



Thomas M. Clyde

Partner

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Services

Appellate Litigation
Complex Commercial Litigation
Constitutional Litigation
Litigation

Industries

Media & Entertainment

Tom Clyde focuses his practice on complex commercial and appellate matters, with an emphasis on representing print, television, internet and communications companies. He has represented clients in an array of litigation in federal and state courts and frequently defends clients in lawsuits challenging First Amendment protected speech.

Mr. Clyde has extensive experience in defending publishers, broadcasters and other information providers against claims alleging defamation, invasion of privacy, infringement of intellectual property rights and newsgathering misconduct. Mr. Clyde also represented numerous internet-based publishers in connection with issues involving privacy, blogging, anonymous speech, the Digital Millennium Copyright Act, user generated content and electronic eavesdropping issues.

In addition to his in-court representation, Mr. Clyde regularly vets content prior to its publication, including print and television news content, fiction and non-fiction books, and controversial internet speech. He also has extensive expertise counseling clients on laws relating to the use of hidden cameras and other related newsgathering techniques.

Mr. Clyde regularly represents clients seeking access to government records and proceedings and clients seeking to unseal court records and to obtain permission to televise court proceedings. He has successfully litigated numerous actions under the Georgia Open Records Act, the Georgia Open Meetings Act and the U.S. Freedom of Information Act.

Mr. Clyde was recognized in *The Best Lawyers in America*[®] for First Amendment Law and First Amendment Litigation in 2019 and the six years immediately preceding and again in 2020 for Commercial Litigation, First Amendment Law, First Amendment Litigation, and Media Law. He was also named a 2017 and 2019 "Atlanta

Lawyer of the Year" in the area of First Amendment Law by *The Best Lawyers in America*[®]. Mr. Clyde was recognized as a Georgia "Super Lawyer" for First Amendment, Media and Advertising Law in 2012 and 2013, for Constitutional Law in 2014, and again for Media and Advertising Law in 2019 and the four years immediately preceding by *Super Lawyers* magazine.

Experience

Defending a radio group in high-profile invasion of privacy litigation brought by former professional wrestler alleging harm from release of sex tape.

Defended a television studio against claims alleging that a parody segment broadcast in a nationally popular talk show defamed plaintiff and portrayed her in a false light.

Advised and represented media organizations in connection with state legislation that threatened to limit the use of drones in connection with newsgathering.

Defended a television station and its editorial team against defamation claims brought by a senior police official alleging errors in reporting on a controversial fatal shooting.

Defended a *Fortune* 500 corporation accused of defaming an attorney in connection with anti-fraud procedures implemented as part of a financial transaction.

Defended a television station and its staff against allegations of defamation brought by a plaintiff alleging errors in reporting in violent assault.

Defended radio group in high profile defamation claim arising from website of well-known radio personality.

Represented cable system in claims alleging violation of rights established by retransmission consent agreement.

Represented internet company against claims asserting fraud in distribution of ownership interests.

Defended television station in connection with defamation claims brought by participant in college hazing incident.

Represented a consortium of media companies in seeking access to hearings and trial proceeding in high-profile murder triangle trial.

Represented interests of media and public-interest groups in connection with revision of Georgia Sunshine Laws



by Georgia Attorney General and Georgia General Assembly.

Represented book publisher against claims arising from financial misconduct by author.

Represented television studio and talk show host against claims for invasion of privacy and misappropriation based on appearance of minor on talk show.

Education

Duke University School of Law, J.D. (1992) *with honors*

Princeton University, A.B. (1988)

Admissions

Georgia (1992)

Court Admissions

U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit

U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Georgia

U.S. District Court for the Middle District of Georgia

Professional & Community Activities

The Georgia First Amendment Foundation, Board Member and Legal Committee Co-Chair

The Georgia Bar Media Judiciary Conference, Organizer

Media Law Resource Center, Internet Law Committee

American Bar Association, First Amendment and Media Litigation Committee, Member

The Georgia Innocence Project, Past Board Member and Board President

The Atlanta Community Toolbank, Past Board Member and Board President

Insights

[News Releases](#)

Record-Breaking Recognition for Kilpatrick Townsend in *The Best Lawyers in America*® 2020

August 15, 2019

[News Releases](#)

Kilpatrick Townsend Achieves Recognition for 2019 Georgia Super Lawyers



February 28, 2019

[News Releases](#)

Best Lawyers in America® Names Kilpatrick Townsend Attorneys 2019 Lawyers of the Year
August 21, 2018

[In The News](#)

Record-Breaking Recognition for Kilpatrick Townsend in The Best Lawyers in America® 2019
August 20, 2018

[In The News](#)

Payday Lending Group Loses Lawsuit Over Record Release
June 18, 2018

[News Releases](#)

Kilpatrick Townsend Once Again Achieves Recognition for 2018 Georgia Super Lawyers
February 28, 2018

[Events](#)

Danger Zones in Social Media
February 23, 2018

[Events](#)

The Georgia General Assembly: Does New Legislation Threaten First Amendment Rights?
January 24, 2018

[News Releases](#)

Record-Breaking Recognition for Kilpatrick Townsend in The Best Lawyers in America® 2018
August 15, 2017

[Publications](#)

Survey of Eleventh Circuit Privacy and Related Claims Against the Media
March 27, 2017

[News Releases](#)



Kilpatrick Townsend Once Again Achieves Recognition for 2017 Georgia Super Lawyers
February 28, 2017

[Events](#)

Responsibility and Social Media
February 24, 2017

[Events](#)

The Public's Right to Inspect Police Body Camera Video: Will the Legislature Clarify the Law?
January 26, 2017

[In The News](#)

KT is...Trending, October 7-14, 2016
October 17, 2016

[Events](#)

Drones – The Laws to Know Before You Fly
October 10, 2016

[In The News](#)

Kilpatrick Townsend's Media Report September 16-22, 2016
September 23, 2016

[Events](#)

Publication Torts
September 22, 2016

[News Releases](#)

Best Lawyers in America Names Kilpatrick Townsend Attorneys 2017 Lawyers of the Year
August 24, 2016

[News Releases](#)

Kilpatrick Townsend Earns Record-Breaking Recognition in Annual Best Lawyers in America 2017
August 16, 2016



Events

How Social Media and Technology Have Changed Policing

February 27, 2016

In The News

Kilpatrick Townsend's Media Report September 11-24, 2015

September 25, 2015

News Releases

Kilpatrick Townsend Earns Record-Breaking Recognition in Annual Best Lawyers in America 2016

August 19, 2015

News Releases

Kilpatrick Townsend Once Again Achieves Recognition for 2015 Georgia Super Lawyers

February 26, 2015

In The News

Kilpatrick Townsend's Media Report January 16-22, 2015

January 23, 2015