

**JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF THE
TENTH CIRCUIT**

IN RE: COMPLAINT UNDER THE
JUDICIAL CONDUCT AND
DISABILITY ACT

No. 10-14-90023

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 “JCD 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.

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 accord 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 takes issue with conduct by defense attorneys and U.S. Marshals in an underlying case, contending that the subject judge has allowed these individuals to violate applicable rules of practice. Complainant also contends that the judge "passed over" the case, prejudicing complainant and demonstrating bias.

Allegations against persons other than federal judges will not be considered in this forum. *See* JCD Rule 4.

To the extent that complainant's allegations challenge the subject judge's rulings, those 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). 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.

To the extent that complainant's allegations set out claims of bias by the judge, those claims are not supported. Although allegations of improper motive may state a valid claim for misconduct even when related to a judge's ruling, *see* Commentary to JCD Rule 3, the 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). Complainant has not done so here.

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 35 days of the date of the letter transmitting this order. *Id.*

So ordered this 9th day of June, 2014.

/s/ Mary Beck Briscoe

Honorable Mary Beck Briscoe
Chief Circuit Judge