

**Judicial Committee on Information Technology  
February 28, 2020 – Texas Association of Counties – 4<sup>th</sup> Floor**

**Meeting Minutes**

**I. Call to Order**

Justice Simmons called the meeting to order at 10:01AM.

Voting Members Present

Honorable Rebecca Simmons  
Bob Wessels  
David Escamilla  
Honorable Woody Gossum Jr.  
Dan Hinde  
Honorable Missy Medary (phone)  
Honorable Brian Quinn  
Todd Smith (phone)  
Dean Stanzione  
Dennis VanMetre  
Honorable John Warren (phone)  
Ed Wells (phone)

Liaison Members Present

Honorable Jeffrey Boyd (phone)  
Honorable David Canales (phone)  
Doug Gowin (phone)  
Honorable Blake Hawthorne  
Honorable Laura Hinojosa (phone)  
Tracy Hopper (phone)  
Gary Hutton (phone)  
Roland Johnson (phone)  
Velva Price  
Honorable Russ Ridgway (phone)  
Sian Schilhab  
Honorable Ralph Swearingin (phone)

Others Present

Terry Derrick, Tyler Technologies  
Mike Dunn, Microsoft  
Chris Ricci, Tyler Technologies  
Honorable Laura Richard, County Clerk, Fort Bend County  
Hyun Rocco, Tarrant County  
Steve Schenk, ProDoc

Holly Taylor, Court of Criminal Appeals  
Matt Veigl, Tyler Technologies  
Paul Watler, JacksonWalker  
Brad Weems, Williamson County

OCA Staff

Casey Kennedy, Director, Information Services  
David Lara, Manager-Application Development, Information Services  
Sheri Woodfin, Court Consultant, Research and Court Services

**II. Approval of Meeting Minutes**

**Motion** to approve the December 6, 2019 minutes. **Motion by Bob Wessels, seconded by Brian Quinn. All in favor, motion carries.**

**III. Program Updates**

**A. eFileTexas/re:SearchTX**

Terry Derrick provided the committee an update on the system. He mentioned that volume continues to increase. On average the system is now processing about 37,000 envelopes each day.

Mr. Derrick reported that the criminal mandate on January 1 was successful and had no issues. He also mentioned that they see Justice courts increasing on eFiling.

He mentioned new features that are coming to the system very soon. This included the Automated Certificate of Service which is being piloted by the Supreme Court. Blake Hawthorne then spoke about the feature including the Supreme Courts experience in using it. He mentioned that it isn't prohibited by the rules, but that the traditional certificate of service is still required until the rules are changed. Mr. Hawthorne also mentioned that it was a topic for discussion by the Supreme Court Advisory Committee.

The committee asked several questions related to the mechanics of how it worked. Mr. Hawthorne asked if the group of courts testing it out could be expanded to multiple levels to get a better test.

**Motion** to expand and continue use of the Automated Certificate of Service to courts that volunteer to do so. **Motion by Brian Quinn, seconded by Bob Wessels. All in favor, motion carries.**

Mr. Derrick then reported on the self-help module of the system. Usage continues to increase but is driven by placement of the resource close to the front of a referring website.

On reSearchTX, Mr. Derrick reported that on average, there are 400 new users each week. This growth is driven by the number of courts integrating with the system and include orders and judgements entered by the court as well. He relayed continued concerns by the clerk that sensitive information may inadvertently be released. He explained that they are looking at ways to use the redaction component to redact a requested document prior to release.

**B. eFileTexas 2.0 Procurement**

Casey Kennedy gave an update on the eFileTexas 2.0 Procurement. OCA is in the final stages of reviewing the request for offer. It is expected to be released soon. The current schedule shows the contract being signed late-October.

**IV. New Business**

**A. Presentation by Courthouse News on the availability of a Press Review Queue.**

Paul Watler with Jackson Walker gave a presentation on behalf of Courthouse News. He informed the committee about Courthouse News and the business that they are in. He talked about the importance of fresh information for today's news cycle,

Mr, Watler spoke about the ability for Tyler to install a press review queue that would give news media access to filings the same day, even if they had not yet been processed by the clerk's office.

He relayed the privacy protections in place that Courthouse News uses in other jurisdictions and that with Texas eFiling, the duty to redact lies with the filer.

After a vibrant discussion by the committee, it was agreed to form a subcommittee to further look at the issue and come with a recommendation (if any) to the full committee.

**B. Update on JP eFiling**

Judge Ridgway provided the committee and update on how eFiling is progressing in JP courts across the state.

**V. Adjournment**

Justice Simmons adjourned the meeting at 12:18pm. The next meeting is on May 8, 2020.