

JUDICIAL COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

MEETING MINUTES

10:00AM – 12:00PM – April 29, 2016

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*)

Honorable Brian Quinn (*phone*)

Dennis Van Metre

Honorable John Warren

Ed Wells (*phone*)

JCIT Liaison Members:

Honorable Jeffrey Boyd

Honorable Anne Marie Carruth

Honorable Judy Crawford

Honorable Annie Elliot

Laura Garcia

Doug Gowin (*phone*)

Honorable Blake Hawthorne

Honorable Dan Hinde

Honorable Laura Hinojosa (*phone*)

Tracy Hopper

Gary Hutton

Honorable Velva Price

Honorable Nancy Rister

Sian Schilhab

Michelle Spencer

Mark Unger

Honorable Kevin Yeary

Others in attendance:

Terry Derrick, Tyler Technologies

Cathy Horvath, Guadalupe County

Laurelea Lindquist, Tyler Technologies

Honorable Janice Staples, Anderson County, District Clerk

Honorable Mark Staples, Anderson County, County Clerk

Pat Baisalov, Office of Attorney General
Dallas Osborn, NetData
Diane Laynell, Travis County
Honorable Caroline Woodburn, Potter County, District Clerk
Honorable Teresa Kiel, Guadalupe County, County Clerk
David Swanson, Gartner
Steve Schenck, Thompson-Reuters
Jared Galloway, Office of Attorney General
Deborah Rider
Kenny Williams, FileTime
Armando Balderrama, iDocket
Marilyn Greca, iDocket
Fabiola Garcia, iDocket
Freddie Jenkins, Office of Attorney General
Joel Rogers, Office of Attorney General
Tammy Carter, Mozato

Office of Court Administration Staff:

Casey Kennedy, Director, Information Services
David Swedlow, Manager, Application Development
Anissa Johnson

II. Approval of Meeting Minutes – January 26, 2016

Motion to approve updated and corrected minutes made by Bob Wessels and seconded by Honorable Blake Hawthorne. *Motion carries.*

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 permissive on civil eFiling and are ready for the July mandate. He also reported that the case management systems are working well and several have implemented two way integrations. Mr. Kennedy mentioned that there is a process in place to provide vendors (both CMS and EFSPs) an appropriate amount of time to test changes.

Mr. Derrick reported that on criminal eFiling, the initial interest in permissive criminal eFiling has plateaued. The criminal eFiling system receives between 600-700 envelopes.

There was a discussion regarding the eFile Texas Self Help portal. He reported that with the next release of eFileTexas we will be able to turn on all self-help forms statewide with no involvement from the counties. He also reported that seven forms are available today.

He reported on the stats of Guide and File including that most people print documents once completed to file on paper. He also indicates that only 18% see the forms to completion and that 75% spend about 8 minutes and get 6 pages in before quitting.

Mr. Van Metre asked a question about backups and fail-overs. Mr Derrick reported that the failovers have been tested regularly. Mr. Kennedy also reported on the process exercised in reality and that they system has failed over several times successfully.

B. Update on State Bar eService Address Registration

Mr. Hawthorne gave an update on the new rules from the State Bar that requires attorneys to provide an eService address. He reported that the Chief gave marching orders to proceed. OCA, the Court and the State Bar are meeting soon to review details and a plan to execute for early fall.

This updated file will be provided to Tyler and will be used to populate a single public list that cannot be edited. Mr. Derrick reported that this will not impact any existing cases.

C. Registered Access to Court Electronic Records (RACER) discussion

Mr. Kennedy reported that Tyler is currently investigating options for a new name for the registered access system. Mr. Derrick reported that Tyler is on track to start with a small group of judges to pilot the system. He also reported that we expect to rollout to additional judges then to attorneys in the fall.

Justice Simmons raised the point that as we move towards attorneys of record that the public access committee will need to resolve several issues with regards to access management and other issues. She mentioned that we also need to continue to think about how we can educate judges on the need to eFile orders to provide a more complete case file.

D. Criminal eFiling

Justice Simmons reported that the hearing in front of the Court of Criminal Appeals went well and was very informative. She asked Mr. Derrick about the readiness of the eFiling system to handle criminal. He reported that the system would be able to handle subsequent filings very easily.

Ms. Shilhab reported the need to adjust the statewide criminal eFiling rules with regards to charging instruments since the statutes allow for the electronic filing of charging instruments even though the rules do not.

Justice Simmons reported that the rules committee with the State Bar is also working on suggestions on changing the rules with regards to the sensitive data rules.

E. Standards Committee

Mr. Wessels reported that there will be several meetings in May and June to discuss several items including JP standards for eFiling. He also mentioned that the group will be considering the routine changes brought forth by the counties.

Mr. Wessels also spoke that the committee has had a request to also focus on best practices for filing into standards. This was requested in order to facilitate standardization of filer experience across counties.

Mr. Kennedy reported that the group has adopted a best-practices document that speaks to practices with regards to several filing practices. He reported that he continues to receive calls and emails from filers and EFSPs asking for help in dealing with a particular county. Mr. Kennedy reported that the committee will be using the best practices document as a basis for implementing filer experience standards.

Action Item – Circulate the last adopted best practices document to JCIT.

Mr. Van Metre brought up the point that some of the practices might get into the local case management system. Mr. Wessels stated that the goal is to only keep the standards at the level of the eFiling system.

The group also discussed the need to standardize and automate file stamping with regards to returns for corrections.

Action Item – Share stats on return for corrections with Mr. Hawthorne, Mr. Unger, and Mr. Hutton for analysis and possible action.

IV. Recognition

Justice Simmons observed a moment of silence, recognizing Tom Schoolcraft for his contributions to eFiling and the system. Tom passed away in an accident while assisting his family at home.

Justice Simmons adjourned the meeting at 11:45 a.m.