

**Gray Television** B&R Beurs Stock Pitch Competition Presentation

Samuel Šimeček Daniel Pecnik



## Recommendation





- <u>Risks</u>
- High debt levels (unsustainable interest payments)
- Unsustainable dividends
- Failure to adapt to new technologies

- 1. Announcement of Raycom Media **acquisition** in 2018 for **\$3.65 billion** and deal closed in Jan 2019 with regulatory approval
- 2. The impact of the **COVID-19 pandemic**, which disrupted the company's operations and advertising demand in 2020 and 2021
- 3. The company benefited from strong **political advertising revenue** in 2020, driven by the **presidential** election
- 4. High **debt levels** in a **high interest rate environment**, poor guidance forecast for 2023

# **Company Background**



Strategy

## Business

Recommendation

 Gray Television is an American television broadcasting powerhouse

**Company Overview** 

Market Overview

- second largest in the U.S.
- Founded in 1946, the company operates 180 stations across the United States in 113 markets
  - 79 of those stations are ranked Nr. 1 in their markets
- Broadcast reaches 36% of American households
  - also broadcasts secondary digital channels affiliated to ABC, CBS, NBC, and FOX, as well as various local news/weather channels

#### Revenue Generation

- GTN generates revenue through advertising sales and other sources, such as video program production services
  - local sales teams are already implementing Al video platform - help local businesses generate high-quality TV commercials with voiceovers in five minutes or less

## **Management**

Valuation



Risks

# Hilton H. Howell Jr.

- Hilton H. Howell Jr. (Chairman, CEO)
  - Joined GTN in 1993 / CEO since 2009 / Company's direction
- Pat LaPlatney (President & Co-CEO)
  - Joined GTN through Raycom acquisition in 2019 (at Raycom since 2007)
  - Company's digital strategy and execution
- Kevin Latek (Chief Legal & Development Officer)

Catalysts

- Joined GTN in 2012 / Compliance / Misconduct Monitoring / Legal
- James Ryan (Chief Financial Officer)
  - Joined GTN in 1998 / Finance management / Acquisition financing



# **Financial Overview**



Strategy

Recommendation	C	ompany	Ove	erview	N	larket Ove	ervi	ew	Valuation
		Financ	ial	Resul	ts				
\$ in millions		2020		2021		2022		1Q2023	■ Cor
Revenue	\$	2 381	\$	2 413	\$	3 676	\$	801	\$4 000
COGS	\$	1 392	\$	1 610	\$	2 248	\$	614	\$3 500
EBITDA	\$	1 018	\$	665	\$	1 411	\$	167	\$3 000 \$2 500
OpEx	\$	237	\$	422	\$	438	\$	120	\$2 000 -
EBIT	\$	752	\$	381	\$	990	\$	67	\$1 500
Taxes	\$	(134)	\$	(78)	\$	(159)	\$	11	\$1 000
Net Income	\$	358	\$	38	\$	403	\$	(44)	\$ 500
Diluted EPS	\$	3,15	\$	(0,15)	\$	3,77	\$	(0,62)	\$

## **Valuation Multiples**

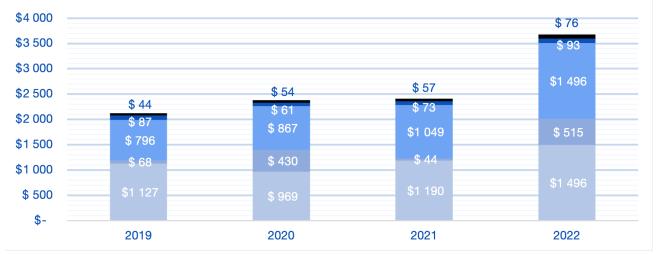
\$ in millions	2019	2020	2021	2022
Market Cap	\$ 1 443 \$	2 068 \$	1 700 \$	1 999
P/E	11,36x	5,78x	44,73x	4,96x
P/Sales	0,68x	0,87x	0,70x	0,54x
EV/EBITDA	6,71x	5,49x	11,82x	6,17x
uFCF	\$ 570 \$	651 \$	605 \$	713

#### **Net Revenues (\$ in millions)**

**Risks** 

Catalysts

Core advertising Political advertising Retransmission consent Production companies Other

