

JANELLE CLINE - NORTH CAROLINA DISTRICT COURT 6 SEAT 3 (R)

KEY FINDINGS INCLUDE:

- **Profile:** Republican judicial candidate with a professional background in appellate clerkship, private practice, and prosecution.
- **Political Affiliation:** Republican nominee; limited public ideological footprint beyond party alignment, with campaign messaging focused on standard judicial themes (fairness, consistency, rule of law).
- **Campaign Finance:** Modestly funded campaign (under \$10,000 raised), with low expenditures and no reported PAC or party committee support.
- **Public Record / Controversies:** No readily identifiable ethics issues, disciplinary actions, or significant controversies in available public sources.
- **Family / Network Signals:** Married to an attorney with prior campaign experience who is a member of the Federalist Society.

JURISDICTION SUMMARY

The North Carolina Judicial Branch’s district map, effective January 1, 2024, places New Hanover and Pender Counties within District Court District 6.

New Hanover County is relatively competitive. In the 2024 presidential election, Kamala D. Harris (D) received 49.60% of the vote and Donald J. Trump (R) received 48.98%. In the same election, Democrat Josh Stein carried the county in the gubernatorial race with 59.65% to Mark Robinson’s 34.34%.

Pender County is more reliably Republican. In 2024, Trump received 66.93% of the vote compared to Harris at 32.48%.

BACKGROUND

PERSONAL LIFE

Cline Lives In Wilmington, North Carolina With Her Husband And Their Three Children. “Wilmington is home for Janelle, her husband Jason, and their three children They are members of Lifepoint Church where she served as a small group leader.” [[Janelle for Judge](#), accessed, 4/19/2020]

Cline Said She’s The Daughter Of A Pastor And A Special Education Teacher. “The daughter of a pastor and a special education teacher, Janelle learned the value of public service early in life. Before entering the legal field, she spent years as a journalist—a career fueled by a love of learning and a tenacity for the truth.” [[Janelle for Judge](#), accessed, 4/19/2020]

Cline Served As A Group Leader At Her Church “Lifepoint Church.” “Wilmington is home for Janelle, her husband Jason, and their three children, Luke, Alice, and Lincoln. They are members of Lifepoint Church where she served as a small group leader.” [[Janelle for Judge](#), accessed, 4/19/2020]

2007: Cline Earned Her Bachelors From University Of North Carolina Charlotte.



University of North Carolina at Charlotte
B.A., Communication Studies, Political Science
2004 – 2007

Grade: magna cum laude

Activities and societies: Model U.N., University Honors Program,

[[LinkedIn](#), accessed, 4/19/2026]

2008: Cline Earned Her Master Of Jurisprudence From The University Of Maryland.



University of Maryland
M.J., Broadcast Journalism
2007 – 2008

Activities and societies: Maryland Newslite, Capital News Service

[[LinkedIn](#), accessed, 4/19/2026]

2019: Cline Earned Her J.D From The University Of Arkansas At Little Rock Bowen School Of Law.



University of Arkansas at Little Rock, William H. Bowen School of Law
Doctor of Law - JD, Law
2015 – 2019

Grade: magna cum laude

Activities and societies: Phi Alpha Delta

[[LinkedIn](#), accessed, 4/19/2026]

Cline Worked As A News Anchor Full Time While Attending Law School Part-Time.

“Legal Education: While working full-time as an anchor, she attended night school to earn her law degree from the University of Arkansas Little Rock Bowen School of Law.” [[Janelle for Judge](#), accessed, 4/19/2020]

The University Of Maryland Journalism Alumni Directory Described Cline As An Award-Winning Former Journalist. “With more than a decade of experience as a broadcast news anchor and reporter, Janelle Lilley Cline (M.J. '08) has had the privilege of interviewing former presidents, reporting from communities stricken by a natural disaster, uncovering illegal government actions and, perhaps most thrilling of all, riding along with the Blue Angels. Her

work has been recognized with a Mid-America Regional Emmy Award and a RTDNA regional Edward R. Murrow Award, among others.” [[University of Maryland](#), 4/20/2026]

Cline’s Campaign Material Said She’s Worked In News Rooms "Across The Country.”

