

FILED

**JUDICIAL COUNCIL
OF THE NINTH CIRCUIT**

JUN 24 2026
MOLLY C. DWYER, CLERK
U.S. COURT OF APPEALS

**IN RE COMPLAINT OF
JUDICIAL MISCONDUCT**

Nos. 25-90240, 25-90241

ORDER

MURGUIA, Chief Judge:

Complainant, a pro se litigant, has filed a complaint of judicial misconduct against a district judge and a magistrate judge. Review of this complaint is governed by the Rules for Judicial-Conduct and Judicial-Disability Proceedings (“Judicial-Conduct Rules”), the federal statutes addressing judicial conduct and disability, 28 U.S.C. § 351 *et seq.*, and relevant prior decisions of the Ninth Circuit Judicial Council. In accordance with these authorities, the names of the complainant and the subject judges shall not be disclosed in this order. *See* Judicial-Conduct Rule 11(g)(2).

The Judicial Conduct and Disability Act provides a remedy if a federal judge “has engaged in conduct prejudicial to the effective and expeditious administration of the business of the courts.” 28 U.S.C. § 351(a). A chief judge may dismiss a complaint if, following review, he or she finds it is not cognizable under the statute, is directly related to the merits of a decision or procedural ruling, or is

frivolous or lacks sufficient evidence to raise an inference of misconduct. *See* 28 U.S.C. § 352(b)(1)(A)(i)-(iii). Judicial misconduct proceedings are not a substitute for the normal appellate review process and may not be used to seek reversal of a judge’s decision, to obtain a new trial, or to request reassignment to a different judge.

Complainant has filed multiple cases under 42 U.S.C. § 1983, at least three of which were assigned to the district judge.

Complainant alleges that the district judge “demonstrated racial bias” in one of the prior cases. Complainant provides no evidentiary support or context for this statement, and none can be found in the record. Adverse rulings are not proof of bias. *In re Complaint of Judicial Misconduct*, 650 F.3d 1370, 1371 (9th Cir. Jud. Council 2011). Because complainant provides no objectively verifiable evidence to support this allegation, it is dismissed as unfounded. *See* 28 U.S.C.

§ 352(b)(1)(A)(iii) (listing reasons the chief judge may decide to dismiss the complaint, including claims that are lacking sufficient evidence to raise an inference that misconduct has occurred); *In re Complaint of Judicial Misconduct*, 569 F.3d 1093 (9th Cir. Jud. Council 2009) (“claimant’s vague insinuations do not provide the kind of objectively verifiable proof that we require”); Judicial-Conduct Rule 11(c)(1)(D).

Next, complainant alleges that the district judge should have been recused from hearing the most recent case, based on bias. Again, complainant provides no objectively verifiable evidence to support this allegation, which is dismissed as unfounded. *Id.* Further, the allegation is dismissed because “[c]ognizable misconduct does not include an allegation that calls into question the correctness of a judge’s ruling, including a failure to recuse.” Judicial-Conduct Rule 4(b)(1). *See also* 28 U.S.C. § 352(b)(1)(A)(ii) (listing reasons the chief judge may decide to dismiss the complaint, including that claims are directly related to the merits of a decision); *In re Complaint of Judicial Misconduct*, 838 F.3d 1030 (9th Cir. Jud. Council 2016) (dismissing as merits-related allegations that a judge made various improper rulings in a case); Judicial-Conduct Rule 11(c)(1)(B).

Finally, complainant alleges that the magistrate judge acted “without assignment, consent, authority, or jurisdiction.” A review of the record demonstrates that, consistent with 28 U.S.C. § 636, the district court authorized the magistrate judge to “consider preliminary matters.” It was the district judge who disposed of the case, after considering the magistrate judge’s recommendations and complainant’s related objections. Accordingly, this allegation is dismissed as unfounded. *See* Judicial-Conduct Rule 11(c)(1)(D).

DISMISSED.