



Thomas M. Clyde

Partner

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Services

Appellate Litigation
Complex Commercial Litigation
Constitutional Litigation
Litigation

Industries

Media & Entertainment

Tom Clyde is Co-Team Leader of the firm's Complex Commercial Litigation practice. He focuses his practice on complex commercial and appellate matters, with an emphasis on representing individuals and organizations accused of wrongdoing because of the content of their speech. Tom regularly represents print, television, internet, and communications companies in such matters, but also regularly represents non-media organizations in connection with speech-based disputes. He has experience in federal and state courts throughout the Country and regularly advises clients regarding First Amendment rights.

Tom has extensive experience in connection with claims alleging defamation, invasion of privacy, infringement of intellectual property rights, and newsgathering misconduct. Tom also regularly represents 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, Tom 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.

Tom 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.

In addition to his involvement in speech-related disputes, Tom also regularly represents parties in litigation related to the health care industry. He regularly represents health care clients in connection with *qui tam* claims brought under the False Claims Act and related laws. In such actions, he has experience representing both defendants facing allegations of fraudulent billing practices and relators asserting such claims. He has also been intensively involved in disputes relating to reimbursement for health care services.

Tom 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 2027 and the seven years immediately preceding for Commercial Litigation, Communications Law, First Amendment Law, First Amendment Litigation,

and Media Law. He was also named a 2017, 2019, 2024 and 2026 "Atlanta Lawyer of the Year" in the area of First Amendment Law, a 2022 "Atlanta Lawyer of the Year" in the area of First Amendment Litigation, a 2026 "Atlanta Lawyer of the Year" in the area of Communications Law, and a 2027 "Atlanta Lawyer of the Year" in the area of Media Law by *The Best Lawyers in America*®. Tom 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 2026, as well as in 2021 and the six years immediately preceding, by *Super Lawyers* magazine.

Experience

Represented consortium of national and local media in legal efforts to secure public access to high-profile state prosecution of Donald Trump and co-defendants in connection with efforts to overturn the 2020 election.

Defended major health care provider accused of fraudulent billing relating to emergency radiology services.

Represented a radio company accused of fraud in connection with deal to transfer radio licenses.

Defended 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 Middle District of Georgia

U.S. District Court for the Northern 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](#)

Kilpatrick Attorneys Once Again Earn Outstanding Recognitions in 2027 Edition of The Best Lawyers in America®

August 20, 2026

[News Releases](#)

Kilpatrick Breaks Record for Number of Attorneys Recognized in 2025 Edition of The Best Lawyers in America®

August 16, 2024

Alert

Georgia Joins the list of States with Age Verification Requirements for Online Speech: Navigating the Crossroads of Child Protection and Individual Rights

May 9, 2024

News Releases

Accomplished Litigation Counsel Re-Joins Kilpatrick in Winston-Salem

April 24, 2024

News Releases

Accomplished Litigation Counsel Re-Joins Kilpatrick in Winston-Salem

April 19, 2024