

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF
WASHINGTON

Linda Cook v. Ben Hosseinzadeh et al.

Cook · No. 2:25-cv-02013-JHC · Decided December 1, 2025

SUMMARY

The United States District Court for the Western District of Washington affirmed Judge John H. Chun’s denial of Linda Cook’s motions for recusal and reassignment. The court held that Cook’s challenge to the constitutional validity of Judge Chun’s nomination did not establish bias or provide a valid basis for recusal under 28 U.S.C. §§ 144 and 455.

CASE DETAILS

COURT	United States District Court for the Western District of Washington
WRITING FOR THE COURT	David G. Estudillo
JURISDICTION	United States District Court for the Western District of Washington
DECIDED	December 1, 2025
DOCKET	2:25-cv-02013-JHC
DISPOSITION	affirmed
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	The district court reviewed Judge John H. Chun's denial of Plaintiff's motions for recusal and reassignment under Western District of Washington Local Civil Rule 3(f).
STANDARD OF REVIEW	Recusal is evaluated objectively under whether a reasonable person with knowledge of all the facts would conclude that the judge's impartiality might reasonably be questioned; the inquiry concerns the appearance of bias rather than bias in fact.
PRECEDENTIAL VALUE	unpublished district court order; precedential status unknown
PARTIES	Linda Cook v. Ben Hosseinzadeh et al.

TOPICS

- civil procedure
- constitutional law

PRACTICE AREAS

- civil procedure
- constitutional law

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. Whether Plaintiff's motion for reassignment and challenge to Judge Chun's nomination created a valid basis for recusal under 28 U.S.C. §§ 144 or 455.
2. Whether the record contained evidence that would cause a reasonable person with knowledge of all the facts to question Judge Chun's impartiality.

HOLDINGS

1. A party cannot create a valid basis for judicial recusal merely by filing a reassignment motion or making conclusory allegations challenging the judge's qualifications or prior rulings; Plaintiff's motion and nomination challenge did not establish grounds for recusal.
2. The court found no evidence that would lead a reasonable person to question Judge Chun's impartiality and affirmed his denial of Plaintiff's motions for recusal and reassignment.

KEY QUOTATIONS

“Under both 28 U.S.C. § 144 and 28 U.S.C. § 455, recusal of a federal judge is appropriate if “a reasonable person with knowledge of all the facts would conclude that the judge’s impartiality might reasonably be questioned.”” (at 1)

“A party cannot manufacture grounds for recusal by fantastic allegations, by vague accusations or by alleging in conclusory terms that a judge is biased, by filing an ethics complaint against a judge, or even by suing a judge.” (at 2)

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

Plaintiff filed motions seeking reassignment and recusal of Judge John H. Chun. The motions were based on Plaintiff's challenge to the constitutional validity of Judge Chun's nomination to the federal judiciary and the asserted conflict created by filing the reassignment motion. Plaintiff did not present evidence showing that Judge Chun's nomination was irregular or that his impartiality could reasonably be questioned.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

Plaintiff moved for recusal and reassignment of Judge Chun, asserting that her reassignment motion created an extrajudicial conflict and challenging the constitutional validity of Judge Chun's nomination. Judge Chun denied the motions. The matter was referred for review under Local Civil Rule 3(f), and the reviewing court affirmed the denial.

DISPOSITION

affirmed

CASES CITED

- Agha-Khan v. Mortgage Elec. Registration Sys., Inc., 2022 WL 501564, at *1 (9th Cir. Feb. 18, 2022)
- Mayes v. Leipziger, 729 F.2d 605, 607 (9th Cir. 1984)

- Yagman v. Republic Ins., 987 F.2d 622, 626 (9th Cir. 1993)
- Preston v. United States, 923 F.2d 731, 734 (9th Cir. 1991)
- Royer v. Pennsylvania State Univ., No. 03:00-CV-290-KRG-KAP, 2012 WL 956422, at *1 (W.D. Pa. Feb. 28, 2012)

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