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# Fezell to seek bio deal in Hollywood

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A month after becoming Waco's newest millionaire by settling the nation's largest libel judgment, Vic Fezell is off to Hollywood to negotiate a contract for a movie about his life.



Costner

Fezell, a controversial and colorful former McLennan County district attorney, said he will fly to Los Angeles this morning to meet with two producers, attorneys and representatives of Home Box Office.

"We are just meeting and going over the terms of some proposals for movies that have been sent to me," Fezell said. "At

this point, it could be an HBO made-for-TV movie, it could be a miniseries, or it could be made for theatrical release. We are just looking at all three possibilities right now. I am really excited about it."

Fezell's life has changed dramatically in the wake of a 19th State District Court jury's record \$58 million libel verdict in April. After listening to six weeks of testimony, the jury agreed with Fezell that former WFAA-TV, Channel 8, reporter Charles Duncan libeled Fezell in an 11-part series in 1985 that cast Fezell as a corrupt prosecutor who took bribes from Waco attorneys to dismiss cases.

He was cleared of those charges in 1987, after a six-week federal trial in Austin.

Fezell settled the libel case in late June for an undisclosed sum with Channel 8's parent company, Belo Broadcasting.

When talk of movies has come up in the past, Fezell had said he wanted to portray himself on the silver screen in the movie version of *Careless Whispers*, the award-winning book by Carlton Stowers about the

July 1982 deaths of three teens at Lake Waco. The movie was not made.

When asked Friday if he wants to play himself in the proposed movie, Fezell said no.

"I want it to be a success," he said, adding that Kevin Costner is his choice for a lead man.

Like they have for most of his career in Waco, rumors have run rampant since the settlement about the size of Fezell's payday, the house he will be buying, the his-and-hers Mercedes sedans he and his wife paid cash for and other aspects of his life.

Fezell said he is starting to scale back his private law practice in Waco and has joined his attorney in the criminal and libel trials, Gary Richardson, as a partner. Fezell will be running the firm's law office in Austin and also work out of the Tulsa, Okla., office where Richardson, a former U.S. attorney, is based.

"I intend to specialize in large civil cases, in particular libel and slander cases, and occasional criminal defense cases."