

## Jenner & Block Adds 4 Partners To Energy Practice

By Celeste Bott

*Law360 (April 3, 2019, 8:01 PM EDT)* -- Jenner & Block LLP has bolstered its energy ranks in Chicago by adding an eight-lawyer team from the disbanded Rooney Rippie & Ratnaswamy, including four partners with deep backgrounds in regulatory matters and utility experience, the firm announced Tuesday.

Partners Michael Guerra, Anne W. Mitchell, E. Glenn Rippie and John E. Rooney joined the firm along with of counsel Carmen L. Fosco, special counsel Maris J. Jager and associates Hanna M. Conger and Marjorie R. Kennedy.

Jenner & Block's energy practice has been growing steadily since its formal launch in 2017, but its new members bring additional strength in electric, gas and water utilities experience, as well as a wealth of state regulatory experience, according to the firm.

"Prior to their arrival, we didn't do a lot of state regulatory work other than appeals. So it's a strategic fit that way," said Randy Mehrberg, a partner who co-chairs the energy practice alongside partner Suedeem Kelly. "They're terrific lawyers. We've known them a long time."

The team will also be useful to clients who need help incorporating modern technology, given its past smart grid and renewable energy work, Mehrberg told Law360 in an interview Wednesday.

Rooney Rippie, the now-shuttered Chicago-based boutique firm, handled legal matters involving the electricity, natural gas, water, telecommunications and railroad industries.

Rooney told Law360 on Wednesday that while Rooney Rippie had entertained but ultimately declined several offers to join larger firms since it was established in 2010, Jenner & Block felt like the right transition, and a chance to offer clients greater resources.

"This opportunity arose very recently, and once we started examining the possibilities, what we recognized was a real opportunity here and a great fit in terms of culture, values and a commitment to providing excellent client service," Rooney said.

Other Rooney Rippie attorneys opted to strike out on their own or stick with smaller shops, but this team has already hit the ground running at Jenner & Block, bringing with them clients that include Nicor Gas and Aqua Illinois, Rooney said.

One thing that sets the firm's energy practice apart is its “peripheral vision,” having been on both sides of energy litigation, said Mehrberg, who has served as executive vice president at both Exelon Corp. and Public Service Enterprise Group. The firm’s new members include another former energy company vice president — Guerra, who oversaw regulatory policy and strategy at Commonwealth Edison Co.

“What we try to bring to clients is a strategic view,” Mehrberg said. “Because we’ve been the client. We’ve been the regulator.”

Rooney focuses his practice on regulatory counseling, trials, state court proceedings and the development of regulatory and legislative strategies.

Guerra represents natural gas and electric industry clients before regulatory agencies and state courts.

Mitchell handles regulator counseling, trials and appeals for clients in the natural gas and electric industries.

Rippie litigates disputed energy issues before courts and state and federal agencies, advising clients on strategic, regulatory, operational and commercial matters.

Conger represents utility clients in matters such as formula rate cases and proceedings seeking approval for mergers or asset acquisitions. Kennedy represents utility clients in regulatory matters and counsels them on matters such as personal injury claims, OSHA proceedings and contract disputes. Fosco represents clients before regulatory agencies and state courts. Jager focuses her practice on energy regulatory matters and commercial litigation.

--Editing by Orlando Lorenzo.