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Waco Lawyer Still Insists Fees Split With Feazell

AUSTIN (AP) — Waco attorney Dick Kettler stood fast under cross examination Thursday on his testimony that his law firm had an agreement with McLennan County District Attorney Vic Feazell to split legal fees.

"Yes, sir, that is what happened," Kettler said when challenged by defense attorney Gary Richardson.

But Kettler admitted in questioning by Richardson that he and his partner, Don Hall, has charged up to \$3,000 for drunken-driving and drug cases they were able to get dismissed before Feazell became district attorney.

"That's true," Kettler said, "we probably had cases like that before Feazell took office."

After Kettler's cross examination, the court recessed until Monday. U.S. Assistant Attorney Jack Frels said Hall, the government's last witness, will begin testifying Monday.

Kettler testified for the third day as a government witness in the bribery trial of the 35-year-old Waco prosecutor.

Feazell has denied the federal

charges that he accepted bribes or illegal campaign contributions in exchange for his influence over criminal cases.

Kettler testified earlier the firm charged higher fees for case dismissals after they made an agreement with Feazell to get one-third of fees on cases that Feazell "handled."

Kettler said if the firm was unable to get a case dismissed or reduced to public intoxication, part of the fee was refunded. He repeated Thursday that he never actually saw Feazell given any money.

"Vic would come in our office, and he would go in Hall's office and they would close the door," Kettler said. "I knew that Hall had the money we had agreed to give Feazell."

Kettler said he had heard Hall tell clients that he had an "in" with the district attorney's office.

Under questioning, Kettler said he had a written agreement with the government to plead guilty to a felony charge of tax evasion on cash fees received that were never reported for income taxes.