

**JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF THE
TENTH CIRCUIT**

IN RE: COMPLAINT UNDER THE
JUDICIAL CONDUCT AND
DISABILITY ACT

Nos. 10-20-90019 through 10-20-90021

Before **TYMKOVICH**, Chief Judge

ORDER

Complainant has filed a complaint of judicial misconduct against three circuit judges in this circuit. My consideration of this complaint is governed by the misconduct rules issued by the Judicial Conference of the United States, entitled *Rules for Judicial-Conduct and Judicial-Disability Proceedings* (the “JCD Rules”), the federal statutes addressing judicial conduct and disability, 28 U.S.C. § 351 *et seq.*, and relevant prior decisions of the full Judicial Council of this circuit that are consistent with those authorities.

The JCD Rules and this circuit’s local misconduct rules are available to complainants on the Tenth Circuit’s web page at: <http://www.ca10.uscourts.gov/ce/misconduct>. Paper copies are also furnished by the Circuit Executive’s Office upon request. In accordance with those rules, the names of the complainant and subject judges shall not be disclosed in this order. *See* JCD Rule 11(g)(2).

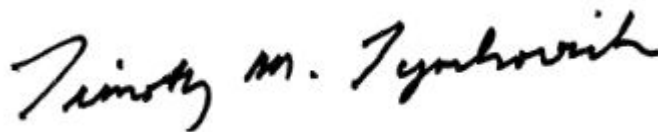
Complainant alleges the three subject judges and/or the Clerk of Court erred in denying his motion for authorization to file a second or successive 28 U.S.C. § 2254 habeas petition. He asserts that he originally filed the motion under the wrong subsection of the statute and that he cured the defect, which the court did not recognize.

As an initial matter, complainant’s allegations against the clerk are not cognizable misconduct. *See* JCD Rule 1(b) (providing “[a] covered judge is defined under the Act and is limited to judges of United States courts of appeals, judges of United States district courts, judges of United States bankruptcy courts, United States magistrate judges, and judges of the courts specified in 28 U.S.C. § 363”).

Complainant’s claim, even if it does pertain to the subject judges, is not cognizable as misconduct because it is “directly related to the merits of a decision or procedural ruling.” JCD Rule 11(c)(1)(B); *see also* Commentary to JCD Rule 4 (stating that “[a]ny allegation that calls into question the correctness of an official decision or procedural ruling of a judge—without more—is merits-related”).

Accordingly, this complaint is dismissed pursuant to JCD Rule 11(c). The Circuit Executive is directed to transmit this order to complainant and copies to the subject judges and the Judicial Conference Committee on Judicial Conduct and Disability. *See* JCD Rule 11(g)(2). To seek review of this order, complainant must file a petition for review by the Judicial Council. The requirements for filing a petition for review are set out in JCD Rule 18(b). The petition must be filed with the Office of the Circuit Executive within 42 days after the date of the chief judge’s order. *Id.*

So ordered this 14th day of October, 2020.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Timothy M. Tymkovich". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Honorable Timothy M. Tymkovich
Chief Circuit Judge