

JUDICIAL COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
MEETING MINUTES
April 18, 2013 – 10:00 a.m.
AT&T Conference Center

I. Call to Order
Justice Simmons called the meeting to order at 10:14 a.m.

JCIT Members:

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

JCIT Liaison Members:

Honorable Abel Acosta
Honorable Jeffrey S. Boyd
Randy Chapman
Honorable Gary Fitzsimmons
Honorable Blake Hawthorne
Gary Hutton (phone)
Honorable Laura Hinojosa (phone)
Honorable Steve King (phone)
David McAtee (phone)
Honorable Nancy E. Rister (phone)
Sian Schilhab (phone)
Mark Unger (phone)
Dennis Van Metre
Honorable John Warren
Honorable Dianne Wilson

Others in attendance:

Armando Balderama, iDocket
Richard Ballard, Dallas County
Philip Baughman, TexFile
Debbie Bucko, Harris County
Tammy Carter, File & ServeXpress
Terry Derrick, Tyler Technologies
Danikae Doetsch, Travis County
David Ferris, Travis County
Nanette Forbes, Texas Association of Counties

Rebecca Foster, Office of Attorney General
Bruce Graham, Tyler Technologies
Erin Hutchins, NIC
Nick Mahoney, Office of Attorney General
Farrah Martinez, Harris County
Kevin Mauzy, Harris County
Brian McGrath, Tyler Technologies
Rod Napier, Office of Attorney General
Ellen Pate, DIR
J. Michael Ray, eLaw Services
Melissa Ray, eLaw Services
Steve Schenk, ThompsonReuters
Tom Schoolcraft, FileTime
Mark Schwartz, Tyler Technologies
Brad Smith, Mentis Technologies
Christian Tyler, New Dawn
Rosemary Willcox, File & ServeXpress

Office of Court Administration Staff:

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

II. Approval of Minutes – February 8, 2013

There was a corrections to the draft minutes prior to the meeting to show the correct title for some attendees. Gary Fitzsimmons moved to approve the minutes, with a second by Dean Stanzione. **Motion carried.**

III. Committee Reports

A. eFiling

1. Texas.gov update

Erin Hutchins gave an update on eFiling. No new jurisdictions have been added, but Medina District Court would still like to go live on Texas.gov. Harris County is mandating eFiling for some additional courts, which will increase the volume.

NIC met with Tyler Technologies and has a gentleman's agreement on how to proceed with keeping the old system online. NIC also has a tentative agreement with Deloitte and AT&T to continue on the old system. Once the agreement has been finalized with Tyler, then NIC will finalize their agreement with Deloitte and AT&T. At that point, the upgrade will be called off. Ms. Hutchins will notify Casey Kennedy will the agreements are done.

Justice Simmons asked if the issue with service has been resolved and Ms.

Hutchins stated that she believed it had.

2. TexFile update

Brian McGrath provided an update on TexFile activities. So far, the EFSP specifications, the CMS specifications, and the EFSP agreement have all been released. TexFile is currently working with 13 EFSPs and 18 CMSs. Stress testing of the TexFile infrastructure is ongoing. TexFile has met with the top 10 counties. Fort Bend, Gregg, and Taylor counties will all be pilots for TexFile.

The next steps are to deliver the test environment on May 7, deliver the production environment on June 6, and go live with the first pilot on June 24.

The Courts of Appeals that are not yet eFiling will go live on TexFile this summer, and the COAs that are currently eFiling will move to TexFile in the October/November timeframe.

Action Item: Justice Simmons wants Mark Unger to contact Family Law section about getting on their CLE, and heading up a committee.

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

Justice Simmons provided background on the draft rules for civil eFiling. The rules were drafted by the rules subcommittee for the trial court level. The committee drew from existing justice of the peace statewide rules, district and county court templates, statewide appellate rules and template for eFiling at the appellate level. The Supreme Court rules attorney has reviewed the draft and made some suggestions.

There was lengthy discussion about the draft rules for trial courts.

Blake Hawthorne spoke briefly about the rules for the appellate courts.

IV. Legislative Update

David Slayton provided an update on bills that impact technology issues on the courts. HB 349 mandates criminal eFiling in Hidalgo County, and will require criminal eFiling rules to be in place by 9/1/15. Mr. Slayton mentioned that the eFiling bills are moving forward.

V. New Business

There was no new business.

VI. Open Discussion

There was no open discussion.

Justice Simmons adjourned the meeting at 12:49 p.m.

Next meeting: July 11th, 2013