

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: John J. Garaventa **Title:** Superior Court Judge

Organization: Tehama County Superior Court

Commenting on behalf of an organization

General Comment: I have been a judge in a rural county for the last 14 years. Before becoming a judicial officer I was a private practitioner in the Bay Area for 15 years and a Deputy County Counsel for 5 years.

I would like to first express my gratitude to all members of the SEC for their hard work and dedication to our judiciary. After 55 weeks of information retrieval, discussion and analysis, our colleagues produced an exhaustive report. They answered the charge from our Chief Justice to conduct an in-depth review of the AOC with a view toward promoting transparency, accountability and efficiency.

The SEC rendered a report and recommendations which should be the foundation for future Judicial Council action. The SEC recommendations should be adopted without further delay, limitations or the need for clarification. Undoubtedly, difficult and unpopular decisions need to be made. We must be mindful that our survival as a fully functioning co-equal branch of government is at stake.

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

All comments will become part of the public record.

This is not the time for personal criticism and vengeful attacks. We need to move forward, unified in our purpose to save, yes save, our institution. All of us believe in justice. The time is now to put aside our differences and stand together on common ground. The days ahead will be fraught with challenges. It is imperative that we must first put our house in order. We can begin that process by fully implementing the SEC recommendations.

Specific Comment - Recommendation/Chapter Number:

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