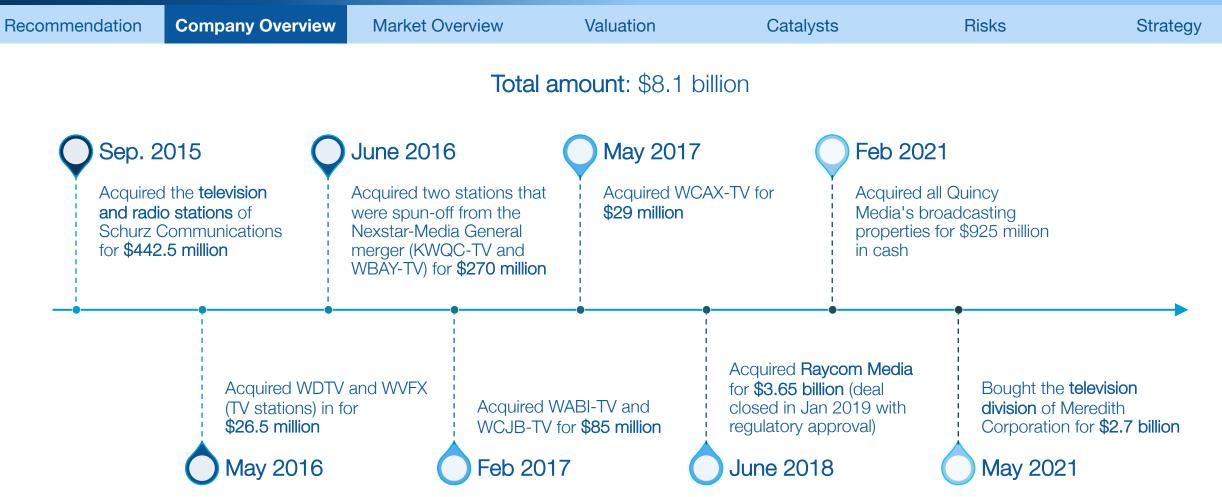


#### **Financial Highlights**

- Gray Television has achieved average EBITDA margins greater than 30%, and EBIT margins greater than 20%
  - net income is dependant on the political cycle and therefore oscillates every 2 years (see Net Revenue Distribution)
- Gray Television's market cap recently decreased to under \$700 million
- Firm regularly benefitted FCFF greater than \$600 million

# **Leveraged Acquisitions**



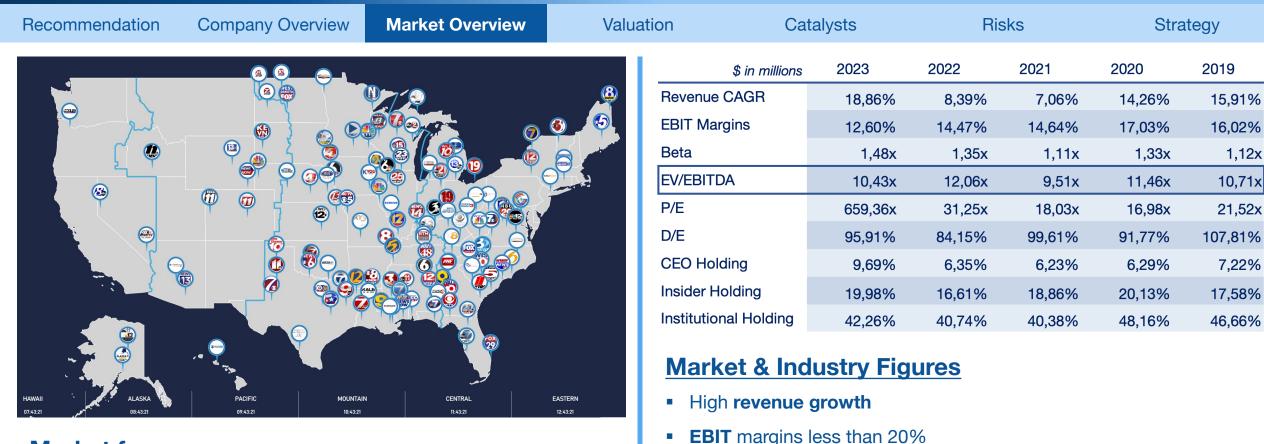


Acquisition Financing: Acquisitions were financed predominantly with debt which increased by over \$6 billion since June 2018. This debt has weighted average interest of 4.86%



