

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: Alan S. Rosenfield **Title:** Judge

Organization: Los Angeles Superior Court

Commenting on behalf of an organization

General Comment: I support the position that the Judicial Council should immediately proceed to adopt the SEC recommendations. When one looks at the tone of the discussion on branch leadership it is easy to sense longstanding contention, frustration, combativeness and even (regrettable) vitriol. What is missed is an incredible opportunity to reshape the vision and mission of the branch through new leadership and best practices in an environment of reduced resources. So, from this writer's point of view, it's back to basics: In 1997, trial court realignment started. In 2000, it finished with unification of all trial courts into the county superior courts. A huge positive selling point was to establish statewide uniform standards and practices, modernization models, technology support, and a stable, reliable funding source at the state level. What has resulted (beyond the negative tone of the discussion) is an AOC that is bloated and out of touch. The organization has made at least one horrific business decision in CCMS, and has developed a personality that must be euthanized. Trust has evaporated. So, like I said, back to basics: (1) The Chief Justice appointed the SEC, the recommendations are in, and they should be mostly quickly adopted; (2) the culture of the relationship between the

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AOC and the Judicial Council must be changed so that the Council is in charge, and the AOC REALLY works for them; (3) the AOC should also realize that they work FOR all the elected judges of this state (not in the personnel sense, but the mission sense); (4) relationships with the legislature, department of finance and all 58 county courts and boards of supervisors must be repaired and strengthened; (5) AOC should be downsized to basic core functions and then built up again when resources and BEST BUSINESS PRACTICES allow for and justify such moves; (5) there must be greater visibility and accountability; (6) the Chief Justice needs to continue and accelerate her strides to accomplish new and better leadership. Mistakes have been made, for sure, but sending us all to a disputatious purgatory of never ending finger pointing and recrimination is beyond stupid. It's crunch time; we have to take some horrendous budgetary hits now resulting in layoffs, denial of service and delay of justice. But, the third branch will survive. Missing this opportunity for redesign would be foolish beyond words. And, yes, my spelling above was intentional—we should never lose our individual or collective sense of humor. If we don't work now to save and further our core mission as a branch, sure-as-Hell we're sunk. It all starts with the SEC report, the Judicial Council and the Chief.

Specific Comment - Recommendation/Chapter Number _____:

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