

JUN 8 2026

MOLLY C. DWYER, CLERK  
U.S. COURT OF APPEALS**JUDICIAL COUNCIL  
OF THE NINTH CIRCUIT****IN RE COMPLAINT OF  
JUDICIAL MISCONDUCT**

No. 26-90153

**ORDER****MURGUIA**, Chief Judge:

Under the Rules for Judicial-Conduct and Judicial-Disability Proceedings (“JC&D Rules”), when there is information constituting reasonable grounds for an inquiry into whether a covered judge, as defined by JC&D Rule 1(b), has engaged in judicial misconduct, the chief judge may conduct an appropriate inquiry into the accuracy of the information even if no related complaint has been filed. *See* JC&D Rule 5(a). When incidents of alleged misconduct have been reported in an accredited media publication, we have identified a complaint in a similar Rule 5 order and initiated an inquiry.

Therefore, consistent with our precedent and pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 351(b) and JC&D Rule 5, and in the interest of the effective and expeditious administration of the business of the courts, this complaint is identified against Circuit Judge Ryan D. Nelson. This complaint is based on information contained in a June 5, 2026, Idaho State Journal article titled “Police: US 9th Circuit judge

faces battery charge after parking lot confrontation turns physical in Idaho Falls,” including the video published in that article; a June 5, 2026, American Bar Association Journal article titled “9th Circuit judge faces misdemeanor charges of battery and property damage”; a June 6, 2026, Bloomberg Law article titled “Ninth Circuit Judge Nelson Charged With Misdemeanor Battery”; and my limited inquiry of currently available information. All of the above information was only very recently received.

Pursuant to JC&D Rule 23(b)(1), this order is publicly disclosed “to maintain public confidence in the judiciary’s ability to redress misconduct or disability.” All subsequent misconduct proceedings will be confidential pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 360 and JC&D Rule 23.

This complaint will be filed and processed by the Circuit Executive in accord with the applicable JC&D rules.