

## JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF THE EIGHTH CIRCUIT

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JCP No. 08-25-90039

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In re Complaint of John Doe<sup>\*</sup>

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This is a complaint of judicial misconduct by a preparer of bankruptcy petitions against a bankruptcy judge assigned to both a debtor's case prepared with the complainant's assistance, and to a bankruptcy trustee's related case against the complainant.

The debtor paid the complainant, who is not an attorney, to help her with a bankruptcy petition. The bankruptcy trustee later sued the complainant alleging that she provided the debtor with legal advice in violation of a particular statute, and that she charged the debtor double the amount permitted by local law. The complaint specified the debtor's statements regarding the payments and her means of making them. The complaint sought disgorgement of fees, fines, damages, and injunctive relief against the complainant. The complainant did not respond to the complaint, and the judge granted a default judgment. After receiving the complainant's request to deny entry of default, however, the judge scheduled a hearing on the complainant's request.

The complainant then filed her judicial complaint, apparently before receiving notice of the hearing. The complainant alleges that "they have deliberately filed a judgment against me and as of yet not heard or allowed my motion to set aside the

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<sup>\*</sup>Under Rule 24(a) of the Rules for Judicial-Conduct and Judicial-Disability Proceedings, the names of the complainant and the subject judge are not disclosed. Citations or references herein to a "Rule" refer to these Rules.

judgment.” The complainant alleges that she was not sent any pretrial discovery or questions to answer, and her motion to set aside the judgment shows “that what they are saying is lies.” She asserts that the “trustees have not shown me anything that they accuse me of and I contend that this is an attempt to force me to stop being a bankruptcy preparer by making false accusations.” The complainant asserts that “they have not shown me where I have double charged [the debtor] as I did not.”

Following the hearing, the judge vacated the default judgment. The parties later entered a stipulated settlement agreement. The judge approved the agreement, and the case is now closed.

The complaint is dismissed as “frivolous” or “based on allegations lacking sufficient evidence to raise an inference that misconduct has occurred.” Rule 11(c)(1)(C), (D).

/s/ Steven M. Colloton  
Chief Judge

Filed: November 5, 2025

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