

**JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF THE
TENTH CIRCUIT**

IN RE: COMPLAINT UNDER THE
JUDICIAL CONDUCT AND
DISABILITY ACT

Nos. 10-11-90001 through 10-11-90003

Before **BRISCOE**, Chief Judge.

ORDER

Complainant has filed a complaint of judicial misconduct against two district judges and one magistrate judge 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”); 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/breyercommitteereport.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.

Complainant has 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's allegations of wrongdoing are vague and hard to understand. No specific claims or allegations of any kind against the subject judges are included in the complaint. It appears that complainant has concerns with how an underlying case is being handled; however, these procedures cannot be used to compel substantive or procedural review of case proceedings. Claims that are "directly related to the merits of a decision or procedural ruling" are not cognizable as misconduct. 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..

Complainant asserts conflict of interest claims against court-appointed counsel in the underlying case as well as prosecuting attorneys. These misconduct procedures apply only to federal judges. *See* Misconduct Rule 4. To the extent that complainant alleges claims against other individuals, those claims cannot be considered here.

Because complainant makes no cognizable allegations of misconduct against the subject judges, the complaint will be 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 23rd day of February, 2011.

/s/ Mary Beck Briscoe

Honorable Mary Beck Briscoe
Chief Circuit Judge