# **Broadcasting & Advertising**





#### Market focus

- Focused on US East Coast
- Highly cyclical industry
- Further consolidation, diversification and innovation
- More mergers and acquisitions (economies of scale, expand geographic reach, diversify revenue streams)

High CEO Holdings

Beta greater than total market

**EV/EBITDA** greater than 10x

**D/E** around 100%

Skewed by Murdoch family (unrelated to this industry)



## **Investment Thesis**



## **Valuation**

Recommendation

- Base Case (\$29.00)
  - GTN continues to perform in line with expectations and returns to profitability by 2026

**Company Overview** 

Market Overview

- Value driven by high uFCFs from 2028 onwards (\$600-\$1000)
- Firm reduces reinvestment (currently 36% out of 39% capacity)
- Focus on repaying debt, maintaining dividends, and innovation

## CCA Multiples (\$26.00)

Based on comparable broadcasting companies (NSXT, TGNA, SSP)

## **Extreme Cases**

- Bear Case (\$14.00)
  - GTN struggles to become profitable and does so by 2028
  - uFCFs remain low from 2028 (\$300-\$700)
- Bull Case (\$40.00)
  - GTN becomes profitable in 2024 due to elections and ends 2023 with strong earnings
  - uFCFs stay high and reach \$1100 by 2033
  - GTN sells off old PP&E and reinvests into future profitability



#### Value & Price Forecast

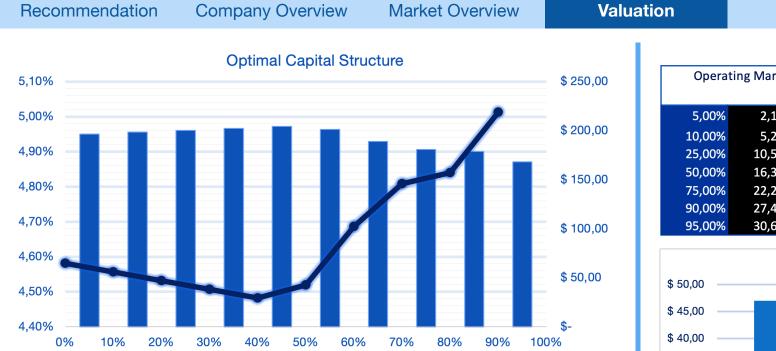




## **CCA & Analysis**



Strategy

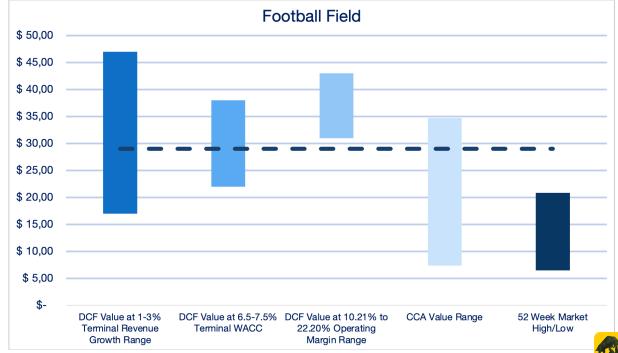


Company (Ticker)	Employees	Valuation (\$m)	Revenue (\$m)	Net Income (\$m)	Net Profit Margin	EV/S	P/E	P/B	P/S	PEG
NEXSTAR MEDIA GROUP, INC. (XNAS:NXST)	11 666	\$ 5,906.26	\$ 5,211.00	\$ 971.10	18.64%	2,56x	6,48x	2,38x	1,37x	1,74x
TEGNA INC. (XNYS:TGNA)	6 300	\$ 3,664.03	\$ 3,280.00	\$ 630.50	19.22%	1,94x	5,66x	1,23x	1,15x	0,98x
GRAY TELEVISION, INC. (XNYS:GTN)	8 942	\$ 655.50	\$ 3,676.00	\$ 455.00	12.38%	2,16x	1,55x	0,38x	0,22x	1,15x
THE E.W. SCRIPPS COMPANY (XNAS:SSP)	5 700	\$ 673.09	\$ 2,453.00	\$ 195.90	7.99%	1,71x	4,48x	0,46x	0,34x	12,81x

