

## Eighteenth Judicial Circuit

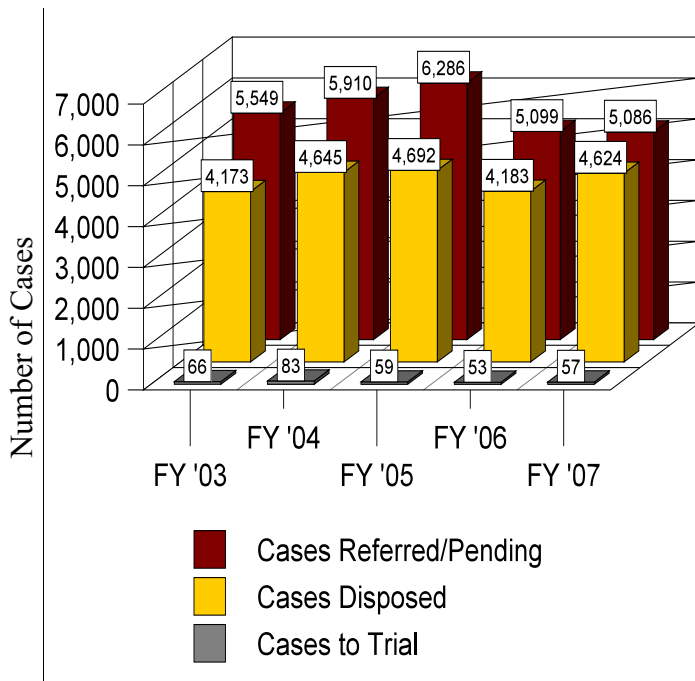
(DuPage County)

### 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 and administrative assistant.



**DuPage 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 indicates that either a settlement or dismissal was reached in 91% (4,624 of 5,086 cases were disposed) of the cases filed in the DuPage County arbitration program for State Fiscal Year 2007. This disposition rate is significantly higher than the five year average of 79% and the statewide average of 81%.

DuPage County

**State Fiscal Year 2007  
DuPage County  
At A Glance Arbitration Caseload  
Information**

Number of Cases Pending / Referred to Arbitration .....	5,086
Number of Cases Settled /Dismissed .....	4,624
Number of Arbitration Hearings	631
Number of Awards Accepted ...	113
Number of Awards Rejected ....	361
Number of Cases Filed in Arbitration which Proceeded to Trial .....	57

While cases referred to Dupage County's arbitration program increased annually from 2003 through 2005, the same cannot be said for the past two years. 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 2003 through 2007, an annual average of 3,915 cases have been referred to arbitration.

The data for DuPage County's 2007 arbitration operations is reflected in the chart to the left. In DuPage County, slightly more than 1% of cases (57 of the 5,086) filed in arbitration proceeded to trial.