

GEORGE “FRANK” JONES - NORTH CAROLINA SUPERIOR COURT SEAT 1 DISTRICT 6B (R)

KEY FINDINGS INCLUDE:

- **Incumbent Republican Superior Court judge:** Jones has served on the North Carolina Superior Court since his 2018 election and succeeded longtime Judge Jay Hockenbury, who held the seat for more than two decades.
- **Longtime Wilmington attorney with criminal defense background:** Prior to joining the bench, Jones spent more than 30 years practicing criminal defense law in Wilmington, primarily through Burney & Jones.
- **Established ties within the local legal community:** Jones previously served as president of the New Hanover County Bar Association and on the board of the New Hanover County Drug Treatment Court.
- **Supported by local judicial and law enforcement figures:** Jones received endorsements from multiple North Carolina judges, clerks, and local law enforcement officials during his judicial campaigns.
- **Recent sentencing decision could draw scrutiny:** In March 2026, Jones sentenced Daniel Jason Summers to probation after Summers pleaded guilty to assault with a deadly weapon, while kidnapping and child assault-related charges were dismissed as part of the plea agreement.
- **Denied temporary release request in pending murder case:** In February 2026, Jones denied a defendant’s request to visit his dying father in hospice, citing public safety concerns. The defendant’s father died later that month.
- **Family maintains presence in local legal community:** Jones’ daughter assumed control of Burney & Jones in 2019, the Wilmington law firm where Jones practiced before taking the bench.
- **No publicly identified ethics violations:** Research did not identify public disciplinary actions, ethics findings, or documented judicial misconduct involving Jones.
- **Limited publicly available ideological or partisan rhetoric identified:** Available public materials primarily focus on Jones’ legal experience, judicial service, and community involvement rather than issue-based political advocacy.

JURISDICTION SUMMARY

Partisan leaning, previous election results for the jurisdiction, organization and partisan leaning of governing body (if applicable), incumbent info, notable previous election results (e.g. narrow margin, controversy)

BACKGROUND

PERSONAL LIFE

Jones Is An Incumbent Republican Superior Court Judge For North Carolina District 6B Seat 1. “G. Frank Jones NC Superior Court District 6B Seat 01 (New Hanover Seat) Judge Frank Jones strives daily to honor the trust and confidence which our community reposed in him when elected as your Superior Court Judge in 2018. Proven experience, integrity, and respect working for you!” [[New Hanover GOP](#), accessed, 4/30/2026]

Jones Lives In Wilmington. “A native of Wilmington, Judge Jones is a respected colleague in the criminal defense field. He earned his J.D. from the University of North Carolina Chapel Hill. He went on to practice in state and federal courts for more than 30 years at the Wilmington law firm of Burney & Jones, where he focused on DUIs, expungements, DMV proceedings and other criminal matters.” [[NC Law Team](#), accessed, 4/30/2026]

Jones Earned A Bachelors From North Carolina State University. “At North Carolina State University, Frank joined the football team and soon realized his future would lead him beyond athletics. Focusing on academics, he graduated a semester early with a double major and high honors. To finance law school, he returned home to New Hanover County and worked two jobs before enrolling at the University of North Carolina School of Law (UNC-CH), graduating in 1985. He began his legal career as a trial attorney with Burney, Burney, Barefoot, Bain & Crouch, remaining there until his election as a Superior Court Judge in November 2018.” [[Re-elect Judge Frank Jones](#), accessed, 5/1/2026]

Jones Earned A J.D From The University Of North Carolina At Chapel Hill. “At North Carolina State University, Frank joined the football team and soon realized his future would lead him beyond athletics. Focusing on academics, he graduated a semester early with a double major and high honors. To finance law school, he returned home to New Hanover County and worked two jobs before enrolling at the University of North Carolina School of Law (UNC-CH), graduating in 1985. He began his legal career as a trial attorney with Burney, Burney, Barefoot, Bain & Crouch, remaining there until his election as a Superior Court Judge in November 2018.” [[Re-elect Judge Frank Jones](#), accessed, 5/1/2026]

