NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
OF
THE AMERICAN LEGION
October 8-9, 2025
Indianapolis, Indiana

Resolution No. 12: Increase the Number of Judgeships for the Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims
Origin: Resolution No. 29 (DE) 2025 National Convention
Submitted by: Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission

WHEREAS, The U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims (CAVC) provides judicial review of final decisions made by the Board of Veterans' Appeals on Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) claims appeals; and

WHEREAS, 38 U.S.C. § 7253(a) authorizes the appointment of up to seven (7) permanent judgeships to the CAVC; and § 7253(i) is ad hoc and authorizes two (2) additional judgeships on a temporary basis; and

WHEREAS, The temporary authorization of two judgeships expires in 2026 and will be eliminated from the CAVC unless permanently authorized by the U.S. Congress; and

WHEREAS, A reduction in the number of CAVC judges is not in the best interest of America's veteran community and its right to due process, as the number of claims submitted for VA benefits continues to rise; and

WHEREAS, Since FY 2017, the court has seen a 121% increase in the appeals it receives annually, with no foreseeable reduction in workload, given the substantial increase in claims submitted under provisions of the Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxics (PACT) Act; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, on October 8-9, 2025, That The American Legion urges Congress to permanently increase the number of judgeships for the U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims (CAVC) from seven to at least nine; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That Congress continues to monitor CAVC's caseload and authorizes additional judgeships on a temporary basis as it sees fit.