

JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF THE EIGHTH CIRCUIT

JCP No. 08-26-90001

In re Complaint of John Doe*

This is a complaint of judicial misconduct by a pro se plaintiff against a district judge who dismissed his civil lawsuit.

The complainant filed a pro se lawsuit seeking damages from the Department of Human Services, Social Security Administration, and Medicare. The judge granted the complainant leave to proceed in forma pauperis and dismissed the lawsuit without prejudice “because the allegations are conclusorily pleaded and unsupported by factual allegations.” The court of appeals summarily affirmed.

The complainant alleges that the judge “who presides over [his] case is not understanding the complaint.” The complainant asserts that he is “experiencing conflict of interest” and he has “facts that this judge has dismissed a case in the past—look on back.” In a supplement, the complainant states that he is “still asking for a jury trial,” and he is “wondering if [he] is still experiencing conflict of interest.” In support, the complainant attaches a different judge’s order in a different lawsuit brought by the complainant. The order was entered in 2020, grants the complainant leave to proceed in forma pauperis, and directs him to file an amended complaint.

*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.

The complainant alleges that the judge did not understand his complaint and thus incorrectly dismissed his lawsuit. “Cognizable misconduct does not include an allegation that calls into question the correctness of a judge’s ruling,” however. Rule 4(b)(1). The complaint is thus dismissed as “directly related to the merits of a decision or procedural ruling.” 28 U.S.C. § 352(b)(1)(A)(ii); Rule 11(c)(1)(B). The complaint is otherwise dismissed as “based on allegations lacking sufficient evidence to raise an inference that misconduct has occurred.” Rule 11(c)(1)(D).

For these reasons, the judicial complaint is dismissed.

/s/ Steven M. Colloton
Chief Judge

Filed: June 4, 2026
