

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 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

Please include the following information:

Name: Faye D'Opal **Title:** Marin Superior Court Judge

Organization: _____

Commenting on behalf of an organization

General Comment: I have read and thought about the SEC Report and the published comments. I appreciate the opportunity to comment about the SEC Report.

My comments are directed to the need to ensure that any implementation plan, whether related to one, several or all of the SEC Report recommendations, should and must directly support California's Judicial Branch 2006-2012 Strategic Plan and the developing 2013-2018 Strategic Plan.

The 2006-2012 Strategic Plan highlights several fundamental issues facing the California Judicial Branch, sets forth six judicial branch goals and policy directions. The Appendix includes the history of Judicial Council Strategic Planning. (Adopted December 1, 2006 through 2012. The 2013-2018 Strategic Plan, currently in planning phase.)

As stated in the Plan, the Judicial Council of California, the policy making body of the California courts, is responsible for establishing the direction and priorities for the court system and for providing leadership to ensure the quality of justice throughout California. Every six years, the Judicial Council, working with branch stakeholders and partners, is to

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develop a Long-Range Strategic Plan for the judicial branch. The strategic plan outlines the councils' long range vision for the state's judicial system as well as the strategic goals for implementing such vision. A judicial branch operational plan is developed at three-year intervals.

The mission of the Judicial Council, as set forth in the Plan, is to set the direction and provide the leadership for improving and advancing the consistent, independent, impartial and accessible administration of justice. The strategic plan guides the priorities and work of the Judicial Council, its advisory committees, the trial and appellate courts, and the council's staff agency, the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC). Four general guiding principles are to be reflected in the Judicial Council's leadership:

Meeting the needs of the public is the core function.

Protecting the independence of the branch is crucial in a democracy.

High quality is an expectation throughout the branch.

Accountability is a duty of public service.

The implementation of the recommendations set forth in the SEC Report necessarily must be accomplished in the context of the goals and priorities of the Judicial Council strategic planning through 2012 and into the future.

To do otherwise may fracture further the coherence that is needed throughout all parts of our judicial branch for improving the administration of justice in California.

Specific Comment - Recommendation/Chapter Number:

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