

NARR Conference 2026



Section 3 Update

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Director, Office of Arbitration Services



- History of Section 3 Funded Cases
- Section 3 Data
 - Case Handling
 - Arbitrator Caseload Share
 - Subject Codes
 - SAM Reminder
 - 60-90-120 day Rule Refresher
 - Draft Awards
- FY 26 Mediation Update

History of Section 3 Funded Cases

Fiscal Year	Cases Funded
FY 2026	3,201
FY 2025	2,271
FY 2024	1,855
FY 2023	3,195
FY 2022	2,440
FY 2021	3,445



4,204 Open Cases

FY26 Data

- Waiting arbitrator assignment
- Not currently on the Waitlist
- Oldest dates back to August 2023
- Do they all have operational significance?
 - No! So try Grievance Mediation.



Arbitration Caseload Distribution

FY26 Data

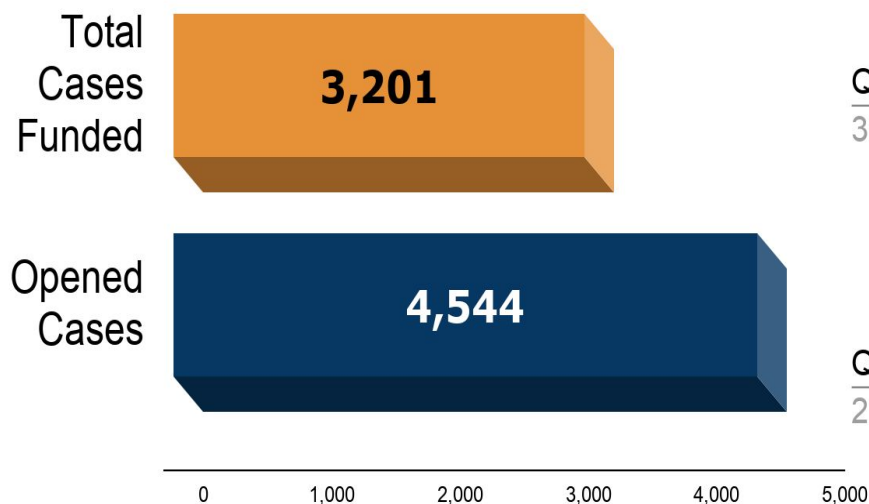
- Sixty-two percent of the cases (1,980) were assigned to 10 arbitrators
- The remaining thirty-eight percent of the cases (1,211) were assigned to 44 arbitrators
- Seventy-eight percent of Section 3 arbitrators on the roster were not assigned any cases this fiscal year.



