

Migrating to Mandatory eFiling

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What We'll Talk About

1. Texas and our eFiling Model
2. Challenges Moving Ahead
3. Considerations and Tips for Mandating eFiling



About Texas

254 Counties – a little more than 25,000,000 people

Largest County has 4,000,000 people (Harris)

Smallest County has 67 people (Loving)

73% of the population live in 22 counties

2 High Courts (Supreme Court, Court of Criminal Appeals)

14 Intermediate Appellate Courts

937 District and County Courts

817 Justice Courts



More About Texas

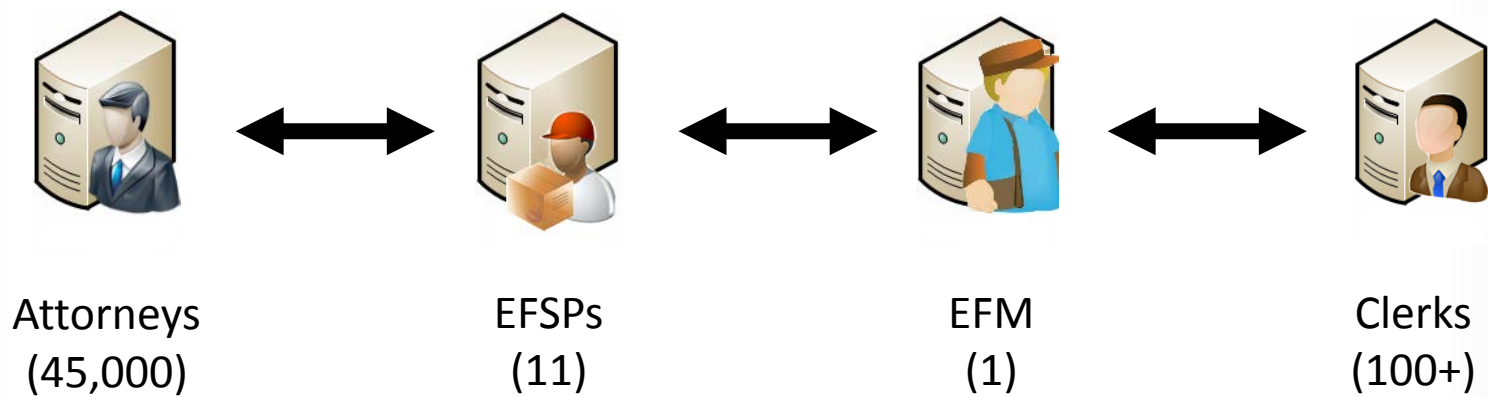
Judges are elected

County Clerks and District Clerks are also elected.

What this means for eFiling?



Texas eFiling Model



The Supreme Court Mandate

Mandates electronic filing ("e-filing") in all civil cases, including family and probate cases, by attorneys in appellate courts, and in all non-juvenile civil cases, including family and probate cases, by attorneys in district courts, statutory county courts, constitutional county courts, and statutory probate courts pursuant to a detailed implementation schedule.

Finite Scope – Gently pressing the gas



The Schedule

County Population	Mandatory Date	Number of Counties
500,000+	1/1/14	10
200,000+	7/1/14	12
100,000+	1/1/15	17
50,000+	7/1/15	23
20,000+	1/1/16	56 (Woof!)
0+	7/1/16	136 (Yikes!)



Challenges Moving Ahead

- As time goes on, local technology availability becomes more questionable.
- As clerks become paperless, Judges aren't ready/willing/able to deal with electronic documents.
- Continued battles between attorneys who wish the judicial branch to be centralized vs. the clerks and judges who wish it to continue to be decentralized.



Considerations/Tips

**Change Laws, Rules, Guidelines,
that are paper centric.**



Considerations/Tips

Work with the Supreme Court continuously to keep the scope, change and expectations under control.



Considerations/Tips

**Scope the mandate to edible
chunks.**



Considerations/Tips

Project your full volume and test your system to make sure it can handle at least twice that.



Considerations/Tips

Eliminate “Perfection” from your dictionary.



Considerations/Tips

**Eliminate “Over-communicate”
from your dictionary.**



Considerations/Tips

Seek out and train your eFiling evangelicals



Considerations/Tips

**Have good governance to allow
for appropriate change.**



Considerations/Tips

**For happy attorneys –
Standardize.**



Considerations/Tips

**Constantly remind everyone that
eFiling is not the same system as
Case Management.**

