

Twenty-Second Judicial Circuit

McHenry County

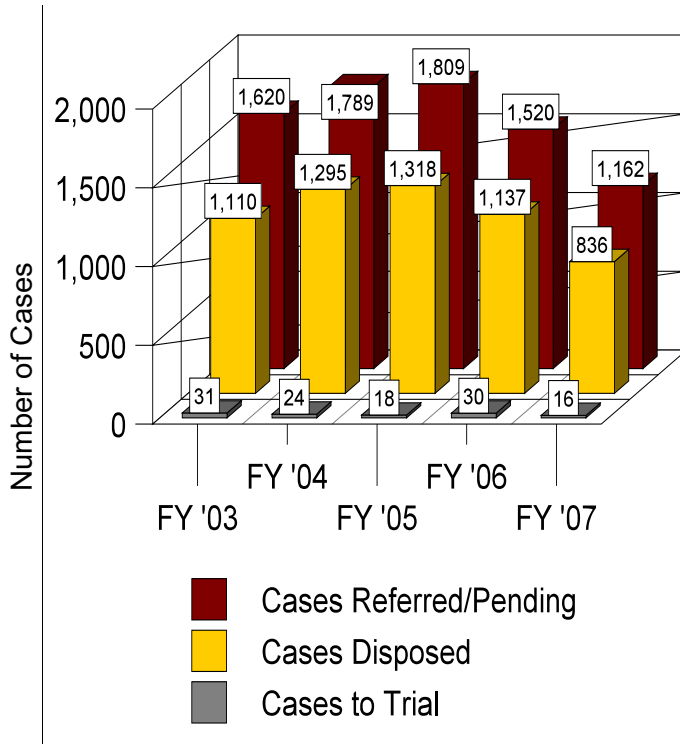
Arbitration Program Information



McHenry County

Five Year Disposition Trend

On December 4, 2006, enacted legislation created the Twenty-Second Judicial Circuit (McHenry County), which is the newest judicial circuit in the state. In 1990, McHenry County was approved to operate an arbitration program as a component of the 19th Circuit's operations. 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.



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 72% (836 of 1,162 cases were disposed) of the cases filed in the McHenry County arbitration program for State Fiscal Year 2007. This disposition rate is lower than the five year average of 75% and the statewide average of 81%.

McHenry County

**State Fiscal Year 2007
McHenry County
At a Glance Arbitration Caseload
Information**

Number of Cases Pending / Referred to Arbitration	1,162
Number of Cases Settled / Dismissed	836
Number of Arbitration Hearings ...	139
Number of Awards Accepted	39
Number of Awards Rejected	74
Number of Cases Filed in Arbitration which Proceeded to Trial	16

While cases referred to McHenry 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 small claims jurisdiction to \$10,000 hereby reducing the number of cases eligible for mandatory arbitration. From 2003 through 2007, an annual average of 1,145 cases have been referred to arbitration.

The data for McHenry County's 2007 arbitration operations is reflected in the chart to the left. In McHenry County, slightly more than 1% of the cases (16 of the 1,162) filed in arbitration proceeded to trial.