



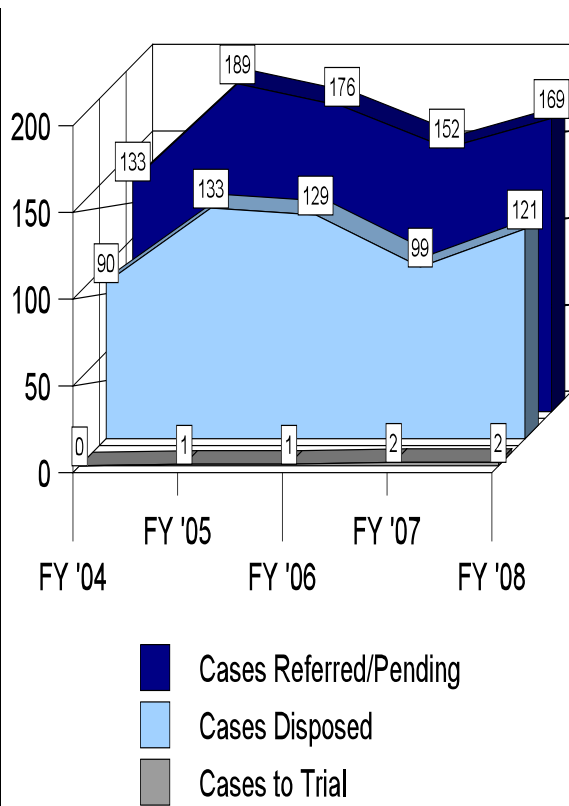
## Seventeenth Judicial Circuit

(Boone and Winnebago Counties)

### 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 resolved during the arbitration process or ultimately went to trial. Program data indicates that 72% (121 of 169) of the cases filed in the Boone County arbitration program for State Fiscal Year 2008 were disposed. This disposition rate is slightly higher than the five year average of 70% and slightly lower than the statewide average of 78%.

**Boone County**

**State Fiscal Year 2008  
Boone County  
At A Glance Arbitration Caseload  
Information**

Number of Cases Pending / Referred to Arbitration .....	169
Number of Cases Disposed .....	121
Number of Arbitration Hearings ...	12
Number of Awards Accepted .....	4
Number of Awards Rejected .....	4
Number of Cases Filed in Arbitration which Proceeded to Trial .....	2

The data for Boone County's 2008 arbitration operations is reflected in the chart to the left. In Boone County, only two cases filed in arbitration proceeded to trial.

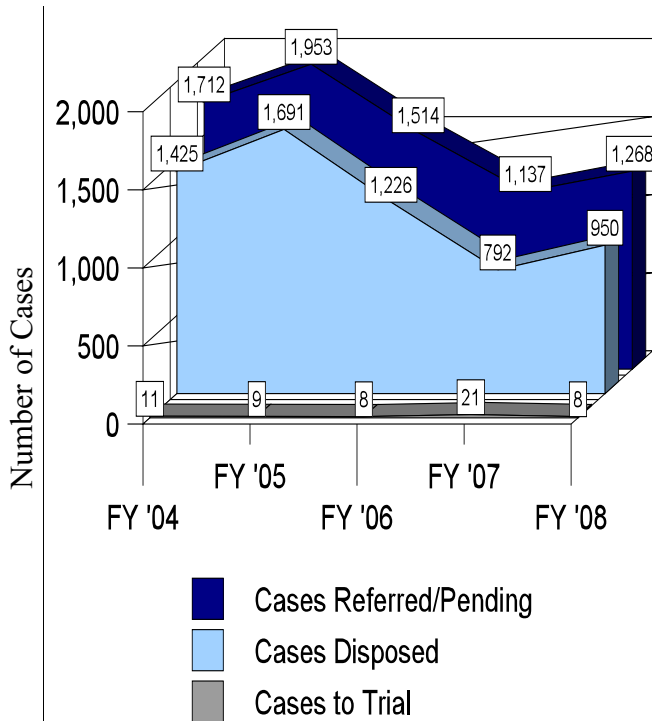
**Seventeenth Judicial Circuit**  
 (Boone and Winnebago Counties)

**Winnebago County**



While cases referred to Winnebago County's arbitration program increased in 2005, the same cannot be said for 2006 and 2007. The decrease in cases referred to arbitration may be influenced by Supreme Court Rule 281 which, effective January 1, 2006, raised the small claims jurisdiction from \$5,000 to \$10,000. However, 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 2004 through 2008, an annual average of 1,517 cases have been referred to arbitration.

**Winnebago County**  
**Five-Year Disposition Trend**



The chart to the left presents information regarding the total number of cases litigated in arbitration which were resolved during the arbitration process or ultimately went to trial. Program data indicates that 75% (950 of 1,268) of the cases filed in the Winnebago County arbitration program for State Fiscal Year 2008 were disposed. This disposition rate is slightly lower than the five year average of 80% and the statewide average of 78%.

**Winnebago County**

**State Fiscal Year 2008  
Winnebago County  
At A Glance Arbitration Caseload  
Information**

Number of Cases Pending / Referred to Arbitration .....	1,268
Number of Cases Disposed .....	950
Number of Arbitration Hearings ...	79
Number of Awards Accepted .....	13
Number of Awards Rejected .....	53
Number of Cases Filed in Arbitration which Proceeded to Trial .....	8

The data for Winnebago County's 2008 arbitration operations is reflected in the chart to the left. In Winnebago County, less than 1% of cases (8 of the 1,268) filed in arbitration proceeded to trial.