

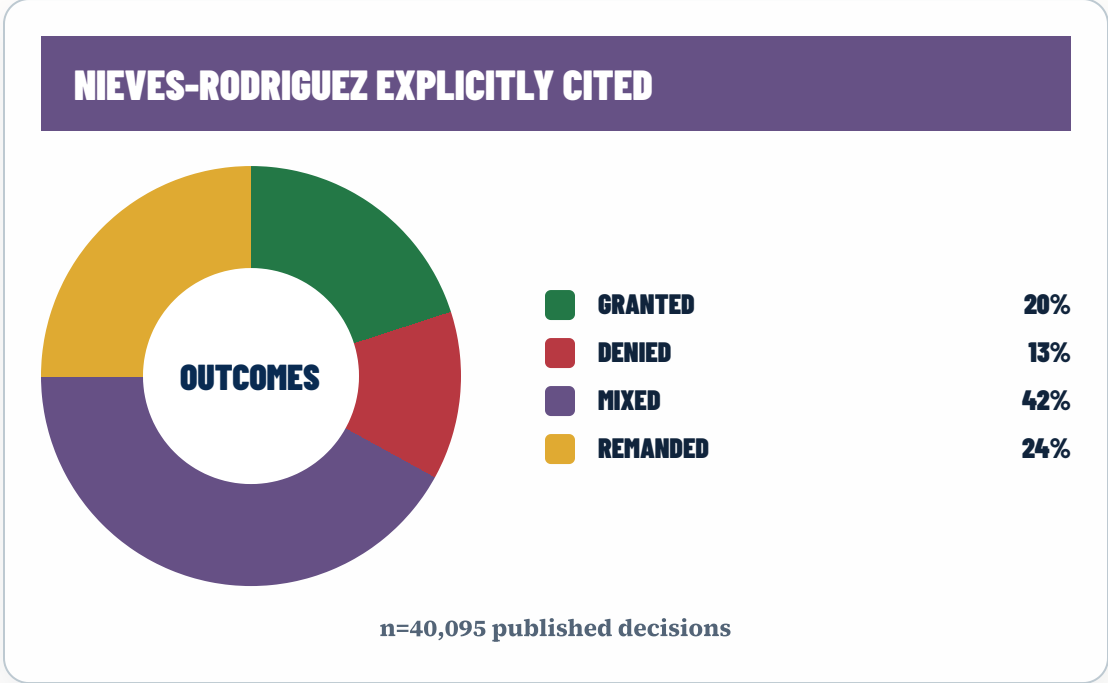
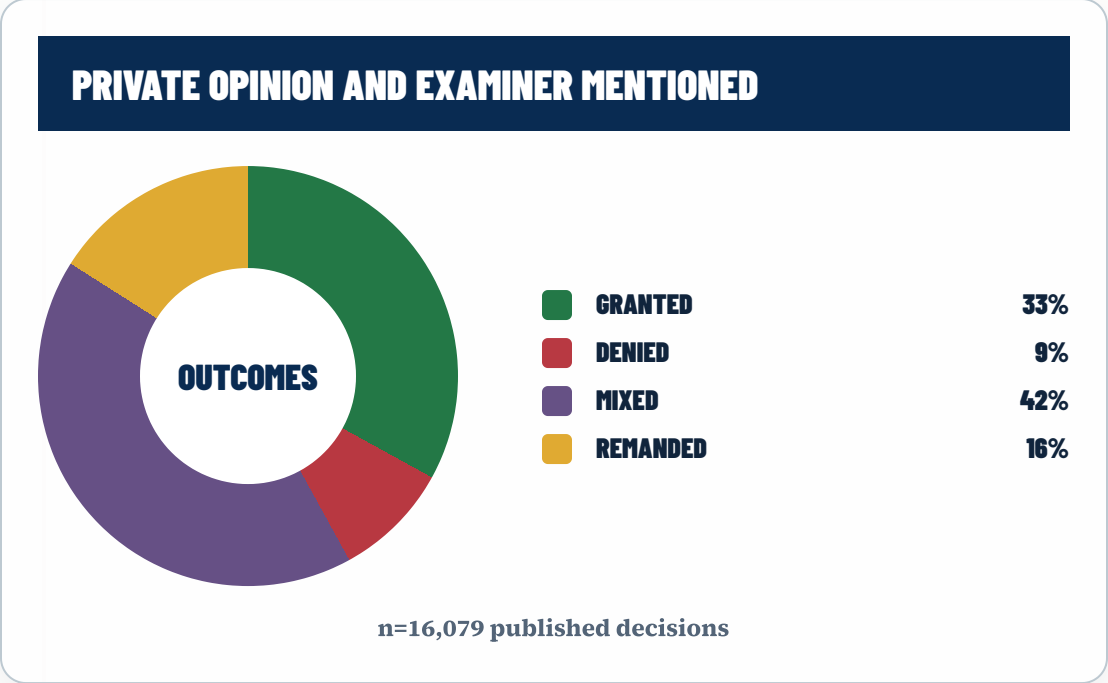
MEDICAL OPINION CONFLICTS AT THE BOARD



RESEARCH

How published decisions were resolved when competing-opinion language appeared.

These text-defined cohorts show that competing medical-opinion cases often produce mixed outcomes or remands. The data describe decision documents, not a simple contest where one provider category automatically wins.



WHY MIXED AND REMANDED MATTER

ONE DECISION CAN CONTAIN SEVERAL ISSUES

GRANTED

The decision contains a grant within the classified cohort.

DENIED

The decision contains a denial without a classified grant or remand.

MIXED

The decision resolves multiple issues or outcomes in different ways.

REMANDED

The Board orders more development rather than finally resolving the issue.

CLASSIFICATION LIMITS

The cohorts are identified from decision text mentioning both private-opinion and examiner language or explicitly citing Nieves-Rodriguez. They do not establish which opinion won every medical dispute, and they are not unique-veteran counts.

THE RATER MUST EXPLAIN THE WEIGHT

The legal question is not whether the opinion is private or from VA. It is whether the evidence is competent, accurate, reasoned, and persuasive in the individual record.

CONFLICT IS NOT AN AUTOMATIC DENIAL. Competing opinions can lead to grants, denials, mixed decisions, or remands depending on the full record and the adequacy of each opinion.