

JUDICIAL COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
MEETING MINUTES
January 23, 2015 – 10:02 a.m.
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 (*phone*)
Vice-Chair, Bob Wessels
Honorable David Escamilla
Honorable David Field (*phone*)
Honorable Woody Gossom Jr.
Roland K. Johnson (*phone*)
Steve Mills (*phone*)
Honorable Amalia Rodriguez-Mendoza
Honorable Brian Quinn (*phone*)
Dean Stanzione
Dennis Van Metre
Ed Wells

JCIT Liaison Members:

Honorable Jeffrey Boyd
Miles Brissette (*phone*)
Honorable Judy Crawford (*phone*)
Honorable Annie Elliott
Laura Garcia
Doug Gowin (*phone*)
Honorable Blake Hawthorne
Honorable Dan Hinde
Honorable Laura Hinojosa (*phone*)
Tracy Hopper
Gary Hutton
Honorable Steve King (*phone*)
Penny Redington
Honorable Nancy Rister
David Slayton
Honorable Sheri Woodfin

Others in attendance:

Peju Aromolaran, Dallas County
Armando Balderama, iDocket
Regina Brown, Williamson County
Tammy Carter, File and Serve Express
Sara Collins, File and Serve Express

Robin Cooksey
Terry Derrick, Tyler Technologies
Joel Green, Mentis Technology
Elaine Hosage, Travis County
Jeanine Hudson, Texas Department of Public Safety
Victor Jauregui, Travis County
Joanne Leger
Carlos Lopez, Travis County
Brian McGrath, Tyler Technologies
Rod Napier, Office of Attorney General
Dallas Oshon, NetData
Velma Price, Travis County
Steve Schenk, ProDoc
Tom Schoolcraft, FileTime
Craig Steffen, File and Serve Express
Brad Weems, Williamson County
Caroline Woodburn, Potter County

Office of Court Administration Staff:

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

II. Approval of Minutes – October 24, 2014

Motion to approve the minutes was made by Ed Wells with a second by Dennis Van Metre. **Motion carried.**

III. Committee/Workgroup Reports

A. eFileTexas Program Update

Terry Derrick provided an update on the eFileTexas program status. Mr. Derrick started off with the 2014 statistics for eFiling. In January, 17 courts began eFiling, and there are currently 65 engagements for the next round of courts to go live.

Justice Simmons asked if there was a mobile app for eFiling. Mr. Kennedy said that the free portal can't go mobile until Silverlight is replaced in the existing eFileTexas system. For the EFSPs, Steve Schenk said that ProDoc is looking into a mobile app, and Tom Schoolcraft said that FileTime's software senses if the user is on a mobile device.

B. eService Issues Workgroup

Blake Hawthorne gave an update for the eService Workgroup. He said that the biggest issue is that attorneys can't serve other attorneys who aren't in the system. He said it is time to require registration of eService email addresses. He is

working with the State Bar to add an eService email address to their system. If the attorney doesn't enter an eService address, then it would default to their other email address. Justice Simmons asked how this would be enforced, and Mr. Hawthorne replied that the Bar rules would need to be amended. David Escamilla suggested that the ORI number also be added to the Bar file, for criminal attorneys.

Mr. Kennedy asked if there are any repercussions if attorneys don't update their information, and Mr. Hawthorne said he would look into that.

C. Best Practices Workgroup

Casey Kennedy updated the group on the progress of the Best Practices Workgroup. The workgroup came up with a set of best practices, and these are being reviewed by the group. After approval, they will be published on the JCIT website. The next meeting will be held in a couple weeks.

D. Standards Committee

Bob Wessels provided an update for the Standards Committee. The latest version of the standards were distributed to JCIT in early January, and the committee met yesterday to review the comments they received.

Mr. Wessels said the number one issue is complexity and differences in fees across the state. He suggested that the committee go through all the fee statutes, use the higher of the two fees when there are different fee amounts between county and district, have all existing fee statutes repealed and replace with one new statute that has all the fees in a single table. Mr. Wessels will bring the group together to see if this can be put together for civil and brought before the legislature this session.

Dennis Van Metre moved that the Version 2.0 of the technology standards be adopted. Judge Gossum seconded. **Motion carried.**

E. Public Access to Court Records

Dean Stanzione gave a brief update on the Public Access workgroup. The workgroup has met a couple times, and developed a draft survey for the clerks. The survey will be sent out after the JCIT Executive Committee's review next week. The survey will be sent to filers, clerks, and EFSPs.

Justice Simmons said that attorneys want uniformity, and a system like PACER.

F. Criminal Rules

Justice Simmons presented the update on Criminal Rules. Several meetings have been held so far. They want to keep as close as possible to current eFiling rules. The rules will be permissive at first, and need to be cognizant of pro se filers.

The rules will be finalized next week and then sent to CCA for review.

IV. Old Business

a. State Supported Case Management/ JCIT Tasks

Mr. Kennedy updated the group on the Case Management System RFO. After surveying clerks and following up with those who didn't initially respond to the survey, it was determined that only 10 counties currently are without a case management system. As a result, OCA decided to pull the RFO and instead ask for grant funding to help courts implement eFiling. There is a follow-up survey out right now asking the clerks what they would want the grant funding to provide their court.

JCIT might want to put together a group to define the minimum requirements for a case management system, using the RFO specs to determine the baseline level.

b. Legislative Initiatives

David Slayton provide an update on legislative initiatives.

V. Open Discussion

Mr. Hawthorne asked if we could require email addresses for clerks. Mr. Kennedy responded that we now have a good source for clerks' emails.

Justice Boyd asked the clerks at the meeting how they felt eFiling was going at their courts.

Mr. Slayton said that he hoped to have the criminal eFiling rules by June 1.

Mr. Wessels adjourned the meeting at 11:52 p.m.

**Next meeting: April 17, 2015
Texas Association of Counties**