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Fezell libel hearing delayed

A second hearing to consider the dismissal of a multimillion-dollar libel suit filed by former McLennan County District Attorney Vic Fezell against a Dallas television station was postponed Monday.

Judge James Meyers of Austin notified parties in the suit Sunday that his wife was ill, forcing him to cancel the hearing, which had been set for Monday in Waco's 19th State District Court.

Fezell filed the suit in 1986 against WFAA-TV, Channel 8; its parent company, the A.H. Belo Corp.; and former Channel 8 reporter Charles Duncan. Fezell alleges that a 10-part series Duncan prepared about Fezell and a station commentary libeled him.

The hearing, scheduled for Meyers to consider a motion from Belo attorneys to dismiss the suit, has not been rescheduled. A tentative trial date in the case has been set for March 11.