

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: William C Ryan **Title:** Judge

Organization: Superior Court, Los Angeles County

Commenting on behalf of an organization

General Comment:

I urge the Judicial Council promptly to endorse the findings and the report of the SEC in its entirety; to implement all of its recommendations without further delay; and, most importantly, to take specific positive action to require that the judicial members of the Judicial Council to be democratically elected by judges. No one person, no matter how faininded he or she may seem, should be allowed to decide the composition of the Council. It's undemocratic and lacks accountability.

Specific Comment - Recommendation/Chapter Number _____:

I urge the Council to immediately endorse and adopt Recommendations 4-1,4-2, and 4-3 of the SEC report, which are as follows:

Recommendation No. 4-1 :

The Judicial Council must take an active role in overseeing and monitoring the AOC and demanding transparency, accountability, and efficiency in the AOC's operation

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

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and practices.

Recommendation No. 4-2: The primary role and orientation of the AOC must be as service provider to the Judicial Council and the courts.

Recommendation No. 4-3: In exercising its independent and ultimate governance authority over the operations and practices of the AOC, the Judicial Council must demand that the AOC provide it with a business case analysis, including a full range of options and impacts, before undertaking any branchwide project or initiative. In exercising its authority over committees, rules, grants, programs and projects, the Judicial Council must demand that the AOC provide it with a full range of options and impacts, including fiscal, operational, and other impacts on the courts.

The remaining recommendations of the SEC should be phased in as quickly as possible and no later than December 31, 2012. In that regard I join in the recommendation of our presiding judge, Hon. Lee Smalley Edmon, that all of the judicial members of the SEC should be assigned the responsibility of regular and public reports to the Council regarding the progress of implementation.

The criticisms and shortcomings of the AOC which are noted in the SEC report, and which have been allowed by the Chief Justice and the Council to exist for years, have resulted in the current atmosphere of mistrust and rancor not only within the Judiciary, but that has now spilled over to the Legislative and Executive Branches of state government, the media, and to the public in general. The Chief Justice and the members of the Judicial Council now have, through the SEC recommendations, the blueprint to restore public trust and confidence, and transparency, to the California judiciary. The need to do so without delay is urgent.

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