

JUL 25 2025

David J. Smith
Clerk

CONFIDENTIAL

Before the Chief Judge of the
Eleventh Judicial Circuit

Judicial Complaint No. 11-25-90124

ORDER

An individual has filed a Complaint against a United States district judge under the Judicial Conduct and Disability Act of 1980, 28 U.S.C. §§ 351–364, and the Rules for Judicial-Conduct and Judicial-Disability Proceedings of the Judicial Conference of the United States.

Background

The record establishes that Complainant filed a counseled civil complaint against two defendants. Complainant’s attorney later filed a motion to withdraw as counsel citing irreconcilable differences, and after a hearing at which Complainant stated he would proceed *pro se*, the Subject Judge granted the motion to withdraw. Complainant and one defendant then filed a joint motion to dismiss and to submit the case to arbitration. A magistrate judge issued a report recommending that the joint motion to dismiss be granted, and the Subject Judge adopted the report and recommendation.

Afterward, Complainant filed two motions for the appointment of counsel, which a magistrate judge denied. The remaining defendant filed a motion to dismiss and to compel arbitration, and Complainant filed a response in opposition. A magistrate judge issued a report recommending that the motion be granted to extent it sought to compel arbitration, that the case be stayed pending arbitration, and that the motion be denied to the extent it sought dismissal. The Subject Judge adopted the report and recommendation. Complainant then filed multiple motions seeking various types of relief, including three motions for reconsideration, and the Subject Judge denied the motions. The case remains pending.

Complaint

Complainant states that he was not permitted to inform the court about his attorney's misconduct, that he notified the court that the defendant made misrepresentations to the court, and that the Subject Judge is misinformed about that case. Complainant states he believes the case "to be an example of weaponizing the legal and judicial system against me" and that there has been "bias, influence, and bigotry at play here." He complains that his motions for appointment of counsel were denied, he contends there is improper "collaboration" occurring because every lawyer he has spoken to "[s]ays the same thing," and he states that, as a *pro se* litigant, "the court ignores me and never returns my calls." He also takes issue with the conduct of other individuals, and he attached documents to his Complaint.

Discussion

Judicial-Conduct Rule 4(b)(1) provides in part that “[c]ognizable misconduct does not include an allegation that calls into question the correctness of a judge’s ruling, including a failure to recuse.” The Commentary on Rule 4 explains the rationale for this rule as follows:

Rule 4(b)(1) tracks the Act, 28 U.S.C. § 352(b)(1)(A)(ii), in excluding from the definition of misconduct allegations “[d]irectly related to the merits of a decision or procedural ruling.” This exclusion preserves the independence of judges in the exercise of judicial authority by ensuring that the complaint procedure is not used to collaterally call into question the substance of a judge’s decision or procedural ruling. Any allegation that calls into question the correctness of an official decision or procedural ruling of a judge — without more — is merits-related.

The Complaint fails to present a basis for a finding of misconduct. To the extent Complainant’s allegations concern the substance of the Subject Judge’s official actions, findings, rulings, and orders in the above-described case, the allegations are directly related to the merits of the Subject Judge’s decisions or procedural rulings. Judicial-Conduct Rule 11(c)(1)(B). Complainant’s remaining claims are based on allegations lacking sufficient evidence to raise an inference that the Subject Judge engaged in misconduct. Judicial-Conduct Rule 11(c)(1)(D). For these reasons, this Complaint is **DISMISSED**.

/s/ William H. Pryor Jr.
Chief Judge