

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: James McFetridge **Title:** Judge

Organization: Sacramento Superior Court

Commenting on behalf of an organization

General Comment: The Strategic Evaluation Committee's recommendations need to be adopted without further delay. The SEC's report and recommendations are thoughtful, comprehensive, and based upon hard facts that will not change with further investigations, delays and more public comments. Waiting for a new administrative director before taking action will risk continued subjugation of the Judicial Council by the Administrative Office of the Courts. The urgency and necessity for adopting the SEC's recommendations are evident, especially in light of ongoing actions by the AOC and Judicial Council Staff. For example, AOC and Judicial Council staff opposed recently passed legislation necessary for judicial reform without the approval (and in contradiction) of the Chief Justice and members of the Judicial Council. The SEC report observed that AOC staff are not properly supervised by the Council and made recommendations to control a bureaucracy that sees itself at the top of the organizational chart (see Recommendation Nos. 4-1 through 4-4, page 44). Another example: AOC staff, apparently without a decision by the Judicial Council, unilaterally suspended its daily electronic news service due to staff cutbacks. Even though the decision is described as "temporary", the AOC did not identify alternatives and the Judicial Council had no opportunity to evaluate other options and make the decision on its own.

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

All comments will become part of the public record.

Specific Comment - Recommendation/Chapter Number _____:

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