

Judicial Committee on Information Technology
April 29, 2021 - Zoom
Meeting Minutes

I. Call to Order

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

Voting Members Present

Rebecca Simmons
Bob Wessels
Honorable Dan Hinde
Honorable Missy Medary
Todd Smith
Carlos Soltero
Dean Stanzione
Dennis Van Metre
Honorable John Warren
Ed Wells

Non-Voting Members Present

Honorable Jeff Boyd
Miles Brisette
Honorable Roy Ferguson
Doug Gowin
Jessica Griffith
Honorable Blake Hawthorne
Tracy Hopper
Roland Johnson
Karen Miller
Honorable Velva Price
Sian Schilhab
Honorable Ralph Swearingin
Mark Unger

OCA Staff

Casey Kennedy, Director, Information Services
Sam Levario, Project Manager, EPO

Others Present

Evan Acosta, Tyler Technologies
Terry Derrick, Tyler Technologies
Chris Ricci, Tyler Technologies

II. Program Updates

A. eFileTexas/re:SearchTX/Guide and File

Terry Derrick from Tyler Technologies reported that the filing volume had largely recovered back to pre-pandemic levels. Mr. Derrick also reported that the redaction tool is being utilized at pre-pandemic levels as well. He then spoke about eFiling at the Justices of the Peace, reporting that the number of courts adopting eFiling at the permissive level has stabilized and leveled out. John Warren asked if further lack of adoption might have to do with old business processes and if OCA had resources to assist JP courts in updating their processes. Mr. Kennedy offered OCA's Research and Court Services division who has a former district clerk on staff that is well versed in current court business practices that can assist any court having a process issue.

Mr. Derrick reported that re:SearchTX usage continues to grow. Dennis Van Metre asked about the revenue being generated for local counties through the system. Mr. Derrick committed to having that data available at the next meeting.

B. eFileTexas 2.0

Casey Kennedy from OCA gave an update on the eFile 2.0 project. Mr. Kennedy spoke about the new features of the system, including the new reviewer tool to replace Silverlight, the implementation of ECF 5, and eFiling Insights. He explained that the requirements that Tyler does not already perform were split into several phases and will be implemented over the next two years. He also mentioned that the processes around returning for correction and proposed orders are going to be re-worked in eFile 2.0 to have a better user experience.

Dennis Van Metre asked if the new system can handle larger and different file types. Mr. Kennedy explained that while it can, we may be limited on what the local case management system can handle.

Miles Brissette then reminded the committee about a current issue where court reporters are converting digital files by using the first result on Google rather than doing it in a way to preserve the evidence. The group discussed the various issues with electronic evidence in the eFile system. Justice Simmons asked Mr. Brissette to prepare a presentation for the next JCIT meeting.

C. Update on Uniform Case Management System (UCMS)

Mr. Kennedy provided the group an overview of the objectives of the UCMS and the audience of the system. He reported that OCA expects to have the procurement completed in May or June.

D. JCIT Cybersecurity subcommittee

Judge Hinde reported that the subcommittee conducted a survey on cybersecurity to the clerks to get a view on the current state of cybersecurity in the courts. The group reviewed the survey and the responses received.

Judge Hinde propose that based on these results, the cybersecurity subcommittee should focus on producing a report that can tell judges, court administrators, and court clerks things that can be done with little to no involvement from the IT department to instill a culture of security. He also recommended that the subcommittee also create a list of questions that judges, court administrator, and clerks should ask their IT departments and be comfortable with the answers provided.

E. Orders in re:SearchTX subcommittee

Mr. Soltero reported that the subcommittee met and presented a survey to be given to the clerks that will allow the committee to see the existing clerk processes around how orders are maintained. The group reviewed the committee's survey and requested that it be put out to the clerks.

III. Adjourn

Justice Simmons adjourned the meeting at 12:07p.m.