

THREE BOARD DOCKETS COMPARED

Compare the record, evidence window, hearing option, and best-fit question for each Board lane.



DIRECT
No new evidence, no hearing

EVIDENCE
90-day evidence window

HEARING
Hearing plus 90-day window

REVIEW FIRST

No docket is universally best. The correct docket is the one that gives the Veterans Law Judge the record and hearing process the issue actually needs.

COMPARE | THREE DOCKETS

CHOOSE BY RECORD, NOT BY REPUTATION

DIRECT REVIEW NO NEW EVIDENCE Use when the existing record and legal argument are sufficient. - No hearing - No evidence after the prior decision - Argument can identify record or legal error	EVIDENCE SUBMISSION 90 DAYS Use when the case needs new evidence but not testimony. - No hearing - Evidence with the appeal or within 90 days - Claimant controls submission	HEARING TESTIMONY + EVIDENCE Use when a hearing adds value to the disputed issue. - Virtual, video, or Board in-person format - Evidence at the hearing or within 90 days - Transcript joins the record
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DECISION QUESTIONS | FIT

ASK THESE QUESTIONS BEFORE ELECTING

Q1 Can the existing record support the requested correction? If yes, Direct Review may fit. If not, identify what evidence is missing.	DIRECT
Q2 Can the new evidence be assembled within the limited window? If yes and no hearing is needed, Evidence Submission may fit.	EVIDENCE
Q3 What will testimony add that documents do not? If the answer is specific and material, the Hearing docket may fit.	HEARING

RESEARCH BOUNDARY | KEEP MEASURES SEPARATE

DO NOT TURN DOCKET DATA INTO A CAUSAL RANKING

OUT Disposition patterns Published Board outcomes describe selected cases and can differ by case mix, issue type, representation, evidence, and year.	PEND Pending inventory The number waiting in a docket is not a claimant's individual place or predicted completion date.	WAIT Wait distributions Completed-case medians and VA operational averages are different measures and change over time.
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RECORD FIRST, DATA SECOND

Use current research to understand the system, not to replace the docket's legal fit for a specific issue.

