

From: t b
To: Invitations
Subject: SEC Comments
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As a former employee of the branch in various capacities for over 21 years, I respectfully urge that the Judicial Council adopt the findings of the SEC report.

After several commissioned reviews of the AOC, many that were not made public because the reviews were critical and never implemented, it is time the Chief Justice and the Judicial Council bite the proverbial bullet and implement the findings of the latest review, the SEC report.

To me and many others who have already publicly commented here, the most important part of the SEC report's findings is the Judicial Council taking control and asserting its authority over the AOC. It is clear from my experience that the AOC has developed into an organization that makes and forces policy on the courts, disregards the expertise of its constituents, and has lost sight of its original goal of being a support organization to the Council and the trial and appellate courts. It is disturbing after the many months of work put into this document by the committee, the Council would not adopt even that one recommendation. The Council by soliciting more comment claiming that the report was just a "snap shot" in time is just quite frankly, a red herring. Please no more committees, working groups or AOC staff review to evaluate/implement or conduct analysis that will lead to the usual paralysis and ultimate demise of the historic work of the Strategic Evaluation Committee. It seems to have been forgotten that most if not all who spoke to the committee based their comments on personal experience and facts in their dealings with the AOC. I honestly can't believe that the comments of all of these people who are so vital to the success of the branch can be without merit and dismissed so easily.

While critics of the report have concerns that the data is based on "appearances". The appearance of things are quite important to our branch. For example: the appearance of impartiality and the appearance of access and fairness. I would only turn to the Canons of Judicial Ethics to find more. Actions speak louder than words in order to uphold positive and eliminate negative appearances. Adopting many if not all of the the SEC report recommendations would go a long way for the Chief Justice and Judicial Council to give the positive appearance of recognizing the collective knowledge and expertise of the members of the branch; Justices, Judges, Administrators, and employees. In so doing, this would more than likely eliminate some of the divisiveness within the branch.

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