

**Judicial Committee on Information Technology**  
**March 24, 2023 – Texas Association of Counties/Zoom**

**Meeting Minutes**

**I. Call to Order**

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

Voting Members Present

Honorable Rebecca Simmons

Bob Wessels

Honorable Lawrence Doss (virtual)

David Escamilla (virtual)

Honorable Roy Ferguson

Honorable Dan Hinde

Honorable Laura Hinojosa (virtual)

Carlos Soltero (virtual)

Dean Stanzione (virtual)

Mark Unger (virtual)

Dennis VanMetre

Honorable John Warren

Ed Wells (virtual)

Non-Voting Members Present

Honorable David Canales (virtual)

Honorable Michael Cruz

Michael Cuccaro (virtual)

Doug Gowin (virtual)

Jessica Griffith (virtual)

Honorable Blake Hawthorne

Tracy Hopper

Roland Johnson (virtual)

Megan LaVoie (virtual)

Honorable Velva Price (virtual)

Honorable Russ Ridgway

Honorable Nancy Rister (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  
Todd Cope, Tyler Technologies  
Terry Derrick, Tyler Technologies  
Eileen Gaffney  
Jamie Gillespie, Tyler Technologies  
Travis Hodges,  
Chris Ricci, Tyler Technologies  
Steve Schenk, Thompson Reuters/ProDoc  
Honorable Beverly Walker, Fort Bend County  
Brad Weems, Williamson County

## **II. Meeting Minutes from the Previous Meeting**

The meeting minutes were not available and will be approved at the next meeting.

## **III. Program Updates**

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

Terry Derrick with Tyler Technologies presented an updated on the eFile program. He reported on the current trends of filings including a continuous uptick in filings and that integrations were stagnant. He spoke about Guide and File and the number of electronic filings from the interviews are increasing. He reported that on re:SearchTX, the continual request from attorneys is to include orders and judgments to complete the case file.

The group discussed the issue of attorneys and case management systems erroneously marking filings as confidential when they should be public.

Terry spoke about several features that are upcoming in cycle two of eFile 2.0 including the composable security model, clerk administration tools, and multi-factor authentication.

The group discussed the need to codify in standards what clerks can have access to change in the administration tools. Additional discussion was had around the implementation of the fee schedule.

## **IV. Subcommittee Updates**

### **A. Subcommittee to respond to the letter from the Supreme Court regarding public access to documents.**

Justice Simmons reviewed with the group the events leading up to the letter as well as the questions the Supreme Court asked of the group.

The group looked at a standard proposed by the subcommittee regarding the timing of clerk processing for eFilings.

**Motion** to add the word “the clerk’s” before “office” in the suggested standard by Blake Hawthorne, seconded by David Escamilla. **Motion carries with 11 ayes and 2 nays.**

Ms. Hopper spoke about the need to look at sensitive data in documents. Justice Simmons agreed that there is a need and asked Ms. Hopper to chair a subcommittee to discuss a possible mandate for EFSPs to use the existing redaction product.

The group then looked at the suggested watermark to be placed on documents that have not yet been accepted or returned for correction by clerks. For the top watermark, the group asked that it be in red, bold, underlined and not in Times New Roman font. The group changed the top watermark language to read “This document has not been accepted for filing. Unless accepted, it will not be recorded on the court’s docket or form part of the record.”

For the suggested watermark to be placed in the middle of the page across the text, the group suggested it be large, bold, and red.

**Motion** to adopt the standards language as amended and the watermarks as amended for recommendation to the Supreme Court by Bob Wessels, seconded by Carlos Soltero. **Motion carried with no objections.**

#### **B. Standards Committee**

Mr. Kennedy updated the committee on changes to the standards as suggested by the Standard Subcommittee.

Justice Simmons reiterated the need for the Standards Subcommittee to focus on the uniformity of the system across counties. The committee discussed different approaches to educating the clerks to the appropriate use of the technology standards and potential misuse of the reasons for return for correction. Justice Simmons asked that Tyler provide data at the next meeting with regards to the use of returns for correction.

#### **V. Adjourn**

Justice Simmons adjourned the meeting at 12:03P.M.