

# Superior Court of the State of California County of Alpine

David L. DeVore  
Presiding Judge  
Thomas D. Kolpacoff  
Judge



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Honorable Tani Cantil-Sakauye  
Chief Justice of California and Chair of the Judicial Council  
and  
Honorable Members of the Judicial Council

Having read, several times, the SEC report, I want to express my support for the reasoned recommendations of the Committee. In expressing such support, however, I want to convey my concern that we, as a branch, don't "throw the baby out with the bathwater".

Lost in much of the discussion playing out in the media and among some of our colleagues is the important, even vital, role the AOC provides in assisting trial courts, particularly those small ones such as ours here in Alpine County. With two clerks, one financial tech, and a part-time general office assistant (we have been without a Court Executive Officer for the past year), we simply don't have the resources to accomplish many required administrative functions without the expertise and assistance of the staff of the AOC. In nearly ten years on this court I have had occasion to call upon many for help, including the divisions of Finance, HR, Information Services, OGC, OERS, and TCAS. As a rule, in seeking the appropriate place or person to address our issues, I have begun by contacting Jody Patel in her role as the Administrative Director of the NCRO. Invariably Jody's response was prompt, thorough, and included follow-up to ensure we received the help we needed, and without exception the particular division to which we were referred performed superbly. Contrary to much of the public discourse, I have never – NEVER- encountered disinterest, arrogance, or other than extreme courtesy and professionalism from every AOC employee with whom I have dealt. Also, CJER staff with whom I have had the privilege to work in curriculum development for Cow Counties and other programs over the years has been exemplary and our obligations for continuing education could not be better served.

We in the courts of the smaller venues of necessity must ask for and rely on the AOC and its many fine employees to conduct our day-to-day operations in order to provide a high level of service to our citizens and court users. With respect to our larger-court colleagues, our budgets and staffs don't permit us to have the institutional knowledge, much less the time, to do what they may take for granted in their own courts. Clearly the SEC has identified many areas in which greater efficiencies of organization and budget may be achieved, but I hope the Council gives credit where it is due, and does not emasculate an organization that provides many valuable services.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "D. DeVore".

David L. DeVore  
Presiding Judge