		5,00%	10,00%	25,00%		50,00%		75,00%	90,00%	95,00%
Opera	ting Margin			Reve	enu	e growth	ra	te		
	-8,89%	-4,15%	3,77%		12,57%		21,37%	29,29%	34,02%	
5,00%	2,10%	\$ (6,54)	\$ 1,43	\$ 21,99	\$	60,52	\$	124,36	\$ 213,96	\$ 287,44
10,00%	5,25%	\$ (4,55)	\$ 3,87	\$ 25,39	\$	65,39	\$	131,26	\$ 223,31	\$ 298,62
25,00%	10,51%	\$ (1,21)	\$ 7,95	\$ 31,08	\$	73,54	\$	142,79	\$ 238,93	\$ 317,29
50,00%	16,35%	\$ 2,49	\$ 12,49	\$ 37,40	\$	82,58	\$	155,60	\$ 256,29	\$ 338,04
75,00%	22,20%	\$ 6,19	\$ 17,02	\$ 43,72	\$	91,63	\$	168,40	\$ 273,65	\$ 358,79
90,00%	27,46%	\$ 9,52	\$ 21,10	\$ 49,41	\$	99,77	\$	179,93	\$ 289,28	\$ 377,46
95,00%	30,61%	\$ 11,51	\$ 23,55	\$ 52,82	\$	104,64	\$	186,83	\$ 298,63	\$ 388,63

