

**Judicial Committee on Information Technology
Meeting Minutes**

Date: March 27, 2026

Location: Hybrid - Barbara Jordan State Office Building, Room 2.006 / Zoom

I. Welcome and Call to Order

Justice Simmons called the meeting to order at 10:06 AM.

Voting Members Present

Honorable Rebecca Simmons

Bob Wessels

Cynthia Orr

Honorable Dan Hinde

Dean Stanzione (virtual)

Ed Wells (virtual)

Honorable Lawrence Doss

Todd Smith (virtual)

Tracy Hopper

Non-Voting Members Present

Michael Cruz (virtual)

Michael Cuccaro (virtual)

Doug Gowin (virtual)

Jessica Griffith

Honorable Kyle Hawkins

Honorable Patti Henry (virtual)

Megan LaVoie (virtual)

Honorable Russ Ridgway

Sian Schilhab (virtual)

Aaron Varner

Jennifer Williams (virtual)

OCA Staff Present

Mena Ramon, General Counsel

Brandon Bellows, Assistant General Counsel

Frank Barker, Director, Information Services

Davin Greeno, Project Manager

Brett Watkins, Enterprise Application Architect (virtual)

Others Present

Evan Acosta, Tyler Technologies

Tiffany Curnutt, Tyler Technologies

Jamie Gillespie, Tyler Technologies

Casey Kennedy, Mission Critical Partners

Brad Smith, Mission Critical Partners

Diana Parsons (virtual)

II. Meeting Minutes from January 9, 2026, meeting

Motion to approve the minutes from the January 2026 meeting by **John Warren**, seconded by **Tracy Hopper**. No opposition. **Motion carried.**

III. Introduction of Justice Hawkins

Justice Simmons introduced Justice Hawkins, the newly appointed Supreme Court liaison to JCIT, followed by comments from Justice Hawkins.

IV. Standards Subcommittee Update – Bob Wessels

1. Reviewed updates transitioning from version 10.1 to version 11 of the technology standards. Highlighted revisions and new additions, including:
 - a) Artificial media standards (previously addressed & approved)
 - b) New standards related to motions for summary judgment
2. Discussion regarding “summary judgment” vs. “summary disposition” in Justice Courts concluding with the consensus that “summary disposition” terminology should be included and a parenthetical notation (JP-only) should be added to mitigate miscoding.
3. Further rule review (including Civil Procedure Rule 166A) will continue.

Motion to adopt JCIT Version 11 standards, including adding “summary disposition” with JP-specific notation by **Bob Wessels**, seconded by Justice **Lawrence Doss**. No opposition. **Motion carried.**

4. Bob mentioned the March 13th subcommittee discussion related to adding documents to criminal (in reference to criminal documents in re:SearchTX), and the question of what documents are restricted by rule or statute, and whether the JCIT standards matrix is up to date.
 - a) There is now a project to review the matrix and Tracy provided a related document from a meeting in 2019.
 - b) Bob also noted the roles and permissions which govern which documents can be accessed, noting that having criminal and other documents on re:SearchTX does not mean they are inherently accessible to all users.
5. There was continued discussion around redaction obligations, including the responsibility of filers and related system capabilities.
6. A working group will:
 - a) Review statutes and rules;
 - b) Examine redaction workflows;
 - c) Evaluate filer vs. system responsibilities;
 - d) Report recommendations at the next JCIT meeting.

V. eFileTexas Program Update – Evan Acosta / Tyler Technologies

1. Evan presented to the committee on the eFiling program, with the following highlights:
 - Over 1.1 million user accounts created statewide & average daily processing of ~1.32 million transactions and EFSP usage at approximately 76%
 - Continued rollout of Justice Court projects (most large counties participating)
 - Return-for-Correction rates remain below national averages, and higher rejection rates observed in divorce with children cases, protective orders, occupational driver’s licenses (largely pro se filings)

Guided Interview (Guide & File) Updates:

- Increased completion rates in early 2026

- Rejection rates have decreased since adoption of Supreme Court form acceptance standards
- Discussion about using data analytics (including AI tools) to identify common filing issues.

