

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

October 30, 2020

Chief Judge Diane S. Sykes

Nos. 07-20-90081 and 07-20-90083

IN RE COMPLAINTS AGAINST A JUDGE:

MEMORANDUM

Complainant filed three misconduct complaints against the judge presiding in his cases. The first—Complaint No. 07-20-90015—alleged that the judge issued biased rulings against the complainant. Chief Judge Wood dismissed it because it concerned the judge’s rulings, which are official actions and can only be challenged by appeal. Complainant filed two more complaints on August 7 and August 18, 2020; both complaints are similar to the first, raising allegations about the judge’s rulings and adding an attack on the judge’s character and a demand for the judge’s recusal.

There is no evidence of bias by the judge. As for the allegations concerning the judge’s rulings, including the request for recusal, any complaint “directly related to the merits of a decision or procedural ruling” must be dismissed. 28 U.S.C. § 352(b)(1)(A)(ii); *see also* Rule 11(c)(1)(B) of the Rules for Judicial-Conduct and Judicial-Disability Proceedings. “Any allegation that calls into question the correctness of an official action of a judge ... is merits related.” Standard 2 for Assessing Compliance with the Act, *Implementing the Judicial Conduct and Disability Act of 1980: A Report to the Chief Justice* 145 (2006).

Repetitive filing of insubstantial judicial-misconduct complaints is an abuse of the provisions of the Judicial Conduct and Disabilities Act of 1980, 28 U.S.C. §§ 351–364; *see also* Rule 10(a) of the Rules for Judicial-Conduct and Judicial-Disability Proceedings. If complainant continues to abuse the provisions of the Act, I will ask the Seventh Circuit Judicial Council to require complainant to post a \$1,000 bond before any future complaints are reviewed.

These complaints are dismissed pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 352(b)(1)(A)(ii) and (iii).