

**JUDICIAL COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
MEETING MINUTES
October 24, 2014 – 10:03 a.m.
Texas Association of Counties**

I. Call to Order

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

JCIT Members:

Chair, Justice Rebecca Simmons
Vice-Chair, Bob Wessels
Honorable David Escamilla
Honorable David Field (*phone*)
Honorable Dain Johnson (*phone*)
Honorable Woody Gossom Jr. (*phone*)
Roland K. Johnson (*phone*)
Steve Mills (*phone*)
Honorable Brian Quinn (*phone*)
Dennis Van Metre
Ed Wells (*phone*)

JCIT Liaison Members:

Honorable Jeffrey Boyd
Miles Brissette (*phone*)
Randy Chapman (*phone*)
Honorable Judy Crawford (*phone*)
Honorable Annie Elliott
Laura Garcia
Doug Gowin (*phone*)
Honorable Dan Hinde
Honorable Laura Hinojosa (*phone*)
Tracy Hopper
Gary Hutton
Honorable Steve King (*phone*)
Sian Schilhab
Michelle Spencer
Honorable John Warren (*phone*)
Honorable Dianne Wilson

Others in attendance:

Armando Balderama, iDocket
Terry Derrick, Tyler Technologies
Nicole Gelinis, Professional Civil Process
Joel Green, Mentis Technology

Ronald Morgan, Travis County
Rod Napier, Office of Attorney General
Melissa Newton, Professional Civil Process
Dallas Oshon, NetData
Steve Schenk, ProDoc
Mark Schwartz, OneLegal (*phone*)

Office of Court Administration Staff:
Casey Kennedy, Director, Information Services
Mena Ramón, General Counsel
Thomas Sullivan, Deputy Director, Information Services

II. Approval of Minutes – July 25, 2014

Motion to approve the minutes was made by Bob Wessels with a second by David Escamilla. **Motion carried.**

III. Committee Reports

A. eFiling Program Update

Terry Derrick, Tyler Technologies, gave a presentation to update the group on eFileTexas activities since the previous meeting. *Mr. Derrick's presentation has been posted on the JCIT website in the meeting section.*

There was discussion about issues with service email addresses. Casey Kennedy mentioned that there have been talks in the past with the State Bar about adding a second email address for attorneys that would be used for service. Justice Simmons said that a group needs to be convened to look at service of attorneys. David Escamilla, Roland Johnson, Annie Elliott, and Judge Hinde volunteered to serve on the group.

Justice Simmons said that the Clerk's Committee needs to look at return for correction issues.

Justice Simmons also said that a group is needed to specifically look at best practices for TROs, Proposed Orders and Emergency Motions. Dick King and Gary Hutton will serve on this group.

EFSP Update

Clerks Group Update

Filers Group Update

Casey Kennedy said that the governance groups have not met since the last JCIT meeting, so Tyler and everyone could focus on 3.8 and the new standards. The groups will resume meeting this cycle as 3.8.3 wraps up. Mr. Kennedy has the EFSP list ready to send out and the Clerks list is still being worked on.

Justice Simmons said the EFSPs and Clerks groups should work on ideas about

service, and more consistent standards for return for correction.

Justice Simmons spoke about Criminal eFiling. We need the Criminal eFiling group to meet to think about process issues. There are working drafts that need to be circulated, and the group needs to talk to Court of Criminal Appeals to get rules going.

B. Standards

Bob Wessels mentioned that the Supreme Court adopted the latest set of standards on October 14. There will still be some adjustments to be made, and some education needed. There may be some additional work needed in Probate.

Justice Simmons said we need a process to have the groups put together their recommended changes to the standards, have the entire JCIT committee review and vote on the proposed changes, and then forward the recommendations to the Supreme Court so the justices have time to review the proposal.

Dianne Wilson said one thing that would help is to have standardization in fees between clerks, as this has been a major barrier to eFiling. Also, the current paper laws are a barrier. There are some statutes and fees that need to be addressed this next session.

C. Public Access to Court Records

Justice Simmons says the holy grail of eFiling for attorneys is the ability to view the digital documents online, similar to how PACER works today. She says the group needs to kick off that discussion. The State's contract with Tyler includes a component to provide public access to court records. For counties that already provide access to court records, the model could be for the Tyler system to point to these courts' systems. Others believe the access to documents should be free to the public. Dean Stanzione and John Warren have been working on some initial ideas for this. Casey Kennedy has been working with Mr. Stanzione and Mr. Warren on a bare bones technical diagram for how this might work. The goal of the committee is to leverage the report that was put together for Justice Phillips several years ago, and to survey the courts to see what they do today in regards to public access. Mr. Kennedy will be reaching out to the committee members to get the project kicked off.

IV. Old Business

a. State Supported Case Management/ JCIT Tasks

Casey Kennedy briefed the group on the latest status for the Case Management RFO. Responses were received from vendors, and the evaluation panel has evaluated the various proposals. OCA has asked for funding in the Legislative Appropriations Request to provide a case management system that the smaller counties can use if they so desire.

b. Legislative Initiatives

Casey Kennedy spoke about upcoming OCA legislative initiatives which include funding grants to counties for technical assistance to begin eFiling, the state supported case management system mentioned above, and an item to rewrite OCA's data warehouse system (aka CARD). The new judicial data warehouse would allow data to be looked at in different ways, to allow better policy decisions.

c. Supreme Court Rules and Adoption of Standards

This was discussed as part of the Standards presentation by Mr. Wessels.

V. Open Discussion

Justice Simmons presented Dianne Wilson with a proclamation from the Supreme Court thanking her for her service on the JCIT committee. Ms. Wilson has served on the JCIT since its inception in 1997.

Justice Simmons adjourned the meeting at 12:02 p.m.

**Next meeting: January 23, 2015
Texas Association of Counties**