



TEXAS JUSTICE COURT JUDGES ASSOCIATION



Excellence and Integrity



Efiling is run through the TexasOnline and handled specifically by a company called Bearing Point. Whenever we refer to TexasOnline in this newsletter, we are also referring to Bearing Point.

As we speak, TexasOnline is updating and testing the system to meet all requirements and standards required by the Supreme Court.

SOME HIGH POINTS ABOUT EFiling:

- ✓ EFiling is now available for Justice Courts.
- ✓ There must be a service agreement between BearingPoint and your Commissioner's Court before EFiling can be implemented. Your County may already have an agreement if your District or County Clerk uses EFiling. This is an important issue to bring up when you call one off the three phone numbers listed below.
- ✓ An estimate (guesstimate) of 20-40 counties will have J.P.s participate in this program.
- ✓ Your court can charge a convenience fee per case filed by EFiling. You can discuss the details of the convenience fee with your TexasOnline representative.
- ✓ Plaintiffs, whether an individual or a law firm, must register through TexasOnline (see the report at the website).
- ✓ TexasOnline serves as the "post office". They accept the filing and fees and forward both to your court.
- ✓ You go through two steps when an online filing is proposed for your court. First, a preliminary sheet will be sent to you to accept or deny. If, for example, your court somehow received a filing meant for a different county, you would decline the filing.
- ✓ All court costs and convenience fees are forwarded to you along with the filing after you have accepted the filing.
- ✓ There is no charge to the court for the TexasOnline service, and no requirement for you to connect to or deal with the financial processor. TexasOnline guarantees payment to you even if the credit card transaction fails.
- ✓ Once you are up and running for EFiling, TexasOnline takes care of "getting the word out" that you accept EFilings via their website, newsletters, and other means.
- ✓ It is not required that all Justices of the Peace in a particular county sign up for EFiling. You can sign up even if your fellow Judges do not.
- ✓ The Supreme Court's Judicial Committee on Information Technology is expected to approve a standard list of filing types (petition, eviction, affidavit, motion) and

miscellaneous fee type (constable service, abstract, jury demand, and writ) for the system in early 2008.

- ✓ Justices of the Peace who wish to start Efiling should contact one of the following:

Jake Stine	jake.stine@bearingpoint.com	512-542-3558
Adam Proegler	adam.proegler@bearingpoint.com	512-542-3540
Mike Griffith	mike.griffith@bearingpoint.com	512-542-8022

These three contacts will coordinate all the details for the interested courts, including the IT requirements, and answer your questions. *Editor's note- I respectfully request you DO NOT have your computer people contact me with questions. Please contact the individuals above.*

MORE ON THE CONVENIENCE FEE- The amount of the fee you can charge is based on recovery of direct costs as approved by your commissioners and certified by your County Auditor to DIR. For example, currently in Lubbock County, the County Clerk and District Clerk have an approved fee of \$2.00 per filing. These fees are deposited directly into the clerk's account. They are shown in TexasOnline/Bearing Point's system as "Lubbock County Courts EFiling Fee" and "Lubbock District EFiling Fee." TexasOnline will deposit your fees into an account that you designate during the set-up phase. For a generic name, Lubbock's accounting department could use whatever they prefer, such as "EFiling Fee" or "Lubbock J.P. Precinct 1 EFiling Fee."