

## Item SP12-05 Response Form

**Title: Strategic Evaluation Committee Report**

The Strategic Evaluation Committee (SEC) was appointed by Chief Justice Tani G. Cantil-Sakauye in March 2011 to conduct an in-depth review of the AOC with a view toward promoting transparency, accountability, and efficiency. The Chief Justice received the report and recommendations on May 25. At its meeting on June 21, 2012, the Judicial Council accepted the report and directed that it be posted for public comment for 30 days. Comments received will be considered public and posted by name and organization.

**PLEASE NOTE that all comments will be posted to the branch web site at [www.courts.ca.gov](http://www.courts.ca.gov) as submitted by the commentator as soon as reasonably possible after receipt.**

### **To Submit Comments**

Comments may be entered on this form or prepared in a letter format. If you are *not* submitting your comments directly on this form, please include the information requested below and the proposal number for identification purposes. Because all comments will be posted as submitted to the branch web site, please submit your comments by email, preferably as an attachment, to: [invitations@jud.ca.gov](mailto:invitations@jud.ca.gov)

Please include the following information:

**Name:** Eugene L. Balonon    **Title:** Judge

**Organization:** Superior Court, Sacramento County

**Commenting on behalf of an organization**

*General Comment:*

The Strategic Evaluation Committee (SEC) was appointed by the Chief Justice to assess the priorities of the Judicial Council and to determine what changes might be made to improve the operational effectiveness and efficiency of the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC).

We now have the SEC's comprehensive report which confirms the widespread view of judges and non-judges throughout the state - reforms at the AOC are needed. The recommendations/solutions within the report are entirely reasonable in light of the findings of the SEC and in view of our branch's severe budgetary reductions.

Interestingly, an observation made by the SEC report that, "... the Judicial Council has not been shown at the top of any AOC organization charts provided...", has apparently caused a change. I note that a July 2012 organization chart now available on the AOC website displays the Judicial Council above the AOC.

**DEADLINE FOR COMMENT: 5:00 p.m., Sunday, July 22, 2012**

*All comments will become part of the public record.*

I think it imperative that the branch act upon the recommendations of the SEC. We can be certain that the legislature is watching whether we follow through with solutions within a report which was authored by a committee that the judicial branch itself sponsored. In the last few years the courts have experienced the horrendous budgetary and operational impacts when change is imposed upon us. We now have a chance to control the types of changes that the SEC report finds necessary.

As judges we are accountable for what we do, and we will be held accountable for what we fail to do.

*Specific Comment - Recommendation/Chapter Number:*

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