

**From:** Judge Chapin, Sidney  
**To:** Invitations  
**Subject:** Individual Comments of Judge Sidney P. Chapin, Kern County Superior Court, In Response to Recommendations of the SEC  
**Date:** Wednesday, July 11, 2012 5:22:45 PM

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It is time for the Chief Justice and the Judicial Council to make the right strategic decisions about the limits of the Council's power in determining supportive policies for the assistance of the courts of California in ensuring the greatest possible access to a viable justice system, and to control the auxiliary administrative service mission of the AOC, also to that end.

I wish to express my personal appreciation for, and total support of, the evaluations and recommendations of the Chief Justice's SEC. The lack of toadyism was clearly evident and refreshing. I also extend my thanks to the dedicated board members of the Alliance of California Judges and its various spokespersons that have bravely stepped forward to address the transgressions of the AOC and the failures of the sycophantic decisions of the Judicial Council in the past many years.

The Chief Justice and Judicial Council must act dramatically NOW to implement the recommendations of the SEC. This must be done before the hiring of a new Administrative Director of the AOC. The bleatings of the bureaucratic intelligentsia, represented by the likes of Alexander Aikman, who urge the Council to "...disregard the many voices calling for immediate and dramatic action....", and arguing that those of us in the ranks of judges are self-focused on our personal status as professionals and personal independence, and cannot (unlike Mr. Aikman) appreciate the Court as an institution, must be totally rejected. To hire an Administrative Director without implementation of the important policy recommendations of the SEC by the Council with the support of the Chief Justice, will only play into the hands of the bureaucrats and continue the sad march of decline for the judicial branch. The selection process must be guided by the new policies of "accountability and transparency" handed down by a democratized Judicial Council.