

JUDICIAL COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

MEETING MINUTES

10:00AM – 12:00PM – October 23, 2015

Texas Association of Counties

I. Call to Order

Justice Simmons called the meeting to order at 10:04a.m.

JCIT Members:

Chair, Justice Rebecca Simmons

Vice-Chair, Bob Wessels

Honorable David Escamilla

Honorable Woody Gossom Jr. (phone)

Roland Johnson (phone)

Dennis Van Metre

Dean Stanzione (phone)

Honorable John Warren (phone)

Honorable Sheri Woodfin (phone)

Ed Wells

JCIT Liaison Members:

Miles Brissette (phone)

Honorable Jeffrey Boyd

Randy Chapman

Honorable Judy Crawford (phone)

Honorable Annie Elliot

Laura Garcia

Doug Gowin (phone)

Honorable Blake Hawthorne

Honorable Dan Hinde

Honorable Laura Hinojosa (phone)

Tracy Hopper

Gary Hutton

Cynthia Orr (phone)

Honorable Velva Price

Honorable Nancy Rister

David Slayton

Mark Unger (phone)

Honorable Kevin Yeary

Others in attendance:

Evan Acosta, Tyler Technologies

Carol Baker, Second Court of Appeals, Fort Worth (phone)

Armando Baldarama, iDocket
Travis Banks, Bexar County (phone)
Pat Barsala, Office of Attorney General
Tammy Carter, File and Serve Express
Mark Combs, Harris County
Terry Derrick, Tyler Technologies
Danikae Doetsch, Travis County
Joey Freely (phone)
Bobby Gutierrez, Travis County
Dana Hess, Travis County
Elaine Hosage, Travis County
Jeanine Hudson, Department of Public Safety
Victor Jauregui, Travis County
Freddie Jenkins, Office of Attorney General
Jeff Karotkin, OneLegal
Michael Lang, Texas Department of Insurance
Carlos Lopez, Travis County
Brian McGrath, Tyler Technologies (phone)
Robert Nolan, Harris County (phone)
George Knecht, GreenFiling (phone)
Amalia Rodriguez-Mendoza, Travis County
Jay Sibley, TitleData
Tom Schoolcraft, FileTime
Mark Schwartz, OneLegal (phone)
Valencia Silva - BloombergLaw
Tonya Watson, Travis County

Office of Court Administration Staff:

Casey Kennedy, Director, Information Services
Mena Ramon, General Counsel
Susan Chamberlain, Deputy Director, Information Services

II. Committee/Workgroup Reports

A. eFileTexas program update

Terry Derrick provided an update on the eFileTexas program status. Mr. Derrick reported that all counties were live on the eFiling system by the end of September, more than nine months ahead of schedule. A press conference was held on September 30th to announce completion.

Mr. Derrick spoke about entering a “Refinement Phase” which would focus on the counties yet to be mandatory, JCIT Tech Standards updates, legislative changes, and 3rd Party CMS integrations.

Mr. Derrick then talked about permissive criminal eFiling. Only subsequent cases will be considered and the counties must have written consent by the majority of criminal court

judges to begin the process per the adopted statewide rules. Justice Simmons asked if it was a one-time sign-off and if anyone had turned it in yet. Mr. Derrick assured that it was a one-time sign-off and that they had received several affirmatives.

There was a discussion regarding Rule 1.2 and what it really meant for criminal eFiling. David Slayton stated that Rule 1.2 was not about if criminal cases could be electronic but rather when the clerk could turn on criminal eFiling. John Warren proposed that JCIT set a date and that statistics behind adoption be gathered. Mr. Slayton assured the committee that he would keep the Court of Criminal Appeals informed and that if there were obstacles he would inform them immediately. Justice Simmons thanked Mr. Derrick for getting the system up and running for all counties quickly.

B. Standards Committee

1. Update on possible JP eFiling suggested codes

Mr. Derrick expressed that he had receive heavy interest from JP courts for eFiling and expressed the need to have JP eFiling codes as part of the technology standards.

Mr. Wessels discussed putting together a special committee to look at suggested JP eFiling codes. Mr. Kennedy mentioned that he would work with Mr. Wessels to get the special committee together and would use the existing civil eFiling codes as a basis to start the process.

The group then discussed Guide and File implementation (Pro-Se forms). Mr. Derrick indicated that the system was now available in several counties across the state.

Mr. Hawthorne then spoke about the details of implementing an eService email address into the State Bar registration system.

Justice Simmons then spoke about the need to standardize the process for submitting proposed orders via eFiling. Mr. Derrick reported that he would be attending the county and district clerk's association meeting in January and would be sure to include the ideal process in his agenda.

Mr. Slayton asked what solutions could be provided to judges who aren't in an electronic environment. Mr. Derrick said they should be able to provide an update with options by the next JCIT meeting.

C. Public Access to Court Records

1. Survey to Clerks

266 responses have been received. The subcommittee will use the results to create a document that will discuss security, fee standardization, permissions, and protecting sensitive data.

D. Criminal Rules

The group discussed the possibility of making criminal eFiling mandatory. Judge Yeary expressed concern that people would not be comfortable making it mandatory right away, that the permissive period also for necessary 'buy-in'. Judge Yeary discussed the need for public hearing to which there was interest within the group. Justice Simmons offered to draft a letter with speaker recommendations from JCIT and Judge Yeary accepted.

Justice Simmons adjourned the meeting at 11:57 a.m.