

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: Pamela Smith-Steward **Title:** Judge

Organization: Sacramento County Superior Court

Commenting on behalf of an organization

General Comment: I commend Chief Justice Cantil for her decision and vision in commissioning the SEC to perform an independent review. . . There are many hard working employees of the AOC that I have come in contact with over the years. I thank them for their service but at the same time it is abundantly clear that the AOC is unwieldy and than an extreme makeover is long overdue. I am grateful for the hard work and dedication that the committee put forth on this report. I was pleased and actually surprised at the care and quality of their analysis. It is rare to find this level of critique backed by reason and even more rare to find in-depth pragmatic recommendations for change. The recommendations should all be implemented as soon as possible.

The comment that the AOC should make its goal one of service rather than control resonates with me. Over the years during my time in public service I have observed this phenomena of control rather than service time and again. Our trial courts have been forced to do more with less. This has been to the detriment of our underlying core court mission and function.. I believe that the very sound, pragmatic recommendations for the AOC to downsize, restructiure, become transparent, employ best business practices, be receptive to feed back and last but not least relocate their headquarters to Sacramento can

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

All comments will become part of the public record.

ALL be done without harming the AOC's mission. Much of this can be accomplished simply through the AOC ceasing to perform discretionary tasks.

I began my comment by commending Chief Justice Cantil on her decision to commission this report. I sincerely hope that she will have the courage and conviction to enact the commission's prudent and well thought out recommendations.

Specific Comment - Recommendation/Chapter Number ___:

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