

# JUDICIAL COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

## MEETING MINUTES

10:00AM – 12:00PM – April 4, 2017

Texas Association of Counties

### I. Call to Order

*Justice Simmons called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m.*

#### JCIT Voting Members:

Chair, Justice Rebecca Simmons  
Vice-Chair, Bob Wessels (*phone*)  
David Escamilla  
Honorable Dan Hinde  
Honorable Brian Quinn (*phone*)  
Dean Stanzione (*phone*)  
Dennis Van Metre  
Honorable John Warren  
Ed Wells (*phone*)  
Honorable Sheri Woodfin

#### JCIT Liaison Members:

Randy Chapman  
Honorable Judy Crawford  
Honorable Annie Elliot (*phone*)  
Honorable Roy Ferguson  
Doug Gowin (*phone*)  
Honorable Blake Hawthorne  
Tracy Hopper  
Gary Hutton (*phone*)  
Honorable Sasha Kelton  
Honorable Steve King (*phone*)  
Honorable Velva Price (*phone*)  
Honorable Nancy Rister (*phone*)  
Sian Schilhab  
David Slayton  
Mark Unger (*phone*)

#### Others in attendance:

Renda Abraham, FileNServeExpress (*phone*)  
Evan Acosta, Tyler Technologies  
Armando Balderama, iDocket  
Honorable Celeste Bichsel, District/County Clerk, Carson County, (*phone*)  
Honorable Chris Daniel, District Clerk, Harris County  
David Ferris, Travis County

Bobby Gutierrez, Travis County  
Elaine Hosage, Travis County  
Victor Jauregui, Travis County  
Warda Kahn, FileNServeExpress (*phone*)  
Honorable Teresa Kiel, County Clerk, Guadalupe County  
Heather Kellum, Travis County  
Carlos Lopez, Travis County  
Brian McGrath, Tyler Technologies  
Jeff Nicholson, Travis County (*phone*)  
Anilz Ochoa, Travis County  
Jama Pantel, Travis County  
Natalie Rasco, FileNServeExpress (*phone*)  
Laura Richard, Fort Bend County (*phone*)  
Amalia Rodriguez-Mendoza, TurboCourt  
Mark Schwartz, OneLegal (*phone*)  
Tanya Watson, Travis County  
Honorable Caroline Woodburn, District Clerk, Potter County (*phone*)

Office of Court Administration Staff:

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

**II. Approval of Meeting Minutes**

**Motion** to approve the January 20, 2017 and the March 3, 2017 minutes made by the Honorable Brian Quinn and seconded by the Honorable John Warren. *Motion carries.*

**III. Committee/Workgroup Reports**

**A. eFileTexas Civil/Criminal Update**

Laurelea Lindquist stated for the July 1, 2017 mandate for top 10: Collin, Denton, Hidalgo and El Paso Counties are live. Fort Bend second office goes live on Monday. Bexar County has District Clerk's office live. Early June go live planned for Dallas County. May 17<sup>th</sup> go live planned for Travis County. Tarrant and Harris County have exemptions and will not be mandatory until January 1, 2018.

Ms. Lindquist commented that the biggest barrier to being ready for initial criminal eFiling is the vendor community and the ability to transmit the additional fields needed to initiate criminal cases. Sian Shilab clarified that Criminal eFiling rules are in place: For eFiling, charging instruments are permissible, not required.

Discussion on rules and preferences regarding paper files and how to promote eFiling through judicial education.

Follow-up on disposition of Guide & File, research of common issues to take place offline.

#### **B. Standards Committee**

Nothing to consider at this time, but fonts issue to come up in August.

#### **C. Re:SearchTX Committee**

Brian McGrath with Tyler gave a brief overview and status of Re:SearchTX. Current concentration is for the development of Clerks and Attorneys of Record access to the system.

John Warren suggests that when a Judge is given access to the system, the Clerk should also be given access as well. Casey Kennedy will reach out to the clerks whose Judges are currently on the system to grant access.

Additional conversations will be needed regarding auditing and Rule 12.

Discussion about integrated versus manual functionality. Concern about having to manage in multiple systems. Issues will be addressed during beta testing.

Suggestion to bring on JCIT lawyers that are tech savvy to assist in the beta testing for feedback purposes.

#### **IV. Open Discussion**

Judge Dan Hinde shared anecdotal story to confirm importance of a watermark on unofficial documents. He also brought up a potential gap in eFiling having to do with official judicial correspondence and orders.

Discussion about rejection of efilings. Standards Committee to review more consistent way to present information about why the filing was rejected. More policy driven than technology.

*Justice Simmons adjourned the meeting at 11:52 a.m.*