

From: Judge Salvatore Sirna
To: Invitations
Subject: SEC Report Comment
Date: Friday, July 20, 2012 11:32:13 AM

Dear Chief Justice Cantil-Sakauye, Justice Miller and Members of the Judicial Council:

I am a judge of the Los Angeles Superior Court currently assigned to a general civil trial court, and write in response to Justice Miller's invitation to comment on the Strategic Evaluation Committee's report (the "SEC Report") dated May 24, 2012 regarding the Administrative Office of the Courts (the "AOC"). I appreciate the opportunity to provide my comments on the important observations and recommendations contained in the SEC Report.

The observations and recommendations made by the SEC after a 55 week exhaustive review of the AOC provide an opportunity for the judicial branch to restore public confidence by reaffirming the tenets of oversight, transparency, accountability and efficiency. I thank the Chief Justice for her courage in establishing the committee, and now urge the Judicial Council's prompt implementation of the SEC recommendations. The failure to act decisively by promptly implementing the SEC's recommendations will only work to denigrate the important work done by the judicial branch.

The SEC Report provides the Judicial Council the mandate required to effect true reform of the AOC. I respectfully request the Judicial Council implement, without further delay, the following SEC recommendations:

1. Recommendation 4-1: the Judicial Council's active role in overseeing and monitoring AOC operations;
2. Recommendation 4-2: the AOC's primary role must be as service provider; and
3. Recommendation 4-3: the AOC's implementation of a "business case analysis" before undertaking any branch-wide project or initiative.

The SEC's remaining recommendations should likewise be implemented, with proper Judicial Council oversight, in a timely and diligent manner.

Prompt, decisive action by the Judicial Council at this critical and important juncture will ensure a judicial branch that is stronger and refocused on serving the citizens of the great state of California. Thank you again for the opportunity to comment and for your consideration of my comments.

Very truly yours,

Salvatore T. Sirna
Judge of the Superior Court

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