

**JUDICIAL COUNCIL
OF THE NINTH CIRCUIT**

FILED

OCT 7 2025

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

**IN RE COMPLAINT OF
JUDICIAL MISCONDUCT**

No. 25-90206

ORDER

MURGUIA, Chief Judge:

Complainant, a pro se litigant, has filed a complaint of judicial misconduct against a district judge. Complainant’s father filed this complaint on his behalf because complainant is a minor. 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 name 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 committed misconduct by incorrectly dismissing his complaint after his father paid the filing fee. A review of the docket indicates that complainant's case has been reopened, so this allegation is dismissed as moot. To the extent complainant challenges the district judge's handling of his matter, any such challenge is dismissed because it relates directly to the merits of the judge's decisions. *See* 28 U.S.C. § 352(b)(1)(A)(ii) (listing reasons the chief judge may decide to dismiss the complaint, including that claims are 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 judge made various improper rulings in a case); Judicial-Conduct Rule 11(c)(1)(B).

Complainant also alleges that his father filed written objections regarding the dismissal of his complaint that "mentioned" that his father had paid the filing fee. A review of the record indicates that the objections did not explicitly note any

payment, that the objections did not include any proof of payment, and that the case has since been reopened. Accordingly, this allegation is dismissed because the conduct, “even if true, is not prejudicial to the effective and expeditious administration of the business of the courts.” *See* Judicial-Conduct Rule 11(c)(1)(A).

Complainant then alleges that the district judge ignored him because he is a minor. However, adverse rulings are not proof of bias, and complainant provides no objectively verifiable evidence to support this allegation. Therefore, this allegation is dismissed as unfounded. *See* 28 U.S.C. § 352(b)(1)(A)(iii) (listing reasons the chief judge may decide to dismiss the complaint, including claims that are lacking sufficient evidence to raise an inference that misconduct has occurred); Judicial-Conduct Rule 11(c)(1)(D).

DISMISSED.