

LAY EVIDENCE IN PUBLISHED BVA DECISIONS

How often general lay-evidence language appears and how those decisions are classified.



DATABASE SEARCHED
1,897,144

GENERAL REFERENCES
724,189

JSON GENERATED
2026-07-27

READ FIRST

RateMyVSO searched 1,897,144 published Board decisions. General lay-evidence language appeared in 724,189 decisions. This measures what the Board wrote, not whether lay evidence caused the result.

RESEARCH SNAPSHOT

GENERAL LAY-EVIDENCE REFERENCES

724,189

decisions with general lay-evidence references

38.2%

of all decisions searched

539,629

decisions invoking named lay-evidence case law

OUTCOME CLASSIFICATION

WHAT HAPPENED IN THOSE DECISIONS



Granted

95,720 decisions | 13.2%

Denied

223,209 decisions | 30.8%

Mixed

269,607 decisions | 37.2%

Remanded

126,323 decisions | 17.4%

Unknown

9,330 decisions | 1.3%

Percentages are rounded independently to one decimal place and may not sum to exactly 100. Bar widths use unrounded values.

NAMED LEGAL REFERENCES

CASE-LAW MENTIONS ARE A SEPARATE MEASURE

539,629

decisions invoking named lay-evidence case law

28.4%

of all decisions searched

Do not combine the measures: named case-law references are a narrower detection category than general lay-evidence language. They are shown separately and are not added together.

FORM REFERENCES

TWO LAY-STATEMENT FORMS IN THE RECORD

21-4138

55,528

References to the older Statement in Support of Claim form.

21-10210

849

References to the Lay/Witness Statement form.

Form-reference counts reflect terms detected in published decision text. They do not measure how many statements were actually filed.

DESCRIPTIVE, NOT CAUSAL

A grant, denial, mixed outcome, or remand can involve many issues and evidence types. These counts do not show that lay evidence produced the outcome.

