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To: Invitations
Subject: SEC Recommendations
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I am writing to encourage the adoption of the recommendations of the Strategic Evaluation Committee. In this time of such a significant financial crisis, our Court system is at a crossroads. I believe that the recommendations will take us to a position fiscal responsibility and judicial control.

I arrive at this from a long-term philosophical perspective. I am in my 22nd year on the bench. I started on a Municipal Court with 11 judges & 3 commissioners. We routinely met every month and our CEO made it a habit of making sure we were informed of the financial status of our court. As each Judge assumed the position of the PJ, we had a meeting with the CEO and our chief financial analyst to fully explain revenues and expenses. While she (our CEO) would make recommendations for us to follow, she was sure that the Judges were alerted to the consequences of our decisions.

In 1998, when our Municipal Courts merged with our Superior Court, we obviously got a lot bigger. After awhile, it seemed that the decision of our Court were being made more by the administrative wing of our Court than our judges. The difference, as it seemed to me, was that we were advised of what the right decisions were, but without full and complete discussions. Furthermore, it appeared that asking for full and complete discussion was seen as a negative attitude. I believe that I can address this in that I was a member of our Court's executive committee for a number of years.

I would be willing to discuss this further with any member of the Judicial Council or the AOC, if desired.

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