

Mark T. Keaney

Columbus
T 614.223.9369
mkeaney@beneschlaw.com

Overview

Mark focuses his practice on energy and public utilities litigation, the regulation of energy companies and public utilities by administrative agencies and state public utility commissions and unregulated energy industry transactions, with a special focus on renewable energy purchase and sale agreements.

Mark has extensive experience advising a wide range of clients in the electric and natural gas sectors, including investor-owned public utilities, electric cooperatives, municipal utilities, competitive retail natural gas and electric suppliers and publicly and privately held companies seeking counsel regarding electric and natural gas services.

His recent work includes representing electric and natural gas utilities in distribution rate case proceedings, major complaint cases, regulatory investigations, rulemaking proceedings, utility service abandonment cases, utility tariff/rider approval proceedings, competitive retail energy supplier certifications and utility merger approval proceedings. Mark also regularly advises clients with data center development projects involving both behind-the-meter and front-of-the-meter arrangements, natural gas and electric utility line extensions and data center service level agreements.

In addition, on behalf of both buyers/off-takers and sellers/developers, Mark has successfully negotiated agreements involving the purchase and sale of renewable energy and associated environmental attributes (e.g., renewable energy certificates, emissions free energy certificates, emissions reduction tonnes, carbon credits/offsets, etc.) generated in connection with renewable or carbon-free energy projects developed across the United States, including one of the largest city-established solar array projects in the United States.

Further, Mark has counseled competitive energy suppliers in the development of new carbon-free or emissions-free energy products to retail energy customers in various jurisdictions across the United States and regularly advises buyers and sellers in the voluntary and compliance renewable energy markets.

**Matter completed prior to joining Benesch.*

Representative Matters

- Obtained a unanimous victory before the Ohio Supreme Court on behalf of three investor-owned utilities, upholding the recovery of $115 million in prudently incurred costs associated with a coal-fired generation facility.
- Represented a data center developer in the negotiation and execution of a multibillion-dollar powered land and data center development transaction, including the construction and installation of an on-site 500 MW natural gas generation facility.
- Represented electric utility in negotiating contracts with data center operators/developers for newly constructed data center facilities
- Successfully negotiated electric utility contracts on behalf of data center developer to construct and install required utility equipment and infrastructure and to provide power to new data center facilities
- Advised and conducted due diligence on behalf of retail energy provider regarding acquisition of on-site and community solar energy projects
- Successfully negotiated agreement on behalf of a major wholesale energy supplier to sell emissions free power and over 3 million emissions free energy certificates over a ten-year period to a major retail energy provider
- Successfully negotiated solar power purchase agreement on behalf of a major industrial customer, which will provide solar power and solar renewable energy certificates associated with solar carports and canopies installed on site
- Successfully negotiated renewable energy credits master purchase and sale agreement for the purchase of nearly 1 million renewable energy certificates

Credentials

EDUCATION

- St. Louis University School of Law, 2012, J.D., *magna cum laude*
- Miami University, 2007, B.A. Political Science, *summa cum laude*

BAR & COURT ADMISSIONS

- Ohio
- Illinois

Memberships

- New Leaders Council, Former Fellow
- Teach for America, Former Corps Member

Awards & Recognition

- Listed, Chambers USA Band 2, Energy & Natural Resources, 2026
- Listed, Ohio Super Lawyers – Rising Stars, 2020-2024
- Missouri Lawyers Weekly, “Up and Coming Attorney”, 2015
- St. Louis Business Journal, “Thirty Under Thirty” Award, 2014
- Listed, *The Best Lawyers in America®* Ones to Watch, Commercial Litigation, 2023-2025

News & Insights

- Benesch Secures Unanimous Ohio Supreme Court Victory for Leading Utilities in Complex Regulatory Appeal
  July 1, 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
- 49 Benesch Attorneys Selected to 2025 Ohio Super Lawyers and Rising Stars
  December 17, 2024 | Press Releases
- 132 Benesch Attorneys Recognized in 2025 Best Lawyers® Rankings
  August 14, 2024 | Press Releases
- 41 Benesch Attorneys Selected to 2024 Ohio Super Lawyers and Rising Stars Lists
  December 31, 2023 | Press Releases
- Best Lawyers in America® Rankings 2024
  August 17, 2023 | Press Releases
- 16 Benesch Attorneys Named 2023 Ohio Super Lawyers; 24 Named Ohio Rising Stars
  December 21, 2022 | Press Releases

- U.S. News & World Report - Best Lawyers Rankings 2023
  August 18, 2022 | Press Releases
- Benesch's Columbus Office is Pleased to Welcome 13 Exceptionally Talented New Attorneys
  June 7, 2021 | Press Releases
- Alexander, Keaney, and Hehmeyer mentioned in Middle Market Report | "Midsize Moves: An Ohio Energy Team, a Former USPTO GC in DC"
  December 21, 2020 | Media Mentions