FILED

JUDICIAL COUNCIL

Feb. 22 2024

MOLLY C. DWYER, CLERK

OF THE NINTH CIRCUIT

IN RE COMPLAINT OF

JUDICIAL MISCONDUCT

No. 22-90098

ORDER

MURGUIA, Chief Judge:

Complainant, a pro se litigant, has filed a complaint of judicial misconduct against a district 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 complainant and the subject judge 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 alleges that the district judge intentionally issued erroneous rulings for the purpose of "destroying" his civil rights case. To the extent complainant challenges the rulings, these allegations must be dismissed as "directly related to the merits of a decision or procedural ruling." See 28 U.S.C. § 352(b)(1)(A)(ii) (listing reasons the chief judge may decide to dismiss the complaint, including claims 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 district judge made various improper rulings in a civil case); Judicial-Conduct Rule 11(c)(1)(B).

To the extent complainant alleges that the district judge is participating in a conspiracy or a scheme to favor the defendants in his case, adverse rulings are not proof of bias or fraud. See In re Complaint of Judicial Misconduct, 838 F.3d 1030 (9th Cir. Jud. Council 2016). Because complainant has not offered any evidence of misconduct, these charges must be dismissed as unfounded. See 28 U.S.C. § 352(b)(1)(A)(iii); Judicial-Conduct Rule 11(c)(1)(D).

DISMISSED.