

A professional headshot of John E. Rooney, a middle-aged man with short grey hair and glasses, wearing a dark blue suit, white shirt, and a green patterned tie. He is standing in a modern office hallway with a staircase in the background.

John E. Rooney

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Overview

Public utilities constantly interact with state and federal regulators. John helps public utilities develop strategies to obtain regulatory approvals and leads litigation before regulatory commissions. He assists utilities with legislative proposals that may impact operations or the regulatory structures that govern them. John counsels on innovative alternative regulation proposals, competitive marketplace disputes, rate increase requests and rate design, acquisitions and merger approvals, 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

- 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.

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
- The Best Lawyers in America, Energy Law, 2010-2026
- Best Lawyers® “Lawyer of the Year”, Energy Law, 2021 and 2025

News & Insights

- [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