

**Judicial Committee on Information Technology
Meeting Minutes**

Date: June 5, 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 10:15 AM.

Voting Members Present

Honorable Rebecca Simmons (Chair)
Bob Wessels (Vice-Chair)
Honorable Lawrence Doss
David Escamilla (virtual)
Honorable Dan Hinde (virtual)
Honorable Laura Hinojosa (virtual)
Tracy Hopper
Cynthia Orr (virtual)
Todd Smith
Honorable David Stith (virtual)
Mark Unger (virtual)
Honorable John Warren
Ed Wells (virtual)

Non-Voting Members Present

Honorable Tina Clinton
Michael Cruz
Michael Cuccaro (virtual)
Doug Gowin (virtual)
Jessica Griffith (virtual)
Honorable Kyle Hawkins
Honorable Blake Hawthorne (virtual)
Roland Johnson (virtual)
Honorable Velva Price (virtual)
Sian Schilhab (virtual)
Aaron Varner
Honorable Deana Williamson (virtual)

OCA Staff Present

Frank Barker, Director, Information Services
Davin Greeno, IT Program Manager
Mena Ramon, General Counsel (virtual)
Brett Watkins, Enterprise Application Architect (virtual)
Clarissa Webster, Court Consultant (virtual)

Others Present

Evan Acosta, Tyler Technologies
Honorable Christine Castillo, Bexar County District Clerk Elect
Tiffany Curnutt, Tyler Technologies

Jamie Gillespie, Tyler Technologies
Michele Legg, Office of Attorney General
Honorable Michael Jones, JP Dallas County
Diana Parsons, Travis County District Clerks Office (virtual)
Stephen Stehling, Tyler Technologies

I. Meeting Minutes from March 27, 2026 meeting

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

II. Technology Standards Version 11 – Additional Updates

1. There are two new JCIT standards additions beyond the three approved during previous JCIT meetings:
 - a. New Case Type ‘Foreign (Out-of-State) Subpoena Request’ per Supreme Court of Texas Misc. Docket No. 25-9060
 - b. Addition of new role to permit registered users access to cases for which they are a Party.

Motion to approve JCIT Technology Standards Version 11 by **Tracy Hopper**, seconded by **Bob Wessels**. No opposition. **Motion carried.**

Action-Items: OCA to submit to Supreme Court and Criminal Court of Appeals for approval.

III. Standards Subcommittee Update – Bob Wessels

1. Bob noted the e-Filing system includes 1,300-1,500 party types. Upon Bob’s request (prior to this meeting), Tyler Technologies provided their base starting list (a representative example of those fundamentally necessary for a new CMS) which includes just 78. The excessive e-File party types list is due to inconsistent and redundant Party Type naming across counties. Bob also mentioned the issue of consolidating the party types needs to be addressed, with Tracy noting this will also impact the CATX case analytics solution, currently under development.
2. There was also discussion about related issues including data quality and access control complications; continued proliferation of unnecessary and redundant party types; addition of invalid parties (e.g. aunt); the significant workload and cost for counties to clean up and map data, including the mention of the possibility that grants may assist with this.

3. Action-Items:

- a. JCIT: Launch a Party Type Standardization Working Group, including JCIT members, OCA, Tyler Technologies, EFSPs, county representatives, and law firm representatives, with a charter to:
 1. Create a substantially narrowed e-Filing standard party types list, as well as a recommended mapping to enable consolidation;
 2. Separate “party” and “participant” roles.
- b. Justice Simmons and Bob Wessels: Determine the leader of the Party Type Standardization Working Group.
- c. OCA: Use AI/tools to create initial consolidation of party types and create standard/recommended mapping, providing to the working group.
- d. Party Type Standardization Working Group: Reduce refined list to manageable standardized set.
- e. JCIT: Define implementation timeline and governance model (approval process for new types).
- f. JCIT: Pursue one year implementation window & enforce mapping at system level.
- g. Justice Simmons and John Warren: Investigate grant possibilities to assist counties with clean-up.

4. Additional Items:

- a. Justice Simmons noted that OCA has created a repository for committee sharing of JCIT documents.

IV. eFiling/Document Access Subcommittee Update – Tracy Hopper

1. Tracy opened mentioning this subcommittee met, and also discussed the party types, arriving at the same conclusion that a party type standard is necessary. The subcommittee received an update from Tyler indicating that the all-in-one, singular daily digest notice (vs. multiple messages) of orders, filings, docket settings, etc. from re:SearchTX to attorneys was implemented in late April for those counties where the local CMS is integrated with re:SearchTX. This notice occurs at the end of the day, capturing everything that has been entered in the previous 24 hours. These are mandatory notices (not opt-in), per Supreme Court order.
2. Evan Acosta/Tyler noted a similar solution is being pursued for e-Filing notices.
3. Tracy also mentioned this subcommittee looked at other parties including attorney ad litem and pro se. For pro se, Tyler is working on enabling pro se to view their case information for cases to which they are a party, based on email address (this is related to the new JCIT standards role approved earlier in the meeting).
4. Tracy advocated for an automatic notification capability for pro se (as flagged in the CMS) to reduce clerk workload, consistent with what is now enabled for attorneys.

5. Action Items:

- a. Tyler: Continue work on pro se access (email matching).
- b. JCIT: Continue to consider enabling pro se notifications.

V. eFiling Mandate Subcommittee (JP Courts) – Judge Russ Ridgway

1. Judge Ridgway mentioned increasing participation from counties, but gaps remain. (The details of this are within Judge Ridgway's Powerpoint presentation.)
2. Barriers to adoption include lack of infrastructure (some courts lack computers); staffing and budget constraints. Mandating e-filing statewide is premature and there is a need for deeper analysis and stakeholder input.

3. Action Items:

- a. Judge Ridgway: Provide Powerpoint to OCA who will then make it available to the committee via shared document site.
- b. Judge Ridgway: Present full and updated report at next meeting and/or provide to OCA for posting on shared document site.
- c. JCIT: Revisit mandate topic after further data collection.

VI. Research Texas vs. Justice Case Access – Stephen Stehling / Tyler Technologies

1. The discussion opened with Stephen detailing that Justice Case Access (JCA) is a configurable local public access platform which allows more document types (e.g. criminal) than re:SearchTX. Various additional discussion ensued including mentions of JCA essentially being a copy of re:SearchTX; JCA being created to replace the legacy local county portals, many of which predated re:SearchTX; Contrasting with re:SearchTX, JCA enables custom pricing (including free access), bulk data access, and other capabilities not available with re:SearchTX, which is more restricted, in accordance with JCIT rules.
2. Key concerns discussed including loss of statewide uniformity, public confusion (competing systems), compliance with Supreme Court rules, privacy & sensitive criminal data exposure, accountability for improper disclosure.
3. This is a major policy issue requiring deeper review. It was mentioned and agreed that Research Texas should ideally remain the primary unified solution, with no verbalized dissent.

4. Action Items:

- a. Justice Simmons: Form new subcommittee including Mena Ramon, Laura Hinojosa, Cynthia Orr, and others TBD. This group is to address criminal document access gaps, pricing limitations, bulk data policies, legal considerations, uniformity risks, and other concerns.

VII. Pro Se Subcommittee Insight – Justice Lawrence Doss

1. Justice Doss observed that represented clients in motor vehicle cases are 179% more likely to have filings returned for correction vs. pro se, per the April data provided by Evan Acosta/Tyler. This was acknowledged as a significant insight for future consideration.

VIII. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 12:42 PM.