

From: Carla M. Singer
To: Invitations
Subject: Personal comments
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Attachments: [Horan Public Comment \(2\).pdf](#)

I am Judge Carla M. Singer, Orange County Superior Court. I have been on the bench 21 years.

I have read Judge Horan's comment. Because I could not say it better, I wish to incorporate his entire commentary by reference, and adopt his words as my own.

In addition, I offer this personal perspective. A colleague of mine, who served with distinction on the Trial Court Budget Committee (TCBC), told me many years ago, the then forthcoming elimination of the TCBC, would result in disaster. His remarks were prophetic and true. Whether increasing problems ensued from that change, or from combined actions to enhance the control by the AOC, to the detriment of the courts, the ultimate results have been catastrophic. Finally, we have a valid assessment from the SEC, and still have not seen implementation of the recommendations.

From the time I was appointed, I believed the Judicial Council is a closed shop. Appointments are made at the pleasure of the Chief Justice, and individual judges, who wish to serve on committees, but are "unconnected" to trusted advisors, have little chance of actually being appointed to a committee. I applied many times to serve on committees, and I aspired, year after year, to become a CJER instructor. Until I asked for support from people who were "in," I was rejected out of hand. No one looked at my qualifications, or enthusiasm to participate. When I was finally allowed to teach others (after approximately 15 years on the court), my observations, from inside, were disturbing. Administration was increasingly top heavy, and decisions about curriculum were made without input from judges. I saw valuable judicial education sacrificed for the needs of the AOC. These are sad days for everyone, but this trip to nowhere, in my view, could have been avoided. Now that we are here, I hope the Council seriously entertains the need for a fresh start, and immediately implements the recommendations by the SEC. My optimism is gone, but maybe judges appointed in the future will have the opportunity to influence the Council, and do what is best for the courts.