VI. Justice Court E-Filing Coverage Analysis – Judge Russ Ridgway

Judge Ridgway presented to the committee, with the following highlights:

- 87% of Texas population resides in 51 counties
- Approximately 74% of the state population covered by full JP e-filing
- Additional counties partially participating & have identified counties with partial or no JP e-filing

Action Items:

- Validate court data with OCA and Tyler
- Collect updated court contact information
- Interview JP courts in targeted counties
- Develop a report with findings and recommendations

VII. eFiling/Document Access Subcommittee Update – Tracy Hopper

The subcommittee update and related discussion included:

- Case Notices Daily Digest is expected to roll out mid to late April and will be a daily summary email of e-notices.
- Discussion of e-file only vs. e-file and e-serve practices, reaffirming that attorneys are already required by rule and statute to electronically serve other attorneys on a case and therefore no additional action is required at the JCIT or state level, and that compliance issues should be addressed by judges at the case level if raised by parties
- Discussion regarding attorneys continuing to receive notices after they should no longer be associated with a case, including system limitations and possibilities to assist with this.
- The current scope of e-notices includes attorneys in integrated counties, and clerks must continue traditional notification methods (mail, postcard, email) for other parties as appropriate, noting pro se notifications as the next major area of work.
- It was noted that many clerks delay inactivating attorneys until 30 days after judgment, corresponding with appellate deadlines and this practice is increasingly being incorporated into county CMS programming logic, particularly for family cases.

VIII. Artificial Intelligence (AI) Discussion

The committee held an extensive AI discussion, including regarding:

- Growing use of generative AI by attorneys and pro se litigants which is unavoidable and increasing
- Differences between productivity use vs. legal research, and risk of hallucinations and incorrect filings
- Opportunities to enhance Guide & File tools and forms, to include reducing pro se filing errors, potentially piloting with occupational driver's license filings

IX. Electronic Filing Service Provider (EFSP) service contacts

There was discussion related to filers (particularly pro se litigants) adding inappropriate service contacts (irrelevant recipients including public officials) when submitting filings through EFSPs. In some EFSP

implementations, service contacts are automatically selected or defaulted to all which is problematic for subsequent filings and potentially in other circumstances.

X. Decisions and Outcomes

1. January 2026 Meeting Minutes Approved

The Meeting Minutes from the January 9, 2026 JCIT meeting were approved.

2. Technology Standards Version 11 Approved

Version 11 standards, including new and revised filing codes and summary judgment elements, were approved and will be forwarded to the Supreme Court. Justice Court terminology will use “summary disposition” with a JP-specific parenthetical to reduce miscoding.

3. No Policy Change to Attorney E-Service Rules

The committee reaffirmed that attorney e-service is already required by rule and statute. Enforcement remains a judicial, case-level issue, not a JCIT rulemaking issue.

4. Criminal Document Access Requires Ongoing Review

Adding documents to Research Texas does not equate to public access. Redaction, access control, and statutory compliance remain as outstanding issues, especially for criminal documents.

5. EFSP Service Contact Issue Acknowledged is Systemic

The committee recognized a recurring problem with over-service and misuse of service contacts in EFSPs. Consensus that this is a configuration/vendor issue, not a filing-standards issue.

6. Justice Court E-Filing Progress Approach Confirmed

No mandate for JP e-filing was recommended at this time. Focus will remain on targeted outreach, data validation, and support for high-impact counties.

7. AI Use Should Be Addressed Proactively

The committee agreed AI use by attorneys and pro se litigants is unavoidable. JCIT should explore controlled, structured improvements to guided forms rather than prohibition.

XI. Action Items and Owners

1. Submit Standards Version 11 to the Supreme Court

Finalize and transmit approved Version 11 standards

Owner: OCA pending final “summary disposition” terminology from Chair / Vice-Chair.

2. Research Justice Court Summary Disposition Rules

Confirm applicability and interaction of Rule 166A and other relevant rules for Justice Courts

Owner: Standards Subcommittee

3. Review Criminal and Civil Document Access Statutes

Conduct statutory and rule review focused on criminal document access; redaction responsibilities and workflows; timing and authority for redaction

Owner: Standards Subcommittee with OCA support

4. Validate Justice Court E-Filing Coverage Data

Verify JP court counts, participation status, and population impact, and conduct outreach to partial and non-participating JP counties to identify barriers (funding, staffing, technology, governance).

Owner: Judge Ridgway

5. EFSP Service Contact Control Capabilities Review

Coordinate with EFSP vendors to determine feasibility and consistency of adding or enabling “uncheck all service contacts” functionality

Owner: OCA with Vendor Coordination and JCIT advisory input

6. Pro Se Notification Strategy Development

Evaluate options and risks for electronic notice to pro se litigants, including due process concerns as well as access and equity issues.

Owner: E-Filing Document Access Subcommittee

7. Review Attorney Inactivation Practices

Continue evaluation of 30-day post-judgment attorney inactivation practices in CMS systems.

Owner: JCIT

8. AI and Guided Filing Improvements Pilot

Explore targeted improvements to Guide & File forms, potentially starting with occupational driver’s license filings.

Owner: AI & Guide and File Subcommittee, to be chaired by Judge Hinde

XII. Adjourn

- Justice Simmons adjourned the meeting at 12:00 PM.