

**JUDICIAL COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
MEETING MINUTES
February 8, 2013 – 10:00 a.m.
Supreme Court Courtroom**

I. Call to Order
Justice Simmons called the meeting to order at 10:07 a.m.

JCIT Members:

Chair, Justice Rebecca Simmons
Honorable Mike Cantrell (phone)
Honorable David Escamilla (phone)
Honorable David Field (phone)
Steve Mills
Honorable Amalia Rodríguez-Mendoza
Dean Stanzione (phone)
Ed Wells (phone)
Bob Wessels

JCIT Liaison Members:

Honorable Abel Acosta
Honorable Jeffrey S. Boyd
Miles Brissette
Randy Chapman
Honorable Gary Fitzsimmons (phone)
Doug Gowin (phone)
Honorable Blake Hawthorne
Gary Hutton
Honorable Steve King (phone)
David McAtee (phone)
Penny Redington
Stan Reid
Honorable Nancy E. Rister
Sian Schilhab
Mark Unger
Dennis Van Metre
Honorable John Warren
Honorable Dianne Wilson
Honorable Sheri Woodfin

Others in attendance:

John Brown, Court of Criminal Appeals
Philip Baughman, TexFile
Phillip Blanchar, NIC
Sharon Camarillo, Hill County
Tammy Carter, File & ServeXpress

Chris O’Clock, File & ServeXpress
Terry Derrick, TexFile
Pete Eichorn, NIC
Nicole Gelinias, Professional Civil Process
Janet Gilmore, DIR
Bruce Graham, Tyler Technologies
Charles Gray, Conference of Urban Counties
Rick Haass, Linebarger Goggan Blair & Sampson
Tracy Hopper, Harris County
Erin Hutchins, NIC
Mike Lykes, Harris County
Brian McGrath, TexFile
Jay Morgan, Harris County
Robert Nolen, Harris County
Tom Schoolcraft
Brad Smith, Mentis Technologies

Office of Court Administration Staff:

Mena Ramon, General Counsel
Casey Kennedy, Director, Information Services
Thomas Sullivan, Deputy Director, Information Services

Justice Simmons introduced Justice Boyd, who is the new Supreme Court Liaison for JCIT.

II. Approval of Meeting Notes – October 12, 2012 and November 9, 2012

There were three corrections to the meeting notes – Sheri Woodfin’s name was misspelled, Dianne Wilson’s name was misspelled, and the dates of the October 12th meeting were corrected. Amalia Rodríguez-Mendoza moved to approve the minutes as corrected, with a second by Bob Wessels. **Motion carried.**

III. Committee Reports

A. eFiling

Blake Hawthorne provided a brief update of eFiling. He reported that the Supreme Court had mandated eFiling.

1. Texas.gov update

Erin Hutchins provided an update on NIC activities and the EFM upgrade. Justice Simmons asked that NIC, TexFile, and the EFSPs work together to look at other options that would eliminate the need for the EFM upgrade.

2. TexFile update

Bruce Graham introduced the TexFile project team, and talked about the project vision. Brian McGrath gave an overview of the TexFile project plan.

JCIT will form a communications committee to help spread the word about TexFile. They will provide speakers at Annual Judicial Conference, bar associations, and paralegal associations.

Justice Simmons will provide TexFile with contract info of the JCIT members who are part of the top ten counties in Texas.

After discussion about how to handle judges' signatures on orders, Justice Simmons assigned a committee to put together two or three business models that jurisdictions can adopt to deal with this issue. Committee members will be Bob Wessels, John Warren, Jay Morgan, Gary Hutton, and TexFile staff. The committee will meet before the next JCIT meeting to talk about processes for court signatures.

3. Discussion of JCIT activities to support the Supreme Court's mandate for eFiling.

Justice Simmons said the rules committees will need to get moving and move fast to get draft rules to the Supreme Court. She will send the committee charges to the group. Casey will send out the committee assignments and TexFile contact information.

Judge King provided a brief update on Probate rules. Justice Simmons asked Judge King to talk to Mr. McGrath at TexFile about how they might more easily do the Guardian Reports.

The rules will need to address who keeps the original will. The group also needs to think about what documents can or can't be eFiled.

B. Standards

Bob Wessels said there was no update on standards.

IV. New Business

Dianne Wilson is sending a letter to Speaker Straus recommending that his Code of Criminal Procedures review committee look at a paperless environment.

Casey mentioned that a group is pulling docket sheet information from court websites, and asking people to pay them to remove the data. The data is only removed from the vendor's site, but people are confused and wondering why the courts haven't also removed the information. The Office of Attorney General is looking into this.

Tracey Hopper would like the rules committee to look into legislative changes for electronic notices and citations.

V. Open Discussion

Justice Simmons adjourned the meeting at 12:03 p.m.

Next meeting: April 18th, 2013