

**Judicial Committee on Information Technology**  
**April 29, 2021 - Zoom**  
**Meeting Minutes**

**I. Call to Order**

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

Voting Members Present

Rebecca Simmons  
Bob Wessels  
Honorable Dan Hinde  
Honorable Missy Medary  
Todd Smith  
Carlos Soltero  
Dean Stanzione  
Dennis Van Metre  
Honorable John Warren  
Ed Wells

Non-Voting Members Present

Honorable Jeff Boyd  
Miles Brisette  
Honorable Roy Ferguson  
Doug Gowin  
Jessica Griffith  
Honorable Blake Hawthorne  
Tracy Hopper  
Roland Johnson  
Karen Miller  
Honorable Velva Price  
Sian Schilhab  
Honorable Ralph Swearingin  
Mark Unger

OCA Staff

Casey Kennedy, Director, Information Services  
Sam Levario, Project Manager, EPO

Others Present

Evan Acosta, Tyler Technologies  
Terry Derrick, Tyler Technologies  
Chris Ricci, Tyler Technologies

## **II. Program Updates**

### **A. eFileTexas/re:SearchTX/Guide and File**

Terry Derrick from Tyler Technologies reported that the filing volume had largely recovered back to pre-pandemic levels. Mr. Derrick also reported that the redaction tool is being utilized at pre-pandemic levels as well. He then spoke about eFiling at the Justices of the Peace, reporting that the number of courts adopting eFiling at the permissive level has stabilized and leveled out. John Warren asked if further lack of adoption might have to do with old business processes and if OCA had resources to assist JP courts in updating their processes. Mr. Kennedy offered OCA's Research and Court Services division who has a former district clerk on staff that is well versed in current court business practices that can assist any court having a process issue.

Mr. Derrick reported that re:SearchTX usage continues to grow. Dennis Van Metre asked about the revenue being generated for local counties through the system. Mr. Derrick committed to having that data available at the next meeting.

### **B. eFileTexas 2.0**

Casey Kennedy from OCA gave an update on the eFile 2.0 project. Mr. Kennedy spoke about the new features of the system, including the new reviewer tool to replace Silverlight, the implementation of ECF 5, and eFiling Insights. He explained that the requirements that Tyler does not already perform were split into several phases and will be implemented over the next two years. He also mentioned that the processes around returning for correction and proposed orders are going to be re-worked in eFile 2.0 to have a better user experience.

Dennis Van Metre asked if the new system can handle larger and different file types. Mr. Kennedy explained that while it can, we may be limited on what the local case management system can handle.

Miles Brissette then reminded the committee about a current issue where court reporters are converting digital files by using the first result on Google rather than doing it in a way to preserve the evidence. The group discussed the various issues with electronic evidence in the eFile system. Justice Simmons asked Mr. Brissette to prepare a presentation for the next JCIT meeting.

### **C. Update on Uniform Case Management System (UCMS)**

Mr. Kennedy provided the group an overview of the objectives of the UCMS and the audience of the system. He reported that OCA expects to have the procurement completed in May or June.

#### **D. JCIT Cybersecurity subcommittee**

Judge Hinde reported that the subcommittee conducted a survey on cybersecurity to the clerks to get a view on the current state of cybersecurity in the courts. The group reviewed the survey and the responses received.

Judge Hinde propose that based on these results, the cybersecurity subcommittee should focus on producing a report that can tell judges, court administrators, and court clerks things that can be done with little to no involvement from the IT department to instill a culture of security. He also recommended that the subcommittee also create a list of questions that judges, court administrator, and clerks should ask their IT departments and be comfortable with the answers provided.

#### **E. Orders in re:SearchTX subcommittee**

Mr. Soltero reported that the subcommittee met and presented a survey to be given to the clerks that will allow the committee to see the existing clerk processes around how orders are maintained. The group reviewed the committee's survey and requested that it be put out to the clerks.

### **III. Adjourn**

Justice Simmons adjourned the meeting at 12:07p.m.