

## **Meet Our New Team in Washington, D.C.!**

As 400+ athletic trainers and students prepare for Capitol Hill Day this month, the NATA Board of Directors is pleased to introduce the association's new lobbying firm, Drinker Biddle and Reath LLP. The 160-year-old firm offers the scope and expertise necessary to succeed in today's political climate, said President Marje Albohm, MS, ATC.

"DrinkerBiddle brings us a multi-skilled team with a proven track record," Albohm said. "We are very excited about working with them."

Our core DrinkerBiddle team includes managing government relations director Ilisa Halpern Paul and government relations directors Jim Twaddell and Jeremy Scott. Their immediate goals are clear:

- Build broad bipartisan support for legislation to recognize athletic trainers under Medicare;
- Broaden NATA's federal public policy agenda;
- Bolster NATA's advocacy presence and strength "at-home" through grassroots efforts.

"The DrinkerBiddle team understands the tremendous contribution of athletic trainers to the health and wellbeing of the individuals they treat," Twaddell said. "We enjoy bringing voice to – and advocating for – health professionals to ensure their contributions are recognized and services fully reimbursed."

*Be sure to introduce yourself to Ilisa, Jim and Jeremy during Capitol Hill Day 2009, and look for a detailed interview with our DrinkerBiddle team in the April NATA News.*