



THE LAWYER

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Nine female lawyers make the cut in 2014's Part Time Power List

Nine female lawyers have featured in this year's Part Time Power list of high-earning successful professionals, which collects 50 people that succeed in part-time jobs across several industries.

The legal industry is at the top of the list this year in second place in terms of representation, following the TMT sector.

The list includes both in-house counsel and private practice lawyers that work on average 90 per cent of their contracts, three to four days a week, or less than 3.5 days.

Female lawyers from [Herbert Smith Freehills](#), [Linklaters](#), [Wragge Lawrence Graham & Co](#), [Olswang](#), [Morrison & Foerster](#), Just For Kids Law, Sky, Mitsubishi UFJ Securities International and HSBC Holdings were included.

A spokesperson said: "Our founders Karen Mattison and Emma Stewart publish the list to bust the perception that part-time hours only suit low skilled jobs with little responsibility."

The list's aim is to inspire more employers to think flexibly when it comes to designing new jobs, and so to increase the pipeline of jobs available for those who have skill, and experience.

The lawyers on the list include [HSF](#) competition partner Susan Black, who was selected for piloting part-time working at senior level at the firm in 1998 and for working on a 70 per cent contract for over 10 years.

Black said: "What I have appreciated is the fact that I've been able to increase my working commitment as my family has grown up. It's been hugely valuable."

She said she believed that flexible working will become more frequent, but can only succeed if lawyers are flexible in the way they work.

"You have to be able and willing to adjust so that you can provide the sufficient level of client service. It depends on the nature of your role and the nature of your clients," she added. "I would hope that these sorts of initiatives would encourage people that they can realistically pursue their career aims in a way that is compatible with other commitments."

[Wragge Lawrence Graham](#) public sector lawyer and equity partner Sarah Sasse was also named for gaining a promotion while on maternity leave in 1999 and working four days a week to allow her to combine childcare with increasing responsibility for her elderly parents.

Sasse, who no longer has a desk at the firm because of the facility to work anywhere in the office, said: "The way things have changed over the last 10 to 20 years is that it's easier to work flexibly. Being in the office is a lot less important.

"I think people are sometimes afraid to give it a go. The more people who show it can work in senior roles and on a transactional basis, the better."

Linklaters partner Sarah Parkhouse rejoined the firm in 2004 after a seven-year hiatus and was promoted to equity partner in 2010 while working part-time.

She said she was delighted to be included in the list, adding: "I hope that it helps to tell those who are looking to achieve senior positions in the legal profession that it is perfectly possible to do this through alternative career paths and while sustaining a part time working arrangements."

Sky director of legal Catherine West was among the in-house lawyers that made the list. She has a 3.5-day working week, has worked part time for 10 years and has since set the standard for her team, with a quarter of them now working less than full time as well.

The lawyers on the Part Time Power list:

Herbert Smith Freehills partner Susan Black
HSBC Holdings associate general counsel Ayesha James
Just For Kids Law founder and Hodge Jones & Allen associate Aika Stephenson
Linklaters partner Sarah Parkhouse
Morrison & Foerster partner Ann Bevitt
Mitsubishi UFJ Securities International head of legal Oonagh Hoyland
Sky director of legal Catherine West
Wragge Lawrence Graham & Co partner Sarah Sasse
Olswang senior associate Ceri Morgan