

From: LESTER E. OLSON
To: Invitations
Subject: COMMENTS ON SEC REPORT
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COMMENT ON SEC REPORT TO THE CHIEF JUSTICE:

FROM: Lester E. Olson, Retired Judge of the Los Angeles Superior Court, 805 Tumbleweed Lane, Fallbrook, CA 92028; Telephone: (760) 728-3870

STATUS AND POSITION OF THIS COMMENTATOR: I AM COMMENTING AS AN INTERESTED RETIRED JUDGE WHO SERVED AS A JUDGE FROM 1965 TO 1985. I was so concerned about the status of judges that I willingly and actively served as the class plaintiff in the case of Olson v. Cory (1980) 27 Cal.3rd 532 and Olson v. Cory (1983) 35 Cal.3rd 390. I am deeply concerned by the current "state of the Judiciary" and note that it was fallen from the great heights and respect enjoyed in the decades before 1990.

GENERAL COMMENTS: All of the recommendations in the SEC should be adopted as quickly as possible.

SPECIFIC COMMENTS:

1. All attorneys employed by the AOC whom have been allowed to "telecommute" (i.e. allegedly perform work without appearing at the AOC offices) should be terminated at once. The practice of allowing such telecommuting should be stopped.
2. The engagement of a so-called "judge in residence" as a consultant should be terminated at once. The practice should not be continued.
3. The attorney allowed to "work" from a location in Europe should be terminated at once.

4. The AOC main offices should be moved to Sacramento as soon as leases can be terminated without substantial economic loss to AOC. AOC leases on San Francisco offices should not be renewed.

5. The numerous regional AOC offices in outlying communities should be closed as soon as possible. In particular, the AOC office in San Bernardino County should be closed at once and the essential activity, if any, performed at that and other regional offices transferred to the main AOC offices.

6. A qualified and impartial consulting firm or law firm should be engaged to study the work performed by AOC resident attorneys for the purpose of determining the efficiency of the existing staff of attorneys, which appears to be over-staffed and under-performing.

7. The AOC should immediately adopt procedures to list on a public website, at least once every six months, the number of currently employed persons, including "contract" employees. The listing should not include names of the employees, but should be arranged in general categories, such as "attorneys," "secretaries," and other work categories, so that interested persons, agencies, members of the Legislature and other persons can be able to ascertain the AOC employee status. It is clear that from previous efforts by interested persons and organizations entitled to have access to such public information, that it has not been forthcoming from AOC management. The AOC has lacked the transparency that should be a standard for an agency financed by public funds.

Submitted by Lester E. Olson, Retired Judge of the

Los Angeles Superior Court.