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718 WEST 5th ST. AUSTIN, TEXAS 78701 PHONE 477-6755

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Fezell jury to reconvene on Monday

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AUSTIN — Jurors deliberated three hours Friday before breaking for the weekend in the racketeering-bribery trial of McLennan County District Attorney Vic Fezell.

The jury, which had heard allegations Fezell took bribes in return for dropping or reducing charges against criminal defendants, decided to resume deliberations Monday.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Jack Frels said in closing arguments Friday that the Waco prosecutor used his public office for private gain.

Fezell, 36, has denied the charges, and his lawyer, Gary Richardson, told jurors, "I assure you that Vic is fighting for survival, but I also assure you he is telling the truth."

The case went to the jury shortly after noon.

Fezell, district attorney in Waco since 1984, is accused of racketeering and conspiracy in 14 instances of accepting bribes from Waco attorneys.