Judicial Committee on Information Technology

September 22, 2023 – Texas Association of Counties/Zoom

Meeting Minutes

I.   **Call to Order**

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

<u>Voting Members Present</u>
Honorable Rebecca Simmons
Bob Wessels
Honorable Lawrence Doss (virtual)
Honorable Roy Ferguson (virtual)
Tracy Hopper
Todd Smith (virtual)
Dean Stanzione (virtual)
Mark Unger (virtual)
Honorable John Warren

<u>Non-Voting Members Present</u>
Honorable Jeffrey Boyd (virtual)
Honorable David Canales (virtual)
Honorable Michael Cruz
Michael Cuccaro (virtual)
Doug Gowin (virtual)
Jessica Griffith (virtual)
Honorable Blake Hawthorne
Honorable Patti Henry (virtual)
Roland Johnson (virtual)
Megan LaVoie (virtual)
Honorable Velva Price
Honorable Russ Ridgway (virtual)
Honorable Nancy Rister (virtual)
Honorable David Stith (virtual)
Sian Schilhab (virtual)
Aaron Varner
Jennifer Williams
Honorable Deanna Williamson (virtual)
Honorable J.R. Woolley

<u>OCA Staff</u>
Brandon Bellows (virtual), Attorney, Legal Division

Scott Gibson (virtual), Attorney, Legal Division
Casey Kennedy, Director, Information Services
Veena Mohan (virtual), Attorney, Legal Division
Kim Piechowiak (virtual), Attorney, Legal Division
Mena Ramon (virtual), General Counsel, Legal Division

Others Present
Evan Acosta, Tyler Technologies
Epi Cantu (virtual), Fort Bend County
Honorable Lisa David (virtual), Williamson County
Terry Derrick, Tyler Technologies
Alvina Galvan (virtual), Williamson County
Jamie Gillespie (virtual), Tyler Technologies
Bart Lesniewicz (virtual), Tarrant County
Shana Lincoln (virtual), Williamson County
Honorable Mary Louise Nicholson (virtual), Tarrant County
Diana Parsons (virtual), Travis County
Dustie Sanders (virtual), Tarrant County
DeAnna Saucedo (virtual), Williamson County
Steve Schenk, ProDoc
Shannon Stroik (virtual), Tarrant County
Honorable Beverly Walker (virtual), Fort Bend County
Brad Weems (virtual), Williamson County

II. **Meeting Minutes from the Previous Meeting**
Motion to approve the minutes from the June 2023 meeting by **Bob Wessels**, seconded by **John Warren**. No opposition. **Motion carried.**

III. **Program Updates**

A. eFileTexas/re:SearchTX/Guide and File

Evan Acosta with Tyler Technologies presented an update on the system. Mr. Acosta reported the filing levels are level at 43k per day. He mentioned that of the top 20 counties in the state, all but two have a JP court on eFile.

Mr. Acosta then reported on the return for correction rate for the state, which is trending lower than the national average. He reported that the top three return for correction reasons are steady at Filer's Request (1), Incorrect Formatting (2), and Judge's request (3). Mr. Acosta spoke about the Judge's request returns being partially from jurisdictions that run their proposed order processes in the eFiling system instead of their local CMS.

Mr. Acosta revisited a request from the previous meeting on sensitive data in filings and enumerated the top case types containing sensitive data as requested. Justice Boyd asked about the status of the changes JCIT discussed to the user interface to prevent the

improper marking of sensitive data on documents filed. Terry Derrick with Tyler Technologies reported that it is being worked on and would come to the next meeting with an update.

He also reviewed the current project roadmap with upcoming features and their timelines for deployment.

IV. Committee Updates

A. Standards
Mr. Wessels updated the committee that the Supreme Court and Court of Criminal Appeals updated the Technology Standards to include language on the timeliness by clerks to accept/return/reject electronic filings.

V. New Business

A. Discussion of Supreme Court Administrative Order 23-9053 Delivery of Court Orders, Notices, and Other Documents Through the E-filing System

Justice Simmons reviewed the charges to JCIT and asked that a subcommittee be set to talk about getting orders in to re:SearchTX in order to get the orders out. The group talked about CMS vendors integrating with re:SearchTX and the ability to do it along with security concerns.

Justice Simmons asked that the subcommittee explore the issues with integration along with reviewing the security matrix as well.

Ms. Price and Ms. Hopper relayed the need to clarify on the specific types of notices that are applicable to the order as well.

Justice Simmons set the subcommittee and asked that they meet weekly to progress through the charge and to present recommendations at the next meeting.

B. Discussion of proposed revision to TRCP 3a to protect against courts issuing local rules that set different standards or requirements for e-filing
Judge Hinde was not present, and Justice Simmons asked that this item be postponed until the next meeting.

C. Discussion of AI bots in use in Tarrant County

Terry Derrick from Tyler Technologies spoke about the process in use in Tarrant County with bots that review and accept electronic filings. Mary Louise Nicholson from Tarrant County mentioned that they had to shut off their bots on the weekends since they were working too fast for the upstream humans.

Mr. Kennedy mentioned that OCA is working with Tyler Technologies to see if and how it could expand to a statewide model. Justice Simmons ask that Tyler Technologies give a demo at the next meeting.

VII. Old Business

A. Next steps to include criminal eFilings in re:SearchTX

Sian Schilhab reported that JCIT recommendations are currently under consideration by the Court of Criminal Appeals

VIII. Adjourn

Justice Simmons adjourned the meeting at 11:36AM.