**Risks** 

Catalysts





## **DCF Model**

Recommendation	ו	Cor	npa	any Ove	ver	view		Market	t O	Overview	N			Valuatio	on			(	Cat	talysts				Ris	sk	5			S	Strategy	у	
		Hist	troc	ial Period	d															For	eca	asted Perio	iod									
																														Те	Irmir	inal year
in millions of USD		2019		2020		2021		2022		2023		2024		2025		2026		2027		2028		2029		2030		2031		2032		2033		2034
CAGR		-	1/	12,21%	1	1,34%	5	52,34%	-2	21,90%	12	2,68%	-2	26,15%	39	9,72%	5	5,30%	4	42,48%	-'	-19,79%	3	33,73%	-1	17,27%	4	3,38%	-19	9,16%	2	2,00%
Revenues	\$	2 122	\$	2 381	\$	2 413 \$	\$	3 676 \$	\$	2 871 \$	\$	3 235	\$	2 389 \$	\$	3 338 💲	\$	3 515	\$	5 008	\$	4 017	\$	5 372	\$	4 444 3	\$	6 372 💲	\$	5 151 \$	\$	5 254
																																Ţ
EBIT Margin		22,53%	,	31,58%		15,79%		26,93%		4,10%		8,53%		-8,50%		14,38%		19,40%		34,74%		22,85%		34,23%		19,55%		37,19%		23,04%		23,04%
EBIT Margin	\$	478	\$	752	\$	381 \$	\$	990 \$	\$	118 \$	\$	276	\$	(203) \$	\$	480 \$	\$	682	\$	1 740	\$	918	\$	1 839	\$	869	\$	2 370 💲	\$	1 187 💲	\$	1 211
% of increase		-		57,32%		-49,34%	1	159,84%	-	-88,10%	1	134,24%	-*	-173,55%	3:	336,45%		42,08%	(	155,13%		-47,24%		100,33%		-52,75%		172,73%	-4	-49,92%		2,00%
Tax rate		29,80%	,	24,63%		46,43%		25,90%		26,23%		27,67%		23,39%		24,00%		24,75%		24,75%		23,83%		23,09%		22,69%		22,15%		21,59%		21,59%
NOPAT	\$	336	\$	567	\$	204 \$	\$	734 \$	\$	87 \$	\$	200	\$	(203) \$	\$	414 \$	\$	513	\$	1 309	\$	699	\$	1 414	\$	672	\$	1 845 💲	\$	931 \$	\$	949
% of increase		-		68,91%		-63,99%	2	259,43%	-	-88,15%	1	129,69%	-2	-201,68%	30	303,70%		24,11%	-	155,14%		-46,60%		102,25%		-52,50%		174,63%	-4	-49,56%		2,00%
Invested Capital	\$	5 822	\$	6 387	\$	9 206 💲	\$	9 261 \$	\$	9 130 \$	\$	9 044	\$	8 775 \$	\$	8 954 \$	\$	9 268	\$	9 991	\$	10 142	\$	10 782	\$	10 895	\$	11 817 💲	\$	12 092 💲	\$	12 195
D&A	\$	261	\$	266	\$	284 \$	\$	421 \$	\$	348 \$	\$	386	\$	284 \$	\$	433 \$	\$	438	\$	631	\$	514	\$	685	\$	561	\$	803 \$	\$	646 \$	\$	646
CAPEX	\$	187	\$	(120)	\$	231 \$	\$	(445) \$	\$	(365) \$	\$	(300)	\$	(309) \$	\$	(318) \$	\$	(713)	\$	(1 015)	\$	(814)	\$	(1 089)	\$	(901) \$	\$	(1 292) 💲	\$	(1 044) \$	\$	(772)
Change in NWC	\$	214	\$	62	\$	114 \$	\$	(3)	\$	(218) \$	\$	127	\$	(130) \$	\$	159 \$	\$	37	\$	249	\$	(177)	\$	222	\$	(185)	\$	335 \$	\$	(234) \$	\$	42
ROIC		5,76%		8,87%		2,22%		7,92%		0,95%		2,21%		-2,31%		4,62%		5,54%		13,11%		6,89%		13,12%		6,17%		15,61%		7,70%		7,78%
NOL	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	203 \$	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-
FCFF	\$	570	\$	651	\$	605 \$	\$	713	\$	288 \$	\$	159	\$	(98) \$	\$	369 \$	\$	202	\$	676	\$	576	\$	788	\$	516	\$	1 021 \$	\$	767 \$	\$	782
% of increase		-		14,26%		-7,02%		17,77%		-59,54%		-44,79%		-161,48%	4	477,37%		-45,40%	/	235,34%		-14,88%		36,92%		-34,48%		97,80%	-	-24,95%		2,00%
WACC		7,41%		5,65%		5,90%		6,32%		8,45%		8,45%		8,45%		8,45%		8,45%		8,45%		8,26%		8,07%		7,88%		7,69%		7,50%		7,50%
EVA	\$	(96)	)\$	206	\$	(339)	\$	148 \$	\$	(685) \$	\$	(565)	\$	(945) \$	\$	(343) \$	\$	(270)	\$	465	\$	(139)	\$	544	\$	(187) \$	\$	936	\$	24	\$	35
Cumulated discount factor		93,10%	,	94,66%		94,43%		94,06%		92,21%		85,02%		78,39%		72,28%		66,65%		61,45%		56,66%		52,34%		48,43%		44,89%		41,69%		41,69%
PV(FCFF)	\$	530	\$	616	\$	571 \$	\$	670 \$	\$	266 \$	\$	135	\$	(77) \$	\$	267 \$	\$	134	\$	416	\$	326	\$	413	\$	250	\$	459 \$	\$	320 \$	\$	326
% of increase		-		16,17%		-7,24%		17,30%		-60,34%		-49,09%		-156,69%	4	447,96%		-49,65%		209,21%		-21,51%		26,47%		-39,38%		83,35%		-30,31%		2,00%

Terminal Value of \$15,64 billion / TEV of \$9,56 billion / Probability of default of 10% and failure proceeds of \$1,27 billion / Value of operating assets equals \$8,73 billion / After subtracting debt (\$6,3 billion), minority interests, cash, non-operating assets, and value of options (SBC), value of equity in common stock is equal to \$2,54 billion

10040

## **Hard Catalysts**



Strategy

## US Elections 2024

Recommendation

- Cyclical business
- 2024 Elections are expected to be even more contentious than 2020 (Biden vs. Trump)

