

Do Working Mom Lawyers Spread Themselves too Thin?

Posted by [Martha Newman, J.D., PCC, TopLawyerCoach, LLC](#) • September 2, 2010 • [Printer-friendly](#)

Working Moms can Burden Themselves by Trying to be a "Good Lawyer" and a "Good Mother"



They may be few and far between, but they exist - mom lawyers who love having demanding jobs.

These are lawyers who have traded-in minivans and soccer practices for board meetings and grueling litigation.

These are moms who won't quit - literally.

But the question is, are these "happy" mom lawyers spreading themselves too thin? Some experts say - yes.

A recent article by Vivia Chen at [The Careerist](#) actually paints a not-so-happy picture of what these working moms are facing at home.

Top Lawyer Coach, LLC
601 Penn Street
Fort Worth, TX 76102

817/992-6711
newman@toplawyercoach.com



Chen cites Middlebury College sociology professor Margaret Nelson who argues in [The Washington Post](#) that professional women see their life choices in stark terms: "They can overwork themselves, or they can leave the workforce." For many, it's a matter of being a "good lawyer" or a "good mother" - there is no grey area.

Even worse are the expectations working moms place on themselves. In ["All Joy and No Fun"](#) in New York magazine, Jennifer Senior writes:

When people wait to have children, they're also bringing different sensibilities to the enterprise. They've spent their adult lives as professionals, believing there's a right way and a wrong way of doing things; now they're applying the same logic to the family-expansion business, and they're surrounded by a marketplace that only affirms and reinforces this idea.

Despite this push-pull scenario being played out inside working mom households, there is a silver lining - the children. Studies show parents - especially moms - are actually spending *more time* with their kids than ever before.

"Since 1965, the amount of time mothers spend on all child-care activities has risen, even though the majority of mothers are now in the labor force; the increase has been particularly sharp among highly educated mothers," writes Nelson.

Are you a working lawyer mom? How has your career impacted your relationships with your children? And, more importantly, how has juggling family and career impacted *you*?

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