

eFile & re:SearchTX Update and Overview—Standards, Rules and What's New

Tuesday, June 25, 2019
8:30–10 a.m.

Ms. Tracy Hopper
IT Administrator
Harris County District Clerk's Office

Mr. Casey Kennedy
Director for Information Services
State Office of Court Administration

Hon. John Warren
Dallas County Clerk

Hon. Sheri Woodfin
Tom Green County District Clerk

The panel will discuss updates to standards and information related to e-file and re:SearchTX, and will address any ongoing concerns that may be occurring with clerks in both.

Ms. Tracy Hopper, IT Administrator, Harris County District Clerk's Office

Tracy Hopper serves Harris County as I.T. administrator for the District Clerk's Office. With 22 years in the District Clerk's Office, she has filled previous roles as a software developer, project coordinator and application manager. Hopper has helped architect, design, program and deploy systems from financial accounting, jury, human resources, budget and various other office systems. The largest application built and run by the District Clerk's Office and Hopper's staff is a document management system serving criminal, civil, family and juvenile district courts, county criminal courts, legal community and the public. The application houses more than 270 million pages of electronic documents with more than 65,000 pages added daily. The document management system serves more than 80,000 customers including the courts. The system serves upstream and downstream document needs including an interface to receive electronic filings from the statewide eFiling infrastructure along with sending back interfaces to the statewide portal. Documents are also being programmatically generated and sent to other agencies electronically. Hopper helped transition Harris Civil district courts from a paper-based circulation to an electronic system. Most of the civil/family courts have been automated to electronic signatures and juvenile courts will follow.

Mr. Casey Kennedy, Director of Information Services, State Office of Court Administration

Casey Kennedy joined the Office of Court Administration as director of information services in 2010. His team provides direct IT support for the Texas Supreme Court, Court of Criminal Appeals, the 14 intermediate appellate courts and several judicial branch state agencies. He is also the lead OCA staff for the Judicial Committee on Information Technology, which is appointed by the Supreme Court to make recommendations and set standards for court technology in Texas. Kennedy is vice chair of the Court Information Technology Officer Consortium, a national organization of Court IT professionals. He holds a B.A. in computer science from the University of Texas at Austin.

Hon. John Warren, Dallas County Clerk

John Warren was elected county clerk for Dallas County and took first office in 2007. Now in his fourth term, he has an annual operations budget of \$11 million and oversees 240 employees in nine divisions. Previously he was employed with Dallas County for 13 years and served in various administrative capacities: a court manager and administrator in county courts at law, 1993-1997, and a court administrator and systems administrator for the civil district courts, 1998-2006. Warren serves on the Texas Supreme Court's Judicial Committee for Information Technology, the Board of Directors for the Dallas Central Appraisal District, and the National Association of Counties Finance Committee. He is an active member of the Texas Association of Counties Leadership Foundation, Property Records Industry Association, and the International Association of Government Officials. He is past president of the Urban Records Alliance for the State of Texas. Warren graduated from Southern University in Baton Rouge, La., with a B.A. in political science.

Hon. Sheri Woodfin, Tom Green County District Clerk

Sheri Woodfin is Tom Green County district clerk. She started working for the county almost 30 years ago and was elected to her first term as district clerk in 1999. Woodfin has served on the board of the Texas Association of Counties and the executive board of CDCAT, and was CDCAT president in 2012. She was honored as District Clerk of the Year in 2005. Woodfin has served on numerous state-appointed committees, most recently the Judicial Committee on Information Technology. She led her county to implement e-filing in the District Clerk's Office in 2003. This early adoption assisted the 51st District Court with the Fundamental Latter Day Saints (FLDS) Schleicher County case, in which the state removed more than 100 children from the Zion Ranch. The judge mandated electronic filing for attorneys, using the e-file portal through Tom Green County, with approval from the Supreme Court. With collaboration from district judges and court personnel, Tom Green County has adopted paperless solution in civil and criminal district courts.