Cline Worked As A News Anchor For KATV In Little Rock Arkansas. “Journalism Career: Janelle worked in newsrooms across the country, starting at WFAE in Charlotte and finishing her career as a news anchor for KATV, the ABC affiliate in Little Rock.” [[Janelle for Judge](#), accessed, 4/19/2020]

FAMILY BACKGROUND

Cline Lives In Wilmington, North Carolina With Her Husband And Their Three Children.

“Wilmington is home for Janelle, her husband Jason, and their three children. They are members of Lifepoint Church where she served as a small group leader.” [[Janelle for Judge](#), accessed, 4/19/2020]

Janelle Cline And Her Husband Jason Cline Attended Law School Together. “It was good to have a spouse with you in law school,” Cline said. “Janelle and I put ourselves through the ringer. We had a kid in spring 2018. We both had finals with a newborn. Kids change your priorities completely. Having a kid while working full time and going to law school at night was difficult.”

Jason Cline Is From Anchorage Alaska And Worked As Commercial Fisherman Before Moving To Arkansas In 2011.

“Originally from Anchorage, Alaska, which includes a few summers working as a commercial fisherman, Cline moved to Arkansas in 2011 to work on political campaigns for a strategic communications firm.” [[University of Arkansas](#), Little Rock, 5/20/2020]

Jason Cline Said He Moved To Arkansas “To Work On Political Campaigns For A Strategic Communications Firm.”

“Originally from Anchorage, Alaska, which includes a few summers working as a commercial fisherman, Cline moved to Arkansas in 2011 to work on political campaigns for a strategic communications firm.” [[University of Arkansas](#), Little Rock, 5/20/2020]

2015: Jason Cline Entered “The Military And Joined The Arkansas National Guard.”

“Overall, 2015 proved to be an eventful year for Cline. He started law school, became a registered yoga instructor, and began his lifelong goal of entering the military and joined the Arkansas National Guard.” [[University of Arkansas](#), Little Rock, 5/20/2020]

Jason Cline Is A Managing Partner At Cline Donaldson Law Firm. [[Cline Donaldson](#), accessed, 4/17/2026]

Jason Cline Is A Member Of The Federalist Society. “He is admitted to practice in Middle and Eastern District Federal Courts, and is currently a member of the Federalist Society, the New Hanover County Bar Association, and the North Carolina Bar Association. He is admitted to practice in Middle and Eastern District Federal Courts, and is currently a member of the

Federalist Society, the New Hanover County Bar Association, and the North Carolina Bar Association.” [[Cline Donaldson](#), accessed, 4/17/2026]

December 2008: Jason Cline Was A Member Of An Anti-Abortion Group On Facebook.



I bet we can find 1,000,000 men against Abortion · [Join](#)

Jason D Cline · December 6, 2008 ·

this alienates you somewhat if you arent religious, there are plenty of secular beliefs against abortion, probably focus should go there as well



[Facebook, Jason D. Cline, 12/6/2008]

PROFESSIONAL, CIVIC, LITIGATION, & PUBLIC SECTOR BACKGROUND

July 2024: Cline Worked As A Prosecutor For Financial Crimes Resource Prosecutor. Experience



Financial Crimes Resource Prosecutor

NC Conference of District Attorneys · Full-time

Jul 2024 - Present · 1 yr 10 mos

Criminal Law, Litigation and +1 skill

[[LinkedIn](#), accessed, 4/19/2026]

2023-2024: Cline Worked As An Assistant District Attorney For North Carolina Sixth Prosecutorial District.



Assistant District Attorney

North Carolina Sixth Prosecutorial District

Jan 2023 - Jun 2024 · 1 yr 6 mos

Wilmington, North Carolina, United States

Criminal Law, Litigation and +1 skill

[[LinkedIn](#), accessed, 4/19/2026]

2020-2022: Cline Worked As A General Counsel At Alpha Mortgage Corporation In Wilmington, North Carolina.



General Counsel

Alpha Mortgage Corporation · Full-time

Apr 2021 - Dec 2022 · 1 yr 9 mos

Wilmington, North Carolina, United States

Business Law, General Corporate Counsel and +5 skills

[[LinkedIn](#), accessed, 4/19/2026]

2020-2022: Cline Worked As Attorney At Cline Law Group Practicing In Business Law And Real Estate.



