

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: JUNE 22, 2009

Contact: John M. Byrne | 215-988-2597 | John.Byrne@dbr.com

Drinker Biddle Partner Anita Ponder Honored as 2009 Business Leader of Color

CHICAGO – Anita Ponder, a partner with Drinker Biddle & Reath LLP, has been named a 2009 Business Leader of Color by Chicago United. Ponder will be featured in the Chicago United's *2009 Business Leaders of Color* publication, which will be distributed to Fortune 1000 companies worldwide.

Ponder, a partner in Drinker Biddle's Government & Regulatory Affairs Group, concentrates her practice in government contracts, government procurement and government relations. She chairs the firm's Government Contractors Business Forum. Ponder is nationally renowned for handling a range of supplier diversity issues involving minority, women-owned and small businesses. The 2009 Business Leader of Color honor is the latest of many honors and awards Ponder has received for her significant contributions to the business community, including the distinguished Sage Award from Mayor Richard M. Daley and the U.S Small Business Administration's "Woman in Business Advocate of the Year" Award.

"This is a wonderful honor and recognition for Anita. We are very proud to have her as our partner," said Edwin A. Getz, regional partner in charge of Drinker Biddle's Chicago office. "With her commitment to diversity and public service, as well as her contributions to our firm and to the Chicago business community, I can think of no better person to receive this honor than Anita."

Chicago United, a nonprofit organization that promotes diversity in corporate America, highlights the diversity of executive leadership in and around Chicago and recommends the featured Business Leaders of Color to serve on boards of major corporations and to head government agencies. The *2009 Business Leaders of Color* publication profiles 46 corporate and civic leaders who have achieved their professional success through a track record of balanced decision making, a range of experiences that reflect flexibility and an ability to transcend narrow experiences, as well as a respect for diverse points of view and varied ways to approach issues and topics. Chicago United has presented the *Business Leaders of Color* publication biannually since 2003. Past honorees have included First Lady Michelle Obama, Ralph Alvarez, President and Chief Operating Officer of McDonald's Corp., Valerie Jarrett, Senior Advisor to President Barack Obama, and many others.

Ponder Honored as 2009 Business Leader of Color

Page 2 – June 22, 2009

Ponder was nominated by Hedy Ratner, co-president of the Women's Business Development Center, and was selected from a pool of more than 160 nominees for the honor. Ponder and the other 2009 Business Leaders of Color will be honored at a ceremony in November 2009.

Drinker Biddle & Reath LLP is a national law firm with nearly 700 lawyers in 12 offices across the country who concentrate their practices in areas such as government and regulatory affairs, labor and employment, real estate, corporate and securities, commercial litigation, corporate restructuring, intellectual property, environmental, communications litigation, products liability and mass tort litigation, health care, employee benefits and executive compensation, insurance coverage, investment management, life insurance and annuities, and private client services.