

Renardo (Rick) L. Hicks

MEMBER

Rick Hicks comes to Eckert Seamans from the position of Chief Counsel at the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission. As the Commission's senior legal official, Rick served as advisory and enforcement legal counsel in all appellate and original jurisdiction matters involving gas, electric, telephone and water utilities before state courts and federal courts and agencies. As Chief Counsel, he managed the Commission's Law Bureau, with additional responsibility for drafting policies, procedures and regulations from concept to implementation, developing Commission responses to Right-to-Know and Confidential Security Information requests, and supervision of contracted legal counsel in a variety of matters.

Rick is a former Member of Stevens & Lee, where he served as the Chair of the Energy, Regulatory and Public Utilities Group and as a member of the Corporate Transactions and Financial Markets Practice Group. Rick is the founder of the law firm of R. L. Hicks & Associates, where he provided legal and consulting services to governmental entities, public utilities, corporations, nonprofits, educational institutions, and cultural and religious organizations. He has substantial experience in public and private management, budget development and administration, legal counsel and instruction, client representation, litigation, and enforcement of state and federal laws.

Rick also previously served as Regional Vice President and Regulatory Counsel for XO Communications, Inc. and as Executive Deputy Attorney General and Director of the Public Protection Division within the Pennsylvania Office of Attorney General. He has served as a member of the Capital Area Regional Economic Development Commission, providing low interest loans to new and expanding businesses and as Chairman of the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission's Consumer Advisory Council.

Rick has a BA in Government from Hamilton College; a JD degree from Northeastern University; an LLM from Temple University; and honorary Doctorate degrees from Allen University, Central Pennsylvania College, Morris Brown College and Turner Theological Seminary.

REPRESENTATIVE MATTERS

- Represented clients in unfair and deceptive trade practices cases, with one case resulting in 42 million Dollars in refunds to consumers.
- Represented competitive local exchange telephone companies in

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PRACTICE AREAS:

Utilities

Telecommunications

Energy

Environmental

Infrastructure and Transportation

Government Affairs

Data Centers

STATE ADMISSIONS:

Pennsylvania

Georgia

COURT ADMISSIONS:

U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania

U.S. District Court for the Middle District of Pennsylvania

U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit

EDUCATION:

LL.M. in Clinical Legal Education, Temple University School of Law, 1985; Abraham Freedman Fellow and Lecturer in Law

J.D., Northeastern University School of Law, 1983; Teaching Assistant in Legal Writing & Research

B.A., in Government, Hamilton College, 1977; Waz Los Honor Society, 1977

interconnection, pole attachment, tariff and reciprocal compensation disputes before the PA Public Utility Commission and the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

- Represented utilities in rate proceedings, distribution infrastructure surcharge proceedings and customer complaints.
- Represented the PA PUC in hundreds of appellate proceedings involving gas pipelines, transportation companies, gas generation and distribution companies, water and wastewater companies, telecommunications providers, and electric generation and distribution companies.

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

- Member, Bi-Partisan Advisory Panel for the Selection of U.S. District Judge for the Middle District of PA, 2018, 2021 and 2024.
- Instructor, Pennsylvania Bar Institute, 2000 – Present
- American Bar Association, Deputy Chair Pro Bon Committee, 2000
- Member, Board of Directors, Pennsylvania Information Highway Consortium, 1999.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

- Pennsylvania United Way, Member, Board of Director, 2004 – 2008.
- Member, Pennsylvania Commission on Judicial Independence, (PACJI)
- Chairman and Member, Consumer Advisory Council, Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission. 2003 – 2009.
- Host, WHBG TV 20's public television program, "The Smart Consumer."
- Member & Former President, Keystone Bar Association.

AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

- Selected for inclusion as The Best Lawyers in America 2026 & 2027 for Environmental Law
- "RECOMMENDED" by the Pennsylvania Judicial Evaluation Commission of Pennsylvania Bar Association for Judge on Superior Court, March 1997.
- Diversity Action Award, National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives, Central Pennsylvania Chapter, October 1996.
- Exemplary Father's Award, The Links Inc., Central PA Chapter, June 1993.

NEWS AND INSIGHTS

PUBLICATIONS

- "Will Community Solar Ever See the Light in Pennsylvania?"

Eckert Seamans' Energy Update, June 25, 2025.

- "The PA One Call Law has been strengthened and renewed," Eckert Seamans' Construction Law Update, Fall 2024.
- "Pennsylvania Early Contract Termination Fees Upon Death Act May Require Contract Modifications," Eckert Seamans' Utilities and Telecommunications Update, July 2024.
- "Community Solar, Coming to Pennsylvania?" Eckert Seamans' Energy Update, April 2024.
- "Electric Vehicles, $16.7 Million for Infrastructure Funding, and Charging Station Development in the District of Columbia," Eckert Seamans' Infrastructure Update, March 2024.
- "$16.7 Million of National Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Funding Will Soon be Available in the District of Columbia," Eckert Seamans' Infrastructure Update, December 2023.
- "The Pennsylvania Unfair Trade Practices and Consumer Protection Law," Keystone Bar Association, February 2015.

MEDIA COVERAGE

- "Chief Counsel Renardo "Rick" L. Hicks has been named to a Judicial Nomination Advisory Panel for the Middle District of Pennsylvania," Northeast Pennsylvania Business Journal, Oct 13, 2021 PA Environment Digest
- "PUC Appoints Renardo L. Hicks Chief Counsel," PA Environmental Digest Blog, August 8, 2019.
- "Testimony Before PA House of Representatives Consumer Affairs Committee Concerning House Bills 200 and 229," April 1999.

SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

- "Pennsylvania One Call: The Law, How It Is Administered, and Best Practices," presented to Wade Trim in Pittsburgh, April 2024.
- "The American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARPA)," PA Public Utility Commission, November 2021.
- "Appellate Litigation Update," Pennsylvania Bar Institute, June 2019; June 2020.
- "Bankruptcy Basics and Utility Service Requirements," PA Public Utility Commission, June 2020.
- "PA Office of Attorney General and the Utility Service Tenants Rights Act," PA Public Utility Commission, June 2020.
- "Core Principles of the Commonwealth Telework Agreement, " PA Public Utility Commission, July 2020
- "Confidential Security Information (CSI)," PA Public Utility Commission, November 2019.
- "Navigating the Pennsylvania Unfair Trade Practices and Consumer Protection Law," Keystone Bar Association, February 2015.
- "Pennsylvania's Need for a Gas Distribution System Infrastructure Surcharge," PBI Public Utility Law Conference, May 2009.
- "Presenting Excellence: Effective Power Point Presentations,"

Pennsylvania Bar Institute: May 2009.

- "Identity Theft: A Review of the Identity Theft Resource Center's 2008 breach report, breach stats and sample high profile breaches," "FTC consumer alert: seeing through stimulus scams," and "Identity Theft: a summary of federal statutes," Pennsylvania Bar Institute, June 2009.