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# Fezell near closing film deal on life story

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Film producers meeting with Vic Fezell in Hollywood this week to negotiate a contract for the story of his roller-coaster life hope to finish the movie in time for next year's Cannes Film Festival in France, Fezell said Wednesday.

"We have an agreement in substance and it is being reduced to writing at this time," Fezell said. "It is with HBO, but that is really all I can say about it until the paperwork is complete."

Fezell, who resigned as McLennan County district attorney in September 1988 after a bumpy six

years, flew to California Saturday to meet with producers, attorneys and Home Box Office officials. He returned to Waco Tuesday night excited about the prospects of seeing his life played out on the movie screen.

"It will either be a feature film or an HBO movie," Fezell said. "The producers want to have it ready in time for the Cannes Film Festival in May, but that is speculative at this point."

No screenplay has been written and no one has been chosen yet to write it, Fezell said.

"I'll be going back to California in late August for a week to start consulting on the story line for the

movie," he said.

Fezell said the movie could begin with his arrest by federal authorities after his indictment in 1986 on bribery, racketeering and mail fraud charges. Fezell has repeatedly contended — and local, state and federal authorities have always denied — that his arrest and prosecution was in retaliation for his role in exposing the Henry Lee Lucas bogus murder confession spree.

Fezell, 40, was cleared of all criminal charges in 1987, after a six-week trial in Austin.

He also claimed in a multi-million dollar libel suit tried this

year that former Channel 8 reporter Charles Duncan and the Belo Broadcasting Co. paved the way for his indictment with Duncan's 10-part series in 1985 that portrayed Fezell as a prosecutor on the take.

A 19th State District Court jury awarded Fezell \$58 million in April after listening to six weeks of testimony. Jurors ruled unanimously that Duncan and the Dallas company were on a mission to destroy Fezell's career with the malicious reports.

Fezell settled with Belo officials in late June for an undisclosed amount.