

THE JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF THE SEVENTH CIRCUIT
219 South Dearborn Street
Chicago, Illinois 60604

June 21, 2024

Chief Judge Diane S. Sykes

No. 07-24-90044

IN RE COMPLAINT AGAINST A JUDGE

MEMORANDUM AND ORDER

The complainant filed a misconduct complaint against the judge assigned to her bankruptcy case. She challenges several of the judge's decisions, accusing the judge of exhibiting bias against her, fabricating evidence, treating her in a hostile manner (by "pretending to do his job" while keeping her waiting for an hour and a half), and retaliating against her for her repeated motions seeking the judge's recusal. Finally, she alleges that the judge had a financial conflict of interest (specifically, an investment interest in one of her creditors) and suffers from a disability.

To the extent that these allegations challenge the judge's procedural and substantive rulings, they relate directly to the merits of the complainant's case and thus are not proper grounds for a misconduct complaint. 28 U.S.C. § 352(b)(1)(A)(ii); RULES FOR JUD.-CONDUCT & JUD.-DISABILITY PROC. r. 4(b)(1) cmt. The allegations of bias, fabrication of evidence, hostile treatment, retaliation, and disability are wholly unsupported and frivolous. 28 U.S.C. § 352(b)(1)(A)(iii). The complainant points only to the judge's rulings against her, but adverse rulings alone are not evidence of misconduct. The allegation of a financial conflict of interest is conclusively refuted by the record. *Id.* § 352(b)(2). The judge addressed this claim in an order denying one of the complainant's motions for recusal, explaining that he has no financial interest in the creditor bank.

Accordingly, the complaint is dismissed pursuant to § 352(b)(1)(A)(ii), (iii), and (b)(2). The complainant may petition the Judicial Council of the Seventh Circuit for review of this order in accordance with Rule 18(b) of the *Rules for Judicial-Conduct and Judicial-Disability Proceedings*. *Id.* § 352(c); *see* RULES FOR JUD.-CONDUCT & JUD.-DISABILITY PROC. r. 11(g)(3). A petition for review must be filed in the clerk's office of the United States Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit not later than 42 days of the date of this order.