

Fezell fires investigator in McLennan

McLennan County District Attorney Vic Fezell has fired an investigator in his office in the wake of a criminal investigation being launched against the former employee.

George Merilian, an investigator in Fezell's office since January 1983, was fired recently, Fezell said Wednesday.

"He was terminated because of inappropriate behavior inconsistent with the goals and standards of the McLennan County district attorney's office," Fezell said.

Fezell said Merilian currently is under investigation by officers from the Waco Police Department and Department of Public Safety. No charges have been filed in the case.

"I did ensure (law enforcement officials) that they would have the complete cooperation of this office and that should charges be brought, I would contact the Prosecutors Council in Austin in order for a special prosecutor to be appointed to avoid even the slightest appearance of a conflict of interest," Fezell said.

Merilian is a former employee of a McLennan County constable's office, the Waco Fire Department and the Woodway Police Department, Fezell said.

No replacement for Merilian has been hired, but Fezell said he is taking applications for the position. The post pays \$22,500 annually, he said.

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