

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: Julie A. Emede **Title:** Judge

Organization: Superior Court of California, County of Santa Clara

Commenting on behalf of an organization

General Comment: I am the Assistant Supervising Judge of our three court Criminal Family Violence Division. The resources provided by the Center for Families, Children and the Courts have been critical to our ability to provide defendants and victims with outcomes consistent with state-wide law and policy, and also best serve our entire community and the families affected by family violence. The Benchbook on Domestic Violence Cases in Criminal Court is an invaluable staple for our family violence judges, as well as most other criminal department judges who handle domestic violence cases not handled in our three courtrooms. The training provided through the CFCC, including the Domestic Violence Judicial Institute (where feedback from participants repeatedly stated it was one of the best trainings they ever attended) and Ethics and Self-Represented Litigants in Domestic Violence Cases, has enhanced judicial understanding of family violence cases and appropriate resolutions. As a side note, the Domestic Violence Judicial Institute was entirely grant funded as I understand it, highlighting the importance of that grant funding and benefit to our courts of the grant writing efforts of the CFCC.

I do not claim to know enough about the organization of the AOC or the CFCC to be able to comment specifically on all of the recommendations. I can say only that I feel the

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

All comments will become part of the public record.

CFCC services I personally have had the opportunity to access make me a better judge in a difficult area of the law. I urge the Judicial Council to do as the report recommends - to carefully review and consider each recommendation, as opposed to simply adopt all recommendations as proposed by others. I also urge that the review and consideration include seeking input from courts using CFCC Resources to be sure there is an up-to-date assessment of the need for and use of all of those resources.

Thank you for your consideration.

Specific Comment - Recommendation/Chapter Number:

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