

From: Goldstein, Daniel B.
To: Invitations
Subject: Public Comment re: Item SP12-05
Date: Wednesday, July 18, 2012 8:28:14 AM

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: Dan Goldstein **Title:** Judge

Organization: San Diego Superior Court

Please implement the SEC recommendations. The work the SEC accomplished reinforces so much of what judges and staff throughout the state have been articulating for many years; that the AOC is mismanaged, dysfunctional and deceitful.

Exorbitant pensions, faux furloughs, disinformation regarding staffing levels, poor management, the failed \$700 million CCMS experiment, and even lobbying to deprive judges of their ability to select their own presiding judges are just a few examples that the AOC's priorities are to acquire power for the sake of power and to control the trial courts rather than serve the citizens of the state and its trial courts.

Unfortunately, the SEC report falls short in assessing how AOC was allowed to morph into

this bureaucratic juggernaut. That responsibility falls squarely on the shoulders of the Judicial Council. Unanimous vote after unanimous vote created an atmosphere that any independence or disagreement with Council leadership would not be tolerated. The Council is constitutionally charged with managing the AOC. It has failed to do so with any modicum of success.

The legislature, governor and staff are all watching the Council. Failing to immediately implement these simple recommendations will have serious ramifications on this branch, rendering it little more than a glorified and dysfunctional Department of Motor Vehicles.