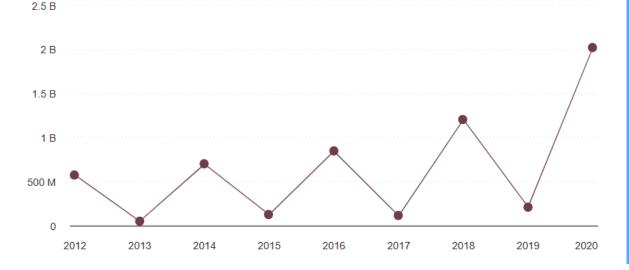
**Company Overview** 

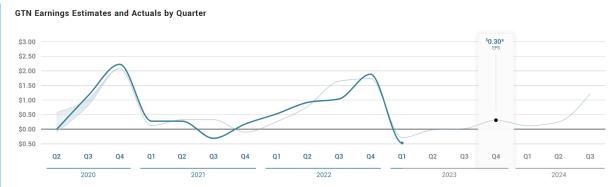
Market Overview

 Campaign advertising starts 1 year before election date (Nov 5, 2024)

#### Political advertising revenue at local TV companies

Total political advertising revenue for five publicly held local TV station companies (in U.S. dollars)





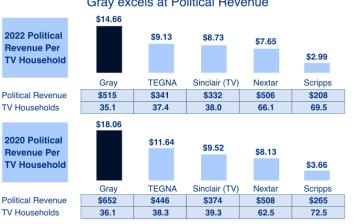
**Risks** 

## Return to Profitability (Q4 2023)

Catalysts

- Currently valued as a money losing company
- Strong Q4 2023

Valuation



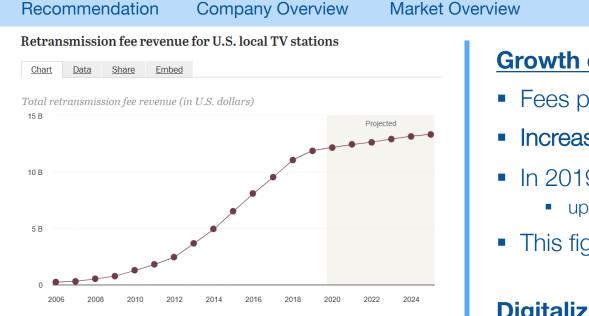
- Full year of **significant profitability** in 2024 *(indication of right direction)* Gray excels at Political Revenue
  - GTN is best able to capitalize on political revenue (election years and mid-terms)
  - Allow for the facilitation of the announced share repurchase program



## **Soft Catalysts**



Strategy



#### Advertising revenue for local TV



## **Growth of Retransmission Revenue**

Valuation

• Fees paid by cable and satellite systems to carry local channels

**Risks** 

Catalysts

- Increasing rapidly in the past decade
- In 2019, retransmission revenue reached **\$11.9 billion** 
  - up from \$11.1 billion in 2018 and \$9.5 billion in 2017
- This figure is expected to reach \$13.3 billion by 2025

#### **Digitalization**

- Total digital advertising revenue for local TV stations increased 6% in 2020
  - reaching a total of about \$1.4 billion
- Digital advertising revenue still accounted for just 7% of total ad revenue
- GTN has been investing in digital platforms to reach new audiences and advertisers
  - Local Now (streaming service that provides free local news, movies and TV shows)
  - Circle Network (country music-themed multicast television network that broadcasts music videos, concerts, and other country music-related content)



