

Seventeenth Judicial Circuit

(Boone and Winnebago Counties)

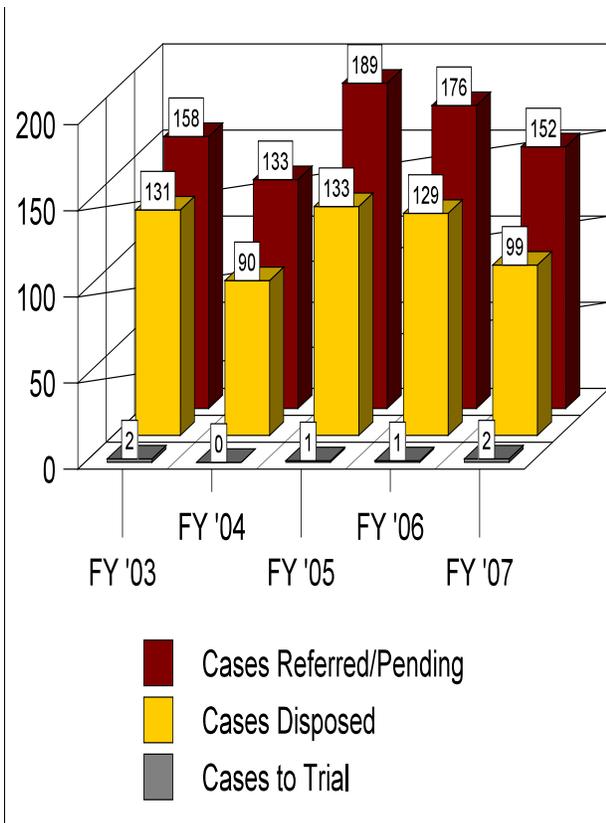
Arbitration Program Information

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 a trial court administrator and an assistant arbitration administrator.

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 65% (99 of 152 cases were disposed) of the cases filed in the Boone County arbitration program for State Fiscal Year 2007. This disposition rate is lower than the five year average of 74% and the statewide average of 81%.



Boone County
Five-Year Disposition Trend



Boone County

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

Number of Cases Pending / Referred to Arbitration	152
Number of Cases Settled / Dismissed	99
Number of Arbitration Hearings ...	12
Number of Awards Accepted	3
Number of Awards Rejected	7
Number of Cases Filed in Arbitration which Proceeded to Trial	2

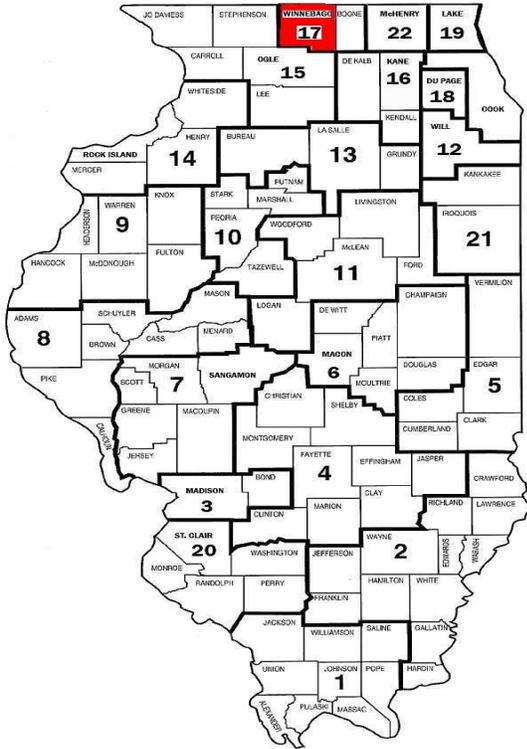
The data for Boone County's 2007 arbitration operations is reflected in the chart to the left. In Boone County, only two cases filed in arbitration proceeded to trial.

Seventeenth Judicial Circuit

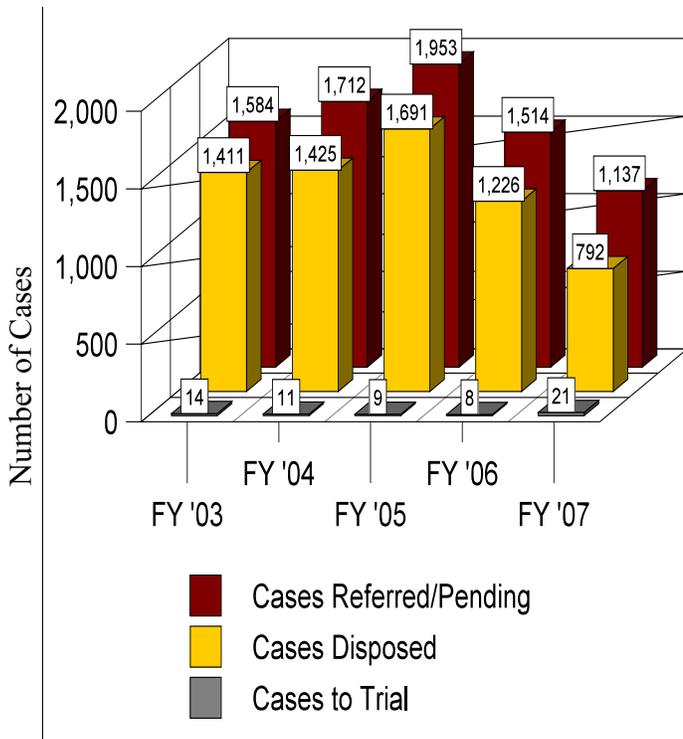
(Boone and Winnebago Counties)

Winnebago County

While cases referred to Winnebago County's arbitration program increased 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 thereby reducing the number of cases eligible for mandatory arbitration. From 2003 through 2007, an annual average of 1,331 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 either resolved during the arbitration process or, ultimately went to trial. Program data indicates that either a settlement or dismissal was reached in 70% (792 of 1,137 cases were disposed) of the cases filed in the Winnebago County arbitration program for State Fiscal Year 2007. This disposition rate is significantly lower than the five year average of 84% and the statewide average of 81%.

Winnebago County

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

Number of Cases Pending / Referred to Arbitration	1,137
Number of Cases Settled / Dismissed	792
Number of Arbitration Hearings ..	113
Number of Awards Accepted	30
Number of Awards Rejected	64
Number of Cases Filed in Arbitration which Proceeded to Trial	21

The data for Winnebago County's 2007 arbitration operations is reflected in the chart to the left. In Winnebago County, less than 2% of cases (21 of the 1,137) filed in arbitration proceeded to trial.