

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: Hon. Kathleen M. White **Title:** Judge, Yolo Superior Court

Organization: _____

Commenting on behalf of an organization

General Comment: The Chief was courageous to commission the SEC. It will require even greater courage to implement the SEC recommendations. I suggest that the recommendations be ranked in order of priority and feasibility, and I urge that they be implemented forthwith. I also respectfully suggest that in the ranking process, one of the most cumbersome recommendations be placed high on the priority list: moving the AOC to Sacramento. Not only will the move save money for salaries and rental costs, but also, and more important, it will foster relationships and cooperation with staff in other branches of government. The past isolation and imperious culture of the AOC was, in large part, due to its isolation from the courts it was supposed to serve, and from the other branches of government whose expertise and information should have been accessed by AOC staff and management for the benefit of all. Moving the AOC will go a long way to curing its greatest challenge - reforming its culture.

The SEC is a thorough, well-vetted and broadly supported analysis of the problems and recommended solutions. It does not contain all the solutions, but it is a solid, credible, well-supported start. If we fail to act, if we dither and discuss without moving forward, we will fail, and we will deserve the contempt for the judiciary that will inevitably follow inaction.

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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