

**Judicial Committee on Information Technology**  
**August 13, 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  
David Escamilla  
Honorable Dan Hinde  
Honorable Laura Hinojosa  
Honorable Missy Medary  
Cynthia Orr  
Honorable Brian Quinn  
Todd Smith  
Carlos Soltero  
Dennis Van Metre  
Honorable John Warren  
Ed Wells

Non-Voting Members Present

Honorable Jeff Boyd  
Honorable David Canales  
Honorable Annie Elliott  
Jessica Griffith  
Honorable Gary Hutton  
Doug Gowin  
Honorable Blake Hawthorne  
Tracy Hopper  
Roland Johnson  
Honorable Velva Price  
Honorable Russ Ridgway  
Honorable Nancy Rister  
Sian Schilhab  
David Slayton  
Honorable Ralph Swearingin  
Mark Unger  
Honorable Kevin Yeary

OCA Staff

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

Others Present

Evan Acosta, Tyler Technologies  
Christi Barnicle,  
Terry Derrick, Tyler Technologies  
Curtis Harvey,  
Tristan Issitt,  
Chris Ricci, Tyler Technologies  
Steve Schenk, ProDoc/Thompson Reuters  
Brad Weems, Williamson County

**II. Program Updates**

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

Terry Derrick with Tyler Technologies provided an update on the eFileTexas system and upcoming feature enhancements. Mr. Derrick reported that electronic filings are at the same level to slightly above the levels pre-pandemic. He explained about the short outage that occurred on 6/22 due to an updated stored procedure from Microsoft.

Mr. Derrick reported that redaction usage is almost at the half-million mark. Justice Simmons asked about those who have implemented redaction. Mr. Derrick reiterated that all EFSPs have the redaction API available and that all they needed to do was to invest in the time to implement it. Two other EFSPs have implemented the redaction API.

Mr. Derrick reported that the usage of re:SearchTX continues to grow, but that the consistent feedback from users is that they would like to see judgements, orders and hearing data through the system. He reported that several counties had fully integrated with the re:SearchTX APIs to achieve this, but until a solution is mandated, that we have stabilized the number of integrations.

Evan Acosta with Tyler Technologies provided an update on the migration from the existing Silverlight reviewer tool to the new reviewer tool. He presented the plan to allow all clerk offices to transition at their own pace, but that all transitions must be complete by October 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2021. He talked about the website being updated to include all the new training materials and that individual clerk staff could use both tools for the time being. Mr. Acosta also spoke about how the clerks can provide feedback on the tool to Tyler and that the development team expects to release a new version of the reviewer tool almost weekly until the October 3<sup>rd</sup> deadline. Several JCIT members who have tried the tool provided constructive feedback that Tyler will incorporate within the next few releases.

Mr. Acosta then spoke about the transition to eFiling Insights that allows clerks and court administrators a near real-time view of eFiling data as well as the transition to ECF 5.0 later on next year.

Mr. Acosta spoke about the Automated Certificate of Service state-wide implementation starting the week of August 16<sup>th</sup>. He reported that the top 10 most populous counties would be turned on the week of August 16<sup>th</sup>, and the other counties would be in batches the week of August 23<sup>rd</sup>. Ms. Hopper raised a concern with the additional file size and that it would cause problems with her system. Mr. Kennedy reported that it had been piloted in courts of all sizes and that no negative reports have been received to date. Mr. Smith raised the point that if the Automated Certificate of Service is successful, that JCIT could recommend to the Supreme Court Advisory Committee that the rules on filing an affidavit that service has been completed be repealed, causing a page to be removed from the case file, meaning that a net of zero pages would be added. Mr. Kennedy committed to monitor the implementation progress and report any issues to JCIT voting members.

John Warren then asked the group if the solution would help with HB3774. The bill requires that when cases are transferred from county to county that the original file stamp be preserved. Mr. Acosta relayed how the system could be configured in order to achieve the desired effect. David Slayton also pointed out the bill also requires OCA to promulgate a transfer certificate but did not have a timeline for completion since OCA was working with the clerk's association to develop the form.

Mr. Acosta then spoke about the changes to the eFiling system caused by SB41. He reported that Tyler will be working with the clerks, EFSPs, and CMS providers to get the old fee schedules dated off and the new fee schedules implemented. Mr. Kennedy reminded the group that SB41 allows the state to collect its portion of the fee directly from eFile, bypassing the old county accounting process. He reported that the eFiling system will continue to pass the information to the CMS that the state fee had been collected so that the CMSes can remain balanced.

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

Mr. Kennedy reported that the UCMS procurement was still underway, but that once OCA had completed the procurement, he would communicate the results to the JCIT membership.

## **C. JCIT Cybersecurity subcommittee**

Judge Hinde provided an update on the cybersecurity subcommittee. Judge Hinde reviewed the subcommittee's charge and reported that the subcommittee had met and had begun to brainstorm items that clerks/judges can do with little to no technology to better their cybersecurity. He anticipates a more solid report at the next meeting.

Judge Hinde also reminded the group that cybersecurity should be at all venues and offered the subcommittee for any upcoming judicial or clerk conferences. He mentioned

that it could be as minimal as slides between presentations all the way up to a full session on cybersecurity.

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

Mr. Soltero reported that the subcommittee had created a survey and that they expected to have more of an update at the next meeting.

**III. New Business**

Mark Unger provided an update from the practitioner's point of view on the recent change in CMS in Bexar County. He reported that lawyers are having difficulty getting access to documents in a timely manner. Judge Canales reported that getting orders into the system is also now difficult. Mr. Derrick commented that he would reach out to the team implementing the system in Bexar County to see what is causing the difficulty.

Mr. Wessels took a moment to thank David Slayton for his service and leadership at OCA. Justice Simmons concurred and also thanked Mr. Slayton for his years of leadership in his role at OCA. Both look forward to working with him in his new role at the National Center for State Courts. Mr. Kennedy remarked that he has all of Mr. Slayton's contact information and can reach him at any time.

**IV. Adjourn**

Justice Simmons adjourned the meeting at 11:58a.m.