

Judicial Committee on Information Technology
June 2, 2023 – Office of Court Administration/Zoom

Meeting Minutes

I. Call to Order

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

Voting Members Present

Honorable Rebecca Simmons

Bob Wessels

David Escamilla (virtual)

Honorable Roy Ferguson (virtual)

Honorable Dan Hinde

Honorable Laura Hinojosa (virtual)

Carlos Soltero

Mark Unger (virtual)

Dennis VanMetre (virtual)

Honorable John Warren (virtual)

Ed Wells (virtual)

Non-Voting Members Present

Honorable Jeffrey Boyd (virtual)

Honorable David Canales (virtual)

Honorable Michael Cruz

Michael Cuccaro (virtual)

Doug Gowin (virtual)

Jessica Griffith (virtual)

Honorable Blake Hawthorne

Tracy Hopper

Roland Johnson (virtual)

Honorable Velva Price (virtual)

Sian Schilhab (virtual)

Honorable David Stith (virtual)

Honorable Ralph Swearingin (virtual)

OCA Staff

Casey Kennedy, Director, Information Services

Others Present

Jesus Acevedo, Fort Bend County

Evan Acosta, Tyler Technologies

Terry Derrick, Tyler Technologies

Jamie Gillespie, Tyler Technologies
Chris Ricci, Tyler Technologies

II. Meeting Minutes from the Previous Meeting

Motion to approve the minutes from the December 2022 and March 2023 meetings by **Bob Wessels**, seconded by **John Warren**. No opposition. **Motion carried.**

III. Program Updates

A. eFileTexas/re:SearchTX/Guide and File

Evan Acosta with Tyler Technologies updated the group on eFile including the additional JP offices added to eFile. Mr. Acosta updated the committee on the return for correction rates including the reasons. The top three were Filer's Request, Incomplete Information, and Judge's Request. Mark Unger reported that there have been instances with attorneys receiving returned documents using the incorrect reason. After discussion, Justice Simmons asked to bring the topic up again later in the meeting when lack of uniformity is discussed and that the committee needs additional data to explore how the system is used locally.

Mr. Acosta then reviewed the top case types with sensitive filings. The committee asked to re-run the data excluding Title IV-D and probate cases. Justice Boyd reported that the court may be asking JCIT to explore ways to ensure that documents marked as containing sensitive data do indeed contain sensitive data.

Mr. Acosta gave an update on the Guide and File system with the completion and electronic filings related to the system are trending up.

He then gave an updated on eFile 2.0 – summarizing the current project status as well as timelines and functionality that is upcoming. Justice Simmons asked about JP eFiling. Mr. Acosta reported that about 20% of counties have at least one JP online with many of the top 10 most populous counties having JPs online.

B. Update on Uniform Case Management System (UCMS)

Casey Kennedy reported that the project was on-track, with both vendors having launched their early adopter since the last meeting. Through the end of the fiscal year, both CMS vendors will be launching the other offices. A total of 69 clerk offices are expected to be on UCMS by the end of the fiscal year.

IV. Old Business

A. Inappropriate use of “Contains sensitive data” to shield documents from public access

The group discussed the use of “Contains sensitive data”. Justice Simmons asked for the orders subcommittee to further explore it and make recommendations.

B. Reports from attorneys on lack of uniformity in eFiling processes across the State.

The group discussed the lack of uniformity across how clerk's process eFilings, including lead documents and attachments. The committee talked about previous efforts and new technologies that may help. The topic was referred to the standards committee with the addition of a lawyer. Mr. Wessels indicated the need for additional education and best practices needed in the standards to assist the newer judges and clerks. The committee discussed additional education opportunities across the judiciary.

C. Next steps to include criminal eFilings in re:SearchTX

The committee discussed the need to have criminal eFilings in re:SearchTX. Sian Schilhab discussed some of the existing issues that the Court of Criminal Appeals has with allowing document access to criminal filings. Ms. Schilhab committed to talking with the court again.

V. Adjourn

Justice Simmons adjourned the meeting at 12:11P.M.