



July 16, 2012

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Attn: Invitations to Comment
Administrative Office of the Courts
455 Golden Gate Ave.
San Francisco, CA 94102
invitations@jud.ca.gov

Re: Public Comment re: Item SP12-05, the Strategic Evaluation Committee Report to the Judicial Council

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing on behalf of OneJustice to provide public comment to the Judicial Council as it considers the recommendations of the Strategic Evaluation Committee. OneJustice respectfully requests that the Judicial Council and its Executive Committee hold at the forefront of its analysis the impact on the public and especially California's most vulnerable populations of each of the SEC report's recommendations.

We commend the Judicial Council for adopting this public comment process, allowing additional time to supplement the information in the SEC report. This will allow additional voices to be heard and will aid in a careful analysis of the report.

OneJustice's mission is to resolve legal problems by removing barriers to justice. OneJustice is the critical link between life-saving affordable legal services and people in need. Our state's most vulnerable poor, persons with disabilities, senior citizens, limited English-speakers, women, single-parent families and at-risk children face significant barriers to justice. Without proper representation and advocacy they endure innumerable assaults and affronts to dignity. This advocacy requires accessible and fully-functioning court systems, so we took great interest in the Strategic Evaluation Committee's report on the Administrative Office of the Courts.

Please keep the following at the forefront in the analysis of the recommendations.

- 1. The Judicial Council, and therefore also the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC), must maintain as a central part of its mission preserving access to the courts for all Californians.**
- 2. The SEC Report Recommendations must be viewed within the larger context of the work that the AOC does to promote public trust and confidence in the state courts.**



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3. A simple cost-benefit analysis is not the only appropriate measurement of the value of the AOC's work and programs.

4. The Judicial Council should recognize the value of the function of the AOC through its diverse programs.

OneJustice respectfully requests that the Judicial Council and its Executive Committee recognize the potential impact on the public and vulnerable Californians as the implementation of each recommendation is analyzed. OneJustice also recommends that additional public comment periods be used as specific, individual recommendations are considered for additional implementation. It is our understanding that legal services nonprofits and their attorneys may not have been consulted during the development of the SEC report. Therefore, we would welcome the opportunity to provide more detailed comment on the recommendations as they are considered by further implementation.

Best,

Linda S. Kim
Deputy Director
OneJustice