

## 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](http://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](mailto:invitations@jud.ca.gov)

Please include the following information:

**Name:** Patrick Marlette    **Title:** Judge

**Organization:** Superior Court, Sacramento

**Commenting on behalf of an organization**

*General Comment:*

I expect that Judges better informed than I will comment on specific recommendations of the SEC.

I have a general plea for the Judicial Council: Take this opportunity to own the reformation of the relationship between the courts and the AOC. It's going to happen.

A model for a proper and productive relationship can be found in how a judge, the elected official accountable to the community for both good and poor results, relates to his or her clerk, the assistant with special knowledge and skills in facilitating the judge's rulings, procedures, scheduling, etc. -- an administrator in the true sense of the word.

A model for a different relationship may be found in the executive branch, where an appointed official directs the operation of a department, which 'implements [his or her] vision'. Attempting to adopt this model for our branch 'governance' has proven to be ill-fitting and destructive.

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

*All comments will become part of the public record.*

This is the courts' branch, not the AOC's department. Whatever benefit was gained in consolidation is squandered until the AOC is made responsive to the courts, rather than remaining as it is: secretive, duplicitous, and imperious. The reformation will be engineered either by the Judicial Council or by the Legislature, but it will certainly happen.

Be the Judicial Council that recognizes, appreciates and captures the efficiencies of consolidation, but throws off the bloated bureaucracy that now feeds itself at the expense of its constituency. Make this happen and be the hero, rather than letting it happen without you.

*Specific Comment - Recommendation/Chapter Number \_\_\_\_\_:*

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