

WASHINGTON, DC, UNITED STATES, July 1, 2025 /EINPresswire.com/ -- Artist and First Amendment litigant Julian Marcus Raven has [filed a judicial misconduct complaint](#) under the Judicial Conduct and Disability Act of 1980 against U.S. District Judge Christopher R. Cooper. The complaint was submitted at the E. Barrett Prettyman U.S. Courthouse in Washington, D.C., and pertains to Judge case involving constitutional questions in communication.



In his formal complaint, [Raven cites concerns regarding the tone of the ruling](#), timing of the decision, factual accuracy, and application of Supreme Court precedent. The complaint references Canons 1, 2, and 3 of the Code of Conduct for United States Judges, highlighting issues of diligence, impartiality, and public confidence.

The case had remained pending for over nine months following the Supreme Court’s ruling in *Lindke*, which the District Court had originally identified as central to resolving the dispute.

Following a motion to compel, and subsequently an emergency petition to the U.S. Supreme Court, the case was dismissed by Judge Cooper in May 2025.

The complaint is now set to be reviewed by Chief Judge James E. Boasberg. Raven noted that his focus is on constitutional concerns and public accountability, not personal or political motives.

“My concern is that First Amendment claims are handled with the urgency and impartiality they deserve,” Raven said. “When procedural delays and perceived inconsistencies arise, they merit review through the appropriate channels.”

Raven’s broader legal efforts originated in a separate case (17-cv-01240 TNM), following the rejection of his portrait of President Donald Trump by the National Portrait Gallery. That case raised questions about the legal status of the Smithsonian Institution—an entity described in court as “government through and through”—contrasted with later public statements describing it as an “independent entity.” Raven argues this inconsistency raises significant constitutional and institutional questions that remain unresolved.

In recent weeks, the issue has drawn renewed public interest. On May 30, 2025, President Trump publicly directed the dismissal of Kim Sajet as NPG Director, citing a 17-point briefing that listed Raven’s case as item #4. Sajet resigned two weeks later on June 14, 2025.

Raven, who is representing himself pro se, is currently seeking rehearing in the earlier Smithsonian-related case and has indicated he will continue pursuing legal avenues to clarify the constitutional responsibilities of federally funded cultural institutions and the judiciary’s role in reviewing such matters.

The Office of the Circuit Executive will now evaluate the complaint in accordance with federal procedures. Documents and filings related to the complaint and the underlying case are publicly available through the federal court docket system.

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