



**Fiscal Year 2025 Annual Report**  
**October 1, 2024, to September 30, 2025**  
**United States Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims**

1. *The number of appeals filed with the Court:*<sup>1</sup>                    **10,449 appeals** (12% pro se at the time of filing)
  
2. *The number of petitions filed with the Court:*                    **255 petitions** (73% pro se at the time of filing)
  
3. *The number of applications filed with the Court under the Equal Access to Justice Act (EAJA), 28 U.S.C. § 2412:*                    **7,079 EAJA applications**
  
4. *The total number of dispositions*<sup>2</sup> *by each of the following for FY 2025:*
  - (A) **The Court as a whole**
    - 8,758 appeals (7% pro se at time of disposition)
    - 249 petitions (73% pro se at time of disposition)
    - 6,997 EAJA applications
    - 232 requests for reconsideration/panel decision<sup>3</sup>
    - 184 appeals
    - 48 petitions
    - 16,236 total dispositions**

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<sup>1</sup> Under 38 U.S.C. § 7288, the United States Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims (Court) is required to submit an annual report to the U.S. Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs and the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Veterans' Affairs that includes the elements enumerated in this report.

<sup>2</sup> "Dispositions" include each resolution of a matter, including decisions on appeals, petitions, EAJA applications, and requests for reconsideration/panel decision.

<sup>3</sup> The number of requests for reconsideration by the Court as a whole, including a single Judge of the Court, a multi-judge panel of the Court, and the full Court.

4. *The total number of dispositions by each of the following for FY 2025 (continued):*

**(B) The Clerk of the Court (Clerk)<sup>4</sup>**

7,192 appeals

14 petitions

6,974 EAJA applications

*There were no requests for reconsideration of the Clerk's orders*

**14,180 total dispositions<sup>5</sup>**

**(C) A single Judge of the Court**

1,539 appeals

230 petitions

23 EAJA applications

142 requests for reconsideration

*111 appeals*

*31 petitions*

**1,934 total dispositions**

**(D) A multi-judge panel of the Court**

27 appeals

4 petitions

0 EAJA applications

76 requests for panel decision following a single-judge decision/panel reconsideration

*64 appeals*

*12 petitions*

**107 total dispositions**

**(E) The full Court**

0 appeals

1 petition

0 EAJA applications

14 requests for a full court decision following a panel decision

*9 appeals*

*5 petitions*

**15 total dispositions**

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<sup>4</sup> The Clerk is the Executive Officer of the Court and is authorized, pursuant to Rule 45 of the Court's Rules of Practice and Procedure, to act on certain matters pending before the Court.

<sup>5</sup> This number primarily includes matters resolved through agreement of VA and the appellant, usually with the aid of staff mediation conferencing.

5. *The number of each type of disposition by the Court, including settlement, affirmance, remand, vacation, dismissal, reversal, grant, and denial:*

## APPEALS

TYPE OF DISPOSITION	CLERK <sup>6</sup>	SINGLE JUDGE	THREE-JUDGE PANEL	FULL COURT	TOTAL
<i>Affirmed</i>	0	359	4	0	<b>363</b>
<i>Affirmed or dismissed in part, reversed or vacated and remanded in part</i>	3,534	122	0	0	<b>3,656</b>
<i>Reversed or vacated and remanded in whole or in part</i>	0	801	15	0	<b>816</b>
<i>Remanded</i>	2,877	6	0	0	<b>2,883</b>
<i>Dismissed for lack of jurisdiction or timeliness</i>	6	210	1	0	<b>217</b>
<i>Dismissed for default</i>	229	2	0	0	<b>231</b>
<i>Dismissed voluntarily</i>	546	39	7	0	<b>592</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>7,192</b>	<b>1,539</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>8,758</b>

## PETITIONS

TYPE OF DISPOSITION	CLERK	SINGLE JUDGE	THREE-JUDGE PANEL	FULL COURT	TOTAL
<i>Extraordinary relief granted</i>	0	2	1	0	<b>3</b>
<i>Extraordinary relief denied</i>	0	121	1	0	<b>122</b>
<i>Extraordinary relief dismissed</i>	1	70	0	1	<b>72</b>
<i>Dismissed for default</i>	10	3	0	0	<b>13</b>
<i>Dismissed voluntarily</i>	3	34	2	0	<b>39</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>230</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>249</b>

<sup>6</sup> Please see footnote 5.

