

W. Stanley Blackburn

Senior Counsel

1100 Peachtree Street NE
Suite 2800 , Atlanta , GA USA 30309
t 404.815.6400 | f 404.541.3132
sblackburn@kilpatricktownsend.com



Services

Business & Finance

Corporate Governance

Cross Border Transactions

Joint Ventures & Strategic

Alliances

Mergers & Acquisitions

Securities

Special Committee Representation

Industries

Media & Entertainment

Stan Blackburn joined the firm in 1976 and was admitted to partnership in 1982. Mr. Blackburn practices in the areas of corporate, corporate finance, and international law. He concentrates his practice on the representation of clients in U.S. and international mergers and acquisitions, joint ventures, strategic alliances, issuances of debt and equity securities, and other business transactions. He also frequently advises clients on issues relating to non-transactional matters, including corporate governance, legal compliance, and shareholder rights. His experience includes:

Represented publicly-held and private companies such as AT&T (and predecessors BellSouth and Cingular Wireless), Equifax, Fidelity National Information Services (Certegy), Georgia-Pacific, Interface, Landmark Communications (The Weather Channel), Lockheed-Martin, Estate of Martin Luther King, Jr., and Zodiac S.A. in connection with a wide variety of domestic and international acquisition, disposition, consortium, strategic alliance and joint venture matters, with values ranging as high as €18 billion.

Advised clients such as ING, BellSouth, Equifax, Fidelity National, and Interface on various corporate finance and investment matters, involving private and public offerings of debt and equity securities.

Advised three NYSE companies and one NASDAQ company in connection with recent corporate governance matters, including efforts to comply with the Sarbanes-Oxley Act and other corporate governance reform initiatives.



Mr. Blackburn is recognized in the 2020 and the 15 years immediately preceding editions of *The Best Lawyers in America*[®] for Corporate Law and Mergers & Acquisitions Law. He is also listed in the 2019 and the ten years immediately preceding editions of *Chambers USA: America's Leading Lawyers for Business* for Corporate/Mergers & Acquisitions. Mr. Blackburn is recognized as a Georgia "Super Lawyer" by *Super Lawyers* magazine in the areas of Securities & Corporate Finance and Business/Corporate in 2009, in Mergers & Acquisitions in 2020 and the 11 years immediately preceding, and as a Top 100 Georgia "Super Lawyer" in 2013. Mr. Blackburn was named as a top "Dealmaker" of 2008 by the *Atlanta Business Chronicle*. In 2013, 2014, 2015, and 2016, Mr. Blackburn was recognized by *International Who's Who of Business Lawyers* for Mergers & Acquisitions.

In 2011, The Boys and Girls Clubs of America honored Mr. Blackburn with the National Service to Youth Award for his volunteer service as a board member and officer of Boys and Girls Clubs of Metro Atlanta, Inc.

Experience

Represented AT&T in connection with an exchange transaction with Verizon Wireless in which Verizon transferred cellular licenses, network facilities, subscribers, and other assets in Vermont, New York and Washington to AT&T in exchange for similar assets in Kentucky, cash and other consideration.

The firm served as lead counsel for BellSouth in the purchase of the interests of Vodafone and RWE in the parties' E-Plus German wireless joint venture and the related creation of a strategic joint venture with Royal KPN, N.V., a Dutch telecommunications company, in transaction initially valued at €18.7 billion. The firm subsequently assisted BellSouth in connection with the conversion of its joint venture interests into a minority interest in publicly-held KPN and the sale of that interest.

Represented Equifax, Inc., one of the United States' largest credit reporting agencies, in its \$1.4 billion acquisition of publicly held TALX corporation for a combination of stock and cash. The transaction was structured as a tax-free reorganization with a unique share buy back structure to prevent share dilution.

Represented Equifax Inc., one of the United States' largest credit reporting agencies, in all aspects of benefit plans and executive compensation plans related to the \$2 billion tax-free spin-off of its payment services business into a new public company, Certegy Inc.

Represented a global telecommunications company in its multibillion dollar acquisition of wireless spectrum from a Northern telecommunications company.

