

JUDICIAL COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
MEETING MINUTES

10:00AM – 12:00PM – August 26, 2016
Texas Association of Counties

I. Call to Order

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

JCIT Members:

Chair, Justice Rebecca Simmons
Vice-Chair, Bob Wessels
Honorable David Escamilla
Dean Stanzione (*phone*)
Honorable Brian Quinn (*phone*)
Dennis Van Metre
Honorable John Warren
Roland Johnson (*phone*)
Honorable Sheri Woodfin

JCIT Liaison Members:

Miles Brissette (*phone*)
Honorable David Canales (*phone*)
Randy Chapman
Honorable Judy Crawford (*phone*)
Honorable Annie Elliot
Doug Gowin (*phone*)
Honorable Dan Hinde
Honorable Laura Hinojosa
Tracy Hopper
Gary Hutton
Honorable Steve King (*phone*)
Cynthia Orr
Honorable Nancy Rister
Sian Schilhab
David Slayton
Michelle Spencer
Mark Unger (*phone*)
Honorable Kevin Yeary

Others in attendance:

Travis Banks, Bexar County (*phone*)
Tammy Carter, Mozato
Ricardo Contreras (*phone*)
Mark Combs

Paul Cosellie
Terry Derrick, Tyler Technologies
Ben Giannantano (*phone*)
Jeanine Hudson, DPS (*phone*)
Victor Jauregui
Wanda Khan, Mozato (*phone*)
Adam Kieda, Mozato (*phone*)
Honorable Teresa Kiel, Guadalupe County, County Clerk
Scherri Kroeker, My File Runner (*phone*)
Curtis Kuykendall, Second Court of Appeals (*phone*)
Laurelea Lindquist, Tyler Technologies
Dee Lott (*phone*)
Amy Manor
Bud Panjwani, FileTime (*phone*)
Cary Roberts
Joel Rogers, Office of Attorney General
Mark Schwartz, One Legal (*phone*)
James Sibley (*phone*)
David Sprott
Tonya Watson, Travis County

Office of Court Administration Staff:

Casey Kennedy, Director, Information Services
Susan Chamberlain, Deputy Director, Information Services
Mena Ramon, General Counsel
Anissa Johnson, Childrens Court Program Manager

II. Approval of Meeting Minutes – April 29, 2016

Motion to approve minutes made by Bob Wessels and seconded by Honorable John Warren.
Motion carries.

III. Committee/Workgroup Reports

A. eFileTexas Civil/Criminal update

Laurelea Lindquist provided an update on the eFileTexas program status. Ms. Lindquist reported that there are currently over 150,000 users and almost 2 million filings going through the eFileTexas system. Ms. Lindquist also noted that getting courts set up for criminal filings are being expedited with the goal to have 22 ready to go by January 2017.

There was a brief discussion about whether Tyler would be ready to accept the charging instrument if the rules were changed to be inclusive. It was determined that there was still a lot of work that would need to be done to ensure that there would be standard codes for charge and degree in the Case Management systems. Sian Schilhab stated that the statute seems to

indicate that things will go inclusive. Bob Wessels will work with CCA to create a sub-committee. David Escamilla asked what was being done to reach out to lawyers. Casey Kennedy stated that training will be created to be given to the counties as they come aboard and Ms. Lindquist stated that Tyler would also offer webinars. Mr. Escamilla was concerned that he was not hearing much about it so recommended that the Prosecutors Annual Conference would be a good place to start getting the word out.

There will be a new release of the Electronic Filing Manager on September 17th. Ms. Lindquist reports that this release will have better integration of eFiling and Guide & File. Even though Guide and File is available in all counties, in some cases, the resulting PDFs must be printed and filed on paper. This release will resolve that and allow electronic filing directly from Guide and File.

Tyler continues to work with TLSC and their grant to create 100 forms in the next two years. Mr. Kennedy stated that as the interviews are ready OCA will map them into the standards.

Anne Elliot asked when the JP's would be ready to which Terry Derrick responded that there was still some work to be done on the JP standard codes before rolling out but then the roll out would be quick. Justice Simmons suggested creating a committee that would include Travis and Colin counties, to help complete this task.

B. Standards Committee

1. Review/Adoption of Technology Standards (Wessels)

Bob Wessels asked for adoption of the new Technology Standards and reported that additional standards for both civil and criminal have been added, criminal has been expanded, added generic to specific offenses. The areas where guidance was asked for have been addressed. Dan Hinde mentioned a few typos which were noted and corrected. Motion to adopt made by Dennis VanMetre and seconded by Sheri Woodfin.

Justice Simmons announced that new court appointed members will be starting in September and a list of the new members would come out at the same time. Lists for the committees will also be sent.

C. Access to Court Records

1. Re:SearchTX Update

Terry Derrick explained Re:SearchTX as a document search portal that gives the ability to search all the case records across the whole state for any case that goes through the

eFiling system. Currently only elected judges have access to their jurisdiction. David Slayton shared that OCA reviews the requests for access and gives permission on a case-by-case basis. There will be a booth at the Judicial Conference in San Antonio to promote further access to judges.

There were many questions and concerns raised that still need to be worked out and decided. David Slayton acknowledged that there are many decision points that need to be resolved before we go forward beyond judges and would need input from judges, clerks, lawyers, etc. Justice Simmons stated that JCIT will be putting together a committee to make policy recommendations on those issues. Members of the committee must be committed to the charge with many meetings both physical and by telephone meetings. Lawyers, judges, and clerks will all be included and a list will be circulated.

IV. Old Business

A. Update on eService email as part of bar registration (Hawthorne)

Casey Kennedy share that the State Bar is executing the communication plan. There will be a clean public list, OCA is working on script to scrub judges, then will turn around and send to Tyler. The list will be available to counties for use with their case management systems. Counties that would like to request the eService file should contact Casey Kennedy.

Mr. Kennedy reported that everything is on track to begin using the list starting on October 3rd. He also reported that any contacts already on a case will not be replaced. Judge Hinde was concerned and felt that if a State Bar profile is updated then he should feel confident that it will be updated everywhere. Mr. Derrick countered that Tyler would have to review as that is not the way it is currently designed.

V. Open Discussion

David Slayton stated that the Supreme Court has requested that JCIT looks at current eFiling rules.

Judge Hinde shared that issues have come up where lawyers are dumping trial exhibits into file. They are eFiling the full exhibits that are not approved yet, uncensored, etc. Specifically, in family courts. He recommended that this concern should be considered during standards analysis. Sherri Woodfin agrees that criminal eFiling rules need to look at sensitive filings.

Ms. Woodfin reported that Tom Green County has done criminal eFiling of an over a 3,000 page document with no issue.

Justice Simmons adjourned the meeting at 11:51 a.m.