

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 F. Highberger **Title:** Superior Court Judge

Organization: Los Angeles Superior Court

Commenting on behalf of an organization

General Comment:

Dear Doug,

Speaking personally, I hope you can persuade Chief Justice Cantil-Sakauye and those higher up at the AOC and JC to admit the SEC Report points out real problems (current problems, not ancient history) which must be addressed for the branch to restore mutual trust, cooperation, and internal harmony. Failing this, the internal fight between the judges on the trial courts and "headquarters" -- on full display for the legislature and executive branch to see -- will doubtless continue. Some degree of mea culpa by AOC and JC leadership will be needed to restore credibility.

Respectfully and with deep personal regard for your willingness to take a fresh look at these awkward inheritances,

Bill

Specific Comment - Recommendation/Chapter Number _____:

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

All comments will become part of the public record.