

thatJudicial Committee on Information Technology
September 9, 2022 – Office of Court Administration/Zoom

Meeting Minutes

I. Call to Order

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

Voting Members Present

Rebecca Simmons

Bob Wessels

Honorable Lawrence Doss

David Escamilla (virtual)

Honorable Roy Ferguson (virtual)

Honorable Dan Hinde

Honorable Laura Hinojosa (virtual)

Todd Smith (virtual)

Dean Stanzione (virtual)

Dennis Van Metre

Honorable John Warren (virtual)

Ed Wells (virtual)

Non-Voting Members Present

Honorable Jeffrey Boyd

Honorable Michael Cruz

Michael Cuccaro (virtual)

Doug Gowin (virtual)

Jessica Griffith (virtual)

Honorable Blake Hawthorne

Tracy Hopper

Roland Johnson (virtual)

Megan LaVoie (virtual)

Karen Miller (virtual)

Cynthia Orr (virtual)

Honorable Velva Price (virtual)

Honorable Nancy Rister (virtual)

Sian Schilhab (virtual)

Honorable David Stith (virtual)

Honorable Deana Williamson (virtual)

OCA Staff

Casey Kennedy, Director, Information Services
Mena Ramon, General Counsel

Others Present

Evan Acosta, Tyler Technologies
Terry Derrick, Tyler Technologies
Honorable Tom Gray, 10th Court of Appeals, Waco
Chirs Ricci, Tyler Technologies
Honorable Laura Richard, Fort Bend County

II. Meeting Minutes from the Previous Meeting

Motion to adopt the meeting minutes from the previous JCIT meeting in May 2022 by **Dennis VanMetre**. Seconded by **Roy Ferguson**. **Motion carried with no objections.**

III. Program Updates

A. eFileTexas/re:SearchTX/Guide and File

Evan Acosta with Tyler Technologies presented an updated on the eFile program. He reported on the current trends of filings including a slow uptick in filings. He spoke about redaction utilization increasing, but only covering 1% of the documents being filed. As requested from a previous JCIT meeting, Mr. Acosta presented data on the percentage of documents flowing through eFile that are marked as “containing sensitive data”. Across all case types, about 24% of documents are marked as sensitive by the filers. The case types that are most sensitive were family and probate case types.

Justice Simmons asked that a subcommittee be formed to further explore the use of redaction as well as where it should be placed within the eFile/re:SearchTX ecosystem. Justice Simmons named Dan Hinde to chair the subcommittee, with Michael Cruz, Lawrence Doss, Blake Hawthorne, Tracy Hopper, Dean Stanzone, and Bob Wessels as members.

B. Uniform Case Management System (UCMS)

Casey Kennedy gave the update on the UCMS. He reported that both vendors are working with their early adopter county and expect to go live at the end of the calendar year/early next year. Each vendor also has a list of additional counties to join. By the end of Q1 2023, OCA expects to have 30-40 county offices on UCMS.

IV. Subcommittee Updates

A. Orders in re:SearchTX Subcommittee

Todd Smith gave an update on the Orders subcommittee. He reported that the group recommends that the document title and filing type to the automated

certificate of service and that it would solve the issue with people confusing proposed orders and final orders. Casey Kennedy reported that he would work with Tyler Technologies to include this in an upcoming eFile 2.0 release.

Mr. Smith also spoke about needing rule changes to support orders in re:SearchTX. He commented that the subcommittee will be working with the Supreme Court rules attorney to continue to move forward.

V. Old Business

A. Flow of Sealed Documents in eFile

Mr. Kennedy updated the group as to how the federal system works with eFiling sealed documents. Justice Simmons referred the matter to the group exploring redaction in the eFiling system.

B. Free Access to re:SearchTX for certain groups

David Escamilla updated the committee that after the last subcommittee meeting, the group recommends pushing forward with using a form used by PACER to request free access for researchers. The completed form would be sent to OCA for a cursory review and then access granted.

Justice Simmons asked Mr. Escamilla to bring a federal form with adaptations for JCIT to a future meeting for consideration.

VI. New Business

A. Discussion of Supreme Court Letter requesting updates to the October 2020 report and recommendations on access to electronic court filings.

Justice Simmons briefed the group on a letter received from the Supreme Court asking JCIT to review and possibly update its recommendations to the court regarding public access to documents.

The committee discussed the letter and related activities with regards to clerk processing times in the eFiling/re:SearchTX system that would warrant further review.

Justice Simmons appointed a subcommittee to further explore the issues and provide recommendations for updates at the next JCIT meeting. The subcommittee appointed included Rebecca Simmons, Chair; Mike Cuccaro, Vice-Chair; Michael Cruz, Lawrence Doss, David Escamilla, Blake Hawthorne, Laura Hinojosa, Tracy Hopper, Todd Smith, Carlos Soltero, John Warren, Bob Wessels, Dennis VanMetre.

VII. Adjourn

Justice Simmons adjourned the meeting at 12:06P.M.