

**Judicial Committee on Information Technology**  
**September 12, 2025 – Texas Association of Counties**

**Meeting Minutes**

**I. Welcome and Call to Order**

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

Voting Members Present

Honorable Rebecca Simmons

Bob Wessels (virtual)

Honorable Lawrence Doss

Honorable Laura Hinojosa (virtual)

Tracy Hopper

Cynthia Orr

Todd Smith

Dean Stanzione (virtual)

Honorable David Stith (virtual)

Mark Unger (virtual)

Honorable John Warren

Ed Wells (virtual)

Non-Voting Members Present

Honorable Tina Clinton

Michael Cruz

Michael Cuccaro (virtual)

Doug Gowin (virtual)

Jessica Griffith

Honorable Blake Hawthorne

Honorable Patty Henry (virtual)

Roland Johnson (virtual)

Honorable Velva Price

Honorable Russ Ridgway

Sian Schilhab (virtual)

Honorable David Stith (virtual)

Honorable Beverly Walker (virtual)

Jennifer Williams

Honorable Deana Williamson (virtual)

OCA Staff Present

Casey Kennedy, Director, Information Services

Clarissa Webster, Court Services

Others Present

Evan Acosta, Tyler Technologies

Tiffany Curnutt, Tyler Technologies

Jamie Gillespie, Tyler Technologies

Michele Legg, Office of Attorney General

Stevie Poole, Tyler Technologies

Steve Schenck, ProDoc/Thompson-Reuters

David Wilms

**II. Meeting Minutes from the May 16, 2025 meeting**

**Motion** to approve the minutes from the May 2025 meeting by **John Warren**, seconded by **Tracy Hopper**. No opposition. **Motion carried.**

**III. Subcommittee Updates**

**A. Review of Subcommittees and Charges**

Mr. Kennedy reported on the various committees available to JCIT members. Justice Simmons asked all JCIT members to review the committee lists and let her know if any changes are needed.

**B. Standards Subcommittee**

**1. Technology Standards Version 10.1**

Mr. Wessels reported that the legislature created additional case types that require additional security on re:SearchTX. He reported that the standards were updated with those new case types. Justice Simmons asked Casey to circulate the revised version to JCIT for an electronic vote.

**C. eFiling/Document Access Subcommittee**

**1. Case Notices**

Tracy Hopper updated the committee about Case Notices and the anticipated roll out on October 1. She noted that communications have been sent by Tyler Technologies to the filing community and that the subcommittee planned to publicize upcoming webinars for the attorney community to attend. Casey also reported that a webinar was available at anytime on the TXCourt YouTube channel.

Tracy gave an overview of the anticipated Case Notice functionality that could be expected starting October 1.

Mark Unger asked about opt-out availability for family cases. After some group discussion, Justice Simmons determined that there would be no changes, but that if changes are needed, it would likely be a rules issue.

Tracy reported that the subcommittee had also looked at the current issues list for eFile, re:SearchTX and Guide and File and are being prioritized.

#### **IV. Program Updates**

##### **A. eFileTexas**

Evan Acosta with Tyler Technologies updated the committee on the eFiling program, reporting that eFile gets approximately 50,000 filings per day. He reported that current return for correction rate is still below the national average. He reported that JP return for correction rates are higher mainly due to self-represented litigants.

Mr. Acosta reported that the H5 version of the state-owned EFSP will be deprecated in Mid-September.

##### **B. Guide and File**

Mr. Acosta reported that Guide and File continues to grow. Casey reported that Tyler Technologies have delivered the list of interviews along with their integration status and what (if any) issues exist.

He reported that the return for correction rates for the Guide and File forms are lower than the usual return for correction rate. A question was asked about the meaning of “Judges Request” as a return for correction rate. The group discussed the various pathways that clerks return a filing for correction using “Judges Request”. Mark Unger asked if Tyler Technology had pulled the data behind “Judges Request”. Tyler had not but committed to get the data. Justice Simmons asked the Standards Committee to review and come with recommendations on what to do with the “Judge Request” return for correction reason.

##### **C. Re:SearchTX**

Mr. Acosta reviewed the re:SearchTX integration mandate with a majority of counties meeting the deadline. Mr. Kennedy relayed that OCA has been working with the case management vendors to allow them to help guide their customers to integration. He also mentioned some counties will need additional

#### **V. Old Business**

##### **A. Usage of “Efile Only” for case filings outside of case initiation**

Mr. Kennedy and Ms. Hopper reviewed the issue of attorneys actively changing “eFile and Serve” to “Efile Only”. They reported that the percentage of attorney selecting “eFile Only” outside of case initiation is higher than expected at about 40%. After some discussion, Justice Simmons asked the eFiling/Document Access Subcommittee to explore the data and come back with recommendations.

##### **B. Update on items from previous meetings**

- 1. Confidential Documents**
- 2. Bulk Data**

## **VI. New Business**

### **A. Discussion of mandatory eFiling for JP Courts**

Judge Ridgway gave an update on the current trends of JP eFiling in Texas. Blake Hawthorne asked what potential impacts would if a mandate were made. Jessica Griffith mentioned that her county would welcome a mandate for attorney eFiling in JP courts.

**David Wilms asked if the subcommittee could also consider requiring other process servers and other non-party filers be mandated to eFile as well.**

Justice Simmons requested that a subcommittee be constituted to review the issue and make recommendations. **Russ Ridgway, Jessica Griffith (Co-Chairs), Bob Wessels, Velva Price, Tracy Hopper, Carlos (Constables Association), David Wilms.**

Tracy reported that progress is being made in the Harris County District Clerk's office of integrating their case management with the constable's and sheriff's office.

### **B. Discussion of document access fees**

Mr. Kennedy reported that OCA had received a letter from Harris County District Clerk's office asking for clarification and consistency on document access fees. OCA referred the issue to JCIT for discussion.

**Tracy Hopper, Bob Wessels, Patti Henry, Mark Unger** were named to a subcommittee to explore the issue and make recommendations.

### **C. Discussion of additional documents for criminal cases**

Mr. Kennedy reported that OCA has received requests from Tyler Technologies of counties asking for additional fields and documents to go into criminal cases on re:SearchTX.

Justice Simmons asked that the standards subcommittee review and make any recommendations.

## **VII. Adjourn**

Justice Simmons adjourned the meeting at 12:10PM.