

## CONTACT

 (973) 228-9900 x 213

 [cotis@postpolak.com](mailto:cotis@postpolak.com)

## PRACTICE AREAS

Airport Law  
Employment Law  
Land Use/Real  
Estate/Redevelopment  
Commercial Litigation  
Municipal/Public Bodies Law

## EDUCATION

Brooklyn Law School, Brooklyn,  
J.D., 1986

Cornell University, B.S., 1983

## ADMISSIONS

New Jersey

New York

## MEMBERSHIPS

Board of Directors, New Jersey  
State Bar Association - Land  
Use Section

New Jersey State Bar  
Association - Entertainment Law  
Section

New Jersey State Bar  
Association - Minorities in the  
Profession

Member of the Zoning Board of  
Adjustments - Township of  
Maplewood

Family Connections of New  
Jersey - Board of Directors

## Clyde L. Otis III *Managing Shareholder*

### Overview

Clyde Otis joined Post Polak in 2015. He has over 25 years of commercial litigation experience in Federal and State courts and a lifetime of experience addressing the business and legal needs of the entertainment industry. Most recently, Clyde spent over 10 years in the public sector, where he represented municipal entities in legal and business affairs, land use, redevelopment, labor and disciplinary matters, litigation and municipal prosecution. He served the City of Newark as:

- First Assistant Corporation Counsel
- Assistant Chief Municipal Prosecutor and DWI Prosecutor
- Labor and Employment Counsel
- Legislative Director for Economic and Housing Development, and
- Acting Planning Board Attorney

### Experience

Clyde successfully represented Newark in litigation and transactional matters, and helped developers navigate redevelopment projects, contracts and planning matters through Newark's legal and legislative process. He also spent several years as the Municipal Prosecutor for Maplewood and has served as Special Prosecutor for Orange



and Irvington. He has tried hundreds of municipal court cases including over 30 DWI trials. Clyde represented the City of Newark in over 100 disciplinary actions, police trials and administrative proceedings and also negotiated collective bargaining agreements. Clyde's tenure in Newark's City Hall assists the Firm in its current position as General Counsel to the Newark Community Economic Development Corporation. Clyde's land use experience is enhanced by his current position as a member of the Zoning Board of Adjustments for the Township of Maplewood.

Clyde comes from a family with very strong ties to the entertainment industry. They have been in the music business for over 60 years. His father, Clyde Sr., was a legendary songwriter and producer, writing and producing hits for Brook Benton, Dinah Washington, Nat King Cole, Aretha Franklin, Johnny Mathis, Randy Travis, Ray Charles and countless others. He was also one of the first black executives at a major record company. His mother, Lourdes, a very success model who appeared on the cover of Ebony and other magazines, was the first person of color with a recurring role on primetime television. For many years, Clyde has handled all litigation, legal and business affairs involving over 4,000 copyrights and 300 writers. He is experienced in copyright infringement litigation as well as experienced in television and movie transactional representation.

Earlier in his legal career, Clyde was associated with large, mid-sized and boutique law firms in New Jersey and New York. He is an Adjunct Professor at Cardozo

Law School; teaching Municipal Governance. He served as a law clerk to the Honorable William L. Hungate, USDJ, Eastern District of Missouri.