

Jon A. Epstein

Shareholder

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Jon practices primarily on civil litigation and media law matters. He handles all types of civil litigation matters (including appeals) and has significant experience in media and publication tort litigation (e.g. defamation and invasion of privacy) as well as commercial, insurance, trade secrets, professional liability, products liability and securities litigation matters.

Jon has successfully defended insurance companies and insurance agents, realtors, journalists, securities brokers, funeral directors, and other professionals in professional liability litigation. Jon regularly handles a variety of insurance defense matters including pharmaceutical products, privacy, publication tort, general commercial, securities and childcare liability. He also has experience with directors and officers liability litigation, foreclosures, lender liability and other civil litigation matters and enjoys working on appeals. Jon is also a mediator and regularly assists on a wide-range of civil mediations.

He has an individual AV Preeminent rating through Martindale-Hubbell and is also a certified mediator and an adjunct professor at Oklahoma City University School of Law where he teaches Media Law.

In addition, he is a frequent speaker and author regarding Media Law issues, including:

- Iciss Tillis and Jon Epstein - Compensating NCAA Student Athletes: How to Navigate Name, Image and Likeness Laws, *New England Board of Higher Education*, March 9, 2022
- November 29 & 30, 2021-- lectured at the University of Oklahoma Gaylord College of Journalism & Mass Communication on media law issues.
- Oklahoma Media Attorney Jon Epstein Breaks Down the President's May 2020 Social Media Executive Order

- Speaker at January 2013 Leadership Oklahoma City panel entitled “What Does the Public Have the Right to Know?”
- Panelist at the "Impacts of Social Media" session during the 2012 Brownfields Conference hosted by the Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality in Oklahoma City
- Speaker "How Social Media Impacts Your Business" Nov. 2011
- Panel Member, "Working with the Media, Tips for the Practicing Attorney and Ethical Issues When Your Client is a Newsmaker" Oklahoma Bar Association annual convention, Nov. 2010
- Speaker, "The Importance of the First Amendment and the Reporter's Privilege," Oklahoma Scholastic Media/Oklahoma Interscholastic Press Association Fall Media Conference, 2007
- Co-Author, "Recent Developments in Media, Privacy and Defamation Law," *ABA Tort Trial & Insurance Practice Law Journal* (Vol. 41/Issue 2-Winter 2006)

Jon has also assisted clients in several well-publicized matters including:

- Serving on a team of litigators in successfully obtaining declaratory and injunctive relief protecting the Constitutional and statutory rights of major mainstream video distributors from unlawful interference by government officials with their distribution of a controversial Academy Award winning movie.
- Served on a team of litigators in successfully defending claims against John Grisham and his publisher arising from the book *The Innocent Man*, as well as claims arising against the author and publisher of the book *The Dreams of Ada*.

Practices

Media & First Amendment

Litigation

- Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR)
- Appellate
- Civil Rights
- Complex Commercial Issues
- Insurance Law & Tort Defense
- Pharmaceutical & Medical Device
- Products Liability
- Professional Malpractice & Liability

Corporate & Business Services

- Securities Regulation & Compliance

Intellectual Property

- Name, Image & Likeness (NIL)
- Right of Publicity
- Trade Secrets

Education

- University of Oklahoma College of Law (J.D., 1988)
- University of Texas (B.A. in Psychology, 1985)

Admissions

- Oklahoma (1988)
- U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Oklahoma
- U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Oklahoma
- U.S. District Court for the Western District of Oklahoma
- U.S. Court of Federal Claims
- U.S. Court of Appeals for the Tenth Circuit
- United States Supreme Court

Experience

- 1992 - Present Hall Estill
- 1988 - 1992 Watson & McKenzie

Honors & Awards

- Recognized as a Best Lawyer in America for Litigation-First Amendment Law and Media Law
- Recognized as the 2020 Best Lawyers' Lawyer of the Year in Oklahoma City for Litigation-First Amendment Law
- Recognized as the 2016 Best Lawyers' Lawyer of the Year in Oklahoma City for First Amendment Law
- Recognized as a Super Lawyer in Oklahoma in First Amendment/Media/Advertising Law
- Recipient of the 2010 Leadership in Law Award presented by the Oklahoma Bar Association and the *Journal Record*

Community & Professional Involvement

- Leadership Oklahoma City (Class XVI)
- Former Executive Board Member and Chair of Make A Wish Oklahoma
- American Bar Association
- Oklahoma Bar Association
- Oklahoma County Bar Association
- Media Law Resource Center Media Law Letter Committee
- Approved securities arbitrator for the New York Stock Exchange
- Certified Mediator

- Communications Committee - Oklahoma Bar Association

Articles & Presentations

- November 29 & 30, 2021 lectured at the University of Oklahoma Gaylord College of Journalism & Mass Communication on media law issues.
- Adjunct Professor at OCU Law School where he teaches Media Law
- On September 19, 2018, Jon Epstein gave a lecture and led a discussion about “HISTORICAL ATTEMPTS TO DELEGITIMIZE THE PRESS: MUZZLING THE WATCHDOG”
- Co-author: "Recent Developments in Media Law and Defamation Torts" for the Winter 2001 issue of *Torts & Insurance Law Journal*
- Co-author: "Recent Developments in Media, Privacy, and Defamation Law" for the Winter 2003 issue of *Torts Trial and Insurance Practice Law Journal*
- Co-Author, "Recent Developments in Media, Privacy and Defamation Law," *ABA Tort Trial & Insurance Practice Law Journal* (Vol. 41/Issue 2-Winter 2006)
- Speaker, "The Importance of the First Amendment and the Reporter's Privilege," Oklahoma Scholastic Media/Oklahoma Interscholastic Press Association Fall Media Conference, 2007
- Panelist 2010 OBA annual meeting "Working with the Media - Tips for the Practicing Attorney and Ethical Issues When Your Client is a Newsmaker"