Risks



#### **Company Overview** Recommendation Market Overview Valuation Catalysts **Risks** Strategy D/(D+E) WACC Debt ICR BETA **EV Value** Rating Tax rate **High debt levels** 0,00% \$ 21,00% 4,58% Aaa/AAA 0,17 \$ 196,59 $\infty$ Unsustainably higher interest payments which reduce 10,00% \$ 678.24 34,40 Aaa/AAA 0,19 21,00% 4,56% \$ 198,52 profitability and cash flow 20,00% \$ 1 356.48 17.20 Aaa/AAA 0.21 21.00% \$ 200.48 4.53% 30,00% \$ 2 034.72 11.47 Aaa/AAA 0.24 21.00% 4.51% \$ 202.48 Limit the company's ability to borrow more money in the 40.00% \$ 2712.96 8.60 Aaa/AAA 0.28 21.00% 4,48% 204.51 \$ future 50.00% \$ 3 391,19 6,88 Aa2/AA 0,33 21,00% 4,52% \$ 201,42 60,00% \$ 4 069.43 A1/A+ 21,00% 4.69% 188.93 Affect acquisition ability 5.73 0.41 \$ 70,00% \$ 180,74 \$ 4 747,67 4,91 A2/A 0,55 21,00% 4,81% Potential credit rating downgrades increase borrowing 80.00% \$ 5 425,91 A2/A 0,82 21,00% 4,84% \$ 178,70 4,30 costs and reduce investor confidence 90.00% \$ 6 104,15 3,82 A3/A-1,63 21,00% 5,01% \$ 168,44 Can lead to **bankruptcy** if the company is unable to meet its debt obligations US Cord-cutter households, 2019 - 2024 46.6 Growth of Streaming (Cord-cutting) millions and % of households 43.0 39.3 television has been buffeted by **disruptive streaming** that led to market 35.5 31.2 Video streaming market size, 2021 to 2030 (USD Billion) \$2 000,00 24.6 \$1 721.40 35.4%



27.3%

2021

24.1%

2020

19.1%

2019



2024

32.8%

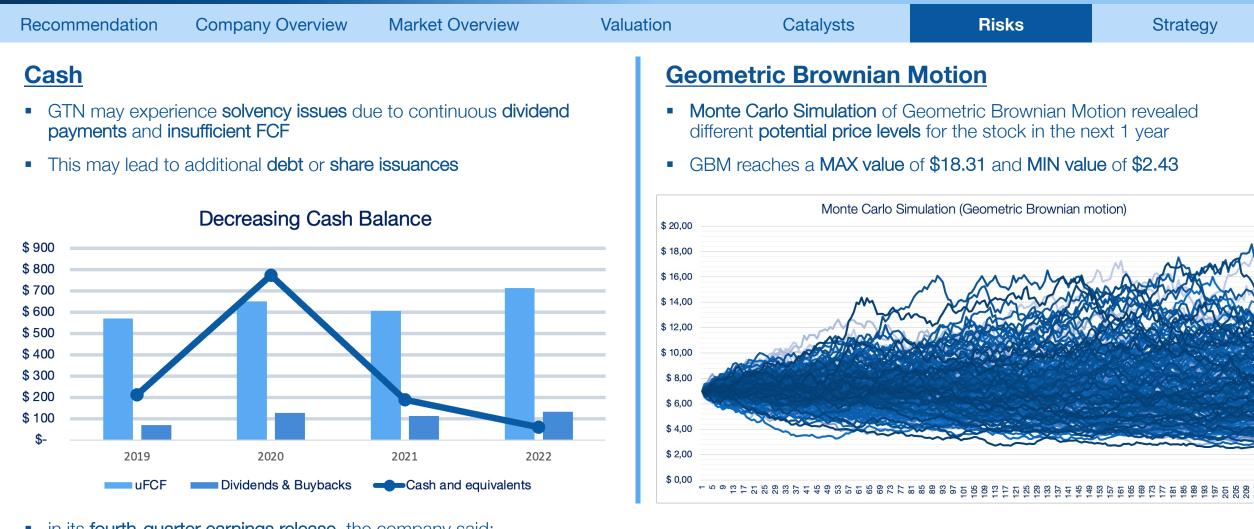
2023

30.1%

2022

## **Risks Continued**





- in its fourth-quarter earnings release, the company said:
  - "Looking ahead, we anticipate that our television stations and production companies will **maintain revenues** at a level generally flat with recent years should macroeconomic conditions, particularly in local markets, slow during 2023"
  - "we believe that our businesses performed well throughout last year and have started 2023 in a strong position"