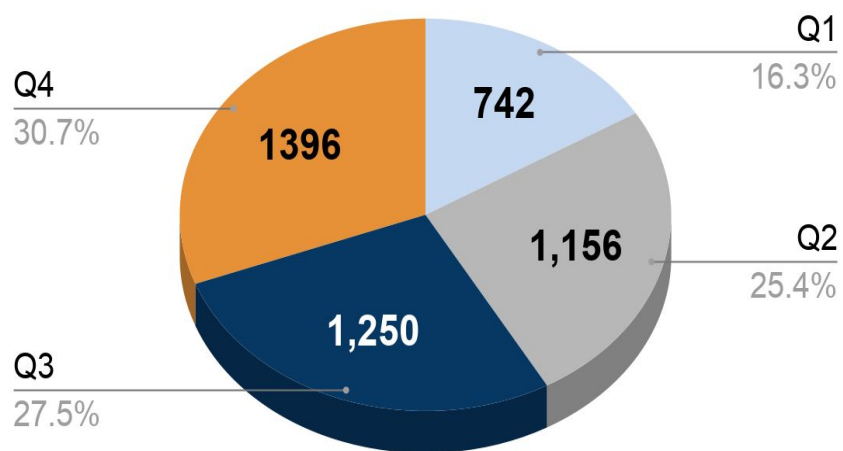
Arbitration Overview

FY26 Data

Cases Opened vs Funded



Opened Cases by Quarter

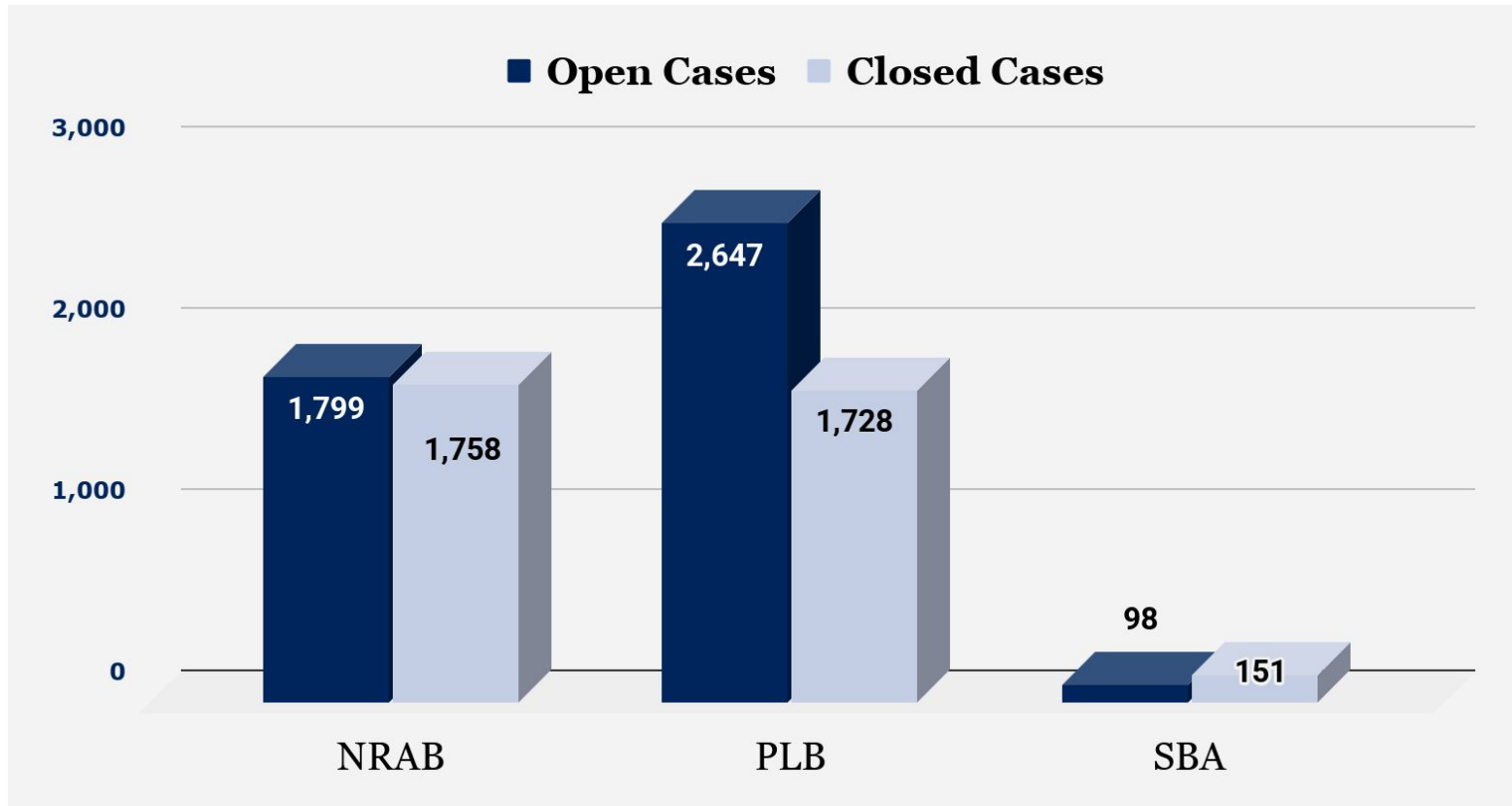


Current Waitlist



Opened & Closed Cases

FY26 Data

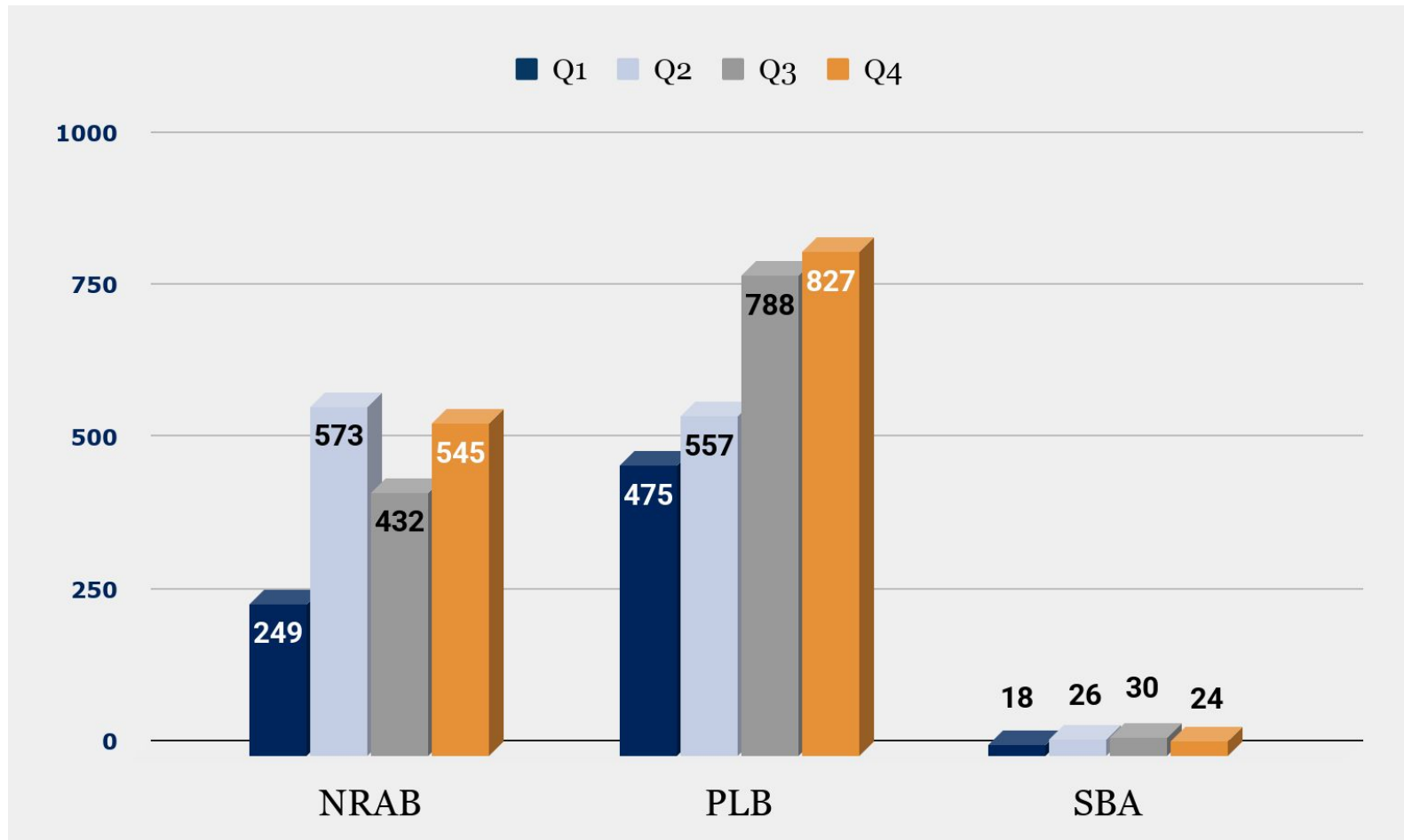


*687 NRAB Cases Adopted FY26



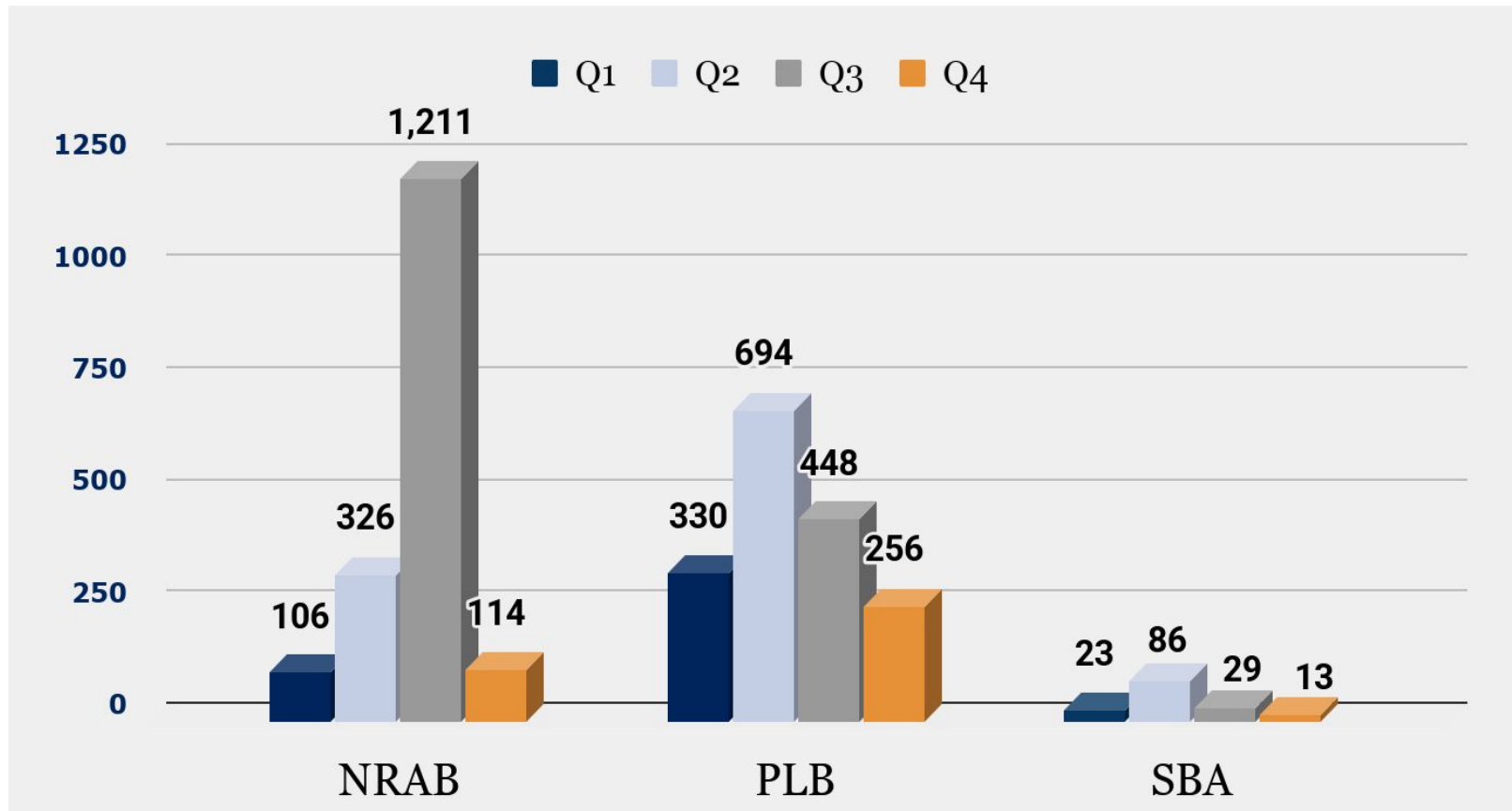
