

Prosecutor eyes Kevorkian lawyer ads

By David Eggert, Associated Press Writer | January 14, 2006

LANSING, Mich. --Lawyer Geoffrey Fieger, who defended assisted-suicide advocate Jack Kevorkian, may have violated state elections law in his 2004 ad campaign against a state Supreme Court justice, a special prosecutor said Saturday.

However, the prosecutor, Patrick Shannon, said at a news conference that he won't recommend criminal charges.

Instead, Shannon said he has suggested the secretary of state's office review the case for possible civil campaign finance violations. He didn't say what the possible violations might have been.

The campaign finance investigation began in March after the secretary of state's office had trouble contacting a political action committee, Citizens for Judicial Reform, that aired \$457,000 worth of ads bashing GOP-nominated Justice Stephen Markman.

Fieger later acknowledged paying for the ads but said he broke no laws.

A lawyer for Fieger, Neil Rockind, said Saturday the investigation was "clearly a political persecution."

Shannon was appointed special prosecutor by state Attorney General Mike Cox, who had accused Fieger of using knowledge of Cox's extramarital affair to try to force him to drop the investigation. Cox's office was looking into whether Fieger illegally financed the ads with corporate funds.

Fieger, who ran unsuccessfully for governor in 1998, has said he will seek the Democratic nomination to challenge Cox in the 2006 attorney general's race.

Kevorkian, 77, is serving a 10- to 25-year prison sentence for murder for giving a fatal injection of drugs in 1998 to a man with Lou Gehrig's disease. ■