Representing one of the largest U.S. forest products manufacturers in the sale of two of its Southeast pulp



operations for \$610 million.

Represented Zodiac Aerospace in its acquisition of C&D Aerospace, an aircraft interiors manufacturer with operations in the United States, Canada, France, Brazil, and Mexico.

Advised BellSouth Corporation in connection with the creation and shareholder authorization of its Latin America Group tracking stock.

Represented a global telecommunications company in the sale of its interactive network that is the backbone for certain blackberry devices to one of the world's leading private investment firms.

Represented Landmark Communications Inc. in the sale of its weather-related businesses, including The Weather Channel and weather.com, to a consortium comprised of NBC Universal, Bain Capital and The Blackstone Group (amount not disclosed). The Weather Channel was the third largest U.S. cable network, and weather.com was the U.S.'s leading weather website.

Represented Certegy Inc., a major publicly held credit card and check verification company, in its \$4.5 billion merger with Fidelity National Information Services Inc. and related special dividend to shareholders. The firm also advised the company on issues regarding executive compensation and employee benefits matters relating to the merger.

Represented the State of South Carolina in connection with the execution of a historic bi-state agreement with the State of Georgia providing for the two states jointly to develop a new ocean marine terminal on the Savannah River in Jasper County, South Carolina. The agreement provides for the creation, pursuant to a Congressionally-approved interstate compact, of a new entity to develop, own and operate the terminal. The initial phase of this Project is expected to cost up to U.S. \$5 billion.

Represented Estate of Martin Luther King, Jr. Inc. in the sale of Dr. King's papers to a buyer sponsored by the City of Atlanta.

Education

University of Virginia School of Law, J.D. (1976) *Order of the Coif*, Notes Editor of *Virginia Law Review*

Auburn University, B.S., Economics (1973) *high honors*

Admissions

Georgia (1976)



Professional & Community Activities

American Bar Association, Member

American College of Investment Counsel, Fellow

Atlanta Bar Association, Member

Woodruff Arts Center, Trustee

Boys and Girls Clubs of Metro Atlanta, Inc., Former Director and Corporate Secretary

State Bar of Georgia, Former Chair of Business Law Section, Former Chair of Legal Opinions Committee and Corporate Code Revision Committee Member

Canadian-American Society of the Southeastern United States, Past Director

Cobb County International Business Council, Past Member

Fulton County Heart Fund Campaign, Legal Division, Former Chair

High Museum of Art, Young Men's Round Table, Past President

Japan-America Society of Georgia, Former Director

Leadership Atlanta, Member (1983)

Municipal Courts of the City of Atlanta, Former Task Force Chairman

United Way of Atlanta, Past Group Chair

Insights

[News Releases](#)

Kilpatrick Townsend Attorneys Named 2020 Georgia Super Lawyers

March 6, 2020

[News Releases](#)

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

August 15, 2019

[News Releases](#)

Kilpatrick Townsend Achieves Top-Tier Recognition from Chambers USA 2019

May 2, 2019

[News Releases](#)

Kilpatrick Townsend Achieves Recognition for 2019 Georgia Super Lawyers

February 28, 2019



[In The News](#)

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

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Kilpatrick Townsend Achieves Recognition From Chambers USA 2018
May 11, 2018

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Forty-Four Kilpatrick Townsend Attorneys Named to 2017 - 2018 International Who's Who of Business Lawyers
March 19, 2018

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

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

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Kilpatrick Townsend Achieves Recognition From Chambers USA 2017
May 30, 2017

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

[News Releases](#)

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

[News Releases](#)

Kilpatrick Townsend Once Again Achieves Recognition From Chambers USA 2016
May 31, 2016



[News Releases](#)

Kilpatrick Townsend Attorneys Named 2015 “Legal Elite”

December 7, 2015

[News Releases](#)

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

August 19, 2015

[Alerts](#)

It's Not Too Late to Avoid Early

June 9, 2015

[News Releases](#)

Kilpatrick Townsend Once Again Achieves Recognition From Chambers USA 2015

May 22, 2015

[News Releases](#)

Kilpatrick Townsend Once Again Achieves Recognition for 2015 Georgia Super Lawyers

February 26, 2015