JOHN RATNASWAMY

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John Ratnaswamy founded his own law firm after having served as a co-founder and Partner at a nationally recognized energy boutique law firm. John has spent over 25 years counseling and representing electric and natural gas industry clients, including before utility commissions and on appeal. John has been selected for inclusion in The Best Lawyers in America© from 2010-2027 and was named its 2014 Chicago "Lawyer of the Year" in the field of Energy Law. John also has been recognized in Chambers USA from 2007-2018 and 2024-2026, the Leading Lawyers Network from 2012-2027, and by Super Lawyers® from 2010-2027 as an Illinois lawyer in the field of energy and natural resources law.*

John also has over 30 years of experience in counseling, teaching, and writing on lawyer professional responsibility and ethics matters. He also is a former member of the Hearing Board of the Illinois Attorney Registration and Disciplinary Commission.

In addition, John served as the American Bar Association Advisor to the Uniform Law Commission's Drafting Committee on a Tort Law Relating to Drones. John also served as the Vice Chair, and as the Editor in Chief of the Newsletter, of the Space Law Committee of the ABA Section of Science and Technology Law.

Professional Experience

John Ratnaswamy founded The Office of John Ratnaswamy, LLC, in April 2019.

He was a co-founder and Partner at the widely recognized energy boutique law firm Rooney Rippie & Ratnaswamy LLP from March 2010 to March 2019.

John was a Partner in the energy and litigation practices at Foley & Lardner LLP from February 2001 to February 2010.

John was a Partner, and before that an Associate, at Hopkins & Sutter, LLP, from September 1987 to January 2001.

John clerked for the late Honorable Francis D. Murnaghan, Jr., of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit (1987), and the late Honorable Norma L. Shapiro of the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania (1985-1986).

Practice Areas

- **Energy Regulation and Appeals**
- **Professional Responsibility**

Education

- **J.D., Northwestern University School of Law, cum laude**
- **B.S./M.A., Communication Studies, Northwestern University**

Admissions

- **Illinois (1985)**
- **Minnesota (2006)**
- **Wisconsin (2015)**
- **Colorado (2016)**
- **U.S. District Court, Northern District of Illinois**
- **U.S. District Court, Central District of Illinois**
- **U.S. District Court, Northern District of Texas**
- **U.S. Court of Appeals, Fourth Circuit**
- **U.S. Court of Appeals, Fifth Circuit**
- **U.S. Court of Appeals, Seventh Circuit**
- **United States Supreme Court**

*The Illinois Supreme Court does not recognize certifications of specialties in the practice of law and no award or recognition is a requirement to practice law in Illinois.

Recent Speaking Engagements

Mr. Ratnaswamy frequently speaks on issues regarding energy regulation and legal and judicial ethics. His presentations include:

- “Ethics – Are You A Cyber Ready Attorney?”, Energy Bar Association Midyear Energy Forum, October 2021.
- "Legal Ethics Issues for State Utility Regulation Practitioners," Wisconsin Public Utility Institute, Public Utilities Law Update 2021, March 2021.
- “Legal Foundations of Regulation,” American Gas Association (AGA) Rates School, July 2020.
- "Legal Ethics Issues for State Utility Regulation Practitioners," Wisconsin Public Utility Institute, Public Utilities Law Update 2020, March 2020.
- Panel Participant on Bulling, Discrimination, and Equality, Chicago Comic and Entertainment Expo (C2E2), February 2020.
- "Ethics Traps for the Unwary and Even for the Wary," Chicago Bar Association Energy, Telecommunications and Water Committee, January 2020.
- “Legal Foundations of Regulation,” American Gas Association (AGA) Rates School, July 2019.
- “State and Local Issues Impacting UAS [Unmanned Aircraft Systems],” AUVSI Exponential All Things Unmanned Conference, April 2019.

Recent Publications

Mr. Ratnaswamy has published articles on a number of subjects, such as the inter-relationship of federal bankruptcy and energy regulation statutes. To date, he has written 90 columns on legal ethics in *The Bencher*, the national magazine of the American Inns of Court. His publications include:

- “Legal Ethics Principles Relating to Lawyers and Juries,” *The Bencher*, November/December 2026 (Upcoming)
- “Legal Ethics and the Rule of Law,” *The Bencher*, July/August 2026.
- “Legal Ethics and the Movies,” *The Bencher*, March/April 2026.
- “Bullying in the Legal Workplace,” *The Bencher*, November/December 2025.
- “When Might a Lawyer—or Client—Be Ethically Required to Use AI?” *The Bencher*, July/August 2025.
- “How to Properly Use Ethics Helplines,” *The Bencher*, March/April 2025.
- “Factual Inquiry in Accepting and Continuing Representations,” *The Bencher*, November/Devember 2024.
- “AI Is Here. Now What?” *The Bencher*, July/August 2024.
- “Justice Kagan Recuses from a Case and Cites the New Supreme Court Code of Conduct,” *The Bencher*, March/April 2024.
- “The Roots of American Legal Ethics Codes,” *The Bencher*, November/December 2023.
- "Seeking Advice About Compliance with Ethics Rules,” *The Bencher*, July/August 2023.
- “Legal Ethics and Witnesses,” *The Bencher*, November/December 2022.
- “New ABA Ethics Opinion on Solicitation,” *The Bencher*, July/August 2022.
- “Judicial Participation in Lawyer Diversion and Legal Assistance Programs (New York Report),” *The Bencher*, March/April 2022.
- “Responding to On-Line Criticism,” *The Bencher*, November/December 2021.
- "Virtual Practice,” *The Bencher*, July/August 2021.
- “Justice Ginsburg’s 1996 Speech on ‘Supreme Court Pronouncements on the Conduct of Lawyers,’” *The Bencher*, March/April 2021.
- "Cybersecurity,” *The Bencher*, November/December 2020.
- “Disasters and Crisis,” *The Bencher*, July/August 2020.
- "Lawyer Well-Being and Attorney Regulation," *The Bencher*, March/April 2020.