

JUDICIAL COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

MEETING MINUTES

10:00AM – 12:00PM – March 29, 2019

Texas Association of Counties

I. Call to Order

Justice Simmons called the meeting to order at 10:12 a.m.

JCIT Voting Members

Chair, Justice Rebecca Simmons

Vice-Chair, Bob Wessels

Honorable David Escamilla

Honorable Dan Hinde

Roland Johnson (*phone*)

Honorable Brian Quinn (*phone*)

Todd Smith (*phone*)

Carlos Soltero

Dean Stanzione (*phone*)

Dennis VanMetre

Honorable John Warren

Ed Wells (*phone*)

Honorable Sheri Woodfin (*phone*)

JCIT Liaison Members

Randy Chapman

Honorable Judy Crawford

Honorable Sarah Davis (*phone*)

Honorable Annie Elliot

Doug Gowin (*phone*)

Honorable Blake Hawthorne

Gary Hutton

Tracy Hopper

Honorable Nancy Rister

Sian Schilhab

David Slayton

Mark Unger (*phone*)

Honorable Kevin Yeary

Others in Attendance

Kelsey Clark, File and Serve (*phone*)

Jaclyn Daumerie, Supreme Court

Terry Derrick, Tyler Technologies

Jeanine Hudson, DPS (*phone*)

Jeff Karotkin, One Legal (*phone*)
Kayla Lail, Office of Rep. Sarah Davis (*phone*)
Richard Luna, iDocket.com
Patrick Mckinnie, One Legal (*phone*)
Dallas Osborn, NET Data (*phone*)
Beth Rogers, Montgomery County (*phone*)
April Scott, Tyler Technologies
Steve Schenk, ProDoc eFiling
Mark Schwartz, One Legal (*phone*)
Michelle Spencer, Venio Systems (*phone*)
Holly Taylor, Court of Criminal Appeals
Beverley Walker, Fort Bend County (*phone*)
Holly Webb, Tarrant County (*phone*)
Brad Weems, Williamson County
Deborah Woltersdorf, Office of the Attorney General

Office of Court Administration Staff

Casey Kennedy, Director, Information Services
Mena Ramon, General Counsel (*phone*)
Angela Garcia, Chief Data Officer (*phone*)
Amanda Stites, Project Manager, Information Services
Jeffrey Tsunekawa, Acting Director, Research and Court Services (*phone*)

II. Approval of Meeting Minutes

Motion to approve February minutes as presented. **Motion by David Escamilla, second by John Warren – no opposition. Motion carries.**

III. Vendor Updates

eFile Texas – Mr. Derrick from Tyler Technologies provided the following updates:

Civil/Criminal Update – 15,000 new users in last 90 days; 46,000 filings daily; Criminal Rollout – Four counties in Group 5 (deadline of July 2019) remain; 70 counties in Group 6 (deadline of January 2020) remain.

Guide and File – Some additional volume in January and February; top 10 counties of utilization remain the same; 16% completion rate (printed or electronically filed); Tyler is trying to identify when abandonment occurs to identify potential reasons.

Randy Chapman asked if the documents in Texas Law Help could be electronically filed. Mr. Derrick responded that it would possible for Texas Law Help to act as an electronic filing service provider.

Redaction Services Update – Two additional training sessions were conducted in March and the recorded sessions are on OCA’s YouTube Channel. Redaction Services have been used more than 37,000 times, with only four software defects reported.

Responding to a question from Mr. Slayton about the outreach efforts to attorneys, Mr. Derrick reviewed the outreach efforts to attorneys: online training videos, documentation, and i-contact messages. Justice Simmons suggested that a central place for information on redaction is needed and recommended an article in the Bar Journal.

Redaction performance metrics were discussed and the need for education about the accuracy percentage. Ms. Woodfin stated that some attorneys continue to mark documents that they contain sensitive data and Mr. Slayton stated that a future discussion is needed about the sensitive data rule (Rule 21c).

Ms. Hopper mentioned an issue with Redaction Services in which redaction activity has occurred, although nothing was redacted. Tyler will look at including information that nothing was redacted in this situation.

Mr. Derrick provided a review of enhancements: Admin Review History, Case Cross-Reference Numbers, eFileTexas Filer Application, new eFileTexas Review Application for clerks, Bulk eFiling and Agency Firm Functionality. JCIT will need to determine if bulk eFiling features will be implemented and need to make sure that rules don’t prohibit this functionality.

re:SearchTX Update – re:SearchTX now has more than 9,000 users. Tyler continues to receive feedback that judgments and orders are needed before re:SearchTX will be a comprehensive solution. There has been a reluctance for counties to integrate. Mr. Slayton discussed a bill that has been introduced that would clarify that Clerks have no liability if documents are on re:SearchTX.

Mr. Derrick provided an overview of the enhancements: upgraded landing page, case hearing information, criminal case information, purchase all case documents, and download all documents purchased. Mr. Kennedy stated that JCIT will need to discuss rules and roles related to criminal case information.

Judge Hinde asked about the status of updating roles in re:SearchTX. The current process is a manual review and the need for an automated process was discussed. Ms. Hopper mentioned concern about judges having access to sealed documents in any county. JCIT made that recommendation and it was adopted by SC and CCA.

Justice Simmons discussed an issue regarding parties getting notice of documents being filed but not notice of acceptance. (Only the submitter gets notice of acceptance.)

Information was shared with the clerks regarding the process and related appeal deadlines.

IV. Legislative and OCA Updates

Mr. Slayton provided a legislative update:

- Bill on regarding liability for clerks through the distribution of documents through re:SearchTX;
- SB 2133 would require OCA to establish a statewide case management system; and
- Senate and House recommend funding for OCA to provide smaller counties with a case management system.

Mr. Slayton provided an overview of upcoming OCA technology projects and requested that JCIT members serve on work and focus groups.

- Case Management System
- eFiling Contract
- Protective Order Registry
- Settlement Agreement Database
- Pretrial Risk Assessment
- Online Dispute Resolution

V. Standards

Mr. Wessels provided a review of changes to standards. Version 6 changes were made by the high courts with amendments:

- In all courts, removed Writ of Habeas Corpus from Civil – Related to Criminal in both eFile and re:SearchTX.
- In the Fourteen Courts of Appeals, removed Family – Parent/Child Relationship – Parental Notification from eFile and re:SearchTX.

VI. Open Discussion

Hyperlinks in electronically filed documents were discussed. Harris County sent notice that documents with hyperlinks will not be accepted. Justice Simmons stated that a committee is needed to review this issue.

Motion to add a Cyber Security Standing Committee to JCIT. **Motion by John Warren, second by Carlos Soltero - no opposition. Motion carries.**

Justice Simmons announced the new standing committee and appointed Judge Hinde and Mr. Van Metre to serve on the committee. Additional committee members are Ms. Hopper, Mr. Smith, Mr. Kennedy and Ms. Spencer. The committee's first assignment is to look at the current state, in Texas and other states, of rules for courts and lawyers regarding hyperlinks.

Justice Simmons stated that a Criminal Committee will need to be created to look at access to documents in re:SearchTX and asked for recommendations on who should serve on the committee.

Justice Simmons adjourned the meeting at 12:35 pm.