

Item SP12-05 Response Form

Title: Strategic Evaluation Committee Report

The Strategic Evaluation Committee (SEC) was appointed by Chief Justice Tani G. Cantil-Sakauye in March 2011 to conduct an in-depth review of the AOC with a view toward promoting transparency, accountability, and efficiency. The Chief Justice received the report and recommendations on May 25. At its meeting on June 21, 2012, the Judicial Council accepted the report and directed that it be posted for public comment for 30 days. Comments received will be considered public and posted by name and organization.

PLEASE NOTE that all comments will be posted to the branch web site at www.courts.ca.gov as submitted by the commentator as soon as reasonably possible after receipt.

To Submit Comments

Comments may be entered on this form or prepared in a letter format. If you are *not* submitting your comments directly on this form, please include the information requested below and the proposal number for identification purposes. Because all comments will be posted as submitted to the branch web site, please submit your comments by email, preferably as an attachment, to: invitations@jud.ca.gov

Please include the following information:

Name: Charles A. Wieland **Title:** Judge

Organization: Madera County Superior Court

Commenting on behalf of an organization

General Comment: I have read and studied the report. Some of the recommendations mean little to me (division name changes, renaming employee titles, transferring functions from a present division to another...). Other broad recommendations come with general caveats that, I trust, will be worked out at the appropriate time (half-day assignments for retired judges is problematic for rural and smaller courts, such as mine). I did initially disagree with a handful of the recommendations. With further study, I no longer do so. (As an example: Why do we need a retired commissioners program in addition to a retired judges program (7-17) when the goal is to phase out commissioners in favor of judges, notwithstanding the invaluable services provided by commissioners? I think the answer to my own question is that we should take advantage of the education, knowledge and experience of retired commissioners while we can with perhaps a sunset provision as of the last commissioner-to-judge transfer.) Therefore, having reviewed my own concerns, I am in favor of each of the SEC recommendations being adopted. Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Specific Comment - Recommendation/Chapter Number):

DEADLINE FOR COMMENT: 5:00 p.m., Sunday, July 22, 2012

All comments will become part of the public record.