

**JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF THE
TENTH CIRCUIT**

IN RE: COMPLAINT UNDER THE
JUDICIAL CONDUCT AND
DISABILITY ACT

Nos. 10-21-90033 & 10-22-90003

Before **HOLMES**, Chief Judge

MEMORANDUM & ORDER

Complainant has filed two identical complaints of judicial misconduct against a district judge in this circuit. These complaints have been consolidated for review. 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:
<https://www.ca10.uscourts.gov/cc/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 judge shall not be disclosed in this order. *See* JCD Rule 11(g)(2).

Complainant filed the underlying lawsuit with a district court in this circuit and alleges the subject judge committed misconduct in dismissing his case for failure to state a claim. He alleges the judge ignored judicial precedent in dismissing his case and hints that the judge may have done so because he accepted bribes, however Complainant offers no evidence to support this allegation. It is noted that the United States Court of Appeals for the Tenth Circuit reviewed the dismissal of complainant's case and affirmed the judge's decision. These claims are not cognizable as misconduct because they are "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"). Additionally, while allegations of bribery can state a valid claim for misconduct, this claim fails because it is completely unsupported. The JCD Rules require complainants to support their allegations with "sufficient evidence to raise an inference that misconduct has occurred." *See* JCD Rule 11(c)(1)(D).

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 judge 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 2nd day of December, 2024.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jerome A. Holmes". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Honorable Jerome A. Holmes
Chief Circuit Judge