Tribunals - Opened Cases by Quarter

FY26 Data



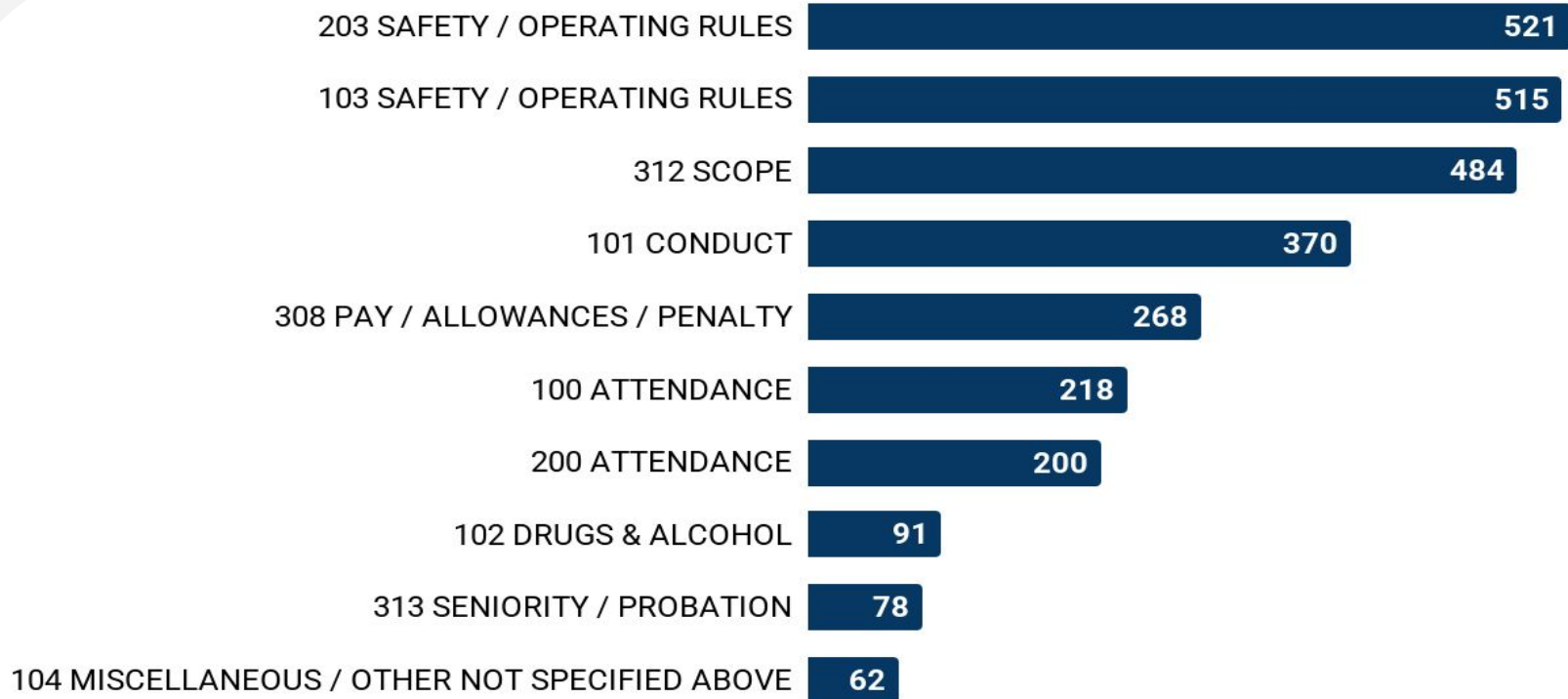
Tribunals – Closed Cases by Quarter

FY26 Data



Top 10 Subject Codes

FY26 Through Q3



System for Award Management

Arbitrators are contractors. As a contractor you must register in the System for Award Management (SAM) in order to be assigned cases, compensated for hearing cases, and writing awards.

SAM www.sam.gov

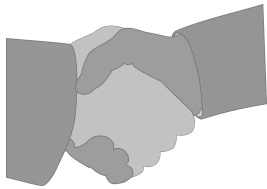
- Update or renew registration annually to maintain an active status in SAM.

Questions?

- Contact Denise Murdock, Office of Fiscal Services, National Mediation Board, murdock@nmb.gov.



60-90-120 day Rule



Case Assigned October 1st

Once a case is assigned
it must be decided or
scheduled for hearing
within **60 days**
(Nov. 30th)



Hearing must be held by January 29th (120 days from Oct. 1st)

If a case is scheduled
for hearing, the date
scheduled must be
within **120 days** of
case assignment date.



