

FILED

APR 15 2021

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

**JUDICIAL COUNCIL
OF THE NINTH CIRCUIT**

**IN RE COMPLAINT OF
JUDICIAL MISCONDUCT**

No. 20-90126

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[s] 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.

This misconduct complaint arises out of a complaint filed by the Securities and Exchange Commission against the complainant related to allegations of violating antifraud, securities registration, and other provisions of the federal securities laws. Complainant lists 21 instances of alleged misconduct by the district judge. Most of the allegations are related to complainant's belief that the judge mishandled discovery issues and enforcement of a settlement agreement. These allegations are related to the merits 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 is biased against him because of several rulings made against complainant. However, for every allegation of bias, complainant fails to provide objectively verifiable evidence in support of the allegation of bias. Additionally, a thorough review of the docket reveals that these allegations of bias are not supported by the record. See In re Complaint of Judicial Misconduct, 687 F.3d 1188 (9th Cir. Jud. Council 2012) (“adverse rulings alone do not constitute proof of bias”).

These allegations are dismissed because they are refuted by the record or relate to merits of the case.

DISMISSED.