rock Island, St. Clair, Whiteside, Will, and Winnebago Counties is \$50,000.

APPENDIX 2 STATE FISCAL YEAR 2006

STATEWIDE POST-HEARING CALENDAR DATA

ARBITRATION PROGRAM	CASES PENDING ON POST-HEARING CALENDAR 07/01/05 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 07/01/05 THROUGH 06/30/06	CASES PENDING 06/30/06
Boone	2	10	3	2	7	70%	4%	0
Cook	Data Not Available	8,597	2,008	3,358	4,393	51%	32%	Data Not Available
DuPage	Data Not Available	431	99	84	244	57%	5%	Data Not Available
Ford	0	6	2	0	0	0%	0%	4
Henry	1	6	2	3	1	17%	1%	1
Kane	63	205	44	59	126	61%	6%	39
Lake	68	369	92	89	209	57%	6%	47
McHenry	17	139	39	27	81	58%	5%	9
McLean	130	63	31	129	28	44%	2%	5
Mercer	0	4	1	2	0	0%	0%	1
Rock Island	5	108	15	39	53	49%	6%	6
St. Clair	11	159	45	52	58	36%	3%	15
Whiteside	4	12	2	6	5	42%	2%	3
Will	32	241	65	62	115	48%	4%	31
Winnebago	2	141	33	32	65	46%	4%	13

Jurisdictional Limits:

The monetary jurisdictional limit for arbitration cases filed in the Circuit Court of Cook County is \$30,000.

The monetary jurisdictional limit for arbitration cases filed in Boone, DuPage, Ford, Henry, Kane, Lake, McHenry, McLean, Mercer, Rock Island, St. Clair, Whiteside, Will, and Winnebago Counties is \$50,000.

APPENDIX 3 STATE FISCAL YEAR 2006

STATEWIDE POST-REJECTION CALENDAR DATA

ARBITRATION PROGRAM	CASES PENDING ON POST-REJECTION CALENDAR 07/01/05 AS REPORTED	CASES ADDED	PRE-TRIAL POST-REJECTION DISPOSITIONS DISMISSALS	TRIALS	PERCENT OF TOTAL CASES ON PRE-HEARING CALENDAR PROGRESSING TO TRIAL 07/01/05 THROUGH 06/30/06	CASES PENDING 06/30/06
Boone	2	7	5	1	1%	3
Cook	*	4,393	1,652	313	2%	2,428
DuPage	Data Not Available	244	193	53	1%	Data Not Available
Ford	0	0	0	0	0%	0
Henry	1	1	1	1	1%	0
Kane	161	135	75	45	2%	176
Lake	83	217	195	47	1%	58
McHenry	29	85	48	30	2%	36
McLean	34	28	32	5	0%	25
Mercer	0	0	0	0	0%	0
Rock Island	26	53	21	14	2%	44
St. Clair	30	58	30	16	1%	42
Whiteside	1	5	2	1	0%	3
Will	39	116	65	29	1%	61
Winnebago	21	65	47	8	1%	31

Jurisdictional Limits:

The monetary jurisdictional limit for arbitration cases filed in the Circuit Court of Cook County is \$30,000.

The monetary jurisdictional limit for arbitration cases filed in Boone, DuPage, Ford, Henry, Kane, Lake, McHenry, McLean, Mercer, Rock Island, St. Clair, Whiteside, Will, and Winnebago Counties is \$50,000.

*In the Circuit Court of Cook, "Cases Pending on Post-Rejection Calendar 07/01/05 as Reported" and "Cases Added" are combined and reflected in the "Cases Added" column.