1986-2018: Jones Was Practiced As A Trial Attorney At Burney&Jones In Wilmington. “At North Carolina State University, Frank joined the football team and soon realized his future would lead him beyond athletics. Focusing on academics, he graduated a semester early with a double major and high honors. To finance law school, he returned home to New Hanover County and worked two jobs before enrolling at the University of North Carolina School of Law (UNC-CH), graduating in 1985. He began his legal career as a trial attorney with Burney, Burney, Barefoot, Bain & Crouch, remaining there until his election as a Superior Court Judge in November 2018.” [[Re-elect Judge Frank Jones](#), accessed, 5/1/2026]

Jones Was A Former President Of The New Hanover County Bar. “Judge Jones has served as a leader in the community and an important force for change in the criminal defense landscape. Among his campaign priorities, Judge Jones is committed to alleviating the opioid crisis through community education and expanded treatment options. He has served on the board

of the New Hanover County Drug Treatment Court and as former president of the New Hanover County Bar Association.” [[North Carolina Law Team](#), accessed, 5/4/2026]

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Jones’ Daughter Emily Jones Queens Is An Attorney Who Took Over Burney & Jones In 2019. “Upon passing the Bar, Emily joined Burney & Jones, where she has remained for the entirety of her career. Emily became a partner of the firm in 2016 and took over the firm at the beginning of 2019.” [[Burney & Jones PLLC](#), accessed, 5/2/2026]

- Basic details about the candidate’s personal life and relations
 - List out current and previous residences
 - List out all their educational background
 - List out how many properties do they own?
 - List out their hobbies and interests
- Information from Lexis Person Search (if accessible)

FAMILY BACKGROUND

- List the individual’s spouse and parents.
- Include any background information, including employment, schooling, interests, or government involvement
- Do *not* list their children or more distant relatives unless the information was found publicly (e.g. in an article) and there is a scandal, then that is fair game to include.
- Things to look for:
 - **Family members active locally:** Are the family members active in any business, organization, cause, or political party? Has the individual litigated or ruled on cases that may include the line of work of the family member?
 - **Family members with legal ties:** Are any family members active attorneys, judges, or otherwise active in the legal field?
 - **Family members with political ties:** Are the family members active with either political party? Have they made contributions to any candidates or organizations? Have they contributed to individuals involved directly (e.g. person who makes appointment) or indirectly (e.g. person involved with or voting on appointment) with appointment or individual (if applicable)?

- **Family member with controversies:** Have the family members been involved with any controversies?

PROFESSIONAL, CIVIC, LITIGATION, & PUBLIC SECTOR BACKGROUND

- Details about their professional life, including previous and current job and firm, brief description of previous firm/organization, and other relevant info:
 - **List:** List out their previous public and private positions held & previous employers. Brief description of previous firm/organization
 - **Public service:** Do they have any history of public service?
 - **Businesses:** if they have any side roles or businesses
 - **Governance & competence:** Have there been controversies with the individual's ability to perform their job?
 - **Controversial & combative:** Have there been any controversies associated with the individual? Have they been combative in nature in their tenure and/or with other figures in government?
- Things to look for:
 - **Controversies with current/previous place of work:** Where did the individual work prior to their appointment or where do they currently work? Are there any controversies relating to the place of work and/or their time there?
 - **Conflicts of interest with current/previous place of work:** Any potential conflicts of interest given previous place of work (e.g. issues litigated in court room, appearances by individuals from places of work in courtroom)?
 - **Controversies with individuals represented:** Who were the worst people this person represented?
 - **Controversies with representation:** Did the person represent their client well?
 - **Controversies with rulings:** Look out for extreme sentencing (lenient/harsh) or rulings on controversial issues (e.g. drugs, executions, sexual predators, violent criminals, high profile cases, etc.)

INTEGRITY & ACCOUNTABILITY

- Run ins with the law, corruption, and ethics violations.
- Incompetence, issues with carrying out duties of job/position, not getting along with colleagues

POLITICAL AFFILIATION & ACTIVITY:

Ideology & Politics

- Do they belong to a specific wing of a party? Are they active?

