

JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF THE SIXTH CIRCUIT
MICHIGAN-OHIO-KENTUCKY-TENNESSEE

In re:
Complaints of Judicial Misconduct

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* Nos. 06-20-90051
* 06-20-90052
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MEMORANDUM AND ORDER

This complaint of judicial misconduct was filed by **[REDACTED]** (“complainant”) against the Honorable **[REDACTED]** (“subject judges”), pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 351. Each of the subject judges presided over a civil matter in which the complainant was a party, and neither of the subject judges found in complainant’s favor. The complaint consists of disjointed accounts alleged impropriety on behalf of the Department of Corrections, and the complainant opines that the subject judges are engaged in “a conspiracy to suppress [his] religious rights.”

After conducting an initial review, the chief judge may dismiss a complaint of judicial misconduct as to which he concludes: (A) that the claimed conduct, even if it occurred, “is not prejudicial to the effective and expeditious administration of the business of the courts”; (B) that the complaint “is directly related to the merits of a decision or procedural ruling”; (C) that the complaint is “frivolous,” a term that applies to charges that are wholly unsupported; or (D) that the complaint “lack[s] sufficient evidence to raise an inference that misconduct has occurred.” Rule 11(c)(1)(A)-(D), Rules for Judicial-Conduct and Judicial-Disability Proceedings; see 28 U.S.C. § 352(a), (b).

The complainant is simply attempting to challenge rulings made by the subject judges below. This he may not do: such decisions are not the proper subject of a complaint of judicial misconduct. See Rule 3(h)(3)(A), Rules for Judicial-Conduct and Judicial-Disability Proceedings. The Judicial Council is not a court and has no jurisdiction to review the subject judge’s rulings or to grant relief requested in the underlying case. See *In re Complaint of Judicial Misconduct*, 858 F.2d 331 (6th Cir. 1988). Although an allegation that a specific ruling was the result of an improper motive is cognizable despite its relation to the merits, the complainant’s allegation that the adverse ruling was improperly motivated is wholly unsupported by any evidence and is thus due to be dismissed under 28 U.S.C. § 352(b)(1)(A)(iii) and Rule 11(c)(1)(C) of the Rules for

Judicial-Conduct and Judicial-Disability Proceedings. The complainant cannot survive Rule 11(c)(1)(C) dismissal by simply alleging an unsupported, improper motive. His allegation is a thinly disguised challenge to the merits and, as such, is subject to dismissal pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 352(b)(1)(A)(ii) and Rule 11(c)(1)(B) of the Rules for Judicial-Conduct and Judicial-Disability Proceedings.

Accordingly, it is **ORDERED** that the complaint be dismissed pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 352(b)(1)(A)(ii)-(iii) and Rule 11(c)(1)(B)-(C) of the Rules for Judicial-Conduct and Judicial-Disability Proceedings.

/s/ R. Guy Cole, Jr.
Chief Judge

Date: February 1, 2021