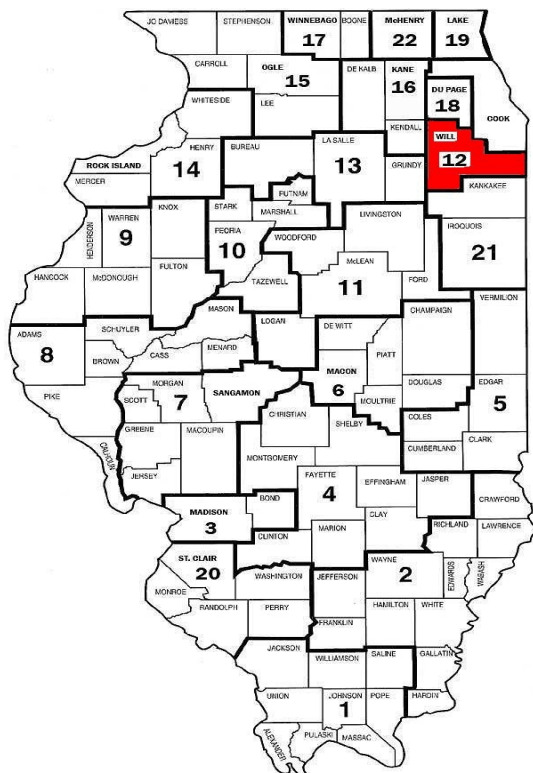


Twelfth Judicial Circuit

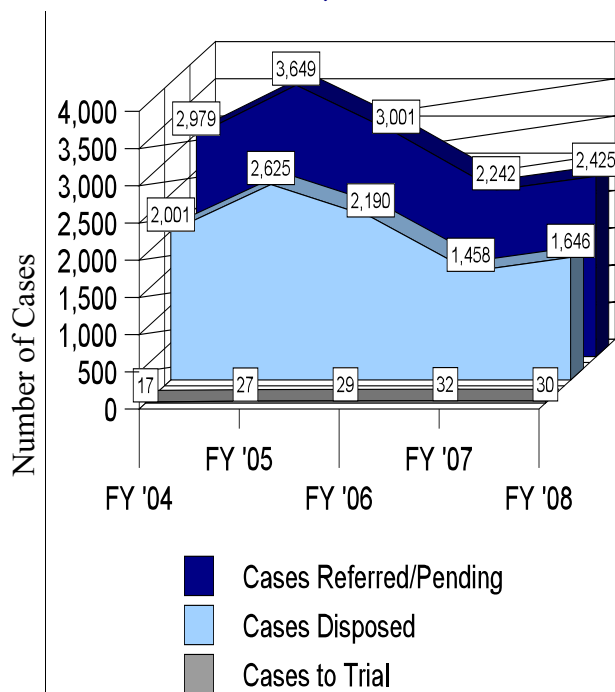
(Will County)

Arbitration Program Information

The Twelfth Judicial Circuit is one of five single-county circuits in Illinois. The Will County Arbitration Center is housed near the courthouse in Joliet, Illinois. After the Supreme Court approved its request, Will County began hearing arbitration cases in December of 1995. An arbitration supervising judge is assigned to oversee arbitration matters and is assisted by a trial court administrator and an arbitration program assistant.



Will County
Five-Year Disposition Trend



The chart to the left presents information regarding the total number of cases litigated in arbitration which were resolved during the arbitration process or ultimately proceeded to trial. Program data indicates that 68% (1,646 of 2,425) of the cases filed in the Will County arbitration program for State Fiscal Year 2008 were disposed. This disposition rate is slightly lower than the five year average of 69% and significantly lower than the statewide average of 78%.

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

Number of Cases Pending / Referred to Arbitration	2,425
Number of Cases Disposed	1,646
Number of Arbitration Hearings	225
Number of Awards Accepted	49
Number of Awards Rejected	123
Number of Cases Filed in Arbitration which Proceeded to Trial	30

While cases referred to Will County's arbitration program increased from 2004 to 2005, the same cannot be said for 2006 and 2007. The decrease in cases 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 2,859 cases were referred to arbitration.

The data for Will County's 2008 arbitration operations is reflected in the chart to the left. In Will County, slightly more than one percent (30 of 2,425) of cases filed in arbitration proceeded to trial.