

From: Judge Donna F. Goldstein
To: Invitations
Subject: Response to invitation to Comment on SEC Report
Date: Thursday, July 19, 2012 1:55:47 PM

This is in response to the invitation to commend of Justice Miller, Chair of the Executive and Planning Committee of the Judicial Council, on the Strategic Evaluation Committee's ("SEC") recent report regarding reorganization of the Administrative Office of the Courts. I am a Superior Court Judge for the County of Los Angeles. I join my many colleagues throughout the state in endorsing the recommendations of the SEC and urge in the strongest way possible the Judicial Council to endorse and implement the full recommendations contained in the Report. This has been a trying year for the Court. Morale is at its lowest since I became a judge nine years ago. We are working harder with fewer resources and we are doing it well. But the errors and recklessness of the AOC as well as its excesses, have greatly exacerbated these problems. It is an organization that is without discipline, over bloated has failed to meet the needs of a vast number of our courts. In short, there is little respect and no confidence in the AOC by those it is supposed to serve. The Judicial Council has failed to exercise appropriate oversight leading to the tail wagging the dog for far too long .

The Judicial Council must take the reins and implement the strong recommendations of its hand picked committee if it is to regain the trust of the members of the judiciary.