

**JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF THE
TENTH CIRCUIT**

IN RE: COMPLAINT UNDER THE
JUDICIAL CONDUCT AND
DISABILITY ACT

Nos. 10-11-90008 & 10-11-90009

Before **KELLY**, Circuit Judge.

ORDER

Complainant has filed a complaint of judicial misconduct against two circuit judges in this circuit. My consideration of this complaint is governed by 1) the misconduct rules issued by the Judicial Conference of the United States, entitled *Rules for Judicial-Conduct and Judicial-Disability Proceedings* (the “Misconduct Rules”), and specifically Misconduct Rule 25(f); 2) the federal statute dealing with judicial misconduct, 28 U.S.C. § 351 *et seq.*, and 3) the “Breyer Report,” a study by the Judicial Conduct and Disability Act Study Committee, headed by Supreme Court Justice Stephen Breyer, entitled *Implementation of the Judicial Conduct and Disability Act of 1980*. The Breyer Report may be found at: http://www.supremecourt.gov/publicinfo/breyer_committeereport.pdf. To the extent that there are any relevant prior decisions of the full Judicial Council of this circuit which are consistent with those authorities, they may also govern my consideration of this complaint.

Complainants have been provided with a copy of the Misconduct Rules, and the Rules are also accessible on the Tenth Circuit's web page at: <http://www.ca10.uscourts.gov/misconduct.php>. In accord with those rules, the names of the complainant and subject judges shall not be disclosed in this order. *See* Misconduct Rule 11(g)(2).

Complainant takes issue with the ruling made by the subject judges as part of a panel that considered and decided a specific appeal. Complainant contends that this ruling failed to take into consideration specific constitutional provisions and resulted in an illegal taking from the plaintiffs in that case and others, including complainant. Complainant argues that this purported violation of law also resulted in a violation of the judges' oaths of office and oaths taken as members of the bar.

These claims are not cognizable as misconduct because they are "directly related to the merits of a decision or procedural ruling." Misconduct Rule 11(c)(1)(B). As explained in the Breyer Report, this exclusion of matters related to the merits of underlying cases protects the independence of the judges deciding those cases. *See* Breyer Report, App. E., ¶ 2.

Accordingly, this complaint is dismissed pursuant to Misconduct 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* Misconduct 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 Misconduct Rule 18(b). The petition must be filed with the Office of the Circuit Executive within 35 days of the date of the letter transmitting this order. *Id.*

So ordered this 17th day of February, 2011.

/s/ Paul J. Kelly, Jr.

Honorable Paul J. Kelly, Jr.
Circuit Judge