

**Judicial Committee on Information Technology**  
**November 21, 2021 – Texas Association of Counties/Zoom**  
**Meeting Minutes**

**I. Call to Order**

Justice Simmons called the meeting to order at 10:03AM.

Voting Members Present

Rebecca Simmons (virtual)  
Bob Wessels  
David Escamilla  
Honorable Roy Ferguson  
Honorable Dan Hinde (virtual)  
Todd Smith (virtual)  
Carlos Soltero (virtual)  
Dennis Van Metre  
Honorable John Warren  
Ed Wells (virtual)

Non-Voting Members Present

Honorable David Canales (virtual)  
Doug Gowin (virtual)  
Jessica Griffith (virtual)  
Tracy Hopper  
Roland Johnson (virtual)  
Karen Miller (virtual)  
Honorable Velva Price (virtual)  
Honorable Nancy Rister (virtual)  
Sian Schilhab (virtual)  
Honorable David Stith (virtual)  
Honorable Ralph Swearingin (virtual)  
Mark Unger (virtual)  
Honorable Kevin Yeary (virtual)

OCA Staff

Casey Kennedy, Director, Information Services

Others Present

Evan Acosta, Tyler Technologies  
Terry Derrick, Tyler Technologies  
Curtis Harvey  
Chirs Ricci, Tyler Technologies

Brad Weems, Williamson County

## **I. Meeting Minutes from previous meetings**

**Motion** to adopt the meeting minutes from the previous JCIT meetings by **John Warren**. Seconded by **David Escamilla**. **Motion carried with no objections.**

## **II. Program Updates**

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

Evan Acosta with Tyler Technologies presented an update on the system including filer account numbers, filings, and new jurisdictions coming on to the system. He also reviewed the deployment of the new reviewer tool for the clerks as well as the new EFSP for the filers. Mr. Acosta relayed that most clerk offices have moved to the new tool and that Tyler continues to update the tool weekly with additional features and enhancements. He expects the reviewer tool to reach feature parity with the retired tool at the end of the calendar year.

Mr. Unger asked about Tyler's efforts with improving the support for filers and attorneys. Terry Derrick with Tyler Technologies relayed additional ideas that Tyler is exploring to improve the filing experience of filers and attorneys.

Mr. Acosta then gave an update on the eFile 2.0 initiative and that testing of the new eFile Analytics platform had begun. He expects testing to wrap and be available to clerks at the end of the calendar year. He also relayed that development for phase 1 was underway and on-track to be released in the summer of 2022. Sessions with subject matter experts with features in phase 2 have also begun.

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

Casey Kennedy gave an update on the UCMS project. Mr. Kennedy reported that three vendors were awarded the contract and that two of them have identified and begun work with an early adopter county for each product. The early adopter counties are expected to go live on UCMS within the next 6-8 months. He also reported that there are an additional 20-30 counties on the list that want to participate in the project as well.

## **II. Subcommittee Updates**

### **A. Standards Subcommittee**

Mr. Wessels reported that the standards subcommittee met in 2021 and recently focused on changes to the standards to support the changes in SB41 (the fee consolidation bill passed).

**Motion** to adopt version 7 of the Technology Standards as presented by **Dennis VanMetre**. Seconded by **John Warren**. **Motion carried with no objections.**

### **C. JCIT Cybersecurity subcommittee**

Judge Hinde and Dennis VanMetre provided an update on the cybersecurity subcommittee. Mr. VanMetre discussed the survey results that indicate that additional training is needed for all court staff and efforts that the subcommittee could do to forward a better cybersecurity posture in the trial courts.

Judge Hinde talked about outreach efforts to the Texas Center for the Judiciary, the County and District clerks association, the Texas Association of Counties and other judicial associations.

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

Mr. Soltero reported that the subcommittee had met and was working through a best-practice workflow for clerk offices in processing orders through the system. He reported that several counties provided their workflow and that at the high-level, they were all similar.

He also reported that the committee was working on a potential rule change to require courts to electronically send out completed orders to the parties through whatever means necessary, including eFile/re:SearchTX

## **III. New Business**

Mr. Kennedy reported to the group that with the passage of SB41, the pricing of electronic copies of court documents had been set now by the legislature and that the pricing was now in conflict with the pricing already set in re:SearchTX.

**Motion** to recommend to the Supreme Court that the fees for re:SearchTX documents be synchronized with the fees identified in Senate Bill 41 by **John Warren**. Seconded by **Rebecca Simmons**. **Motion carried with no objections.**

Mr. Kennedy reported that several filers were asking about the Automated Certificate of Service with regards to confusion around the automated certificate of service being attached to the proposed order. After some discussion, the issue was moved to the subcommittee on orders for discussion of what the existing processes are in place for how proposed orders become a signed order.

Mr. Wessels brought up requests received to expand eFiling to allow for sealed documents to flow through the system into case management. This would enable most juvenile cases to be electronically filed. After discussion on the mechanics, Justice

Simmons recommended that the group explore the federal eFiling system and the mechanisms in place to secure the filings that flow through its system.

#### **IV. Adjourn**

Justice Simmons adjourned the meeting at 12:02PM