Attorney

Cline Law Group PLLC

Oct 2020 - Dec 2022 · 2 yrs 3 mos

Business Law, Real Estate and +4 skills

[[LinkedIn](#), accessed, 4/19/2026]

2020: Cline Worked As A Judicial Law Clerk At Arkansas Court Of Appeals Judge Raymond Abramson.



Judicial Law Clerk

Arkansas Court of Appeals, Judge Raymond Abramson

Jul 2020 - Oct 2020 · 4 mos

Appellate Practice

[[LinkedIn](#), accessed, 4/19/2026]

POLITICAL AFFILIATION & ACTIVITY:

2026: Cline Is Running As A Republican For North Carolina District Court District 6 Seat 3, Against Democrat Melinda Crouch.

NC DISTRICT COURT JUDGE DISTRICT 06 SEAT 03 (DEM)

CROUCH, MELINDA HAYNIE

Melinda H. Crouch

DEM

12/09/2025

2216 GILLETTE DR

WILMINGTON, NC 28403

NC DISTRICT COURT JUDGE DISTRICT 06 SEAT 03 (REP)

CLINE, JANELLE LILLEY

Janelle L. Cline

REP

12/12/2025

5725 OLEANER DRIVE
SUITE G-3

WILMINGTON, NC 28403

[[New Hanover County](#), accessed, 4/16/2026]

Campaign Background & Infrastructure

CAMPAIGN FINANCE

Cline Has Raised \$9,820.78 This Election Cycle To Date.

SUMMARY			
	Total This Period	Total This Election	
Cash on Hand at Beginning	\$5,165.80		\$0.00
RECEIPTS	\$0.00		\$0.00
Aggregated Contributions from Individuals	\$0.00		\$0.00
Contributions from Individuals	\$2,677.00		\$9,820.78
Political Party Committees	\$0.00		\$0.00
Other Political Committees (such as PACs)	\$0.00		\$0.00
Loan Proceeds	\$0.00		\$0.00
Refunds/Reimbursements To the Committee	\$0.00		\$0.00
Interest on Bank Accounts	\$0.00		\$0.00
Contributions from Not-For-Profit Organizations	\$0.00		\$0.00
Outside Sources of Income	\$0.00		\$0.00
Legal Expense Fund - Other Sources	\$0.00		\$0.00
Exempt Purchase Price Sales	\$0.00		\$0.00
Total Receipts	\$2,677.00		\$9,820.78
EXPENDITURES	\$0.00		\$0.00
Operating Expenditures	\$458.15		\$2,084.35
Contributions to Candidates/Political Committees	\$0.00		\$0.00
Coordinated Party Expenditures	\$0.00		\$0.00
Aggregated Non-Media Expenditures	\$41.70		\$49.70
Loan Repayments	\$0.00		\$0.00
Refunds/Reimbursements From the Committee	\$0.00		\$0.00
In-Kind Contributions	\$24.60		\$368.38
Total Expenditures	\$524.45		\$2,502.43
Cash on Hand at End of Reporting Period	\$7,318.35		\$7,318.35

[[North Carolina State Board of Elections](#), accessed, 4/17/2026]

April 2026: Cline Has \$7,318 Cash On Hand.

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[[North Carolina State Board of Elections](#), accessed, 4/17/2026]

Contributions

Contributor	Employer	Date	Amount	Type
Jason Cline	Attorney Cline Donaldson PLLC		\$368	In-Kind

Michael Lopez	President Alpha Mortgage Corporation	11/20/2025	\$6,800	Monetary
Michael Brooks	Not Employed	2/2/2026	\$52.40	Monetary
Michelle Carlisle	Real Estate	1/31/2026	\$2,500	Monetary
Blair Deen	Construction Project Manager	2/9/2026	\$100	Monetary

SOCIAL MEDIA LINKS

[Campaign Site](#)

[LinkedIn](#)

[Campaign Facebook](#)

[Personal Instagram](#)

[Campaign Instagram](#)