**What is the average wait time for a decision from the Board of Veterans Appeals?**

According to the United States Department of Veterans Affairs transparency program, the national average for the number of days for the VA to complete a compensation claim requiring a disability rating (as of February 2013) is **279 days**.  That is the national average.  However, since claims are processed through regional offices the average wait time varies from one regional office to the next.  For example, in Chicago, IL the average wait time is 446 days, in Detroit MI 307 days, while Los Angeles, CA holds the record with an average wait time of 506 days.

**What can be done to shorten this time?**First and foremost, the VA is at the heart of the issue when it comes to shortening the inexcusable wait time forced upon veterans filing disability benefits claims.  The National Organization of Veterans Advocates (NOVA) is a not for profit educational membership organization that represents over 500 attorneys and agents assisting tens of thousands of our nation's military Veterans, their widows, and their families obtain benefits from VA. NOVA is leading the way to aggressively push for much needed change at all levels of the VA disability claims process.  As a NOVA member, Michael Viterna is vitally involved in advocating for change.

While Viterna Law and others work to advocate for change you may ask,"Is there anything I can do to make this process go faster?” While someone cannot "hurry" the process, there are specific things that can be done to not lengthen the process any more than it already is.  Here are some helpful tips:

1. Make sure all of your information on your application is accurate, complete, and legible.  An application form can be found at viternlaw.com on our Resources page or on the VA website.

2. Double check that you have signed the application.
         3. Keep copies of all documents you submit, including your application.
         4. Have questions? Need help? Call us toll free at **(800) 971-4109.**