JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF THE THIRD CIRCUIT

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J.C. No. 03-24-90065

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IN RE: COMPLAINT OF JUDICIAL MISCONDUCT OR DISABILITY

ORIGINAL PROCEEDINGS UNDER 28 U.S.C. § 351

MEMORANDUM OPINION

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(Filed: September 25, 2024)

PRESENT: JORDAN, Circuit Judge.1

This complaint is filed under the Judicial Conduct and Disability Act, 28 U.S.C. §§ 351-64, against a United States Circuit Judge ("Subject Judge"). For the reasons discussed below, the complaint will be dismissed.

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, after 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. 28 U.S.C. § 352(b)(1)(A)(i)-(iii).

<sup>1</sup> Acting as Chief Judge pursuant to Rule 25(f), <u>Rules for Judicial-Conduct and Judicial-</u>Disability Proceedings.

Complainant is a pro se litigant who complains about the Subject Judge's dismissal of two prior complaints of judicial misconduct (J.C. Nos. 03-23-90067 and 03-23-90082). Complainant's allegations are merits-related and subject to dismissal. See 28 U.S.C. § 352(b)(1)(A)(ii); Rules 4(b)(1), 11(c)(1)(B), Rules for Judicial-Conduct and Judicial-Disability Proceedings. See also Commentary on Rule 4(b)(1) ("Any allegation that calls into question the correctness of an official decision or procedural ruling of a judge — without more — is merits-related . . . a complaint challenging the correctness of a chief judge's determination to dismiss a prior misconduct complaint would be properly dismissed as merits-related . . .).

Based on the foregoing, this complaint will be dismissed pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 352(b)(1)(A)(ii).

s/ Kent A. Jordan
Circuit Judge

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ORDER

(Filed: September 25, 2024)

PRESENT: JORDAN, Circuit Judge.1

On the basis of the foregoing opinion entered on this date, it is ORDERED AND ADJUDGED that the written complaint brought pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 351 is hereby dismissed under 28 U.S.C. § 352(b)(1)(A)(ii).

This order constitutes a final order under 28 U.S.C. § 352(c). Complainant is notified in accordance with Rules 11(g)(3) and 18, Rules for Judicial-Conduct and Judicial-Disability Proceedings, of the right to appeal this decision by the following procedure:

Rule 18(a) <u>Petition</u>. A complainant or subject judge may petition the Judicial Council of the Third Circuit for review.

Rule 18(b) <u>Time</u>. A petition for review must be filed in the Office of the Circuit Executive within **42 days** after the date of the chief judge's order.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Acting as Chief Judge pursuant to Rule 25(f), <u>Rules for Judicial-Conduct and Judicial-Disability Proceedings</u>.

18(b) Form. The petition should be in letter form, addressed to the Circuit Executive, and in an envelope marked "Misconduct Petition" or "Disability Petition." The name of the subject judge must not be shown on the envelope. The letter should be typewritten or otherwise legible. It should begin with "I hereby petition the judicial council for review of . . ." and state the reasons why the petition should be granted. It must be signed. There is no need to enclose a copy of the original complaint.

The full text of the <u>Rules for Judicial-Conduct and Judicial-Disability Proceedings</u> is available from the Office of the Circuit Executive and on the Court of Appeals' internet site, www.ca3.uscourts.gov.

s/ Kent A. Jordan
Circuit Judge

Dated: September 25, 2024