FILED

JUDICIAL COUNCIL

Apr.17 2024

OF THE NINTH CIRCUIT

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

IN RE COMPLAINT OF

No. 22-90118

JUDICIAL MISCONDUCT

ORDER

MURGUIA, Chief Judge:

Complainant, a pro se prisoner, has filed a complaint of judicial misconduct against a magistrate 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. <u>See</u> 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 magistrate judge was not fair and impartial. As support, he explains that the case was "unnecessarily postponed for another eight months for no justifiable reason." However, delay alone is generally not cognizable as misconduct. See Judicial-Conduct Rule 4(b)(2). Moreover, a review of the record demonstrates that the case was following the normal course of litigation, without unnecessary delay. Accordingly, the 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 lack sufficient evidence to raise an inference that misconduct occurred); Judicial-Conduct Rule 11(c)(1)(D).

Complainant next alleges that the magistrate judge had the case reassigned to a new district court judge for a nefarious purpose. Because he fails to provide any evidence to support this allegation, and none can be found in the record, it is dismissed as unfounded. See 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"); see also In re Complaint

of Judicial Misconduct, 650 F.3d 1370, 1371 (9th Cir. Jud. Council 2011) (dismissing because a litigant has no right to a particular procedure for the selection of a judge and complainant failed to show any improper motive); Judicial-Conduct Rule 11(c)(1)(D).

DISMISSED.