

**JUDICIAL COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY**  
**MEETING MINUTES**

10:00AM – 12:00PM – January 29, 2015  
Texas Association of Counties

**I. Call to Order**

*Bob Wessels called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m.*

JCIT Members:

Chair, Justice Rebecca Simmons  
Vice-Chair, Bob Wessels  
Honorable David Escamilla  
Honorable Woody Gossom Jr.  
Dean Stanzione (*phone*)  
Dennis Van Metre  
Honorable Sheri Woodfin  
Ed Wells (*phone*)

JCIT Liaison Members:

Honorable Abel Acosta  
Miles Brissette  
Honorable Jeffrey Boyd  
Randy Chapman  
Honorable Annie Elliot  
Laura Garcia  
Doug Gowin (*phone*)  
Honorable Blake Hawthorne  
Honorable Dan Hinde  
Honorable Laura Hinojosa (*phone*)  
Tracy Hopper  
Gary Hutton  
Cynthia Orr (*phone*)  
Honorable Nancy Rister  
Sian Schilhab  
David Slayton  
Michelle Spencer  
Mark Unger  
Honorable Kevin Yeary

Others in attendance:

Evan Acosta, Tyler Technologies (*phone*)  
Bill Aleshire  
Carol Baker, Second Court of Appeals, Fort Worth (*phone*)  
Armando Balderrama, iDocket

Travis Banks, Bexar County (*phone*)  
Patricia Barsalou, Office of Attorney General  
Tammy Carter, Mozato  
Terry Derrick, Tyler Technologies  
Danikae Doetsch, Travis County  
Mark Erwin, Travis County  
David Ferris, Travis County  
Dana Hess, Travis County  
Elaine Hosage, Travis County  
Jeanine Hudson, Department of Public Safety  
Freddie Jenkins, Office of Attorney General  
Heather Kellum, Travis County  
George Knecht, GreenFiling (*phone*)  
Robert Nolan, Harris County (*phone*)  
Sergeant Alan Redd, Travis County  
Amalia Rodriguez-Mendoza, Intresys  
James Sibley, Title Data (*phone*)  
Michelle Spencer  
Elena Turrent, Travis County  
Tonya Watson, Travis County

Office of Court Administration Staff:

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

**II. Approval of Meeting Minutes – August 14, 2015 & October 23, 2015**

Motion to approve updated and corrected minutes made by Dean Stanzione and seconded by Honorable David Escamilla. *Motion carries.*

**III. Committee/Workgroup Reports**

**A. eFileTexas program update**

Terry Derrick provided an update on the eFileTexas program status. Mr. Derrick reported that the mandate coming on July 1<sup>st</sup>, will bring in the 136 counties left that are already live but still in a permissive state. He also mentioned that 118 offices have implemented permissive criminal eFiling.

Mr. Derrick spoke about the growth patterns in eFiling. In 2015 there were just under six million filings. Combining the years 2014 and 2015, over 63 million pieces of paper have been saved. Mr. Derrick also reported that as the number of eFilings go up the number of corrections go down, from 43% in 2013 to only 6% in 2015. Clerk responsiveness still has some room for improvement, suggestion that real time reporting would be helpful.

Mr. Derrick then talked about permissive criminal eFiling. There has been a healthy growth of 52 counties adding criminal eFiling implementations over the two previous months but they haven't seen as many filings as they thought they would though a similar thing happened during civil permissive filing. Mr. Derrick then shared that there had been instances where permission wasn't able to be obtained from a majority of judges. This occurred in three counties; Angelina, Hays, and Titus. Casey Kennedy expressed that at the last clerk meeting there was much interest expressed about when there will be a mandate.

There was a discussion regarding the eFile Texas Self Help portal. There was concern from Justice Simmons and David Slayton that the clerk's offices are not expressing interest and why the counties have the option of saying 'no'. Mr. Derrick shared that there was still some work that needs to be done to configure codes in eFiling but that those could be handled through standards. Mr. Derrick addressed that concern by explaining that they were working with the Texas legal associations to ensure that it was the same process. Blake Hawthorne believes there is a policy question for the Supreme Court, perceived problem with different courts doing different things.

Texas Law Help implemented a "Divorce without Children" form in December that was the primary cause for web traffic increase in January for the eFile Texas Self Help. The majority of the filings still seem to be printed and hand carried to the court. Mr. Slayton reminded the group that there is currently an EFSP that does document assembly for a charge, this is just making a seamless integration with the document eFiling service. Even if nothing is done, this is already out there.

Mr. Derrick wrapped up with next steps including additional criminal implementations, additional CMS integrations, continuing the Self Help forms, and standardization of codes. Discussion about including municipalities in the standardization. David Slayton also shared that OCA has received a grant from TXDOT to study how to integrate traffic tickets directly into the eFiling system. Bob Wessels shared that the civil side will be pretty straight-word but some of the others will be more challenging. Mr. Wessels said they would get something together late February, early March to discuss.

Justice Simmons inquired about where we were with implementing an eService email address into the State Bar registration system. Honorable Blake Hawthorne solution is that state bar rules would require attorneys to have an email address on file and that list would be shared with OCA. State Bar staff is working on the rule change. Casey Kennedy communicated that he has been working with Tyler and State Bar IT and from a technical perspective there is not an issue in collecting the information.

## **B. Standards Committee**

### **1. Discussion and adoption of Version 3 of the Technical Standards**

There were very few changes this time. All changes were accepted. Suggestions on the Case Management side were not brought forward. Dean Stanzione moved to adopt, Bob Wessels seconded. *Motion carries.*

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

### **1. Registered Access to Court Electronic Records (RACER) discussion**

A committee met in mid-December to address the charge of how to get better access to court records. Tyler Technologies was brought into work with the committee as there was already a component in the existing contract to create an access system. The development of R.A.C.E.R. (Registered Access to Court Electronic Records), will enable the judges and case counsel to access all eFiled documents in their state court cases. A survey was sent to state lawyers and 98.7% responded that they want such a system. This will not be a forced replacement if the court already have judicial tools however there are many rural judges that only have access by paper. Access rights for part-time judges are still being considered.

RACER is not designed for general access by the public to court documents. As Mr. Slayton explained, there is still much discussion and many things to consider before allowing registered users to have access.

Bob Wessels made a motion to proceed and implement for judges and attorneys of record. David Escamilla seconded. *Motion carried.* Justice Simmons stated that the recommendation will be forwarded to the Supreme Court.

JCIT will work with Tyler to have a demo of RACER in the April meeting. Casey Kennedy will ensure that all enhancements are cataloged and prioritized. There will be regularly scheduled meetings of the RACER group to discuss the outstanding issues, including access and criminal cases.

## **IV. Old Business**

Justice Simmons explained that there was a need for clarification on interpretations of Rule 21 as there could be ramifications to the RACER system. To promote education the State bar has agreed to let JCIT create an educational video. If anyone encounters any 'strange' interpretations

they should report them to Justice Simmons or Casey Kennedy.

David Slaton shared news that OCA has just announced to the clerks last week that we have determined a way to help provide equipment to the counties through a loan program. OCA will purchase the equipment and loan it to the counties for the life of the equipment, at which time it will be written off the State rolls and assigned to the county. OCA is working on the formal announcement and official requests for the counties to apply. Loaner equipment will be prioritized in reverse order of the mandate.

David Slayton shared that he is on a National Joint Technology Committee that is adopting a roadmap for state courts and how to handle digital evidence. The JCIT April meeting should include a discussion about digital evidence.

***Justice Simmons adjourned the meeting at 12:01 p.m.***