

SUPER MOM, SUPER LAWYER

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We women lawyers sure expect a lot from ourselves. We have a mental image of an imaginary woman who does everything just right. I'll call her Super Mom/Super Lawyer.

She's a partner in her firm, with dozens of big clients. She works eleven hours a day, including Saturdays. She never misses a soccer game, or even a practice. Each morning she wakes up at 5 a.m. to run five miles – she's training for the marathon she runs twice a year. When she gets back to the house, she prepares a hot breakfast for the family. She wins every motion, closes every deal, and captures every client she pitches. After work, she helps the kids with homework, and then prepares a gourmet meal for the family, making a few extra helpings to give out to neighbors and friends in need. She has just been elected President of the PTA for the fourth year in a row, and so she visits the school several times a week to help out. Her children are never dirty, her house is always clean, and her laundry is always washed.

We measure ourselves against this mythical saint, and we always seem to come up short. We spend our days awash in guilt. "I can't believe I didn't sign up to be the Secret Reader at school today. My daughter will be tragically scarred for life!" Of course, the tape plays backwards as well: "I can't believe I signed up to be the Secret Reader today! I should be working. My career is ruined!"

They say Ginger Rogers was a better dancer than Fred Astaire – because she did everything he did, but in high heels and backwards.

Women lawyers are a lot like Ginger Rogers. They churn out legal work all day – *and* they pick up their own dry cleaning, clear the kitchen at the end of the day, do more than their share of carpool, buy clothes for everybody, and worry about what the house looks like. They set out the clothes for the next day, pack the lunches, answer the teacher's emails, bandage the knees, and buy the birthday gifts.

Maybe it's time we gave ourselves a break. We're pretty amazing, when you think about.

It turns out *you* have been Super Mom/Super Lawyer all along!

In honor of you, GAWL is going to be ordering T-shirts that say Super Mom, Super Lawyer. Email bng@bngiesler.com, and we'll order one for you. (Cost to be determined).

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