

**From:** Commr Robert Harrison  
**To:** Invitations  
**Subject:** SEC Report, Item No. SP 12-05  
**Date:** Thursday, July 19, 2012 2:27:28 PM

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I am a commissioner assigned to the Small Claims Division of the Stanley Mosk Courthouse in Los Angeles County. On behalf of myself and the public that we serve, I urge the Council to implement the recommendations contained in the SEC Report with all due speed, recognizing that our operations have already been compromised and our ability to provide access to justice will only be further impaired by delay.

I speak for myself and based upon personal experience. The courtroom I sit in previously was open for small claims five days a week, and handled over 12,000 cases annually. This number amounts to approximately one-fifth of the small claims cases in this County. As of July 1st, however, the small claims calendar has been cut back to three days a week because of layoffs and the need to close courtrooms, forcing worrisome delays in trial setting (beyond the statutorily required 70 days from filing) and unnecessary continuances because of time shortages.

This delay in the small claims system violates our core mission to provide access to justice, and will only get worse as the looming budget cuts portend the loss of more experienced staff and courtrooms, and possibly some courthouses. The Council must act quickly.

I have no comments to make to specific recommendations as all should be adopted. Thank you for your consideration.

Robert Harrison  
Commissioner  
Los Angeles Superior Court