



THREE BOARD DOCKETS COMPARED

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



DIRECT	EVIDENCE	HEARING
No new evidence, no hearing	90-day evidence window	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

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.

RECORD FIRST, DATA SECOND

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

