

Nowlin to hear 18 Feazell motions

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U.S. District Judge James Nowlin will consider 18 motions filed by attorneys for McLennan County District Attorney Vic Feazell during a pretrial hearing today in Austin.

A clerk for Nowlin said the judge will consider a variety of motions, including one to transfer Feazell's trial, scheduled for May, from Austin to Waco, motions to force the government to reveal more specific information about their case against Feazell and requests for prosecutors to release materials collected during their investigation.

The hearing is scheduled for 9:30 a.m.

Feazell is charged in a 12-count indictment with racketeering and

mail fraud.

Nowlin's clerk said the judge has scheduled another pretrial hearing for April 30 in which the judge will consider remaining motions filed by Feazell that will require testimony.

Feazell's attorney, Gary Richardson of Tulsa, Okla., said today's hearing will be an opportunity for all parties to "find out where we are in the case."

Feazell, in filing his "discovery" and "bill of particulars" motions, has charged that government prosecutors have not revealed specifically what he is charged with or who potential witnesses against him might be.

His motions seek the release of names of confidential informants who reportedly have told prosecutors that they paid Feazell bribes

for favorable disposition of criminal cases presented to his office.

One of Feazell's attorneys, Jeff Kearney of Fort Worth, was allowed to withdraw from the case last week after filing a motion informing Nowlin that Feazell has not paid him necessary legal fees and expenses to retain his services.

Richardson said Kearney's withdrawal will place more burden on him but should not delay the trial.