United States Court of Appeals
Fifth Circuit
FILED
October 30, 2026
Thomas B. Plunkett, III
Clerk

Judicial Council for the Fifth Circuit

Complaint No: 05-26-90177

IN RE COMPLAINT OF EZRA ISHMAEL YOUNG AGAINST
UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE ADA E. BROWN,
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS,
UNDER THE JUDICIAL IMPROVEMENTS ACT OF 2002

AND

Complaint No: 05-26-90196

IN RE COMPLAINT IDENTIFIED BY CHIEF CIRCUIT JUDGE
JENNIFER WALKER ELROD AGAINST
UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE ADA E. BROWN,
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS,
UNDER THE JUDICIAL IMPROVEMENTS ACT OF 2002.

ORDER

Before ELROD, *Chief Circuit Judge*, GRAVES, *Circuit Judge*, and MOSES, *Chief District Judge*.

PER CURIAM:

On October 30, 2026, the Special Committee held proceedings in the above-captioned matters pursuant to orders issued by the Committee on October 16, 2026, with respect to Complaint No. 05-26-90196, and on October 23, 2026, with respect to Complaint No. 05-26-90177. IT IS

ORDERED that the transcript for these proceedings be posted to the court's website forthwith.[1]

[1] Chief Judge Elrod waived confidentiality in Complaint No. 05-26-90196 by order dated October 20, 2026, following Judge Ada E. Brown's unilateral waiver of confidentiality as to both complaints. Chief Judge Elrod now also waives confidentiality in Complaint No. 05-26-90177. *See* 28 U.S.C. § 360(a)(3); Rule 23(b)(7) of the Rules for Judicial-Conduct and Judicial-Disability Proceedings. Complainant Ezra Young has waived confidentiality.

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS

FORT WORTH DIVISION

IN RE:

JUDICIAL MISCONDUCT COMPLAINT MATTERS

COMPLAINT NO. 05-26-90196

COMPLAINT NO. 05-26-90177

SPECIAL INVESTIGATING COMMITTEE

INTERVIEW OF DISTRICT COURT JUDGE ADA E. BROWN

(DISTRICT JUDGE ADA E. BROWN WAS NOT PRESENT)

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 30, 2026

Taken from 8:04 a.m. to 8:37 a.m. before Zoie Williams, RMR, FCRR, Certified Federal Court Reporter in and for the United States, Northern District of Texas, 501 W. 10th Street, Fifth Floor, Room 501, Fort Worth, Texas, 76102.

A P P E A R A N C E S:

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I N D E X

Opening Statement:

By Chief Judge Elrod.....04

Closing Statement:

By Chief Judge Elrod.....05

Reporter's Certificate.....09

OCTOBER 30, 2026

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P R O C E E D I N G S

(District Judge Ada E. Brown is not present.)

CHIEF JUDGE JENNIFER ELROD: At this time, we are on the record for proceedings scheduled for today, Friday, October 30th, 2026, related to two complaints under the Judicial Conduct and Disability Act.

The first is the complaint identified by Chief United States Circuit Judge Jennifer Walker Elrod against United States District Judge Ada E. Brown, Northern District of Texas, Complaint No. 05-26-90196.

And second is In Re: Complaint of Ezra Ismael Young against United States District Court Judge Ada E. Brown, Northern District of Texas, Complaint No. 05-26-90177.

The time is 8:03 a.m. We are in Room 501 of the Eldon B. Mahon, United States Courthouse in Fort Worth, Texas.

Present here are members of the Special Committee appointed to investigate each of the complaints, which include myself, Circuit Judge James E. Graves, Jr., and Chief District Judge Alia Moses of the Western District of Texas.

Also present in the courtroom, Walt Green for

Phelps Dunbar assisting the Special Committee, and Emma Looney of Phelps Dunbar assisting the Special Committee, and Garrett Cain, Fifth Circuit General Counsel.

