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Lawyer Tells Of Payoffs In Feazell Case

AUSTIN (UPI) — A Waco attorney told a federal court jury he and his partner gave a \$10,000 campaign contribution, mostly in cash, to McLennan County District Attorney Vic Feazell because they "needed to be in his corner." But following a federal grand jury investigation of fraud and bribery charges, Feazell later acknowledged receiving only \$1,000 of the gift, attorney Ron Moody testified Monday in Feazell's trial. Feazell is on trial for fraud, racketeering and bribery charges stemming from cash payments he allegedly received from attorneys in return for dropping criminal charges, primarily drunken driving cases. Federal prosecutors allege Feazell's claims that the payments were campaign contributions is false since the monies were not reported on the district attorney's campaign finance reports. At a 1984 meeting with Feazell, Moody said he and his partner agreed to contribute \$5,000 to the district attorney's campaign.