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Henry Lucas' Attorney Hires Lawyer For Himself

WACO (UPI) — McLennan County District Attorney Vic Feazell, who earlier this week said he fears he might be murdered, has retained a high-powered Austin lawyer to defend himself in case of indictment.

Feazell said he has hired Roy Minton, who earlier this year helped Attorney General Jim Mattox win acquittal on commercial bribery charges.

"The federal grand jury started meeting in Austin, and what I've been told is that they're talking to people about me, so I decided I better get a lawyer," Feazell said.

Federal prosecutors in Austin would not confirm the investigation into Feazell, but news reports have accused attorneys in Feazell's office of accepting bribes to drop drunk

driving charges.

Feazell, who claims he is innocent, also announced plans to run for re-election.

"I want to put to rest any rumors that, number one, I may be resigning, number two, that I may not be intending to run for re-election, or number three, that I might be interested in running for some higher office at this time," Feazell said.

Earlier this week, Feazell said his handling of the Lucas case made him fearful that he would be slain or falsely indicted. He said his phone had been illegally tapped.

"We've got physical proof of that," he said. "We've been suspicious for the past three or four months, since about April, but it was confirmed about a month ago."

Feazell also alleged that the garbage of an assistant, John Ben Sutter, had been stolen.

Feazell has come under fire from some officials for a McLennan County grand jury probe of Lucas, a confessed serial murderer who has recanted earlier claims that he murdered up to 600 people.

Feazell, 34, an ordained Southern Baptist minister, said he thought the federal investigation of his office was prompted by the Lucas case, which centered on whether a state task force set up to handle inquiries of Lucas, coerced or baited Lucas into making confessions.

"My office is proud of the fact that we've taken on some very unpopular stands, but they were stands that need to be taken," Feazell said.