

Judicial Committee on Information Technology
May 13, 2022 – Office of Court Administration/Zoom

Meeting Minutes

I. Call to Order

Justice Simmons called the meeting to order at 10:02AM.

Voting Members Present

Rebecca Simmons
Bob Wessels
David Escamilla
Honorable Roy Ferguson (virtual)
Honorable Dan Hinde (virtual)
Honorable Laura Hinojosa (virtual)
Todd Smith (virtual)
Dennis Van Metre
Honorable John Warren (virtual)
Ed Wells (virtual)

Non-Voting Members Present

Annie Elliott (virtual)
Doug Gowin (virtual)
Jessica Griffith (virtual)
Tracy Hopper
Honorable Velva Price (virtual)
Honorable Russ Ridgway (virtual)
Sian Schilhab (virtual)
Honorable David Stith (virtual)
Honorable Ralph Swearingin
Mark Unger (virtual)

OCA Staff

Casey Kennedy, Director, Information Services

Others Present

Terry Derrick, Tyler Technologies
Jamie Gillespie, Tyler Technologies
Chirs Ricci, Tyler Technologies
Brad Weems, Williamson County

II. Meeting Minutes from the Previous Meeting

Motion to adopt the meeting minutes from the previous JCIT meeting in March 2022 by **Bob Wessels**. Seconded by **Ed Wells**. **Motion carried with no objections.**

III. Program Updates

A. eFileTexas/re:SearchTX/Guide and File

Terry Derrick with Tyler Technologies presented an updated on the eFile program. He reported that user accounts continue to increase and that filing volume increases are coming from JP courts. Mr. Derrick reported an increased use in the redaction solution as well.

He reported that with SB41 implementation, the number of credit card transactions per envelope increased from two to six. He reports that in the short term, Tyler has implemented the \$1 minimum convenience fee. He also reported on the options for the long term to reduce the fee back to the usual amount.

Justice Simmons asked what can be done to notify the filers of these changes. Mr. Derrick relayed that the information has been posted to the efile Texas website as well as making sure that the clerks know about the process as well. A question was asked about the refund process. Mr. Kennedy relayed the information regarding how refunds are handled.

Mr. Derrick then reported on the progress with eFile 2.0 and that all phases are progressing on schedule. He reported the success with the deployment of the new eFile analytics tool available to all clerks. He reported on the transition of the pieces of the environment from the Tyler datacenter into Amazon Web Services.

Judge Furgeson raised an issue where lawyers are using eService in lieu of personal service. Terry Derrick indicated the availability of additional help features that could warn attorneys. Judge Furgeson, Justice Simmons and Bob Wessels agreed to work on language to add to the system to alert attorneys.

B. Uniform Case Management System (UCMS)

Casey Kennedy gave the update on the UCMS. He reported that within a month, the "Texas standard" configuration will be completed. Each vendor is working with their early adopter county. Each vendor also has a list of additional counties to join. By the end of Q1 2023, OCA expects to have 30-40 county offices on UCMS.

IV. Subcommittee Updates

A. Orders in re:SearchTX Subcommittee

Todd Smith gave an update on the Orders subcommittee. He reported that the group recommends that the document title and filing type to the automated certificate of service and that it would solve the issue with people confusing proposed orders and final orders. Casey Kennedy reported that he would work with Tyler Technologies to include this in an upcoming eFile 2.0 release.

Mr. Smith also spoke about needing rule changes to support orders in re:SearchTX. He commented that the subcommittee will be working with the Supreme Court rules attorney to continue to move forward.

V. Old Business

A. Flow of Sealed Documents in eFile

Casey Kennedy reported how the federal eFile system handles sealed documents in the system. In general, attorneys file a request to electronically file sealed documents and once granted by the judge, the filer can file a sealed document.

The group discussed the various ways clerks handle sealed documents today. Some scan and use security levels, others keep sealed files on paper and don't scan. The group also discussed Juvenile cases and the process with those as well.

Tyler Technologies committed to giving a demonstration to the group on the existing functionality of the eFiling System to process sealed documents.

B. Free Access to re:SearchTX for certain groups

David Escamilla gave an update to the group on coming up with recommendations on giving certain groups free access to re:SearchTX documents. After some discussion, Justice Simmons asked Mr. Escamilla to reconvene the group and make a recommendation to the full committee.

VI. New Business

A. Issues in the Field with eFile

The group discussed several issues heard from attorneys on various issues with the eFiling process in various counties around the state. The committee reiterated its commitment to assisting the district and county clerks where needed in order to ensure a consistent process for the eFile system statewide.

VII. Adjourn

Justice Simmons adjourned the meeting at 12:18P.M.