

FILED

November 25, 2025

Lyle W. Cayce
Clerk

Judicial Council for the Fifth Circuit

Complaint Number: 05-26-90027

IN RE COMPLAINT OF JUDICIAL MISCONDUCT
UNDER THE JUDICIAL IMPROVEMENTS ACT OF 2002.

ORDER

Complainant, a pro se litigant, has filed a complaint alleging misconduct by a United States District Judge in four civil proceedings.

Complainant complains that the judge denied her due process by: entering rulings after she consented to proceed before a magistrate judge pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 636(c)(1); summarily denying recusal motions; and retaliating against her for filing the recusal motions by “halt[ing] schedules, rewrites[ing] magistrate orders, ignor[ing] letters,” and dismissing her cases “sua sponte using vague grounds such as ‘frivolous’ or ‘lack of jurisdiction,’ without allowing curative filings.”

In support, Complainant claims:

- The judge dismissed Case 1 “without substantive review, evidentiary hearings, or consideration of expert evidence,” and denied Complainant’s subsequent recusal motion “without explanation.”
- In Case 2, the judge denied Complainant’s recusal motion “without explanation” and, despite Complainant’s consenting to proceed before the magistrate judge who had scheduled a pretrial

conference, the judge dismissed the case for failure to prosecute “without notifying the magistrate judge, holding a hearing, or allowing me to respond.”

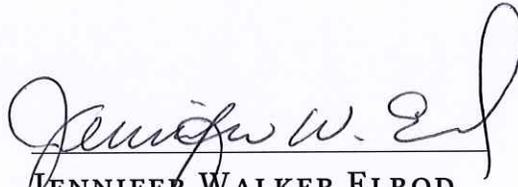
- In Case 3, the judge denied Complainant’s recusal motion “without explanation,” “denied reconsideration in a one-paragraph order, merely referencing prior reasons without stating legal or factual bases,” and did not hold an evidentiary hearing or afford Complainant “opportunities to cure ... despite [my] pro se status and evidence of compliance.” Complainant submits that “[t]he dismissal appears punitive, aligning with the broader pattern of suppressing health-related claims without review.”
- In Case 4, the judge denied Complainant’s motion for recusal “without explanation.” Noting that she had consented to proceed before a magistrate judge, the parties had engaged in settlement discussions, and the magistrate judge had held an initial conference, Complainant further complains that “without notice, hearing, or magistrate involvement,” the judge “summarily rejected” her claims as “insufficient” and “dismissed the case ... for ‘failure to state a claim’.” Complainant submits that the judge’s “interference” was in “retaliation for [my] prior recusal motions.”

These allegations relate directly to the merits of decisions or procedural rulings and are therefore subject to dismissal under 28 U.S.C. § 352(b)(1)(A)(ii). The complaint procedures in 28 U.S.C. §§ 351-364 are not a substitute for the normal appellate review process and may not be used to obtain reversal of a decision or a new trial.

The conclusory assertions of improper and retaliatory motives are subject to dismissal under 28 U.S.C. § 352(b)(1)(A)(iii) as “lacking sufficient evidence to raise an inference that misconduct has occurred.”

Complainant also complains that prior to filing Case 2, she “endured a 7-day psychiatric detention without court record, potentially linked to judicial acquiescence in administrative retaliation.” Complainant presents no evidence that the judge was associated with the state judge’s decision to impose the psychiatric detention, and the allegation is therefore subject to dismissal under 28 U.S.C. § 352(b)(1)(A)(ii) as “lacking sufficient evidence to raise an inference that misconduct has occurred.”

The complaint is DISMISSED. An unredacted private order is entered simultaneously herewith.


JENNIFER WALKER ELROD
Chief Judge

FILED

March 13, 2026

Lyle W. Cayce
Clerk

**Judicial Council
for the Fifth Circuit**

Complaint Number: 05-26-90027

IN RE COMPLAINT OF [REDACTED] AGAINST
[REDACTED]

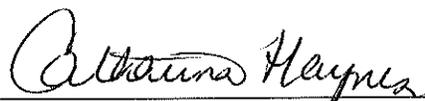
UNDER THE JUDICIAL IMPROVEMENTS ACT OF 2002.

ORDER

An Appellate Review Panel of the Judicial Council for the Fifth Circuit has reviewed the above-captioned petition for review, and all the members of the Panel have voted to affirm the order of Chief Judge Jennifer Walker Elrod, filed November 25, 2025, dismissing the Complaint of [REDACTED] against [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] under the Judicial Improvements Act of 2002.

The order is therefore AFFIRMED.



Catharina Haynes
*United States Circuit Judge
For the Judicial Council of the Fifth Circuit*