5. *The number of each type of disposition by the Court, including settlement, affirmance, remand, vacation, dismissal, reversal, grant, and denial (continued):*

**E A J A**

TYPE OF DISPOSITION	CLERK	SINGLE JUDGE	THREE-JUDGE PANEL	FULL COURT	TOTAL
<i>Applications after decisions in appeals</i>	6,971	19	0	0	<b>6,990</b>
<i>Granted</i>	6,970	13	0	0	<b>6,983</b>
<i>Denied</i>	0	2	0	0	<b>2</b>
<i>Dismissed</i>	1	4	0	0	<b>5</b>
<i>Applications after decisions in petitions</i>	3	4	0	0	<b>7</b>
<i>Granted</i>	3	1	0	0	<b>4</b>
<i>Denied</i>	0	1	0	0	<b>1</b>
<i>Dismissed</i>	0	2	0	0	<b>2</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>6,974</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>6,997</b>

6. *The median time from filing an appeal to disposition (i.e., time from the veteran filing an appeal until initial dispositive action of the Court) by each of the following:*

- (A) **The Court as a whole:** The median time from filing an appeal to disposition of the case by the Court, as a whole, is **246 days (8.2 months)**. This involves pre-chambers procedural activity (including record dispute resolution, staff mediation conferencing,<sup>7</sup> briefing, screening, time for pro se appellants to seek counsel, and requests for additional time from the parties) and then disposition by a Judge or a panel of Judges (including consideration of any requests for class certification and class action) or by the Clerk of the Court.
- (B) **The Clerk of the Court:** The median time from filing an appeal to disposition of the case by the Clerk is **233 days (7.8 months)**. This involves pre-chambers procedural activity (including record dispute resolution, staff mediation conferencing, briefing, screening, time for pro se appellants to seek counsel, and requests for additional time from the parties) and then disposition by the Clerk.

<sup>7</sup> Staff mediation conferencing is required for all represented parties. Legal counsel is available to unrepresented parties for the limited purpose of participating in mediation. Over the past five years, approximately one-third of unrepresented parties have opted to participate in the limited representation program.

6. *The median time from filing an appeal to disposition (i.e., time from the veteran filing an appeal until initial dispositive action of the Court) by each of the following (continued):*
- (C) **A single Judge of the Court:** The median time for disposition of a single-judge decision once a matter has been assigned to chambers is **49 days (1.6 months)**. Activity once a matter is assigned to chambers includes Judges and law clerks collaborating to draft a decision and circulating all draft decisions to all Judges for a 1-week comment period. The median time from filing an appeal to disposition by a single Judge, including pre-chambers procedural activity, is **422 days (14.1 months)**. Pre-chambers procedural activity includes record dispute resolution, staff mediation conferencing, briefing, screening, time for pro se appellants to seek counsel, and requests for additional time from the parties.
- (D) **Multiple Judges of the Court** (including a multi-judge panel of the Court or the full Court): The median time for disposition of a multi-judge panel decision once it has been assigned to a panel is **180 days (6.0 months)**. Activity once a matter is assigned to a panel includes Judges collaborating to determine the disposition and to assign writing responsibilities; considering any requests for class certification and class action; possible orders for additional briefing; drafting the decision; circulating it to the panel for concurrence or the opportunity to write separately; and circulating all draft decisions to all Judges for a 1-week comment period. If oral argument is held, scheduling the argument adds a minimum of 45 days to the case-processing time. The median time from filing an appeal to disposition by a multi-judge panel, which includes pre-chambers procedural activity, is **659 days (22 months)**. Pre-chambers procedural activity includes record dispute resolution, staff mediation conferencing, briefing, screening, time for pro se appellants to seek counsel, and requests for additional time from the parties.
7. *The median time from filing a petition to disposition by the Court:* **66 days (2.2 months)**
8. *The median time from filing an EAJA application under 28 U.S. C. § 2412 to disposition by the Court:* **31 days (1.0 months)**
9. *The median time from the completion of briefing requirements by the parties to disposition by the Court:* **95 days (3.2 months)**  
*Note: This time includes approximately 2 weeks to raise issues relating to finalizing the record of proceedings (a compilation of all documents relevant to the appeal) in every case. If an objection to the record of proceedings is filed, resolution can take several more weeks.*
10. *The number of oral arguments before the Court:* **21 held (30 scheduled, 6 settled, 1 rescheduled, 2 appeals withdrawn)**

**11. The number of cases appealed to the United States Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit:**

**127 total cases**  
*107 appeals*  
*18 petitions*  
*2 EAJA applications*

**12. The approximate number and status of appeals and petitions and EAJA applications pending with the Court as of the end of the fiscal year:**