Affiliation with political figures/organizations:

- Are they affiliated with any organizations or candidates that would indicate extreme leanings (e.g. Planned Parenthood, Federalist Society)?

Partisan posts

- Do they share overly partisan posts, hyper-partisan attacks, praise extreme figures, or post about wedge issues (e.g. ICE, immigration, Charlie Kirk, policy & defunding the police)?

Campaign Background & Infrastructure

November 2018: Jones Was Elected To The Bench Defeating Republican Tripp Watson.

NC SUPERIOR COURT JUDGE DISTRICT 05B SEAT 1 (VOTE FOR 1)
Precincts Reported: 18 of 18

[View Contest Details](#)

NAME ON BALLOT	PARTY	BALLOT COUNT	PERCENT
G. Frank Jones	REP	16,627	56.04%
Tripp Watson	REP	13,043	43.96%

[North Carolina Board of Elections, accessed, 5/2/2026]

- **Jones Succeeded Judge Jay Hockenbury Who Held The Seat For 24 Years.** “Two Republican candidates will compete for a vacant judge seat long held by Judge Jay Hockenbury. The senior resident Superior Court judge, who was first elected in 1994, announced his retirement in September. Hockenbury won election to his final eight-year term in 2010. In November’s general election, G. Frank Jones and Tripp Watson will vie for Hockenbury’s seat, which spans most of eastern and northeastern New Hanover County.” [[Star News Online](#), 10/20/2018]

Legal & Ethics

- Have they had any run-ins with the law or ethics stories/violations?

Endorsements

Jones Was Endorsed By New Hanover County Sheriff Edward J, McMahon. [[Judge Frank Jones](#), accessed, 4/30/2026]

Jones Was Endorsed By New Hanover County Register Morgan Getty Collins. [[Judge Frank Jones](#), accessed, 4/30/2026]

Jones Was Endorsed By New Hanover County Superior Court Clerk Jan Kennedy. [[Judge Frank Jones](#), accessed, 4/30/2026]

Jones Was Endorsed By New Hanover County Superior Court Clerk Julie Whitfield. [[Judge Frank Jones](#), accessed, 4/30/2026]

Jones Was Endorsed By New Hanover And Pender County District Court Judge Sandra A. Ray. [[Judge Frank Jones](#), accessed, 4/30/2026]

Jones Was Endorsed By New Hanover And Pender County District Court Chad Hogston. [[Judge Frank Jones](#), accessed, 4/30/2026]

Jones Was Endorsed By New Hanover And Pender County District Lindsey McKee. [[Judge Frank Jones](#), accessed, 4/30/2026]

Jones Was Endorsed By New Hanover Superior Court Judge Kent Harrell. [[Judge Frank Jones](#), accessed, 4/30/2026]

Jones Was Endorsed By North Carolina Superior Court Judge Robert Roupe. [[Judge Frank Jones](#), accessed, 4/30/2026]

Jones Was Endorsed By North Carolina Superior Court Judge Robert Cherry. [[Judge Frank Jones](#), accessed, 4/30/2026]

Jones Was Endorsed By North Carolina Superior Court Judge William Strickland. [[Judge Frank Jones](#), accessed, 4/30/2026]

Jones Was Endorsed By North Carolina Superior Court Judge Clint Rowe. [[Judge Frank Jones](#), accessed, 4/30/2026]

Jones Was Endorsed By North Carolina Superior Court Judge Perquisse-Powers. [[Judge Frank Jones](#), accessed, 4/30/2026]

Jones Was Endorsed By Retired North Carolina Superior Court Judge Phyllis Gorham. [[Judge Frank Jones](#), accessed, 4/30/2026]

Jones Was Endorsed By Retired North Carolina Superior Court Judge Jay D. Hockenbury. [[Judge Frank Jones](#), accessed, 4/30/2026]

