

**San Antonio Bar Association issued a resolution on re:SearchTX electronic court document system**

SAN ANTONIO, TX — The **San Antonio Bar Association** (SABA) not only serves as a resource for San Antonio area attorneys, it also functions as a voice for its members and local legal professionals. As such, the San Antonio Board of Directors recently examined **re:SearchTX**, an electronic court document retrieval system, proposed to be implemented state-wide. The SABA's February 2, 2017 resolution supports the implementation of such program across the state courts. **Because the program would greatly benefit the SABA members and their clients, the Board felt a duty to publicly voice its encouragement of the project.**

**The resolution** in support of a uniform state-wide court case record access system **can be found online** at <http://bit.ly/sabarpress>

The **Texas Office of Court Administration** (OCA) created re:SearchTX, a state-wide, public system for accessing court records. Logging in to one website will allow searches of all electronic filings in Texas courts. The program has already been paid for and is fully functional. It is currently being tested by Texas judges while the **Texas Judicial Committee on Information Technology** (JCIT) studies and proposes rules to address access and privacy issues. Right now, re:SearchTX is only available to Texas civil judges.

OCA and JCIT are working together to make this program available to all Texas lawyers. This program would give Texas lawyers the same access to court filings that federal practitioners have had through PACER for nearly 20 years. As with PACER, there likely will be costs associated with this access; however, like PACER, re:SearchTX could make the practices of those who choose to use it more efficient, resulting in cost savings for their clients.

The Texas Legislature is considering legislation which would authorize counties to create their own rules to control access to court records. **House Bill 1058** would allow the clerk of each court decide how much to charge to access public filings. **House Bill 1258** would require each county to decide whether to allow online access, which would effectively kill a state-wide system. Trial court clerks say they are concerned about privacy issues, but several court clerk representatives serve on the JCIT and are working to create appropriate privacy safeguards.

**After studying all related issues, the San Antonio Bar Association Board of Directors concluded confidently that a system of this nature would be a great benefit to the legal profession.**

For more information about the SABA, please visit [www.sabar.org](http://www.sabar.org).

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*The San Antonio Bar Association (SABA) was established in 1808 to serve its members and the public with the highest degree of dedication and professionalism in the continuing pursuit of equal justice for all under law. SABA provides continuing legal educational programs for the legal community and legal outreach for the public. For more information, visit [www.sabar.org](http://www.sabar.org).*