

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: Allen Sumner **Title:** Judge, Sacramento County Superior Court

Organization: _____

Commenting on behalf of an organization

General Comment:

Reading the numerous comments posted, it struck me the discussion itself is the message.

The Alliance of California Judges must be credited at the outset for stepping forward to point out the emperor had no clothes, when such criticism and dissent were considered the end of one's judicial career.

Our Chief Justice in turn has undertaken fundamental reforms. In just a year and a half, a search is underway for a Director and Chief Deputy Director of the AOC, the Judicial Council reconfigured, CCMS ended, and the Strategic Evaluation Committee appointed to make a top-to-bottom review of the AOC. More importantly, we have a new atmosphere of openness and respect within the judicial branch.

This remarkable posting of comments is a result. Well over 200 judges read the 200-page report and took the time to contribute their thoughts. Can anyone imagine so many judges posting such a public exchange of ideas, criticisms and recommendations two years ago?

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

All comments will become part of the public record.

The judicial branch faces the greatest fiscal challenge in its history, carrying a legacy of distrust and poor administration. But the interest, participation and contributions of hundreds of judges around the state demonstrated in this exercise bode well our courts. The response of the bench is itself the most important message of these postings.

Specific Comment - Recommendation/Chapter Number:

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