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Fezell grand jury ends term without indictment

By **ELIZABETH SIMPSON**
Tribune-Herald staff writer

A federal court clerk in Austin confirmed Monday that the term of the federal grand jury investigating McLennan County District Attorney Vic Fezell expired this weekend.

Janie Ney, federal court clerk for criminal proceedings, said the jury's term expired Saturday and no indictments involving Fezell were handed down.

She said the grand jury's term, which lasts 18 months, had been granted one six-month extension, which ended Saturday.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Jan Patterson, who initiated the investigation, referred calls from reporters to U.S. Attorney Helen Eversberg in San Antonio.

Ms. Eversberg did not return calls Monday.

Ms. Patterson confirmed last

July that a federal grand jury was investigating Fezell on allegations of impropriety in the district attorney's office.

Since then, little was known about the federal grand jury proceedings since federal law requires they be kept secret. Several Waco attorneys appeared before the grand jury, which met at Austin's U.S. District Court, during the last year, and various records were subpoenaed.

According to federal law, the U.S. Attorney's office may take the same investigation to another federal grand jury. Members of the U.S. Attorney's office would not comment when asked if the case will be passed on to another grand jury.

John Ben Sutter, Fezell's administrative assistant, said Monday Fezell would have no comment on the expiration of the grand jury's term.