

**From:** Judge Robert Martinez  
**To:** Invitations  
**Cc:** Judge Thomas C. Falls  
**Subject:** Strategic Evaluations Committee Recommendations  
**Date:** Friday, July 20, 2012 2:22:07 PM

---

A few weeks ago I completed my review of the Strategic Evaluations Committee Report. The committee members should be commended for their thorough and objective assessment of the current state of courts as well as for their insightful recommendations. In my 28 years as a judicial officer, I have never seen the state of our judiciary in such total disarray as we see it today.

Many of the ills the judiciary is experiencing today were concerns expressed by some local trial court judges and administrators at meetings of the Judicial Council years ago. Those concerns were routinely ignored and in some instances those well-intend interested parties were publicly ridiculed by Council members as well as administrators within the Administrative Office of the Courts.

When Chief Justice Cantil-Sakauye appointed the SEC Committee, I was under the impression that the Chief and the Judicial Council wanted an objective assessment of (1) causes and fallout of the CCMS debacle; (2) the adequacy of the Judicial Council's oversight and monitoring of the AOC; (3) the causes of tension between the judiciary and the other two branches of government, (4) the misdirection of fiscal resources which has resulted courtroom closures and the layoff of trial court employee and (5) the causes for an apparent compromise of confidence in leadership within the judicial branch.

The SEC Report has acknowledged the need for dramatic change in the structure and operation policies of the Judicial Council and the AOC. The Report has confirmed that Judicial Council's unacceptable delegations of responsibilities and authority to the AOC has lead to the establishment of self-created bureaucracy that has attempted to assert an authority over local courts that it does not possess. I strongly urge the Judicial Council that it adopt and implement all of the recommendations of the SEC Report immediately. Any further deferral of that action will only compound and perpetuate the perception that the judiciary as a branch of government is incapable of managing itself.