

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. 19-90114

ORDER

THOMAS, Chief Judge:

Complainant, an attorney, 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 failed to recuse himself and made various other incorrect 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 Complaint of Judicial Misconduct, 756 F.3d 1143, 1144 (9th Cir. Jud. Council 2014) (“Allegations that a judge erred in failing to recuse are merits-related and must be dismissed”); 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 ignored his declaration of disqualification. A review of the underlying docket shows that the judge in fact ordered the declaration stricken because it violated local rules, that complainant filed a subsequent motion to disqualify, that the motion was accepted for filing despite identified discrepancies, and that the matter has been briefed by both parties and remains pending. Accordingly, this allegation is dismissed as

unfounded and conclusively refuted by objective evidence. 28 U.S.C.

§ 352(b)(1)(B); Judicial-Conduct Rule 11(c)(1)(D).

Finally, complainant alleges that the judge is biased and suggests that the judge may suffer from confusion or memory loss. A review of the underlying record, including orders referenced by complainant, reveals no evidence of mental disability. Moreover, adverse rulings are not evidence of bias or other misconduct, and complainant offers no other evidence in support of these vague and conclusory allegations, which are dismissed as unfounded. See 28 U.S.C. § 352(b)(1)(A)(iii); In re Complaint of Judicial Misconduct, 650 F.3d 1370, 1371 (9th Cir. Jud. Council 2011) (“adverse rulings do not prove bias”); 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).

DISMISSED.