CAMPAIGN FINANCE

- How much money have they raised in the current or previous cycles? How much cash on hand do they have? Who were their contributors? Any controversies with contributors?
Things to look for in contributions:
 - **Contributions from partisan/extreme figures:** Any contributions to or from individuals or organizations with partisan or extreme leanings.
 - **Contributions from individuals involved with appointment:** Any contributions to or from individuals or organizations involved directly (e.g. person who makes appointment) or indirectly (e.g. person involved with or voting on appointment) with appointment or individual (if applicable)
 - **Contributions from individuals who make appearances in courtroom:** Any contributions to/from individuals who have made appearances in the individual's court room (if applicable) or to judges they have appeared before
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Contributor	Employer	Date	Amount	Type
				\$ In-kind/Monetary

PERSONAL POLITICAL CONTRIBUTIONS

- Have they donated to any committees or individuals? Search state and national databases. Things to look for in contributions:
 - **Contributions to partisan/extreme figures:** Any contributions to or from individuals or organizations with partisan or extreme leanings.
 - **Contributions to individuals involved with appointment:** Any contributions to or from individuals or organizations involved directly (e.g. person who makes appointment) or indirectly (e.g. person involved with or voting on appointment) with appointment or individual (if applicable)
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WEALTH

- Personal financial disclosures: Do they have a personal financial disclosure form posted? If not, is there a process to obtain the personal financial disclosure requiring extra efforts?
- Is there information on their investments or other personal financial information? Could there be conflicts of interest with those investments? Examples of wealth findings include:
 - Fiduciary positions
 - Direct ownership interests - business
 - Direct ownership interests - real property
 - Investment interests

ISSUES

March 2026: Jones Sentences Daniel Jason Summers To A Suspended Sentence And 48 Months Of Supervised Probation. “A man previously arrested for the attempted kidnapping of a 7-year-old girl has been sentenced to four years of probation, but also had multiple charges dropped in the case. On March 12, Daniel Jason Summers, 44, pleaded guilty to assault with a deadly weapon; he was also charged with second-degree kidnapping, assault on a child under 12 and resisting a public officer, all dismissed in superior court. Judge George Frank Jones remanded Summers to a suspended sentence of up to three or so years in prison, with 48 months of supervised probation.” [[Port City Daily](#), 3/18/2026]

The Defendant Was Originally Charged With Second-Degree Kidnapping Of 7-Years-Old, Assault On A Child Under 12 And Resisting An Officer. “A man previously arrested for the

attempted kidnapping of a 7-year-old girl has been sentenced to four years of probation, but also had multiple charges dropped in the case. On March 12, Daniel Jason Summers, 44, pleaded guilty to assault with a deadly weapon; he was also charged with second-degree kidnapping, assault on a child under 12 and resisting a public officer, all dismissed in superior court. Judge George Frank Jones remanded Summers to a suspended sentence of up to three or so years in prison, with 48 months of supervised probation.” [[Port City Daily](#), 3/18/2026]

All Charges Were Dismissed The Plea. “A man previously arrested for the attempted kidnapping of a 7-year-old girl has been sentenced to four years of probation, but also had multiple charges dropped in the case. On March 12, Daniel Jason Summers, 44, pleaded guilty to assault with a deadly weapon; he was also charged with second-degree kidnapping, assault on a child under 12 and resisting a public officer, all dismissed in superior court. Judge George Frank Jones remanded Summers to a suspended sentence of up to three or so years in prison, with 48 months of supervised probation.” [[Port City Daily](#), 3/18/2026]

February 2026: Jones Denied Defendant’s Request To Visit Dying Father In Hospice: Dyrell Green has been in jail for over four years, awaiting trial in the TRU Colors double-murder case. Last month, his attorney requested a temporary modification to his bond to allow him to see his dying father. A judge said no. Two weeks later, Green’s father passed away [...] ‘It would be deeply unfair if Mr. Green were to have his day in court and win his trial this spring, set to begin May 11, 2026, but not be able to visit his father for one last visit,’ according to the motion. The motion notes that while the prosecutor on the case, Doug Carricker, “expressed that he was sympathetic,’ the District Attorney’s office would not agree to any sort of temporary release. It also notes that ‘counsel has contacted the New Hanover County Jail and as of this writing has not been able to have a substantive conversation with anyone in charge of the jail about the possibility of any sort of short term visit.’ Green requested the motion be heard without delay because it was ‘extremely time sensitive.’ According to the motion, ‘Mr. Green throws himself at the mercy of the Court and will accept the visit to be under any reasonable circumstances including in handcuffs and leg shackles if necessary, so long as the New Hanover Sheriff’s Department escort can stay at the door of the room, so Mr. Green can visit in quasi-privacy with his father,’ adding that Green asked for at least two hours. About a week later, on February 16, at which point Canty was in hospice, Superior Court Judge G. Frank Jones heard the motion, with Assistant District Attorney Sean Spearing present for the state. Jones denied the request. His order read, “Upon consideration of all relevant factors, the Court respectfully Finds and Concludes that the request presents an unreasonable risk of harm not only to Defendant but also to members of the community including law enforcement.” [[WHQR](#), 3/14/2026]

