

JUL 14 2022

MOLLY C. DWYER, CLERK
U.S. COURT OF APPEALS**JUDICIAL COUNCIL
OF THE NINTH CIRCUIT****IN RE COMPLAINT OF
JUDICIAL MISCONDUCT**Nos. 21-90060 and 21-90061
ORDER**MURGUIA**, Chief Judge:

Complainant, a pro se litigant, has filed a complaint of judicial misconduct against two circuit judges. 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.

Complainant alleges that the circuit judges improperly affirmed the decision of the district court to affirm a decision to deny complainant disability benefits. Because this allegation relates directly to the merits of the judges' ruling, the complainant has not alleged facts that might amount to judicial misconduct, and therefore the charge must be dismissed. 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 Charge of Judicial Misconduct, 685 F.2d 1226, 1227 (9th Cir. Jud. Council 1982) (Judicial Council found charges of judicial misconduct were properly dismissed by chief judge when, as here, "appellate review, not the procedures for judicial misconduct" was the proper remedy); Judicial-Conduct Rule 11(c)(1)(B).

DISMISSED.