

NOTICE REGARDING COMPLAINTS OF JUDICIAL MISCONDUCT OR DISABILITY

To improve the administration of justice in the federal courts, Congress passed the Judicial Conduct and Disability Act of 1980, codified at 28 U.S.C. § 372(c). The law authorizes complaints against United States circuit, district, bankruptcy and magistrate judges who have “engaged in conduct prejudicial to the effective and expeditious administration of the business of the courts” or who are “unable to discharge all the duties of office by reason of mental or physical disability.” The conduct to which the law is addressed does not include making wrong judicial decisions, for the law provides that a complaint may be dismissed if it is “directly related to the merits of a decision or procedural ruling.”

The Judicial Council of the Fifth Circuit has adopted *Rules Governing Complaints of Judicial Misconduct or Disability*. These rules apply to judges of the U. S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit and to the district, bankruptcy and magistrate judges of federal courts within the Fifth Circuit. The circuit includes the states of Texas, Louisiana and Mississippi.

These rules may be obtained from the Fifth Circuit Internet website, as follows:

<http://www.ca5.uscourts.gov/clerk/LocalJudicialMisconductRules.pdf>

Complaints should be sent to the Clerk, United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit, 600 S. Maestri Place, New Orleans, LA 70130. The envelope should be marked “Complaint of Misconduct” or “Complaint of Disability.” The name of the judge complained about should not appear on the envelope. (Former 5th Cir.R. 2(H))