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McLennan 294-11 DA found innocent

AUSTIN (AP) — A federal court jury Monday acquitted McLennan County District Attorney Vic Feazell of charges he accepted bribes in return for reducing or dismissing prosecution of criminal cases.

The decision came after about six hours of deliberations that began Friday.

Jurors returned verdicts of innocent on two counts of racketeering and bribery.

As some spectators applauded the verdicts, Feazell embraced his wife Berni.

"I won because of the common sense of the people on the jury and because God was with me every step of the way," Feazell said.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Jack Frels, lead prosecutor in the case, said, "What can I possibly say now?"

Feazell was accused in a two-count racketeering and conspiracy indictment of taking bribes in return for dropping or reducing drunken driving and drug charges.

Jack Frels said in closing arguments Friday that the 36-year-old Waco prosecutor used his public office for his private gain.

Feazell 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."

Eight charges of mail fraud were dismissed Thursday.