


# John E. Rooney

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## Overview

**John advises public utilities on regulatory strategy, helping clients secure approvals and navigate litigation before regulatory commissions. He also counsels on legislative and regulatory developments affecting utility operations, with experience in alternative regulation, competitive market disputes, rate cases and design, mergers and acquisitions, service standards and regulatory rules.**

John began his career as a regulator, first as an Administrative Law Judge and later as Chief Administrative Law Judge at the Illinois Commerce Commission, the agency that regulates public utilities, including electric and gas utilities. He now counsels natural gas, electric, and water and sewer utilities, as well as large suppliers of electricity, gas and petroleum. John helps clients avoid regulatory pitfalls, developing successful solutions when problems do arise and providing support as industries and the regulatory environment in which they operate evolve.

Prior to Benesch, John played a key role in obtaining regulatory approval for a pilot program that incentivized renewable natural gas production facilities to locate within Nicor Gas Company's service territory and provide this environmentally friendly fuel source to customers. He led a team that developed a strategy to present the idea as an alternative regulation plan and crafted the evidentiary presentation to support the proposal, marking it as the first of its kind in Illinois.

## Representative Matters

- Represented a large public utility on appeal following dismissal of an injunctive action brought by a gas supplier challenging the revocation of its license to operate as an alternative gas supplier. Benesch successfully obtained dismissal of the appeal in its entirety on mootness grounds.

- Prepared and filed an application for a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity (CPCN) for Nicor Gas Company.
- Represented ComEd in litigating a request for regulatory approval of its first-ever Multi-Year Integrated Grid Plan, and a corresponding Multi-Year Rate Plan. Together, the plans detail every dollar the company plans to invest in providing electric delivery service over the next 4 years. In addition to ComEd, the case involved 12 parties. A total of 61 expert witnesses offered testimony, including 17 witnesses on behalf of ComEd. The regulator - the Illinois Commerce Commission - approved a $595 million increase in ComEd's revenue requirement and a $3.57 billion increase in rate base over the 4-year period. These figures represent approximately 88% of the values ComEd sought as of the close of the evidence, despite an extremely challenging regulatory environment. The market reacted very positively to the news, causing a marked increase in the value of ComEd's parent company, Exelon.

## Credentials

### EDUCATION

- University of Illinois – Chicago, 1988, J.D.
- Loyola University Chicago, 1985, BA

### BAR & COURT ADMISSIONS

- Illinois
- U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Illinois

## Memberships

- Constitutional Rights Foundation Chicago, Lawyers in the Classroom
- Past Chair, Energy, Telecommunications, and Water Committee, Chicago Bar Association

## Awards & Recognition

- Chambers USA, Energy and Natural Resources: Regulatory (Illinois), 2002-2026
- Listed, *The Best Lawyers in America*, Energy Law, 2010-2027
- Best Lawyers® “Lawyer of the Year”, Energy Law, 2021 and 2025

## News & Insights

- 126 Benesch Attorneys Recognized in 2027 Best Lawyers® Rankings
  August 20, 2026 | Press Releases
- Benesch Recognized as Leading Law Firm by Chambers USA 2026 with Record Growth in National and Regional Rankings
  June 4, 2026 | Press Releases
- 16 Benesch Attorneys Selected to 2026 Illinois Super Lawyers and Rising Stars Lists
  January 27, 2026 | Press Releases
- 129 Benesch Attorneys Recognized in 2026 Best Lawyers® Rankings
  August 21, 2025 | Press Releases
- Benesch Recognized in Chambers USA 2025 with Record Growth in National and Regional Rankings
  June 4, 2025 | Press Releases
- 17 Benesch Attorneys Selected to 2025 Illinois Super Lawyers and Rising Stars Lists
  January 23, 2025 | Press Releases
- 132 Benesch Attorneys Recognized in 2025 Best Lawyers® Rankings
  August 14, 2024 | Press Releases
- 40 Benesch Attorneys and 15 Practices Recognized by Chambers USA 2024, One Attorney Ranked Globally
  June 6, 2024 | Press Releases
- Hanna Conger and John E. Rooney mentioned in Crain's Chicago People on the Move
  March 18, 2024 | Media Mentions
- Benesch Expands Energy Group in Chicago, Adding Big Law Partners Hanna Conger and John E. Rooney
  January 31, 2024 | Press Releases