

FILED

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MOLLY C. DWYER, CLERK
U.S. COURT OF APPEALS

**JUDICIAL COUNCIL
OF THE NINTH CIRCUIT**

**IN RE COMPLAINT OF
JUDICIAL MISCONDUCT**

No. 18-90091

ORDER

THOMAS, 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 judge improperly dismissed a case on res judicata grounds, and made other improper rulings in the underlying case. These allegations relate directly to the merits of the judge's rulings and must be dismissed. See 28 U.S.C. § 352(b)(1)(A)(ii); In re Charge of Judicial Misconduct, 685 F.2d 1226, 1227 (9th Cir. Jud. Council 1982); Judicial-Conduct Rule 11(c)(1)(B).

Complainant also alleges that the judge does not read filings by pro se litigants, as evidenced by the fact that the judge failed to notice a particular motion filed by complainant, or certain information contained in that motion. A review of the record shows that complainant filed the motion after judgment had already been entered and the case was ordered closed. A judge is not required to rule on (or otherwise address) an improperly-filed motion in a closed case, and failure to do so is not misconduct. Accordingly, this allegation is dismissed as unfounded and for failure to allege misconduct. See 28 U.S.C. § 352(b)(1)(A)(iii), (B); In re Complaint of Judicial Misconduct, 726 F.3d 1060, 1062 (9th Cir. Jud. Council

2013) (“Because complainant’s charges wouldn’t constitute misconduct even if true, the complaint is dismissed as groundless”); In re Complaint of Judicial Misconduct, 647 F.3d 1181, 1182 (9th Cir. Jud. Council 2011) (“Because complainant doesn’t allege conduct ‘prejudicial to the effective and expeditious administration of the business of the courts,’ her charges must be dismissed”); In re Complaint of Judicial Misconduct, 583 F.3d 598 (9th Cir. Jud. Council 2009); Judicial-Conduct Rules 11(c)(1)(A), (D).

DISMISSED.