

From: Judge Brian Hoffstadt
To: Invitations
Cc: Judge Brian Hoffstadt; Judge Thomas C. Falls
Subject: Comments to Strategic Evaluations Report
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At the time of my appointment to the Los Angeles Superior Court in 2010, it came to my attention that many perceived a division within our State's judicial branch between those who favored centralization of the branch's control (including the growth and influence of the Administrative Office of the Courts ("AOC")) and those who favored decentralization among the trial courts. Being new to the bench (and hence relatively uninformed as to the merits of the respective positions), I avoided taking "sides" in this debate.

Our new Chief Justice took office several months later. In order to implement her goal of unifying the judicial branch, she took steps to obtain an accurate picture of the branch, its operations, and the virtues and vices of the current system of administering the courts of this State. Toward this end, she formed the Strategic Evaluation Committee as an objective and neutral body to investigate and report back on what could be done to enhance the transparency, accountability and efficiency of the branch--and thereby to unify the branch once more.

The Committee produced a thoughtful and thorough report urging several reforms.

Given this background, urging that the Judicial Council endorse and implement the Committee's recommendations and reforms is not "taking a side"--it is a step forward in bringing a closure to the divisions within our branch and in reforming the branch into one that embodies our Chief Justice's goals of unity, transparency, accountability and efficiency.

For these reasons, I join with others in asking the Judicial Council to adopt and implement the Committee's recommendations.

Brian M. Hoffstadt
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