

JUDICIAL COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

MEETING MINUTES

10:00AM – 2:00PM – January 20, 2017

Texas Association of Counties

I. Call to Order

Justice Simmons called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

JCIT Voting Members:

Chair, Justice Rebecca Simmons

Vice-Chair, Bob Wessels

David Escamilla

Honorable Woody Gossom, Jr.

Honorable Dan Hinde

Roland Johnson (*phone*)

Honorable Brian Quinn

Dean Stanzione (*phone*)

Dennis Van Metre

Honorable John Warren

Honorable Sheri Woodfin

JCIT Liaison Members:

Miles Brisette (*phone*)

Randy Chapman

Honorable Annie Elliot

Honorable Roy Ferguson (*phone*)

Laura Garcia

Doug Gowin (*phone*)

Honorable Blake Hawthorne

Honorable Laura Hinojosa

Tracy Hopper

Gary Hutton

Honorable Sasha Kelton

Cynthia Orr (*phone*)

Honorable Velva Price

Honorable Nancy Rister

Sian Schilhab

David Slayton

Michelle Spencer (*phone*)

Mark Unger

Honorable Kevin Yeary

Others in attendance:

Armando Balderama, iDocket

Travis Banks, Bexar County (*phone*)
Honorable Celeste Bichsel, District/County Clerk, Carson County
Carter Casteel
Eric Cullison, Tyler Technologies
Elanor Dearman
Latonia Dickens (*phone*)
Natalie Emken, FSX (*phone*)
Honorable Sharena Gilliland, District Clerk, Parker County
Bruce Graham, Tyler Technologies
Bobby Gutierrez, Travis County
Honorable Patti Henry, District Clerk, Chambers County
Elaine Hosage, Travis County
Honorable Laura Hughes, County Clerk, Kaufman County
James Hurley, Conference of Urban Counties
Diane Igwell
Victor Jauregui, Travis County
Kelsey Jukam, Courthouse News
Jeff Karotkin, OneLegal (*phone*)
Honorable Teresa Kiel, County Clerk, Guadalupe County
Honorable Tammy Kneuper, District Clerk, Bandera County
Honorable Jennifer Lindenzweig, County Clerk, Hunt County
Laurelea Lindquist, Tyler Technologies
Dee Lott, Mozato (*phone*)
Zonia Minjares, Collin County (*phone*)
Alisia Morris, Tarrant County (*phone*)
Ron Morgan, Travis County
Jeff Nicholson (*phone*)
Anita Octiva, Travis County
Honorable Angelia Orr, District Clerk, Hill County
Gary Roberts
Amalia Rodriguez-Mendoza, Turbo Court
Jon Running, Tyler Technologies
Caren Skipworth, Collin County
Roman Villarreal, Office of Attorney General
Tonya Watson, Travis County
Honorable Tom Wilder, District Clerk, Tarrant County
Honorable Caroline Woodburn, District Clerk, Potter County

Office of Court Administration Staff:

Casey Kennedy, Director, Information Services
Susan Chamberlain, Deputy Director, Information Services
Mena Ramon, General Counsel
Megan LaVoie, Public Information Officer (*phone*)
Holly Taylor
Anissa Johnson, Program Director, Children's Courts (*phone*)

II. Approval of Meeting Minutes – October 28, 2016

Motion to approve minutes made by the Honorable Woody Gossum, Jr. and seconded by the Honorable Brian Quinn. *Motion carries.*

III. Technology Presentation – Courtroom Tech

Judge Knopf from Justice A/V solutions (JAVs) talked about the benefits a good Audio/Video system in the court room including security, cost savings, and creating a reliable record. Forty-five states currently accept digital recording in court rooms.

IV. Committee/Workgroup Reports

A. eFileTexas Civil/Criminal update

Laurelea Lindquist stated that they are steadily moving forward with the top 10 in preparation for the July 2017 Criminal mandate. Brazoria and Guadalupe counties have new Judges and are currently in progress.

Sian Schilhab mentioned that a new rule has been presented to the Criminal Court of Appeals for a relook at what has been written. The hope is to get new version to the Bar Journal by April.

Ms. Lindquist showed that eFiling has had a steady incline in users from 2015 to 2016 with 1.5 million more filings than had been anticipated at full tilt. The return for correction rate has steadied out at approximately 7% and responses under 24 hours at about 85%.

David Slayton questioned the average number of Pro-Se filings per month. The consensus is that self-represented litigants aren't filing because they don't know they can do it themselves. Sheri Woodfin stated that they go to legal aid and already have it on paper so what benefit would they have to do it electronically. Justice Simmons believes that as legal aid starts to use eFiling the number should ramp up.

Honorable Blake Hawthorne mentioned that there should be better online publicity to target pro se. Casey Kennedy stated that there is a unique web address but more can be done with rebranding and publicity. David Slayton requested that the EFSP chart is modified to show who offers specialize services.

B. Standards Committee

1. Review/Adoption of Technology Standards

Mr. Wessels reviewed changes to the Technology standards adopted by the Standards subcommittee.

Motion to adopt version 4.0 of the Technology Standards by Dennis Van Metre and seconded by John Warren. *Motion carries.*

C. Re:SearchTX Committee

1. Discussion and consideration of the policy recommendations on Re:SearchTX to the Texas Supreme Court

Justice Simmons began by recalling the history of Re:SearchTX – why it was requested and went forward (to help Judges who were “forced” to go paperless). She reiterated that it does not replace any future public document access system and does not affect custody of official records.

Justice Simmons then explained the process that was followed to come up with the recommendations that are being brought forward including explaining that there were different sub-committees that had multiple JCIT members on each sub-committee.

Justice Simmons reviewed the recommendations individually with discussion around each one. In addition to policy issues discussed, the group also spoke about several technical issues that needed to be overcome. This included expunctions, watermarking, sealing at the document level.

The group amended the judge role to include statewide jurisdiction rather than local jurisdiction. The group also amended the permissions for Attorney on the Case to remove the 60-day restriction for access.

Motion to adopt the roles and permissions of Judges and Attorneys on the Case by Bob Wessels seconded by Dennis VanMetre. *Motion carries.*

Motion to suspend discussion on the rest of the recommendations for 45 days in order for the clerks to provide additional input made by John Warren seconded by Woody Gossum. *Motion carries.*

V. Open Discussion

Justice Simmons opened the floor for speakers from the public.

Sharena Gilliland – Representing 90-100 counties that oppose Re:SearchTX in its current form. Ms. Gilliland expressed there is a need to have consent of clerks to share documents.

They are not opposed to technology and progress and have worked closely to make eFiling successful. She believes that convenience is not enough and are willing to discuss options.

Ron Morgan – Documents are already online available for free, the issue is potential of impact on resources. Would like to consider that the clerks will see increase in questions about documents. Not opposed but must find a way to make it fit. Mr. Morgan also quoted paragraph 9 in Tyler Technologies frequently asked questions and had a question about redacted records. No one had a copy of the quoted text so Mr. Morgan will follow-up with Tyler.

Caren Skipworth – Stated that they had issue with way ReSearch:TX was brought to forefront and that they felt that the Clerks need to be more involved. Ms. Skipworth believes that ReSearch:TX is in direct conflict with their contract with Tyler for their Case Management System.

Justice Simmons adjourned the meeting at 2:30 p.m.