

**Judicial Committee on Information Technology  
October 16, 2020 - Zoom**

**Meeting Minutes**

**I. Call to Order**

Justice Simmons called the meeting to order at 9:02AM.

Voting Members Present

Honorable Rebecca Simmons

Bob Wessels

Honorable David Escamilla

Honorable Dan Hinde

Honorable Laura Hinojosa

Cynthia Orr, Attorney

Honorable Brian Quinn

Todd Smith

Carlos Soltero

Dean Stanzione

Dennis Van Metre

Honorable John Warren

Ed Wells

Non-Voting Liaison Members Present

Honorable Jeffrey S. Boyd

Miles Brissette

Annie Elliott

Jessica Griffith

Honorable Blake Hawthorne

Tracy Hopper

Roland Johnson

Honorable Jennifer Lindenzweig

Karen Miller

Honorable Velva Price

Honorable Russ Ridgway

Honorable Nancy E. Rister

Sian Schilhab

David Slayton

Stephanie Sterling

Honorable Ralph Swearingin

OCA Staff

Casey Kennedy, Director, Information Services

Other Participants

Terry Derrick, Tyler Technologies  
Chris Ricci, Tyler Technologies  
Matt Veigl, Tyler Technologies

## **II. Program Updates**

### **A. eFile Texas/re:SearchTX/Guide and File**

Terry Derrick with Tyler Technologies gave an update on the current eFiling system and how the pandemic has impacted the growth of the electronic system. Initially during the pandemic, electronic filings were down, but have recently recovered. Mr. Derrick also briefed the group on the usage of the redaction tool.

Justice Simmons spoke to the need for getting orders into re:SearchTX and that JCIT should look into ways to promote the inclusion of orders. David Slayton reviewed the different ways available to the counties to include orders. Justice Simmons appointed a subcommittee to further explore with Carlos Soltero and Todd Smith as co-chairs.

### **B. eFileTexas 2.0 update**

Casey Kennedy gave an update that OCA is in the process of procuring the system and should be wrapped up later on in the year.

### **C. JCIT Cybersecurity Subcommittee**

Dan Hinde gave an update on the first meeting of the Cybersecurity subcommittee. The subcommittee identified a proposed charge for JCIT to approve. Ed Wells requested that general disaster recovery be added to the scope of the subcommittee. Justice Simmons approved the charge of the subcommittee and asked the subcommittee to continue its work.

## **III. Old Business**

### **A. Courthouse News recommendation to the Supreme Court**

Justice Simmons relayed that the recommendation to the Supreme Court was approved by email vote and sent along to the court. The recommendation was that Courthouse News not be granted access to court documents prior to acceptance by the clerk.

## **IV. New Business**

### **A. OCA use of technology to aide courts during the pandemic**

David Slayton gave an update on courts use of technology for the pandemic. He reported about OCA acquiring licenses for Zoom for all judges and that the first hearing occurred 11 days after the Governor declared a disaster. He reported that in most cases, people prefer to connect via audio and video versus just calling in via phone.

Mr. Slayton also reported that virtual hearings are seeing more participation and that the number of jurors showing for jury trials has increased. He also reported that OCA is offering loaner iPads for virtual trials and jury selection for counties.

## **V. Adjournment**

Justice Simmons adjourned the meeting at 10:56am.