	APPEALS & PETITIONS	EAJA APPLICATIONS	TOTAL
<i>Pre-chambers procedural activity</i> <sup>8</sup>	8,136	1,011	<b>9,147</b>
<i>Pending decision by a Judge or panel</i>	210	6	<b>216</b>
<i>Post decision</i>	763	7	<b>770</b>
<i>Pending a motion for reconsideration or panel</i>	18	0	<b>18</b>
<i>Pending entry of judgment</i>	170	0	<b>170</b>
<i>Pending entry of mandate</i>	391	3	<b>394</b>
<i>On appeal before the Federal Circuit</i> <sup>9</sup>	184	4	<b>188</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>9,109</b>	<b>1,024</b>	<b>10,133</b>

**13. The number of cases pending with the Court more than 18 months as of the end of the fiscal year:**

**462 total cases**  
*455 appeals*  
*7 petitions*

<i>Pre-chambers procedural activity</i> <sup>10</sup>	87
<i>Pending decision by a Judge or panel</i>	27
<i>Post decision</i>	348

**14. A summary of any service performed for the Court by a recalled retired judge of the Court:**

Five retired Judges were recalled to service as Senior Judges in FY 2025. Senior Judges issued 77 single-judge decisions, participated in one 3-judge panel, participated in motions for reconsideration, were involved in committee work for the Court, and served on a judicial council for the Court.

<sup>8</sup> See element 6 for details on pre-chambers procedural activity.

<sup>9</sup> This category represents the number of cases pending on a appeal to the Federal Circuit at the end of FY 2025, which is different than the number of notices of appeal filed during FY 2025 and reported in element 11.

<sup>10</sup> Delays associated with these cases are due primarily to parties' requests for stays, parties' requests for additional time, or complexity of the case.

- 15. An assessment of the workload of each judge of the Court, including consideration of the following:**
- (A) The time required of each judge for disposition of each type of case.**
  - (B) The number of cases reviewed by the Court.**
  - (C) The average workload of other Federal appellate judges.**

As reflected in the responses to elements 1-13 above, each active Judge<sup>11</sup> on the Court carries a substantial workload. The Judges' primary responsibilities include rendering decisions on appeals, petitions, class actions, related motions (e.g., procedural motions and motions for reconsideration or for panel review), and applications filed pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 2412 (EAJA). The Judges are also responsible for the general direction and oversight of the operations of the Court and serve on various committees in furtherance of those obligations.

The 10,449 appeals received in FY 2025 mark a record high in the Court's history and represent an increase of 17% over the prior year. This increase correlates with the increase of final decisions issued by the Board of Veterans' Appeals (Board), up from 116,192 in FY 2024 to 123,962 in FY 2025.

The Court continues to keep pace with its substantial caseload, in large part, because a significant percentage of cases are resolved through pre-briefing mediation conferences. Court staff attorneys bring VA Secretary's counsel and appellant's counsel together in the conference, and often the result is the parties' agreement as to the case disposition. In 76% of the conferenced cases in FY 2025, VA agreed with the appellant that the Board's decision contained error necessitating remand to the agency for readjudication. Because both parties agree on the outcome in such appeals, the Clerk is authorized to act on those matters, and they do not require resolution by a Judge.

In FY 2025, the Court averaged 152 cases (appeals and petitions) decided on the merits per active Judge. For that same time period, the average number of merits decisions decided per active Judge in the 13 circuit courts of appeals ranged from 49 to 169.<sup>12</sup> The Court received 1,189 filings per active Judge, based on 10,449 appeals and 255 petitions filed in FY 2025. The number of filings per active judge for the circuit courts of appeals ranged from 100 to 417.

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<sup>11</sup> Consistent with how the Administrative Office of the United States Courts reports statistics, "active judge" refers only to a judge who has been active for the entire fiscal year. In FY 2025 the Court had nine active Judges.

<sup>12</sup> Consistent with the Administrative Office of the United States Courts judicial caseload profile for 2025, the range of filings represents the number of written decisions on the merits per active Judge.

- 15. An assessment of the workload of each judge of the Court, including consideration of the following:**
- (A) The time required of each judge for disposition of each type of case.**
  - (B) The number of cases reviewed by the Court.**
  - (C) The average workload of other Federal appellate judges.**

By statute, the Court is permanently authorized seven active Judges. Over 15 years ago, in response to a growing caseload, Congress added 2 additional temporary judgeships, bringing the number of active Judges authorized to 9. The Court has been staffed with 9 active Judges since 2020. In December 2024, Congress authorized a third temporary judgeship, however, no Judge has been appointed to that position yet. The Court anticipates the retirement of one of its active Judges in FY 2026, and hopes that during FY 2026 the current vacancy and that additional anticipated vacancy will be filled.