

**JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF THE
TENTH CIRCUIT**

IN RE: COMPLAINT UNDER THE
JUDICIAL CONDUCT AND
DISABILITY ACT

No. 10-23-90029

Before **HOLMES**, Chief Judge

MEMORANDUM & ORDER

Complainant has filed a complaint of judicial misconduct against a magistrate judge in this circuit. 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, appearing pro se in this misconduct complaint and in the underlying civil matter, provides much information regarding his civil complaint. His only complaint regarding the magistrate judge appears to be his belief that a conflict of interest exists. Complainant alleges he sought judicial recusal based on the conflict, which was denied, although—as he acknowledges—the magistrate judge was reassigned shortly thereafter and no longer presided over his matter. The decision whether to recuse for conflict lies with the judge and is a merits-related issue. Complainant also alleges various case related motions he filed were erroneously denied, but a review of the docket shows it was the district judge, about whom he has not filed a complaint, who issued denials of those motions, not the magistrate judge he named in his complaint. 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”).

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 21st day of July, 2025.

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