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District attorney faces trial on federal charges

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AUSTIN (AP) - Controversial McLennan County District Attorney Vic Feazell goes on trial in federal court Tuesday on bribery and mail fraud charges stemming from a lengthy federal investigation.

U.S. District Judge James Nowlin has scheduled jury selection to begin Tuesday for the trial of the 35-year-old prosecutor who was named in a 10-count indictment in April.

Court officials predict testimony could begin Tuesday afternoon, depending on how long it takes to seat a jury. The judge has predicted the trial will last about four weeks.

McLennan County officials, who have been reluctant to talk on the record about Feazell's case, and Feazell and his family have said they are anxious to get the matter resolved so business can begin to return to normal at the courthouse.

At least four of Feazell's former assistants and five current employees of the district attorney's office have been subpoenaed to testify for the government.

Feazell has been in Austin preparing for trial since Thursday and has been unavailable for comment, but his attorney, Gary Richardson of Tulsa, Okla., said he and his client are prepared.