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Working Mother announces best law firms for balancing career and family



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Michigan-based Honigman Miller Schwartz and Cohn was named as one of the 2009 Best Law Firms.

by Garrett Godwin

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The verdict is in for Honigman Miller Schwartz and Cohn as one of the winners for this year's Best Law Firms from *Working Mother* and Flex-Time Lawyers due to their dedication to balancing career and family -- especially in this Great Recession. In law firms, some are partners while others are associates. It is very expensive to hire a lawyer at \$300,000 because there are bonuses, training, and so forth.

"Women now make up a significant portion of the workforce, and at *Working Mother* magazine, we promote initiatives that enhance work-life balance—both by offering advice and information to working moms and by pushing businesses for reform and better policies," Jennifer Owens, Sr. Director, Editorial Research & Initiatives of the national magazine for career-committed moms that centers on life and advancement at home and in the workplace.

The Best Law Firms program highlights a particular industry that can be unfriendly to working mothers—firms where attorneys can be expected to 80 hours a week while getting their kids ready and taking them to school.

The economy is at its all-time low since possibly the Depression -- with the declining automotive industry, budget cuts, increased unemployment and job loss, making it harder for college graduates to get a job in their field as well as for parents to provide the funds and resources needed to paid their kids' education. However, there are some benefits in these tough times where women are concerned.

"The law profession is in flux, in part because the economy has forced many firms to reevaluate how they do business," Owens said. "While the recession is certainly a challenge, it offers the opportunity to deal with your employees creatively and make shifts that positively benefit workers while cutting costs—such as flex-time and work-share programs."

Work-share programs allow workers to cut their hours by sharing the responsibilities of the job with a co-worker. "It gives you a great opportunity to do something else," she continues. "Plus, it saves the company money."

"Being a working mother is tough," states Owens, mother of a preschooler and a kindergartener. "You're never really off-duty when you're a mom -- or a dad, so it's essential to find a job or encourage workplace change that enables work-life balance."

For the complete list of the recipients for Best Law Firms, go to <http://www.workingmother.com>.



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Honigman celebrated its 12th year of cultivating leadership among women at the its Annual Executive Women's Breakfast with keynote speaker, Anne Parsons, President and Executive Director of the Detroit Symphony Orchestra in 2008.