

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

March 4, 2025

Chief Judge Diane S. Sykes

Nos. 07-25-90005

IN RE A COMPLAINT AGAINST A JUDGE

MEMORANDUM AND ORDER

The complainant filed a misconduct complaint against the judge who entered a default against his daughter in a civil case. He complains that the judge demonstrated “a clear bias” towards the plaintiffs’ attorney by providing “undue advantages and accommodations” and “guidance or support” that “goes beyond the scope of judicial impartiality.” He also complains that the “actions of the judge have not been adequately documented or justified.”

To the extent that these allegations challenge the judge’s entry of default—or his reasons or process for reaching that decision—they are directly related to the merits of the judge’s rulings. Allegations that are directly related to the merits of a judge’s substantive or procedural rulings are not proper grounds for a misconduct complaint and must be dismissed. 28 U.S.C. § 352(b)(1)(A)(ii). The complainant’s allegation of bias is wholly unsupported and frivolous. 28 U.S.C. § 352(b)(1)(A)(iii). Allegations of misconduct must be supported by sufficient facts to raise an inference that misconduct occurred. The complainant has provided no factual support for his allegation that the judge was biased. Quite the opposite: the complainant attached the transcripts of the relevant hearings to his complaint, and the transcripts show that his allegation of bias is conclusively refuted by objective evidence. 28 U.S.C. § 352(b)(1)(B).

Accordingly, the complaint is dismissed pursuant to § 352(b)(1)(A)(ii), (iii), and § 352(b)(1)(B). 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.