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A MAN OF LEISURE



Cox News Service

Embattled former McLennan County District Attorney Vic Feazell has found relative peace in his 8,000-square-foot home west of Austin.

Feazell can afford to choose his fights

By LAYLAN COPELIN
Cox News Service

AUSTIN — He has been called the \$58 million man — winner of the largest jury award for libel in the United States.

Vic Feazell, the crusading Waco prosecutor who accused Texas Rangers in 1985 of spoon-feeding bogus confessions to killer Henry Lee Lucas, survived what he calls "my story of Biblical proportions."

He beat federal bribery charges by arguing that authorities targeted him for his attack on the Rangers and for helping discredit Lucas as America's

most prolific serial killer.

Feazell then won his libel suit against a Dallas television station that questioned whether he had taken bribes from defense attorneys. The station, WFAA, appealed, and in 1991, Feazell settled the historic judgment. He will say only that it was for more than \$10 million.

Three days after the windfall, Feazell, his wife, Berni, and their son, Greg, fled the fishbowl of Waco, a community of 100,000 polarized by the six-year ordeal, to a reclusive life in the hills west of Austin.

"Everyone knew us," said Berni

Feazell, "and everyone had an opinion about us."

The family now lives in an 8,000-square-foot home on three acres behind a security gate. Semiretired at 41, Vic Feazell screens calls to his unlisted phone number, picking and choosing what legal causes he will champion.

"If it were up to me, I'd never handle another case," he said. Quoting Al Pacino's character in *Godfather III*, Feazell drew his arms to his chest and added, "They keep pulling me

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