Hearing ultimately conducted on January 26th

The decision must be
rendered by April
26th, **90 days** from
Jan. 26th.



Draft Awards



- Upload awards ready to be signed by parties or dated (NRAB)



- Upload into AWS
 - Triggers payment

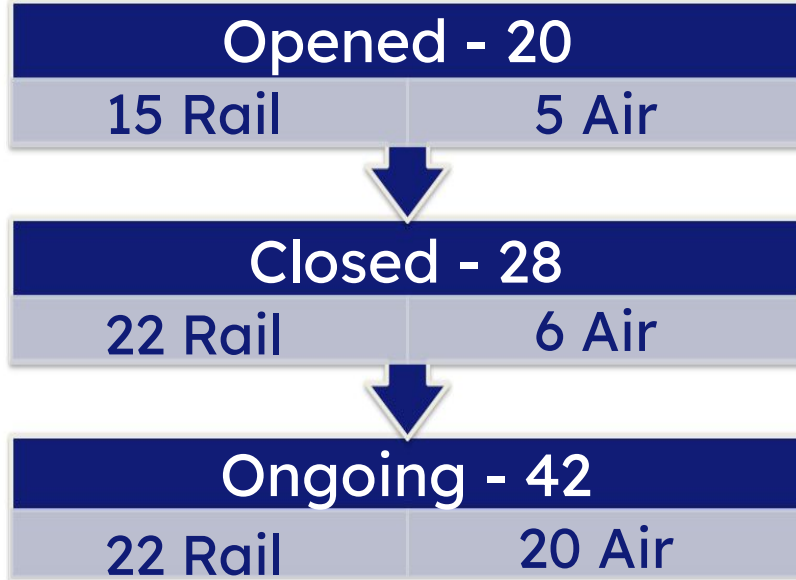
FY 26 Mediation Update



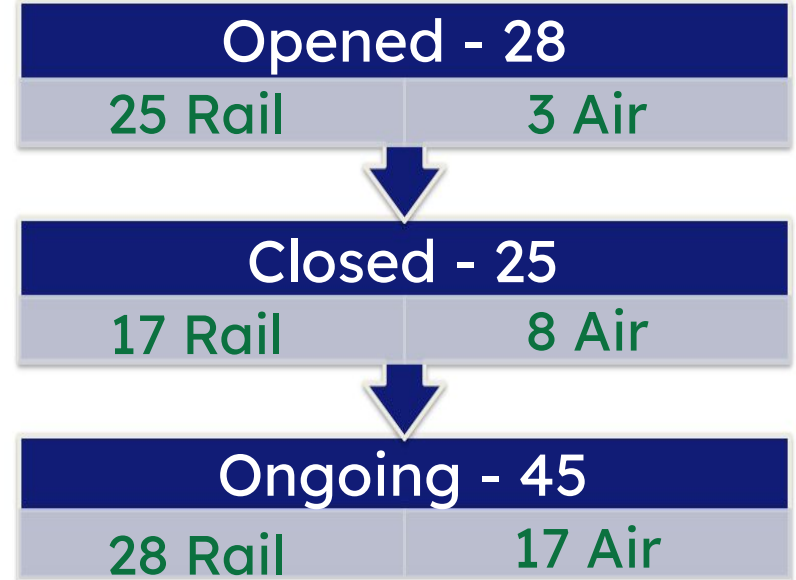
MEDIATION CASES FY 2025-2026

A CASES

Mediation Cases FY 2025



Mediation Cases FY 2026



*FY26 up to 09/04/26



MEDIATION CASES AVERAGE TIME TO CLOSE

Previous 12-24 Months

19 Rail Cases: 14 Months
10 Air Cases: 35 Months

Previous 0-12 Months

19 Rail Cases: 18 Months
9 Air Cases: 30 Months

*FY26 up to 09/04/26



GRIEVANCE MEDIATION

FY26 UP TO SEP. 4TH

- Currently 33 GM Cases
 - Rail - 14
 - Air - 19
- Meet 1x to 12x Annually
 - Conducted in person or virtually
- Average Success Rate
 - Rail - ~85%
 - Air - ~75%

*FY26 up to 09/04/26