We have given notice to United States District Judge Ada E. Brown of the Northern District of Texas of this proceeding and invited her, indeed implored her, to come today. She is not yet here.

We will wait 30 minutes to see if she arrives just because she may have had traveling difficulties. So we will wait. She does not have anybody here on her behalf either. We are just waiting in the courtroom at this time.

(Recessed at 8:04 a.m.)

(Reconvened at 8:33 a.m.)

(District Judge Ada E. Brown is not present.)

CHIEF JUDGE JENNIFER ELROD: Let the record reflect that it is now 8:33 a.m. We have waited 30 minutes, and then some, beyond the time posted for this proceeding in Complaint No. 05-26-90196 and Complaint No. 05-26-90177.

Present in the courtroom are members of the Special Committee, myself, Judge Graves, Chief Judge Moses, Walt Green of Phelps Dunbar, Emma Looney of Phelps Dunbar, and Garrett Cain, Fifth Circuit General Counsel.

Judge Brown has not arrived. No one has appeared on behalf of Judge Brown. We have not heard from Judge Brown that she is running late, and we have been given no

other reason to wait.

The proceedings were scheduled to begin at 8:00 a.m. The Committee provided notice of today's proceedings by order dated October 16, 2026.

The order required Judge Brown to appear in person before the Special Committee today at 8:00 a.m. for an interview and oral argument under oath and on the record regarding the allegations in Complaint No. 05-26-90196.

The order also provided that Judge Brown could request the issuance of subpoenas for both witnesses and documentary evidence and that she would have the right to question those witnesses and present documentary evidence to the Committee today.

The order required Judge Brown to submit several items related to these proceedings by 5:00 p.m. on October 23, 2026, including: One, the name and contact information of any attorney appearing on her behalf; two, requests for the issuance of subpoenas for witnesses to be called or documents to be referenced during her interview; three, the names and contact information of any witnesses she intended to bring; four, a copy of documentary evidence she intended to present today; and five, written argument under the rules.

The October 16th order was emailed to Judge Brown on October 16, 2026. Judge Brown confirmed receipt of the

order by email on October 17, 2026, stating that she would not participate in these proceedings because doing so would compromise an unspecified parallel investigation.

On October 20, 2026, the Committee issued an order urging Judge Brown to reconsider her decision not to participate and imploring her to exercise the rights afforded to her in the October 16th order.

The Committee also requested that she specify the parallel investigation to which she referred and explain why such investigation prevented her participating in these proceedings.

In addition, by order dated October 23, 2026, the Committee notified Judge Brown that, following the interview and oral argument for Complaint No. 05-26-50196, she would be afforded the opportunity to present oral argument regarding Complaint No. 05-26-90177.

The record will reflect that Judge Brown did not submit any information or documents in response to the October 16th order and did not request the issuance of any subpoenas.

Judge Brown has failed to appear for the scheduled interview in Complaint No. 05-26-90196 and for the opportunity to present oral argument in both matters.

Judge Brown also failed to respond to the Committee's request for information about the parallel

investigation she referenced and why such investigation prevents her from participating in these proceedings.

Therefore, today's on-the-record proceedings are concluded. The Special Committee will adjourn and proceed in accordance with its obligations under the Judicial Conduct and Disability Act and Rules for Judicial Conduct and Judicial Disability proceedings.

This proceeding is adjourned.

(The proceedings concluded at 8:37 a.m.)

REPORTER'S CERTIFICATE

I, ZOIE WILLIAMS, RMR, RDR, FCRR, certify that the foregoing is a true and correct transcript from the record of proceedings in the foregoing entitled matter.

I further certify that the transcript format complies with those prescribed by the Court and the Judicial Conference of the United States.

Signed this 30th day of October, 2026.

___/s/ Zoie Williams_____
Zoie Williams, RMR, RDR, FCRR
Official Court Reporter
Northern District of Texas
Fort Worth Division

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