

## 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:** Andrew P. Banks    **Title:** Judge

**Organization:** Superior Court, Orange County

**Commenting on behalf of an organization**

*General Comment:* First I want to thank the members of the SEC Committee for their hard work and outstanding efforts. I also thank the Chief Justice for her wisdom and good judgment in both creating the Committee and in the personal selection of its members.

I urge the immediate and complete adoption of the recommendations in the SEC report and call upon the Chief and the Council to immediately undertake the implementation of all the recommendations. The implementation process should not be delayed in any respect; and certainly not until a new Administrative Director is chosen. The Chief assured all of us that the SEC Committee report would be "the bible" for AOC evaluation and reform. How is it that the Council could fail to adopt even the modest proposal of Judge Wesley at the last Council meeting? Staying with the Chief's analogy of the Report being "the bible" for reform, I ask this question: Did Moses bring down the Ten Commandments and then put them out for public comment before their adoption?

The decision to put this report out for "rolling public comment" strikes me (and as I read the comments herein of several hundred other judges who apparently also feel this way) as nothing more than attempt to kill the report and its call for drastic reform of the AOC. As Judge Wachob noted when he presented the report to the committee, he and the committee were afraid that the traditional way to kill a report, i.e. to send it out for public

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

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

comments and further review would happen to their report. This is exactly what appears to be occurring. Such an action is, in my view, disrespectful to the committee and the judges and others who participated in the SEC investigation

We have had enough surveying of judicial views, The CJA did it; the Chief did it through her survey of judges accomodated through Presiding Judges; the SEC Committee has done it. It is time to take action and immediately adopt and implement the SEC Report and its recommendations.

Thank you for your consideration,

Andrew P. Banks, Judge of the Superior Court, Orange County.

*Specific Comment - Recommendation/Chapter Number:*

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

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