

# JUDICIAL COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

## MEETING MINUTES

10:00AM – 12:00PM – August 14, 2015

Texas Association of Counties

### I. Call to Order

**Justice Simmons called the meeting to order at 9:58a.m.**

#### JCIT Members:

Chair, Justice Rebecca Simmons

Vice-Chair, Bob Wessels

Honorable David Escamilla

Honorable Woody Gossom Jr. (phone)

Honorable Brian Quinn (phone)

Dean Stanzione (phone)

Dennis Van Metre

Ed Wells

#### JCIT Liaison Members:

Miles Brissette

Honorable Judy Crawford (phone)

Doug Gowin (phone)

Honorable Blake Hawthorne

Honorable Dan Hinde

Tracy Hopper

Gary Hutton (phone)

Honorable Sasha Kelton (phone)

Honorable Steve King (phone)

Cynthia Orr

Honorable Nancy Rister

Sian Schilhab

Michelle Spencer

Honorable John Warren (phone)

Honorable Sheri Woodfin

Peter Vogel (phone)

Honorable Kevin Yeary, Court of Criminal Appeals

#### Others in attendance:

Travis Banks, Bexar County (phone)

Philip Baughman, Tyler Technologies (phone)

Tammy Carter, File and Serve Express

Honorable Tina Yoo Clinton, Dallas County (phone)

Terry Derrick, Tyler Technologies

Nicole Gelinas, Ez Messenger  
Elaine Hosage, Travis County  
Freddie Jenkins, Office of Attorney General  
Brian McGrath, Tyler Technologies (phone)  
Ted Nicholson, Travis County  
Honorable Velva Price, District Clerk, Travis County  
Joel Rogers, Office of Attorney General  
Tom Schoolcraft, File Time

Office of Court Administration Staff:

Casey Kennedy, Director, Information Services  
Susan Chamberlain, Deputy Director, Information Services

**II. Approval of Meeting Minutes – April 17, 2015**

Motion to approve the minutes was made by David Escamilla with a second by Ed Wells.

*Motion carried.*

**III. Committee/Workgroup Reports**

**A. eFileTexas program update**

Terry Derrick provided an update on the eFileTexas program status. Mr. Derrick reported that all counties are on track to be live on the eFiling system by the end of September and that this is more than nine months ahead of schedule. He also reported that the system has seen about an 8% increase in filing volume from the previous quarter and that Tyler was adding computing resources to ensure that the processing speed would not decrease.

Mr. Derrick spoke about the release of the new eFileTexas.gov state provided portal using HTML5 responsive design instead of the older Silverlight technology. Tyler will work with OCA to transition existing filers to the new portal. Mr. Derrick reported that the clerk portion is still Silverlight but that it will transition to the new responsive design, including a court dashboard with the next release.

Mr. Derrick then talked about the new selfhelp.efiletexas.gov tool that allows for building forms for use by self-represented litigants. He reported that a pilot group has successfully implemented the Supreme Court divorce forms. Mr. Kennedy asked that we work to establish a group that includes JCIT members that compliments existing uniform form committees to analyze the data to determine what's next. Justice Simmons spoke to the need to ensure that the group has buy-in from judges, attorneys, the state bar, and other legal service providers. Blake Hawthorne spoke to the need of ensuring that the group establish an effective governance model to ensure that the group retains focus.

Judge Hinde asked if the forms are available for commercial EFSPs. Mr. Derrick answered that this tool would act as a separate free EFSP.

There was also concern from the service providers about the competition and potential feature creep. Justice Simmons clarified that this tool was something committed as part of the contract. Casey Kennedy confirmed that this was part of the contract and that Tyler must get approval from OCA for any feature outside of the contract.

## **B. Standards Committee**

### **1. Consideration of Version 2.5 of the JCIT Technology Standards**

Mr. Wessels described the process in developing the specifications and outlined changes made from the previous version. Mr. Wessels moved to adopt version 2.5, Dennis Van Metre seconded. *Motion carried.*

Casey Kennedy stated that he would send the document to Tyler for implementation. He will also request Tyler to report back with an implementation schedule.

## **C. Public Access to Court Records**

### **1. Survey to Clerks**

John Warren shared that it had been about a week since the survey had been distributed and that he had received 244 responses. Several clerks asked about the purpose of the questions on the survey. Mr. Warren clarified that the subcommittee is trying to determine the current state of public access across the state. Several clerks shared a concern with security and managing of data. There was a suggestion to add statements to provide context when a reminder is sent out for additional responses for the survey. Justice Simmons said that the survey results will be shared at the next meeting. The subcommittee will use the results to create a document that will discuss security, fee standardization, permissions, and protecting sensitive data.

## **D. Criminal Rules**

Justice Simmons discussed Criminal eFiling rules. Proposed rules are out for comment until the end of August. Hidalgo County is on track for implementation on September 1<sup>st</sup>. Tyler reports an overwhelming positive response by clerks wanting to allow criminal eFiling.

Mark Unger raised a concern that from a lawyer's point of view it must be permissive to offer incentive. Blake Hawthorne expressed concern that lawyers will be resistant until it is mandated by the Court of Criminal Appeals.

The group then discussed the possibility mandatory criminal eFiling. Sian Schilhab and Judge Yeary mentioned that there would be no guarantee about making criminal eFiling mandatory. The group discussed the need to have additional filer education, determination of local county recovery fees, and the determination of readiness for the counties. Casey Kennedy offered to reach out to the case management vendors to see what it would take technically to be ready for mandatory eFiling. Vice-Chair Bob Wessels proposed that OCA send out a “readiness survey” for the counties.

Discussion followed about if Juvenile delinquency is under Criminal or Civil part of eFiling. The group requested that Juvenile case type should be included in county “readiness survey”.

*Justice Simmons adjourned the meeting at 12:04 p.m.*