Kevin Klowden specializes in the study of key factors that underlie the development of competitive regional economies (clusters of innovation, patterns of trade and investment, and concentration of skilled labor), and how these are influenced by public policy and in turn affect regional economies. On a national level, he is heavily involved in issues of capital access for small business, including serving on the U.S. Department of Commerce’s Trade Finance Advisory Committee as co-chair. He also helps to coordinate the Partnership for Lending in Underserved Markets initiative with the U.S. Small Business Administration, which focuses on funding for African-American and Latino small businesses. His areas of expertise include technology-based development, capital access, infrastructure, the global economy, media, and entertainment.

Klowden was the lead author of “Strategies for Expanding California’s Exports,” which examined the vital role trade and exports play in the state economy, and its underperformance relative to the country over the past decade. Further work on trade and investment has included “A Golden Opportunity with China: How California Can Become an Even Bigger Destination for Chinese Foreign Investment.” He has also written on the role of transportation infrastructure in economic growth and job creation in reports such as “California’s Highway Infrastructure: Traffic’s Looming Cost” and “Jobs for America: Investments and Policies for Economic Growth and Competitiveness,” as well as in publications including The Wall Street Journal.

He has addressed the role of technology-based development in publications such as the “2014 State Technology and Science Index,” “North America’s High-Tech Economy,” and location-specific studies on Arkansas and Arizona. In addition, Klowden was the lead author of several studies on the economics of the entertainment industry, including “New Skills at Work: Keeping Los Angeles at the Cutting Edge in an Evolving Industry,” “A Hollywood Exit: What California Must Do to Remain Competitive in Entertainment—and Keep Jobs,” “Fighting Production Flight: Improving California’s Filmed Entertainment Tax Credit Program,” “Film Flight: Lost Production and Its Economic Impact in California,” and “The Writers’ Strike of 2007-2008: The Economic Impact of Digital Distribution”—each of which analyzes the changing dynamics of the entertainment industry.

Klowden is a frequent speaker on state fiscal issues and has served on multiple advisory boards on business growth, economic development, and infrastructure. He holds graduate degrees from the University of Chicago and London School of Economics.