Defendant’s Father Died Shortly After Denial. “Canty passed away on February 28, two weeks after the hearing.” [[WHQR](#), 3/14/2026]

Jones Cited Public Safety Risk In Denial. “Jones denied the request. His order read, “Upon consideration of all relevant factors, the Court respectfully Finds and Concludes that the request presents an unreasonable risk of harm not only to Defendant but also to members of the community including law enforcement.” [[WHQR](#), 3/14/2026]

2018: Jones' Donor Base Included Local Attorneys And Developers: Jones' campaign fundraising included contributions from Wilmington-area attorneys, law firms, and real estate developers, according to an aggregated donor database. ([SomaliScan, accessed 2026])

Donor Data Based On Third-Party Aggregator: The identified donor network has not been independently verified against North Carolina State Board of Elections filings.

2019: Jones' Daughter Assumed Control Of Family Law Firm: Jones' daughter, Emily Jones Queen, took over Burney & Jones in 2019, the same Wilmington-based firm where Jones practiced prior to taking the bench.

Firm Handles Criminal And DUI Cases In Local Jurisdiction: Burney & Jones handles criminal defense and DUI matters, case types that appear before the New Hanover County Superior Court.

No Documented Ethics Violations Identified: There is no available record of disciplinary action, recusal issues, or appellate findings related to this relationship.

DEMOCRACY & ELECTION STANCES:

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- Democracy & election stances: Democracy policy or anti-democratic views. Examples include election results, certification, litigation, etc.
- Voting access: ballot measures, voter purges, absentee voting, voter ID laws, drop boxes

IDEOLOGY, RHETORIC & EXTREMISM SIGNALS

- Culture wars issues: CRT, LGBTQ+ policy, vaccines, immigration, ICE, cities, deploying of troops, etc.
- Conspiracy theories & misinformation: Sharing of conspiracy theories or misinformation, election related or not.

POLITICAL POWER

- Gerrymandering: Redistricting to increase political power
- Political power consolidation: Using political power to consolidate and hold onto current political standing or increase influence
- Cover-ups: Attempts to make government less transparent
- Partisanship: Campaign finance, gerrymandering, campaign coordination, redistricting, ballot measures, voter purges, etc.

GOVERNMENT TRANSPARENCY & ABUSE OF POWER

- First Amendment: Protestor or free speech rights
- Reproductive care: Access to abortion and reproductive care, birth control, IVF
- Healthcare: Access to healthcare
- Workers Rights: Unions and workers rights

CORRUPTION & LEGAL

- Consumer Protections: Standing up to corporations and businesses for anti-competitive and anti-consumer actions
- Protections Against Utilities: Standing up to utilities for rate increases

GOVERNANCE & COMPETENCE

- Recidivism: Are there instances of individuals the judge did or did not sentence who recommitted a crime? Of an attorney who defended someone who recommitted a crime?
- Proven Innocent: Are there instances of individuals the judge convicted who was later found innocent? Are there instances of individuals an attorney prosecuted who was later found innocent?
- Soft/Tough on Crime: Are there instances of a judge being strict or lenient on an individual's sentencing, particularly for violent crime? Instances of an attorney losing many cases against individuals, particularly those who have committed violent crimes?

SOCIAL MEDIA LINKS

[Campaign Site](#)

[Campaign Facebook](#)

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