## 1045

## **Risk Mitigation**



Recommendation Company Overview

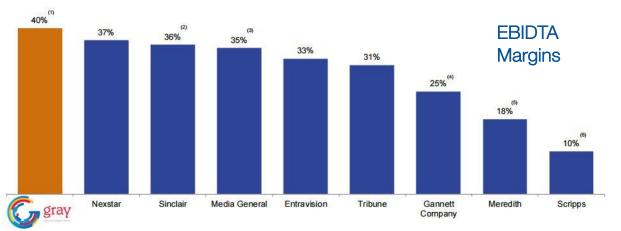
rview Market Overview

Valuation

Strategy

Full Year 2021 Owned Stations	Gray	Nexstar	Tegna	Sinclair (TV)	Scripps
Markets with #1/#2 Ranked Owned Stations	88%	59%	50%	47%	18%
Markets with Owned Stations	113	115	51	86	76
Nielsen TVHH (mm)	44	83	48	47	88
Reach of Owned Stations (Total Nielsen TVHH)	36%	68%	39%	38%	72%

Sources: Company filings, Nielsen TVHH estimates, Comscore average all-day live HH ratings for calendar year 2021.

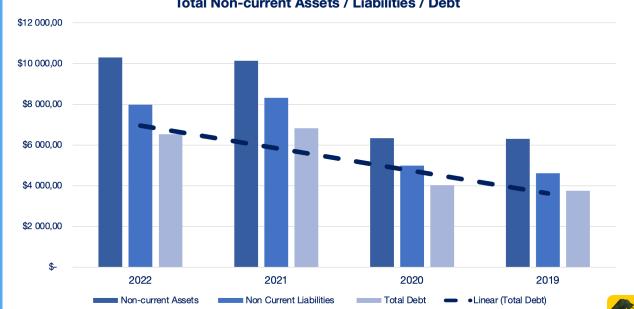


## **Strong Ratings and Loyal Viewer-base**

- Largest owner of top-rated local television stations and digital assets in the United States
- Portfolio includes 79 markets with the top-rated television station and 101 markets with the first and/or second highest rated television station
- GTN stations remain relevant and powerful thanks to a strategy of emphasizing local news

#### Cease acquisitions / CapEx Reduction / Debt Repayment

- Reduce spending
- Sell off underperforming assets
- Debt repayment (improve capital structure)
- Increase profitability
- Reinstate investor confidence



#### Total Non-current Assets / Liabilities / Debt

Good margins



# **Exit Strategy**

Valuation

Catalysts

Strategy

## Exit

- Value increases over 10% annually
  - Based on comprehensive 3-statement financial analysis, every year going forward, the value of GTN will increase on average by more than 11%
  - This increase can be exploited by holding GTN for more than 2 years
  - Possible option to sell if stock increases during 2024 US elections
- Trading (<1 year)</p>
  - Maximizing M2 over 1 year Horizon using Monte Carlo GBM Simulation
  - M2 is calculated based on the GBM
  - Using statistical inferences from the simulation, draw conclusions into a ratio
  - Ratio target is M2 of 20% with SP500 as benchmark
  - Optimal entry point
    - Enter the position **now** at 0% change
  - Optimal exit
    - Exit after stock increases by 30% (\$9.1)
    - Exit if stock plummets by 17% (\$5.8)

			Exit st	rategy base	ed on Entry	y of 0%			
	3,45%	8,71%	14,43%	21,21%	29,51%	36,91%	46,56%	63,01%	87,41%
-3,26%	-284,16	-1171,17	-947,76	-770,37	-599,34	-503,31	-415,01	-366,10	-373,86
-7,76%	-297,58	-1189,15	-864,21	-247,26	-121,04	-713,83	-524,71	-536,96	-540,47
-12,08%	-13,91	-1134,95	-777,23	2,18	145,75	19,28	88,68	-237,68	-300,74
-16,43%	-9,34	-1225,74	-819,51	199,79	371,59	178,16	345,27	244,88	96,86
-21,56%	-6,74	-1847,36	-1343,44	-43,62	194,50	-4,63	213,24	436,79	37,41
-26,51%	-5,28	-1,67	-10,56	-16,43	-28,13	-11,94	-12,20	11,43	4,14
-33,15%	-14,26	-1,13	-9,24	-17,26	-35,31	-20,16	-22,56	1,42	-5,99
-38,48%	-13,79	-0,60	-6,61	-11,64	-28,78	-29,21	-34,03	15,35	1,47
-47,70%	-13,38	-0,14	-4,82	-9,48	-16,65	-6,32	-24,87	16,60	7,92

**Risks** 

#### Value & Price Forecast

