

**JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF THE  
TENTH CIRCUIT**

IN RE: COMPLAINT UNDER THE  
JUDICIAL CONDUCT AND  
DISABILITY ACT

No. 10-11-90036

Before **BRISCOE**, Chief Judge.

**ORDER**

Complainant has filed a complaint of judicial misconduct against a district 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 judge shall not be disclosed in this order. *See* Misconduct Rule 11(g)(2).

Complainant takes issue with the subject judge's rulings in various underlying cases. 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.

Complainant also contends that the subject judge has demonstrated personal bias against complainant, but offers only the judge's rulings and complainant's own speculation that the judge may be retaliating for comments complainant made in a pleading. While allegations of bias or other improper motive can state a valid claim for misconduct even when related to a judge's ruling, *see* Commentary to Misconduct Rule 3, these claims of bias fail because they are completely unsupported. The Misconduct Rules require complainants to support their allegations with "sufficient evidence to raise an inference that misconduct has occurred." *See* Misconduct Rule 11(c)(1)(D). The judge's rulings and complainant's unsupported speculation do not provide evidence that gives rise to a reasonable inference of bias.

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 judge 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 29th day of July, 2011.

/s/ Mary Beck Briscoe

Honorable Mary Beck Briscoe  
Chief Circuit Judge