

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

April 7, 2023

Chief Judge Diane S. Sykes

No. 07-23-90007

IN RE COMPLAINT AGAINST A JUDGE

MEMORANDUM AND ORDER

The complainant filed a misconduct complaint against the judge who presided over her civil RICO suit in which she accused dozens of defendants of participating in a racketeering conspiracy in connection with her state-court foreclosure action. The judge dismissed the case with prejudice and imposed sanctions against the complainant based on her history of frivolous and vexatious litigation conduct. The complainant challenges the dismissal decision and the order imposing sanctions. She also alleges that the judge has “an old school hatred of pro se litigants” and is too old to be making judicial decisions. She seeks reinstatement of her suit, removal of the sanctions, and a change of venue.

These allegations do not raise cognizable misconduct. The bulk of this complaint attacks the judge’s reasons for dismissing her case and imposing sanctions. Allegations directly related to the merits of a judge’s decisions are not proper grounds for a misconduct complaint. 28 U.S.C. § 352(b)(1)(A)(ii). “Any allegation that calls into question the correctness of an official action of a judge ... is merits related.” RULES FOR JUD.-CONDUCT & JUD.-DISABILITY PROC. r. 4(b)(1) cmt. The claim that the judge is biased against pro se litigants is wholly unsupported and frivolous. Any allegation of bias must be supported by sufficient facts to raise an inference that misconduct occurred. 28 U.S.C. § 352(b)(1)(A)(iii). Adverse rulings are not evidence of improper bias; the complainant’s allegation of bias rests on nothing other than the judge’s adverse rulings. Her allegation of age-related infirmity is likewise wholly unsupported and frivolous. She provides no particulars to support this claim other than the judge’s rulings against her.

For the foregoing reasons, the complaint is dismissed pursuant to § 352(b)(1)(A)(ii) and (iii). 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.