

From: Judge Linda K. Lefkowitz
To: Invitations
Subject: SEC Report
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I am a judge of the Los Angeles Superior Court and have been a judge for almost twenty years, serving briefly on the Municipal Court, as a supervising judge for a district in excess of some 20 courtrooms, both civil and criminal, and a member of our court's Executive Committee as Chair of the Budget Committee. I have reviewed the excellent work of the SEC, noting its depth and recommendations. In my view the budget cuts to the operating courts statewide are perilous and at this point endanger the due process our litigants and counsel have the right to expect in our legal system. The sheer crush of cases, the loss of appropriate assisting personnel portends an "assembly line" approach to perhaps the most precious distinction between this nation and others, the right to expect careful and considered legal opportunities for all. I sincerely believe I do not exaggerate at this point.

Accordingly, it is my view that the AOC must turn its entire attention to the survival of our constitutional system of justice and do so immediately in a concerted approach statewide that focuses less on hardware and theory than on meeting the financial peril and its dire and now very real consequences. As others, I specifically and respectfully request that Recommendations 4-1, 4-2 and 4-3 be adopted immediately and phased in with due dispatch.