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July 11, 2012

The Honorable Tani Cantil-Sakauye
Chief Justice, California Supreme Court and
Chair, Judicial Council of California
455 Golden Gate Avenue
San Francisco, CA 94102

Attn: Invitations to Comment - Administrative Office of the Courts

RE: **Item SP 12-05**
Strategic Evaluation Committee Report
Comments from the Contra Costa County Bar Association

Dear Chief Justice Cantil-Sakauye and Members of the Judicial Council:

The Contra Costa County Bar Association is submitting these comments in response to the Strategic Evaluation Committee (SEC) Report on the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) presented to the Judicial Council of California on June 21, 2012.

Among the many goals of our association, one is to support a more diverse profession which also includes a more diverse judiciary. Another goal is to ensure access and fairness and impartial treatment for all court users, in particular those from diverse backgrounds and communities. It is this belief in access and fairness and the commitment to a diverse profession that is the reason for this letter.

As the Judicial Council reviews the SEC Report and determines what needs to be restructured at the AOC, we urge the Council to be mindful of the positive work that has been ongoing in the area of diversity in the legal profession and in the judiciary in the past few years by the State Bar and by organizations such as ours.

As you make your difficult decisions with respect to which programs will need to be reduced or eliminated as proposed in the SEC report, we encourage you to keep in mind the importance of diversity in our court system.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment in response to the SEC report. We have full confidence that the Judicial Council will continue to live and act the mantra that is on the Judicial Branch home page: "Welcome to the California Judicial Branch -- Committed to providing fair and equal access to justice for all Californians"

Sincerely,

Audrey Gee, President

cc: Justice Douglas Miller, Chair, Judicial Council Executive & Planning Committee
Jody Patel, Interim Administrative Director, Administrative Office of the Court