

**JUDICIAL COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
MEETING MINUTES
January 24, 2014 – 10:00 a.m.
Teleconference**

I. Call to Order
Justice Simmons called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m.

JCIT Members:

Chair, Justice Rebecca Simmons
Honorable Mike Cantrell
Honorable David Escamilla
Honorable David Field
Honorable Dain Johnson
Roland Johnson
Steve Mills
Honorable Amalia Rodríguez-Mendoza
Dean Stanzione
Ed Wells
Bob Wessels

JCIT Liaison Members:

Honorable Jeffrey Boyd
Honorable Gary Fitzsimmons
Doug Gowin
Joel Green
Honorable Blake Hawthorne
Honorable Laura Hinojosa
Tracy Hopper
Gary Hutton
Honorable Brian Quinn
Penny Redington
Honorable Nancy Rister
Sian Schilhab
David Slayton
Honorable Dianne Wilson
Honorable Sheri Woodfin
Mark Unger
Dennis Van-Metre
Honorable John Warren

Others in attendance:

Richard Ballard, Dallas County
Travis Banks, Bexar County
Phillip Baughman, Tyler Technologies
Matthew Bennett, AMCAD

Tammy Carter, File and Serve Xpress
Alfred Castillo, File and Serve Xpress
Clifton Edwards, Harris County
Adriana Garcia, Hidalgo County
Sabrina Guerra, Hidalgo County
Reginald Hirsch, Attorney
Jeanine Hudson, Department of Public Safety
Jeff Karotkin, One Legal
Sherri Kroeker, MyFileRunner
Jo Anne Leger, Court Reporter
Brian McGrath, Tyler Technologies
Chris McKinney, McKinney Law Firm
Honorable Donna Kay McKinney, Bexar County
Grant Nahrstedt, AMCAD
Rod Napier, Office of Attorney General
Bill Pewitt, File and Serve Xpress
Steve Schenk, ProDoc
Louis Sellers, Office of Attorney General
Michael Shapiro, Ez Messenger
Brad Smith, Mentis Technology
Michelle Spencer, Bracewell & Giuliani
Rosemary Wilcox, File and Serve Xpress
Margaret Wolfe, Harris County

Office of Court Administration Staff:

Casey Kennedy, Director, Information Services
Mena Ramon, General Counsel
Thomas Sullivan, Deputy Director, Information Services

II. Approval of Minutes – December 12, 2013

Meeting minutes were amended to show Gary Fitzsimmons was present on the phone. Motion to approve the minutes as amended was made by Dean Stanzione with a second by Ed Wells. **Motion carried.**

III. Committee Reports

A. eFiling

Brian McGrath with Tyler Technologies gave a presentation to update the group on the activities since the previous meeting. Mr. McGrath reported that all courts affected by the January 1st mandate were successfully eFiling on or before December 23, 2013. He mentioned that the Supreme Court, Court of Criminal Appeals, the fourteen Courts of Appeal, and 53 counties are all now eFiling.

Mr. McGrath then spoke about the future deployment plans. There are currently 23 counties that are fully live on eFiling, 30 counties that need some refinement, 26 counties that are not currently eFiling that need to go live by July 1, 2015, and 175

counties not currently eFiling that need to go live by July 1, 2016. Mr. McGrath is concerned about the large number of courts due to go live towards the final mandate date, and is looking to move several of those courts to go live earlier than their mandate date.

Mr. McGrath provided the next steps for eFileTexas, which are to create a software release plan with OCA; to develop the 2014 court implementation plan; and to begin the kickoff meetings for the next round of courts that are going live.

Gary Fitzsimmons asked a question about whether or not juvenile cases could be eFiled. David Slayton responded that it depends on whether the case is sealed or not, and that in general CPS cases are included in the mandate but adoptions generally are excluded. Mr. Slayton also that Rule 21c. discusses that eFiled documents shouldn't contain confidential information, unless specifically required in the filing, in which case the filer must notify the clerk.

There was a question about what efforts are being taken to advertise the positive experiences with eFiling. OCA is using Twitter to note milestones, there are articles for bar publications, and on January 31 Chief Hecht will be holding a press conference at the Tyler offices. Mr. Fitzsimmons said they are having a judges' luncheon to provide the judges with more information on eFiling.

The EFSPs talked about their perspectives on eFiling. Tammy Carter mentioned that their wait times were down and they were seeing lots of improvement. Steve Schenk said that his filers were having lots of issues getting adjusted to the new ProDoc system and with non-indexed cases.

Mr. Kennedy discussed that there is currently a group of EFSP representatives who meet weekly to discuss their issues, and a group of Clerks who meet monthly to discuss their issues. Mr. Kennedy will send out the list of EFSP issues to the clerk group and the list of clerk issues to the EFSP group.

Action Item: Justice Simmons wants to create a similar issue group for attorneys and to have cross representation between the EFSP, Clerk, and attorney groups. Mark Unger mentioned that paralegals should be included as part of the attorney group, and Michelle Spencer mentioned she would be glad to participate.

Mr. Slayton discussed that Tyler had sent out a survey to all registered eFilers, and over 3000 people responded. Overall, the responses were fairly positive, depending on the EFSP. The results should be available soon.

Action Item: Justice Simmons asked Mr. Slayton to circulate the survey results to the JCIT members.

Action Item: Justice Simmons wants an eFiling PowerPoint presentation developed for JCIT members to have available to use in discussions about eFiling with judges.

Brian McGrath will develop the preliminary draft, and provide to Justice Simmons.

B. Standards

Bob Wessels, chair of the committee, reported that the committee has met twice since the last JCIT meeting. The plan is to use the existing civil case cover sheet with additions for Family Law and Juvenile to develop standard case categories, case types, and filing types. The goal is to have a simple and consistent interface which could be used to retire the case cover sheet and could eliminate the need for courts to submit monthly reports to OCA. The next step is to develop the minimum standards for initial and subsequent filing types.

Action Item: The standards committee will develop a list of best practices for distribution to clerks' offices.

IV. New Business - None

V. Open Discussion - None

Justice Simmons adjourned the meeting at 11:57 a.m.

**Next meeting: April 25, 2014
Texas Association of Counties**