

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: Gail Ruderman Feuer **Title:** Judge

Organization: Los Angeles Superior Court

Commenting on behalf of an organization

General Comment: I write to urge the Judicial Council to endorse the SEC Report and to implement its recommendations expeditiously. The SEC was a well-balanced committee of hard working and thoughtful judges from around the state who performed an in-depth and excellent analysis of AOC operations before reaching its wide-ranging recommendations. The AOC cannot continue to operate without the confidence of trial court judges throughout the state, and must be restructured and fundamentally changed so that it can perform its function as a “service provider” to the courts, not as an overstuffed and budgeted drain on judicial resources. It is therefore critical for the operation of the trial courts statewide that these recommendations be implemented.

In particular, the Chapter 4 recommendations must be implemented immediately so that (1) the Judicial Council takes an active role in overseeing and monitoring the AOC to insure “transparency, accountability and efficiency”; (2) the AOC define its primary role as the “service provider to the Judicial Council and the courts”; (3) the AOC provide the Judicial Council with a business case analysis for its operations and practices; and (4) the Judicial Council conduct periodic reviews of the performance of the Administrative Director, taking into account input from judges and courts around the state, among others.

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

All comments will become part of the public record.

In addition, all the SEC recommendations should be implemented as quickly as possible to put the AOC back on track in its service to the Court and to restore the confidence in the AOC that is necessary for it to be effective. Finally, I support the recommendation of Presiding Judge Lee Smalley Edmon that the Judicial Council assign to the judicial members of the SEC the task of regular and public reports to the Council regarding implementation and monitoring of the SEC recommendations.

Specific Comment - Recommendation/Chapter Number _____:

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