



July 13, 2012

Attn: Invitations to Comment
Administrative Office of the Courts
455 Golden Gate Ave.
San Francisco, CA 94102

**Public Comment re: Item SP12-05, the Strategic Evaluation
Committee Report to the Judicial Council**

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing on behalf of Legal Aid of Marin to provide public comment to the Judicial Council as it considers the recommendations of the Strategic Evaluation Committee. Legal Aid of Marin respectfully requests that the Judicial Council and its Executive Committee hold at the forefront of its analysis the impact on the public and especially California’s most vulnerable populations of each of the SEC report’s recommendations. Legal Aid of Marin is also a contractor of the AOC and we are concerned about our ability to provide necessary services to Marin residents.

We commend the Judicial Council for adopting this public comment process, allowing additional time to supplement the information in the SEC report. This will allow additional voices to be heard and will aid in a careful analysis of the report.

Legal Aid of Marin’s mission is aligned with the AOC and so many other legal service providers. “Legal Aid of Marin’s mission is to provide access to the civil justice system through quality legal services, encompassing practical solutions, to low-income, vulnerable and otherwise underserved residents of Marin County.”

Please keep the following at the forefront of the analysis of the recommendations.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

ANDREW GIACOMINI
President
JENNIFER ELLIS
Secretary
DAVID CASASSA
Treasurer

CYNTHIA ABESA
DEBRA F BOGAARDS
DAVID A GABIANELLI
JONATHAN GERTLER
HOMER HALL
PAUL KILLION
SARAH LEGER
PHILIP M. LEVIN
CHRIS LOCKE
LISA STOCKHOLM
DAVID SUTTON
ANGELA WARREN
WARREN WEBSTER

STAFF

PAUL S. COHEN
Executive Director
JAN BALDWIN
Finance/Admin
NANCY MURPHY
Pro Bono Manager
KAREN CARRERA
Senior Staff Attorney
MARIKO NAKANISHI
Staff Attorney
ARACELI ONTIVEROS-VENEGAS
Staff Attorney
MAURA PRENDIVILLE
Staff Attorney
JOANNA SHALLECK-KLEIN
Equal Justice Works Fellow
NEAL SIMON
Social Work Supervisor
SANDRA ESQUIVIAS
Legal Assistant
HORACE DE LA VEGA
Legal Assistant
LESLIE JOHNSON
Parent Partner
KENIA MEJIA
Reception

tel 415.492.0230
fax 415.492.0947
30 N San Pedro Rd, Ste 220
San Rafael CA 94903
www.LegalAidMarin.org

- 1. The Judicial Council, and therefore also the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC), must maintain as a central part of its mission preserving access to the courts for all Californians.**
- 2. The SEC Report Recommendations must be viewed within the larger context of the work that the AOC does to promote public trust and confidence in the state courts.**
- 3. A simple cost-benefit analysis is not the only appropriate measurement of the value of the AOC's work and programs.**
- 4. The Judicial Council should recognize the value of the function of the AOC through its diverse programs.**

Legal Aid of Marin respectfully requests that the Judicial Council and its Executive Committee recognize the potential impact on the public and vulnerable Californians as the implementation of each recommendation is analyzed. We also recommend that additional public comment periods be used as specific, individual recommendations are considered for additional implementation. It is our understanding that legal services nonprofits, including contractors, and their attorneys may not have been consulted during the development of the SEC report. Therefore, we would welcome the opportunity to provide more detailed comment on the recommendations as they are considered by further implementation.

Very truly yours,



Paul S. Cohen
Executive Director
Legal Aid of Marin
30 N. San Pedro Road, Suite 220
San Rafael, CA 94903
(415) 492-0230 ext. 310
(415) 492-0947 [fax]
www.legalaidmarin.org