PUBLIC COMMENT OF GARY T. FRIEDMAN IN SUPPORT OF FULL IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE CHIEF JUSTICE'S STRATEGIC EVALUATION COMMITTEE (Item SP12-05)

I have had the pleasure and honor of serving on the Kern County Superior Court bench for over twenty-eight years and having reviewed the SEC Report, I fully urge the immediate implementation of all of its recommendations. Said report, in my humble opinion, amounts to the only "Independent Voice of the Judiciary" that has been spoken in many years.

Further, I respectfully submit that the SEC Report justifies an immediate need for each and every Superior Court in this State, and its judges, as elected and independent constitutional officers, to be proportionately represented on the Judicial Council, and for the AOC to be scaled down, reduced, and relegated to its appropriate and intended role as solely a service provider to the judges and the electorate of our state.

GARY T. FRIEDMAN
Judge of the Superior Court of California
County of Kern