



Carrie Hightman, Chairwoman

Carrie Hightman is Executive Vice President and Chief Legal Officer for NiSource Inc., a Fortune 500 energy firm. Prior to joining NiSource, Hightman served as President of AT&T Illinois (formerly SBC).

Prior to joining AT&T, Hightman practiced telecommunications and energy law for more than 17 years. She was a partner in the Chicago law firm of Schiff Hardin, where she led its Energy, Telecommunications, and Public Utilities practice group. Hightman is Vice Chair of the Telecommunications Committee of the Public Utility, Communications, and Transportation Law Section of the American Bar Association and past Chair of the Public Utility Law Section of the Chicago Bar Association.

Hightman earned her B.A. from the University of Illinois and her J.D. from Florida State University. In February 2007, Hightman was appointed Chair of the Illinois Board of Higher Education and the State Universities Retirement System of Illinois. She also serves on the boards of the Lyric Opera of Chicago, Chicago Urban League, the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library Foundation and the Chicago Area Foundation for Legal Services.